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SECOND EDITION



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'Indian Yaba' getting in

In the wake of anti-narco crackdown, gangs use new border points for smuggling in cheaper pills

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Chapainawabganj

He is known as a rakkhal (cowboy) as he brings in cattle smuggled from across the border. But what the 36-year-old says about his additional source of earning is no less startling. The inhabitant of Shibganj upazila in bordering Chapainawabganj district is a carrier of mad drug.



He is among a dozen people from his small village of Bishrosia, adjacent to Fatehpur border point, who are involved in yaba smuggling from India.

The south-western district is one of the new routes yaba syndicates explored

following anti-drug crackdowns that seemingly put a dent in trafficking through the old entrances.

The price of the crazy tablets these so-called cowboys of Fatehpur are bringing in is cheaper than that in Teknaf, the southernmost point in the mainland and main gateway for smuggling yaba from Myanmar.

"Two types of pills are available here. The small grey pill is sold at Tk 40 to 45 each and the big pink pill at Tk 80 to 85," said the cowboy, who also works in his agricultural land.

As of December 3, a small pink pill was

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People stand in silence for the namaz-e-janaza of Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and watch his son Shameran Abed speak on a giant screen at the capital's Army Stadium yesterday. *Inset, family members of Sir Fazle Abed near his coffin there.*

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



City polls on Jan 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elections to Dhaka South City Corporation and Dhaka North City Corporation will be held on January 30, the Election Commission announced yesterday.

During a press briefing at the Election Commission (EC) office, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) KM Nurul Huda said electronic voting machines (EVMs) will be used in the polls instead of traditional ballot boxes.

Army will not be deployed in the polls, he added.

Four other election commissioners -- Mahbub Talukdar, Rafiqul Islam, Kabita Khanam and Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury -- were also present at the

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Moncho, BCL men attack Nur

Storm Ducsu VP's office; 26 others injured, one in ICU

STAR REPORT

Activists of a faction of Muktijuddho Moncho, mostly comprised of Chhatra League men, again beat up and injured Ducsu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur, storming into his office at the Ducsu building yesterday.

At least 27 of his supporters were injured in the attack carried out around 12:45pm after Ducsu Assistant General Secretary and BCL leader Saddam Hussain threatened Nur with dire consequences if he didn't leave his office.

Dhaka University Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani went to the spot around 1:00pm and sent 20 of the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Of them, 14 were released after primary treatment, and six others, including Nur, were admitted to the hospital.

One of the six, Tuhin Farabi, a student of a private university in the capital, was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit from the emergency unit after he had breathing problems and convulsions.

"We have kept him under observation. We cannot say

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 PHOTO ON PAGE 16

TRIBUTE TO SIR FAZLE HASAN ABED

He dreamt big and made them come true

MAHFUZ ANAM

Abed Bhai, as Sir Fazle Hasan Abed was lovingly called by almost all those who knew him, was well into his fatal illness when Cyclone Bulbul struck Bangladesh. As shared by Lady Abed and daughter Tamara during a recent conversation, as the cyclone wrought havoc, Abed, in a semiconscious state, was constantly rambling about what preparations have been made to rescue the victims and how quickly Brac will have to come to the aid of the children and rebuild the affected schools. Such was his attachment with the poor and the deprived.

During my last few minutes with him while he could still converse, albeit lying down and mostly with his eyes closed, he talked about press freedom, its need for democracy and for the future of Bangladesh, about how The Daily Star was doing, about never losing hope, never giving up and most importantly about his faith in the bright future of our people,

the last being his article of faith. He reminisced about the paper's early days and felt happy as the paper evolved with its commitment to pro-people journalism.

As I took slow and measured steps backwards away from him and out of the room, stealing last moment glances and lingering for as many more seconds as possible, I was overwhelmed by the sudden realisation that I would never again see him in his elegantly attired self, hear his calming, reassuring, encouraging and inspiring voice again, feel that gentle and affectionate touch that I rushed to receive in moments of my deepest frustrations, get his wise counsel on why it was vital to serve the poor, why it was crucial to reduce poverty, why education was the key to our future and how not to lose focus on accomplishing the tasks in hand. As I walked away, I was acutely aware that I was leaving behind a legend, the man who was a fountain of inspiration for all those who loved Bangladesh and

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Adieu, friend of the poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

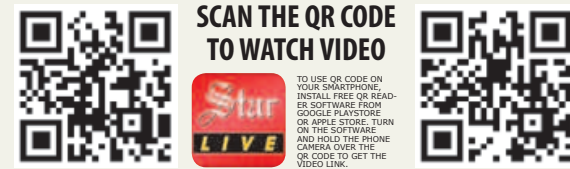
Hundreds of people braved the morning chill yesterday as they thronged the Army Stadium to pay tribute to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, who passed away in a hospital in the capital on Friday night.

From ministers, lawmakers, politicians, to diplomats of different countries, and civil society members to relatives, all came to attend the first namaz-e-janaza at the stadium. They walked in silence towards the coffin inside the Army Stadium and placed floral wreaths on it.

People poured into the venue well before the body of Sir Fazle Abed arrived there around 10:30am. After they paid their last tribute, the namaz-e-janaza began around 12:45pm.

Sir Fazle Abed, known in the country as the friend of the poor or the champion of the deprived, was then laid to rest in Banani graveyard after a second namaz-e-janaza held on

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Modi defends CAA, NRC at mega rally

Assures Muslims of no detention centres as protests swell across India

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday sought to reassure India's Muslims as a wave of deadly protests against a new citizenship law put his Hindu nationalist government under pressure like never before.

At least 25 people, a majority of them in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, have died and hundreds injured in 10 days of demonstrations and violence after Modi's government passed the law criticised as anti-Muslim. More protests took place yesterday.

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“ No one is finally dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away. ”

- Terry Pratchett

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG (1936-2019) positively impacted the lives of millions of people across the world.

Humanity will remember him forever.



A FINAL FAREWELL

Clockwise from top right, long queues formed at the gates of the Army Stadium yesterday, as thousands gathered to pay tributes to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed. A host of luminaries and eminent personalities from various fields join the congregation; US Ambassador Earl R Miller, Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, and top leaders of Awami League pay their respects to the icon.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Announcement of full AL committee likely tomorrow: Quader

Hints on possible reshuffle in cabinet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League's full central working committee is expected to be announced tomorrow, newly re-elected AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

The road transport and bridges minister also hinted on a possible reshuffle in the cabinet next year.

He was talking to reporters at the ministry office.

The ruling party's triennial council on Saturday elected 42 office-bearers in the 81-member committee and names of the others would be announced later by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as councillors vested the responsibility in her.

Asked when the full-fledged committee would be declared, Quader said AL presidium members will meet on Tuesday and discuss about it. "Full committee is expected to be declared on that day," he said.

Replying to another question on whether cabinet may witness changes as an effort to separate the party from the government, he said reshuffle in cabinet is a routine matter.

"Some changes may happen [in the cabinet] in the new year," he said.

Seven ministers do not feature in the partially announced committee while five have retained their posts.

Asked whether the third generation of "Sheikh Mujib Family" -- Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Saima Wazed Hossain and Radwan Mujib Siddiq -- could be included in the new committee, Quader said "They have not agreed to that."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'Riddled with untruths about Bangladesh and BNP'

Amit Shah's speech in Indian parliament criticised by Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday criticised Indian Home Minister Amit Shah for "unwarranted labelling" of BNP as repressive while passing the much-discussed Citizenship Amendment Act in the country's parliament.

While addressing the Indian parliament, Amit Shah referred to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia -- blaming her for repression of minorities when she was in power, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in Dhaka.

Giving a "lame excuse", Amit Shah claimed the trend of oppressing minorities in Bangladesh is still ongoing and thus India was forced to pass the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Fakhrul said.

"A speech riddled with untruths about Bangladesh and BNP was delivered in the Indian parliament. We expect that the Indian government would withdraw the statement for the greater interest of both nations, and this should not be repeated for the sake of cooperation," Fakhrul said.

He further said the Indian home minister compared Bangladesh to Pakistan and Afghanistan randomly in the course of supporting the citizenship act and claimed that religious minorities in Bangladesh are being repressed as Islam is its state religion.

Through his comments, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party President Amit Shah has deliberately attempted to brand BNP as repressive to support the controversial act, the BNP leader alleged.

"Diplomatically, Bangladesh-India relation is now going through a golden chapter. However, Amit Shah blamed a friendly neighbour for repression of Hindus, Buddhists and Christians," Fakhrul said.

The political atmosphere in the region is being pushed towards a conflict in a bid to establish a Hindu state, balancing the gun on the shoulders of Bangladesh and BNP, Fakhrul said.

"BNP strongly believes that Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's and official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh Kumar's statements in this regard are untrue, unprofessional,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

NEWS ON BASIC BANK HC rule sought on graft in recruitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An application was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking its suo moto (voluntary) order on the government, to conduct an inquiry into alleged corruption in appointments of 1,173 employees in BASIC Bank during the chairmanship of chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu.

Advocate Titus Hillo Rema submitted the application, requesting the HC to ask for the audit report of the auditor and comptroller general's office, that has revealed huge irregularities and nepotism in the appointments of officials and employees of BASIC Bank between 2012 and 2014.

He also prayed to the HC to summon Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, the then chairman of BASIC Bank, to appear before it

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'INSTIGATING STUDENTS' Court to decide on arrest warrant against Fakhrul on Jan 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will decide on January 22 whether to issue arrest warrants against BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and two others in a case over "instigating students to wage an anti-government movement" last year.

The other two accused are: BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed.

After receiving probe report from police, Metropolitan Magistrate Md Habibur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday set the date for passing the order on the issue.

On February 6, Inspector Mohammad Sentu Miah of Tejgaon Police Station submitted a probe report that mentioned the three BNP leaders' involvement with the incident.

AB Siddique, president of Jananetri Parishad -- a pro-Awami League organisation -- on August 6 last year filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate AHM Tuah.

Taking cognisance of the charges, the magistrate directed the officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station to investigate the matter and submit a report.

On July 29 last year, two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College -- Abdul Karim Rajib and Dia Khanam Mim -- were run over and killed while nine were injured when two buses of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan were recklessly racing each other. The incident ignited

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Abdur Razzaq's 8th death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today marks the eighth death anniversary of veteran Awami League leader



Abdur Razzaq, one of the organisers of the Liberation War and a close associate of Bangabandhu.

To mark the day, Awami League leaders, led by the party's General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, will pay homage to the veteran leader by placing a wreath at his grave at Banani graveyard.

On the occasion, Abdur Razzaq Foundation and Abdur Razzaq Smriti Sangsad will organise a discussion at TSC.

President of Abdur Razzaq Smriti Sangsad Prof Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury will preside over the meeting.

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Address corruption before hiking price

Energy experts say about proposal on electricity tariff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Energy experts at a press conference yesterday urged the government not to increase the price of electricity, as it will severely impact the cost of living and further escalate the ongoing price hike of essentials.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity to share its opinion over the government's proposal on raising electricity price.

Authorities have recently made a proposal to increase electricity price, citing growing power generation costs and revenue deficit as reasons, but their logic has been proven invalid and unfair, speakers said.

Power generation costs and losses that the government has been facing can be reduced significantly if corruption in the sector is addressed properly, they added.

Presenting a written statement at the event, noted energy expert Prof M Shamsul Alam said some weak policies of the government, inefficiency of some employees and corruption are the major reasons for which the revenue deficit is occurring and production cost is rising.

"Bangladesh Power Development Board, at a recent public hearing, showed a production cost hike and an income deficit of Tk 8,786 crore, but those were proven wrong during the hearing," he said.

There are several indicators, like service quality and electricity flow, which need to be considered to increase the price, but only a few of them were prioritised in the recent

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

AMRAN HOSSAIN



Though the month of Poush is generally celebrated in the city, it brings immense misery for some. A man sleeps on a plank with a loose nail dangerously close to his face at Dhaka's Hatirjheel early yesterday morning, with only a thin blanket to keep out the biting cold. Meanwhile, a jogger, dressed appropriately for the weather, runs past him.

Abdur

FROM PAGE 3
Abdur Razzaq was a front-ranking organiser and leader of every democratic movement of the nation from his student life till his death. He played an active role in the education movement of 1962, the six-point movement of 1966, the mass uprising of 1969, and the Liberation War of 1971.

Razzaq was elected the general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League in 1966-67 and 1967-68.

He was elected a member of the parliament for the first time in 1970. He served as a parliamentarian in 1973, 1991, 1996 and 2009 as well.

Razzaq was the water resources minister in the Awami League-led government of 1996.

On December 23, 2011, Abdur Razzaq passed away at a London hospital.



Cargo vessels move slowly on the Kirtonkhola in Barishal to avoid collision as dense fog enveloped the river yesterday morning. This photo was taken from Dapdapia area of the city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Riddled with untruths

FROM PAGE 3
unilateral, biased, misleading and extremely questionable," Fakhru said.

Termining the CAA as undemocratic, discriminatory, unconstitutional and against humanity, Fakhru said the act has been passed targeting the Muslim minority in India.

Fakhru also blasted Bangladesh government for its silence over the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in India and said it is a threat to Bangladeshis and the country's sovereignty as well.

The Bangladesh government is claiming that the issue of NRC is India's internal matter while Bangla speaking people are being pushed in through border areas from India, he said.

Announcement of full AL

FROM PAGE 3
Quader said it is nice that BNP welcomed the new AL committee but it would have been better if they had participated in the council.

He said the main challenges of the new committee would be implementation of the electoral pledges.

Educating parents key to stopping online harassment

Speakers say at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educating parents should be a major part of preventing online harassment of women, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo, in collaboration with Take Back the Tech and Bangladesh Open Source Network (BDOSON) organised the event on "The reality of women's safety on social media and solutions" at CA Bhaban yesterday.

Adiba Sultana (not her real name), shared her story of being harassed online in 2016. "I was further harassed by police at the local station when I went for help."

"Our parents must be made aware of such harassment, because when this happened with me, parents of the perpetrator supported their son and threatened my parents," she added.

Abul Hossain, project director of the government's Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women said that if anyone

faces harassment on social media, they can contact the national toll-free helpline 109. "We usually help them by referring the cases to the Cyber Security and Crime Division of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime [CITC] of police, and another private company that works on the issue."

Dr BM Mainul Hossain, associate professor of Institute of Information Technology at Dhaka University, said parents teach ethics to children at an age when they have no chance of doing anything unethical. Educational institutions should teach ethics to students as they grow up.

Syed Nasirullah, senior assistant commissioner of CITC, urged social media users to be wary of the perils of oversharing.

DU professor Dr Lafifa Jamal; and Mahbuba Sultana, coordinator of Take Back the Tech were present at the event moderated by Munir Hassan, head of Prothom Alo's Youth Programme.

HC rule sought on graft

FROM PAGE 3

for his explanation on the matter. The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Sardar Md Rashed Jahangir may hold hearing on the application today, the petitioner told this newspaper.

The petition was submitted following two reports -- published on Bangla daily Samakal and private television channel Channel 24 on November 29 -- on irregularities in appointing of 1,173 employees in BASIC Bank.

In the application, the lawyer urged the

HC to issue a rule asking respondents to explain why the media reports should not be taken into consideration for inquiring into the corruption allegations in the appointments.

He requested the HC to include secretaries to the cabinet division and finance and banking division of the finance ministry, governor of Bangladesh Bank, comptroller and auditor general, chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, chairman of BASIC Bank, and Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu as respondents to the prayed rule.

Govt to hire 10,000 doctors

Health ministry officials tell JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to recruit 10,000 physicians to ensure healthcare services for people, health ministry officials told a parliamentary body yesterday at a meeting.

The parliamentary standing committee on health ministry was also informed that 4,607 physicians have already been appointed through the 39th BCS examinations.

The meeting was held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with committee chief MP Abul Kalam Azad in the chair.

Teenager dies

FROM PAGE 5

her on the spot, officer-in-charge of Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station Abu Bakar Siddiq said quoting locals.

The truck driver managed to flee with the vehicle, police said. Morium's body was sent to Kishoreganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy and a case was lodged in this regard.

In Shariatpur, Ashok Chandra De (55) was crushed by a bus at Balar Bazar area of Sadar upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

Ashok died the spot, Md Jahangir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Palang Model Police Station, said.

Safeguard our motherland

FROM PAGE 5

the navy for standing beside people during natural disasters.

Earlier, the premier inspected a parade at the academy. She gave away prizes among 72 young officers, including 61 midshipmen and 11 DEOs, who are entering naval career upon successful completion of their courses. Among them, seven are women and two midshipmen are from the Maldives.

Midshipman Raiyan Rahman was awarded the "Sword of Honour".

Besides, Midshipman Md Saidis Sakline Miran received "Navy Chief Gold Medal" (second highest award) and acting sub-lieutenant Md Kamruzzaman (from DEO batch) got "Bir Shrestha Ruhul Amin Gold Medal" (third highest award).

Ministers, parliament members, chiefs of the three services, senior military and civil officials and guardians of the newly-commissioned midshipmen were, among others, present on the occasion.

Court to decide on arrest

FROM PAGE 3

widespread protests across the country.

On August 4 the same year, an audio clip of a telephone conversation allegedly between BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and an unknown man over aggravating the student protests through infiltration went viral on Facebook and YouTube.

In the case, Siddique stated that the conversation between the two was a conspiracy against the government and should be brought to trial.

Address corruption

FROM PAGE 3

government proposal, he added.

Prof Shamsul, also an energy advisor of CAB, proposed the authorities concerned to introduce a price structure based on parameters such as consumers' location and voltage level.

Noted writer and columnist Syed Abul Maksud, who also works with CAB on power issues, said people are already suffering due to the ongoing price hike of essential commodities. Their woes will increase further if electricity price is increased, he said.

CAB President Ghulam Rahman, its General Secretary Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan and noted architect Mubashar Hussein also spoke at the press conference, among others.

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Table with 5 columns: SI.No, Package No., Name of the Items, Tender ID NO., and Description. Includes items like M.S.R Items and Cleaning Items & Miscellaneous. Further Information and Guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (http: eprocure.gov.bd) and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

'Safeguard our motherland'

PM to newly-commissioned naval officers, hopes navy will become commercial manufacturer of warships



Accompanied by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspects a parade at Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

UNB, Chattogram

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that Bangladesh Navy will be able to be a commercial manufacturer of warships and thus earn foreign currencies alongside creating jobs.

"This, in turn, will flourish home-grown technologies... and eventually establish Bangladesh as a self-reliant nation," she said.

The prime minister said this while addressing the President Parade-2019, marking the passing out of the "Midshipman-2017/A Batch" and the "Direct Entry Officers (DEOs) 2019/Bravo Batches" of Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) at the academy parade ground in Chattogram in the morning.

Hasina said with government support, Khulna Shipyards Limited has set a milestone in warship-building through manufacturing five patrol and two large patrol crafts under the management of Bangladesh Navy (BN). Work on five more patrol crafts is underway, she added.

The premier said decision has already been taken to build six more well-equipped large frigates at BN-administered Chattogram Dry Dock Limited. The navy is also making IFF (Identification of Friend and Foe) systems for the three forces, she said.

Regarding blue economy, she said, "We'll have to utilise our marine resources for economic development."

The prime minister urged the newly-commissioned officers of BN to discharge their responsibilities with honesty and sincerity as they are oath-bound to do so. "You'll be the future leaders of this navy... to safeguard our motherland," she added.

Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman developed BN soon after the country's independence. Its official journey started with two patrol crafts procured on Bangabandhu's initiative.

The Father of the Nation commissioned all the major bases of the navy in 1974.

Bangabandhu formulated the "Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974" to establish the country's sea rights, said Hasina.

She said her government, after assuming office in 2009, formulated "Forces Goal 2030" in line with Bangabandhu's "Defence Policy" and started its implementation accordingly as the government's goal is to develop the armed forces.

She said her government added 27 warships to BN, established the navy's special commando wing

"Special Warfare, Diving and Salvage Command" and the aviation wing "Naval Aviation".

Also, inclusion of two submarines in 2017 has truly transformed BN into a full-fledged three-dimensional force, she added.

To cope with the challenges of 21st century, she said the government is taking various measures to strengthen navy into a technology-based efficient force, considering the regional and geo-political realities.

She said a new base named "BNS Sheikh Mujib" has recently been commissioned at Khilkhet in Dhaka. Construction of two bases -- "BNS Sher-e-Bangla" and submarine base "BNS Sheikh Hasina" -- is progressing fast, the PM said.

With a view to develop training facilities and living standards, 22 multi-storey buildings in different naval areas and a navy township project in Savar have been inaugurated, she added.

Out of the military sphere, the navy is also working in a wide-range of sectors such as women's empowerment, construction of structures for accommodating Myanmar nationals and expansion of blue economy, she said.

Hasina extended her gratitude to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Don't compromise on ideals: president to teachers

Convocation of Khulna University held

UNB, Khulna

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged teachers not to compromise with ideals, and devote themselves to acquiring knowledge and disseminating it among students.

"When teachers move away from their ideals, it creates a negative impact on students," he said.

The president said this while addressing the sixth convocation of Khulna University on its campus.

Hamid said teachers and researchers are valuable resources of the nation. Terming universities a centre of hope and aspiration, he stressed the need for conducting international standard research.

He urged researchers of Khulna University to conduct more studies on biodiversity and coastal resources as the region's coastline is rich with marine resources.

Before attending the convocation, the president inaugurated a mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- "Kaljoyee Mujib" -- near the university's main gate, marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

Throughout the day, the campus wore a festive look. Academic and administrative buildings, residential halls and the vice-chancellor's residence were illuminated on the occasion.

This year, some 4,478 students received their graduation certificates, alongside 2,530 postgraduates, five MPhils and eight doctorates.

Seventeen students received their postgraduate diplomas in education. Besides, 23 students were awarded gold medals.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, and University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Dr Kazi Shahidullah were present, among others.

Educationist and social scientist Dr Anupam Sen delivered the convocation speech.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Dr Mohammad Fayek Uzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Secretaries concerned to the president were present at the event.

Man fined for cutting hills in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined a man for cutting hills illegally in Ghara Mara area under Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram.

Mirsarai Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ruhul Amin led the drive.

The mobile court also fined Abdur Rauf of Koror Hat area Tk 1 lakh for cutting hills defying environmental laws.


Koror Hat Check Station official of the Forest Department Noimul Islam and his team assisted the mobile court during the drive, said the UNO.

According to the Bangladesh Environment Preservation Act 1995, amended in 2000, cutting hills without the approval of concerned authorities is prohibited. But illegal hill cutting continues unabated.



Winter is the season of vegetables. Like elsewhere, varieties of green goodness have started appearing in markets in Sylhet. Locals say despite adequate supply, the price is too high. This photo of vendors arranging vegetables was taken at the city's Rikabibazar market yesterday, where a kg of cauliflower, cucumber, bitter gourd, okra and tomato was being sold between Tk 65 and Tk 80.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



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Teenager dies after crashing motorbike

STAR REPORT

A 14-year-old was killed in a motorcycle accident at Pirhati area of Dhunat upazila in Bogura on Saturday morning.

The deceased, Sobuj, was a ninth grader at Multani Parveen Talukder High School, reports BSS.

The accident occurred around 10am on Mothurapur-Dhanghara road when Sobuj lost control of his motorcycle and crashed into a tree, said Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dhunat Police Station.

He died while being taken to a local hospital, Ismail added.

In another accident in Bogura, driver Adam Ali Sarkar (32) died from electrocution after his truck was pushed into a roadside electric pole by another truck on Dhaka-Bogura highway at Noymile of Shahjahanpur upazila early Saturday, reports UNB.

The accident occurred as Adam Ali was cleaning the windshield of his parked truck amid intense morning fog. At one point, another truck hit Adam's truck from behind and pushed them into a roadside electric pole.

The pole collapsed from the pressure and electrocuted Adam Ali, said Jahedul Islam, in-charge of Kundarhat Highway Police Outpost.

In Kishoreganj, one Morium Nessa (57) was killed in a road crash at Latifabad Charpara area on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Kishoreganj yesterday morning.

The deceased hailed from Adampur village in Katiadi upazila of the district, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

The accident occurred when Morium and Alauddin were on their way to the regional passport office in Kishoreganj town on Alauddin's motorcycle.

As they got to Latifabad Charpara area, Morium suddenly fell off the motorcycle.

Before she could get back up on her feet, an speeding incoming truck crushed her from behind, killing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Rape accused arrested with knife

Firearm seized after interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) in a drive yesterday arrested a man, who is accused in a gang-rape case, in possession of a knife from Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram.

The arrestee is Md Jasim Uddin (30) of the same upazila, said Rab.


Assistant Director (AD) Mahmudul Hasan Mamun of Rab-7 Media Wing said officers had set up a makeshift check-post in Chanua Bazar area and intercepted a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying Jasim.


Noticing his suspicious behaviour, law enforcers frisked Jasim and recovered a knife from his pocket, said the AD.

They then detained him and during interrogation the arrestee disclosed information about a firearm which was hidden near his house, he said.

Later, Rab searched a bamboo garden in the area and seized a gun, he added.

Jasim stands accused in three ongoing cases, including a gang-rape case, filed with Banshkhali Police Station.







Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
Your legacy, timeless. Your efforts, borderless.

Words will never be enough to express all you have done for us. Your love for us, and determination to help the people has changed the lives of everyone, not just in Bangladesh, but all over the world. You have shown how one man can make such a huge difference. The world may never see your like again, but your legacy will surely live on, and we promise to be worthy of it.

Thank you for inspiring us to be better.





The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 23, 2019, POU5H 8, 1426 BS

The nation expects a lot from the party

AL's 21st Council

FOLLOWING the conclusion of AL's 21st Council, we believe that the party would seize the opportunity to redeem its pledges and retrieve its credentials. There is no denying that there has been divergence from the democratic principles which was the underlying motivation of the party. And we have seen the gradual erosion of the established political values and, often, the leadership has strayed from the path of transparent and equitable governance. The auxiliaries of the party have broken away from their leash and, on occasions, gone completely berserk despite the party president's warnings and admonitions. And all these have been clearly voiced by none other than the party president herself from time to time.

It is an incontrovertible fact too that a few party leaders at various levels, particularly those belonging to the party ancillaries, had indulged in unashamed misuse of power, often driven by an unmitigated sense of impunity. Misuse of power always goes hand in hand with corruption; this has permeated at all levels of the party, defying the party president's warnings. Unfortunately, abuse of power and corruption have combined to tarnish the image and erode the credibility of the party. And these have, consequently, diminished the significance of the achievements of the government, making all the talk of good governance sound hollow.

However, we are glad to see that Sheikh Hasina believes that, like charity, cleansing should also begin at home. She has acted decisively against some of her party men and we hope that she would brook neither abuse of power nor corruption within her party anymore. And we believe too that Sheikh Hasina would deliver on her resolve to give us good governance. That is what the nation expects.

Alarming mismanagement of medical waste

This needs immediate rectification

A report published by this daily on December 22 on the mishandling of medical waste in Rajshahi is symptomatic of the overall reluctance of medical authorities in managing medical waste across the country. Every few days, this daily publishes reports and writes editorials on the mismanagement of medical waste, only to fall on deaf ears, apparently.

According to the report in question, despite having coloured boxes to sort medical waste at the 205 hospitals and medical centres across Rajshahi, the wastes are all dumped in landfills, on roads and roadside bins, all mixed together. And this is dangerous and pose serious health risks, especially because half of the three tonnes of medical waste generated in Rajshahi is infectious. Little children and grownups work in the landfills to sort the waste with their bare hands, often injuring themselves with sharp medical waste objects like syringes, which can increase exponentially the spread of contagious diseases.

According to DGHS any healthcare facility must have an incinerator, autoclave and effluent treatment plants to dispose of hazardous medical waste; of all the 205 healthcare centres in Rajshahi, only Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) has an incinerator, that too almost in tatters. Currently, the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) is responsible for their medical waste management, and their work isn't flawless. RCC has initiated a Tk 2 crore project with an NGO to deal with this problem, which is likely to go into production next year. And the NGO will only dispose of the solid waste. So, what happens to the rest?

Medical waste—general, infectious, hazardous, radioactive—mishandled, can unleash epidemic-scale health crisis. In view of this pervasive problem, the concerned authorities—not just in Rajshahi, but all over the country—should take this matter seriously and correct their course before it is too late.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Violence against protestors in India

The deterioration of democratic space in India, hailed as the largest democracy in the world, is extremely sad to see. It is particularly disheartening for people in Bangladesh, given the closeness between our two countries.

Protests against the new citizenship law have spread like wildfire throughout India. While it is encouraging to see people standing up for their beliefs and protesting a law they view as anti-democratic, the reaction of the government, which has unleashed such senseless brutality against its own people, is simply unacceptable.

In a video circulating on Twitter, one young woman is seen saying: "If you are acting like the British government, then we will act like Bhagat Singh." Hopefully the government will come to its senses and pay heed to the concerns of the protestors.

Gautum Roy, Jessore



PHOTO: AMIT DAVE/REUTERS

Protest against a new citizenship law, in Ahmedabad, India, December 19, 2019.

Has Bangladesh provided an excuse for Suu Kyi's defence?

KAMAL AHMED

IT was another reprehensible act of genocide denial. While defending the indefensible at the world court, the International Court of Justice, housed at the Peace Palace in the Dutch city The Hague, last week the once globally revered Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, was remarkably unashamed. She and her legal team did not deny all those facts of wrongdoing mentioned in the petition filed by the Gambia including of atrocities, brutalities, forced mass-deportation, use of sexual violence, spreading hate and discrimination against an ethnic minority group, the Rohingyas. Their strategy was based on three Ds—denial, distraction and deflection.

First was denial of the intent to commit genocide. Comparisons made with other genocides were so pathetic, that inference could be drawn that the number of Rohingyas killed were not sufficient to call it a genocide. Admitting brutalities, Ms Suu Kyi said, "it cannot be ruled out that disproportionate force was used by members of the defence services in some cases in disregard of international humanitarian law." But her defence was: "surely, under the circumstances, genocidal intent cannot be the only hypothesis." She argued that the Genocide Convention came into being on the backdrop of the killing of six million Jews. In Rwanda, 70 percent Tutsis were slaughtered. Professor William Schabas of Middlesex University cited the court's verdict on the Croatia vs. Serbia case on the premise of attempting to destroy an ethnic group on whole or a part. He argued, "killing non-combatants in an armed conflict may violate right to life. But, 10,000 deaths out of a population of well-over one million might be something other than intent to physically destroy the group."

It was quite a surprise to hear professor Schabas, the author of the book "Genocide in International Law", who is better known for his analysis of the Rohingyas' plight in Myanmar dating back to 2013 in an Al Jazeera documentary, "The Hidden Genocide", defending the same genocide as an outcome of a conflict. Professor Schabas, however, justifying his service to Myanmar, later told *Reuters* that everyone has the right to a defence before a court. But at the hearing his defence was blaming Al Jazeera for using his words selectively. Professor Schabas was put into this embarrassing defensive position by another famous academic, professor Philip Sands of Oxford, who on behalf of the Gambia, submitted to the court that the petitioner would not object if the court in its order includes preventative measures prescribed by professor Schabas in "The Hidden Genocide".

The second element of the strategy of Myanmar was to try to distract by questioning the Gambia's *locus standi*, or right to move the court, by claiming it was a proxy of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, OIC and

questioning about the financing of the case, suggesting something suspicious was going on.

The third and final tactic was to deflect the world's attention to Bangladesh, which so far has been giving emphasis on repatriation and not pro-actively seeking justice for genocide or preventing further genocidal acts. In the words of professor Phoebe Okowa of Queen Mary University: "Bangladesh, the country that has borne the brunt of the crisis, has also entered into a MoU with Myanmar to provide organised framework for repatriation of displaced persons." In her argument, she continued: "This is proof of the fact that Bangladesh, as Myanmar's closest neighbour, is not of the view

But that does not deter anyone from analysing the core issues put forward by both the parties and reflect on some crucial aspects of our policies.

As Bangladesh was not a party to the dispute under consideration by the ICJ, it did not have any opportunity to explain its position. Experts representing the Gambia kept their focus on establishing its right to institute the legal action as a signatory to the Genocide Convention and remained almost silent about Bangladesh's role. Myanmar in its concluding submission again tried to exploit the issue of inaction and the views of the directly-affected party. Christopher Staker even argued with citation (case reference) that according to the International Law Council (ILC),

Myanmar's attempt to shield itself from the egregious charges using Bangladesh's affable position certainly demands some serious contemplation. Maintaining diplomatic links and negotiations do not require top level exchanges until and unless there is a breakthrough. Luckily, such a top-level exchange during the hearing was not mentioned before the court which otherwise could have caused some discomfort, especially when the Gambia referred to the US imposition of further sanctions against Myanmar's four top generals.

Another striking point to note from the trial was the outrageous claim made by Myanmar that if the ICJ were to order any interim measures sought by the Gambia, that it would adversely impact



William Schabas and Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi at the hearing in a case filed by the Gambia against Myanmar alleging genocide against the Rohingya, at the ICJ in The Hague, Netherlands, December 11, 2019.

PHOTO: REUTERS

that Muslims are at risk of imminent genocide should they return."

The Gambia vs. Myanmar hearing at the ICJ was an exceptional battle over defining the genocidal intent between leading legal experts to make 17 judges rule on whether any interim measures were necessary to protect 6 lakh Rohingyas trapped in camps built for IDPs (Internally displaced people) and secluded villages under harsh restrictions on movement, livelihood, practicing their religious faith and so on. It would be a frivolous exercise to try to narrate here the nine hours of deliberations, filled with legal jargon and references of past cases under international law.

any state could not seek enforcement of *erga omnes* rights or obligations owed toward all in the same way as a directly injured state. Whether the court accepts or rejects this argument we will find it out in a few weeks. But the question of remaining silent on calling it a genocide by Bangladesh is not an ignorable one.

There's no doubt that repatriation of more than one million refugees should get priority in Bangladesh's policy towards the crisis. But it does not mean, a nation born through the most horrific genocide in our part of the world, should refrain from its moral obligation to denounce such genocidal acts and do its utmost to prevent such crimes.

on repatriation, reconciliation and their domestic justice system. Paul Reichler, representing the Gambia, termed this so-called repatriation process a "fraud" and highlighted Myanmar's policy of hate towards the Rohingyas, citing Suu Kyi's refusal to use the ethnic identity of the victim community. The ICJ proceeding has also proven how valuable the UN Fact Finding Missions were and whose conclusions, of Myanmar's genocidal intent reflected through seven indicators, have given hope for justice to the world's most persecuted ethnic group, the Rohingyas.

Kamal Ahmed is a freelance journalist based in London.

Why Vietnam provides a useful benchmark for Bangladesh



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

IF we were to describe the global garment and textile industry as a three-horse race, China would be out in front with two other horses fast closing in. These two horses are, of course,

Bangladesh and Vietnam. Much has been written about the competition between these two countries in recent years.

My personal view, which I will expand upon below, is that both countries have strengths in different areas when it comes to apparel manufacturing. For this reason, we have a great deal to gain by looking at areas we can learn from Vietnam in order to improve our competitive position and build on our existing strengths.

The most recent figures show that Bangladesh garment exports between January and September stood at USD 26.1 billion while Vietnamese exports were worth USD 24.43 billion. Taking October into account, Bangladesh exports amounted to USD 27.63 billion while Vietnam was at USD 27.10 billion.

At present, I believe Bangladesh has a number of competitive advantages over Vietnam. It has a more readily available supply of skilled and semi-skilled labour. Vietnam is certainly strong in the area of industry training but the textile industry there faces competition from other fast developing industries which, in many cases, pay higher wages.

There are two other areas where I believe Bangladesh outshines Vietnam in terms of apparel production. One is in the realm of sustainability and—a related issue—factory safety. Bangladesh has the safest garment industry in the world and,

and the rewards for our massive efforts in the area of factory safety are still to be seen.

We are also, as an industry, leading the way in terms of sustainability generally, with many of our factories shifting to new, greener methods of production which use less water and energy and which are less energy-intensive. This shift has, of course, been demanded by apparel brands but our industry has shown a willingness and adaptability to respond. It has taken giant

four million in Bangladesh. This added value will only be matched by Bangladesh if we continue to invest in training and R&D, and surely this should send a clear message to policymakers in our country.

Vietnam has a major strength in high value products, and this is a direct result of the investment they made in training. Vietnam has invested in high standards of education in textiles and apparel, all aimed at implementing new industry technologies.



strides in this area, which are not always visible to the outside world.

But where can we learn from Vietnam? This is where I see huge opportunities. Firstly, it is worth considering that efficiency in Vietnam's apparel industry is higher than ours. Their efficiency is around 65 compared to 40 in Bangladesh. This means their export value is similar to ours despite the fact that their industry has around two million workers compared to

In Bangladesh, while we have lots of textile engineers, we need more innovators in areas such as machinery, software, digitalisation, automation, and robotisation. We cannot afford to allow Vietnam to steal a march on us on these areas.

Also worth noting is that in five to 10 years time, the low labour cost advantage of sourcing from Bangladesh will be obsolete and replaced by automation.

We therefore need smart, well-educated local people who can guide us on how to adapt production lines accordingly, using the latest tech solutions.

Another area we can surely improve on is in terms of proximity of our RMG sector to the ports and associated infrastructure. Vietnam has an edge on Bangladesh in this area but it needn't be this way. Public-private sector partnerships could surely be developed to improve transport routes to Chittagong as well as the broader development of logistics infrastructure, including modernisation of the port facilities.

Finally, we have to look at how Vietnam has aggressively pursued foreign trade agreements, with the EU and Asia Pacific. Can we be doing more in terms of trade agreements? Our primary markets lie in the EU but is there an opportunity to tap into the US market—as Vietnam has so successfully done—or even the burgeoning Chinese market? Proximity brings its own challenges, but it needn't be a complete barrier to market success.

In summary, Bangladesh and Vietnam each has their own strengths and weaknesses in terms of apparel production. Some might suggest that a comparison between the two countries is a fruitless exercise but I believe it is highly insightful, for surely there is no better way to improve one's own standing than by learning from a successful competitor. To succeed long-term, our RMG sector must be on a journey of continuous improvement, and benchmarking against other leaders in the field can be an invaluable part in this process.

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

SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR HSC EXAMINATION 2020

Md. Jasim Uddin Biswas, Lecturer
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Gap filling activities with clues

First Paper



Read the following text and fill in the blanks with suitable words from the box. There are more words than needed. Make any grammatical change if necessary. 0.5x10=5

call	among	define	deaths	cause	interpersonal
serious	within	economic	armed	aggressive	nature

Conflict can be (a) _____ as clash of values and ideas among other things and the most serious form of conflict is (b) _____ clashes that results in lots of (c) _____ and casualties. There can be conflict (d) _____ us, which is (e) _____ intrapersonal conflict. The conflict between or (f) _____ persons is called (g) _____ conflict. Constraint of resources is also a (h) _____ of conflict and it is known as (i) _____ conflict. Conflict is a very common phenomenon, but sometimes it takes (j) _____ forms.

enriched	about	various	belong	naturally	combines
bears	criteria	included	in	remains	variety

Folk music (a) _____ to a community. It (b) _____ uninfluenced by any rules of classical music. Bangladesh is (c) _____ with folk music. Both religious and secular songs are (d) _____ in it. It (e) _____ the note of a community. It expresses styles (f) _____ and does not bother (g) _____ rules. As music (h) _____ tune, voice and dance, folk music has its own (i) _____. Folk music has a great (j) _____ of singing style.

images	delight	phenomenon	dreaming	dreams	very
that	theories	brought	and	desires	find

Dreams are psychological aspects. Over the years, scientists have (a) _____ the topic under empirical research. (b) _____, thoughts and emotions are the (c) _____ that dominate dreams. Vivid or (d) _____ vague, dreams are full of (e) _____ emotions or terrifying images (f) _____ we see during our sleep. (g) _____ is essential to mental, emotional (h) _____ physical welfare. Dreams represent unconscious (i) _____, thoughts and motivations. Conscious thoughts (j) _____ their way into dreams. Different theories have been developed about dreams. Sigmund Freud interprets dream in Psychoanalytic perspective.

universe	character	organize	identify	economy	grow	biology
mark	communicate	early	critic	develop	define	determinant

World Health Organization (WHO) (a) _____ adolescence as the period in human growth and (b) _____ that occurs after childhood and before adulthood. This phase represents one of the critical transitions in one's lifespan and is (c) _____ by fast paced growth and change which are second only to those at infancy. Biological processes drive many aspects of this growth and development with the onset of puberty (d) _____ the passage from childhood to adolescence. The biological (e) _____ of adolescence are fairly (f) _____; however, the duration and (g) _____ characteristics of this period may vary across time, cultures and socio (h) _____ situations. This period has seen many changes over the past century, puberty for example, comes (i) _____ than before, people marry late and their sexual attitudes and behaviour are different from their grandparents, or even parents. Among the factors responsible for the change are education, urbanization and spread of global (j) _____.



difficult	consolidate	attraction	disappear	importance
solutions	success	provide	producers	practice

There are no easy (a) _____ to the problems that craftworks face in our time. Crafts that are (b) _____ can and should be revived, even where the machine has made the prospect (c) _____. And crafts that are still (d) _____ can be safeguarded and made to (e) _____ their position further. This can be done by (f) _____ grants, loans, assistance and other support to the (g) _____, and helping them find a comfortable customer base. But more (h) _____, craftwork can be branded and (i) _____ marketed throughout the country and beyond as there are always buyers and users of handmade products who feel a strong (j) _____ towards such cultural products.



riverine	natural	region	people	different	metaphors
inequality	material	eastern	great	composed	music

In Bangladesh folk music has (a) _____ variety, with songs being (b) _____ on the culture, festivals, views of life, natural beauty, rivers and rural and riverine life. These songs are also about social (c) _____ and poverty, about the (d) _____ world and the supernatural. Mystical songs have been composed using the metaphors of rivers and boats. Since the country is basically (e) _____ the Bhatiyali forms an important genre of folk music. Folk music is formed and developed according to the environment. Differences in the (f) _____ environment are reflected in the (g) _____ of the (h) _____ regions. The dialects too vary across the different regions. Bangladeshi folk music therefore varies from (i) _____ to region. Thus there are the northern Bhawaiya, the (j) _____ Bhatiyali and the southwestern Baul songs.

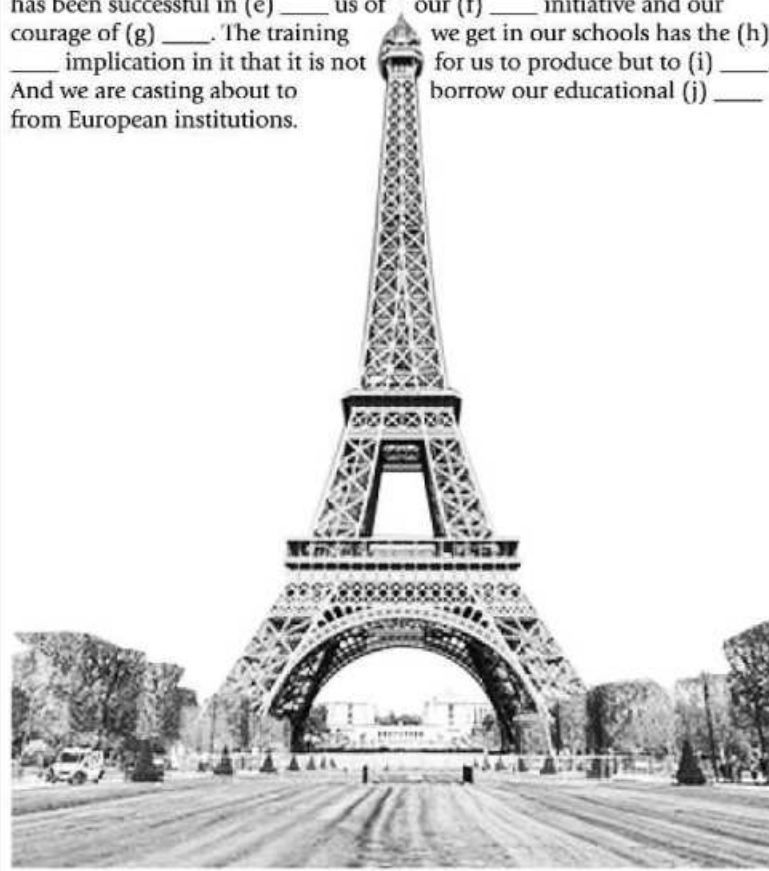
similar	cure	differ	serious	propose	assortment
threat	like	deaths	similar	highly	search

Cancer is one of the deadliest diseases of the modern era. Ever since the days of Hippocrates, people have been (a) _____ for a cure. Cancer is (b) _____ to the common cold in that although there are many ways to (c) _____ it, modern medicine is still yet to come up with a (d) _____. This is partially because (e) _____ the common cold, there are many (f) _____ types of cancer, and they are all slightly different. Unfortunately, with over seven million (g) _____ per year, cancer as much more (h) _____ than the common cold. A wide (i) _____ of drugs, chemicals, stem cells, genetically modified viruses, and even arsenic have all been (j) _____ as cancer cures.



knowledge	real	reward	borrow	follow	deprive
prospective	constant	plans	similar	quick	think

In the Bengali language there is a modern maxim which can be translated, 'He who learns to read and write rides in a carriage and pair.' In English there is a (a) _____ proverb, 'Knowledge is power.' It is an offer of a (b) _____ bribe to the student, a promise of an ulterior (c) _____ which is more important than (d) _____ itself. Unfortunately, our very education has been successful in (e) _____ us of our (f) _____ initiative and our courage of (g) _____. The training _____ we get in our schools has the (h) _____ implication in it that it is not for us to produce but to (i) _____. And we are casting about to borrow our educational (j) _____ from European institutions.



was	together	write	receive	embarrassed	manage
say	overlook	to	apartment	answer	book

It was twenty years ago and I was living in Paris. I had a tiny (a) _____ in the Latin quarter (b) _____ a cemetery, and I (c) _____ earning barely enough money (d) _____ keep body and soul (e) _____. She had read a (f) _____ of mine and had (g) _____ to me about it. I (h) _____, thanking her, and presently I (i) _____ from her another letter (j) _____ that she was passing through Paris and would like to have a chat with me.

Answer Script

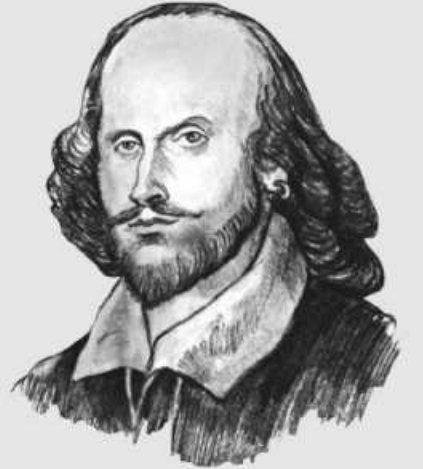
- Answer-1:** (a) defined; (b) armed; (c) deaths; (d) within; (e) called; (f) among; (g) interpersonal; (h) cause; (i) economic; (j) serious/aggressive.
- Answer-2:** (a) belongs; (b) remains; (c) enriched; (d) included; (e) bears; (f) naturally; (g) about; (h) combines; (i) criteria; (j) variety.
- Answer-3:** (a) brought; (b) Images; (c) phenomena; (d) very; (e) delightful; (f) that; (g) Dreaming; (h) and; (i) desires; (j) find.
- Answer-4:** (a) identifies; (b) development; (c) characterised; (d) marking; (e) determinants; (f) universal; (g) defining; (h) economic; (i) earlier; (j) communication.
- Answer-5:** (a) solutions; (b) disappearing; (c) difficult; (d) practiced; (e) consolidate; (f) providing; (g) producers; (h) importantly; (i) successfully; (j) attraction.
- Answer-6:** (a) great; (b) composed; (c) inequality; (d) material; (e) riverine; (f) natural; (g) people; (h) different; (i) region; (j) eastern.
- Answer-7:** (a) searching; (b) similar; (c) treat; (d) cure; (e) like; (f) different; (g) deaths; (h) serious; (i) assortment; (j) proposed.
- Answer-8:** (a) similar; (b) prospective; (c) reward; (d) knowledge; (e) depriving; (f) real; (g) thought; (h) constant; (i) borrow; (j) plans.
- Answer-9:** (a) apartment; (b) overlooking; (c) was; (d) to; (e) together; (f) book; (g) written; (h) answered; (i) received; (j) saying.

Gap filling activities without clues (for articles)
Second Paper

Fill in the blanks in the following texts with articles (a/an/the) as necessary. Some of the blanks may not require an article. Put a cross (x) in those blanks. 0.5x10=5

1. Bangladesh is (a) _____ independent country. We won freedom on (b) _____ December 16, 1971. This freedom was won as (c) _____ result of great sacrifice. (d) _____ great many people laid down their lives for (e) _____ freedom of the country. (f) _____ man who loves his country is (g) _____ patriot. (h) _____ real patriot loves his country more than his life. Being patriots, we all should try to make (i) _____ effort for the welfare and (j) _____ progress of our motherland.

2. William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564 in (a) _____ village of Stratford-on-Avon in (b) _____ country of Warwickshire. His father John Shakespeare was (c) _____ farmer's son who came to (d) _____ Stratford about 1531, and began to prosper as (e) _____ trader in corn, wheat, leather and agricultural products. His mother Mary Arden was (f) _____ daughter of (g) _____ prosperous farmer, descended from (h) _____ old family of mixed Anglo-Saxon and Norman blood. It is generally believed that neither (i) _____ poet's mother nor his father could read or write. In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, the daughter of (j) _____ peasant family. She was eight years older than Shakespeare.



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<p>WHAT'S ON</p>	<p>Star Melodies' Musical Evening Title: Bijoyer Rongee Aka Bela Shesher Gaan Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave Date: December 27 Time: 5:30 pm onwards</p>	<p>Concert Title: 20 years of Artcellism Venue: ICCB Expo Zone Date: December 24 Time: 3 pm onwards</p>	<p>Workshop Title: Kata Kutu - Collage Workshop Artist: Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur Date: December 28 Time: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Concert Title: Miles 40th Anniversary Venue: ICCB, Hall - 3 Date: December 24 Time: 6 pm onwards</p>	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi Date: Dec 17 - Feb 15 Time: 1 pm - 8 pm (Except Sundays)</p>
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'Big Rock Day V. 2' sees phenomenal success



James



Arbovirus



Trainwreck



PHOTO: STAR Conclusion

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Last Saturday's wintry evening saw a large audience gather at parallel sides of the Expo Zone at International Convention City Bashundhara, for the second iteration of Big Rock Day,

organised by Blues Communications. The first Big Rock Day concert took place in 2017.

This year's band line up consisted of amazing acts, including Nagar Baul James, Vikings, Arbovirus, Nemesis, Avoid Rafa, Powersurge, Conclusion

and Trainwreck. Farhadul Islam, the Managing Director of Blues Communications, spoke at the event.

Aside from singing their original compositions, Powersurge paid a tribute to James, with *Jatra*. Celebrating their guitarist Fasihuddin Ahmed Itmam's

birthday, members of Arbovirus cut a cake on the stage. Vikings and Nemesis further entertained the audience with their popular songs.

Nagar Baul James, the concluding act of the evening, rocked the stage with the hit number, *Leis Fita*, among other songs.

A tribute to poet-lyricist Hena Islam

SHARMIN JOYA

In observance of the 20th death anniversary of eminent poet-lyricist Hena Islam, a memorial programme, organised by Chattogram Musician's Club Dhaka (CMCD), was held at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), recently. Former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, graced the event with his presence as the chief guest.

Family members and friends of Hena Islam shared their fond memories of him. They also expressed their love towards his daughter, Dr Sabera Shabnam, for taking the initiative of arranging the memorial programme. Hena Islam's contribution to Bangla music was remarkable. Most of the renowned music composers of the industry have produced many hit songs in collaboration with him. Born as Azizul Islam, he was better known by his pen name,

Hena Islam.

Raat Koto Raat, composed and sang by Ayub Bachchu, *Amar Golpo Shune* sang by Tapan Chowdhury, *Mone Koro Ekhon Onek Raat*, sang

by Naquib Khan, *Forest Hill Er Ek Dupure* (Souls), are some of Hena Islam's notable works.

A lyrical book, *Chaine Phuler Mala*, was also launched at

the event. The book consists of a collection of his songs. Shabnam wishes to donate the selling amount from the book to a charity of differently abled children.

The chief guest Asaduzzaman Noor stressed on the preservation of the works of the notable lyricists and composers. "It is very sad that in case of most of our favourite music numbers, we don't know who are the lyricists or composers," he said. "The lyricist and the script writer are the base on which an art piece is formed. We often ignore them. I feel their names and works should be archived carefully, so that it stays for a long time."

The event concluded with the performances of songs written by Hena Islam. Eminent singer Samina Chowdhury, popular singer Kishore Das, along with many other noted artistes, performed at the event. The musical segment was conducted and directed by Naquib Khan.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Pragata Naoha's 'Kaalo' released

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Talented young singer Pragata Naoha released a new music video, titled *Kaalo* recently, aiming to raise awareness about an issue that is rarely talked about in the country - gender fluidity. The video, directed by Pracheta Ahana, was revealed in an event at a restaurant in the capital, alongside a concert featuring Hades, Anika Rashid Khan

and Old Dhaka Diaries, among others. The cinematography of the video is done by Salman Sadi. *Kaalo* is written and composed by Pragata herself, and is mastered by Rakat Zami. "It is an emotional moment for me to be able to voice out for the most under-represented people in our society," says Pragata. "We worked very hard on the song, and I hope people liked the music video."

National Science and Technology Museum holds children's art competition

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

In the month of Bangladesh's Victory, the National Science and Technology Museum hosted a daylong art competition for children. The competition had three categories. The first group, consisting of children up to the third grade, drew as they liked. Children from the fourth to sixth grade were given the theme of the Liberation War, while the topic, Independence and Bangabandhu was given to children from the seventh to tenth grade. More than 700 children from 27 different institutions in Dhaka took part in the competition.

17 young artists received prizes for their artworks. During the prize distribution ceremony, Minister of Science and

Technology of Bangladesh, Architect Yeafesh Osman said, "Our children will lead the country with their creativity and intellect. They must receive the proper education as nation builders, to fulfill the dreams of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

NMST director general Muhammad Munir Chowdhury, Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Mahbubul Hoq and Director of Bangladesh Science Academy Dr M A Majid were also present during the ceremony. Ayesha Mahjin Khan (Capestone School), Mohammad Shahadat Hossain (St. Jopesh International School) and Nurul Aftab (A B C International School) received the top prizes of the competition.



PHOTO: COURTESY



DIFF's Bangladesh Panorama Section looks to promote local films

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) has announced the programme for its Bangladesh Panorama Section, which aims to promote Bangladeshi filmmakers and their work. Internationally renowned film critic and DIFF Festival Director Ahmed Muztaba Zamal confirmed the news on social media, recently. According to Zamal, the Bangladesh Panorama Section will consist of 10 to 15 selected fictional and documentary films, spanning the period from 2018 to 2019. Films that have a minimum length of 50 minutes are eligible for entry in this section. The International Film Critics' Federation, FIPRESCI, will give the Critics' Award. One film will receive a certificate and a crest from the FIPRESCI juries.

The segment will showcase 11 Bangladeshi films: Ashraf Shishir's *Amra Ekta Cinema Banabo* (*The Innocence*), Nasiruddin Yousuff's *Alpha*, Arun Chowdhuri's *Mayaboti*, Pradip



Ghosh's *Shuttle Train*, N Rashed Chowdhury's *Chandrabati Kotha!* (*The Tales of Chandra*), Farid Ahmad's *Tunes of Nostalgia*, Masud Pothik's *Maya - The Lost Mother*, Proshoon Rahamaan's *Nigrohokal* (*Long Period of Persecution*), Impress Telefilm anthology *Iii, Tomari Dhaka*, Tauquir Ahmed's *Fagun Hava*,

and Taneem Rahman Angshu's *No Dorai*.

The festival has been organised on a regular basis by the Rainbow Film Society, which has been dedicated to the promotion of a healthy cine culture in Bangladesh and to celebrating the global mainstream in film and its social relevance since 1977.

The 18th DIFF will screen close to 220 films, with participation from around 74 countries. The festival will have competitions in its Asian Cinema Section, Retrospective, Bangladesh Panorama Section, Cinema of the World Section, Children Films Section, Women Filmmakers Section, Short and Independent Films Section and Spiritual Films Section.

All the film screenings will be held across Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Central Public Library Auditorium, National Museum Auditorium, Madhumita Cinema Hall and Star Cineplex in Dhaka. The festival will run from January 11 to 19.

SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR HSC EXAMINATION 2020

Md. Jasim Uddin Biswas, Lecturer
Dhaka Residential Model College

Gap filling activities with clues

First Paper



Read the following text and fill in the blanks with suitable words from the box. There are more words than needed. Make any grammatical change if necessary. 0.5x10=5

call	among	define	deaths	cause	interpersonal
serious	within	economic	armed	aggressive	nature

Conflict can be (a) _____ as clash of values and ideas among other things and the most serious form of conflict is (b) _____ clashes that results in lots of (c) _____ and casualties. There can be conflict (d) _____ us, which is (e) _____ intrapersonal conflict. The conflict between or (f) _____ persons is called (g) _____ conflict. Constraint of resources is also a (h) _____ of conflict and it is known as (i) _____ conflict. Conflict is a very common phenomenon, but sometimes it takes (j) _____ forms.

enriched	about	various	belong	naturally	combines
bears	criteria	included	in	remains	variety

Folk music (a) _____ to a community. It (b) _____ uninfluenced by any rules of classical music. Bangladesh is (c) _____ with folk music. Both religious and secular songs are (d) _____ in it. It (e) _____ the note of a community. It expresses styles (f) _____ and does not bother (g) _____ rules. As music (h) _____ tune, voice and dance, folk music has its own (i) _____. Folk music has a great (j) _____ of singing style.

images	delight	phenomenon	dreaming	dreams	very
that	theories	brought	and	desires	find

Dreams are psychological aspects. Over the years, scientists have (a) _____ the topic under empirical research. (b) _____, thoughts and emotions are the (c) _____ that dominate dreams. Vivid or (d) _____ vague, dreams are full of (e) _____ emotions or terrifying images (f) _____ we see during our sleep. (g) _____ is essential to mental, emotional (h) _____ physical welfare. Dreams represent unconscious (i) _____, thoughts and motivations. Conscious thoughts (j) _____ their way into dreams. Different theories have been developed about dreams. Sigmund Freud interprets dream in Psychoanalytic perspective.

universe	character	organize	identify	economy	grow	biology
mark	communicate	early	critic	develop	define	determinant

World Health Organization (WHO) (a) _____ adolescence as the period in human growth and (b) _____ that occurs after childhood and before adulthood. This phase represents one of the critical transitions in one's lifespan and is (c) _____ by fast paced growth and change which are second only to those at infancy. Biological processes drive many aspects of this growth and development with the onset of puberty (d) _____ the passage from childhood to adolescence. The biological (e) _____ of adolescence are fairly (f) _____; however, the duration and (g) _____ characteristics of this period may vary across time, cultures and socio (h) _____ situations. This period has seen many changes over the past century, puberty for example, comes (i) _____ than before, people marry late and their sexual attitudes and behaviour are different from their grandparents, or even parents. Among the factors responsible for the change are education, urbanization and spread of global (j) _____.



difficult	consolidate	attraction	disappear	importance
solutions	success	provide	producers	practice

There are no easy (a) _____ to the problems that craftworks face in our time. Crafts that are (b) _____ can and should be revived, even where the machine has made the prospect (c) _____. And crafts that are still (d) _____ can be safeguarded and made to (e) _____ their position further. This can be done by (f) _____ grants, loans, assistance and other support to the (g) _____, and helping them find a comfortable customer base. But more (h) _____, craftwork can be branded and (i) _____ marketed throughout the country and beyond as there are always buyers and users of handmade products who feel a strong (j) _____ towards such cultural products.



riverine	natural	region	people	different	metaphors
inequality	material	eastern	great	composed	music

In Bangladesh folk music has (a) _____ variety, with songs being (b) _____ on the culture, festivals, views of life, natural beauty, rivers and rural and riverine life. These songs are also about social (c) _____ and poverty, about the (d) _____ world and the supernatural. Mystical songs have been composed using the metaphors of rivers and boats. Since the country is basically (e) _____ the Bhatiyali forms an important genre of folk music. Folk music is formed and developed according to the environment. Differences in the (f) _____ environment are reflected in the (g) _____ of the (h) _____ regions. The dialects too vary across the different regions. Bangladeshi folk music therefore varies from (i) _____ to region. Thus there are the northern Bhawaiya, the (j) _____ Bhatiyali and the southwestern Baul songs.

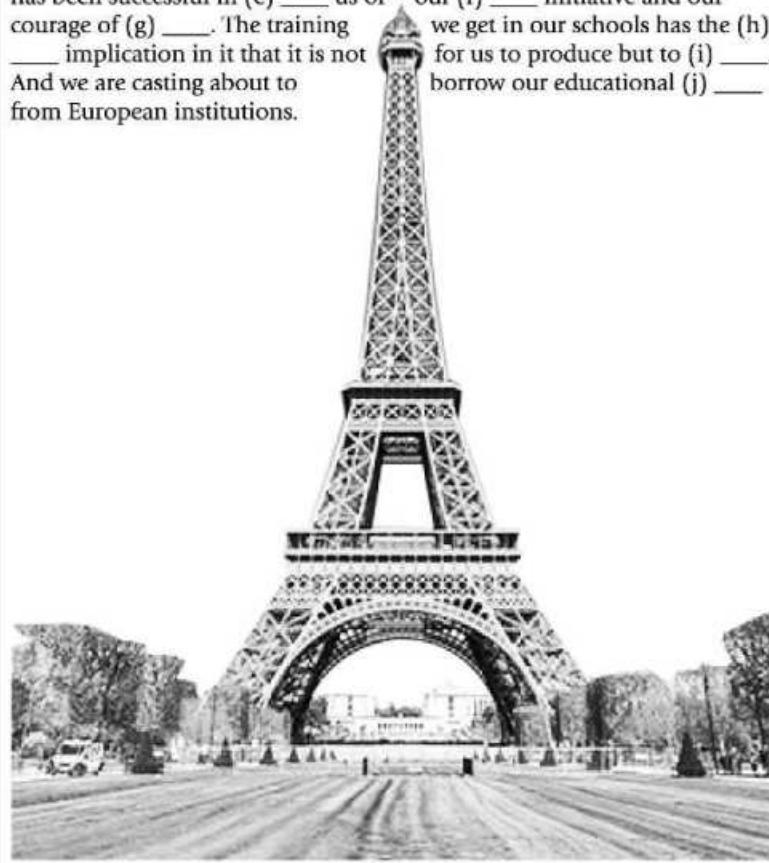
similar	cure	differ	serious	propose	assortment
threat	like	deaths	similar	highly	search

Cancer is one of the deadliest diseases of the modern era. Ever since the days of Hippocrates, people have been (a) _____ for a cure. Cancer is (b) _____ to the common cold in that although there are many ways to (c) _____ it, modern medicine is still yet to come up with a (d) _____. This is partially because (e) _____ the common cold, there are many (f) _____ types of cancer, and they are all slightly different. Unfortunately, with over seven million (g) _____ per year, cancer as much more (h) _____ than the common cold. A wide (i) _____ of drugs, chemicals, stem cells, genetically modified viruses, and even arsenic have all been (j) _____ as cancer cures.



knowledge	real	reward	borrow	follow	deprive
prospective	constant	plans	similar	quick	think

In the Bengali language there is a modern maxim which can be translated, 'He who learns to read and write rides in a carriage and pair.' In English there is a (a) _____ proverb, 'Knowledge is power.' It is an offer of a (b) _____ bribe to the student, a promise of an ulterior (c) _____ which is more important than (d) _____ itself. Unfortunately, our very education has been successful in (e) _____ us of our (f) _____ initiative and our courage of (g) _____. The training _____ we get in our schools has the (h) _____ implication in it that it is not for us to produce but to (i) _____. And we are casting about to borrow our educational (j) _____ from European institutions.



was	together	write	receive	embarrassed	manage
say	overlook	to	apartment	answer	book

It was twenty years ago and I was living in Paris. I had a tiny (a) _____ in the Latin quarter (b) _____ a cemetery, and I (c) _____ earning barely enough money (d) _____ keep body and soul (e) _____. She had read a (f) _____ of mine and had (g) _____ to me about it. I (h) _____, thanking her, and presently I (i) _____ from her another letter (j) _____ that she was passing through Paris and would like to have a chat with me.

Answer Script

- Answer-1:** (a) defined; (b) armed; (c) deaths; (d) within; (e) called; (f) among; (g) interpersonal; (h) cause; (i) economic; (j) serious/aggressive.
- Answer-2:** (a) belongs; (b) remains; (c) enriched; (d) included; (e) bears; (f) naturally; (g) about; (h) combines; (i) criteria; (j) variety.
- Answer-3:** (a) brought; (b) Images; (c) phenomena; (d) very; (e) delightful; (f) that; (g) Dreaming; (h) and; (i) desires; (j) find.
- Answer-4:** (a) identifies; (b) development; (c) characterised; (d) marking; (e) determinants; (f) universal; (g) defining; (h) economic; (i) earlier; (j) communication.
- Answer-5:** (a) solutions; (b) disappearing; (c) difficult; (d) practiced; (e) consolidate; (f) providing; (g) producers; (h) importantly; (i) successfully; (j) attraction.
- Answer-6:** (a) great; (b) composed; (c) inequality; (d) material; (e) riverine; (f) natural; (g) people; (h) different; (i) region; (j) eastern.
- Answer-7:** (a) searching; (b) similar; (c) treat; (d) cure; (e) like; (f) different; (g) deaths; (h) serious; (i) assortment; (j) proposed.
- Answer-8:** (a) similar; (b) prospective; (c) reward; (d) knowledge; (e) depriving; (f) real; (g) thought; (h) constant; (i) borrow; (j) plans.
- Answer-9:** (a) apartment; (b) overlooking; (c) was; (d) to; (e) together; (f) book; (g) written; (h) answered; (i) received; (j) saying.

Gap filling activities without clues (for articles)
Second Paper

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Labourers unloading hilsa from a trawler at Mohipur Fish Landing Station in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Hilsa production trebles in 10yrs

According to Patuakhali fisheries department, 46.540 tonnes of hilsa was collected in fiscal year 2018-19, rising from 14.2 tonnes in 2008-09

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The national fish has grown in size and numbers in the highest in a decade in Patuakhali, as the government has taken steps specific to their breeding season for eight months in a year.

According to data from the Patuakhali fisheries department, a total of 46.540 tonnes of hilsa was collected in fiscal 2018-19, rising from 14.2 tonnes in 2008-09.

Of all the fish collected last year, 17,040 tonnes were from the rivers, marking a fivefold hike from only 3.6 tonnes a decade ago, and the rest was from the sea, said Md Emdadullah, Patuakhali district

fisheries officer (DFO).

"We are motivating the fishermen and fish traders to obey the ban periods, specific to the brood hilsa and jatka (hilsa less than 10 inches long), to contribute to the growing economy."

According to rules, there is a 22-day fishing ban from October 7 to 28 every year to save the mother hilsa during its reproductive season.

Secondly, there is a two-month ban from March 1 to April 30 on the 100 kilometre hilsa sanctuary at the Tentulia river from Bhola's Veduria area to Char Rustam under Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila via Char

Kazal and Char Biswash under Galachipa upazila, to allow growth of the fish.

Thirdly, there is an eight-month ban from November to June on jatka netting in the Bay of Bengal.

Lastly, there is a 65-day ban from May 20 to July 23 on hilsa fishing.

The fisheries department imposed the ban in accordance to section 19 of the Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1883 (amendment in 2015), though it is being implemented for the first time in the coastal areas from this year.

The hilsa management policy of Bangladesh has become a model and India

and Myanmar are following it, he said.

Nazrul Islam, 45, a fisherman of Borobaishdia area under Rangabali, said, "We are happy that hilsa production is going up every year, as we are getting benefitted from it."

Although fishermen face momentary difficulties during the ban periods, they are ultimately happy as the size and number rise, said Md Ansar Uddin Mollah, president of Kalapara Upazila Fish Traders Association.

Fish traders are also pleased as they are earning progressively better each year, he added.

Woman burnt while warming by fire, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A woman who sustained 75 percent burn injuries while warming herself by fire on Saturday died at Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sugandhya Rani, 25, daughter of Nimai Chandra Shil of Charpara village under Barguna's Taltali upazila.

As the woman was divorced, she stayed with her father Nimai, a barber by profession.

Nimai said when Sugandhya Rani was warming herself by the fire at their house yard on Saturday morning, her clothes caught fire.

She was later rushed to the upazila health complex where on-duty doctor referred her to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital as her condition worsened. She died there yesterday morning.

FEUD OVER DISPUTED LAND

College boy stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A college was stabbed to death in attack by rivals allegedly over a land dispute in Bakerganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Sajib Karigar, 20, son of Razzak Karigar of Puidata village in the upazila, was an intermediate student at Maheshpur Degree College.

Deceased's cousin Sajeda Begum said there had been a longstanding feud between their family and one Subrata Sarker of the village over the ownership of a disputed land.

The incident occurred, when Subrata and his men attacked slain Sajib's uncle Taiyab Ali Karigar as the later tried to resist the gang from cutting earth from the disputed land yesterday morning.

At one stage, when Sajib tried to save his uncle from the attackers they stabbed Sajib on the chest with a knife, leaving him dead on the spot.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Barishal Range) Abdur Rakib said they have already detained eight people, including Subrata, for their alleged involvement in the murder.

SELLING PORN VIDEOS

Rab detains 16

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested 16 youths from Saptapati market in the town on charge of selling video clips of pornography.

On information, a team of Rab-12, led by acting company commander Md Rawson Ali, also the assistant superintendent of police, raided the market and arrested the 16 with 48 computer hard disks used for pornography.

They also used 30 sim cards from their possession, said Rawson., adding that they found pornography clips into the hard disks, kept for selling.

The arrestees are Md Ariful Islam, 20, Md Mostafizar Rahman, 25, Md Abdul Ohab, 21, Md Rasel Hossain, 22, Md Sadekur Rahman, 20, Md Rakib Hossain, 20, Md Samiul Islam, 19, Md Mosaddikur Rahman Manik, 20, Md Ripon Pramanik, 20, Md Enamul Haque, 23, Md Rashed Hossain, 21, Md Nur Alam, 21, Md Sohag Islam, 19, Md Bappi Hossain, 21, Md Zihad Hossain, 20, and Md Mehedi Hasan, 28.

Drive to free Ichamati river starts today

Many occupiers already shifted structures from river land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The district administration in cooperation with the Water Development Board (WDB) authorities will start the long awaited eviction drive today to free the Ichamati river flowing through the district town.

Primarily the drive will be conducted according to the list of 285 illegal occupiers, prepared by the WDB and the district administration a decade ago, said Md Mosharaf Hossain, assistant director of WDB, Pabna.

"Besides, a recent feasibility study has found a large number of occupiers. The entire river will be freed from illegal occupiers as the Ministry of Water Resources has taken a mega project to make the river alive by freeing it according to the CS map,"

he added.

Starting in Pabna's Shibrampur, the Ichamati runs an 84 kilometre course across the district before meeting the Jamuna in Bera upazila. But the river is now hardly visible in its nine kilometre area in Pabna municipality due to illegal occupation and building of structures for decades.

According to the government's Cadastral Survey (CS) records published in 1922, the 9-km section of the river that flows through Pabna municipality had 88.58 acres of riverbed.

But the area dropped to only 54.53 acres, as shown in the most recent Bangladesh Survey (BS) record map in 2013, said officials at the district settlement office.

"The eviction drive will continue to free the river according to the CS map. We earlier served notice and made a

general announcement to free the river lands within December 22," said Kabir Mahmud, deputy commissioner of Pabna.

Meanwhile, a large number of illegal occupiers have already shifted their furniture from homes, many of them also demolished their concrete buildings to take doors, windows and bricks.

Visiting Sadhupara, Mondolpara and Kacharipara areas of the town yesterday morning, this correspondent saw many people removing their structures from the river lands with their own efforts.

A large number of people, to be affected by the eviction drive, yesterday formed a human chain in front of Pabna Press Club and also brought out a procession in the district town protesting the administration's move.



A section of Patgram-Dahagram road that is being reconstructed by Roads and Highways Department in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

RECONSTRUCTION OF PATGRAM-DAHAGRAM ROAD

Locals question quality of materials being used

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

After over two weeks of suspension, from December 2 to 17, amid allegations of using substandard materials, work of a Tk 22.13-crore road reconstruction project in Patgram upazila resumed with the same materials.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in August this year issued work order for widening a 16-km-long section of Patgram-Dahagram road to joint consortium of Rana Builders, Rizvi Construction and Hasan Techno Builders. The work also includes building of four culverts on the road, according to RHD in Lalmonirhat.

Residents of Dahagram village said the contractor stopped work in early December when the former raised

objections in the use of substandard sand and stones that were collected locally and supplied by influential locals.

They also said only sand from Sylhet and stones from overseas are approved as construction materials for roads built under the RHD.

Besides, instead of ensuring a sand-stone ratio of 40:60, the contractor was mixing the materials in a 60:40 ratio, alleged Rabiul Islam, from Panbari village in Dahagram union.

Even though the materials being used in the road are not as per RHD standard, the engineers at RHD are keeping mum about it, he also said.

"We made them stop the work... But now we see the construction firm using the same substandard

materials again," Belal Hossain, an elderly resident of the same village, said frustratingly.

He further said local influential suppliers, affiliated with the ruling party, even issued threats on villagers for protesting the irregularities with the road work.

Pointing fingers at corrupt RHD officials behind the irregularities, another elderly villager, Mohammad Ali, said the road built with such low-quality materials will not withstand the weight of heavy vehicles in the long run.

RHD's Sub Assistant Engineer Alamgir Hossain, tasked with overseeing the work, claimed that they had collected samples of the materials from the site and those passed tests in their laboratory.



Occupier of a house, built apparently on the land of the Ichamati river at Kadomtali in Pabna town, shift belongings from the structure yesterday as the district administration is going to start a drive to demolish illegal structures from the river areas in the district headquarters today.

PHOTO: STAR



Dhaka Platoon batsman Tamim Iqbal was in a jovial mood, sharing a joke with coach Mohammad Salahuddin and teammate Mominul Haque in Chattogram yesterday after returning to training yesterday. Meanwhile two policemen pounced on the chance to take a selfie with Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tamim set for return

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Opening batsman Tamim Iqbal joined his Bangladesh Premier League side Dhaka Platoon on Saturday evening and took part in the training session at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) in Chattogram yesterday.

The dashing left hander was hospitalised for a night at the Apollo Hospital in Dhaka after suffering from high fever and an upset stomach and went on to miss Dhaka's first game of the Chattogram leg on Wednesday.

The thirty-year-old took part in training and spent time at the nets and is likely to take part in Dhaka's next game against Cumilla Warriors in the first match of the day at the ZACS today.

Another left-handed batsman, Mominul Haque, had replaced Tamim at the top. Mominul justified his opportunity with a fluent 53-ball 52 only for the effort go in vain as his side lost by 18 runs to

Chattogram Challengers.

Tamim has so far played three games for Dhaka in the BBPL. The southpaw started the tournament on a low and was dismissed for five runs but he came back strong in the next game and scored 74 off 53 against Cumilla at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and followed that up by scoring 31 runs against Sylhet Thunder.

Tamim returned to cricket after a long gap, having not played since captaining the one-day side on Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka in July this year.

He asked for a break from the Bangladesh Cricket Board for the one-off Test against Afghanistan in August and the following tri-series. He was scheduled to return during the Tigers' crucial tour of India in November but also sat that out due to personal reasons.

With so many missed chances, Tamim will be hoping to make an impression in the BBPL ahead of the Tigers' proposed three-match T20I series in Pakistan.

Fading Dhaka face Cumilla

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Dhaka Platoon will take on Cumilla Warriors in the today's first game while Khulna Tigers will take on Rajshahi Royals in the evening as the Chattogram phase of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) enters its last set of matches at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Dhaka were considered one of the favorites due to their star power, with the likes of skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Shahid Afridi and Thisara Perera in the side.

However, Mashrafe's side are yet to get momentum and are currently fifth in the points table ahead of their game today, having only been able to win two of their four matches.

Dhaka lost their previous game against

Chattogram Challengers by 16 runs in a high-scoring encounter, sans their experienced batsman Tamim Iqbal. It will be a big boost in the dressing room to have Tamim back after he looks to have recovered from high fever.

Meanwhile Dhaka's young pacer Hasan Mahmud -- who has picked up four wickets in the tournament and has caught the eyes of many with his pace and potential -- says he is following the likes Pat Cummins, Mitchel Starc and Lockie Ferguson and is willing to work on his variations in the coming days.

"Variation is very important in T20s. You won't be able to survive by just bowling fast. The batters can easily hit you all over the park if you keep bowling fast, so variation is very important," Mahmud said.

The cricketer from Laxmipur has been a part of the national age-level set up and is among

the few other pacers in the tournament who has impressed so far.

On the other hand, Cumilla are in a similar situation with two wins from four games. Dashun Shanaka's side also lost their last game against Chattogram in another high-scoring affair.

In the second game of the day, Mushfiqur Rahim's Khulna will look to regroup once again after defeat in the previous game against Sylhet Thunder.

With three wins from four games, Khulna are second but Andre Russell's Rajshahi, with two wins from three games, will also be looking for a win today.

Rajshahi lost their previous game against Khulna by five wickets despite a blistering 87-run knock from Shoaib Malik was complemented by a match-winning 96 from Mushfiqur.



Liton Das was in a relaxed mood with Rajshahi Royals teammates under the guidance of coach Rajin Saleh yesterday. Rajshahi lost their last match against Mushfiqur Rahim's Khulna Titans but will be looking to bounce back in the reverse fixture today. PHOTO: STAR

Shakib makes Wisden's ODI team of the decade

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan -- banned from all cricket for two years, with one year of that suspended -- has been named in Wisden's ODI team of the decade.

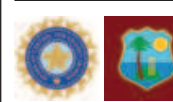
The list was made by a panel of writers who contribute to Wisden, colloquially the Bible of cricket. Shakib played 131 ODIs in the last 10 years, scoring 4276 runs at an average of 38.87. The all-rounder also scalped 177 wickets, the most by a spinner in the last decade.

His highest knock during the last decade came against the West Indies in the 2019 World Cup in England. He ended up as the third-highest run-getter at the World Cup with 606 runs at an average of 86.57.

The Wisden ODI team of the squad: Rohit Sharma, David Warner, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Jos Buttler, MS Dhoni, Shakib Al Hasan, Lasith Malinga, Mitchell Starc, Trent Boult, Dale Steyn.

Kohli conquers Cuttack and Windies

AGENCIES, Cuttack



India skipper Virat Kohli got his rhythm back at the right time as the right-hander hit 85 to help India win the three-match series against West Indies with a four-wicket victory in the series-deciding third and final ODI at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack yesterday.

After a 122-run opening partnership between Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul in chase of a target of 316 runs, the home side lost a few quick wickets but the Indian skipper rewrote history at the venue to confirm India's 10th straight series win against the West Indies.

The master batsman had an aggregate of only 34 runs in his previous four matches at the venue and went to the decider with scores of 4 and 0 in the first two games.

Although Kohli departed with 30 runs still to get in 23 balls, Ravindra Jadeja finished the job with eight balls to spare with an unbeaten 40 off 31 balls.

Earlier, Nicholas Pooran and Kieron Pollard hit attacking half-centuries to power the West Indies to 315 for five.

Pooran, who hit 89 off 63 balls, and Pollard, 74 not out, put on 135 runs for the fifth wicket as the West Indies put up a challenging total after being in trouble

at 144 for four in Cuttack.

The left-right batting pair of Pooran and Pollard, who hit three fours and seven sixes in his 51-ball blitz, combined to rebuild the innings and then took the attack to the opposition bowlers.

India pacer Navdeep Saini claimed two wickets on debut, including sending the dangerous Shimron Hetmyer back to the pavilion for 37. Hetmyer's wicket ended a 62-run third-wicket stand with Roston Chase who was bowled by a toe-crushing yorker from Saini for 38.

But Pooran counter attacked and completed his second successive fifty. He hit 10 fours and three sixes in his knock that lasted 64 balls before falling to Shardul Thakur with a mistimed hit to deep point.

Pollard hit two successive boundaries to raise his fifty and pulverised the bowling in the final few overs as West Indies managed 77 runs from the last 30 deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF
WEST INDIES: 315 for five (Pooran 89, Hope 42, Pollard 74 not; Saini 2-58)

INDIA: 316 for 6 in 48.4 overs (Sharma 63, Rahul 77, Kohli 85, Jadeja 39 not out; Paul 3-59)

Result: India won by four wickets and won the three-match series 2-1.

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli
Player-of-the-series: Rohit Sharma



India skipper Virat Kohli flipped the script at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, where he had totalled 34 runs in four games previously, with a match-winning 81-ball 85 in the series-deciding third and final ODI against the West Indies yesterday. India ultimately won by four wickets. PHOTO: COLLECTED

'The last thing you want to do is what you did five years ago'

Cumilla Warriors' English recruit Dawid Malan has been a familiar face in Bangladesh's domestic circuit over the past six years and the left-handed batsman has remained one of the most consistent performers whether it be in T20s in the Bangladesh Premier League or the Dhaka Premier League's fifty-over matches. The 32-year-old, who had a fantastic T20I debut for the England national team by scoring 78 against South Africa in 2017, is currently third position in the ICC T20I batsmen rankings, spoke to *The Daily Star's* Mazhar Uddin in an interview at the team hotel in Chattogram yesterday. Excerpts of that interview are given below:

The Daily Star (TDS): You are playing franchise cricket all over the world and also for England. Are you happy with the way things are going?

Dawid Malan (DM): I can always be happier because if you are satisfied then you are not going to push yourself. I am looking forward and still trying to learn a lot more about T20 cricket and adapting my game to match the trajectory of the game. The last thing you want to do is what you did five years ago because the game changes so quickly. So far, I am happy with the record I have got but obviously I want to keep improving and win more matches.

TDS: Would you like to be more regular in the England national team at least in the shortest format given the experience you have playing franchise cricket?

DM: Yeah, obviously you want to play international cricket and be the number one guy on the teamsheet. But you know England have been wonderful for the past three-four years so it's hard to break into that team. But hopefully you keep getting the opportunity and when you score runs eventually you make a spot of your own. That's the key thing when you try to break into a strong team -- putting up performances. Even if you get one chance, you make sure you score runs. If you don't score runs you can't really ask to be a regular player. I strive to play in the England team and want to be a part of the eleven. For that you have to score a lot of runs not only for England but also in franchise leagues as well.



TDS: Any young local bowlers that impressed you so far here?

DM: We played against Rangpur and a young bowler, Mukidul Islam, made his debut. He bowled well. He might be very quick here in Bangladesh but when you compare him with someone like Wahab Riaz who is quicker than him, it's a different story. He needs to learn pretty quickly that he is not the quickest among the lot. But he was pretty impressive to set up with his overs and it's always a good sign that guys are thinking.

TDS: With pitches favouring the batsmen, how do you approach bowlers?

DM: Probably the biggest mindset change that I had. When you play county cricket, you usually get across two or three good bowlers and two or three bowlers whom you can target. So, you used to see off the better bowlers and attack the bowlers who were not good.

But in international cricket you have to take down the best bowlers. It's part of my thing: trying to attack the best bowlers no matter what the run rate and situation is. But obviously when the situation dictates that you can't take the risk, then that's different.

TDS: Do you think England winning the World Cup will be a huge boost for the nation's cricket?

DM: I think the World Cup win and what the boys achieved was unbelievable. Four years in the making, four years of sticking together, backing each other, facing a lot of grief from the media after the way they played. But they still stuck to the game plan and strategy from Eoin Morgan and Trevor Bayliss and that was the key for that World Cup win. If you look at what it has done for cricket in England, hopefully the younger generation want to be the next Ben Stokes, Eoin Morgan or Jos Butler.



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SHAH CEMENT

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN TEA ESTATE

6,000 to lose means for survival

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Chunarughat

Satyabati Bakti, 95, a blind retired tea-worker of Chandpur tea estate, is ready to take a bullet to protect her farmland.

"If I could see, and had the energy, I would stand in front of my paddy field and tell them to shoot me before taking the land," she says, referring to her 15-decimal land, situated inside Chandpur tea estate, where the government is planning to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Satyabati and her tea-labourer family relies on the land for their yearly supply of food. The wage of a tea-worker is currently Tk 102 per day.

Like Satyabati, 6,000 people from 1,250 families of the Chandpur tea estate, run by Duncan Brothers Bangladesh Ltd, might



soon lose their farmlands, and their much-needed supplementary income, because of the proposed SEZ.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Followers of Ducus VP Nurul Haque Nur, injured in an attack by Muktijoddha Moncho and Chhatra League men, being taken to hospital in an ambulance. The photo was taken near the Ducus Bhaban on the Dhaka University campus around 12:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

COLD WAVE Forecast grim for the days ahead

5 die allegedly of cold STAR REPORT

The cold wave shook much of the country for the fourth consecutive day yesterday disrupting daily life of many.

Met office yesterday forecast rainfall across the country from Wednesday to Friday followed by another spell of a cold wave from Saturday.

"Although the temperature has risen slightly, the cold seemed more biting due to the absence of sunlight," said Monowar Hossain, a meteorologist at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, adding that the condition would prevail until the end of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Home belongs to martyred intellectual's family

Finds ACC probe STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Martyred intellectual's family members, who were evicted from their home "following a mid-ranking police official's move" in the capital's Nawabpur, are the actual owners of the property, the Anti-Corruption Commission has found in its enquiry.

ACC Deputy Director Md Salauddin yesterday filed a case against Sheikh Md Javed Uddin and Miraj Md Jakir Uddin for forging documents of the house.

On August 26, the home ministry suspended then deputy commissioner (Wari division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mohammad Ibrahim on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Poles help stranded Iranian lorry driver



AFP, Warsaw

An Iranian driver who was stranded after his lorry broke down in Poland received a helping hand from locals who launched a crowd-funding initiative for a new truck to take him home.

By Friday morning, the appeal on the website zrzutka.pl had drawn more than 250,000 zlotys (59,000 euros, \$65,000) in donations for Fardin Kazemi.

The self-employed driver was forced to sleep in his American International 9670 lorry after it broke down in early December near the southern city of Czestochowa after travelling 5,550 kilometres

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 23

Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad says that those who have intentionally participated in the genocide will be prosecuted.

They will not get any mercy, he says, adding that those who were compelled to do such acts will be spared.

Returning of Bangladeshi refugees SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

BSF shoots Bangladeshi dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon early yesterday, said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Victim Rezabul Islam, 30, along with his fellow cattle traders, was intruding into India around 4:00am

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 23

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-25	12-45	3-45	5-24	7-00
JAMAAT 6-00	1-15	4-00	5-27	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



We deeply mourn the sad demise of our Former Chairman & Founding Board Member, **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG**

We recall with immense gratitude his invaluable contribution to Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DBH). His outstanding leadership was characterized by unqualified commitment and support to the growth of the Company.

We pray to the Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of his departed soul and extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May the Almighty grant them the strength and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Members of the Board of Directors & Employees of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Limited.



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ইসলামী ব্যাংকের ৩৫৭ তম শাখা

শুভ উদ্বোধন

লামা শাখা
লামা পৌর মার্কেট
১৯৫, লামা বাজার
লামা, বান্দরবান



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জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপনে, 8% হারে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন।

জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ের মাধ্যমে নিজে লাভবান হউন এবং দেশকে উপকৃত করুন।

সাশ্রয়ে জ্বালানি, সমৃদ্ধ আগামী



"জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সংরক্ষণ বৃদ্ধি কার্যক্রমে অর্থায়ন প্রকল্প"