



THE DAILY



ON FRIDAY



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Mild cold wave grips the country

Mercury may drop further in next 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mild cold wave is sweeping through the country, especially the north-western regions, since yesterday, forcing people to limit their outdoor activities in many districts.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department yesterday recorded the lowest temperature in Chuadanga at 7.9 degrees Celsius, while Dhaka experienced 13.0 degrees Celsius.

A mild cold wave is when the temperature ranges from 10 degrees Celsius to eight degrees Celsius. It is a moderate cold when the temperate is

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A child curled up on the ground in Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital early yesterday. As a mild cold wave sweeps across the country, people of the lower income group, especially children and the elderly, suffer the most.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

Trump impeached

Divided US House sets stage for Senate trial next month; Trump likely to survive it, calls vote 'suicide march' for Democrats ahead of 2020 election

AGENCIES

Donald Trump became the third US president to be impeached as the House of Representatives formally charged him with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in a historic step that will inflame partisan tensions across a deeply divided America.

The Democratic-led House's passage of two articles of impeachment on a mostly party-line vote sets the stage for a trial next month in the Republican-controlled Senate - friendly terrain for Trump - on whether to convict and remove him from office.

As Washington awoke yesterday to the realisation that it had impeached the 45th US president, the capital remained racked with uncertainty about what will come next in an impeachment process defined by almost total partisanship and rancor.



No president in the 243-year history of the United States has been removed from office by impeachment. That would require a two-thirds majority in the 100-member Senate, meaning at least 20 Republicans would have to join Democrats in voting against Trump - and none have indicated they will.

The Senate's top Republican, Mitch McConnell, has predicted there is "no chance" his chamber will remove Trump when it holds its trial. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said after the vote she would wait to name the House managers, or prosecutors, until she knew more about the procedures for the Senate trial. She did not specify when she would send the articles to the Senate.

"So far, we haven't seen anything that looks fair to us," Pelosi told reporters.

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Telenor serves legal notice on the president

Robi willing to withdraw cases for arbitration: telecoms minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone's parent company Telenor recently sent a legal notice to President Abdul Hamid, demanding international arbitration to resolve the telecom regulator's "disputed" audit claim of Tk 12,580 crore, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar said yesterday.

Grameenphone, however, distanced itself from the matter.

On the other hand, mobile operator Robi, from which Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) claimed Tk 867.23 crore, said it wanted to withdraw all the cases against the auditing process and sought arbitration to solve the matter, Jabbar said.

Robi had earlier filed two cases against the audit claims.

"Recently, Grameenphone [Telenor] has sent a legal notice from a Singapore-based legal consultant to the president of the country and there is no way to take it lightly," the minister said at a meeting with the Telecom

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AWAMI LEAGUE COUNCIL

Hints over future leadership likely

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Beginning today, the two-day Awami League council may drop hints about the future leadership of the party.

AL insiders said three names -- Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Saima Wazed Hossain and Radwan Mujib Siddiq -- have long been in discussion among the party's rank and file, and their inclusion in the 81-member central working committee, to be formed at the council, may indicate who might be at the party helm in the future.

Joy and Saima are the children of party President Sheikh Hasina; Radwan is the son of Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana.

Joy is prime minister's ICT affairs adviser. Last month, he was made number one member of Rangpur district AL. Currently, he is in the USA.

Saima is the chairperson of Bangladesh National Advisory Committee for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and Radwan looks after AL's research wing Centre for Research and Information (CRI).

None of them has the party's primary membership.

Hasina will inaugurate the party's 21st triennial council at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan at 3:00pm today. Another session of the council, to be held at The Institution of Engineers tomorrow, would elect the ruling party's new leadership.

Seventy-two-year-old Hasina, a four-time prime minister, has been leading the AL since 1981. Speaking at party forums on several occasions, she expressed her desire to go on retirement.

Besides, in an exclusive interview with Deutsche Welle (DW) in February, she said, "I don't want to continue for more [time]. I think that everybody should take a break so we can accommodate the younger generation."

AL insiders said there has been some talk within the party that incumbent AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader may get re-elected. Quader, however, was yet to get the green signal from the party president, they said.

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PROTESTS OVER INDIA'S CITIZENSHIP ACT

Thousands held

Two killed in police firing in Mangalore; clashes with police, demonstrations in major cities

STAR REPORT

Indian police yesterday detained thousands of protesters from various venues across the country as they defied bans on assembly in growing anger at a new citizenship law seen as anti-Muslim.

Meanwhile, at least two persons were killed as police opened fire on demonstrators in the southern city of Mangalore, an official told AFP.

Abdul Jalil, 49, and Samshir Kudroli, 23 died in police firing during the protests, said Qadir Shah, a spokesman for the deputy commissioner of Mangalore, adding that a curfew had been imposed in the city with schools, restaurants and bars shut.

Four others were being treated at a hospital in Mangalore "with bullet injuries following the clashes", a district medical officer told AFP.

Besides, one person died in Lucknow from what police called "alleged firearm injury" during violent protests.

Authorities banned gatherings in the entire Uttar Pradesh state - India's most populous - as well as in parts of the country's northeast, the state of Bihar and cities such as Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai.

Two major Indian telecom firms, Vodafone and Airtel,

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BBPL to resume today

SPORTS REPORTER

After a day's break, the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) resumes today at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram and hosts Chattogram Challengers will be looking to consolidate their place at the top of the table in the evening match against Cumilla Warriors.

Before that, in the day match, Mushfiqur Rahim's second-placed Khulna Tigers will take on Rangpur Rangers, who are currently languishing at the bottom of the table, having lost all

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CONTROVERSIAL RAZAKARS’ LIST

Nirmul committee calls for judicial enquiry

SC lawyer serves notice on Liberation War affairs minister, secretary for unconditional apology before the nation within 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday demanded formation of a judicial enquiry commission to identify those involved in publishing the flawed list of Razakars. “It is very unfortunate that freedom fighters’ names were in the list,” Shahriar Kabir, president of the committee, told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Freedom fighters’ names in the list of Razakars is humiliating to the entire nation, he said.

“We want a judicial enquiry commission comprising of a judge of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court to investigate who were responsible for such a crime,” he said.

He added that those responsible should be brought to book through a fair investigation.

Names of notorious opponents of the Liberation War might have been dropped due to ignorance, but the inclusion of freedom fighters in the list is a serious crime.

“They [anti-liberation individuals and their aides] hadn’t been removed from different tiers of the administration yet. That’s why we urged the government not to give the responsibility of important tasks like preparing the list of Razakars and martyred intellectuals to bureaucrats. Different research organisations and liberation war researchers should have been engaged.”

Dana Nazlee, daughter of the Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal and freedom fighter Ghulam Arief Tipoo; Selina Mirza, daughter of freedom fighter Mirza Abdul Latif; and Julfia Begum Bulu, daughter of freedom fighter Abdus Salam, attended in the briefing.

Names of their fathers appeared in the Razakar list.

Shaheed Jaya Shayamoli Nasrin Chowdhury also spoke at the event.

Prof Muntassir Mamoon said several lists of Razakars were already available.

The ministry could have referred to those lists.

“Instead, the government relied on the bureaucrats,” he added.

Ghulam Arief Tipoo at another press briefing at his office at the ICT demanded that the government bring those responsible to book.

LEGAL NOTICE TO MINISTER, SECY An SC lawyer yesterday sent a legal notice to Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque and the ministry secretary, requesting them to offer an unconditional apology to the nation within 24 hours.

SM Zulfiqur Ali served the legal notice saying that appropriate legal action will be taken against the duo for violating the constitution through assassinating the character of freedom fighters if they did not apologise.

There are allegations that the names of freedom fighters, who had directly participated the Liberation War and fought against Pakistani occupation force, have been included in the list of Razakars, Ali said.

Even the names of some members of martyrs’ families have been included in the Razakar list while the names of identified Razakars have allegedly not been included in it.

Therefore, the freedom fighters have been hurt and dishonoured, which is a shame for the country and the nation.

The liberation war affairs minister has committed a heinous offence which is contradictory to the constitution, mentioned the legal notice.

Amid nationwide outrage and angry protests, the liberation war affairs ministry on Wednesday suspended the controversial and flawed Razakars’ list three days after its publication.

NO MONEY FOR RAZAKAR LIST Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said that no money was allocated for making the list of Razakars.

“Therefore, there is no question of spending a dime [for it],” a press release issued by ministry yesterday quoted the minister as saying.

CANCELLATION OF VISITS

Won’t affect Delhi-Dhaka relations

Says Indian external affairs ministry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday sought to play down the recent cancellation of visits by Bangladesh foreign and home ministers and of the Joint River Commission delegation saying the “close bilateral relationship” should not be “defined” in terms of the postponement of visits.

On the cancellation of the visit by Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Ravesh Kumar, spokesman of the external affairs ministry, told reporters in India that over 75 dialogue mechanisms with Bangladesh “are taking place. These are decided through mutual consultations.”

Momen was supposed to attend the sixth Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi, while Khan was supposed to visit Meghalaya last week.

Kumar added, “Our understanding is that the relationship as close as between our two countries should not [be] defined in terms of a

postponement of a visit here or there... In any case, Bangladesh has explained why the visits have been postponed.

“In fact, the Bangladesh foreign minister has issued a statement [on] why the Joint Water Commission was postponed and he essentially says that it was postponed because they did not have the data from the six common rivers...”

The six rivers are Muhuri, Monu, Dharla, Khowai, Gumti and Dudhkumar.

Regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens, Kumar said that Bangladesh understands that what is happening is India’s internal matter.

“We are enjoying excellent relations with Bangladesh.”

He further said the two countries are keen to work together to further deepen our partnership in the future.

“We have been very successful in our efforts to strengthen the relationship,” he remarked.

Chinese national arrested for trespass at Trump resort

AFP, Miami

A Chinese national was arrested for trespassing on US President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida Wednesday, local media reported, just months after another Chinese citizen illegally entered the club.

Jing Lu, 56, was stopped by security officers at the private club and asked

to leave, but later returned to take photos, Palm Beach police spokesman Michael Ogradnick said in a statement to NBC 6 South Florida.

Lu -- whose visa was also found to have expired -- was charged with loitering and prowling and was being held at the Palm Beach County jail, the statement added.

drive. Many influential leaders from the AL’s front and associate bodies were removed after the drive brought to the fore their alleged involvement in alleged corruption and irregularities.

AL insiders said those removals may impact the formation of the central working committee at the council. Many leaders might lose their position.

They also said the number of members of the party’s think-tank, advisory council, may increase to 51 from 41.

The posts of assistant secretary of the sub-committees could be abolished. Instead of having assistant secretaries, the party would form committees under every secretariat department.

Talking to reporters at the Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, Quader

said the council would be an important one and that some amendments could be brought to the party’s constitution. He went there to see the event’s preparations.

About formation of the new committee, he said it would be more dynamic with inclusion of both young and senior leaders.

According to party insiders, this time some members of the AL presidium, the highest policy-making body of the party, would find spots in the advisory council while one or two joint general secretaries might be promoted as presidium members.

Former Gazipur City AL President Azmat Ullah Khan, currently an AL central committee member, and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal



A part of this 80-metre bridge in Vuiagaati area of Sirajganj’s Raiganj upazila subsided on Wednesday night, disrupting traffic movement on the Hatikumrul-Bogura highway. Construction of an alternative bridge, just beside the dilapidated one, has not ended in a year.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Mild cold wave grips the country

FROM PAGE 1

between eight to six degrees and a severe one when the temperature is between six to four.

In its regular weather update, the Met office said a mild cold wave is sweeping across Rajshahi (9.4 degrees Celsius), Pabna (8.8 degrees), Naogaon (9.5 degrees), Kurigram (9.8 degrees), Nilphamari (10 degrees), Jashore (9.2 degrees) and Chuadanga (7.9 degrees). The wave may spread further, it said.

Meanwhile, Highway Police Headquarter in a press statement yesterday advised drivers of vehicles on highways to drive carefully using fog lights and limited speed.

“The temperature may fall further over the next three days. It will start rising again from December 23,” said Omar Faruq, a meteorologist at the Dhaka Met office.

The temperature dropped from one to four degrees Celsius yesterday, compared to the previous day.

Faruq said the cold wave may return in January.

In its forecast for the next 24 hours (till 9am Friday), the Met Office said the weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly-cloudy skies over the country.

Moderate to thick fog may occur in

places from midnight till morning, it said.

The temperature may fall slightly at night and remain nearly unchanged during the day.

“I can’t go to work and have been staying home for the last two days,” said Askar Ali of Chuadanga town.

The severity of the cold is higher than previous years as the cold wave from the Himalayan side is sweeping through the northern region, according to the Tetulia Met office.

During a visit to different makeshift markets in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh on Wednesday and Thursday, our correspondent saw people crowding the shops to buy sweaters, jackets, cardigans, woollen caps and mufflers to keep warm.

Taking advantage of the cold, traders have increased prices of warm clothes, people alleged.

Meanwhile in Thakurgaon, an elderly woman and a man received burn injuries while warming themselves by burning straws. They were admitted to a Thakurgaon hospital.

The victims are Fajiran Begum, 72, wife of Tasir Uddin of Shibganj village and Sabbir Ahmed, 42, son of Nur Aziz of Laskara village in Thakurgaon sadar upazila.

Hospitals are seeing a sudden rise in the number of patients, especially children and the elderly, who are affected with cold-related diseases, hospital sources said.

Children and elderly people are crowding the Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and upazila hospitals with complaints of cold-related diseases, like pneumonia and diarrhoea, said Kashem Ali, Civil Surgeon in Lalmonirhat.

Fog along with the cold wave disrupted normal life at five upazilas in Lalmonirhat, a northern district closest to the Himalayas, forcing people to stay indoors.

Lalmonirhat DC Abu Jafar said 28,700 blankets were distributed among the distressed people.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) last night temporarily suspended ferry services on the Paturia-Daulatdia route due to dense fog on the Padma river, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

The decision was made around 10:45pm to avert accidents as ferries’ “marking lights” were hardly visible in the fog, said BIWTC’s Paturia sector Assistant Manager Mohiuddin Russell.

Ferry services will resume once the fog is lifted, he said.

The House vote on Wednesday was just the latest, but also unquestionably the biggest, in a string of controversies that have buffeted the turbulent presidency of the New York real estate mogul and former reality TV personality.

Central to the impeachment inquiry was a July 25 telephone call in which Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate Biden and his son Hunter Biden, who had joined the board of Ukrainian energy company Burisma while his father was US vice president.

Trump has accused the Bidens of corruption without offering evidence. They have denied wrongdoing.

A rough transcript of the call released by the White House showed Trump asking Zelenskyy, elected only three months earlier and eager for American support, to “do us a favor” and conduct the investigations in coordination with his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Giuliani in the prior months had engaged in a concerted effort to persuade Ukraine to carry out the investigations. Testimony before House committees showed that Giuliani helped engineer Trump’s removal last May of the US ambassador to Ukraine, who was perceived as a roadblock to those investigations.

Impeachment is a remedy devised by the United States’ founders, wary of a monarch on American soil after breaking away from Britain and King George III in the 18th century, to enable Congress to remove a president who has committed “high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Only two previous presidents have been impeached. The House in 1998 impeached President Bill Clinton on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice arising from a sexual relationship he had with a White House intern, but the Senate acquitted him. The House impeached President Andrew Johnson in 1868, focused on his removal of the secretary of war, but he was acquitted by one vote in the Senate.

10th grader gang-raped in Dinajpur

Woman raped by 2 cousins in Savar

STAR REPORT

Three youths have been sued on charge of gang-raping a tenth-grader in Dinajpur Sadar upazila on the night of Victory Day.

The victim’s mother filed a case with Dinajpur Sadar Police Station on Wednesday accusing one Moksedul Islam, a resident of Julkapara village in the upazila, and two unnamed people, said Bazlur Rashid, inspector (investigation) of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station.

According to the case statement, the victim was returning home alone around 9:30pm after attending a cultural programme at Sundara Adarsha School.

On her way, the three youths intercepted her and took her to the bank of a nearby pond where they raped her.

They then left the scene leaving the girl unconscious, the statement said, adding that she gained consciousness after an hour and went home.

She was admitted to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur the next morning.

Contacted, Fazlur Rahman, assistant director of the hospital, said they had found primary evidence of rape in the primary test.

HOUSEWIFE RAPED IN SAVAR

Meanwhile, in Savar, two youths were arrested yesterday over allegedly gang-raping a woman on Wednesday.

Quoting family members, police said the two are cousins of the victim.

They stopped the woman while she was returning home from one of her relative’s house around 11:00am.

The two then took her to a nearby house and allegedly raped her, police said, adding that they also threatened the woman not to disclose the matter.

Victim’s husband filed a case with Savar Model Police Station in this connection on Wednesday night, said Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station.

The victim was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for medical tests.

In Habiganj, a 20-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour in Madhabpur upazila on Wednesday night.

The accused Sujan Miah, 25, had a love affair with the girl, the victim’s mother told The Daily Star.

Sujan sneaked into their house around 7:00pm and tried to rape the girl as she was home alone, said the mother.

As the girl started screaming, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her, the mother said, adding that the accused managed to flee.

The girl was admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital, said OC of Madhabpur Police Station.

Filing of a case in this regard is under process, said Iqbal Hossain.

Our Dinajpur, Savar and Moulvibazar correspondents contributed to this report.

‘GUNFIGHT’ WITH RAB

Rohingya ‘robber’ killed in Teknaf

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Cox’s Bazar

A Rohingya man suspected of being a robber was killed in a “gunfight” with members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Teknaf upazila of Cox’s Bazar early yesterday.

The dead -- Abdul Karim, 38, an inhabitant of Leda Rohingya camp in Teknaf’s Hinla union -- was enlisted as a “robber” in the home ministry’s list, said Rab.

Lt Mirza Shahed Mahtab, camp commander of Rab-15 in Teknaf, said a team of the elite force conducted an anti-drug drive in Baraitali area around 2:30am on information that some “robbers” were about to smuggle yaba there.

As soon as the Rab team reached the area, a group of criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he claimed.

At one point of the “gunfight”, Abdul Karim sustained bullet injuries. Rab members rushed him to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex. He was then taken to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead, he added.

Rab also claimed to have recovered a locally-made gun, three bullets and 10,000 yaba pills from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the Rab claims.

BBPL to resume

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their three matches so far.

The Chattogram leg of the BBPL has so far lived up to its billing as being the most run-filled phase of the tournament and the teams will be looking to continue that trend today. The home side had notched the biggest total of this edition on Wednesday, scoring 221 for five and winning the match against Dhaka Platoon by 16 runs.

The Challengers currently have eight by virtue of their four wins from five games.

The day match will start from 2:00pm and the evening clash will begin from 7:00pm



DHAKA FEELS THE CHILL... A worker unloads blankets from a rickshaw-van to deliver those to a hawkers' market in Gulistan, *left*. With the sudden drop in temperature, Dhaka residents are rushing to buy warm clothes from makeshift shops that have sprung up on footpaths in New Market area. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, PRABIR DAS

Don't prescribe unnecessary tests

President tells doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Criticising some physicians' tendency of trying to make extra money by asking patients to undergo unnecessary medical tests, President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged doctors to refrain from such practice.

"Reports are often published in the media on wrong treatment and harassment of patients -- resulting from the intention to make extra money. From clinics in the capital to the ones in suburban areas are involved in such malpractice for which the entire physician community is held responsible," he said.

The president said this while addressing the inaugural programme of Bangla Cardio-2019, arranged by Bangladesh Cardiac Society at a Dhaka hotel.

"This malpractice affects the relationship between doctors and patients. You have to be cautious about it and take disciplinary actions against the individuals and institutions who are responsible," he said.

President Hamid also asked doctors to remain cautious about adulterated and expired medicines, and stressed the need for developing skilled physicians for introducing state-of-the-art treatment in Bangladesh.

The government is taking all possible steps to make modern treatment facilities available in Bangladesh, he said, adding that hospitals across the country are being provided with advanced equipment.

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Pedestrian killed by bus in the city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed yesterday morning after a bus hit him while he was crossing the road in the city's Asad Gate area.

The deceased, Ashraf Uddin Dewan (65) was a resident of Kalyanpur and an employee of a real estate developer.

Sujan Biswas, a sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said Ashraf was hit by a bus of Projapati Paribahan around 9:30am.

Pedestrians initially took him to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee the scene.

Victim's daughter Tania Akter said her father left home for work in the morning.

Improve living standards of the marginalised

Speakers tell govt at NETZ seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without improving the living standards of marginalised people, the government's goal of achieving higher GDP growth rate will not be sustainable, lawmaker Shirin Akhter said at a seminar yesterday.

"We [government] intended to accelerate our GDP growth rate, but remote areas of this country are still in darkness," she said.

The general secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "Success stories of reach up project: Together with government primary schools" at a convention centre in Gulshan.

NETZ Partnership for Development and Justice, a German-Bangladeshi charitable and independent organisation, arranged it.

Terming education a key changer of people's life, Shirin said the government should enhance its monitoring to upgrade primary education in the country as it is globally regarded as the foundation level of education.

"Their [primary students] curriculum should be modified," she said, adding that students must be encouraged to read books besides textbooks.

She also stressed on undertaking

awareness-raising programmes geared towards primary students and their guardians for a discrimination-free society.

Chairing the seminar, Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), said providing basic education to all citizens is the state's duty and NGOs can assist the government in developing relevant policies.

"Children from marginalised families want to get educated too," she said.

So the government should increase facilities for these disadvantaged students, she added.

Rasheda urged the government to nationally declare a special week every year -- dedicating it for reading books on science and literature, among others.

NETZ Consultant Mohammad Golam Nabi shared stories of primary schools which have been successful in drawing a huge number of bright students by increasing facilities including mid-day meal, adequate classrooms, playground and cultural activities.

Among others, NETZ Country Director Habibur Rahman Chowdhury and Programme Manager Manjusree Mitra spoke at the seminar.

Mosquito menace returns

HELEMUL ALAM

After a short-lived respite from mosquitoes and dengue, residents of different parts of Dhaka are now again enduring the menace as the number of culex mosquitoes has been on the rise over last few weeks.

As both city corporations of Dhaka have failed to clean the waterbodies in time, many areas have been riddled with severe mosquito problem since the arrival of winter.

In the absence of clean-up initiative, waterbodies have become mosquito breeding grounds.

Residents of Mirpur, Pallabi, Gandaria, Mohammadpur, Kamrangirchar, Hatirpool, Moghbazar, Manda, Dogair, Dania, Uttarkhan and Adabor seem to be the worst sufferers.

"The number of mosquitoes is too high... Despite shutting all the windows and doors we can't catch a break," said Fajilatunnessa (65), a resident of Jafraabad in Mohammadpur.

"We use mosquito net, but it's not possible to stay inside the net throughout the evening," she said.

Mainul Huq, also a resident of Mohammadpur area, said mosquito presence has intensified in the neighbourhood over the last month.

"Two or three months back, the



A city corporation worker with samples of culex mosquitoes.

FILE PHOTO

situation was fine due to action taken by city corporation after the dengue outbreak. But once again, the mosquito menace has turned acute. I have to use aerosol every night and put up mosquito nets for protection. Otherwise, it's impossible to sleep at night in peace," he said.

Aslam Hossain Rony, a resident of Wari, said closing windows and doors -- even from afternoon -- is not of much use.

Around a month back it was

tolerable, but situation is fast becoming unbearable; city corporation needs to take immediate measures, he said.

Over the last several years, there has been no initiative to clean the Gandaria DIT plot pond -- a major breeding ground of mosquitoes, said Anisur Rahman, a resident of the area.

"We have already started cleaning waterbodies," said Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiqul Islam last week.

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DHAKA TODAY

LECTURE

Role of University Education in Economic Diversification of Bangladesh
Organiser: Reading Club
Venue: Institute of Modern Languages
Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Shishu Academy
Time: 11am

COMPETITION

Beatbox Championship Bangladesh
Organiser: Beatbox Bangladesh
Venue: Jamuna Future Park
Time: 3:30pm

DEBATE

IBA Legacies 2019
Organiser: IBA Debate Club
Venue: IBA, University of Dhaka
Time: 10am

THEATRE

Draupadi Parampara
Organiser: Theatre
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7pm

FESTIVAL

National Children's Photography Festival
Organiser: Kashful Factory

MUSIC

Pandora
Venue: Jatra Biroti
Time: 7pm

Ensuring women-friendly market system a must

Speakers say at dialogue on agro-entrepreneurship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure economic empowerment of rural women, a safe and women-friendly market system is a must. At the same time, women also need to directly participate in the key market system, said speakers yesterday at the inauguration of a national colloquium organised by ActionAid Bangladesh on "Market System for Women Agro-Entrepreneurs" at Gulshan in Dhaka.

Dr Sheikh Azizur Rahman, director (administration) of the Department of Livestock Services, said, "We cannot deny the contribution of women in the overall development of the country. Livestock department is always ready to help women entrepreneurs," he said.

Rashida Begum, an entrepreneur from

Patuakhali, shared her story at the programme, saying that women face various problems in selling their products at local markets. She demanded that the government ensure fair price of products by creating a direct connection between women farmers and the key market system.

Halima Begum, another entrepreneur, said she started cultivating vegetables after a training from "Making Market Work for Women" project by ActionAid Bangladesh and later, with the help of local administration and ActionAid, she has been able to earn by selling the vegetables she grew.

During a knowledge session titled "Challenges and opportunities in women entrepreneurship development and decision-making," Tony Michael Gomes, technical programme director at World

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Govt committed to fully implement CHT Peace Accord

Gowher Rizvi tells roundtable

UNB, Dhaka

The government is firmly committed to fully implement the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord at the earliest, prime minister's international affairs adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi said yesterday.

He was addressing a roundtable on "Chattogram Hill Tracts Treaty: Context and Implementation" at Cirdap.

CHT Affairs ministry organised the meeting, chaired by its Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing.

Dr Rizvi said although there is much to be done to fully implement the treaty, progress has been made. "Our prime minister wants full implementation of the treaty as soon as possible," he said, terming land dispute the crux of the issue.

"The law has already been amended so that the problem can be resolved quickly."

Dr Rizvi urged all parties to fully cooperate to complete the task as early as possible. "The faster it can be done, the better it will be for all of us and for the country," he added.

Kujendra Lal Tripura, lawmaker from Khagrachhari district, said the CHT accord's full implementation will face no barrier if the land dispute problem is solved.

CHT Affairs Secretary Md Mesbahul Islam, during a presentation, said out of 72 articles of the accord, 48 have been fully implemented, 15 partially implemented and nine are to be implemented in the future.

Rangamati MP Dipankar Talukder was present, among others, at the discussion.

Underpaid, deprived, discriminated against

Roundtable highlights plight of tea workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tea workers continue to face difficulties due to low wages and lack of available facilities, said tea worker leaders and rights activists at a dialogue session yesterday.

They said the current minimum wage for workers is Tk 102 per day and they constantly face discrimination in areas such as housing, healthcare and education.

Indigenous Peoples Development Services (IPDS) organised the programme at The Daily Star Centre.

Referring to a study done by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), its Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "Although tea workers get different facilities, including housing, from tea garden owners, they are not enough."

"Their monthly salary and living expenses amount to Tk 5,231, which is very low compared to other sectors," he said.

He also said tea workers are contributing to the country's GDP and therefore should be provided with more facilities.

Iftekharuzzaman urged tea garden owners to be more attentive to the needs of their workers.

Presenting a keynote paper, Dhaka University Associate Professor Dr Zobaidda Nasreen said, "Maternity benefits are neglected in the tea gardens. During



Discussants at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

pregnancy, there is no available facility for check-ups or arrangement of special allowance."

Even during the pregnancy period, they are bound to do heavy work, she said, adding that there is a lack of sanitation facility at the area, and there is no women supervisor to look after these issues.

Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union General Secretary Rambhajan Koiri said the labour law of 2005 is "discriminatory" towards tea workers as there are many provisions that exclude them.

"For example, Section 115 of Bangladesh Labour Law 2005 allows workers from all sectors to receive 10 days of casual leave but

it excludes tea workers from this provision," he said.

Lawmaker Aroma Dutta said government should properly monitor the gardens regularly so that no tea worker faces discrimination.

National Human Rights Commission's member Kamal Uddin Ahmed said, "The tea industry is doing quite well as Bangladesh exports large amounts of tea, but the picture is different when we turn towards the workers."

Rahmat Ullah, dean of Dhaka University's law faculty, and Sanjeeb Drong, president of IPDS, also spoke among others.

KALYANPUR MILITANT DEN CASE

Hearing on charge framing against 10 JMB men on Jan 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set January 14, 2020 for hearing on charge framing against 10 members of the banned militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), in the Kalyanpur militant den case.

Md Majibur Rahman of the Anti-terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka passed the order after receiving copy of an advertisement published in two national dailies regarding a fugitive accused in the case.

The accused are: Rakibul Hasan Regan, Salah Uddin Kamrun, Abdus Sabur Khan, Aslam Hossain Rash, Hadisur Rahman Sagor, Mamunur Rashid Ripon, Shariful Islam Khaled, Abdur Rouf Prodhan, Mufti Maulana Abul Kashem alias Boro Hujur and Azadul Kabiraj.

Of them, Azadul is on the run while Abdur Rouf and Abul Kashem are now on bail. The other accused are in jail custody.

On July 26, 2016, police came across a militant hideout and nine militant suspects were killed after a fierce gun battle. Regan was captured with injuries while trying to flee.

On April 10 this year, Inspector Jahangir Alam of Counter Terrorism and

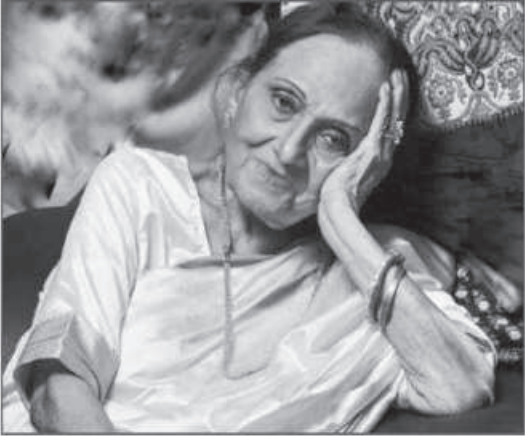
SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Ensuring women-friendly

FROM PAGE 3
Vision said, "More income is not bringing more mobility and empowerment for women even in the booming economy of Bangladesh with 7.3 percent growth rate."
Getting engaged with economical activities actually didn't increase their overall empowerment or mobility as such, especially for those who engaged in different agro-based entrepreneurship or market systems. They are still facing challenge to get access and recognition, he added.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said, "Although Bangladeshi women are very aware and keen to improve their financial situation, their involvement in the market system is not enough."
"Both public and private parties need to work to ensure that our rural agricultural entrepreneurs, especially women, get the right environment and can participate directly in market management," she added.

In loving memory of Mehjabeen Rasheed Choudhury on her 1st death anniversary
November 11, 1934 – December 20, 2018



Sadly missed and always remembered by
Mahsoun
Minaal and Mishal

বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটি
জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর
৬৮৪-৬৮৬, রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৭
স্মারক এসজি/এজিএম-বিজ্ঞপ্তি- ১০০৪/২০১৯ তারিখঃ ১৮ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৯

বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটির ৪৭ তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা-২০১৯ ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পর্ব নির্বাচন (২০২০-২০২২) সন্মুক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটির ৪৭ তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা (AGM)-২০১৯ ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পর্ব নির্বাচন (২০২০-২০২২) ৩০ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৯ তারিখ সোমবার সকাল ১০.০০ টায় বাংলাদেশ চিকিৎসা গবেষণা পরিষদ, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ (Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212) অনুষ্ঠিত হবে (রেজিস্ট্রেশন শুরু হবে সকাল ৯.০০ টায়)। বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটির গঠনমতন্ত্রের ১৪(১) ধারা মোতাবেক বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার আলোচ্যসূচী নিম্নরূপঃ
আলোচ্যসূচীঃ
১। ০৮ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত সোসাইটির ৪৬তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার (AGM) কার্যবিবরণী নিশ্চিতকরণ।
২। সোসাইটির ২০১৯ সনের বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদন অনুমোদনের জন্য উপস্থাপন।
৩। সোসাইটির ২০১৮ সনের অডিট রিপোর্ট বিবেচনা ও অনুমোদনের জন্য উপস্থাপন।
৪। সোসাইটির ২০১৯ সনের সংশোধিত বাজেট (আয়-ব্যয়) পেশ ও অনুমোদনের জন্য উপস্থাপন।
৫। সোসাইটির ২০২০ সনের বার্ষিক বাজেট অনুমোদনের জন্য উপস্থাপন।
৬। বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটির ব্যবস্থাপনা পর্ব নির্বাচন (২০২০-২০২২) নির্বাচন।
(পদ সমূহ - ক) ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান-১ জন, খ) ট্রেজারার-১ জন, গ) সদস্য-১২ জন)।
৭। বিবিধঃ
সোসাইটির ম্যানেজিং বোর্ড-এর সম্মানিত সদস্য, ইউনিট সমূহের ডেলিগেট, অনারারী সদস্য, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, দুর্গোপ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও গ্রাম মন্ত্রণালয়, সমাজ কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় এবং গ্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে গঠিত সোসাইটির জেনারেল বডি-এর সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দকে উক্ত সভায় যোগদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
মোঃ ফিরোজ সাদাত উদ্দিন
মহাসচিব

ঢাকা কমিউনিটি মেডিকেল কলেজ ও ডেন্টাল ইউনিট
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Email: dcmch08@gmail.com, Website: www.dcmch.com

বিডিএস (BDS) কোর্সে ৭ম ব্যাচের ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(শিক্ষাবর্ষ: ২০১৯-২০২০)
● ঢাকা কমিউনিটি মেডিকেল কলেজ ও ডেন্টাল ইউনিট, ডিসিএইচ ট্রাস্ট দ্বারা পরিচালিত একটি অত্যাধুনিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান।
● স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয় অনুমোদিত, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক অধিভুক্ত ও বিএমডিস স্বীকৃত একটি আদর্শ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান।
● শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানটি ঢাকার প্রাণকেন্দ্র মগবাজার, গুয়ারলেন্স রেলগেইট সংলগ্ন মনোরম পরিবেশে অবস্থিত।
● নিজস্ব ভবনে কলেজ ও হাসপাতালটি পরিচালিত। হাসপাতালটি ১৯৮৮ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠিত, বর্তমানে সরকারি অনুমোদিত ৫০০ (পাঁচশত) শয্যাবিশিষ্ট একটি অত্যাধুনিক সেবামূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান।
● অভিজ্ঞ শিক্ষক ও চিকিৎসকমণ্ডলী দ্বারা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল ও ডেন্টাল ইউনিট পরিচালিত হচ্ছে।
● আধুনিক লেকচার হল, অডিও ভিজুয়াল এইড সমৃদ্ধ ক্লাসরুম, ইন্টারনেট সমৃদ্ধ লাইব্রেরী ও ল্যাব সার্ভিসসহ আউটডোর ও ইনডোর সমন্বিত একটি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান।
● ২০০৮ সালে মেডিকেল কলেজ ও ২০১৪ সাল থেকে ডেন্টাল ইউনিট প্রতিষ্ঠার পর থেকেই প্রতিষ্ঠানটি সুনামের সাথে পরিচালিত হয়ে আসছে।
● বিপুল সকল পেশাগত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল অত্যন্ত সন্তোষজনক ও উৎসাহ ব্যঞ্জক।
● দেশী ছাত্রীদের এবং বিদেশী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের হোস্টেলে থাকার সু-ব্যবস্থা আছে।
● ঢাকা কমিউনিটি মেডিকেল কলেজ (WHO) বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থার তালিকাভুক্ত।
● অত্র মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল ক্লিনিক্যাল বিভাগের প্রশিক্ষণ বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস এন্ড সার্জনস্ (BCPS) স্বীকৃত।
● CPR & Skill Lab প্রশিক্ষণ সুনামের সহিত পরিচালনা করে আসছে।
● বহুবহু শেখ মুজিব মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক পোস্ট-গ্র্যাজুয়েট কোর্স অনুমোদিত।
২০১৯-২০২০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে বিডিএস কোর্সে সরকারি ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম ৪০বা তদুর্ধ্ব প্রাপ্ত ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের ভর্তির জন্য সকল কোটায় দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। ভর্তিচ্ছুক ছাত্র/ছাত্রীগণ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার বিনিময় (অফেরতযোগ্য) আগামী ১৯/১২/২০১৯ ইং ইহতে ২৮/১২/২০১৯ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে সরাসরি কলেজ অফিস হতে ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা দেয়া যাবে। প্রাপ্তসকল আবেদনের ফলাফল প্রকাশ ৩০/১২/২০১৯ ইং।
যোগাযোগ: ০১৯২৩৬৯২৭৬৯, ০১৭২৪৮৪৩৩৪, ০১৮১৮৩৫৮৫৬৬
অধ্যক্ষ
ঢাকা কমিউনিটি মেডিকেল কলেজ

THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY • DHAKA •

The Aga Khan Academy Dhaka is the fourth school in a global network of day and residential schools for exceptional students, offering a curriculum based on the highly regarded International Baccalaureate (IB) series of programmes. The Aga Khan Academies aim to develop future leaders with the skills and knowledge to support positive development in their societies, by recruiting talented young people from all backgrounds and providing them with the highest international standard of education. The Aga Khan Academy Dhaka's award-winning, world-class campus is situated in Bashundhara, Dhaka.

For further information please visit agkhanacademies.org/dfakea-info

Employment Opportunities

The Aga Khan Academy Dhaka is currently inviting applications for the following position:

ADMISSIONS MANAGER

Job Description
We are recruiting an Admissions Manager who will work with the Head of Academy to ensure consistent and high quality admissions procedures are developed, implemented and sustained. As the first point of contact for prospective students and their families, the incumbent will act as an Ambassador for the Academy. (S)he will have to work effectively with government officials and share and update and understanding of regulatory frameworks with appropriate colleagues. (S)he will have to collaborate with the I lead of the Academy and I lead of Finance to implement the Academies Financial Aid framework and contribute to its development.

Requirements
The successful candidate must have knowledge and understanding of the admissions industry or a closely related field. (S)he must have excellent interpersonal skills and the capacity to interact well and communicate effectively with students, parents and colleagues within a diverse and pluralistic society. The candidate must have previous experience as an effective Admissions Manager.

APPLICATION (ERP) AND INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM MANAGER

Job Description
The Application and Infrastructure System Manager will be responsible for the entire ICT functions at the Academy with special emphasis on infrastructure service domains. This role will have a focus on the development and implementation of core ICT infrastructure and telecommunication network. The person will be responsible for liaising with the Academies project team, external contractors, subcontractors and MEP design team to manage the infrastructure setup. The incumbent will also be responsible for providing network support to maintain the network infrastructure, platform operating systems including iOS and ensuring IT Infrastructure performance meets the organizational and internal customer requirements.

Requirements
The successful candidate should have an overall experience of a minimum of 9-10 years in the ICT field out of which at least 5 years should be in a managerial role. The ideal candidate should have hands on knowledge on IT infrastructure including servers, applications and hardware. Working experience in an educational setup, preferably in a K-12 school environment would be an added advantage. The candidate must have experience of being involved in a full cycle ERP (MS Navision) implementation. (S)he will have to work cooperatively and effectively with other employees, and have a customer-centric focus.

For further information and to apply, please visit www.akdn.org/careers Closing Date: 15 January 2020

Don't prescribe

FROM PAGE 3
Hamid said it is also true that sometimes hospitals lack skilled manpower to use such equipment.
"As a result, public money is being wasted... this also deprives patients of desired services," he added.
He urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter seriously.
The president also mentioned that it is important to ensure transparency and accountability in procurement of medical equipment.
"Do not overlook the contributions of the masses alongside your parents and neighbours..." he said.
Mentioning that cardiac disease is one of the major causes of deaths in Bangladesh and its prevalence is increasing day by day, the president said it is important to make people aware of the causes of the disease and its prevention.
He also stressed the need for focusing on prevention, as the treatment of heart disease is expensive.
He said the deliberations at Bangla Cardio-2019 will be an excellent opportunity for cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from home and abroad to exchange their views and experiences on recent advancement in cardiovascular sciences.
"It'll definitely play a unique role in future development of cardiac care facilities in the country and create mass awareness in prevention of this dreadful disease," he added.
Health and Family Affairs Minister Zahid Maleque, National Professor Brigadier Abdul Malik (ret'd), Bangladesh Cardiac Society President and Secretary General respectively Prof AKM Mohibullah and Prof Abdullah Al Shafi Majumder, Director of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Professor Dr Mir Jamal Uddin and Professor NC Nanda of Alabama University of USA, among others, were present at the event.
Secretaries concerned to the president were also present on the occasion.

Hearing on charge framing

FROM PAGE 3
Transnational Crime unit of police submitted a charge sheet before a Dhaka court against 10 suspects.
Regan and Sagor were among seven militants who were handed death penalty by a Dhaka court on November 27, for their involvement in the Holy Artisan Bakery attack, which left 22 people -- including 17 foreigners -- dead.

Factory Building Sale
Three-storied Building (App: Plan Four-storied). Total Floor- 12,300sq.ft. Land-8.50 Katha, at Gazipur. Real party contact- 01716597312

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A F Mujibur Rahman Foundation, Cell: 01711 831044


Mosquito menace

FROM PAGE 3
He said they are removing water hyacinth from the ponds.
The DNCC mayor also claimed that the city corporation has initiated a crash programme to kill adult mosquitoes.
"We hope the situation is better compared to that of the same time last year. We're also positive that we'll be able to bring things under control this time," he said.
The mayor said 632 mosquito breeding hotspots were identified in DNCC areas and they have started work to destroy those.
Entomologists will monitor the spots after the drive, he said.
"We are following entomologists' suggestions to control the rising mosquito population," Atiqul said.
He said they will submit an integrated vector management project to the ministry concerned by December 20.
Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon said they have

submitted their project proposal around one month back.
"We'll be able to take effective measures after getting approval of the project but at the moment, we're doing routine work," he said.
Dr Manzur Chowdhury, an entomologist and former president of Geological Society of Bangladesh, said mosquito control activities are supervised directly by ward councillors in DNCC areas but many councillors are absent.
He said there are problems in the chain of command and line of communication which need to be resolved.
Dr Manzur also said they have formed a team of entomologists who will identify the hotspots of culex mosquitoes.
DNCC will have to destroy the early population in the hotspots but it could not start the work on time because of which the number of culex has gone up.
But DNCC is trying hard to bring culex mosquito population under control, he said.

INVITATION TO BID
For Complete ID System with MALDI-TOF MS

Tender Ref. icddr/SCM/OTM/2019/51 **Date : Dec 19, 2019**
icddr,b hereby invites you to submit a Bid to this Invitation to Bid (ITB) **For Complete ID System with MALDI-TOF MS**.
Interested participants can download the Tender Documents from the below web address : <http://www.icddr.org/work-with-us/tender-notices>
Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **29th Dec 2019** at icddr,b. Please see the bid documents for details of location and contact.
Offerors shall submit their offers through hard copy printed documents. Offers must be received no later than **9th Jan 2020 2:30 PM**. Please note, bid opening session will not be conducted as a Public Opening.
icddr,b reserves the right to accept or reject all/part proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever. This RFP invitation will also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the tenderer.

 **icddr,b** **Senior Manager, Procurement**
Email: supplychain@icddr.org

Stamford University Bangladesh
44 (744 old) Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1209
58151469, 9131388 & 9119959 Ext: 667, 146 & 150
Website: www.stamforduniversity.edu.bd

Faculty Search

Stamford University Bangladesh is looking for competent applicants for the position of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers for the departments of Computer Science & Engineering and Pharmacy.

Qualifications and Experience

Professor for Pharmacy: Ph.D. degree with 12 years of teaching experience at University level of which 04 years as an Associate Professor at least 08 publications of which 04 as an Associate Professor.
Associate Professor for Pharmacy: Ph.D. (M. Pharm with 4 years B.Pharm degree from reputed Universities) with at least 8 years of active teaching and research expertise. **Foreign degree holders** will be given preference.
Associate Professor for CSE: Ph.D. (Master's with 4 years B.Sc. degree in CSE/CIT from reputed Universities) with at least 4 years of active teaching and research expertise. **Foreign degree holders** will be given preference.
Assistant Professor for CSE: M.Phil/Master's (with 4 years B.Sc. degree in CSE/CIT from reputed Universities) with a strong academic background and minimum **CGPA of 3.75** on a scale of 4.00. Applicants with **experience** will be given preference.
Lecturer for CSE: Master's/Bachelor's (4 years B.Sc. degree in CSE/CIT from reputed Universities) with a strong academic background and minimum **CGPA of 3.75** on a scale of 4.00. Applicants with **experience** will be given preference.
The candidates should have 1st divisions or equivalent in their SSC & HSC levels also.
Salary as per scale of the University.
Applicants are requested to apply with a full CV in the prescribed form (available in the website), a signed application, attested photocopy of all academic records and two (2) copies of recent passport sized photograph
within 04/01/2020 addressed to the Registrar, Stamford University Bangladesh, 44, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1209 or E-mail: hrd@stamforduniversity.edu.bd
For details visit www.stamforduniversity.edu.bd/index.php/stamford/career
N.B: Any lobbying will automatically disqualify a candidate.

Position: 1
Job Title: Chief Executive Officer, STS Placements, Eduko Bangladesh
Directly reporting to: Board of Directors
Responsible for: International student admissions

STS Group, one of Bangladesh's largest multi-interest conglomerates, is proud to announce the launch of STS Placements, which will represent leading international universities in Bangladesh and recruit students for admissions to their graduate and post-graduate programmes.
We are currently seeking a highly motivated CEO candidate for STS Placements. The CEO's responsibility will be to lead all operations and ensure the safe transfer of qualified students to these international universities. Qualified candidates will receive a highly competitive compensation package. All qualified candidates must have a minimum of 10 years' work experience and have at least 5 years of experience in a leadership role in a student placements organization. An international educational background would be beneficial.
Interested candidates should submit their updated CVs by 31 December 2019 to career@stsgroupbd.com, mentioning "CEO, STS Placements" in the subject line.

Position: 2
Job Title: Chief Executive Officer, STS Pathways, Eduko Bangladesh
Directly reporting to: Board of Directors
Responsible for: Monash College Foundation and Diploma programs

The STS Group, one of Bangladesh's leading multi-interest conglomerates, is proud to announce the launch of STS Pathways, which will offer the Monash in-country program in collaboration with Monash College, a wholly owned subsidiary of Monash University, Australia's largest university and counted amongst the world's top 100 universities. Students who complete the Monash Foundation Year or Diploma Year programme have a 100% guaranteed entrance into Year 1 or Year 2 respectively of the Monash Malaysia and Monash Australia programs.
We are currently seeking a highly motivated CEO candidate for STS Pathways. The CEO's responsibility will be to lead all operations and ensure a high-quality Monash program is delivered to students. The Academic, Administrative and Marketing teams will directly report to the CEO. Qualified candidates will receive a highly competitive compensation package and would have the opportunity to grow within the STS Group. All qualified candidates must have a minimum of 10 years' work experience and have at least 5 years of experience in a senior leadership role, specifically in the education industry. Candidates with experience leading an academic institution will be highly preferred. An international educational background would be beneficial.
Interested candidates should submit their updated CVs by 31 December 2019 to career@stsgroupbd.com, mentioning "CEO, STS Pathways" in the subject line. D-304

Cops close in on Hizb-ut Tahrir operations in Ctg

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, *Chattogram*

Counter Terrorism (CT) unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) is getting a clear picture of the tricks and techniques used by banned militant outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir to carry out its activities in the port city, officials of the force told this newspaper.

The operatives were using special smartphone apps to communicate with each other to dodge eyes of law enforcing agencies, CT officials have found, after interrogating 15 operatives of the group -- including the chief of Chattogram metro unit -- who were arrested from different areas of the city on November 23.

Among the arrestees are three top leaders -- Abul Mohammed Arshadul Alam (39), Abdullah Al Mahfuz (30), and Md Azimul Huda -- who played vital roles to regroup the organisation in the port city, said CT officials.

Investigators said the operatives are now targeting English medium students in guise of teaching and other service-related professions with an aim to overcome funding crisis of the organisation, as these students typically have more money to spend than the average youth.

Apart from that, investigators also learned that posters, press releases and leaflets of the banned group were being sent from Dhaka via public transport.

Members of the outfit also used to send daily updates of their activities through designated charts through the app to their seniors, using code words.

CT officials said they found these daily reports from phones, laptops and other devices of the arrestees, where they saw all

15 arrestees used one specific smartphone app for internal communication.

"We found two of the arrestees were introduced to senior leaders while commuting through ridesharing services," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Md Moinul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) (Intelligence) of CT unit, said, "We are monitoring the overall situation of the organisation and trying to find out its goals in the port city," the ADC said.

Till now, two operatives have given confessional statements before the court under section 164 of CrPC.

Investigators found that the operatives used two different smartphone apps to set up their communication channels that were hard to trace for law enforcers.

CT officials told The Daily Star, "The men do not use their personnel phone numbers to install apps, in order to avoid being tracked."

Arrestee Abdullah Al Munim, told a court during his confessional statement that Hizb-ut leader Mahfuz installed the app in his phone and asked him to only communicate through it. He added that he used to share locations and photos through the app as per Mahfuz's directives, coordinate meeting spots and discussion materials through it.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammed Shahidullah of CT unit said, "Police have gleaned significant information about the outfit during interrogation and are now verifying those."

(Details of the apps and techniques used by the group have been omitted for security reasons.)



PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH NASIR



10 PAISA PER THREAD... A little girl pulls a thread out of a cement bag. She will continue doing so until she gets tired; she has a target to reach. For every 100 bags, she gets Tk 10. At least a hundred children, from marginasiled families, are involved in this line of work in Sylhet city's Sheikhghat area. Some local traders collect these bags from Kalighat. The photo was taken on Wednesday morning.

TIB lauds govt move to use eco-friendly construction blocks

CITY DESK

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has appreciated the government's declaration of producing eco-friendly blocks and its use in public projects.

TIB in a statement demanded effective implementation of the declaration, and urged steps to make the use of such blocks in private sector mandatory as well.

The government has made the use of eco-friendly blocks in public construction must from this fiscal, in a move to cut reliance on bricks in building structures, walls and roads.

State-run agencies will use blocks made of sand, cement fly ash or materials other than clay, to build and repair walls, herringbone bond road, and rural passages instead of bricks -- which use valuable topsoil as raw material.

Agencies will have to use 10 percent blocks in the current fiscal and 20 percent the following year, said a notification of the ministry of environment on November 24.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman termed the decision encouraging, but said the results will depend on its implementation. He urged concerted efforts to shut down all conventional brick kilns to protect the environment.

BRINGING BACK CORRUPT OFFICIALS

ACC seeks Aussie support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sought information from the Australian government on the corrupt Bangladeshi persons who have fled to and invested in the island continent.

"We've information that some corrupt Bangladeshis have fled to Australia. They invested their ill-earned money in real estate and other businesses," ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said at a bilateral meeting with Australian government high-ups in the UAE.

He sought cooperation from Australian government to bring back the culprits and their laundered money.

The meeting was held with Executive Director Secretariat of Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity Craig Furry and Assistant Director of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and

Trade Dr Stephen McElhinney, said a press release.

Iqbal said corruption is a global problem. "The problem [for Bangladesh] is that they [corruptors] launder their ill-gotten money to other countries. A coordinated effort is needed to curb corruption," he said.

Bangladesh has sought information of laundered money from some countries through "mutual legal assistance request".

"If they response quickly, case proceedings will be expedited," the ACC chief added.

In June, ACC filed a case against a suspended Directorate General of Health Services employee Abzal Hossain and his wife Rubina Khanam for amassing about Tk 36 crore beyond known source of income and concealed information of about Tk 7 crore in their wealth statement.

ACC also found Abzal, who fled the

country, bought a house in Sydney, spending more than US\$ 200,000.

An ACC team led by Iqbal participated in the 8th Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), taking place in the UAE from December 16.

On December 17, at a session, the ACC chairman said they have seized wealth worth about Tk 24.8 crore between January and October this year.

At the same time, about Tk 4.6 crore from five foreign bank accounts were seized.

Besides, about 12.44-acre land, 10 houses, four luxury apartments and six cars have also been seized.

Pointing out importance of mutual cooperation, Iqbal said the anti-graft watchdog has brought back about Tk 18.7 crore from Singapore in money laundering cases and helped the UK to recover another Tk 1.8 crore.

30 illegal vegetable shops demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cumilla*

Local authorities demolished at least 30 illegal shops beside Dhaka-Chattogram highway at Nimshar vegetable market in Cumilla yesterday.

Burichang upazila administration conducted the drive led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Imrul Ahsan.

AC (land) Executive Magistrate Tahmida Akter and Roads and Highways Department Executive Engineer Dr Ahad Ullah were also present during the drive, which started at 10am and continued till noon.

A police team led by Burichang Police Station Officer-in-Charge Akul Chandra Bishwas assisted them to maintain law and order.

The shops had been set up in front of Nimshar Junab Ali Degree College.

Appreciating the move, college Principal Mamun Mia Mazumder alleged that some influential locals were behind establishing the shops in front of the college.

After the shops were dismantled and the space was freed up, the upazila administration planted around 100 trees there, said the principal.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Imrul Ahsan said, "We will monitor the situation further."

Road crashes claim nine lives

Truck runs over third-grader in Madaripur; 10 injured in bus accident in Sirajganj

STAR REPORT

A third-grader was killed after a truck ran him over in Digholpara area of Rajoir upazila of Madaripur yesterday.

The deceased is Ratul Kazi (7), son of Ferdaus Kazi. He was a student of Lundi Govt Primary School.

Quoting locals, Khandakar Shawkat Jahan, officer-in-charge of Rajoir Police Station, said the accident occurred while Ratul was crossing the road at noon.

Locals rushed him to the upazila health complex where the doctor declared him dead.

Later, police seized the truck but its driver fled the scene, the OC added.

Meanwhile, at least eight people were killed and 10 injured in other accidents across the country in the last two days, our correspondents and

news agencies report.

In Mymensingh, three people were killed on the spot after a truck collided with the CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them at Goatola Shashar Bazar in Tarakanda upazila around 9am yesterday, said police.

The deceased were identified as auto-rickshaw driver Rubel Mia (23), Aminul Islam (30) and Sayeem Mia (29).

Police seized the truck, but its driver managed to flee. A case was lodged in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile in Sirajganj, at least two people were killed and 10 injured after a bus collided with a truck in Harinchara area of Ullapara upazila yesterday.

The deceased are truck driver Raju Ahmed and his helper Hanzala Rony. OC Md Akhtaruzzaman of

Hatikumrul Highway Police Station said the driver and helper died on the spot while 10 bus passengers were injured and hospitalised.

In another accident in the district, Sanowar Hossain (50) was killed after a bus ran him over in front of Nimgachi Degree College of Raiganj upazila yesterday, reports BSS.

In Thakurgaon, one Hridoy (20) was killed after the three-wheeler carrying him overturned at Mirdangi village of Ranishankoil upazila on Wednesday.

Police said the accident occurred after the driver lost control over the vehicle and it skidded off a road.

In Magura, Yeasin Molla (21) was killed and a person was injured after a truck hit the motorbike carrying them on Magura-Boalmari road on Wednesday, reports UNB.



DPS STS School Dhaka organised Victory Day programmes on December 12, 16 and 17 to pay tribute to martyrs of the Liberation War.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DUST POLLUTION

DoE fines construction firm Tk 1 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Cig*

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a construction firm in port city for dust pollution.

The firm T&EB, which was engaged in constructing a road from city's Chandgaon to Kalurghat, was fined Tk 1 lakh for not taking necessary steps to control the dust from construction work, said a DoE press release.

The under construction road was left in a dilapidated state, causing severe dust pollution in surrounding areas whenever vehicles plied the road, hence the office was prompted to slap the firm with a fine, it said.



This Bede family -- a man, woman and a cat -- does not have much other than few utensils and a boat they call home. But to row all day is quite a strenuous task, so the woman uses her leg as support. Also known as river gypsies, they mostly live by the river and travel from town to town on boat. This photo was taken from the Kirtankhola river in Barishal yesterday morning.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

C&F agent denied bail in 4 smuggling cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has rejected four bail petitions of a clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent in Chattogram in four cases filed over smuggling.

Following the order, Mizanur Rahman Chaklader -- an accused in 22 cases involving around Tk 2,000 crore -- cannot get released from jail, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the orders on Wednesday, saying the bail petitions were not submitted properly.

Amin Uddin said an investigation of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) found Mizanur Rahman misappropriated around Tk 2,000 crore by dodging duty, smuggling and forging 3,777 bills of entry in the name of releasing products through user IDs of two former customs officials, over the last two years.

CIID filed a case with Ramna Police Station on January 16 against Chaklader for duty dodging, smuggling and forgery. Later, 21 other cases were filed on similar charges.

The HC on July 14 granted six months' ad-interim bail to Chaklader in the first case, and issued a rule asking the government and Anti-Corruption Commission to explain why he should not be granted permanent bail, he said.

On October 27, the Supreme Court scrapped the HC order, and ordered him to surrender to the trial court.

On November 3, Chaklader surrendered to a Dhaka court that sent him to jail.

Chaklader then filed four separate petitions with the HC seeking bail in four cases, DAG Manik said.

<div>Office of the Chief Engineer University of Dhaka Fax: 88-02-9667222 E-mail: vcoffice@du.ac.bd, registrar@du.ac.bd Memo No. 259(12)-2/Engg. Dated: 17/12/2019</div>		
Invitation for Online Tender (Open Tender)		
1	Name of work	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 14 Nos. 5 Ton capacity Split type Air Cooler for newly constructed different Exam Hall of Faculty of Social Sciences Building, University of Dhaka. Price of Tender Document- 5,500/=
3	Tender closing date & time	02/01/2020; Time: Up to 12.00 Noon.
4	Tender opening date & time	02/01/2020; Time: 12.30pm.
5	Tender opening place	E-Tender Room, 1st Floor, Administrative Bldg, University of Dhaka.
6	Tender published on website	http://e-tender.univdhaka.edu
GD-2079		
Akmal Abu Musa Chowdhury Executive Engineer, Elec, Zone-2 University of Dhaka		



Farmers sow onion at a field of Jashore Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Onion farming on the rise in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Farmers in Jashore district are cultivating onion in much larger areas this season, following the recent price hike of the bulb used as a common cooking ingredient. Talking to farmers in different areas of Jashore, it was learnt that they have been cultivating Faridpuri and Taherpuri varieties of onion for

long but the recently introduced Bari-1 variety of onion seeds supplied by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) is of much better quality. Now Bari-1 onion seed is selling for Tk 1000 a kg while Faridpur and Taherpuri varieties for Tk 100, said the stakeholders. Officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said

they have set a target of onion cultivation on 1,250 hectares of land in Jashore, including 400 hectares in Chougachha, 300 hectares in Bagharpara, 100 hectares each in Sadar, Sharsha, Jhikargachha, Manirampur and Keshabpur, and 50 hectares in Abhoynagar upazila. The target is likely to exceed, said Emdadul Haque, deputy director of Jashore DAE.

Ex-BCL leader ‘grabs land’ of AL leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and a sand trader in Trishal upazila allegedly encroached on a piece of agricultural land by dumping sand on it from the Brahmaputra river. Mozammel Haque, vice-president of Balipara Union unit of Awami League and owner of the land, made the accusation at a press conference held at Mymensingh Press Club auditorium yesterday. Mozammel claimed that on September 12, Rezaul Karim, an ex-joint secretary of BCL’s Trishal municipality unit, leased 35 acres of ‘Balu Mahal’ in Trishal’s Balipara. Soon afterwards, Rezaul started to occupy the adjacent land, belonging to Mozammel. Rezaul did not refrain from the illegal act despite numerous requests made by Mozammel, he also said. So far, Rezaul occupied four acres of his agricultural land where seasonal vegetables are grown. “Finding no other means, we lodged a complaint with the High Court and the court issued a status quo on the matter on December 1 this year,” he claimed. Rezaul, however, refuted the allegation and claimed that he did not receive any copy of the court order yet.

Warm clothes in demand as mercury falls in N dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A large number of people are thronging the makeshift markets in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts to buy warm clothes to get rid of the biting cold sweeping over the districts. The temperature ranged between 8.9 and 13.3 degrees Celsius at Tetulia of Panchagarh in last five days while it was 10.7 degrees at 9:00am yesterday, said sources at Tetulia Weather Observation Centre of Bangladesh Meteorological Department. The Department of Agriculture Extension recorded 11 degrees Celsius temperature in Thakurgaon on the day. The severity of cold in the northern region is due to the cold air from the Himalayas, said officials at Tetulia Met office. During a visit to different areas of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh in last two days, this correspondent saw people crowding the makeshift shops to buy sweaters, jackets, cardigans, woollen caps and mufflers. Several buyers alleged that taking advantage of people’s helplessness due to the severe cold, the traders have increased prices of warm clothes. “I came here to buy warm clothes for my daughter. But the vendors are charging higher than usual price,” said Rezina Begum, 45, a farm labourer of Barunagaon village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila. Islam, a day labourer of Moidandighi village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh, said he has come to Boda Bazar to buy a

sweater or a jacket for his son but he is yet to buy one as the price is not reasonable. Meser Ali, a vendor of second hand clothes at Thakurgaon, said the customers, mostly day-labourers, rickshaw-pullers and low-paid employees of different government and private organisations are crowding the makeshift market for the last couple of days as the temperature continued falling. Meser refuted the allegation of demanding additional price for warm clothes, saying that this year they had to purchase winter clothes for higher prices. Talking to common people in different areas, it was learnt that the distribution of warm clothes including blankets among the poor is much less than the requirement. Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner (DC) KM Kamruzzaman Selim said 32,000 blankets received from the Directorate of Relief and Disaster Management and the Prime Minister’s relief fund have already been distributed among the distressed people in five upazilas of the district. “We have sent a letter to the higher authority, asking for 50,000 more blankets to mitigate the sufferings of cold-affected people. Besides, different government and non-government organisations are distributing warm clothes including blankets among the poor people,” he said. In Panchagarh, the district administration distributed 28,000 blankets among the distressed people and sent a demand letter to the authorities concerned for 50,000 more blankets, DC office sources said.



Warm clothes on sale at a makeshift market in Thakurgaon town.

PHOTO: STAR



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HR Planning Deployment and Operations Division
Head Office
9D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Request for expression of Interest for selection of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in the rank of General Manager.

Agrani Bank Limited Announces a vacancy for the position of Chief Financial Officer(CFO) in the rank of General Manager for a period of 02(two) years on contractual basis.

For detailed job description and instructions to apply for the position, please visit our website: www.agranibank.org




(A.M. Abid Hossain)
General Manager(HRPDOD)

3 x 3

86 Jamaat activists arrested in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 86 activists of Jammat-e-Islami were arrested in Nawabganj upazila of the district while holding a secret meeting there yesterday afternoon. All the arrestees are local members (rokon) of Jamaat, said Ashok Kumar Chowhan, officer-in-charge of Nawabganj Police Station. The OC further added informed that a group of Jamaat men were holding a secret meeting at Swapnapuri, an artificial park in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur, they raided there in the afternoon and arrested the 86 members. The arrestees were later taken to the police station, he said. Later, a case was filed in connection with the incident, said the police official.



Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)
Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সাক্ষ্যী হোন এবং সমন্বিত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No. JG/HTP/HDD/IFIT/2019/W-4

Date: 19/12/2019

Corrigendum Notice

This is for information to all concerned that the International Tender Ref. No. JG/HTP/HDD/IFIT/2019/W-4, Date: 04/11/2019 published on 07/11/2019 in The Daily Star for Procurement of ‘Design, Engineering Procurement, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 12.75” OD high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method across the river Shari Guain at Shalutikar, Sylhet on turn-key/EPC Basis’ is hereby amended as follows:

Tender Notice Particulars		
11.	Tender selling period	: 11/11/2019 to 14/01/2020 (During office hours on all working days)
12.	Tender closing time & date	: Up to 12:00am (BST) on 15/01/2020
13.	Tender opening time & date	: On 12:15pm (BST), Dated 15/01/2020

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

Engr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed
General Manager (Planning Division)

GD-2091

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Primary Education
Section-2, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
www.dpe.gov.bd

Memo No. 38.01.0000.500.07.44.19-533

Date: 17 December 2019

e-Tender Notice


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

Package No.	Tender name	Tender ID No.	Tender document selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
GD 213.01/2019-20 (Lot No. 01)	Procurement of school furniture (Chair-5553, Table-3354, High Bench with long Bookshelf-25333 and Low Bench-25333) for Rajshahi and Mymensingh Division	389530	22-Jan-2020, 17:00	23-Jan-2020, 13:00	23-Jan-2020, 13:00
GD 213.01/2019-20 (Lot No. 02)	Procurement of school furniture (Chair-5213, Table-3066, High Bench with Long Bookshelf-24411 and Low Bench-24411) for Khulna and Sylhet Division	389915	22-Jan-2020, 17:00	23-Jan-2020, 13:15	23-Jan-2020, 13:15
GD 213.01/2019-20 (Lot No. 03)	Procurement of school furniture (Chair-4123, Table-2582, High Bench with Long Bookshelf-18868 and Low Bench-18868) for Dhaka Division	389916	22-Jan-2020, 17:00	23-Jan-2020, 13:30	23-Jan-2020, 13:30
GD 213.01/2019-20 (Lot No. 04)	Procurement of school furniture (Chair-4918, Table-3142, High Bench with Long Bookshelf-23985 and Low Bench-23985) for Chittagong Division	389918	22-Jan-2020, 17:00	23-Jan-2020, 13:45	23-Jan-2020, 13:45
GD 213.01/2019-20 (Lot No. 05)	Procurement of school furniture (Chair-4780, Table-3200, High Bench with Long Bookshelf-24654 and Low Bench-24654) for Barisal and Rangpur Division	389919	22-Jan-2020, 17:00	23-Jan-2020, 14:00	23-Jan-2020, 14:00

- These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank’s branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Hasan Sarwar
Director (Procurement)
Director of Primary Education
For
Program Director, PEDP4
E-mail: dirprocurementdpe@gmail.com

GD-2070



Export Promotion Bureau

TCB Building (4th Floor)
1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

Memo No. 26.02.0000.007.07.121.11 (Part-4).150

Date: 18-12-2019

Invitation for Tender

1.	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Commerce
2.	Agency	: Export Promotion Bureau
3.	Procuring Entity Name	: Export Promotion Bureau headed by Vice-Chairman
4.	Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
5.	Invitation For	: Procurement of One Microbus (12 seater) and One Sedan Car(5 seater)
6.	Invitation Ref No.	: 26.02.0000.007.07.121.11 (Part-4)
7.	Date	: 18/12/2019

KEY INFORMATION

8.	Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (National)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9.	Budget and Source of Funds	: Self-Financed by EPB
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10.	Tender publication date(Tentative)	: December 19-20, 2019
11.	Last selling date of Tender Schedule	: 12/01/2020 during office hour
12.	Tender Closing Date & Time	: 13/01/2020 at 14:00hrs
13.	Tender opening date and time	: 13/01/2020 at 15:00hrs
14.	Name & address of the office selling tender document	: Finance & Accounts Section, Export Promotion Bureau TCB Building (4 th Floor), 1 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
15.	Receiving tender document	: Export Promotion Bureau TCB Building (4 th Floor), 1 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
16.	Opening tender document	: -Do-
- Place/date/time for Pre-tender meeting		: Optional

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

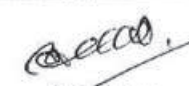
17.	Eligibility of Tenderer	: Well-reputed and financially solvent Tenderers (authorized agents/distributors) having office establishment, repairing workshop, manpower, logistic support, stock position, good performance, qualification and past experience of supplying new and quality vehicles to the Government sectors within the assigned time.
18.	Brief description of Goods/Works	: Supply of One Microbus (12 seater) and One Sedan Car(5 seater)
19.	Brief description of related services	: As stipulated in the Tender Document/Schedule
20.	Tender document price	: Tk.1,000/- (One Thousand) each (Non-Refundable)

21.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security	Completion time in weeks/months
	1.	Procurement of One Microbus	Dhaka	Tk. 1,32,000/-	3 Weeks from the date of issuance of Supply Order/Signing of Contract.
	2.	Procurement of One Sedan Car for Official use of Export Promotion Bureau	Dhaka	Tk. 1,05,000/-	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

22.	Name of official inviting tender	: Mr. Md. Jahangir Hossain
23.	Designation of official inviting tender	: Secretary, Export Promotion Bureau
24.	Address of official inviting tender	: Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Building (4 th Floor) 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
25.	Contact details of official inviting tender	: Phone: 55013420, PABX: 9144822-24/114, E-mail: secy@epb.gov.bd
26.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders or annul the tendering process.	

• NB- Technical Specification and other details will be available in Tender Document.


Secretary
Export Promotion Bureau

GD-2087



Balashi Ghat terminal on the Jamuna in Gaibandha lies idle during the ongoing dry season as the adjoining channel has lost navigability due to massive siltation in the riverbed.

PHOTO: STAR

BALASHI, BAHADURABAD TERMINALS

Ferry services disrupted as navigability lost to siltation in Jamuna

K M REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Due to freshly deposited silt in the Jamuna river, ferry services along the Balashi Ghat terminal in Gaibandha and Bahadurabad Ghat terminal in Jamalpur are almost at a halt.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) carried out dredging in the river last year to increase navigability.

But during monsoon this year sediments again found their ways into the river bringing down the water level at many points.

As a result, a plan of BIWTA to create road link between northern districts and Dhaka by placing barges (large, flat-bottomed boat for carrying heavy freight on rivers, canals) is now in limbo.

The pontoon at Balashi Ghat is currently lying inactive. The terminal is mostly used to carry passengers and goods to the capital from northern districts.

Communication via different routes of the Jamuna river gets largely disrupted every winter as water level goes down drastically.

At some points, it becomes knee-deep making it impossible for vessels to move. Vessels run into shoals and get stuck, according to local boatmen.

Everyday hundreds of people travel to different destinations by engine boats from Balashi Ghat.

The terminal connects Gaibandha town to Sundarganj, Fulchhari and Sagata upazilas of the district. It also connects the town with Chilmari, Raumari and

Rajibpur upazilas of Kurigram, Sariakandi and Sonatola of Bogura, and Dewanganj and Islampur of Jamalpur, according to Gaibandha District Council.

Navigability on the routes are almost lost as water flow from the upstream has gone thinner over time, said locals.

“In rainy season, it takes only one-and-a-half hour to reach Bahadurabad Ghat but in dry season it takes three to four hours,” said Abdul Hye, a boatman of Kalasona Char in Fulchhari.

“We thought that navigability would be restored by excavation, but flood again brought silt from upstream and the situation went back to square one,” said boatman Jamaluddin of Balashi Ghat.

“Passengers cannot reach their

destinations on time in winter, as a number of shoals develop in the riverbed impeding movement of country boats,” Asaduzzaman Hashu, leaseholder of the terminal, told this paper.

Moklesur Rahman, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, Gaibandha, said, “We need a master plan to do dredging in such a way that ferry channels remain navigable throughout the year.”

During British rule, railway authorities had launched train ferry services in the Jamuna.

Following the construction of Bangabandhu Bridge, the railway ferry services between Balashi Ghat and Bahadurabad Ghat was withdrawn in 2005.

Manpower shortage grips Faridpur General Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Health services at Faridpur General Hospital are being affected due to shortage of doctors and other staffers.

Established in 1917 with a capacity of 20 beds, the hospital was upgraded to a 50-bed one in 1985. In 2002, it was further upgraded to a 100-bed capacity.

However, the authorities did not allocate necessary manpower for the upgraded facility, alleged locals.

Currently, there are only 17 doctors against an allocated 37 posts and most other posts in the hospital remain vacant, they also said.

At present, there is no senior consultant at departments of surgery, skin and orthopaedics while junior consultant positions at eye, radiology and pathology departments lie vacant.

Besides, the posts of anaesthetist, pathologist, radiologist, two sub-registrars of gynae, two sub-registrars of surgery, sub-registrars of ENT, two sub-registrars of medicine, two posts of EMO, two medical officers, one blood bank officer and one medical officer (herbal) post are also vacant.

Moreover, the available doctors and staff members are not serving the patients in their best capacity. Many of the service seekers further complained of poor service and unprofessional conduct of many of the hospital employees and doctors.

Services at the hospital’s emergency are not available from the afternoon till the next morning, they also alleged.

During a recent visit to the hospital, this correspondent found a large crowd of patients waiting for a long time at the outpatient service counter.

Some of the service seekers alleged that the doctors often



allow more time to medical representatives from different pharmaceutical companies than the patients.

Ismail Kazi, 65, from Chartapakhola village, said, “I came here at 9:00am and could not see a doctor after waiting till 12:00 noon.”

Ozufa Begum, 55, from Ashapur village in Boalmari upazila, said, “I came from Boalmari to see a doctor around 9:00am. I’ve been waiting for about two hours now.”

Ganesh Agarwala, a resident medical officer of the hospital, said at least 150 to 200 patients get treatment from the hospital’s outpatient section every day. “But we don’t have sufficient doctors to treat them.”

Faridpur Civil Surgeon Enamul Haque said, “We are suffering terribly for the shortage of doctors and other staffers.”

They wrote to the higher authorities seeking additional manpower, but they were yet to see any response, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors from 22 countries, including writers, literary and media personalities, pose for photograph with Bangladesh officials in front of historic Shat Gombuj Masjid (Sixty Dome Mosque) in Bagerhat yesterday noon. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited the foreign delegates to Bangladesh ahead of the ‘Mujib Year-2020’ marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Illegal brick kilns all over Maheshpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Flouting environmental laws, at least 13 illegal brick kilns in Maheshpur upazila are likely to burn an estimated 11.8 lakh maunds of firewood this year.

Out of those, 10 kilns use barrel or drum chimneys while the other 3 use fixed chimneys.

A barrel-chimney kiln usually consumes about 60 thousand maunds of firewood a year while a fixed-chimney kiln consumes about one lakh maunds, said several brick kiln owners in the upazila.

According to them, the 10 barrel-chimney kilns in Maheshpur would consume about 6 lakh maunds of firewood while the three fixed-chimney kilns would consume about 3 lakh maunds of firewood this year.

While visiting several of the brick kilns, this correspondent found huge amounts of lumber stockpiled at the yard of each of those while the area remained covered with thick black smoke spewed out from the chimneys.

Requesting anonymity, a brick kiln owner said the authorities consider issuing operation permits to only zigzag type of brick kilns, which use coal to bake bricks.

But none of the kilns -- including Shohag, Masum, Bhai, Shakil, SBM, Ripon, MAR, Rafi, Jewel, Rado and Bahar bricks -- are zigzag types and those do not have any authorisation to operate in the area, he added.

Another brick kiln owner said lumber or firewood is readily available locally at lower



PHOTO: STAR

A huge amount of lumber, stockpiled to be used as firewood, at this illegal brick kiln with a barrel or drum chimney in Jhenidah’s Maheshpur upazila. The photo was taken recently.

prices than coal and they profit more when they burn firewood at the kilns.

Abdul Latif, owner of Raja brick kiln that uses coal in its zigzag type of kilns, said it costs them about Tk 6,500 to produce one thousand bricks, whereas the production cost for the same quantity comes down to Tk 5,000 when firewood is used.

As a result, more buyers are enticed in buying

bricks from the illegal kilns due to the significant price difference, he also said.

A local firewood trader, Golam Sarwar, said they make more profit this time of the year when local brick kilns go in full operation.

Contacted, Maheshpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Acting) Sujon Kumar Sarkar said they would take necessary action against the illegal kilns soon.

Moulvibazar to recall mine blast tragedy today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Today, December 20, is reminder of Moulvibazar mine blast tragedy.

On this day in 1971, at least 25 freedom fighters (FFs) were killed in a series of explosions that followed an accidental mine blast at the FFs’ transit camp at century-old Moulvibazar Government High School in the district town.

After the nation’s final victory against the Pakistani army on December 16, local freedom fighters started joining the transit camp and arms, ammunition, mines and other explosives carried by the freedom fighters were kept there.

Azizur Rahman, chairman of Moulvibazar district council, said on the morning of December 20, a mine from the hand of a freedom fighter accidentally fell on the floor of the school building and exploded with a big bang. It caused blasting of several other mines.

Azizur, also an eyewitness to the incident, said “Hearing the sound of explosions, locals rushed to the spot. They later recovered the bodies of over 25 freedom fighters.”

They were buried with due honour in the south-eastern corner of the school ground, he said, adding that a martyrs’ memorial built in front of the burial place, came to be known as the Central Shaheed Minar of the district.

Another monument was later built with inscriptions of a list of 25 freedom fighters that died in the tragic incident.

The accidental mine blast killed freedom fighters on the spot, said Md Jamal Uddin, district commander of Bangladesh Muktijudha Sangshad, Moulvibazar unit.

The number of the victims would be much more as several bodies got burnt and destroyed beyond recognition, said Fazlur Rahman, mayor of Moulvibazar municipality.

The mayor further said different government and non-governmental socio-cultural organisations and political parties have taken up day-long programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include placing of floral wreaths at the memorial, doa mehfil and discussion meeting.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Bridges lie without approach roads at Baradal and Chilarikandi villages in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar while a bridge at Kakina village in Lalmonirhat’s Kaliganj upazila remains without repair since it was damaged by floods in August 2017.

PHOTO: STAR



NEWSIN
brief

Bolivia orders arrest of ex-president Morales

AFP, La Paz

Bolivia's attorney general on Wednesday ordered the arrest of exiled former president Evo Morales after the interim government accused him of sedition and terrorism. Public prosecutors in La Paz signed a warrant for police to detain the 60-year-old -- who is in Argentina -- and take him to the attorney general's office. Morales fled Bolivia last month after civil unrest broke out following his re-election in an October 20 poll widely dismissed as rigged.

Algeria swears in new president

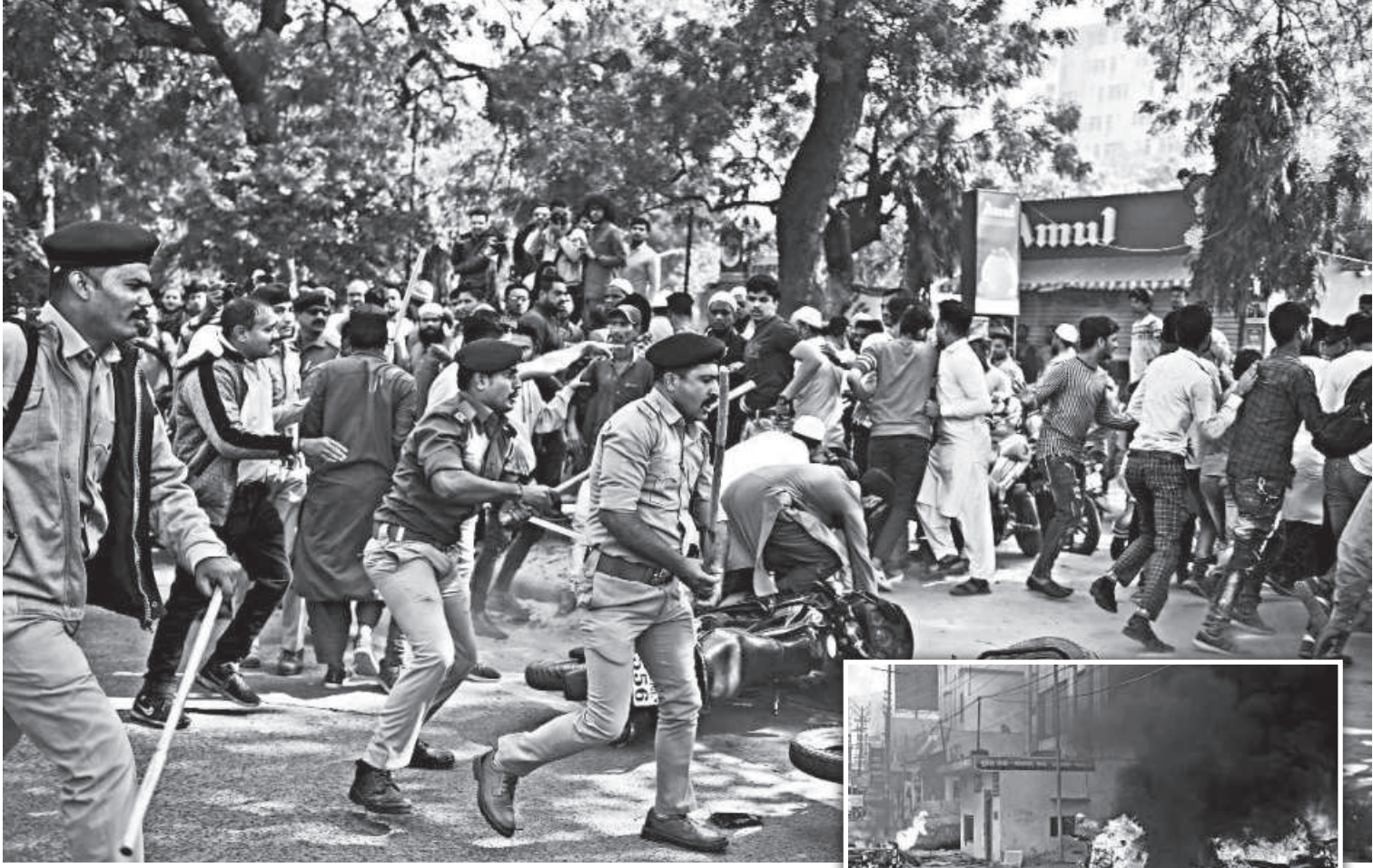
AFP, Algiers

Former prime minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune was sworn in as the new president of protest-hit Algeria yesterday, a week after winning a widely boycotted election. He succeeds veteran president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was forced from office in April in the face of mass demonstrations. Tebboune must now address the grievances of the protesters, who have remained on the streets to prevent what they see as a ploy by the political elite to retain its hold on power.

Hezbollah-led Diab set to be Lebanese PM

AFP, Beirut

Lebanese academic and former minister Hassan Diab received the backing of Shia group Hezbollah and yesterday looked set to be named the crisis-racked country's new prime minister. Caretaker premier Saad Hariri pulled out of the race on Wednesday and his bloc did not nominate any candidate when much-delayed consultations to form a new government got under way at the presidential palace. The nomination of Diab would yield a lopsided government.



Gujarat police react to disperse protesters during a demonstration against India's new citizenship law in Ahmedabad yesterday. Inset, Police motorcycles burn after being set on fire during demonstrations in Lucknow.

PHOTO: AFP



Progress of non-Muslims ‘left us in lurch’: Mahathir

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Muslim nations need to do more business among themselves, trade in each other's currencies and keep up with non-Islamic countries to stop being left at their mercy, their leaders said yesterday at a summit boycotted by Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said on Wednesday it was against the interests of the Muslim world to hold meetings outside the organisation, which has for decades acted as the collective Islamic voice.

Both Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan have been frustrated by the OIC's hand-wringing and failure to take action in support of Muslim causes.

Mahathir said the Kuala Lumpur summit, which ends on Saturday, was aimed at understanding why Islam, Muslims and their countries were "in a state of crisis, helpless and unworthy of this great religion."

"While we may not have been able to fully dissect all that had caused our pain and anguish, we are mostly in agreement that it is our inability to keep up with the progress and development of the non-Muslims that has

left us in the lurch," he said.

"Due to that, Muslims the world over suffer and as many are dependent on the mercy and charity of the non-Muslims. To my mind, we have no choice but to develop and progress as fast as possible."

It was unclear to what extent the leaders would broach the major crises afflicting Muslims,

ranging from the age-old disputes in the Middle East and Kashmir to conflicts in Syria and Yemen, through to the plight of persecuted Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and millions of Uighur Muslims held in camps in China's Xinjiang region.

A question from the audience on the treatment of Uighurs, put to the dais that included Mahathir, Erdogan and Iranian President Hassan

Rouhani, was ignored.


Without mentioning the OIC by name, Erdogan said the biggest problem that platforms bringing the Islamic world together faced was a lack of implementation.

"If we still haven't made any progress regarding the Palestinian cause, if we still can't stop the exploitation of our resources, if we still can't say 'stop' to the fragmentation of the Muslim world over sectarianism, that's why."

MUSLIM SUMMIT

Many Muslim nations dependent on mercy of non-Muslims: Mahathir

Discussion on treatment of Uighurs was ignored



India leads world: study
China ranks second with 1.8m deaths

AFP, Washington

India leads the world in pollution-linked deaths followed by China and Nigeria, according to a report published Wednesday that estimated the global impact of contaminants in the air, water and workplace.

The report by the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) found pollution to be the largest environmental cause of premature death on the planet, causing 15 percent of all deaths -- some 8.3 million people.

Among the ten countries with the most pollution deaths in 2017, the latest year for which data was available, were some of the world's largest and wealthiest nations, along with some poorer ones.

India and China led in the number of pollution deaths, with about 2.3 million and 1.8 million deaths respectively, followed by Nigeria, Indonesia and Pakistan.

The United States, with 325 million people, came in at number seven with almost 200,000 deaths.

"The report reminds us all that pollution is a global crisis," said Rachael Kupka, acting Executive Director of GAHP. "It does not matter where you live. Pollution will find you."

Pollution-linked deaths rates were highest in some of the world's most impoverished countries where poor water sanitation and contaminated indoor air are major killers.

Chad, Central African Republic and North Korea saw the highest number of deaths per 100,000 people (287, 251 and 202 respectively), with India entering the per capita list at number 10 with 174 deaths per 100,000 people.

"India has seen increasing industrial and vehicular pollution from urban growth while poor sanitation and contaminated indoor air persist in low-income communities," the report said.

On the other end of the scale, five nations in the Arabian Peninsula rank among the 10 countries in the world with the lowest death rates from pollution, with Qatar reporting the lowest.

POLLUTION LINKED DEATHS

US came in at number seven with almost 200,000 deaths

Five Arab nations rank among 10 countries with lowest death rates



Hong Kong protesters rally outside diplomatic missions in the city yesterday to urge foreign governments to follow the United States and pass human rights bills to raise pressure on Beijing and support their pro-democracy campaign.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Masterminds jailed for life

Powerful Ampatuan family planned massacre of 57 people, including 32 journos, to quash an election challenge from a rival clan in 2009

REUTERS, Manila

A Philippine court yesterday found the bosses of an influential political clan guilty of masterminding a 2009 massacre of 57 people, a ruling cheered as a partial victory for justice and a challenge to the country's notorious culture of impunity.

Eight members of the powerful Ampatuan family were among 28 people sentenced to life imprisonment over their roles in an ambush on an election motorcade in Maguindanao province, and the gunning-down of all who witnessed it.

Among the victims of the "Maguindanao Massacre" were 32 journalists in what was one of the world's single biggest attacks on media.

The ambush was also the biggest instance of election violence in the Philippines, where assassinations are common in provincial politics, especially in Mindanao, a southern region prone to lawlessness and the rule of warlords aided by abundant arms.

The case was widely considered the trial of the decade



PHILIPPINE MASSACRE

in the Philippines due to the infamy of the Ampatuans, a dynasty with political connections that went all the way up to then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

It was also seen as a test of whether democratic institutions could withstand pressure from rich and powerful interests.

Fifteen other defendants were jailed yesterday for accessory to murder and 56 were acquitted. Seven cases were dismissed, among them that of family patriarch, Andal Ampatuan, who died in prison of a heart attack in 2015.

Salvador Panelo, spokesman for President Rodrigo Duterte, said the ruling should be respected and the massacre represented a "merciless disregard for the sacredness of human life" and should never be repeated.

More than 80 of 197 suspects are still at large, including 12 Ampatuans, raising concerns that witnesses and victims' families might never be safe.

"This case has a long way to go," said Esmael Mangudadatu, a congressman whose wife was shot more than a dozen times during the ambush.

Small blasts hit Rakhine town as Suu Kyi visits

AFP, Yangon

Three small explosions went off in a southern Rakhine town in Myanmar yesterday just before civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi landed there in a rare visit to the conflict-ridden state, a local official said.

The blasts happened in the normally quiet town of Manaung on an island off Myanmar's western coast where Suu Kyi was due to open a solar power plant.

"There were three explosions, but no casualties," Win Myint, spokesperson for Rakhine's regional government, told AFP.

He said it happened before Suu Kyi arrived, but since they were on the other side of town the event went ahead as planned and she had since left safely on a flight to Yangon.

"This has never happened in Manaung before."

No group has yet claimed responsibility for planting the small bombs, which detonated at the side of a road, photos from local media showed.

The area has remained largely unscathed

by unrest further north, where Myanmar's military is locked in an increasingly vicious conflict with the Arakan Army (AA).

The rebel group claims to be fighting for more autonomy and rights for the ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and garners sympathy from many local people who have long felt marginalised in the Bamar-majority country. But tens of thousands have fled their homes over the past year and dozens of civilians have been killed.

There have been allegations of abuse against both sides.

Rights groups say Myanmar's military has abducted, tortured and killed civilian detainees.

Nearly 70 local administrators in northern Rakhine tried to resign en masse this week after one of their peers was killed by the military.

The army admitted responsibility but said he had been caught in the crossfire, which locals deny.

"We're worried for our lives," said village head Myo Kyaw Aung, one of the administrators of Minbya township who had his resignation refused.

AFGHAN TROOPS WITHDRAWAL

US promises to consider India

AFP, Washington

The United States promised Wednesday to take into account India's concerns as it looks to pull out of Afghanistan, in high-level talks that agreed on several ways to boost the democracies' emerging alliance.

The talks in Washington came against the backdrop of major protests in India over a citizenship law that critics say targets Muslims, but Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was careful not to annoy his guests by speaking forcefully on the issue.

Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper, meeting for a day of talks with their Indian counterparts, said they spoke in depth on the renewed US talks with the Taliban aimed at ending America's longest war.

"We understand the concerns that India has, too -- rightful concerns that they have -- about terrorism emanating from Pakistan," Pompeo told a joint news conference.

"We assured them that we would take that into account," he said.

Pompeo voiced hope that talks with the Taliban, which veteran US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad is leading, will eventually bring a "significant reduction in violence" that will let the United States "reduce its footprint."

India is a sworn enemy of the Taliban, whose hardline 1996-2001 regime was allied with rival Pakistan and welcomed virulently anti-Indian Islamist extremists.

India has been one of the top backers of Afghanistan's internationally recognized government, pouring in \$3 billion since the US-led invasion toppled the Taliban regime after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

It's a 'personal vendetta'

Former Pak leader Musharraf slams death sentence; his lawyers plan to appeal

AFP, Islamabad

Exiled former Pakistan military leader Pervez Musharraf dismissed the unprecedented treason conviction and death sentence handed to him earlier this week, saying the ruling was the result of a "personal vendetta".

The special court's decision announced Tuesday marked the first time a former leader of the armed forces has been convicted of treason and sentenced to death in Pakistan, where the military wields enormous power and has ruled the country for roughly half its 72-year history.

"This case was taken up and proceeded due to a personal vendetta by some people against me," said Musharraf in a video statement released by his assistant late Wednesday night.

Musharraf -- who is reportedly in Dubai and in poor health -- appeared in a hospital bed in the video looking frail and was straining to speak.

The former general however said he remained undecided on his next move or

whether his legal team was planning to appeal the conviction.

Meanwhile, Musharraf's lawyers said they will appeal against the sentence to the Supreme Court, which the government, the complainant in the treason case, is unlikely to oppose.

The treason case -- which began in 2013 and is one of several involving Musharraf -- centred on his decision to suspend the constitution and impose emergency rule in 2007.

The ruling has infuriated Pakistan's security establishment, with the military's spokesman swiftly condemning the verdict and saying the armed forces were in "pain and anguish" over the decision.

"An ex-Army Chief, Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee and President of Pakistan, who has served the country for over 40 years, fought wars for the defence of the country can surely never be a traitor," the military said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Imran Khan -- a former rival of Musharraf -- has stayed largely quiet since the ruling.



Chinese univ charter cuts 'freedom of thought'

AFP, Shanghai

A top Chinese university has removed references to "freedom of thought" from its charter, triggering a rare act of student defiance, while two other institutions added language stressing fealty to President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party.

A video circulating this week showed students at Shanghai's Fudan University singing the school song -- which extols "academic independence and freedom of thought" -- in an apparent protest.

Fudan's charter change was announced by the Ministry of Education on its website late Tuesday and criticism quickly trended on social media before China's ever-vigilant online censors acted to delete posts and block discussion.

Besides removing "freedom of thought", it adds "arming the minds of teachers and students with Xi Jinping's new era of socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics".

It also obliges faculty and students to adhere to "core socialist values" and build a "harmonious" campus environment -- a code phrase for the elimination of anti-government sentiment.

The ministry announced similar pro-government changes for Nanjing University in eastern China, and Shaanxi Normal University in the north earlier this month, although neither institution had referenced freedom of thought previously.

Xi took office in 2012 and has implemented a campaign to increase the Communist Party's grip and build a personality cult around himself that includes calls for adherence to a vaguely defined "Xi Jinping Thought", recalling the days of Communist founder Mao Zedong.

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

WHAT NEXT?

The Democratic-led House of Representatives voted largely along party lines to impeach US President Donald Trump for obstruction of Congress and abuse of power over his dealings with Ukraine. Trump is only the third United States president to be impeached. No president has ever been removed from office via the impeachment process. The landmark votes on Wednesday set up a likely January trial in the Republican-controlled Senate, where Trump is expected to be acquitted. As politicians move to the trial phase, here's what to expect next:

ON WHAT CHARGES WAS TRUMP IMPEACHED?

Trump has been impeached on charges that he abused his power in office and obstructed Congress during the impeachment investigation. Democrats accuse Trump of pressuring Ukraine to open an investigation into the president's political rival and former vice president, Joe Biden, who is also a frontrunner in the 2020 Democratic presidential race. They also charge that the president obstructed their investigation by refusing to comply with subpoenas and directing members of his administration to do the same. The impeachment inquiry, launched in September following a whistle-blower complaint, was centred on a July 25 phone call during which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to open an investigation into Biden and his son, Hunter, who had served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company. There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by the Bidens. At the time of the call, the Trump administration was withholding nearly \$400m in Congress-approved military assistance from Ukraine.

WHAT IS A SENATE TRIAL?

The articles of impeachment are now expected to be sent to the Senate, where senators will consider evidence, hear witnesses and vote to acquit or convict the president. The chief justice of the US Supreme Court presides over the trial. A two-thirds majority vote is required in the 100-member Senate to convict and remove a president from office. A conviction appears unlikely in the case of Trump. The Senate is made up of 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats



and two independents who caucus with the Democrats. At least 20 Republicans would have to vote with all Democrats and the two independents to remove the president from office. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has indicated that he would like swift proceedings. But following Wednesday's impeachment votes, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she would wait, for now, to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate. US media have reported that some House Democrats are urging Pelosi to withhold the transmittal of the articles until the "appropriate time". Withholding the articles of impeachment may give the Democrats leverage when it comes to setting the procedures for the trial. Pelosi said Democrats will make a decision on next steps as "a group".

WHEN WILL A SENATE TRIAL TAKE PLACE?

Once the Senate receives the articles of impeachment, a trial can begin. No firm date for a Senate trial has been set, but McConnell has said it will be the chambers' "first order of business" upon returning to Washington, DC, in the new year. Senate Democrats have proposed a trial plan that would see proceedings begin on January 6. Presentations by House managers, who would effectively work as prosecutors, would begin on January 9 under this plan. It is unlikely that Senate Republicans would agree to the Democrats' exact proposal.

WHO WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT IF TRUMP REMOVED?

In the unlikely event that the Senate convicts and removes Trump from office, Vice President Mike Pence would become president and complete Trump's term, which ends on January 20, 2021.

SOURCE: ALJAZERA



Residents watch a large bushfire as seen from Bargo, 150km southwest of Sydney, yesterday. Inset, An old car burns from bushfires in Balmoral area.

PHOTO: AFP



Impeachment may help Trump

CNN ONLINE

The House has voted to impeach President Donald Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress -- both tied to his actions around a July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

But there's growing evidence that the public impeachment proceedings may actually be helping Trump politically.

Take a new Gallup poll released Wednesday morning, before the House vote, which shows two things happening since House Democrats, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, opened up a formal impeachment inquiry in October regarding Trump's conduct with Zelenskyy: Trump's job approval rating has gone from 39% to 45% and support for Trump's impeachment and removal has dipped from 52% to 46%.

Those results largely affirm other data out over the past week or so that suggest support for impeachment has dipped. In a CNN national poll released earlier this week, 45% said they supported the impeachment and removal of the President -- down from 50% who said the same in a mid-November CNN survey. That same poll showed opposition to impeachment/removal at 46%, up 4 points from mid-November. And a CNN "poll of polls" -- an average of all six most recent quality/credible national polling conducted between December 4 and December 15 -- showed 46% favored impeachment and

removal as compared to 49% who did not.

Now these numbers are not "good" for Trump -- as he so often takes to Twitter to proclaim. Compared to recent past presidents -- including Bill Clinton, who actually was impeached -- a significantly larger chunk of the public now favors Trump's removal than ever felt that way about Clinton, Barack Obama or George W. Bush. In fact, Trump's current numbers on impeachment are most similar to those of Richard Nixon in the spring of 1974.



But what the trend line in recent weeks suggests is that the intense focus on impeachment has marginally helped, not hurt Trump. The change in public opinion is slight, yes. And it may well be temporary. But for the moment, it's the sort of thing that has to make Democrats a little (and maybe more than a little) nervous about the path they have chosen before the 2020 election.

Remember this: Pelosi did not want to go down the impeachment path. She stood

athwart her party over the summer as more and more of her Democratic members announced their support for an impeachment inquiry over Trump's conduct in connection to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. Her concern, which she voiced publicly and privately, was that a partisan impeachment -- one without significant bipartisan support -- would too bitterly divide the country to make it worth doing.

"Impeachment is so divisive to the country that unless there's something so compelling and overwhelming and bipartisan, I don't think we should go down that path, because it divides the country. And he's just not worth it," Pelosi told The Washington Post.

That all changed in the fall, when a whistleblower complaint regarding Trump's actions on that July 25 call surfaced. But simply because Pelosi acquiesced to that inexorable momentum does not mean that her concerns about the politics of impeachment had changed. What Pelosi knew then -- and knows now -- is that impeachment is a chaos-creator in the American electorate. There is simply no certainty about how the voters -- particularly the small number of independent and/or undecided voters -- will react to all of this.

But considering the recent polls, Democrats might have helped Trump to get voters' sympathy ahead of the 2020 vote.

'Turning point' as number of male smokers drops

AFP, Geneva

The number of male tobacco users is falling for the first time, the World Health Organization said yesterday, hailing a "major shift" in efforts to kick the world's deadly tobacco addiction.

The number of women and girls who use tobacco products has been steadily declining for years. But tobacco use among males -- who account for the overwhelming majority of smokers -- has until now been expanding.

In a new report, the UN health agency hailed the beginning decline as a powerful indication that anti-smoking campaigns around the globe had begun to pay off.

But it warned that far more was needed to kick the addiction, which is estimated to kill some eight million people each year.

For the past two decades, global tobacco use has been slowly dwindling, from 1.397 billion users in 2000 to 1.337 billion in 2018. This means around 60 million fewer people were using tobacco products, even as the global populations has swelled.

But that reduction has been strongly driven by declines in the number of women and girls using tobacco products, WHO said, with the number dropping from 346 million in 2000 to 244 million last year.

Over the same period, the number of male tobacco users rose by around 40 million, from 1.05 billion to 1.093 billion.

But men, who today account for more than 80 percent of all tobacco users, are finally beginning to kick the habit.

It shows that by 2020, the ranks of male users will shrink by two million people compared to last year's number, and by 2025, there are projected to be six million fewer male tobacco users than in 2018, so around 1.087 billion.



Members of the Syrian Civil Defence, also known as the White Helmets, recover a wounded girl from the rubble of a building following a reported Russian air strike in the village of Tal Mardikh in Syria's northwestern Idlib province, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

UN hails 'decisive shift' in refugee assistance

The UN hailed Wednesday a "decisive shift" in the approach to helping surging numbers of displaced people, after a summit ended with billions in donations and concrete promises to simplify refugee integration. The Global Refugee Forum opened in Geneva on Tuesday to shore up international support for world's some 26 million refugees. In all, it said more than 770 pledges were made for financial support but also for things like improving refugee access to employment, education, electricity, infrastructure and promises of more resettlement spots for the most vulnerable. UNHCR said it had received pledges of more than \$4.7 billion by the World Bank Group, and \$1.0 billion from the Inter-American Development Bank. In addition, a broad range of states and other entities had jointly pledged more than \$2.0 billion.

Israel strikes Gaza after rocket attack

Israeli warplanes attacked an arms plant in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip early yesterday, after Palestinian militants in the enclave fired a rocket at Israel, the army said. "Overnight, a rocket was launched from the Gaza Strip at Israeli territory," an army statement said. "In response... fighter jets struck a Hamas weapons manufacturing site in the northern Gaza Strip." There were no immediate reports of casualties. Later yesterday, Israeli authorities announced a punitive reduction in the fishing zone off Gaza.

'Nobody knows' causes of climate change: Putin



Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said "nobody knows" what causes climate change, seeming to cast doubt over whether global warming is of manmade origin and stating it could be blamed on cosmological processes. "Nobody knows the origins of global climate change," Putin told reporters at the start of his marathon end-of-year news conference. "We know that in the history of our Earth there have been periods of warming and cooling and it could depend on processes in the universe," he added. But Putin acknowledged that climate change was a major issue, saying we "must undertake maximum efforts to ensure that the climate does not change dramatically." He insisted Russia's emissions were far lower than those of major Western countries and that it stood by its obligations under the Paris climate accord.

SOURCE: AFP

UK PM sets sight at quick Brexit

Scottish leader steps up battle for 'unarguable' independence referendum

AFP, London

Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday put Britain's departure from the EU at the top of the agenda, as Queen Elizabeth II read out his plans for government in a parliamentary ceremony following a sweeping election win.

The monarch formally opened parliament with plenty of traditional pomp and pageantry before ermine and red-robed members of the upper House of Lords, and MPs from the lower House of Commons.

But before the monarch's set-piece speech, Scotland's first minister called for a new vote on independence, signalling a looming constitutional battle between London and Edinburgh.

Nicola Sturgeon said Brexit and election results north of the border made a clear "constitutional and democratic case" for a fresh look about whether Scotland should end its more than 300-year-old union with England and Wales.

She called on London to transfer powers allowing the devolved administration in Edinburgh to hold the vote.

Top of Johnson's to-do list is a bill to

ratify the terms of Britain's exit from the European Union, which he negotiated in October but could not get through a deadlocked parliament.

Now with a comfortable majority in the 650-seat House of Commons, he hopes to push through the deal in time to fulfil his election campaign pledge to "Get Brexit



Done" on the next EU deadline.

"My government's priority is to deliver the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union on 31st January," the queen confirmed from a gilded throne.

She added: "Thereafter, my ministers will seek a future relationship with the EU based on a free-trade agreement that benefits the whole of the United Kingdom."

In a sign of the government's vow to keep to the Brexit timetable, a spokesman said the Department for Exiting the European Union "will be wound up, once the UK leaves the EU on 31 January".

The highlight of the proposed legislation was the Withdrawal Agreement Bill (WAB) to ratify the terms of Brexit, which will be put to a first vote among MPs on Friday.

It covers Britain's financial obligations to the EU, the rights of European expatriates and new arrangements for Northern Ireland.

The bill will also enshrine the dates of a transition period, which will keep EU-UK ties largely unchanged until December 31, 2020, to allow both sides to sign a new trade deal.

The period can be extended for up to two years but London insists this will not be necessary. But the EU has warned the timetable is extremely tight to agree a new relationship after Britain leaves the bloc's single market and customs union.

The WAB also includes plans to allow courts other than the Supreme Court to overturn European Court of Justice rulings, to ensure Britain can more swiftly extricate itself from European case law.

UK GOVT'S NEW PROGRAMME

MAIN POINTS

Here are the main points from Queen Elizabeth II's speech in parliament yesterday setting out the British government's legislative programme:

BREXIT: Government's priority is to deliver Britain's departure from the EU on January 31, 2020. London to seek a future relationship with Brussels based on a free trade agreement. Britain to begin trade negotiations "with other leading global economies".

NORTHERN IRELAND: Integrity of the United Kingdom "of the utmost importance". Ministers to work urgently to facilitate talks on restoring devolved regional government in Northern Ireland.

HEALTH: National Health Service funding boost to be "enshrined in law". Boosting size of NHS workforce. Foreign healthcare professionals to have "fast-track entry" visa to Britain. Government to seek cross-party accord on long-term social care policy.

IMMIGRATION: "A modern, fair, points-based immigration system will welcome skilled workers from across the world."

DEFENCE: "Measures will be developed to tackle hostile activity conducted by foreign states." Nato commitment to spend two percent of national income on defence reaffirmed.

CLIMATE CHANGE: Net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 target reaffirmed. Legally binding targets, including for air quality. Export of polluting plastic waste to countries outside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to be banned.

PARLIAMENT: Laws blocking the prime minister from calling an election at the time of his choosing to be repealed.

EDUCATION: Funding per pupil to increase.

PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Habib on ‘Musical Train’ today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Singer-composer Habib Wahid has been one of the most popular faces in the music industry for a long time. Today, the accomplished musician will make a television appearance on Boishakhi TV’s *Music Train*, where he will be present to promote his new single, *Moner Kinaray*. The show will begin at 9:30 pm, and will be hosted by Tasnuva Mohona.



PHOTO: STAR

20 YEARS OF ARTCELLISM

- A historic concert ahead

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB)’s Expo Zone will witness one of the most historic concerts in Bangladeshi

music history, as Artcell celebrates 20 years of their *Potchola* in the 20 Years of Artcellism concert. Organised by Asiatic EXP, it will be the ultimate celebration of one of Bangladesh’s most beloved bands,

with performances from talented bands like Crunch, Mechanix, Naive, Powersurge, Trainwreck and Unmaad. Also joining Artcell will be Rafa, Romel Ali, DRockstar Shuvo and members from Black, Bay of

Bengal, Dreck, Reborn, Shironamhin and Minerva. Tickets are BDT 500 for regular entry, and BDT 700 for the gift package. They are available at selective outlets of KFC and Madchef.

WHAT'S ON



Cartoon Exhibition
Title: People of many colours
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhamondi
Date: December 20 – 31
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Mon – Thurs); 9 am – 12 noon & 5 pm – 8 pm (Fri – Sat)

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



Concert
Title: Miles 40th Anniversary
Venue: ICCB, Hall – 3
Date: December 24
Time: 6 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: 20 years of Artcellism
Venue: ICCB Expo Zone
Date: December 24
Time: 3 pm onwards

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/1FAIpQLScap4UnHtgeiDl_6NUSUdM7593rLc4_5nYIFK39nkeA/viewform

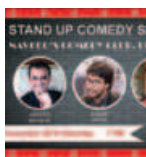


PHOTO: COURTESY

‘Inclusive Arts: Exploring Disability Arts in Bangladesh’ held

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Promoting an inclusive society, a two-day seminar, titled *Inclusive Arts: Exploring Disability Arts in Bangladesh* was held at Six Seasons Hotel, recently. The event was hosted by the British Council, in partnership with Dhaka Theatre and Institute of Informatics and Development (IID). It marked the launch of the three-year capacity development project, Disability Arts: Redefining Empowerment (DARE). The event was inaugurated by Dr Md

Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Khadiza Nazneen, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Vashkar Bhattacharjee, Programme Manager and Head of YPSA's Information, Communication, Technology & Resource Centre on Disabilities (IRCD), Tom Miscioscia, Country Director, British Council Bangladesh (BCB) and Andrew Newton, Deputy Director, BCB, were also in attendance, among others. Day 1 of the consultation included discussions around the status quo of the

Arts sector, Disability sector and Disability Arts sector of Bangladesh. With the aim to identify solution-driven approaches for the disability community, the program facilitated four brainstorming sessions on policy implications, infrastructural support, communication and awareness and financing, which generated specific recommendations on the topics that can be utilized while working in the disability and art sectors in the country. The second day consisted of the presentation with findings from the previous

day and policy discussion in the form of ‘Policy Breakfast’. The policy breakfast opened with exploring the ideas of disability and disability arts from a conceptual standpoint. It focused on the point that any form of art, whether created by persons with disabilities or nondisabled people, should be considered as pure art. This was followed by discussion among the participants regarding the audience with disabilities, whether the focus should be put on the artists or audience with disabilities to facilitate inclusion.

Celebrating 30th anniversary of Sahitya-Sanskriti Parishad

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Chunarughat

Marking the 30th anniversary of Sahitya-Sanskriti Parishad, a five-day festival was inaugurated recently at the premises of Chunarughat DCP High School in Chunarughat, Habiganj.

Subarna Mostafa, prominent actor and a Member of Parliament, inaugurated the festival and Professor Dr Syed Anwar Hossain was present as the chief guest on the first day of the event. Chunarughat Sahitya- Sanskriti Parishad President Saleh Uddin presided over the inaugural ceremony. Prior to the inaugural ceremony, a rally was organised.

The festival began with a dance routine on acclaimed singer Monir Khan's songs. Later, musical and dance performances, along with other cultural programmes, were also held. The first day programme concluded with the songs of Radharaman and Baul Abdul Karim.

The second day of the programme, presided over by Poet Jewel Majhar, Editor, Banglanews24.com, featured discussions, theatres, and prize-giving sessions. Mustafiz Shafi, acting editor of *Daily Samakal*, was present at the occasion as the chief guest.

The festival will conclude on December 21.



PHOTO: STAR

Learn music with EMK and Yamaha

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

EMK Music School was inaugurated recently at EMK Centre, Dhanmondi. The music school is initiated by Yamaha Music Bangladesh – ACI Motors Ltd, and supported by EMK Centre. At the moment, the courses offered are guitar, piano, sound engineering and music production, with more courses to be offered soon. Six-month courses will offer experienced



PHOTO: COURTESY

instructors, standardised lecture sheets and certificates upon completion. The chief guest of the event was Subrata Ranjan Das, Executive Director, ACI Motors Ltd. Sujan Biswas, Manager, Finance & Administration, EMK Centre was also present at the event. The goal of the project is to make musical education available for everyone, and to highlight the benefits of music not just as a profession, but also as a hobby.



Made in Bangladesh

running successfully across Europe

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Made in Bangladesh, directed by internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi filmmaker Rubaiyat Hossain and distributed by Pyramid Films, is being screened in theatres across Europe.

It was released in 53 theatres in France, in the first week of its release on December 4. After a positive response from the audience, the film's release was extended to 62 theatres throughout France. In addition, *Made in Bangladesh* is playing in seven theatres in Denmark and one theatre in Portugal. The film will also be released in the USA, Canada and Poland, according to the distributor. The makers are further discussing the film's release in Germany, the UK and Japan.



Artist Firoz Mahmud nominated for France's COAL Prize

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Bangladeshi artist Firoz Mahmud is one of the ten nominees for France's COAL Prize, from the organisation, Coalition for Art and Sustainable Development, which works in the fields of contemporary art, sustainable development and research, in order to promote the emergence of a culture of ecology. The award ceremony, along with the exhibition of artworks by the nominated artists, will take place at Center Pompidou, Paris, in December this year.

Mahmud, who currently resides in New York, was a fellow artist at Rijksakademie VB Kunsten, Amsterdam, and did his MFA and BFA



Firoz Mahmud



from the Institute of Fine Arts, (Now Faculty of Fine Art) University of Dhaka. He had a solo exhibitions at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka Art Center, Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, Dhaka Art Summit and Bangladesh National Museum. He also exhibited his works at Aichi Triennial, Sharjah Biennale, Cairo Biennale, Echigo-Tsumari Triennial and Setouchi Triennial.

Mahmud has been creating paintings, installations, photo based artworks, drawings and mixed media works on paper. As an artist, he

focuses on historical and colonial legacies, war and warriors, cultural and mythological landscapes from Bangladesh, the greater Bengal and South Asian region. Most of his works depict colonial and post-colonial legacies of our region, myths and beliefs. He also highlights the issues of exodus and migration, and the dreams of minority groups through his art.

"I deliberately tear down the edges of the canvas to shape the composition of my artworks, so that they signify the unrepresented

historical legacies. The history of the migration of Bangladeshi people was the research topic during my two-year course at Rijksakademie VB Kunsten in the Netherlands," said Mahmud

In recent years, the globally travelling artist has exhibited his artworks at many important exhibitions, including the Bangkok Art Biennale, Lahore Biennale, Congo Biennale, Dhaka Art Summit, Office of Contemporary Art Norway, Sharjah Art Foundation and MAXXI-National Museum of the 21st Century Arts in Rome, among others.

From making texts and concepts to producing the finished artworks, Mahmud is dedicated to his artistic pursuit and perseverance. Reflecting on the recent contemporary global art practice and the challenges, he spoke about New York-based Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. "The world of contemporary art is wild. Maurizio Cattelan, the controversial artist, made a fully functioning 18-carat gold toilet, titled *America*, which has not yet been recovered after it was stolen from an exhibition at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, UK, in September this year. Contemporary art allows many non-academic artists to make a mark. Such artists are doing well in selling their unusual ideas," added Mahmud.



Ninth arrangement of Shadhushongo held

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The ninth edition of the monthly arrangement, *Purnima Tithir Mashik Shadhushongo*, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), was held at

Bot Tola, BSA, recently. Baul singers of BSA performed at the event. Discussions on the mysticism of the Baul songs was also held. The event concluded with the performances of *Shadhu-Gurus*.

'Cello Piano Audio 3' at Alliance Française de Dhaka tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Alliance Française de Dhaka is set to host the musical concert, *Cello-Piano-Audio 3*, by Philip Hazra and Yulia Evdokimova tomorrow (December 21) from 6:30 pm onwards at their La Galerie.

The concert will feature a duet between maestro cellist Philip Hazra and Russian pianist Yulia Evdokimova. The evening will also have solo and duet performances of L V Beethoven's *Minuet*, C Saint-Saens' *The Swan*, R Schuman's *Traumerei*, and many others. Philip Hazra has been playing a vital role to promote western classical music in Bangladesh through teaching violin, viola, cello and double bass. He has been teaching violin and cello at Alliance Française de Dhaka since 2007. On the other hand, Yulia Evdokimova has also been teaching piano in Bangladesh for the last twenty years. The concert will be an enjoyable evening for connoisseurs of classical music.

Cello Piano Audio 3 is open to all. Seats are limited, and available on a first come, first serve basis.



A new 'Bunty Aur Babli'!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerji are reuniting on the silver screen, after a gap of 11 years. This time, they are coming back in *Bunty Aur Babli*'s fully rebooted sequel. Saif and Rani are a popular onscreen pair, having starred in films such as *Hum Tum* (2004), *Ta Ra Rum Pum* (2007) and *Thoda Pyaar Thoda Magic*

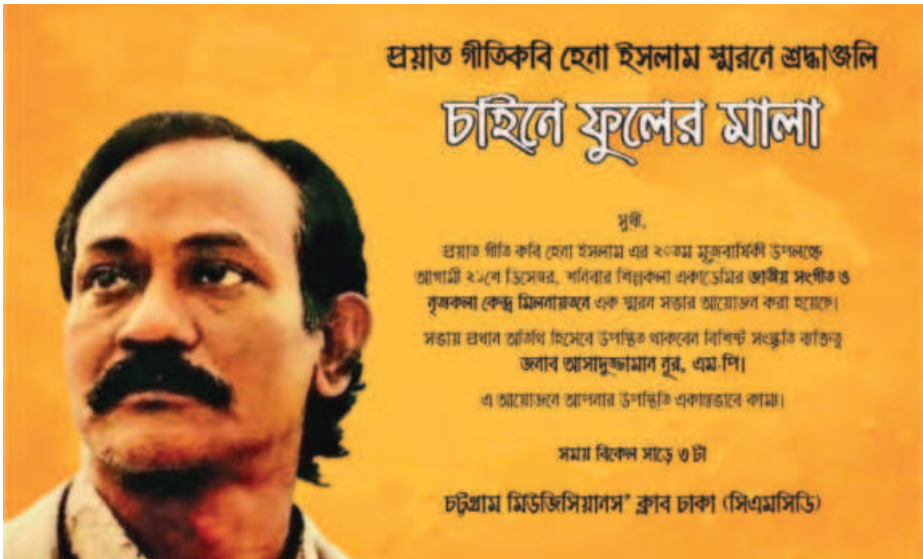
(2008), and their infectious chemistry always got a thumbs up from fans.

The 2005 hit *Bunty Aur Babli* (2005) had Rani and Abhishek Bachchan in the titular roles. *Bunty Aur Babli 2* will see a time leap of 10 years and feature two pairs of Bunty and Babli. Siddhant Chaturvedi of *Gully Boy* fame and debutant Sharvari are one of them. Saif and Rani, on the other hand, will play

the roles of the 'senior' Bunty and Babli, respectively. Rani has claimed that although she will miss Abhishek dearly, she is excited to welcome Saif to the team. Now with Rani and Saif in the cast, it will be interesting to see the dynamics between the two onscreen con couples in the film, which is directed by debutant Varun Sharma and produced by Aditya Chopra.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



Commemorating poet-lyricist Hena Islam, on his 20th death anniversary, a memorial programme, 'Chaine Phuler Mala', will be held tomorrow at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), at 3:30 pm. The programme is organised by Chattogram Musician's Club, Dhaka (CMCD). Former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, will be present at the event as chief guest.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2019, POUCH 5, 1426 BS

Women entrepreneurs facing discrimination in getting bank loans

Banks should follow Bangladesh Bank's guidelines

THAT women entrepreneurs still have to face many hindrances in getting SME loans from banks is quite disheartening. Many women entrepreneurs have vented their frustrations about the discrimination they face in getting bank loans, in a recently held roundtable at *The Daily Star*. Many of them alleged that when they applied for a loan, the lenders wanted to know the identity of their husbands, which is disgraceful. What is more, many banks said that they did not provide SME loans to female entrepreneurs. Such discrimination against women entrepreneurs are a violation of the Bangladesh Bank's guidelines related to SME loan disbursement.

The discrimination is so high that even if some banks give loans, they do not offer a grace period of three to six months to women entrepreneurs. Some banks even ask women to manage a first-class government official as a guarantor to secure SME loans. Although the central bank has instructed all banks to give out Tk 25 lakh in SME loans to women entrepreneurs without any collateral, this has hardly been followed by them.

It is simply not understandable why banks are not willing to give loans to women entrepreneurs despite the fact that loan repayment rate of women entrepreneurs is almost 95 percent. Between January and June this year, banks and non-bank financial institutions disbursed Tk 79,984 crore in SME loans, of which only 7.35 percent was given out to female entrepreneurs.

Under the circumstances, the Bangladesh Bank should give fresh directives to the banks regarding the issue. Action should be taken against those who have not been complying with the BB guidelines about SME loan disbursement. At the same time, there should be a mechanism in place so that women entrepreneurs can file complaints if and when they face such discrimination.

Northern districts hit hard by cold wave

Efforts needed to minimise suffering of the poor

THE mercury has taken a plunge in eight districts of Rangpur division with Rajarhat in Kurigram district recording the lowest temperature in the country at 10.8 degrees Celsius. Across the northern districts, temperatures ranged from 13 to 13.3 degrees. The biting cold is accompanied by dense fog which has forced labourers, rickshaw pullers and other poor people from work. It has disrupted transportation as visibility on roads has dropped markedly. The cold wave has been particularly harsh for people living in the *Char* areas beside Teesta and Dharla rivers and low-income people, particularly the young and the old are suffering from cold-related diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Although we are told that the local administration is distributing blankets amongst the poor people in Lalmonirhat district, actions need to be expedited by the concerned ministry so that the relief reaches the affected populace in all the affected districts, because the effect of the cold wave is always harshest for the poorer sections of society. It is not only a question of dispatching warm clothing and blankets to these districts. The loss of income due to the adverse weather conditions means that the poor are going hungry. Food should be part of the emergency relief package that needs to be sent urgently. This is the first of the cold waves that will hit the country and hence, efforts must be made to mobilise the collection of warm clothing and food from all sections of society and these be sent out to the northern districts quickly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

India's worrying move

People in India, including university students, are strongly protesting against the controversial Citizen Amendment Act (CAA). The CAA amends the Citizenship Act of 1955 to provide citizenship to non-Muslim illegal immigrants—Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians—from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who had entered India on or before December 31, 2014. The act does not offer the same eligibility benefits to the Muslim migrants and is in conflict with the Indian constitution, which does not differentiate between citizens on the basis of their religion.

I am astonished by such an unusual step taken by the Indian government. I am thankful to the people of India for resisting this unconstitutional move. I hope the Indian government will take immediate steps to correct its course.

Nur Jahan, Chattogram




PHOTO: BIJU BORO / AFP

Flights of human capital a.k.a brain drain



BLOWIN' IN THE WIND
SHAMSAD MORTUZA

LEGEND has it: the black magician Doctor Faustus sold his soul to devil in exchange of 24 years of earthly knowledge and pleasure. As he was about to sign the contract with the devil's agent, his blood started congealing and a divine warning appeared on his arm: *homo fuge*, Latin for, "O man, Fly!" The Renaissance man Faustus had a different idea. He saw the flight not as a threat but as an opportunity to go near heaven and learn new things to add to the branches of knowledge that he had already mastered, and to eventually share the benefits with his poor colleagues at Wittenberg (little did he know that the devil had other plans).

In theory, this has to be the "first" literary instance of a complex issue: brain drain. I say it with caution as myths and legends are full of instances where culture heroes travel to the other world and smuggle in knowledge and resources. For instance, Prometheus stole fire from Zeus and started human civilisation. Or, Jack pursued the seed of ambition that was implanted in him to climb the bean-stalk and fool the giants to steal their goodies, which can only be an allegory of colonial exploitations. Faust legend gives us an academic footing. The transaction of cross-border knowledge is one of the trophies of human migration and mobility. What are the atrocities?

A group of outgoing students of Dhaka University came to see me at ULAB. I asked them how many of them plan to go abroad; all 20 raised their hands in unison. They want to fly; they want to fly away. Do they plan to return home—I didn't ask. Instead, I told them about my return from the academic sojourns across the Atlantic divide. I told them about the mentors who shaped me into becoming who I am today. I didn't, however, tell them how my brown skin made my kind subject to extra-screening at airport, extra-surveillance at supermarkets, or extra-scorns from jingoist supremacists. I didn't want to dampen their spirit.

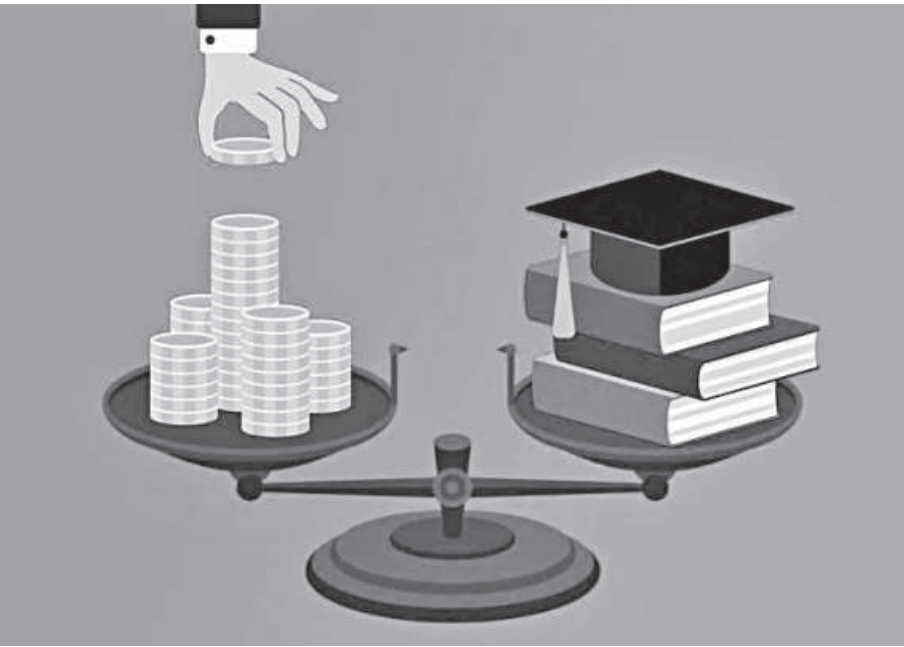
These were all bright kids. It would be a shame to see them all go, and not to listen to their career counsellors who poured into their ears with the elixir of BCS. Yet it would be a source of pride to see them perform at an international stage. The planned exodus, based on my spot survey, is not unique. A cousin of mine, who works at a multinational company after graduating from IBA, was telling

me that most of his peers had got PRs in developed countries or were in the process of moving out. Some of them are investing in buying a second home. "If you want to send your children to good schools, get a decent healthcare service, or live a better life, the salary and opportunities that you get here is never adequate. The Return on Investment (ROI) is much higher in the developed countries," he reasoned.

Then again, what about the investment that the government has made in producing these graduates? How many millions does the government spend in producing a cadet college student who then goes on to become an IBA graduate? An engineer from BUET? Or a doctor from DMC? Or an early retired military officer? All to become a product in the export

"it is better to drain brain, rather than to have the brain in a drain". We have moved beyond that proverbial bottomless basket stage. On the contrary, we are the basket that attracts employees from other countries. We are the fourth largest remittance earner for our big neighbour who siphons out more than 5 billion dollars a year. Surely, a portion of that sum can be used to train our brains and stop the foreign ones from encroaching ours. Nevertheless, the pull of the glamour and glory of western life will remain. The migration of human capital, popularly known as brain drain, is a natural phenomenon, and we need to make the best use of it.

Recent research shows that brain drain is not necessarily a loss for the sending



SOURCE: QUOTEMASTER.ORG

pipeline. The local job market is not ready to absorb them, nurture them, retain them, or utilise them. My office assistant is an electrical engineer from a private university, whose salary equals that of our chauffeur.

I looked for a long-term human resource projection from the government in vain. Are there any HR demand projections in the service sectors? Do we really know our graduates? Does the industry know what the academic institutes are producing? There is hardly any assessment of our human capital. There is no strategic investment to develop particular skill-sets required by our job sector; industry linkage is a buzzword that adorns our official documents. I don't blame our young generation for their desire to fly away from their nests. I shall not quote someone who once said,

country. Brain drain can contribute to the development of the home countries through brain circulation and linkage. Even if the highly-skilled professionals from the developing countries decide not to return from the host countries, they can still contribute to the social and economic development of their home countries. To optimise the benefit, a clear understanding of the high-skilled labour flows involving brain retention, brain gain, brain circulation and brain linkages is needed.

In an ideal world, the national infrastructure should retain its human capital by creating not only growth opportunities or social safety-nets but also a critical mass of educated professionals. The job market needs to expand beyond its traditional niche to encourage an entrepreneurial culture where our graduates stop becoming job-seekers and

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

Narendra Modi's second partition of India



AWAKENING INDIA
SHASHI THAROOR

AT a time when India's major national priority ought to be cratering economic growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has instead plunged the country into a new political crisis of its own making.

With its penchant for shock-and-awe tactics, the government pushed through parliament a controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill that fast-tracks citizenship for people fleeing persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh—provided they are not Muslim. By excluding members of just one community, the bill, which was quickly signed into law by President Ram Nath Kovind, is fundamentally antithetical to India's secular and pluralist traditions. As I argued in parliament, it is an affront to the fundamental tenets of equality and religious non-discrimination enshrined in our Constitution and an all-out assault on the very idea of India for which our forefathers gave their lives.

As India's freedom struggle neared its goal, Indian nationalists split over the question of whether religion should be the determinant of nationhood. Those who believed that it should, led by Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his followers, advocated the idea of Pakistan as a separate country for Muslims. The rest, led by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, argued passionately that religion had nothing to do with nationhood. Their idea of India led to a free country for people of all religions, regions, castes, and languages.

The implications—constitutional, political, social, and moral—of the Modi government's betrayal of this core idea are profound. Under the approved bill, Muslim immigrants may be declared illegal. Coupled with the government's plan to create an even more problematic National Register of Citizens, the authorities will be able to disenfranchise any Indian Muslim who is unable to prove his or her provenance in India. Many Indians, especially the poor, lack

documentary evidence of when and where they were born; even birth certificates have become widespread only in recent decades. While non-Muslims would, thanks to the approved bill, get a free pass, similarly undocumented Muslims would suddenly bear the onus of proving that they are Indian.

This marks a breath-taking departure from seven decades of practice in managing an astonishing degree of cultural diversity. Foreigners—including President George W Bush—admired the fact that India had produced hardly any Islamic State (ISIS) or al-Qaeda members, despite

and captains of national sports teams.

The religious bigotry that led to partition and the establishment of Pakistan has now been mirrored in pluralist India. As I told my fellow parliamentarians, that was a partition of India's soil; this has become a partition of India's soul.

Inevitably, mass protests have erupted, particularly in the North-Eastern states bordering Bangladesh, where locals fear being swamped by Bangladeshi Hindu migrants with fast-track citizenship; in West Bengal and Delhi, where Muslims fear that they will be subject to a worsening climate of suspicion; and among Muslims

a long time to heal.

In his first term in office, Modi attempted to create a more unabashedly Hindu India, but one that was still attractive to global investors. Six months into his second term, he seems to have given up on the latter goal. As foreigners recoil with horror at the blatant Islamophobia on display from the highest echelons of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, he has focused on criminalising the triple-*talaq* form of Islamic divorce, pushing for a Hindu temple on a site where a 470-year-old mosque was demolished in 1992 by Hindu protesters, and changing the constitutional status of Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir and detaining its political leaders. The new citizenship law is just one more brick in an edifice of official bigotry.

It is an edifice that is leaving India increasingly isolated. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promptly cancelled a visit to India following the citizenship bill's enactment, as have two Bangladeshi ministers. Foreign investors have already been withdrawing, thanks to Modi's mismanagement of the economy, which has never recovered from the disastrous blows of an irresponsible demonetisation exercise and the botched implementation of a nationwide Goods and Services Tax. Banks are weighed down by bad debt, the public sector is haemorrhaging money, automobile factories are closing, unemployment is at a 46-year high, and farmers are committing suicide in record numbers.

Now, the Modi government has compounded its economic fecklessness with political recklessness, plunging India into turmoil. The combination of ineptitude and bigotry that has laid the country low has left long-time admirers of the Indian model speechless in disbelief. With the government on the warpath against the fundamental assumptions of the Indian republic, the unspoken fear among the country's democrats is that the worst is yet to come.

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, is an MP for the Indian National Congress.

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PHOTO: REUTERS/ADNAN ABIDI

Local residents sit next to bonfires as they block a road during a protest against a new citizenship law, in New Delhi, India, December 18, 2019.

being home to 180 million Muslims. Indians proudly pointed out that this was because Indian democracy gave Muslims an equal stake in the country's wellbeing. We can no longer say that.

Democratic India has never had a religious test for citizenship. Muslims have served as presidents, generals, chief ministers and governors of states, ambassadors, Supreme Court chief justices,

and secularists nationwide. Though the protests have been mostly peaceful, the authorities have responded with force. Four demonstrators have been shot dead in Assam (and two more killed in the chaos), curfews have been imposed, police have invaded universities, and Internet and telephone services have been suspended in some areas. Over 100 people have been injured. This self-inflicted wound will take

SAVING OUR RIVERS

“There are several laws which remain largely unenforced”

Dr Muzibur Rahman Howlader, chairman, National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), talks to Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about issues relating to the protection of our rivers and why empowering the commission is absolutely necessary.

Why despite so many HC directives could the pollution of Buriganga river not be addressed? Could you please tell us about the current condition of the Buriganga? What about the other rivers surrounding the capital?

It is most unfortunate that the situation of the Buriganga could not be improved much even after taking so many steps and projects. Although a lot of the factories and industries were shut down or shifted from the banks of the Buriganga, the condition of the river remained pretty much the same. One of the reasons is Dhaka does not have a proper waste disposal system, and so all kinds of waste, including industrial waste, are dumped into the rivers surrounding the capital. Even state agencies such as Wasa have been found to be polluting the Buriganga. The situation of other rivers across the country such as Balu, Turag, Shitalakhya, Meghna, etc., are also similar. Household and other waste are dumped in the landfills which are situated near the rivers or water bodies. So, the waste essentially mingles with the river often obstructing their flow. Therefore, in order to stop the pollution of our rivers a proper waste disposal system is essential.

In Gazipur, the flow of the Labandaha river at the confluence point with the Turag was obstructed by all types of waste. We went there a few days ago and observed firsthand the disastrous impacts of the waste dumped on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. Apparently, all the waste of Sreepur municipality is dumped on a particular point of the highway beside the Labandaha river. There are also several factories that are dumping their waste into the river.

We also went to see the situation of Meghna and its tributaries last week and found that many renowned

companies have encroached upon the land of the river. The companies were dumping untreated waste into the river defying the law.

Although many of the industries situated on the bank of the rivers have Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP), they have not been constant in their use of the facility. They only use it when the factories are inspected by the Department of Environment (DoE) and other relevant authorities.

Do you think the NRCC is playing its desired role? What are the problems that you face while carrying out your duties?

The NRCC is responsible for the conservation and overall development of the rivers. Although we have been given a lot of responsibilities we have to work under many limitations. Still, we are trying to do the best we can in our limited capacity. One of the biggest problems is that we do not have enough manpower. I have four members, but only one of them remains with me full time, others only attend meetings. We have informed the government that we need manpower. Moreover, we need security from police in carrying out our duties.

Besides, when it comes to protecting our rivers, there are several ministries involved and we have to work in coordination with all these ministries. While Ministry of Shipping is responsible for taking care of river vessels, water resource management is the responsibility of the Ministry of Water Resources. The land related issues are taken care of by the Ministry of Land, while the Ministry of Environment is responsible for environment related issues. So, the work is more complicated than one would assume.

About waste management, we are trying hard to convince the local government institutions to set up

modern waste management systems. If that can be done, pollution of our rivers will be reduced to a great extent. In 2007, when I was the economic minister of the Bangladesh embassy in Japan, we sent several Wasa personnel to Japan to participate in a training on waste recycling. After they returned, a project was also piloted with fund from Japan. But then there was no progress on this.



Muzibur Rahman Howlader

We have directed the local government institutions—the city corporation, municipality, district council, upazila council, union parishad—to apply the 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) system in waste management. If the DoE sets up recycle plants, the local government institutions can run them.

In order to stop pollution of the Labandaha river in Gazipur, we arranged a meeting with the deputy commissioner of the district, the DoE and environmentalists. We told the district administration to seal the companies who were polluting the river

there. We also directed the municipality not to dump waste on the highway.

We have also taken many steps to protect Burignaga from pollution. The DoE currently only imposes fines on the factories that are not using the ETPs. But clearly, that is not enough. We have told the DoE that cases must be filed against those not complying with the law. If jail term is given to the offenders, they will definitely comply. The DoE has now taken a project to monitor the factories on the banks of the Buriganga online. The project will start in a couple of months.

Is NRCC's responsibility restricted to making recommendations only? Or can the commission take any action?

It is true that we do not have any statutory power of implementation but what we can do is instruct the various authorities to enforce the law. In many cases, the authorities do not feel encouraged to take action against the grabbers and polluters because they are politically powerful and influential people. The UNOs, assistant commissioner (Land), even the DCs fear that if they take action against the grabbers they might be transferred.

We have assured them that when they will take action against influential people we will provide them with every support that we can. We are putting pressure on them to take action against the law breakers and we will continue to do so.

Moreover, we have warned the district administrations, DoE, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and other authorities that if they fail to take action against those who are destroying our rivers we will be forced to file cases against them.

There are several laws which remain largely unenforced. For example, section 133 and 139 of the criminal

law can be used to arrest the offenders. The law says that if anyone obstructs the flow or channels of any river it will be considered as destruction of public property and the police can arrest those responsible for such acts and can hand them to the district magistrate. If needed, the district magistrate can employ a first-class magistrate, and after inquiry, can try them.

How can the NRCC be empowered so that it can take action against the encroachers, polluters, as well as the concerned government agencies?

Although we have been facing many obstacles in carrying out our responsibilities, we are not losing hope. I believe that the NRCC will be able to bring some positive changes soon. Since the NRCC is an autonomous institution, we have proposed the government that we should work with the cabinet division. That way we will be able to better coordinate with all the ministries concerned and can also work with more freedom.

The law based on which the NRCC was formed has to be amended. We have already drafted the changes that are needed to strengthen the commission. After the amendments are done, we will be able to enforce the law in cases where the administrative bodies fail to do so. We will also have the power to take action against the authorities concerned if they fail to enforce river related laws.

Moreover, we are trying to have a mobile court with us and also planning to establish a Special River Protection Tribunal. If we succeed, the cases filed against the grabbers and polluters can be disposed of within a short period of time.

We believe people will see some visible changes within a year.

The smog was the limit



HUMOROUSLY YOURS

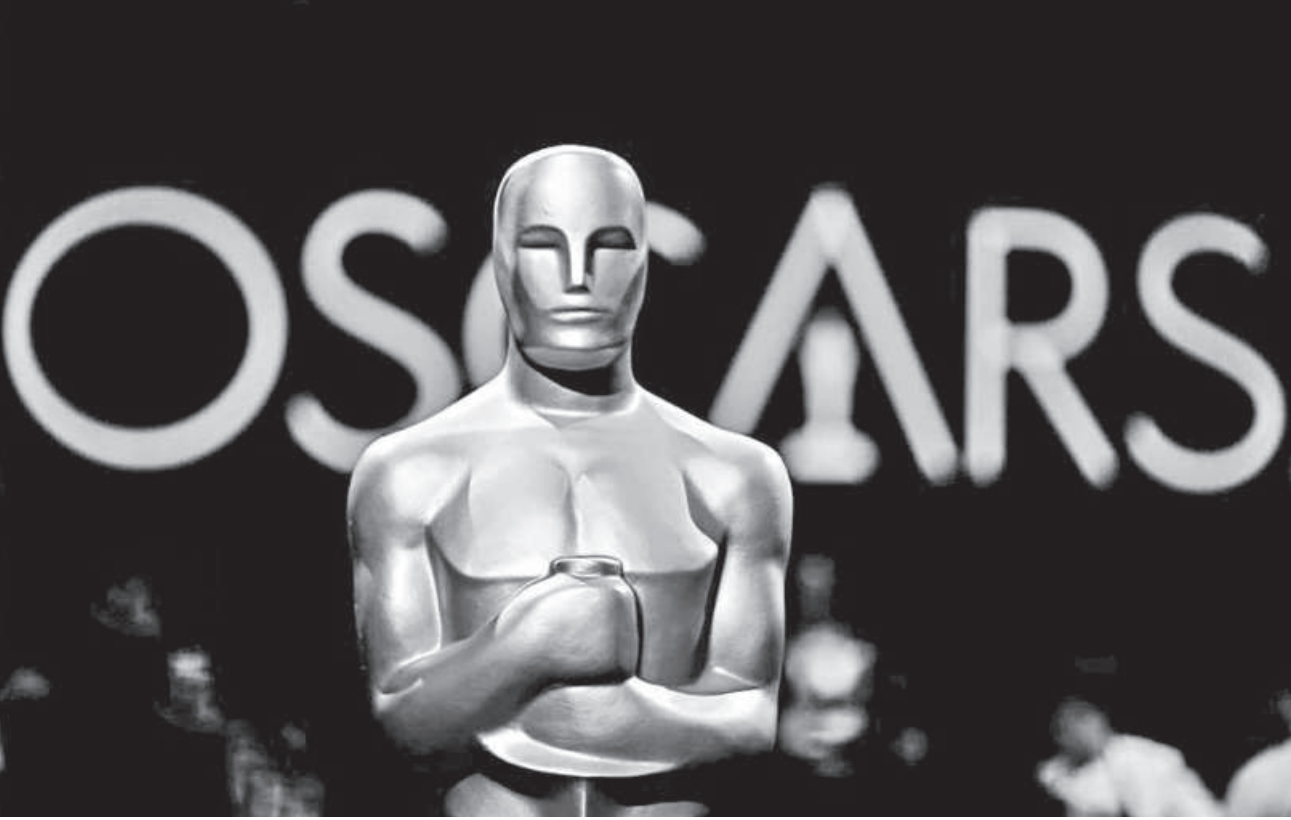
NAVEED MAHBUB

EVERYONE knows you are the sharpest officer, but be prepared to put “Maj. (Retd.)” before your name once you hang up your uniform for good. Ok, maybe not.

Since you stand out so much from the rest, you’ll advance further, to the rank of Lt. Col., tops. Ok? Now go, finish up your staff college and be happy with “PSC” at the end of your name and stop dreaming of adding an NDC (National Defense College) on your business card.

This is really the farthest that a “Bangalee” officer could have expected to go. Had there been no December 16, 1971, this would be today’s story too. Who knows, maybe a tad different, as the tapering off point could have been “re-adjusted” to that of a captain (no, not a Navy captain), in order to make room for the more “deserving” officers in an expanding military.

And this would be just one small speck in the marginalised East. The CSP (Civil Service of Pakistan) officer would go into LPR (Leave Preparatory to Retirement) as a happy Deputy Secretary. No wait, as a career diplomat, you could be posted at the coveted Washington DC mission, as a second secretary, tops. The faculty member



An Oscar statue is seen during a media preview of this year’s Academy’s Governors Ball in Los Angeles, California, US, February 15, 2019.

PHOTO: REUTERS/MARIO ANZUONI

of Dhaka University, herself a first class first from the Department of Economics, would be poised for her government funded and approved PhD from the prestigious University of Madagascar, Antananarivo campus.

The booming IT sector would see the techies on the eastern front working at the back end of the back end of the back end of Goldman Sachs. Sakib Al Hasan would be the 29th man on the squad, running to the field with

Gatorade, no, Shezan, while Shakib Khan would play the pivotal role of the tea server in the Oscar nominated Best Foreign film. The pilots with spotless records and highest flying hours would be three-striper first officers flying turbo

props on internal routes, and I mean, REAL internal routes—short range ones not overflying (or bypassing) Indian air space.

The list goes on, with the culmination of the formation of SAARC with six countries.

The scheme, marred with gin and tonic, ensured a zero margin of error in marginalising a whole population. However, the “Bangalee”, forever destined to pull each other down in different forms and shapes, most recently through cyberspace, is surprisingly highly cohesive when faced with a collective wrong. So, we took a time out to put aside our caste, creed, social status, religion (or none of it), education, degrees, careers... that we today have so efficiently utilised to create a thousand splits, and took up the aged 303’s in shorts, trousers, lungis and sarees. The goal: to eventually pull each other down once again, but in our own language, on our own soil and through our deserving ranks at the very top of our careers. We are thus now happily united in being characteristically divided, thanks to the unimaginable sacrifices of millions who made it possible for the sky to be the limit, a far cry from the low lying smog it had been not too long ago.

Naveed Mahbub is a former engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA, the former CEO of IBM & Nokia Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of ATN Bangla’s The Naveed Mahbub Show and the founder of Naveed’s Comedy Club. E-mail: Naveed@NaveedMahbub.com

QUOTABLE Quote

PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA (1893–1952)
Indian yogi, monk and guru

The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of success.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Boxcar rider

5 Trembled

11 Stratford's river

12 Still green

13 Goose egg

14 "Nashville" director

15 Make mistakes

16 Purposes

17 Desert spot

19 Gift topper

22 Sunups

24 Diver's gear

26 Valhalla VIP

27 Steel ingredient

28 Like urban areas

30 Got along

31 Easter quest

32 Dome-shaped home

34 Young kangaroo

35 Misery

38 Overrun

41 Pert lass

42 "The Matrix" star

43 Poker price

44 Not nervous

45 They may clash

DOWN

1 Visibility lessener

2 Finished

3 Some bank activity

4 Lennon's love

5 Sort of

6 Except if

7 Liberal study

8 Kipling book

9 MPG-rating org.

10 Bear's lair

16 Battleship letters

18 Last Stuart ruler

19 Digging tunnels

20 Clarinet's kin

21 Prop for Potter

22 Take a nap

23 Sick as –

25 "See ya!"

29 Some semiconductors

30 Take wing

33 Gaggles group

34 Coffee, slangily

36 Savvy about

37 Former spouses

38 Lyricist Gershwin

39 Pay stub line

40 Neckline shape

41 Writer Rita – Brown

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

LAMP

ABOUT

CARBON

ESSMET

SEESAW

SLATS

TOOPER

BABE

APES

LITTER

OCEAN

TERNS

SARAH

ELATE

PAPER

TAM

LORES

ANGUS

PROTON

PEAP

PAPER

TWIST

LATH

BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker

1 I THOUGHT YOU PUT PLEXIGLASS IN MY WINDOW SO IT WOULDN'T KEEP GETTING BROKEN

2 I JUST FIXED THE LAST PANE WE BROKE

BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott

1 YOU JERK BALL! GIVE IT BACK!

2 BAH! BAH! BAH! BAH!

3 IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, DON'T EVEN MAYBE THE FOURTH JOKE ABOUT IT. TIME IS THE CHARM.

Ministers blast

FROM PAGE 20

18 percent. Unless overloading is controlled, roads’ life expectancy cannot be increased.

He also mentioned manpower shortage and the soil of the country as major reasons behind short life of roads.

On maintenance, he said they receive only 15 to 20 percent of the money required for road maintenance every year. The RHD got Tk 2,228.91 crore against a demand of Tk 11,884 crore in 2018-19 fiscal for maintenance.

Blaming overloading for damage to roads and bridges, transport expert Prof Shamsul Haque said the government gave into the pressure of transport organisations and allowed overloading.

The government allows two-axle vehicles (six wheels) to carry up to 22 tonnes, instead of global standard of 15.5 tonnes, he said.

Besides, illegally modified trucks and lorries, mainly responsible for overloading, get fitness clearances.

Stopping overloading, ensuring proper drainage system, and introduction of performance-based road management system could help guarantee longevity of roads and bridges.

Ex RHD chief engineer Ebne Alam Hasan also blamed overloading for roads getting damaged sooner than they should. He called for giving more priority on maintenance.

State Minister Nasrul Hamid started with showing some photos of roads in his Keraniganj constituency. The photos showed an overpass without a necessary ramp, a bridge where tolls are collected haphazardly, and buses stopping in the middle of the road.

He claimed that there were no signs on most roads, including Mayor Hanif Flyover.

“What are you doing?”

There are faults in road design which could have been avoided if the officials involved worked sincerely, he said.

“The issues you have mentioned as challenges are not actually challenges. We are the main challenges,” he said hinting at RHD officials.

“Things will not change even if the budget was doubled,” he said.

Nasrul showed the photo of a pillar of a bridge that had blocked water flow of Shubhadda canal.

When an RHD official said they had stopped building bridges over the canal following the state minister’s objection, Nasrul said what they had done before was a waste of public money.

He also questioned the services and fitness clearances given by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority. He showed photos of the BRTA office in his area where brokers were present.

RHD officials then tried to respond to Nasrul.

Finance Minister Mustafa said, “What we are discussing today has been discussed several times before ... We know everything but we don’t follow.”

The prime minister gave directives on several occasions and it seems she is tired of this now, he said.

He said he gets criticised for the poor road condition in his Cumilla constituency.

“You’ll start crying if you see the roads in my constituency. People curse me every day. When I go there, I can’t roll down the car window [fearing contact with people] and try to drive away fast. But I can’t drive away fast since the roads are so bad.

“You get Tk 25,000 crore in every budget. But do you deliver [service] effectively? No, you don’t,” the minister said.

Roads are getting damaged due to overloading and modification of vehicles, he said, adding, “We will stop giving allocation and approval to new projects. Please cooperate with us.”

He blasted RHD engineers for blaming the soil and said many countries build roads under the sea and over hills and those remain useable for around 50 years.

Talking about long queues before toll plazas, the minister said he had asked the RTHD secretary at least 30 times to introduce a modern system so that there were no queues.

“I won’t conclude this meeting unless you tell me when you will do it.”

RTHD Secretary Nazrul then said they introduced a modern system at Meghna-Gumti toll plaza.

Mustafa asked them to ensure quality instead of increasing the number of projects. “If necessary, do not start work on new projects until you have finished the ones you started before.”

Road safety campaigners, experts, transport leaders, officials from ministries also spoke at the seminar.

Thousands held

FROM PAGE 1

yesterday said they have cut mobile services in parts of New Delhi on government orders.

Police and demonstrators clashed in Uttar Pradesh state as security forces bundled demonstrators onto buses in Delhi and Bangalore, as 19 metro stations were shut in the capital and major roads blocked.

Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police O.P Singh said police had to fire tear-gas shells to control the situation in Madeyanj area of Lucknow where a police post and a few vehicles were set on fire. About 20 people have been taken into custody, he added.

Tension ran high in some other areas, especially the Muslim-dominated Old City areas of Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh, and police officials were having a tough time maintaining law and order.

Congress sources said state unity party chief Ajay Kumar Lallu was detained when he was leading a protest at busy Parivartan Chowk near the District Magistrate’s office.

Two buses were set on fire in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, where protesters and police clashed.

Several teachers of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) took out a silent march opposing the act yesterday. The protestors, including a large number of women teachers, marched from the AMU Teachers Club to the Purani Chungi crossing and circled the campus.

Police fired tear gas in Lucknow while in Modi’s home state of Gujarat police said they baton-charged demonstrators and arrested 50 people.

In Bangalore, one of the 30 protesters dragged onto a police bus was globally renowned historian Ramachandra Guha just as he was giving an interview.



PHOTO: AFP

Protesters hold placards during a demonstration against India’s new citizenship law in Siliguri yesterday.

Hundreds of students, activists and supporters of opposition parties - carrying flags and banners - hold protest rallies in Mumbai’s August Kranti Maidan.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday dared ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to go for a UN-monitored referendum on the contentious act and NRC, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Addressing a rally in Esplanade East in Kolkata, she said “if the BJP has guts, it should go for a UN-monitored referendum on amended Citizenship Act and NRC.”

Mamata, who led street marches for the last three consecutive days,

steadfastly refused to implement the act and NRC in West Bengal.

In the northeast, where the protests began last week -- albeit for different reasons -- around 20,000 people took to the streets in different locations. No violence was reported however after last week’s deadly clashes.

Curfew imposed in Dibrugarh was relaxed for 14 hours since 6:00 am yesterday but mobile internet services remained suspended, officials said.

Vice-Chancellors of about 20 universities in Assam yesterday appealed to students not to endanger their future but help in maintaining peace and harmony in the state.

The radio man

FROM PAGE 20

his shop to repair a rare kind of radio back in 1982.

Curious, Mofazzal asked the freedom fighter how the radio broke and why he wanted it repaired after so many years.

In response, he heard the story of how a stray bullet hit him in the middle of an operation and the radio dropped from his hand and broke. The old fighter was repairing the radio as it carried memories of his months in battle.

The idea consumed Mofazzal ever since and he began collecting to immortalise their stories of bravery.

His father, Abdul Faruque, was also a freedom fighter and he grew up hearing tales of how the radio was their only source of information and news.

“It occurred to me that freedom fighters will not live forever but if I can preserve these radios, the history of the Liberation War will be preserved,” Mofazzal told The Daily

Star recently on the side lines of the three-day Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Radio Asia Conference and Radio Song Festival 2019 at Hotel Intercontinental in Dhaka.

“Today’s smartphones and gadgets do not have the same charm as the radio.”

A father of two sons and a daughter, Mofazzal currently has a collection of around 1,000 radios of different companies including Grundig, Hitachi, Citizen, Zenith, Murphy, national, Panasonic, Philips, Philco and many other local and international brands.

Mofazzal has had to sacrifice a lot in the last 37 years to chase his passion. Amid resource and space constraints, he has been living in a rented home in Mirpur since the 80s.

He recalls an incident in the 90s when he got news of another rare radio in Sylhet. Upon reaching his destination, the seller demanded Tk 1,500 for the radio, but Mofazzal had

only Tk 1,000 on him.

“I was adamant to return with that radio even though I was Tk 500 short. I could not borrow the sum from anyone either as I did not know anyone in that city,” he said. “I decided to earn some money and I so I took up work as a day-labourer for a few days.”

Mofazzal, who has very little educational background, said every radio has a story and history.

“I have two families -- one is my wife and kids, and the other is my collection of radios. My wife was annoyed by my passion at first, but now she understands and helps me in my pursuit.”

Sharing another anecdote, he said he once went to Jinjira to buy a radio in the year 2000. However, the seller was having second thoughts about selling the piece.

“I spent the whole day, talking and pleading, trying to convince him to part with it. At last, he agreed to sell it for Tk 1,200, but I had only Tk 800,”

Major reshuffle in police

FROM PAGE 20

This major reshuffle came as a surprise to many in the police force, said insiders, seeking anonymity.

SM Rashidul Haque, superintendent of Lalmonirhat police, was ordered to replace Noor-E-Alam Mina of Chattogram, who was transferred as Additional Deputy Inspector General of Dhaka Range.

Two deputy commissioners of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) -- Md Abdul Warish and Harun Or Rashid Hazari -- were transferred to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and T&IM section in Dhaka respectively.

But the transfer offer for these three posts will be affected after the end of Chattogram-8 by-elections, which is scheduled to be held on January 13 next year.

Hasibul Alam, special superintendent (SS) of Special Branch (SB) in Dhaka and AHM Abdur Raqib, deputy commissioner (DC) of DMP, were transferred as SP of Sirajganj and Chapainawabganj respectively.

These two officials were instructed to take briefings from the home ministry on December 24 before joining their duties as they were going to work in district areas for the first time, said officials.

Besides, SP of Khagrachari Mohammad Ahmar Uzzaman was transferred as SP Mymensingh,

SP of Munshiganj Mohammad Jayedul Alam as SP Narayanganj, SP of Shariatpur Abdul Momen as SP Munshiganj, Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police Headquarter (PHQ) Abdia Sultana as SP Lalmonirhat, SP of Nilphamari Muhammad Ashraf Hossain as SP Jashore, SS of SB SM Ashrafuzzaman as SP Shariatpur, DC DMP Mukhlesur Rahman as SP Nilphamari, SS SB Jerin Akhter as SP Bandarban and AIG PHQ Abdul Aziz as SP Khagrachhari.

Along with them, SP of Sirajganj Tutul Chakrabarty was transferred as DC DMP, SP Bandarban Jakir Hossain Majumder as DC Barishal Metropolitan Police (BMP), SP T&MI Sarwar Morshed as DC DMP, SP Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) Md Walid Hossain as DC DMP, DC BMP Moazzem Hossain Bhuyan as DC DMP, SP of Police Bureau of Investigation Julfikar Ali Hayder as DC BMP, SP from Mali mission Md Faruq Hossain as SS of SB Dhaka, SP Highway Police Jahangir Hossain as SS of SB Dhaka, DC Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Hemayetul Islam as Commander 16-APBn, DC Khulna Metropolitan Police Md Saiful Hoque as DC DMP, SP of Railway police Md Nazrul Islam as DC DMP and SP of Police Staff College Md Al-Mamun Ansari as SP CID.

PM warns of stern action

FROM PAGE 20

migrant workers.

Hasina also gave Commercially Important Person (CIP) awards to two non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) as the government conferred the awards upon 42 Bangladeshi expatriates on the occasion of the International Migrants Day 2019.

Later, the PM opened the migration fair at the venue.

Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad presided over the programme.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, President of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) Benjir Ahmed, MP, Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Md Salim Reza, and IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri also spoke at the event.

The PM urged the Bangladeshi workers and the recruiting agencies to work sincerely to uphold the image of Bangladesh abroad.

Spelling out different activities taken by her government for manpower export and welfare of the expatriate Bangladeshis, Hasina said her government was now giving greater attention to proper training of jobseekers.

She said it was earlier seen that many registered for training, but did not receive it. “But now it’s a must.”

The Daily Star

FROM PAGE 20

and enlightened by the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

Nomination seekers submitted their details by November 20. An independent jury panel evaluated the nominations and selected the winners in five categories.

The categories are: ICT Solution Provider of the Year (Local Market Focus), ICT Solution Provider of the Year (International Market Focus), Digital Commerce of the Year, ICT Startup of the Year and ICT Business person of the Year.

On this day

FROM PAGE 20

their allegiance to Bangladesh today -- Ehsanul Kabir, economic minister of Pakistan embassy in London; Muslehuddin Ahmad, commercial councillor in Paris, and Khairul Anam, second secretary in Brussels.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto takes over the presidency of Pakistan. In a radio speech he proudly declares a fight to reclaim “East Pakistan”.

Many army high officials including former president Yahya Khan, his chief of staff General Abdul Hamid Khan and security secretary Gulam Umar Khan are sent to retirement.

BCL men

FROM PAGE 20

“Hearing my screams for help, locals rushed to the scene and chased them away.”

His brother Delwar Hossain Akanda lodged a case with Jamalpur Police Station accusing six, including the councillor and his son.

Ensure Khaleda’s

FROM PAGE 17

organisation that the government had refused to disclose her official medical reports to them, which is deeply concerning and also inconsistent with the UN rules, the statement mentioned.

The rules provide: “... all prisoners should be granted access to their files upon request. A prisoner may appoint a third party to access his or her medical file.”

According to Rule 24, “provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility and that prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community and without discrimination,” said the statement.

Amnesty also said that some charges against her are not consistent with international law and standards -- such as hurting religious sentiments, making “defamatory statement” on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, celebrating her [Khaleda Zia’s] “fake” birthday, undermining national flag, and for commenting on the number of liberation war martyrs.

Stating that she has secured bail in 34 cases that have yet to proceed to the trial stage, the statement said there were concerns regarding infringements of Khaleda Zia’s right to a fair hearing.

“... a High Court division bench granted bail in the Charitable Trust case on 12 March 2018, taking into consideration the severity of the sentence, her age and medical condition. However, the bail order was hastily stayed by the Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, led by the chief justice, on 14 March 2018 without hearing the defendant’s lawyers and by only allowing the prosecution to present their case.”

Khaleda Zia’s counsel declared such a step unprecedented, it said, adding that excluding a defence lawyer from a hearing where the prosecutor is present is violation of the principle of “equality of arms”.

China calls EU rights prize-winning Uighur ‘a terrorist’

AFP, Beijing

China called jailed Uighur intellectual Ilham Tohti a “terrorist” yesterday and refused to confirm whether he was still alive, after his daughter accepted a European Parliament human rights award on his behalf.

Tohti -- a former economics professor sentenced to life imprisonment in 2014 by Beijing for “separatism” -- was announced as the winner of the Sakharov Prize in October.

UN calls for lifting restrictions on Iran diplomats

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday called on the US -- which hosts the organization’s headquarters -- to lift restrictions on Iranian diplomats.

The resolution also condemned the denial of visas to Russian diplomats.

Since the summer, Iranian diplomats and ministers have been under strict movement restrictions when they are in the US. They are limited largely to the area around the UN headquarters in New York, the Iranian mission and the ambassador’s residence.

The UN resolution, proposed by Cyprus on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica and Ivory Coast, was approved by consensus without being put to a vote.

Unlike those passed by the Security Council, General Assembly resolutions are not binding but do have political weight.

Without naming specific countries, the text was mainly aimed at the restrictions imposed on Iran, as well as the visa denials to Russia’s delegation during last September’s General Assembly, diplomats said.

The resolution said the UN “urges the host country to remove all remaining travel restrictions imposed by it on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities.”

The UN “takes seriously” the travel restrictions and arguments of the “two Missions” that say they are hindered in their functions, the text added.

Tensions between the US and Iran have risen


since May last year when President Donald Trump abandoned a 2015 multinational deal with Iran aimed at curbing its nuclear program and began reimposing sanctions.

In September, while participating in the annual General Assembly, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif complained he was unable to visit the country’s UN ambassador in a US hospital.

The UN also “expresses serious concern regarding the non-issuance of entry visas to certain representatives of certain Member States,” the resolution said, referring to 18 Russian diplomats who were denied US visas, also in September.

They were supposed to participate in various UN committees until December.

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Pre-bid Meeting date: **Sunday, 29 December 2019; Time: 11:00 Hrs** at UNICEF Office at BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.
The deadline to submit proposal is **Wednesday, 8 January 2020; Time: 11:00 Hrs**
Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of solicitation process.
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What to WATCH

GTV & MAASRANGA
BBPL
Khulna v Rangpur
Live from 2:00pm
Chattogram v Cumilla
Live from 7:00pm

SONY ESPN
Pakistan v Sri Lanka
First Test, Day Two
Live from 11:00am

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Hoffenheim v Dortmund
Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

TEN 2
Serie A
Fiorentina v Roma
Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT
Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury

Stadium, Chattogram
Khulna v Rangpur
Time: 2:00pm

Chattogram v Cumilla
Time: 7:00pm
Federation Cup

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka
Sheikh Russel v Uttar Baridhara

Time: 3:30pm
Muktijoddha v Mohammedan
Time: 6:15pm

Russia decides to contest ban

AFP, Moscow

Russia decided yesterday to contest its ban from major sporting events over doping violations, as President Vladimir Putin slammed its sidelining as unfair and insisted athletes should be able to compete under the national flag.

Russia's RUSADA anti-doping agency "made a decision not to agree" with the four-year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency's decision, the head of RUSADA's supervisory board, Alexander Ivlev, told journalists.

The decision will have to be communicated to WADA before the end of the month, triggering the appeal process in the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport.

WADA on December 10 banned Russia for four years from major global events, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, over manipulated doping data.



Barcelona talisman Lionel Messi (L) is hounded by Real Madrid player Luka Modric during their La Liga Clasico encounter at Camp Nou on Wednesday. Although Real pressed hard, the match ended in a draw.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Putin appeared to indicate a lengthy legal battle loomed, as he addressed a throng of journalists in his annual press conference.

"We will have to calmly await all the relevant decisions, including the decision by the arbitration court, then we will understand what position we're in," he said when asked about the prospect of cancellation of events on Russian territory.

Putin reiterated that he believes WADA's decision to be "not only unjust, but also not corresponding with common sense or law", saying Russia was being punished the second time for the same alleged offence.

"If WADA does not have any issues with our national Olympic committee our team must compete under its flag," Putin said.

"If a majority of our athletes are clean, how is it possible to slap sanctions against them for someone else's actions?"

"Russian athletes have been training and will be training for competition," Putin said.



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo (3rd from R) goes airborne as he heads in an inch perfect Alex Sandro cross in the 45th minute of a Serie A encounter with Sampdoria in Genoa on Wednesday. Thanks to his towering header, Juventus walked away 2-1 winners.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Real keen to seize momentum

REUTERS, Barcelona

'El Clasico' may have finished goalless, but Real Madrid were left emboldened by their superb performance at Barcelona and will hope to build on the momentum when they host Athletic Bilbao on Sunday in their final La Liga game of 2019.

Zinedine Zidane's side became the first team to take points off Barca at the Camp Nou this season but were left feeling short changed by the draw after dominating the play and having two strong penalty appeals turned down.

Real are now unbeaten in 12 games in all competitions and have come into their own against the toughest opponents, with Wednesday's performance ranking alongside their 2-2 draw with Paris St Germain as their best of the season.

"We are in great form and we are

also in good shape physically. It's a shame that the year is about to end, we would like it to not stop," said Real captain Sergio Ramos.

Barca, meanwhile, gave an uncharacteristically shy account of themselves and the onus will be on them to produce an emphatic

response at home to Alaves on Saturday after a match which has further harmed coach Ernesto Valverde's reputation.

Newspaper Marca said the match, the first 'Clasico' to finish goalless in 17 years, had "caused a lot of damage" to Valverde, who in his third season in charge is struggling to get his immensely talented side to play as they know how.

Valverde's defence of his side's uninspiring display indicated he might not be capable of giving the team the shake up they need to win the title race.

"Barca-Real Madrid matches should be evenly matched, they are a great team, a powerful force so it's normal that they made life tough for us," said the coach. "It's not normal that we put five goals past them or finish 17 points above them, even though that's what has happened in recent years."

CLASICO STATS

- Real Madrid have gone seven La Liga meetings without beating Barcelona (D3 L4), their worst such run in El Clasico since December 2011.
- Lionel Messi has failed to score or assist in his last four games against Real Madrid in all competitions.
- Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos now has the most appearances in El Clasico history (43), surpassing Manolo Sanchis, Francisco Gento, Xavi and Messi (42 each).
- Zinedine Zidane is unbeaten in his five managerial games at the Nou Camp in all competitions (W2 D3) and is the first Real Madrid manager to remain unbeaten in five away games at Barcelona.
- This was the first goalless El Clasico in all competitions since November 2002, 6,235 days ago.

NATIONAL ARCHERY C'SHIPS Tirandaj emerge as champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Tirandaj Sangsad emerged as champions of the Teer 11th National Archery Championships by bagging three gold, two silver and two bronze medals during the three-day tournament, which ended at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi, Gazipur yesterday.

Bangladesh Ansar finished second with three gold, one silver and four bronze medals while Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) became third with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

On the concluding day, BKSP beat Dhaka Army Archery Club in both the men's and women's recurve team events while Tirandaj defeated BKSP in the recurve mixed team final.

Dhaka Army bagged a gold medal in the men's compound team event by beating BKSP while Bangladesh Ansar won both gold medals in the women's compound and mixed compound team events, beating Dhaka Army and Tirandaj Sangsad respectively.

Navy clinch title again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy clinched the Victory Day Hockey Tournament title with a single-goal win over Sonali Bank in the final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Khorshedur Rahman separated the sides in the 53rd minute by converting a penalty corner. It was Navy's fourth successive triumph in the Victory Day Hockey Tournament.

Mushy, Fizz unsold in IPL auction

AGENCIES, undated

Bangladesh wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim and left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman went under the hammer in the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction held in Kolkata yesterday but both of them remained unsold.

The base price for Mushfiqur, who was in the wicketkeeper category, was 75 lakh rupees. Mushfiqur was not initially part of the 971 players who registered for the IPL auction, but he was a part of the 24 additional players who were added to the list after their names were requested by the franchises.

Meanwhile, Mustafizur whose base price was 1 crore rupees, also remained unpicked. Mustafizur featured in three IPL editions (2016,2017 and 2018) but remained unsold this time following his poor form for the national outfit.

Australian players attracted big prices at the auction with paceman Pat Cummins becoming the costliest overseas buy after he went to Kolkata Knight Riders for 15.50 crore rupees.

Cummins broke the record held by England's Ben Stokes, who was bought by Rising Pune Supergiant for 14.5 crore rupees in the 2017 auction.

Cummins initiated the biggest bidding war. Bangalore and Delhi Capitals both upped the ante before Kolkata swooped in for their former player, who has claimed 32 wickets in 25 IPL matches.

Explosive all-rounder Glenn Maxwell joined Kings XI Punjab for 10.75 crore rupees after recently returning to cricket from a short break due to mental health issues.



Sri Lanka bowler Lahiru Kumara celebrates after taking the wicket of Pakistan's Yasir Shah on the first day of the second Test in Karachi yesterday. Pakistan ended the day on 191 all out while Sri Lanka scored 64 for three in reply.

PHOTO: AFP

Urmi, Nasima reach quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

Shuttlers Urmi Akter and Nasima Khatun advanced to the quarterfinals in women's singles section of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Junior International Series by beating their respective rivals at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Urmi and Nasima beat compatriots Lika Poddar and Jerin Ahmed respectively by straight 2-0 sets.

FIFA bans Alvarado

AFP, Lausanne

Ariel Alvarado, a Panamanian who was a member of FIFA's ethics committee, has been banned from football for life, the governing body announced yesterday.

FIFA's adjudicatory chamber said in a statement Alvarado was "guilty of bribery in violation of the FIFA Code of Ethics."

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Bangladesh National Golf Team on winning the silver medal in S A Games 2019

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FRAUD RECRUITING AGENCIES

PM warns of stern action

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said stern actions would be taken against fraudulent recruiting agencies so that migrant workers are not deceived.

"I'd like to ask our recruiting agencies not to send workers just for making money," she said while addressing a programme of the International Migrants Day 2019 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

Hasina said the rural people fall victims to deception in many cases as some agents of recruiting agencies show them the dream of a better future in foreign lands. The people go abroad leaving or selling off everything, she said. "Proper actions will be taken against those [agents] who do this. Besides this, we'll also request the foreign countries concerned to take proper actions against those who con the workers into sending them abroad so that such thing doesn't occur."

The PM asked the overseas jobseekers to verify jobs, salaries and security measures properly before going to any country as there is a registration system in Bangladesh now.

She also urged everyone in rural areas to be careful so that no one could become victim.

At the function, Hasina inaugurated the insurance coverage system for migrant workers and handed over insurance policies to an overseas jobseeker.

She also handed over cheques of stipends to two meritorious students as part of the distribution of some Tk 4.5 crore as stipends to 3,225 meritorious children of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



The stage for Awami League's 21st council is being prepared at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. A diorama of the Padma bridge, complete with the river traffic, is featured in front of the stage. The two-day council begins today.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The Daily Star



The Daily Star ICT Awards ceremony today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The Daily Star ICT Awards 2019" will be held today in an effort to recognise and encourage extraordinary achievements in Bangladesh's information and communication technology (ICT) sector. Dr Gowher Rizvi, the prime minister's international affairs adviser, is scheduled to be the chief guest at the event in Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden, which is the ceremony's hospitality partner. The award is being powered by Brac Bank and Daffodil International University

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 20

Surrendered Pakistan General Niazi and General Rao Farman Ali taken to Kolkata from Dhaka by a special chartered flight.

The number of arrested Pakistani troops is 65,670 till the night of December 19, a spokesperson of Indian army's eastern command announced. Another 8,000 troops detained in Chittagong garrison. And 20,000 other Pakistani bureaucrats, police also detained.

A few diplomats acknowledge

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

POOR ROAD DESIGN, MAINTENANCE

Ministers blast RHD officials

Blame officials' ineptness; engineers say overloading, fund constraints and manpower shortage responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two ministers yesterday came down heavily on Roads and Highways Department officials for poor planning and maintenance of roads that wasted public money and caused people to suffer.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal even said he would stop allocating money for new road projects unless proper use of the money was ensured.

State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid in a PowerPoint presentation demonstrated some poor road designs and instances of poor maintenance.

Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) Secretary Nazrul Islam and several other RHD officials tried to respond to the allegations but apparently fell short of convincing the ministers.

The ministers were speaking at a seminar on "Life Time of Highways: Challenge and What Need to Be Done" at planning ministry organised by the RHD.

In his keynote speech, RHD Superintendent Engineer (road design and safety) AK Mohammad Fazlul Karim said 73 percent passengers and 82 percent goods are transported via roads.

He said if overloading of vehicles were controlled and roads had proper drainage systems and were maintained regularly, roads could last as long as they were supposed to.

Karim said just five percent overloading could reduce road longevity by

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Ensure Khaleda's proper treatment, fair trial rights

Amnesty Int'l urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International yesterday urged Bangladesh to allow BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia to access specialised health-care and to get fair trial rights.

The international rights organisation in a statement called upon the authorities to ensure that Khaleda is treated in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners.

Citing various media reports, the statement said to treat her arthritis, Khaleda's personal doctors advised her specialised treatment at a private hospital where she used to undergo treatment before her detention.

"... despite repeated requests from Khaleda Zia and her family ... the government has declined [to do so]," it said.

This is inconsistent with the provisions of the UN rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also known as Nelson Mandela Rules, which specifies that prisoners, requiring specialised treatment or surgery, shall be transferred to specialised institutions or to civil hospitals.

Khaleda's family members told the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

The radio man



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Growing up, Mofazzal Hossain worked as a helper at his father's small radio repair shop in a market in Mymensingh town. He quickly fostered a fascination for the device, learning the ins and outs of the trade.

The fifty-year-old is now an esteemed collector with at least 1,000 vintage radios from the Liberation War period.

It was quite by chance that he stumbled across the idea when a maimed freedom fighter came to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

SEE CITY IN FRAME -- PAGE 16

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



Major reshuffle in police

26 officials of SP rank transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday announced a major reshuffle in Bangladesh Police.

In an order signed by Dhananjay Kumar Das, deputy secretary of Public Security Division, the ministry transferred a total of 26 officials of superintendent ranks.

Of them, nine were posted as deputy commissioners in metropolitan cities.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 20

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-25 12-30 3-45 5-28 7-00
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



THE MONKEYS' MISERY

An endangered Phayre's Leaf Monkey atop a tree in Lawachhara National Park in Moulvibazar's Srimangal upazila. A recent forest department initiative to cut around 6,000 fruit trees in the forests may push the species towards extinction.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

BCL men break legs of journo

They beat him up for being witness in case; BCL leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in Jamalpur yesterday arrested a Chhatra League leader on charges of severely beating up a 55-year-old journalist.

Rakib Khan, 28, religious affairs secretary of the district unit BCL, and several others allegedly broke both legs of local journalist Shelu Akanda when they beat him up with iron rods Wednesday night.

Salemuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Jamalpur Sadar Police Station, said they were looking for the other suspects. Shelu, reporter of a local daily, is undergoing treatment at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital.

He was attacked in Dewanpara area of the town where he went for a walk around 11:00pm, police said.

Shelu is the main witness in a case filed in connection with the assault on another journalist in September 2018.

Arrested BCL leader Rakib's father Ward Councillor Hasanuzzaman Khan is the key accused in that case.

Since then, Hasanuzzaman and his son Rakib started threatening Shelu not to testify in the case, the victim told The Daily Star.

"I gave witness account against Hasanuzzaman recently," he said.

He added: "Rakib accompanied by around 10 others grabbed me by the collar and said, 'You want to testify? Testify now', and started beating me up with iron rods and metal pipes.



Shelu Akanda

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6