



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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**GREETINGS**  
The Daily Star  
Wishes its valued  
readers, patrons,  
well-wishers and  
advertisers a  
*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**  
**2020**



## Dhaka to Ctg in one hour!

Detailed design of high-speed train service by April; experts term the project highly ambitious

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

How long does it take to get from Dhaka to Chittagong by train? Around six hours, one would say. You could add an extra couple of hours, if a delay arises.

What if it could take a little over an hour?

Surprised? Well, that's what is likely to happen as the country is set to step into the bullet train era.

The journey from the capital to the commercial capital will be slashed to only 73 minutes once the high-speed trains begin passenger services. An uninterrupted journey between Dhaka and Chattogram will take only 55 minutes.

It will, however, set commuters back a pretty penny -- around Tk 2,000, more than three times higher than the fare of an AC seat on existing Bangladeshi inter-city trains.

The trains, which will run at a top speed of 300km/hr, can carry approximately 50,000 passengers each way daily.

The feasibility study of the first high-speed train, commissioned by Bangladesh Railway, has already been completed. The route has also been selected and work for the detailed design of the "passenger dedicated" railway project, involving around Tk 97,000 crore, is underway.

However, it is still not decided what will be the source of the fund.

The new high-speed railway route will be around 90km shorter than the existing route.

However, two prominent transport experts termed the project "highly ambitious" and questioned the capacity of Bangladesh Railway to operate the high-speed train, when it has not yet introduced

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## Children to be groomed with modern edn

Says PM, inaugurates textbook distribution

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to provide modern and tech-based education to children so that they could grow up properly to cope with the new era.

"We want to provide modern and tech-based education to help them cope with the modern era. That's our aim," she said.

She said this while inaugurating free textbook distribution programme for the year 2020 and receiving the results of Primary Education Completion (PECE), Junior School Certificate (JSC) and their equivalent Ebtedayee and JDC examinations at her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

She said the government wants to

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

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## Girls do it again

Pass rate, number of GPA-5 achievers increase in JSC exams, drop in PECE

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Girls have done better than boys in the two biggest public examinations -- Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) and Junior School Certificate (JSC) Examinations -- this year.

The indicators -- participation rate, success rate and grades achieved -- showed that girls were well ahead of their male counterparts, according to the PECE and JSC results that came out yesterday.

Compared to last year, the results also show that the pass rate and the number of GPA 5 achievers in the JSC increased, while they decreased in PECE.

Education officials blamed changes in the script evaluation process in PECE for the decreasing pass rate.

In the JSC exams, the pass rate was 87.58 percent this year, a 2.30 percent increase than last year's 85.28 percent. A total of 76,747 students achieved GPA 5 this year, a 10,639 rise from last year's 66,018.

The combined pass rate of JSC and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC)

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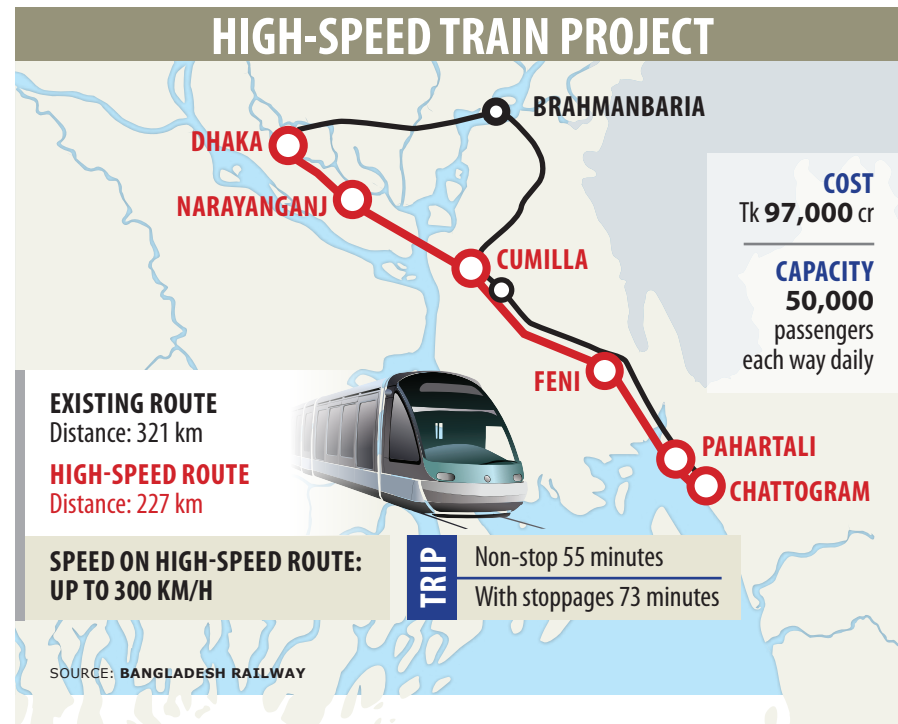


## Taskin and Naim star for Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Fine bowling from Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman followed an accomplished 47-ball 55 from Mohammad Naim as Rangpur Rangers beat Rajshahi Royals by 47 runs in their Bangabandhu

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## Bank Asia has been awarded 'Gold Award' by ICSB

Mr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Deputy Managing Director of Bank Asia Limited is receiving 'Gold Award' from Dr. A B Mirza Md. Azizul Islam, Former Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Planning, Post & Telecommunications, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh in the 6<sup>th</sup> ICSB National Award for Corporate Governance Excellence 2018 organized by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh (ICSB). Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil FCA, CFO of the Bank also attended the program.

‘আমার শক্তি এটাই যে আমি আমার জনগণকে ভালোবাসি। আর আমার দুর্বলতা, আমি এদের প্রাণের চেয়েও বেশি ভালোবাসি।’

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# Jute workers defiant

Protest enters day four; seven on fast-unto-death lands in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Many jute mill workers in Khulna and Jashore fell sick as they continued their fast-unto-death for the third day yesterday to press home their 11-point demand.

Doctors at Khulna Medical College Hospital said seven workers were admitted to the hospital since early yesterday.

However, workers claimed that at least 100 protesters became ill. Of them, around 30 were admitted to different local hospitals and clinics.

Protesters said many workers were suffering from dehydration and cold-related illness.

Workers of eight state-run jute mills in Khulna and Jashore industrial belt have been staging the protest on the BDC road in Khulna city, Atraj industrial area and Rajghat area near Khulna-Dhaka highway since 3:00pm on Sunday.

Workers sat in front of the main gates to Star, Platinum, Alim, Eastern, Daulatpur, and Khalishpur jute mills in Khulna, and Jashore Jute Industries in Jashore under the banner of CBA and non-CBA Sangram Parishad. Their family members also joined the demonstration.

Production at those mills came to a halt due to the demonstration. However, Carpeting Jute Mills in Jashore was operating at partial production, said workers.

The workers' demands include implementation of 2015 wage commission award, timely payment of wages, cancellation of public-private ownership initiative, allocation of necessary fund for the jute sector, insurance for families of deceased

workers, ensuring payment of provident fund and gratuity accumulation for retired workers and regularisation of jobs of temporary workers.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Sarder Abdul Hamid, convener of Collective Bargaining Agents (CBAs) and non-CBA Sangram Parishad, said workers showed extreme patience during their movement, but they failed to draw the attention of the government to their demands.

He alleged that Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) was conspiring to destroy the jute sector by shutting the state-run jute mills.

"The BJMC is trying to create such a situation that the workers are forced to quit their jobs. Around one-third of the workers of the nine state-run jute mills have already left their jobs," said Hamid, also the president of Alim Jute Mills Employees Union.

Presently, some 31,000 permanent and temporary workers are employed at the eight jute mills.

Khalilur Rahman Sumon, former president of Platinum employees' union, said a worker of Khalishpur jute mills was admitted to the ICU of Khulna Medical College Hospital on Monday night after he fell sick.

"The situation may get worse from tonight [last night] as over 50 hours have passed since the beginning of the fast-unto-death," said Khalilur.

He said they had to resume their protest as the authorities failed to keep their promise on meeting the demands.

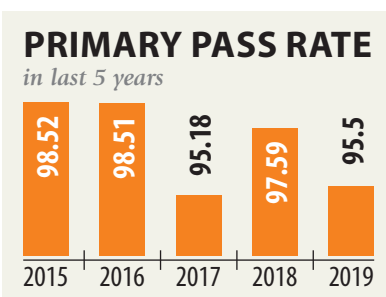
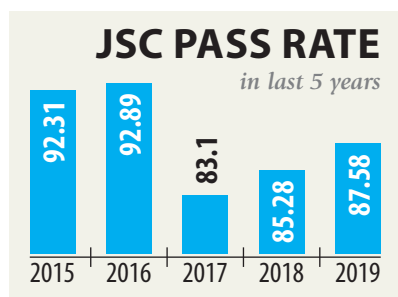
The workers had postponed their protest programme on December 14 following assurance from Monnujan Sufian, state minister for labour and employment, that their demands would be met.



Surrounded by her smiling friends, an excited student at the Viqarunnisa Noon School & College calls her other friends to tell them how well she did in her JSC exams yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Girls do it again



FROM PAGE 1

exams increased by 2.07 percentage point this year. This year the pass rate in the JSC and JDC examinations is 87.90 per cent, which was 85.83 per cent last year.

The pass rate in PECE came down to 95.50 percent this year, a 2.01 percent decrease from last year's 97.59 percent. While the number of GPA 5 achiever dropped to 3,26,088 this year, a 42,105 decrease from last year's 3,68,193.

Primary and Mass Education State Minister Zakir Hossen said that results can see up and down someone cannot expect improvement every year.

Primary and mass education secretary Akram-Al-Hossain opined that script of this year's candidates were evaluated by the teacher of other upazila it could be reason of slide in result.

**GIRLS OUTPERFORM BOYS**

A total of 13,29,926 girls and 11,24,225 boys sat for the PECE examination this year. The pass rates for girls and boys are 95.37 and 95.61 percent respectively.

Of them, as many as 1,84,637 girls obtained GPA-5 while 1,41,451 boys got distinction.

It was a similar picture in the JSC examination.

Some 11,94,005 girls and 10,27,586 boys took the test and 88.33 percent girls and 86.72 percent boys passed the exam.

As many as 44,918 girls achieved GPA-5 against 31,829 boys.

"It is really positive that girls are doing well in the exams. Such results prove that the investment and initiatives for girls' education is bringing results," educationist Rasheda K Choudhury told The Daily Star.

"Government initiatives like stipend and other facilities as well as more parents becoming favourable toward girls' education are some reasons for girls doing well," Rasheda, also the executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, said.

PECE This year, some 24.54 lakh fifth grade students were tested on six subjects which began on November 17 across the country. Of them, 23.44 lakh students passed. Students must pass the exams to enrol the sixth grade.

Primary and Mass Education State Minister Zakir Hossen announced the results formally at a crowded press conference around 1:00pm at his secretariat office in the capital.

Students of the primary section of government high schools have highest pass rate - 99.55 percent, followed by PII attached schools with 99.16 percent. Students of Ananda School performed the worst with a 74.37 percent pass rate.

Barishal board topped the list among all eight divisions, with a 96.93 percent pass rate. On the other hand, with a 91.94 percent pass rate, Sylhet was at the bottom.

## Children to be groomed

FROM PAGE 1

modernise the education system of the country.

"Through this education system, everyone will grow up with greater mental strength. We want to develop our education system to that level. We're moving towards that direction gradually," Sheikh Hasina said.

The prime minister said the government is putting emphasis on vocational education so that students of the country could flourish their talents properly, which will be beneficial for the country, too.

She said the government after assuming office emphasised upgrading the education system and it has already formulated an education policy. "It's not possible for a nation to live with dignity without proper education."

Hasina also mentioned that the government has given special

attention to games and sports and that is why it is building a mini-stadium in each upazila of the country in phases.

Hasina said millions of people have made their supreme sacrifice for the independence of the country and their sacrifice must not go in vain. "We want to build the country as a developed one and for that what we need most is to develop our future generation with proper education."

She said Bangladesh has been liberated with an ideal in front of the nation. "And that is building such a society where there'll be no discrimination...it'll be free from poverty... it'll be developed and prosperous one," she said.

She said the government wanted to build the future generation in such a way so that they could become proficient in all types of education.

Gazipur stood first among all districts with a pass rate of 99.14 percent, while Faridpur stood last with 85.96 percent. All students from Daulatkhan upazila of Bhola passed the exams.

Moreover, a total of 4,471 children with special needs took the exams and over 89.90 percent of them passed.

When asked about demand of dropping terminal exams after class V, Zakir said that they are not thinking about the cancellation of any exam. "This exam is helping students to be more competitive and is helping them flourish their talents," he said.

"But we are thinking about to bring some changes in the exam system," he added.

JSC While announcing the results at a press conference around 11:30am at her ministry's conference room, Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said that 87.58 percent students passed the JSC exam. A total of 22.21 lakh students, under nine education boards across the country, took part in the exams that began on November 1.

A significant jump of 12.97 percent in the Sylhet board and students' better performance in key subjects like English and mathematics pushed up the overall pass rate in JSC exams. Officials said that the performance of students in English and maths always makes a difference in public exam pass rates.

This year 92.79 percent students of the Sylhet board passed the exam, while 79.82 percent students passed the exam in 2018.

Contacted, Board Controller of Examinations Kabir Ahmed said that students have performed well in English and mathematics subject because guardian and teachers took better care and provided proper guidance to the students.

Last year, 85.42 percent students of the Sylhet board passed English and

this year, it increased to 96.38 percent. Last year 93.59 percent students of the same board passed the mathematics test and this year, it increased to 95.90 percent

In the previous year, 91.07 and 84.74 percent students in Chattogram board passed English and maths respectively, and those rose to 91.95 and 91.30 percent this year.

For the third year in a row, Barishal board topped among all boards, with a pass rate of 97.05 percent, while Dhaka board was in the bottom with a pass rate of 82.92 percent.

When asked about the results, Dhaka education board chairman Ziaul Haque said that students of other districts outside the capital performed poorly, which affected the entire board result.

This year, 3,400 schools had cent percent students passing against last year's 3,042 such school. No students passed from 14 institutions, against 20 of 2018.

A total of 432 Bangladeshi students sat for the tests in nine foreign exam centres and 419 of them passed, and 53 of them got GPA 5s.

At the briefing, Dipu Moni urged all not to put too much pressure on students to get GPA 5 only. "Giving extra importance and running after GPA 5 is huge burden on the children. Please refrain from it."

She said the government is carrying out various transformations to bring a qualitative change in the education sector, which will be a supplement to the efforts of achieving the target of Sustainable Development Goal 4 by 2030.

Dipu Moni and Zakir Hossen both handed over the results to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier in the morning.

Following the announcement, the results were available in schools, on education board websites and were also sent through SMS on mobile phones.

## Ebtadayee, JDC pass rates slip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Madrassa students did not do as well as they did last year in terms of achieving the much-sought after Grade Point Average 5 (GPA-5) in Ebtadayee Education Completion Examination and Junior Dakhil Certificate Examinations.

The results, which were published yesterday, also showed that pass rate in Ebtadayee examination decreased while success rate increased in JDC exam.

Education minister Dipu Moni and primary and mass education state minister Zakir Hossen announced the results of JDC and Ebtadayee examination respectively at their offices in the secretariat.

This year, 3,04,178 students took part in the Ebtadayee Education Completion Examination after fifth grade, which is equivalent to Primary Education Completion Examination.

The pass rate in the Ebtadayee exam came down to 95.96 percent this year, a 1.73 percent decrease from that of last year's 97.69 percent.

While the number of GPA-5 achievers dropped to 11,877 this year, a decrease of 387 from last year's 12,264.

For the third year in a row, Rajshahi saw the highest pass rate among all divisions with a 97.81 percent pass rate, while Sylhet was at the bottom with 91 percent pass rate. A total of 83 upazilas had 100 percent pass rate.

This year, 3,80,442 students took part in the JDC exams after eight

## Dhaka to Ctg

FROM PAGE 1

the electric train.

**HIGH-SPEED TRAIN**

Work for the detailed design of the project is expected to be completed in April next year, said project director Md Quamrul Ahsan.

"We will then prepare a DPP [Develop and Prepare Project Proposal] for the project. Works for managing funds will go on simultaneously," he told The Daily Star on December 24. He hoped to place the project before the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) by 2020.

The consultants proposed a fare of Tk 10 per kilometre per person in their reports. On that basis, train fare from Dhaka to Chattogram is likely to be around Tk 2,000, said Quamrul.

"However, this will be further analysed and is not final."

Ticket fare for a Shovon chair from Dhaka to Chattogram is Tk 345 while an AC chair is Tk 656. Flights from Dhaka to Chattogram range between Tk 2,500 to 3,000.

In total, there are six stations on the proposed route -- Dhaka, Narayanganj, Cumilla, Feni, Pahartali and Chattogram, said Quamrul.

At the beginning, the railway is planning to operate around 40 pairs of trains, he said, adding that the number of trains will increase with passenger demand.

In March 2017, the planning minister approved the "Feasibility Study and Detail Design for Construction of Dhaka-Chattogram via Cumilla/Laksham High-Speed Railway Project."

The consortium of China Railway Design Corporation of China and Mazumder Enterprise of Bangladesh conducted the feasibility study and are currently preparing the detailed design at a cost of Tk 110.16 crore.

Among four options, the 227.3km Dhaka-Narayanganj-Cumilla-Feni-Chattogram route was recommended and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved it along with the technical standards of the railway.

The total estimated cost of the project from Dhaka to Chattogram would be about \$1.4 billion, which would be Tk 96,752 crore (\$1=Tk 84.87).

Of the 668.24 hectares of land required for the project, Bangladesh Railway has to acquire 464.2 hectares.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in March this year, directed the authorities concerned to extend the route down to Cox's Bazar.

If the route is extended to Cox's Bazar, it will be the single largest government project ever in terms of project cost, beating Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant's Tk 1,13, 092 crores, according to Bangladesh Railway officials.

The high-speed railway will be double-track and mostly elevated. It would be a ballast-less track and for the first time in Bangladesh Railway, it will be operated through electric traction.

"We are now preparing a DPP to carry out a feasibility study for the extended route," said Quamrul Ahsan.

Currently, Bangladesh Railway operates 360 passenger trains through its 3,000km network across the country, divided into eastern and western zones.

Although the number of passengers keeps increasing, the railways continues to incur huge financial losses every year. **'HIGHLY AMBITIOUS' PROJECT** Transport expert Prof Hasib Mohammed Ahsan said the government may have a plan to introduce bullet trains considering economic growth, but its move should be consistent with the capacity of Bangladesh Railway.

"Where we don't yet have the capacity to operate a train at 100km/hr, we are going to operate a 300km/hr train.

It is a huge jump, but our approach needs to be gradual," Prof Hasib, also a former director of the Accident Research Institute (ARI) at Buet, told The Daily Star on December 25.

The authorities should first opt for electric trains instead of high-speed trains, he said, adding, "If we can't improve our overall performance, it [the new project] will create management and operational problems."

Another transport expert, Prof Shamsul Hoque, said construction of a chord line from Dhaka to Laksham in Cumilla would also reduce the Dhaka-Chattogram route length by around 99km from the existing 320km.

A project in this regard has been in discussion for decades but has not been green-lit yet. Instead of introducing high-speed trains, the government should build the chord line first.

"I have doubts about the viability of a high-speed train within this 'short distance'. Besides, I don't think the railway has the capacity for such a project," the former ARI director told this newspaper on December 25.

The high-speed train will also face challenges once the Dhaka-Chattogram expressway, now at the planning stage, is operational, as people will choose "door to door" connectivity buses rather than station-based fixed schedule trains, he added.

"I think this is a premature and 'highly ambitious' project and the authorities should reconsider before proceeding with it," he said.

Asked why they are planning to introduce the high-speed train instead of the more "cost-effective" electric train after the construction of a chord line from Dhaka to Laksham, Quamrul Ahsan said there are around 350 level crossings on the proposed high-speed railway route between Dhaka to Chattogram.

Access control or grade separation (where trains and road vehicles run on separate levels) are essential to increase train speeds in a densely populated country like Bangladesh, he said.

Train speeds of more than 100km/hr at the same grade with roads and without access control may have severe consequences in regard to accidents, he said.

Quamrul said the proposed high-speed railway will be operated by electric traction and is mostly elevated so access control is ensured. It will require less land acquisition and has less impact on agriculture, drainage, and the environment, he added.

Contacted, Railways Ministry Secretary Mofazzel Hossain said that although several countries have expressed interest in funding the project, the ministry has not yet received a formal proposal.

Asked about the reservations of experts over the project, he told The Daily Star on December 28, "The government has already taken on projects to build the metro rail, a nuclear power plant, and an underwater tunnel. So, this project can in no way be labelled a high ambitious one."

Bangladesh has set a goal to establish itself as a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous country by 2041, he continued, adding, "Considering our economic growth and people's demands, we are going ahead with this project."

According to OMIO, an internationally popular travel website, the world's fastest bullet train is operated in China at the highest speed of 350kph.

In Japan and France, the highest speed of the bullet train is 320kph while its 310kph in Spain and 300kph in Germany.

### JSC RESULTS COMPARISON

BOARDS	PASS RATE 2019	PASS RATE 2018	GPA 5 2019	GPA-5 2018
Dhaka	82.72	83.19	18,953	22,334
Rajshahi	94.10	94.57	16,478	14,638
Cumilla	88.80	86.99	6,131	3,742
Jashore	91.08	84.61	9,755	7,256
Chattogram	82.93	81.52	6,041	5,231
Barishal	97.05	97.05	4,948	4,906
Sylhet	92.79	79.82	3,773	1,698
Dinajpur	83.92	81.63	6,765	6,303
Mymensingh	87.21	--	3,903	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87.58</b>	<b>85.28</b>	<b>76,747</b>	<b>66,108</b>

### DIVISION WISE PECE RESULTS

DIVISION	PASS RATE 2019	PASS RATE 2018
Dhaka	96.18	98.25
Rajshahi	95.05	97.07
Khulna	95.80	98.05
Chattogram	96.92	98.11
Barishal	96.93	97.72
Sylhet	91.94	94.76
Rangpur	95.37	98.20
Mymensingh	92.21	96.30
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>95.50</b>	<b>97.59</b>

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sharing a lighter moment with children at Gono Bhaban premises yesterday, after giving away textbooks among students for the new year.

## Masud Bin Momen new foreign secy

UNB, Dhaka

Masud Bin Momen has been made foreign secretary of Bangladesh as his predecessor M Shahidul Haque, the country's longest-serving foreign secretary, has gone on retirement.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a notification yesterday in this regard.

Masud previously served as secretary (Asia and Pacific) at the foreign ministry, after serving as permanent representative of Bangladesh at the United Nations.

He also previously served as Bangladesh's  
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## Over half of narcotics cases fail to convict the accused: DNC report

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Accused in over half of the cases filed by Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) are acquitted due to flawed and incomplete investigation, improper presentation of cases at the trial court and weakness in prosecution, according to a report by the government agency.

In the annual report, five years' average data between 2014 to 2018 shows that around 52.7 percent of completed narcotics cases ended in acquittal of the accused.

The situation in the first six months of 2019 was worse than the aggregate, with only 37 percent cases seeing conviction.

However, Mohammad Jamal Uddin Ahmed -- director general (DG) of DNC -- yesterday claimed that the situation has been improving in the last two years.

Addressing a briefing at DNC headquarters, Jamal Uddin said, "I feel no hesitation in disclosing that 40 percent of drug cases filed by our officials did not see conviction."

DNC is providing capacity-building training to officials for the last two years so they do not make mistakes in filing cases, said the DG in response to a journalist's question.

Between 2014 and June 2019, some  
SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

YEAR	DISPOSAL OF CASES				PENDING CASES (UP TO JUNE 2019)
	Conviction	Rate	Acquittal	Total	
2014	1,716	53%	973	2,689	56,173
2015	892	47.6%	981	1,873	
2016	2,356	42%	2,992	5,348	
2017	1,016	40%	1,528	2,544	
2018	592	42%	843	1,435	
2019 (June)	209	37%	362	571	

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF NARCOTICS CONTROL, ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## Traffic police killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic police constable was killed in a road accident while on duty near Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Md Hasmat Ullah (45), a traffic constable of South Division.

Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station, said a bus ran him over around 7:30am.

He died on the spot, said the OC.

Police arrested Abul Kalam, driver of the bus, and impounded a car that was also involved in the incident.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

## 'No failure here'

Brushing aside reports, Quader says number of accidents decreasing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While reports of police and Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI) show that the number road accidents and casualties is on the rise, Road Transport and Brides Minister Obaidul Quader disagrees.

He said as per a World Health Organization (WHO) report, the number of road crashes and casualties in Bangladesh has declined. The minister, however, did not give any details of the report.

Quader, also general secretary of ruling Awami League, was speaking at a press briefing at his secretariat office yesterday.

According to police report, at least 2,713 people were killed and 2,949 injured in a total of 2,629 road accidents between January and August in 2019.

At least 2,635 people were killed and 1,920 injured in 2,609 road accidents in 2018.

These numbers, mentioned in the police reports, are significantly lower than reports published by different road safety organisations.



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## Why should women use husbands' address in job application: HC asks BB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of a condition imposed by Bangladesh Bank (BB) in a job circular asking married female candidates for the post of assistant director (general) to mention their husbands' residential addresses as their permanent addresses in their application forms.

The court issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why the condition imposed by the central should not be declared without lawful authority.

Secretaries to the ministries of public administration, commerce, and finance (finance division), deputy governor and general manager of human resources department of BB have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by two

rights organisations -- Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Nari Pakkha -- challenging the legality of the condition by BB authorities.

The central bank issued the job circular on December 1, inviting applications for the posts of assistant director (general).

In clause 14 of the circular, the BB authorities asked the married female candidates to mention their husbands' residential addresses as their permanent addresses in the application form.

BLAST and Nari Pakkha submitted the writ petition to the HC on December 30, saying the circular violated articles 28 and 29 of the constitution, as article 28 contradicts any kind of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth; and article 29 guarantees equal opportunity in public employment.

Advocate Aynun Nahar Siddiqua, Advocate SM Rezaul Karim and Advocate Ayesha Aktar appeared for the petitioners.

## First Time in Bangladesh National Interoperable "BanglaQR"



Powered by Mastercard®

Mutual Trust Bank Limited and Mastercard bring national interoperable BanglaQR-approved by Bangladesh Bank. Scan the BanglaQR code from your Banking App to pay at merchants across the country. Now paying on-the-go is simpler and safer than ever before!

Start something priceless!

Make everyday payments easier in three steps:



Login to banking app with your pin enabled for BanglaQR



Scan the merchant QR code and enter the payment amount



Confirm the transaction and receive real-time confirmation of successful transaction



## 2020 the year to restore democracy: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday hoped that the new year, 2020, will be the year of "restoration of democracy".

"2019 was the year democracy was devastated, people's rights were snatched and fascism was victorious," he said.

The BNP leader further said, "We always want to think afresh in the new year, and want to strengthen our organisation to materialise our goals. We believe a mass upsurge will happen and we'll be able to restore democracy in the country under the leadership of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal upholding the tradition of student movements."

He came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after placing wreaths at BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's grave, together with leaders and activists of JCD, marking the organisation's founding anniversary.

Fakhru said 2018 was the year of destruction of democracy as the ruling party established "one-party rule".

"Those who struggled for democracy were humiliated this year while our leader Khaleda Zia has been kept in jail. Her jail term has been enhanced too. Thousands of our leaders and activists were harassed and implicated in false cases. Many journalists in Bangladesh were repressed while the country genuinely fell prey to fascism this year," he observed.

Asked about their party's expectation from the upcoming elections to two Dhaka city corporations, he said they think no election can be held in a free and fair manner under the current government and the Election Commission. "Even after that, we've taken the election as a way to reach people and take our demands to them as we believe in democratic politics."

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP student organisation, will celebrate its 41st founding anniversary today. A discussion will be held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh on the occasion.



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority demolished illegal structures of a textile mill on the eastern bank of the river Shitalakkhya in Bandar area of Narayanganj yesterday.

## USE OF 'ADIVASI' IN ORGANISATIONS' NAME HRFB concerned over NGO bureau directive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) yesterday expressed deep concerns over a recent directive to NGOs that have the words "indigenous/advasi" in their titles, to rename themselves by dropping the words.

The platform of 20 rights and development organisations also demanded withdrawal of the directive issued by NGO Affairs Bureau recently, says a press release.

A December 18 letter, signed by Shilu Ray -- assistant director of the Bureau -- asked the NGOs to implement the directive within a month. It says, "According to article 23 (ka) of the constitution of Bangladesh, no community has been identified as Advasi. Besides, as part of global indigenous politics, a local/international vested quarter is active in realising benefits, mentioned in ILO convention 169 for indigenous people, which the NGO Affairs Bureau considers a threat to non-communal Bangladesh."

"Considering the reality of the Chattogram Hill Tracts, the word advasi/indigenous is also a threat to the national security," it adds.

In a press release, the HRFB demanded an explanation how the use of those words pose threat to national security.

People, especially those living in the hill tracts for years, have identified themselves as indigenous, which is an important part of their self-identity, it added. The attempt to introduce a new identity for them by denying their own identities is very sad, unexpected and inhuman, HRFB said.

## Over half of narcotics

FROM PAGE 3

16,260 people were accused in narcotics cases, of whom 9,268 were acquitted.

Replying of another question about a big number of accused going back to narcotics business again after securing bail, Jamal Uddin said offences related to drug cases are non-bailable under the Narcotics Control Act 2018 and 1990. "Even after this, if the honourable court grants bail to the accused, we have nothing to do."

"Judges have to play an active role. If they analyse facts and exercise their judicial power while granting bail to such accused, it will bring about a positive change," the DG observed.

DNC organised the briefing on the occasion of the 30th founding anniversary, which will be observed tomorrow. DNC started its journey in 1990.

The DG said they were unable to work properly in previous years with limited manpower. Recently, the manpower was increased to 3,360 from 1,706, and the new appointments are expected to be completed within June, he said.

Under the new organogram, prosecutors will also be appointed to deal with narcotics cases to ensure better conviction, according to DNC officials.

Presently, DNC has only 12 prosecutors and 37 assistant prosecutors to cover the judicial magistrate's court and judge's courts in 64 districts. The number of courts is more than 500, officials added.

HOTLINE LAUNCH

DNC will launch a hotline number on January 2, said the DG. The number is -

01908888888.

The prime reason to launch the number is to include everyone in combating narcotics. Anyone can contact DNC officials of 64 districts directly using the hotline, and provide narcotics-related information to them, said the DG.

INITIATING DOPE TESTS

The Narcotics Control Act 2018 came to effect on December 27, 2018. A major addition to the law was introduction of dope tests, said the DG.

Dope tests have been initiated in 2019, and it has been made mandatory for appointment of all government, semi-government and autonomous jobs, he said.

DNC has also taken steps to initiate dope tests in different sectors; as a result, educational institutes have started conducting dope tests for new admissions, said the DG.

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) has already started dope tests for admission to the university in 2019.

REHABILITATION CENTRE

The DNC will also take steps to set up 200-bed rehabilitation centres in seven divisions of the country, to provide better treatment to drug addicts, said the DG.

Presently, rehabilitation centres of the country only apply one or two techniques for treatment of drug addicts, while 82 techniques are applied for treatment around the world, he said. "We have plans to introduce new techniques for treatment of drug addicts in coming years."

## Book on home minister

FROM PAGE 5

has been working tirelessly for the last several years to ensure public security and peace.

"I hope, he will keep up such efforts in the coming days. I wish him success and a long life," added Prof Rafiqul.

Asaduzzaman said the law and order situation will remain stable, even improve further, if they receive sufficient cooperation from all spheres of society.

Responding to the wishes, the minister said the love and respect he received from such renowned personalities made him elated and humbled.

Eminent writer Selina Hossain, Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haq Milon, former caretaker government advisor AR Khan, Home Ministry Senior Secretary Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary, RAB Director General Benazir Ahmed and DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam also spoke at the event.

## Masud Bin Momen

FROM PAGE 3

ambassador to Japan and Italy.

Masud obtained his bachelor's degree in economics from Dhaka University. He holds a master's degree in economics from the same university and another master's in international relations from Tufts University in the United States. He is a career diplomat from BCS batch of 1985.

From 1998 to 2001, he was director-in-charge of the Foreign Ministry's United Nations Wing and Foreign Secretary's Office in Dhaka.

He served as director of poverty alleviation at Saarc Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 2001-04.

After that, he was deputy commissioner at Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India, from 2004-06.

Masud Momen had served as permanent representative to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

## Dispensing safe drinking

FROM PAGE 5

will have to purchase a Tk 200 card (Tk 100 for registration) and use it to get water.

The card is reloadable.

"Our plan is to offer something good to residents on the first day of the New Year," said AKM Fazlullah, managing director of Chattogram Wasa. "We have signed the agreement for five years, which will be extended considering its effectiveness."

The vending machines are connected to Wasa pipeline, he said.

About the quality of Wasa water, Fazlullah said, "We supply water after treating it and the water is supposed to be safe for drinking. But we cannot guarantee that in every area as our pipeline may get damaged [for various reasons] and contaminate water."

"We have also installed purifiers in the machines so that people can get safe drinking water," said the managing director.

Contacted, Ariful Islam, superintendent engineer of Chattogram Wasa, said around 1.5 litres of water can be dispensed from each machine per minute. "The booth will remain open 24 hours. There will also be an operator and people can buy rechargeable cards at the booth," he said.

Manjur Alam, area manager of Drinkwell, Chattogram, said a person can get around 166 litres of water for Tk 100. "A resident can add [minimum] Tk 50 after the initial balance runs out," he said. "For registration, two copies of photographs and a copy of NID card will be needed."

"The entire process of purifying and supplying water from the booth is automated," said Alam. "People will also be able to monitor the amount of water being dispensed and the remaining balance," he said.

## Two held over rape in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested two youths in Narayanganj yesterday on charge of raping an RMG worker.

Sohan Hawlader (21) and Mehedi Hasan (19) were held in Ati Housing area of Siddhirganj, said police.

The victim and the accused are co-workers. Mehedi took her to Sohan's sister's home in the name of discussing her marriage with Sohan, said police. The two raped her when she went there on December 26, said Jaynal Abedin, SI of Siddhirganj Police Station.

The woman filed a case on Monday night, the SI added.

In primary interrogation, the accused confessed to raping her, Jaynal Abedin said.

**Office of the Nilphamari Pourashava**

District: Nilphamari  
[www.nilphamaripourashava.org](http://www.nilphamaripourashava.org)

উন্নয়নের গণকল্প  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. Nil/Pour/Engr./2019/603

**e-Tender Notice No. 02/2019-20**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & opening date & time
401251	UGHP-III-2/AF/NILP/SW M+S N/01/2017	Construction of 01 Nr. Sanitary Landfill (9811.25 sqm), 05 Nos. Public Toilet & 01 Nr. Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) Work in Nilphamari Pourashava under Nilphamari District.	02-01-2020 9:00am	04-02-2020 1:00pm

These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tendering documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 03-02-2020 at 4:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Tarique Reza**  
Executive Engineer  
Nilphamari Pourashava  
District: Nilphamari  
E-mail: [egp\\_xen.nil.pou@gmail.com](mailto:egp_xen.nil.pou@gmail.com)

GD-07

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**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

**Applications are invited for the following positions**

Positions	Minimum Qualifications
<b>Professor of:</b> CSE, EEE, Textile Engineering, Economics and English.	Ph.D/Equivalent Degree with at least two First Class/Division/A-Grade including one First Class/Division/A-Grade either in Bachelor or Master's Degree with 12 years of university teaching experience including 5 years as Associate Professor. At least 15 publications in reputed journals including 7 as Associate Professor.
<b>Associate Professor of:</b> CSE, EEE, Textile Engineering, Civil Engineering, Law and English	Ph.D/Equivalent Degree with at least two First Class/Division/A-Grade including one First Class/Division/A-Grade either in Bachelor or Master's Degree with 07 years of university teaching experience including 3 years as Assistant Professor. At least 5 publications in reputed journals including 3 as Assistant Professor.
<b>Lecturer in:</b> CSE, EEE and Textile Engineering	<b>For CSE, EEE and Textile Engineering :</b> First Class / CGPA of at least 3.5 in both Bachelor with Honours and Master's in the relevant subject and GPA of at least 4 in both the SSC & the HSC Examinations. <b>Candidates with B.Sc. of four -year program in CSE / EEE / Textile Engineering may also apply.</b>

**Note:** \* Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for the next selection process. \* No third class/division/grade at any level will be acceptable.  
\* Name of the position to be written on the envelop.

**Application along with copies of Academic Certificates, Transcripts and two copies of passport size photograph should reach BUBT within January 15, 2020.**

**Registrar**

## No failure

FROM PAGE 3

As per the ARI report, at least 4,076 people were killed and 8,715 injured in 3,513 road crashes in 2018.

Till December 22, 2019, a total of 4,230 people were killed while 7,002 were injured in 3,820 road crashes, according to ARI. The institute prepared the data on the basis of media reports.

The number may increase as many accidents go unreported.

To achieve "target 3.6" of sustainable development goals, the government would have to reduce the number to half of that mentioned in the police report, by 2020.

Yesterday, when a reporter asked Quader whether he has any failure in this regard as he has been at the helm of the ministry for eight years, the minister said, "There is no failure here."

"Go through the WHO report. It shows that the number of road crashes and casualties is declining in our country," said Quader, asking a ministry official to read out the statistics.

Browsing his phone, the official then said Bangladesh's rank was 90 among 192

countries in 2011 while 109 among 172 countries in 2014 and 103 among 183 countries in 2017. He did not give further details.

The Daily Star could not independently verify it.

But when a reporter mentioned that a WHO report published in 2018 said around 25,000 people were killed in road crashes in Bangladesh, Quader said, "This is not true. No, the report did not mention it."

At least 24,954 people were killed in road crashes in the country in 2016, according to a WHO report published in December 2018.

The number is almost 10 times the official number given by police. According to police data, 2,463 people were killed and 2,134 injured in 2,566 road accidents in 2016.

The WHO, in its report released in 2015, said 21,316 were killed in road crashes in 2012. But police report said the number was 2,538.

Quader said they are working to further reduce the number of road accidents.

**ONGC VIDESH LIMITED**

7th Floor, Jolchhobi, Road No.# 92, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212  
Phone. : +880 01610604001/ 01852791322

**NOTICE FOR INVITING RE-TENDER(NIT)**  
(Global Open Tender)

**TENDER No. OVL/BLD/MM/G.H/1413R/2019-20**

Country Manager, ONGC VIDESH LIMITED, hereby invites ICB Tender from eligible bidders under two Bid System for Geohazard survey (Geo Technical + Geo Physical) for Drilling of offshore wells in Bangladesh.

**Period of issue of tender document:** From 02/01/2020 to 11/01/2020.  
**Tender submission closing date/time:** 16/01/2020 at 14.00 Hrs. (BST).  
You may request for issuance of tender document to Country Manager, Bangladesh. The detail tender documents may be seen from ONGC Videsh's website <https://www.ongcvidesh.com/tenders/>

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources  
Power Division  
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)  
IEB Bhaban (10th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka

**Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consultancy Service**

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Power Division.
2. Agency	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA).
3. Procuring entity name	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) represented by Secretary, SREDA.
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5. EOI for selection of	Individual Consultant (Lump- Sum).
6. Title of service	Consultancy Services to Develop Project Documents and related feasibility for (i) Implementing National Action Plan for Clean Cooking (NAPCC) in Bangladesh (2020-30) Project, and (ii) Awareness Raising on Sustainable Energy (ARSE).
7. EOI Ref. No.	Memo No. 27.02.0000.021.16.042.18-390
8. Date	Date: 01/01/2020
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9. Procurement sub method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
10. Budget and source of funds	GoB.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
11. EOI closing date & time	Date: 20 January 2020, Time: 11:00 hrs.
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
12. Brief description of assignment/experience, resources and delivery capacity required/other details	Individual consultant as mentioned in the EOI Document (TOR) posted in SREDA website ( <a href="http://www.sreda.gov.bd">www.sreda.gov.bd</a> ).
13. Other detail (if applicable)	Not applicable.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
14. Name of official inviting EOI	Niaz Rahman.
15. Designation of official inviting EOI	Secretary (Joint Secretary).
16. Address of official inviting EOI	SREDA, IEB Bhaban (10th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
17. Contact details of official inviting EOI	Phone: 02-551103-40, Fax: 02-55110341, Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@sreda.gov.bd">secretary@sreda.gov.bd</a> , <a href="mailto:info@sreda.gov.bd">info@sreda.gov.bd</a>
<b>SPECIAL INSTRUCTION</b>	
18. i) Request for Expression of Interest for abovementioned assignment to be clearly marked on the top of envelop. ii) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any EOI.	

**Niaz Rahman**  
Secretary (Joint Secretary), SREDA  
Tel: 02-55110340

GD-01

## 'Was forced off stage by mayor's men'

### BCL leader Diaz's mother claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mother of Diaz Irfan Chowdhury -- assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), whose body was found in his flat near Chittagong University on November 20, 2016 -- has expressed her anger at Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin.

The Daily Star obtained a video clip of Jaheda Amin Chowdhury, Diaz's mother, expressing her resentment at the mayor yesterday -- present as chief speaker at an event organised by Chattogram city unit of Krishak League to administer oath against terrorism and drugs at Chattogram Press Club.

Eye witnesses said Jaheda, women's affairs secretary of Chattogram city unit of Krishak League, started crying when she saw Nasir entering the venue. She demanded punishment for her son's murderers. At one stage, followers of Nasir stopped her and escorted her to a corner of the auditorium, they said.

Leaving the auditorium, Jaheda said she forbade her son from following Nasir's leadership, as "he does not tolerate followers who have ambitions".

"My son did not heed my words... Youngsters do not understand... If they go missing like Diaz, he [Nasir] would

not speak for them," she said in the one-minute-long video clip.

Contacted, Jaheda said when she was speaking at the meeting, the mayor reached the auditorium. "I told the mayor: my son was his follower but he was not vocal in demanding punishment for the murderers. I asked him why false postmortem report was given under his guidance. At this time, Nasir's followers made me leave the stage. I went outside; the mayor's PS and another person asked me to go home, otherwise there will be consequences," she said.

Contacted, Raihan Uddin, Nasir's personal secretary, denied the allegation. "Diaz's mother became overwrought with emotion and demanded that the mayor ensure punishment of her son's murderers. No one made her leave the auditorium and no one gave her threats," he said.

Contacted, Kazi Anwar Hafiz, general secretary of Krishak League's port city unit, denied the allegation of escorting Diaz's mother outside. "Jaheda Amin is a leader of our organisation. She was overcome with emotions about her son's death but stayed till the end of the programme," he said, adding, "No untoward incident happened at the meeting."

Mayor Nasir could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

# Dispensing drinking water at affordable rate

## Wasa to launch card-operated vending machines in Ctg today

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Good news for port city residents!

To provide drinking water at a low price, Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is launching a water ATM in port city today.

People can buy drinking water at Tk 0.60 per litre through the service -- much cheaper than bottled water, sold at Tk 15-20 per litre (bottle) at stores.

Hailing the initiative, city dwellers said this service would help them get much-needed drinking water at a cheaper rate.

"I often buy water from shops and a litre costs around Tk 20. This automated water vending machine service would be a nice way to start the New Year," said Sajib Das, a private job holder in Khulshi area.

Shahedul Azam, a resident of Patenga, said Wasa did not supply water in his area. "There is a problem of salinity and iron in the tubewell water and so we have to buy jar water for drinking, which costs Tk 5 per litre," he said. "If water ATM is set up in Patenga, we will be able to get safe and affordable water."

Wasa officials said initially the service will start from Khulshi Road 1 and it will be expanded to three more spots -- Halishahar Nayabazar,



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Agarabad Badamtoli and Sadarghat Saheb Bazar -- within a month. The number of booths will be increased to 100 by this year.

To this end, Chattogram Wasa signed an agreement with a US-based company "Drinkwell". The company has set up a Water

ATM at Khulshi Road 1 inside a Wasa pump station.

Visiting the area yesterday, it was seen that the booth had two outlets, where two persons can avail the service simultaneously. A consumer

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH NASIR



The last sunset of 2019 over Tanguar Haor in Sylhet yesterday. Today's sunrise marks the beginning of a new decade.

## TEJGAON BUSINESSMAN MURDER

### Accused refuses to record statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An accused, who was arrested for killing Tejgaon businessman Tobarak Hossain, refused to give confessional statement after he was produced before a magistrate yesterday.

Investigation officer Syed Iftekar Hossain, an inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of Police, produced Sohail Pradhan at around 2pm at the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim for recording his statement.

But Sohail refused to give statement before the magistrate. Following the incident, he was sent to Keraniganj Central Jail, court sources said.

In yesterday's forwarding report, the investigation officer said Sohail, while on remand, admitted his guilt and said he would confess to the killing.

On December 29, two accused -- Imon Hossain and Golam Rabbi -- gave confessional statements to two separate magistrates, where they said they along with others killed Tobarak to loot valuables.

Seventy-year-old businessman Tobarak Hossain was killed in his Tejgaon flat on December 25.

Five accused in the case were arrested on Saturday.

## Dhanmondi Club AGM held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 20th annual general meeting (AGM) of Dhanmondi Club Ltd was held on December 28 on its premises.

It was presided over by Club President Advocate Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, says a press release. A large number of club members attended the AGM.

All agenda were discussed and unanimously passed during the event. Club authorities thanked members for their participation in the AGM.

## WORKPLACE CASUALTIES

### 11,275 workers died in the last decade: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of casualties in workplaces increased in 2019 in comparison to the previous year, mainly due to lack of safety in the workplace, said a report.

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) launched the report in a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

In the last 10 years, at least 11,275 workers were killed and 7,832 were injured in workplace accidents, says the report.

At least 945 workers were killed across the country in 2019 while the number was 898 in 2018, it says. In the year, 269 workers were killed in the formal sector while 676 others in informal sector. Of the deceased, 294 died in transport sector.

Road crashes, lack of safety, electrocution, fire, lightning, and boiler and cylinder explosions were reasons for deaths, said vice chairperson of the foundation, Dr SM Morshed. The report was based on news reports and information gathered from the spots, he added.

## Miscreants attack leftists' rally

### Activists allege AL involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of helmet wearing miscreants, allegedly led by Awami League men, attacked a rally organised by Pragatishil Bal Oikya Jote in Sylhet city's Bandarbarazar area yesterday afternoon.

The rally was organised to protest the clash between police and activists of Democratic Left Alliance in the capital on Monday.

In yesterday's attack, at least 12 activists of different leftist political parties were injured.

Pranab Jyoti Paul, a leader of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) in Sylhet, said, "While we were in the area, a group of 40-50 people, led by local AL leader Faruk Ahmed, attacked us with bamboo and wood sticks.

"In protest, we ran after them and they took shelter at Bandarbarazar police outpost," he added.

Selim Miah, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said, "We have heard of a clash in the area but we did not find any miscreant on the spot and no complaint was filed yet."

Mashuk Uddin, president of AL's Sylhet city unit, denied the allegations, saying that Faruk Ahmed is not officially affiliated with AL, so the party will not take any responsibility.

Faruk could not be reached for comments.

## Book on home minister launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent personalities and top government officials yesterday showered Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal with love, respect and good wishes on his 69th birthday.

A book titled "Nandito Shorastromontri Bir Muktijoddha Asaduzzaman Khan" was also launched at a ceremony, held at AKM Giasuddin Milky Auditorium in the capital, to mark the occasion.

The book is a collection of essays, written by distinguished personalities, on the minister. It has been published by Panjeree Publications Ltd.

Speaking at the event, National Professor Rafiqul Islam said Asaduzzaman, who is a freedom fighter,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## College student dies in road accident

STAR REPORT

A college student was killed in a road accident at Gopalpur upazila in Tangail yesterday.

The deceased Nirob Hasan (22) was a first year honors student at local Sujat Ali College, reports our Tangail correspondent.

The accident occurred on Monday evening when Nirob was on his way to Sirajganj by motorcycle. Around Sonamui Bazar area, his motorcycle collided with a three-wheeler, leaving him seriously injured, police said.

He was rushed to Tangail General

Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries in the early hours of yesterday.

In Rajbari, Golam Khan, a construction worker, was killed in a road accident on Rajbari-Baliakandi road at Natun bazar area under Sadar upazila yesterday morning, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

Quoting locals, Sawpan Kumar Majumdar, officer-in-charge of Rajbari Sadar Police Station, said the accident took place around 9am when a sand-laden truck crushed Golam's bicycle, killing him on the spot.

Police later seized the truck but the driver managed to flee the scene.



আর এফ এল

## Let's begin something old

Give a new meaning to the relationships that matter

Can you recall the face of that friend to whom you would give the books and bunk school? Do you remember that aunt, who would keep khichuri and chicken warm on table for you all? Why do we need to go that far? When was the last you opened up to your sister? When was the last you told your mother something you never thought you would tell her?

Time is changing. So are the way we express, feel for someone and the relationships we care. Sometimes our love and affection have been confined to Facebook likes, Instagram follows, and text messages. It is now considered a luxury to go and sit next to someone. It is a super luxury if we open up to someone and talk to our hearts content.

Let this new year be an exception. Let's not be trapped by technology but use it as a tool to express yourself. Be more human and experience the joy of human touch, feel and care. To be happy be in touch with the loved ones and not the screen.

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# Happy 20/20



MILIA ALI

I am sitting at my desk, with a hot cup of tea, peering out at the foggy winter morning enveloping the placid Gulshan Lake. As I reminisce about the events of the past year, I am overwhelmed by the deep realisation that soon the curtain will come down on 2019. The reflective mood, tinted with nostalgia, is engendered by thoughts about the hopes and expectations for 2020. It's a momentous year, as it marks the beginning of a whole new decade.

2019 has been a mixed bag, both domestically and at the global level. Bangladesh accelerated its upward trajectory of economic growth outshining the performance of all other South Asian countries. Poverty levels have declined, but social equity still dodges us. Talking about social equity, my thoughts immediately revert to the man who strived to change the lives of the nation's disempowered and disadvantaged. On December 22, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, more fondly known as Abed Bhai, the founder and mentor of the largest NGO, BRAC, passed away, leaving the country bereft of an elder statesman, social reformer, and above all a strong voice for the poor and underprivileged. Abed Bhai's work at BRAC resonated with global leaders, development practitioners, and social activists. He not only transformed the lives of millions of Bangladeshi women and children, but also put Bangladesh on the world's socio-economic map. Abed Bhai, you will be missed, especially now when the world needs agents of social change.

Analysing the past is easier than predicting the future, even for the most prescient. However, if recent events are predictors of future trends, the portents for 2020 seem disturbing, to say the least. 2019 has been, as one scholar described it, the year of "democratic recession". In the US, President Trump continued to shock us with his unconstitutional acts. His blatant abuse of power compelled Congress to impeach him in December. People around the world may consider Donald Trump's impeachment as a US domestic issue. But this is certainly not the case if one looks at his errant behaviour with a wider lens. His monarchical actions and total disregard for democratic norms have encouraged leaders in several countries to trample on the Constitution, attack the judiciary, and railroad discriminatory legislation. Close to home, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi passed an unprecedented Citizenship Amendment Bill that provides a path to Indian citizenship to all minorities fleeing persecution, except Muslims. His ruling party also set up a National Citizenship Register that seems to specifically disenfranchise the Muslim minority. Prime Minister Orban of Hungary went against the judicial system to pass drastic laws to weaken opposition after their success at the local level. China has interned three million Uyghur Muslims in concentration camps, claiming that the action is, in effect, a "re-education programme". Myanmar's Ang San Su Kyi, the "Nobel Peace Prize" winner, staunchly defended her government's mass killing, torture and rape against a Muslim minority group, the Rohingya, who were forced to flee to Bangladesh. All these transgressions were undertaken with impunity. At least that is what seems to be the case.

The question for us looking forward into 2020 is: Will there be an open resistance to thwart these political excesses? The trends do not bode well, but there has been some ray of hope in the form of protests against the ruling elite and the prevailing status quo by ordinary people. What is encouraging is that these have been spearheaded by students and young people, and not by political parties. Also, they centre on issues that affect the common folk. This means that there is an increased

disobedience movements in Chile, Beirut, Sudan and Algeria have a common thread—the young are raising their voices to counter corruption and unfairness of the ruling class. Hong Kong is again an example of mass protests resisting China's attempt to curb its autonomy. A reason why youth has become more active in bringing about change is because technology has enabled information sharing and it is easier to mobilise opposition. The widespread

participate in politics, especially at the grassroots level. They now make up a good chunk of elected lawmakers and members of parliament the world over. This has translated in more awareness and positive actions to fight discrimination and sexual assault, and demand equal rights for women. When I look at these developments my spirits are buoyed, for they have transcended the boundaries of nation, race and class to champion a common cause for the benefit of the majority.

Despite the general despondency, the outlook for the future may not be that grim. Quoting Steven Pinker's book, *Enlightenment Now*, Bill Gates points out that the global average IQ score of children is rising by about 3 IQ points every decade, probably due to improved nutrition and greater exposure. Gates also writes: "Our world today encourages abstract thought from a young age, and it's making us smarter." If this is true, we have reason to be optimistic—after all these smart kids, with high IQs will be positioned to bring about increased sharing of ideas, tolerance and innovative thinking.

On a personal note, I have decided to look at the glass half full. With time, I have realised that most external problems aren't really a big deal. The only thing that matters is inner peace, which is mostly determined by successful relationships and a sense of contentment. Recently, I heard someone say that the three most important words for achieving a state of equilibrium are: "Let it go". For, when we let things go, we begin to look at our world with a different perspective. And, we realise that "with all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world".

Happy New Year!!  
Milia Ali is a Rabindra Sangeet exponent and a former employee of the World Bank.



awareness among the youth about problems that negatively impact the future of their world and not that of special interest groups. It is encouraging to note that these actions are global and devoid of political, ethnic, or racial overtones. In India, for example, the mass movement against the unconstitutional citizenship bill is led by students, intelligentsia and local communities. The recent civil

and instant interchange of ideas has also made today's young people more tolerant, and knowledgeable about the changes needed for the welfare of the masses. For example, 16-year-old activist, Greta Thunberg, spearheaded the world youth climate movement and issued a stern rebuke to world leaders about its threat to our future. Again, the #MeToo movement has acted as a catalyst for many young women to

## The United States and the world: Troubled present, uncertain future



ASHFAQ SWAPAN

CHRONOLOGICAL markers, like the end of a year, are an arbitrary human contrivance, but it's a useful occasion to take stock. 2019's end has also brought the end

of a decade, so perhaps one can take a longer view. For the United States, the year gone by has caused concern both within and outside. The year 2019 ended with its president being impeached only for the third time in its two-century-long history. The broader context is even more alarming—the nation is bitterly divided and hyperpolarised. Outside the US, the United Kingdom, which has just voted for a party to get it out of the European Union, also remains bitterly divided. Unrest and unhappiness manifested all over the world in loud public protests. All over Latin America, the *Latinoamericano Primavera* (Latin American Spring) saw massive public protests in a slew of nations against horrendous inequality, draconian austerity and corrupt political machines. Democratic activists in Hong Kong fought pitched battles with brutal police; citizens turned out *en masse* in Indian cities to protest a draconian citizenship law. In Europe—and beyond—one response to socio-economic distress has been the rise of populist, ultranationalist parties. From Turkey to Hungary, hypernationalist machismo reigns—with a chilling disdain for such political niceties

as freedom of public discourse, independence of the judiciary, press or academia. Does the US have its act together to forge forward with a path that is mutually beneficial for itself and the rest of the world? The question may raise the hackles of some readers. Why should the US, a nation with a notoriously insular public, call the shots in global politics? Its past history is peppered with dark, unconscionable involvements. (Guatemala 1954, Indonesia 1964, Vietnam 1955-1975—to pick just a few random examples.) Well, that's just the way the world is. Like it or not, the US is the 800-pound gorilla in global affairs. Take the recent nuclear accord with Iran. The US decision to torpedo it has crippled the accord, despite the support of all other parties. Following the Second World War, the US, the economic powerhouse of the world, became a predominant player in global geopolitics. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, launched following the Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire in 1944, and the United Nations, founded after a meeting in San Francisco in 1945, established US preeminence. If there is a lesson to be learned from history, it is that effective global policymaking requires a commitment to multilateralism. All international accords are the fruit of patient,

painstaking negotiations conducted with a give-and-take attitude. No party gets all it wants, a painful price is often paid by the parties, yet all is done for a greater good. Former President Barack Obama's successful multilateral nuclear accord with Iran is a case in point. Both Iran and the US swallowed some bitter pills, yet the final accord was widely hailed as a landmark achievement towards peace. The advent of Donald J Trump has upset the apple cart. Like a bull in a china shop, the US president has given diplomacy and multilateralism short shift. One of his more egregious policy decisions was to unilaterally walk out of the accord with Iran, essentially telling the whole world that the US could no longer be trusted to keep its word. Everybody, including the US, agreed that Iran was compliant with the accord. Trump left Kurdish allies to the tender mercies of Turkey in Syria, got the US into a dangerous trade war with China and egged on Britain to leave the EU. But bluster and threats, Trump and his ilk will discover, only go so far. Contrast the current wrangling with China over trade with the historic commitment the US and China made in 2016 to abide by the Paris climate agreement. The present Trump administration's tone reeks of jingoism and arrogance. Its penchant to cozy up with autocrats like Russia's Vladimir Putin, North Korea's Kim Il-Jong and Saudi Arabia's Muhammad bin Salman doesn't help. Then there is a key problem of policy. An underlying common thread runs through the diversity of protests all over the world. Globalisation, it turns out, is not all it's cracked out to be. The protests are a *cri de coeur* from the masses it has left behind. There is little sign the Trump administration has the slightest

sensitivity to this. In fact, its actions suggest the very opposite. It's massive tax cuts to the super-rich left a huge hole in the US budget, its close aides include lobbyists, investment bankers and CEOs. Its attitude to climate change brings into sharp relief how far removed the US is from the global mood. While the world watches with alarm the looming environmental catastrophe, Trump has left the Paris accord, fighting and/or undermining all US environmental laws, and going after states like California which attempt to set higher standards. Given this grim reality, the appearance of an effective, positive US leadership in global affairs in the immediate future has a snowball's chance in hell. A change of guard in 2020 might make a difference, but that's far down the road. So here we are then—the US saddled with a jingoistic, science-denying leader prone to issue a rude juvenile tweet at the slightest provocation when global diplomacy needs tact, finesse and sensitivity. In the meantime, nation after nation in the world is roiled by a public fed up with the gross inequality and corruption in their countries. Amidst this toxic ferment, a slew of silver-tongued demagogues is rising, holding supporters in thrall with a potent brew of xenophobia and intolerance for dissent. Lord knows it's not a very pretty picture. The only hope, such as it is, that I draw, is from former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban's exasperated, resigned observation: "Men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives."



PHOTO: REUTERS/DAVID BECKER/FILES

The advent of Donald J Trump has upset the apple cart. Like a bull in a china shop, the US president has given diplomacy and multilateralism short shift.

Ashfaq Swapan is a contributing editor for *Silliconeer*, a digital daily for South Asians in the United States.

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**TS ELIOT**  
(1888-1965)  
American-English poet, playwright, literary critic, and editor.

*For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Yule display
- 7 High cards
- 11 Bank worker
- 12 Brussels-based org.
- 13 Game quest
- 14 Use incisors
- 15 Felt
- 17 Deep cut
- 20 Bonnie's partner
- 23 Burma's first prime minister
- 24 Humiliating failures
- 26 Major lang.
- 27 Lamb's father
- 28 Braying beast
- 29 "— greetings"
- 31 Social page word
- 32 Maryland players, for short
- 33 Hardy heroine

**DOWN**

- 1 Pennies: Abbr.
- 2 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 3 North Pole worker
- 4 Conflict
- 5 On this spot
- 6 The Emerald Isle
- 7 Heralds in a carol
- 8 Christmas treat
- 9 Seventh Greek letter
- 10 Boar's mate
- 16 Cons
- 17 Party attendee
- 18 Year, in France
- 19 Christmas treat
- 21 Rx amounts
- 22 Road curves
- 24 Winter window coating
- 25 McKellen of "X-Men"
- 30 Fruitcake ingredients
- 33 Nasal sound
- 35 Identical
- 36 Wildly eager
- 37 Sched. placeholder
- 38 Everyone
- 40 Malleable metal
- 41 Earth-friendly prefix
- 42 Slump

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

CARDS TUBAS  
ALEUT INUSE  
SILENT NIGHT  
STY INSSYS  
OCTET  
CRANK LORDS  
AIRS GOOP  
ROMEO SANTA  
TREES  
ASK AVA AGO  
JINGLE BELLS  
ARIEL ELVES  
RETRY DIANA

**BEETLE BAILEY** by Mort Walker

**BABY BLUES** by Kirkman & Scott

NEWS IN  
briefTyphoon toll in  
Philippines hits 50

AFP, Manila

The number of people killed by a powerful storm that pummeled the central Philippines over Christmas has risen to 50, authorities said yesterday, making it the nation's deadliest storm of 2019. Typhoon Phanfone's destructive winds and heavy rains brought down flimsy homes and destroyed commercial buildings mainly in the central island of Visayas, affecting more than two million people. At least 80,000 remain in emergency shelters and might have to stay until the New Year, given the scale of destruction.

Al-Shabaab claim  
Mogadishu blast

AFP, Mogadishu

Al-Shabaab Islamist militants have claimed responsibility for Saturday's massive car bomb in the Somali capital Mogadishu that killed 81 people, including two Turkish citizens. The attack hit a busy checkpoint in the southwest of the city, leaving vehicles charred and twisted at a crossroads in the deadliest assault in two years in the Horn of Africa country. Scores more were wounded in an area clogged with traffic.

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AFP, Mogadishu

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Hashd al-Shaabi (paramilitary forces) fighters set fire on the US Embassy wall to condemn air strikes on their bases, in Baghdad, Iraq yesterday. Inset, a protester holds a rock to break a glass window of a security guard building of the US Embassy.

## Trump blames Iran

Expects Iraq to use its forces as protesters scale walls of embassy in Baghdad after airstrikes kill 25 pro-Iran militias

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday blamed Iran for "orchestrating" an attack on the US embassy in Baghdad and said he will hold Tehran responsible.

"Iran killed an American contractor, wounding many. We strongly responded, and always will. Now Iran is orchestrating an attack on the US Embassy in Iraq. They will be held fully responsible. In addition, we expect Iraq to use its forces to protect the Embassy, and so notified," Trump said in a Twitter post.

"We expect Iraq to use its forces to protect the Embassy, and so notified!" he tweeted.

Iraqi supporters of pro-Iran factions attacked the embassy early yesterday, breaching its outer wall and chanting "Death to America" in anger over weekend air strikes that killed two dozen fighters.

It was the first time in years that protesters have been able to reach the US embassy, which is sheltered

behind a series of checkpoints in the high-security Green Zone. The embassy guards fired tear gas and stun grenades, Reuters witnesses said. The ambassador and other staff were evacuated.

The demonstrators were protesting

## ATTACK ON US EMBASSY

Ambassador and other staff were evacuated

The embassy guards fired tear gas and stun grenades



against US air strikes that killed at least 25 fighters from a hardline Hashed faction known as Kataeb Hezbollah (Hezbollah Brigades) on Sunday.

Those strikes were in response to a 36-rocket attack last week that killed one American contractor at an Iraqi base, the latest in a string of attacks on

areas where US troops are deployed.

They have not been claimed, but US security assessments have largely blamed them on Kataeb Hezbollah.

Caretaker prime minister Adel Abdel Mahdi said that the crowds that had stormed the US embassy should leave the compound "immediately." "We recall that any aggression or harassment of foreign embassies will be firmly prohibited by the security forces," Abdel Mahdi's office said several hours after the attack began.

Relations between Washington and Tehran have deteriorated since the US in 2018 pulled out of the landmark Iran nuclear deal.

Trump has since imposed sweeping sanctions aimed at curbing the clerical regime's regional influence.

Iraq had long feared being caught in the middle of escalating tensions between the two countries, which are its main allies, reports AFP.

Protesters yesterday carried posters reading: "Parliament should oust US troops, or else we will."

## AGITATIONS OVER CAA, NRC IN INDIA

Protest parties to  
welcome 2020

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Thousands of Indians are ringing in the new year by holding protests against a citizenship law, despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attempts to dampen demonstrations that have run for nearly three weeks.

India has been rocked by the protests since December 11, when the government passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), easing the way for non-Muslim minorities from the neighbouring Muslim-majority nations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan to gain Indian citizenship.

Combined with opposition to a proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), many Indians fear the move will discriminate against the minority Muslim community and chip away at the country's secular constitution.

Protesters plan at least three demonstrations in New Delhi, the capital. Poetry recitals and speeches are planned by organisers at a protest outside New Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia university, which was stormed by police this month.

Student and civil society groups, opposition parties and others also plan events on New Year's Day to mark their opposition to the law. At some meetings, mass pledges to defend the constitution and hunger strikes are planned.

Similar "protest parties" are being organised at designated sites in other major Indian cities.

In the southern city of Hyderabad, at least two small groups of demonstrators have been organising flash protests, to skirt police restrictions on larger gatherings. Street-side poetry recitals, stand-up comedy, and music performances are also planned in the financial capital of Mumbai and the eastern city of Kolkata.

## DENUCLEARIZATION OF KOREAN PENINSULA

Kim mulling 'new path'  
as US misses deadline

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was set to make a closely watched New Year address yesterday which is likely to offer a glimpse of a "new path" he has vowed to take if the United States fails to meet his deadline to soften its stance over denuclearisation.

The New Year address is expected to touch upon a wide range of issues from foreign affairs and military development to the economy and education.

In his 2019 speech, Kim said he might have to change course if Washington sticks to its pressure campaign and demands unilateral action, while stressing a "self-reliant" economy, a drive he has launched amid tightening sanctions.

The United States was on track to ignore a year-end deadline set by Kim, which Washington has downplayed as artificial, to show more flexibility to reopen talks aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear and

missile programmes.

The upcoming speech is expected to be the culmination of an ongoing meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's 7th Central Committee, a key policy-making body, which Kim convened on Saturday. It was still under way on Tuesday, state media said.

North Korea has provided few hints for what the "new path" may involve, but US military commanders said Pyongyang next move could include the testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which it has halted since 2017, alongside nuclear bomb tests.

US national security adviser Robert O'Brien warned Washington would be "extraordinarily disappointed" if North Korea tests a long-range or nuclear missile, while Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped it would choose peace over confrontation.

The US Air Force flew an RC-135 surveillance plane over South Korea on Monday and yesterday.

Taiwan passes  
law to combat  
China influence

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan's parliament passed an anti-infiltration law yesterday to combat perceived threats from China as the island gears up for a presidential vote on Jan 11.

The legislation is part of a years-long effort to combat what many in Taiwan see as Chinese efforts to influence politics and the democratic process, through illicit funding of politicians and the media and other methods.

The move further strains ties between Taiwan and Beijing, which suspects Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen of pushing for the island's formal independence.

Lawmakers of Tsai's DPP backed the bill. Lawmakers of the main opposition Kuomintang, which favours close ties with China, did not participate in the vote.



This picture taken and released yesterday shows a helicopter fighting a bushfire near Bairnsdale in Victoria's East Gippsland region.

PHOTO: AFP

## Fires encircle Aussie towns

Thousands of holidaymakers, locals forced to flee to beaches

AFP, Sydney

Thousands of holidaymakers and locals were bedding down at beaches in fire-ravaged southeast Australia on New Year's Eve after fleeing deadly blazes that ripped through popular tourist areas and cut off several towns.

In seaside communities along a 200-kilometre (135-mile) strip of coast, terrified crowds -- wrapped in blankets and wearing make-shift facemasks -- sought refuge from the inferno near the water.

Some with boats earlier took to the sea in near-darkness, hoping to find safety, as one of the worst days yet in Australia's months-long bushfire crisis prompted a military deployment to help relief efforts.

Three people have died, five more are unaccounted for, and scores of properties were feared destroyed after a brutal 24 hours in which flames reached well-populated towns like Batemans Bay, normally bursting with visitors during Australia's summer holidays.

"We've got literally hundreds, thousands of people up and down the coast, taking refuge on the beaches" and in surf clubs, said Shane Fitzsimmons, commissioner of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service.



"In the majority of these cases, we're being told that people will be sleeping over at these clubs," Surf Life Saving Australia's Steven Pearce told ABC.

"We'll have instances of 500 people or more trying to sleep in and around our surf clubs."

Around 4,000 people were trapped on the foreshore in the town of Mallacoota, where towering columns of smoke turned the sky pitch black and nearby fires caused waves of "ember attacks".

Russia, Ukraine finalise  
Europe gas transit deal

AFP, Kiev

Moscow and Kiev on Monday signed a five-year agreement on the transit of Russian gas to Europe via Ukraine, finalising months of difficult talks just ahead of a New Year deadline.

The current deal between the two ex-Soviet countries expires Tuesday and ties between them have been shredded since Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014 and supported a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

Presidents Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky discussed the deal by phone and congratulated each other ahead of New Year's celebrations, a sign that their relations could be on the mend.

The gas deal "creates a positive atmosphere for solving other bilateral problems," the Kremlin said in a statement.

About 18 percent of the European Union's annual natural gas consumption comes from Russia via Ukraine, which put pressure on EU officials to help broker the deal.

The agreement should prevent a repeat of so-called gas wars that previously disrupted supplies and in some years caused real energy problems in EU member states.

EU Commission vice president in charge of energy Maros Sefcovic called the deal "great news for Europe's energy security" on Twitter, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel thanked Russia and Ukraine.

SMS service to resume in  
Kashmir after 5 months

India has decided to restore mobile messaging services in Kashmir from New Year, nearly five months since its suspension. Broadband internet services will also be allowed in hospitals across the union territory from the New Year, although curbs on civilian use may remain. The curbs on internet and mobile messaging services were part of the communications clampdown imposed on Jammu and Kashmir after the scrapping of its special status under Article 370 on August 5. The authorities said it was done to ensure that "trouble-makers" do not succeed in mobilising the people against the administration. The decision to ease restrictions in Kashmir were announced by Rohit Kansal, official spokesman of the union territory administration, at a press conference yesterday.

Pak media mogul rejects  
rape accusations

The chief executive of one of Pakistan's most influential newspapers has denied accusations he raped an acclaimed filmmaker, in a case that has spotlighted sexual abuse targeting men and added momentum to the country's fledgling #MeToo movement. Director Jamshed Mahmood Raza took to social media over the weekend to allege that Dawn newspaper's Hameed Haroon raped him 13 years ago. Haroon -- who hails from one of Pakistan's most influential families -- issued a fierce denial in Dawn, the country's most popular English daily, late Monday, calling the accusations "simply untrue and intentionally fabricated".

Prince William unveils prize  
for climate innovation

Prince William yesterday announced what was described as "the most prestigious environment prize in history" to encourage new solutions to tackling climate change. The Earthshot Prize will be awarded to five people every year over the next decade, and aims to provide at least 50 answers to some of the greatest problems facing the planet by 2030. They include promoting new ways of addressing climate change and issues surrounding energy, nature and biodiversity, the oceans, air pollution and fresh water. The prize promises "a significant financial award", a statement said. SOURCE: AFP

WHAT'S ON

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: His Dream World  
 Venue: Shilpagan, Dhanmondi  
 Date: December 27 – January 11  
 Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

**Workshop**  
 Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo  
 Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur  
 Date: January 25, 2020  
 Time: 11 am – 6 pm

**Cultural Festival**  
 Title: Bangladesh Shanskritik Utshab 2020  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: January 2- 23, 2020  
 Time: 4 pm - 8 pm

**Musical Evening**  
 Title: Plugged Out IV - One Night Stand  
 Venue: Counter Culture Club, Dhanmondi  
 Date: January 31, 2020  
 Time: 5 pm onwards  
 Tickets: BDT 300

**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)



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# From Prematal to No Land's Man

## Tahsan reflects on his journey

**ELITA KARIM**

It is not every day that one is invited to Tahsan Khan's home, even if it is for an interview. It was a cold night, and as the hours were slowly ticking by, one could hear someone covering *Prematal* from the outside, a hit number originally performed by Tahsan himself. "Must be a *gaaye holud* in the next building!" exclaimed Tahsan. Sure enough, the otherwise silent street was adorned with, not one, but three buildings with lights and decors, with blaring live covers by the glittery *holud* bands.

"I have realised that when you are starting out in life, you always go out of your way to prove yourself," pondered Tahsan. "Twelve to fifteen years ago, I was busy proving to the world that I could write hit numbers. Eight to ten years ago, I was busy proving my acting abilities."

In the early 2000s, not only had Tahsan Khan set out to become a famous singer, but had also gradually created a place for himself in the television insuaret. Over the years, he evolved as an icon, where music and tele-fictions were concerned. Some of the TV fictions that he is still remembered for are *Neel Pori Nilanjana* by Shihab Shahin and *Landphoner Dingulote Prem* by Ashfaque Nipun, among many others. Today, he is one of the most sought after artistes for his talents as an actor, a singer and a musician.

"I spend my time now thinking about the people and organisations who have, in one way or another, helped me reach this point of success in my life," says Tahsan. "That is what my recent social media post was all about. The year 2019 has gifted me

with so many positive activities. I tried to highlight some of them, if not all. From adventure filled corporate endorsements at exotic locations to cause related campaigns on bullying, from taking a walk down the memory lane with the original Black members at *The Daily Star* office for an interview to making memories with my daughter, from performing at different parts of the world to shooting my first English feature film - this past year was amazing, thanks to my family, friends, fans, big brands



**Tahsan with Nawazuddin Siddiqui.**

I work with and fellow journalists like you." With the help of UNHCR, Tahsan had also visited the Rohingya camps in 2019, where he tried to learn and understand the conditions of an entire community who are now living as refugees in Ukhia.

Tahsan was the highest tax paying artiste in the country in 2019. "Gone are the days

when opting for a music or film career was considered taboo," he says. "Today, you have ways and pathways to do what you love to do and make a decent living as well. When I pay tax, it helps the country, in turn, helping me and others like me. Yes, it is a slow process, but the wheels have begun to roll. I dream to see a Bangladesh where artistes will be able to fend for themselves in times of crisis and I believe this dream will soon be true!"

2019 has also been special for Tahsan because of *No Land's Man*. The upcoming film, written and directed by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, deals with identity, spanning over three continents. Starring critically awarded actor and one of the top actors in the world -- Nawazuddin Siddiqui from India, the film also features Tahsan. "Thankfully, all my scenes are with Nawazuddin, which is why we got an opportunity to bond closely," said Tahsan. "Nawazuddin Siddiqui is a very humble person. I believe that because he is grounded, he is still able to soar higher, with regards to his acting career." The English film is currently under production.

There is a saying which basically talks about how the sky should not be the limit and one can go beyond the limits if one worked hard enough and if one wanted to. A musician, actor, father and a teacher, Tahsan Khan, however, simply wants to relax and take one day at a time and do anything and everything that makes him happy. "I am also planning to write a poetry book," he says. "Composing and writing lines and poetry came to me organically and I am focusing a lot on humane feelings like empathy. I want to the book at the *Boi Mela* of 2021."

# CRACK International Art Camp 2019 concludes

The 13th edition of the CRACK International Art Camp (CIAC) 2019 concluded on December 30 through an open exhibition. The week-long creative journey started in Smaran Matshya Beej Khamar in Kushtia, Bangladesh on December 25. Around 20 artists from 4 countries joined this international art camp. Artist and curator Professor Suresh K. Nair from India curated this edition of CIAC. Participating countries are Japan, India, Russia and Bangladesh.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

The participating artists are Ashis Rathore (India), Balagopalan Bethur (India), Jewel Chakma (Bangladesh), Joya Barua (Bangladesh), Lavrenty Repin (Russia), Muntasub Rahman (Bangladesh), Md. Sameen Yeasaar (Bangladesh), Nazmul Hossen Nayon (Bangladesh), Poly Layla (Bangladesh), Reiko Shimizu (Japan), S. M. Reyad (Bangladesh), Sadia Sharmin (Bangladesh), Semina Israt (Bangladesh), Sutapa Borman (Bangladesh), Subhash Kumar Maskara (India), Shirin Shaikh (India), Shakti Noman (Bangladesh), Tamiko Takahsai (Bangladesh) and Urmila Banu (India).

The participating artists utilised local materials and surrounding environment in their projects. They worked with this year's art camp theme, *Roots*, in their site-specific and conceptual artworks. Art lovers and local community people joined the artists on the open day to see the artworks and meet them at the camp site in Kushtia.



PHOTO: COURTESY

# IN LOVING MEMORY

We have lost many legendary luminaries this year who have contributed generously to art, music, film, literature, photography, dance, and many other genres. We hope they rest in peace.

 <b>IFTEKHARUL ALAM</b> (JANUARY 5)	 <b>TANVIR HASAN SUMON</b> (JANUARY 18)	 <b>AHMED IMTIAZ BULBUL</b> (JANUARY 22)	 <b>SHAHNAZ RAHMATULLAH</b> (MARCH 23)	 <b>AHMED KAISER</b> (APRIL 1)
 <b>TELE SAMAD</b> (APRIL 6)	 <b>SALEH AHMED</b> (APRIL 24)	 <b>ANISUR RAHMAN ANIS</b> (APRIL 29)	 <b>SUBIR NANDI</b> (MAY 7)	 <b>MAYA GHOSH</b> (MAY 19)
 <b>KHALID HOSSAIN</b> (MAY 22)	 <b>MOMTAZUDDIN AHMED</b> (JUNE 2)	 <b>RIZIA RAHMAN</b> (AUGUST 16)	 <b>KHALILUR RAHMAN BABOR</b> (AUGUST 26)	 <b>KALIDAS KARMAKAR</b> (OCTOBER 18)
 <b>PARVEZ ROB</b> (SEPTEMBER 5)	 <b>HUMAYUN KABIR SADHU</b> (OCTOBER 25)	 <b>KALA AZIZ</b> (NOVEMBER 23)	 <b>MOBARAK HOSSAIN KHAN</b> (NOVEMBER 24)	 <b>MAHFUZUR RAHMAN KHAN</b> (DECEMBER 6)
 <b>PRITHWI RAJ</b> (DECEMBER 15)	 <b>BASUDEB GHOSE</b> (DECEMBER 29)			

## Thatcher granted Aquino asylum request: archives

AFP, London

British prime minister Margaret Thatcher granted Corazon Aquino's request for asylum at the height of the uprising that swept her to power in the Philippines, according to newly declassified files released yesterday.

Aquino headed the four-day 1986 People Power Revolution that ended the 21-year rule of totalitarian president Ferdinand Marcos.

He had declared victory in a snap election tainted by fraud allegations.

During the turmoil, Aquino sought sanctuary in the British embassy or the ambassador's residence in Manila, files released by Britain's National Archives indicated.

But Britain's protection was ultimately not needed as Marcos stepped down the following day and the Aquino government was officially recognised.

The asylum request was in a Downing Street file on Britain's relations with the Philippines spanning from 1981 to 1995.

On the evening of February 24, 1986, Foreign Office diplomat Len Appleyard wrote to Charles Powell, Thatcher's private secretary for foreign affairs.

He said Aquino had asked whether Britain would be prepared to offer sanctuary in the British embassy or residence at 8:00 am local time the following morning -- midnight in Britain.

## Man killed

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that they raided Nayapara Mochoni Rohingya camp to recover drugs.

A gang of robbers opened fire on Rab members while they were conducting the anti-narcotics drive, forcing them to retaliate, he added.

Sadek sustained bullet injuries and died on the spot, the Rab official said, adding that Sadek used to work for notorious robber Zakir.

Arms and drugs were recovered from the spot, he claimed, without providing any further detail.

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

Earlier on the day, two Rab members sustained bullet injuries at the same spot when they were conducting an anti-narcotics drive.

Locals said criminals tend to hide into Rohingya camps as they were located in hilly areas.

## Kerala passes

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constitution has uphold the idea of unity in diversity," he said.

Vijayan also ensured the assembly that there won't be any detention centres in the southern state.

When the session began, O Rajagopal, the lone BJP member in the assembly, objected to the resolution stating that it was "illegal" as both Houses of the Parliament had passed the CAA Act.

The opposition Congress-led UDF had demanded the Left government to convene a special session and pass a resolution against the CAA during an all-party meeting convened by the chief minister on December 29 to discuss the issue.

CAA offers citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who took shelter in India till 2014 after fleeing "religious persecution" in those countries.

## Vertical farming

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in Japan at 67 and few candidates to replace those dying out, the country has been forced to become a pioneer in so-called vertical farming.

Globally renowned firms such as Panasonic, Toshiba and Fujitsu have tried their hand -- converting old semi-conductor production lines with varying levels of success.

One of the few companies to turn a quick profit, Spread produces 11 million heads of lettuce annually from its latest factory in Kyoto, a vast sterile area where the vegetables are stacked on shelves several metres high.

Machines shift the lettuces around the factory to areas where the light, temperature and humidity are ideal for that stage of growth. The process works without soil or pesticide, and only a dozen or so humans are employed to collect the lettuce at the end.

Other countries have employed vertical farming techniques -- notably in Denmark and the United States -- but Japan's population crisis means the farmers are dying out, with question marks over how the world's third-biggest economy will feed itself.

"Given the lack of manpower and decline in agricultural production, I felt a new system was needed," Shinji Inada, Spread's boss, told AFP.

Spread has taken some time to make the process nearly fully automated: an older factory in Kyoto still employs several dozen humans to move the lettuce -- a "difficult task", admits one staff member.

But the advantages are clear: "We can produce in large quantities and at a stable rate all year round, without being affected by temperature changes," said Inada.

"The other benefit is that we have few losses because our products are preserved for longer," added the vegetable tycoon.



Noab members, from left, Shah Hussain Imam, Dewan Hanif Mahmud, Tarik Sujat, Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Riazuddin Ahmed, AK Azad, Matiur Rahman, ASM Shahidullah Khan, Mahfuz Anam, Naem Nizam and AMM Bahauddin pose for a photo at the annual general meeting of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) at a city hotel on Monday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Noab elects AK Azad new president

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Noab for 2020-2021.

The executive members who were elected at the meeting are Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, Tasmima Hossain, editor of the daily Ittefaq, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, Naem Nizam, editor of the daily Bangladesh Pratidin, MA Malek, editor of the Daikin Azadi, Mozammel Hoque, editor of the daily Karatoa, M Shamsur

Rahman, editor and publisher of the Independent, Tarik Sujat, managing director at Mediascene Ltd that publishes the daily Bhorer Kagoj, and Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor and publisher of Bonik Barta.

Senior journalist Reazuddin Ahmed, chief of the election board, announced the names of the new committee members.

AMM Bahauddin, editor and publisher of the Inqilab, Shah

Husain Imam, editor of the Financial Express, were the other members of the election board.

The meeting approved the financial reports and the audit reports of the years 2018 and 2019.

The meeting also discussed the prevailing crises in the newspaper industry worldwide including Bangladesh among other topics and has emphasised working with short and long term plan to overcome the adversaries.

By the time Shane Watson miscued an Afif Hossain delivery to be caught at short third man in the fourth over, Naim had already smashed four boundaries and a maximum to ensure a fine start by Rangpur. After Watson's dismissal, Cameron Delpport and Naim strung together a 54-run stand. Delpport's quickfire 17-ball 31 ended when Afif caught him off his own bowling in the 11th over after being hit for two sixes and a four in the over. However, Naim's 47-ball 55 and another 17-ball 28 from Lewis Gregory helped Rangpur post the formidable total.

## Taskin and Naim star for Rangpur

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of four for 28. Meanwhile, Taskin's teammate Mustafizur remained wicketless but was very economical as the left-arm pacer allowed just 16 runs from his four overs, which included a maiden.

Earlier, Opener Mohammad Naim played the aggressor's role after Rangpur Rangers were asked to bat first. Rajshahi however suffered a minor blow in the first over when a bug flew into skipper Andre Russell's eye and forced the big West Indian to leave the field. Russell did come back on the field later but did not bowl again.

## Send them to prison instantly

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"We often see people are cutting trees indiscriminately or mills and factories are polluting the environment. But instantly we cannot send the offenders to jail..."

Saber, also former chairman of Inter Parliamentary Union said, "Environmental law enforcement is a major focus for us and we are also examining how best technology may be leveraged to this end."

About the Unesco's observations regarding the Sundarbans, the parliamentary watchdog asked the ministry to fulfil the UN body's requirement to keep the world's

largest mangrove forest on the world heritage list.

The committee also asked the ministry to take necessary preparations for taking part in the Convention on Biological Diversity which is scheduled to be held in Kunming in October this year.

The main theme of the convention is "Ecological Civilization: building a shared future for all life on earth."

Post 2020 biodiversity framework is likely to be adopted in the convention which will play an important role in saving bio-diversity and prevent main causes of the damage to ecology.

## AL, BNP candidates

FROM PAGE 16

being accompanied by Mirza Abbas, Afroza Abbas, Abdus Salam and my brother. Only five persons have come with me."

"The rest are locals and councillors who came here for their own purpose," he added.

Returning Officer Abdul Baten said candidates were submitting nomination papers in a festive mood.

Asked about the violation, he said the magistrate would look into the matter.

"Councillors are submitting their nomination papers. Whenever a heavyweight candidate comes, they gather around the candidate," he said.

"We've kept them under strict vigilance," Baten added.

Blocking the main road in front of the RO's office at the Election Training Institute in the capital's Agargaon, several hundred AL leaders and activists chanted party slogans surrounding Atiq, who went to submit his nomination papers.

Traffic movement came to a halt on the road. A vehicle carrying an election commissioner also got stuck there.

At one point, Atiq, who was accompanied by Dhaka North Awami League President Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, General Secretary SA Mannan, FBCCI President Sheikh Fazle Fahim, Bangladesh Football Federation President Kazi Salauddin and former BGMEA president Siddiqur Rahman, requested the party men to stop shouting slogans.

Atiq submitted the nomination papers to Abul Kashem, RO of the DNCC election.

Sources said a police van was seen in front of Atiq's motorcade while he left his residence for the RO office. There was around 30 cars and minibuses in the motorcade. The vehicles, however, did not come near the RO's office.

Talking to reporters later, Atiq, claimed there was no police van in front of his car.

Asked about the violation of the electoral code of conduct, he said, "I came to the returning officer's office with five people. There was no

procession outside. When they were shouting slogans, I stopped them."

He also said AL-backed councillor candidates came to the RO office to submit their nomination papers, which created the crowd.

Asked about the BNP's opinion against the use of EVMs in the city corporation polls, he said, "The whole world was opting to use technology. We're not out of it. The election will be free and fair if EVMs are used."

BNP mayoral candidate for the DNCC also violated the electoral code of conduct as more than five people were with him while he entered the RO's office.

BNP standing committee members Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, were among those accompanying Tabith.

Asked, Tabith claimed he followed the electoral code of conduct and was accompanied by only five persons.

Talking to reporters later, he said "Although we have no confidence in the Election Commission, the administration and the law enforcement agencies, we are participating in this election keeping confidence in people."

He said they were in doubt whether people would be able to cast their vote in a fearless atmosphere.

The DNCC RO said both the AL and the BNP candidates submitted nomination papers following the code of conduct.

Responding to a query that the vehicle of an election commissioner remained stuck on the road due to the "showdown" by the AL candidate, he said although a candidate brought five people with him, soon the number reached to around 5,000.

As many as 2,260 mayoral and councillor aspirants had collected nomination forms to take part in the polls.

General councillor aspirants will contest in 75 wards in the DSCC. Also, there are 25 seats reserved for women councillors.

In DNCC, the number of general councillor posts is 54 and that reserved posts 18.

## 'I was released to be sent to jail'

### Alleges Ducusu VP Nur after DMCH discharges him

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ducusu Vice-President Nurul Hoque Nur yesterday alleged that Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities discharged him hurriedly so that he could be arrested in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Talking to journalists at DMCH emergency gate, Nur said the case was lodged under the Digital Security Act so that police could keep him in jail for at least two months as most of the sections of the law is "nonbailable".

The Ducusu VP has three months of his one-year tenure left.

The case was filed against Nur and several others with Dhanmondi Police Station over spreading propaganda and false information against DU Chhatra League leaders through his Facebook page after Nur and his supporters came under attack on December 22.

Expressing dissatisfaction with his treatment at the DMCH, Nur also claimed that he was yet to recover fully and was feeling sicker three days after being admitted to the hospital.

Nur and his three supporters -- Faruk Hasan, Farabi Rahman, and Nazmul Islam -- injured in the December 22 attack were released from the DMCH on Monday night as their condition improved significantly, claimed the hospital authorities.

Talking to The Daily Star, DMCH Director Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin said they released Nur and the three others as per suggestions of the 13-member medical board that monitored them.

Asked about Nur's allegation, he said it was "sad" that Nur was dissatisfied with the treatment.

"Thousands of people are being treated at the hospital. No exception happened in his [Nurul] case. Doctors treated him as long as they thought it was necessary. They [injured] were discharged when they recovered," he said.

Hasan Al Mamun, convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, told this newspaper that Nur and the three others were admitted to a private hospital for better treatment.

But he did not disclose the hospital's name, citing security reasons.

At the press briefing, Nur alleged that there was a conspiracy to kill him.

"My condition started to deteriorate three days after I was admitted [to DMCH]. It could be a conspiracy to kill me because we always protest against Chhatra League's wrongdoings."

Asked about the December 22 attack, he said if justice was not ensured even after the attack, such incidents would happen again.

He said arresting three leaders of Muktijuddho Moncho, which launched the attack, was an "eyewash".

On December 22, Nur and his men came under attack from a faction of Muktijuddho Moncho, mostly comprised of BCL men, at his office at the Ducusu building.

Nur and at least 26 of his supporters were wounded in the attack. Four of them are still undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

In the case statement filed on 26 December, Arnob Hore, publicity secretary of Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall BCL, said Nur, Rashed Khan, and some others on December 22-23 spread hate speech against DU BCL leaders and disseminated false and fabricated information intentionally on social media to create chaos and make the law and order worse.

Besides the case under the Digital Security Act, an attempted murder case was filed against Nur and 28 others for their alleged involvement in the December 22 incident.

### CONDEMNATION

Twenty-two eminent citizens yesterday condemned harassment of Nur and activists of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad by implicating them in cases.

Soon after the approval of Digital Security Act, concern has been expressed from all sections of people that the law will be used to serve petty political interests and that has been proved through the lodging of the case, the statement read.

The signatories said students were coming under attacks and were being implicated in such cases when they had waged lawful movements.

This type of an evil attempt will have to be stopped immediately to uphold the citizens' human and constitutional rights, they added.

They also urged the government to ensure proper treatment of the injured with its own funds.

The signatories include Badiul Alam Majumdar, Shaheen Malik, Prof CR Abrar, Prof Asif Nazrul, Prof Parvin Hasan, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Rehnuma Ahmed, and Shahidul Alam.

## Ebtadayee, JDC

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grade, which is equivalent to Junior School Certificate exam.

The pass rate in JDC exams increased by 0.73 percent this year.

The pass rate in the exams is 89.77 percent, which was 89.04 last year.

While the number of GPA-5 achievers dropped to 1,682 this year, a decrease by 305 from last year's 1,987.

The number of institutions with 100 percent pass rate was 1,843. It was 1,727 last year. The number of institutions with zero pass rate was 19 this year and 23 last year.

Both the exams took place in November.

## Rape victims

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around their neck; the death of lawyer Palash Kumar Roy in fire inside jail also discussed in the report.

**ABDUCTION, ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE** Abduction and enforced disappearance allegedly involving law enforcers decreased last year but spread panic among the public. The family members were refused to file complaints with local police stations in most cases, the report said.

At least 13 people fell victim to abduction and enforced disappearance. Of them, five were later found while eight are still traceless, it said.

For example, Mikel Chakma, belong to a minority community, was picked up from Narayanganj on April 9. But there is no trace of him still today, the report said.

In 2018, at least 34 people fell victim to abduction and enforced disappearance.

**CHILD TORTURE AND KILLING** Child torture and killing increased too last year.

A total of 1696 children were victims of torture and killing last year. Of them, 487 were murdered. Besides, 11 boys were abused.

In 2018, around 1,011 were victim of torture and killing of which 419 were killed.

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION** The report said freedom of expression, though a constitutional right, has also been curbed on several occasions.

Arrest, torture and attack for having dissent voice was persistent last year like the previous ones.

The report discussed the brutal murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad by Chhatra League men and repeated attacks on the Ducusu vice president Nurul Haque Nur.

Besides, at least 142 journalists faced repression and assaults by law enforcers, influential people, local representatives, criminals, political activists and government officials while performing their duty.

The number was 207 in 2018, and 122 in 2017.

The number of killing in so-called shootout and death in custody was a record 466 in 2018 while the figure was only 162 in 2017.

The death of alleged rapists in shooting and notes of admitting the killing by so-called Hercules hanging



Bricks removed from the proposed archaeological site of 175-year-old 'nilkuthi' at Notkhana village in Polashbari union of Nilphamari Sadar upazila lie in front of the historic building on Sunday. The district police, who employed labourers to break the structure on December 24, stopped the work shortly afterwards following objection by villagers led by the local union parishad chairman. PHOTO: STAR

## Archaeology dept, police at odds over damage of historic building

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

The government's archaeology department and the district police are at odds now over damage of historic 'nilkuthi' (house for indigo business) at Notkhana village, three kilometres from the district town.

The department in last year declared the 175-year-old brick building at Notkhana in Polashbari union of Nilphamari Sadar upazila as a proposed archaeological site but a few days ago, labourers engaged by police broke a part of it to collect bricks for constructing a sales centre.

"On December 24 morning, some labourers sent by the police started breaking the 'nilkuthi' although the department concerned declared it a proposed archaeological site a year ago and set a signboard to the effect," said Mamta

Ali Pramanik, chairman of Polashbari union parishad.

"Locals objected to the labourers' work but a police team went there and the sub-inspector concerned said the bricks were being collected to make a sales centre of Women Police Welfare Association, as per directive from the authorities.

"Finally we persuaded police to stop the work but by this time, labourers damaged a portion of the structure's roof, separating around 250 bricks," he added.

According to 'Nilphamarit Itihas' (History of Nilphamari) published by Bangla Academy in July 2018, British traders established the 'nilkuthi' in 1845 as a centre for cultivation and business of indigo during the colonial era.

The traders also used a portion of it as a torture centre to punish the farmers who

refused to cultivate indigo for low pay, mentions the book written by Jahangir Alam Sarker.

Local historian ATM Mozibar Rahman said, "We're stunned to know that the district police sent men to collect bricks by destroying the 175-year-old historic structure to make a sales centre."

"As per authorities' directive, I on Thursday talked to the additional SP, who was then serving as acting SP, and requested making arrangement for repairing the 'nilkuthi' but yet to get satisfactory response," said Sanjoy Kumar Roy, assistant custodian of Rangpur museum.

Contacted, the additional SP, Abul Bashir Mohammad Atiqur Rahman said, "We were unaware that the old building is a proposed archaeological site. The

department concerned did not inform us officially although the land on which it is situated is owned by district police."

"The matter is now a settled one as our workers instantly stopped removing bricks, which occurred as a result of misunderstanding," he added.

Nahid Sultana, archaeological department's regional director in Bogra, said, "We set a signboard beside the 'nilkuthi' a year ago, describing it as a proposed archaeological site but the notice disappeared later without our knowledge. We set another signboard there on Saturday."

"Our officials visited the spot and after getting report we will send letter to the higher authorities of police to take step to repair the historic structure, maintaining its archaeological impact," she added.

## Make roads safe, avoid harmful drugs

Two scouts convey the message in awareness campaign, walking 150-km from Gopalganj to Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two Rover Scouts made a 150-kilometre journey on foot from Gopalganj to Kuakata sea beach as part of an awareness campaign about road safety and bad effects of drug abuse.

Sakib Hossain Redoy, a fourth year student of law department of Gopalganj Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, and Md Alim Mollah, a third year student of the same department, started from Gopalganj on December 25 morning and reached Kuakata Khanabad College premises around 4:00pm on December 29.

On the way they visited many historic and famous places in Gopalganj, Barishal and Patuakhali districts, said Sakib Hossain.

They carried the messages 'Madok porihar kori, sustho jibon gori' and 'Traffic ain manbo, nirapod sarak gorbo' ('Let's avoid drugs, build a healthy life' and 'We will obey traffic law, make roads safe').

"At different spots on the 150-km way to Kuakata, we talked to people about road safety and the bad effects of drug abuse. We are committed to working for building a better Bangladesh and welfare of people," said Alim Mollah.

## 'Comrade Moni Singh Mela' starts in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

'Comrade Moni Singh Mela', a week-long fair marking the 29th death anniversary of Comrade Moni Singh, began in Netrakona's Durgapur upazila town yesterday.

Durga Prasad Tewari, convener of the fair organising committee, inaugurated the fair at MKCM Govt Pilot School ground in Bagichapara area of the town.

Handicrafts, household and agricultural products made of bamboo, cane, wood and traditional food items will be available at over 200 stalls and there will also be discussions and cultural shows at the fair that is being held in Durgapur since 2000, said Dhruva Sarker, a member of the organising committee.

In the morning, floral wreaths were placed at Tonko Shaheed Smriti Stambha in the town and a colourful procession, participated by hundreds, marched through the main streets of the town.

Durgapur municipality Mayor Maulana Abdus Salam, former chairman of Durgapur Upazila Parishad Abdullah Haque and communist leaders from Netrakona and Mymensingh joined the procession.

Preeminent communist politician Comrade Moni Singh is especially remembered for his role in "Tonko Movement" in Durgapur during the British rule. He was the founder of the then Communist Party of East Pakistan.

Comrade Moni Singh led a guerrilla wing of the Mukti Bahini during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 and was an advisor to the exiled provisional government of Bangladesh that year.

He was forced to go underground by the Pakistan government. He was jailed for long periods during the British and the Pakistan era and even after the independence of Bangladesh.

Born on July 28 in 1901 in Durgapur, Moni Singh died on December 31, 1990 in Dhaka.

## C'nawabganj growers see bumper mustard yield

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Farmers in the district are expecting a bumper mustard yield this season due to favourable weather.

Easy cultivation process and lower production cost compared to other Robi crops is also a reason behind popularity of mustard cultivation among the farmers in the district.

October to mid-November is the suitable time for mustard cultivation and it takes 80 to 85 days to get the yield, said Muhammad Nazrul Islam, district training officer of Chapainawabganj Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

The farmers in the district have cultivated mustard on 15,535 hectares of land against the DAE's target of 13,958 hectares of land.

Of the mustard fields, 4,485 hectares are in Sadar upazila, 3,120 hectares in Shibganj, 2,160 hectares in Gomostapur, 7,70 hectares in Bholahat and 5,000 hectares in Nachole upazila.

Most of the lands are covered with varieties developed by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), including BARI Sharisha-14, BARI Sharisha-15 and BARI Sharisha-17.

A few local varieties have also been cultivated, said Nazrul.

Depending on soil condition, the

cultivation of mustard requires only one or two times irrigation while about Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000 is needed to cultivate the crop on a bigha.

On an average six maunds of mustard is produced from each bigha of land, the official said.

The DAE authorities are trying to persuade the farmers to cultivate high yielding varieties of mustard invented by BARI between the gaps of Aman and Boro to earn good profit.

Farmers of Sadar upazila said they are hopeful to get bumper production of mustard and harvest will begin this month.

Selim Hasan of Mara Pagla village in Sadar upazila said "I cultivated mustard on two bighas of land in the current season, spending Tk 2,500 and I'm expect to get at least 12 maunds. I will sell each maund for Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000."

I cultivated mustard on my two bighas of land this season and I am expecting to get six maunds of produce from each bigha," said Mizanur Rahman, a farmer of Shibirerhat village in the same upazila.

Masud Rana, another farmer of the same village, said earlier, he cultivated tomato on his three bighas of land, but flood damaged those.

Later, he cultivated mustard on his land due to lower production cost, said Masud.



A large amount of fish is kept for drying in the sun at Bhatipara village in Baniachong upazila of Habiganj. Inset, workers sort dried fish. PHOTO: MINTUDESHWARA

## Dried fish making now serves as their livelihood

People of haor village in Habiganj take to the trade as Boro cultivation no longer profitable

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Baniachong

Traditional fish drying serves as the means of survival for the people of Bhatipara Haor area in Baniachong upazila of Habiganj, especially after the recurrent damage of Boro paddy due to floods since 2017 and recent price fall of the crop.

Usually dependent on Boro paddy, people of Bhatipara village also catch fish in haor (shallow water body that dries up in winter) area during the rainy season.

Now they are engaged in making dried fish in a large scale.

During a recent visit to Bhatipara, some 15 kilometres from Habiganj district town, this correspondent saw Ranubala Rani Das keeping tengra, shrimp and other small fishes on bamboo and plastic mats for drying in the sun in front of her house.

"We are doing it for sale to maintain the family, otherwise we would face starvation," said the middle-aged woman.

Many other people including men, women and children were seen engaged in producing dried fish as the trade provides livelihood for around 350 families at the village.

"We were used to making dried fish for long to earn extra money. Now we are doing this as the main source of income due to repeated loss in Boro cultivation," said Shimul Biswas of the same village.

Dried fish is sold to buyers from different areas for Tk 150 to Tk 300 a kg, depending on the fish, said Radha Kanto Das, another villager engaged in the trade.

For drying fish, it is kept on large mats either on the ground or on bamboo platforms, he said.

"The income from selling dried fish supports our eight-member family. One gets Tk 200 to Tk 500 as daily wage for doing different works related to producing dried fish," said Amrit Lal Das, 55, who has been doing the work for 30 years at Bhatipara.

"We have five acres of cropland in haor. After recurrent damage of paddy due to floods, we are now living by making dried fish," said Sabita Rani Das, who with her husband, son and daughter-in-law was seen busy in the work at their field.

Abul Kashem Chowdhury, chairman of Baniachong Upazila Parishad, said, "Poor people of haor areas often go to other places in search of work. But villagers at Bhatipara have taken up dried fish making for living."

Fish is available in the area and so, the trade bears a good prospect, he added.



A field full of blooming mustard in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR

# People of 7 villages suffer as road collapses into river

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Around 20,000 people of seven villages under Mithaganj and Nilganj unions in Kalapara upazila are badly suffering as around 2,000-foot area of the upazila connecting road at Tegachia Kheyaghat collapsed into the Sonatala river two weeks ago.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built a six-kilometre paved road from Mithaganj to Baliatali around four years ago to ease locals' communication with Kalapara upazila town as well as Kuakata sea beach.

A 2,000-foot part of the road was built on the flood control embankment in Tegachia Kheyaghat area and a guide wall was built a year ago to save it.

But it collapsed under the impact of huge tidal surges, much to the sufferings of the people of Golbunia, Tegachia, Azimuddin, Aramganj villages of Mithaganj and Mokimpur, Pakhimara and Sonatali villages of Nilganj union.

"Now over a hundred students have to walk on the mud to reach the Kheyaghat to attend school and often their books and dresses get dirty," said Md Kazi Rasel, a teacher of Tegachia High School.

"Now we can't carry our goods easily. We have to cover eight kilometres more, which adds to the transportation cost," said Md Sahid Gazi, a trader of Tegachia Bazar.

Paddy and vegetable growers who have to go the upazila town to sell their produce face the same problem.

Kazi Hemayet Uddin Hiron, chairman of Mithaganj union parishad, said he has informed the upazila LGED authority of the matter, seeking early step.

Kalapara Upazila LGED engineer Md Abdul Mannan said their attempt to save the road at Tegachia Kheyaghat failed due to strong tidal surges from the river.

"We informed the higher authority about the matter and we are trying best to rebuild the road. We asked the locals to use an alternative road," he said.



A collapsed portion of the road at Tegachia Kheyaghat on the Sonatala river in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

PHOTO:SOHRABHOSSAIN

রাবার কাঠ শক্ত টেকসই ও উন্নতমানের।  
আপনিও রাবার কাঠ ব্যবহার করুন।

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ  
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

**বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন**  
বনশিল্প ভবন  
৭৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০  
ফোনঃ পিএবিএক্স-৯৫৬০০৮৫-৮৮, ই-মেইল-bfiddc.bd@gmail.com

**স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন (বিএফআইডিসি) এর প্রধান কার্যালয় এবং আওতাধীন রাবার বাগান/জোন দস্তুর/শিল্প ইউনিটের (সর্বমোট ৩৭টি) স্বতন্ত্র বার্ষিক চূড়ান্ত হিসাব ও একটি সমন্বিত চূড়ান্ত হিসাব নিরীক্ষা করার জন্য ২০১৮-১৯, ২০১৯-২০ এবং ২০২০-২১ সনের জন্য ৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদে চার্টার্ড ফার্ম নিয়োগ দেয়ার লক্ষ্যে নিম্নরূপ শর্তে এর প্রেশন অফ ইন্টারেস্ট (ইওআই) আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, ৭৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৩। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	পরিচালক (অর্থ), বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, ৭৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৪। তহবিল ও খাত	বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন (বিশিষ্ট) এর নিজস্ব তহবিল (নির্দিষ্ট বাজেট)।
৫। সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।
৬। দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	বাংলাদেশী। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠিত চার্টার্ড একাউন্টেন্টস ফার্ম।
৭। দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	বিএফআইডিসি, সদর দপ্তর, হিসাব বিভাগ, ৭৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৮। দরপত্র তফসিল জমা দেয়ার স্থান	পরিচালক (অর্থ), বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, ৭৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৯। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	পরিচালক (অর্থ) এর দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, ৭৩, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১০। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১২-০১-২০২০খ্রিঃ দপ্তর চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত।
১১। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়	১৩-০১-২০২০খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৩-০১-২০২০খ্রিঃ দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকায়।
১৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা।
১৪। বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী	অন্যান্য শর্তাদি দরপত্র দাখিলের বর্ণনায়। বিএফআইডিসি কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

**সৈয়দ লোকমান আহমদ**  
পরিচালক (অর্থ)  
বাংলাদেশ বনশিল্প উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন  
ফোনঃ ৯৫৫১৯২৬

জিডি-০৮

MP LITON MURDER

## Killers' execution demanded without delay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Speakers at a meeting yesterday demanded that the authorities concerned would waste no time in carrying out the death sentences of the killers of Gaibandha-1 (Sundarganj) lawmaker Manjurul Islam Liton.

They made the demand at a meeting, commemorating the third anniversary of the killing, on the premises of Ashraf Ali Cold storage in Sundarganj upazila.

Presided over by AK Habib Sarker, principal of DW Degree College, the meeting was attended by several hundred people.

Among others, Liton's widowed wife Khurshid Jahan Smrity, Mehdi Mostafa Masud, Ataur Rahman, Sadequul Islam Dulal, Habibur Rahman Habi, Nasreen Sultana and Shyamoli Akhter also spoke at the programme.

Earlier, leaders and activists from different political parties including Awami League and its affiliated bodies placed floral wreaths at the grave of Liton and offered prayers for the salvation of the departed soul.

On December 31, 2016, unknown assailants shot him dead inside his home in Sundarganj upazila around 6:00pm.

On November 28 in 2019, a Gaibandha court handed down death penalty to seven people, including former Gaibandha lawmaker from Jatiya Party Col (ret) Abdul Kader Khan, over the murder of Liton.

The other convicts are Anwarul Islam Rana, Shaheen Mia Santo, Rasheedul Hasan Mehdi, Kader's personal secretary Shamsuzzoha Sarker, Kader's driver Abdul Hannan and Chandan Kumar Roy.

Of the seven convicts, Chandan fled to India nearly three years ago, soon after the murder, said police.

**BFC**  
**Biman Flight Catering Centre বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টার**  
**Invitation for Tender No. 40/2019-20**

01	Agency	Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.		
02	Invitation for	Appointment of Separate Airlines Caterer at Chattogram (CGP) and Sylhet (ZYL) Biman Station. The following services are required to be provided: a) Breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper light meal, continental breakfast, heavy snacks of all classes in all cycles to be provided as per configuration of B-777-300ER, B-787-800ER etc. flight Ex-Chattogram, Shah Amanat International Airport, Chattogram and Sylhet Osmani International Airport, Sylhet for any flight as and when required basis. b) Crew menu (Lunch, Dinner, Heavy Snacks, Stand up-liftman for PAX/crew etc. Ex-CGP and Ex-ZYL for the above flights as and when required basis. c) Handling charge etc. (Details information is available in tender schedule).		
03	Yearly flight qty	a) Yearly 832 flight ex-Chattogram (estimated). b) Yearly 156 flight ex-Sylhet (estimated).		
04	Invitation Ref.	30.34.2600.063.50.452.19	Date: 30-10-2019	
05	Tender document selling date	From 05-01-2020 to 28-01-2020 (During office hours).		
06	Tender closing date and time	Date: 29-01-2020	Time: 1200 Hrs BST	Note: The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. If any unavoidable situation arises during specified date then tender selling/closing/opening date will be shifted to next (working) day without further notice.
07	Tender opening date and time	Date: 29-01-2020	Time: 1500 Hrs BST	
08	Selling address of schedule (Dhaka)	a. Manager Finance, Biman Flight Catering Centre, Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka. b. Manager Cash & Banking, Balaka Bhaban, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, Dhaka. c. Manager Finance, Chattogram Shah Amanat Int'l Airport, Chattogram. d. Manager Finance, Sylhet Osmani Int'l Airport, Sylhet.		
09	Receiving tender document	a. BFCC Main Security Gate, Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka. b. Biman Balaka Bhaban, Security Counter Gate (Ground Floor), Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka.		
10	Price of tender document	BDT 5,000.00 (five thousand) only per set (non-refundable).		
11	1) Location	2) Tender security amount (Tk) (refundable)	3) Contract period	
	BFCC/Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka	BDT 33,000,000 (thirty-three lac) only (CGP Station) and BDT 6,50,000.00 (six lac fifty thousand) only (ZYL Station)(refundable)	01 (one) year (renewable)	
12	Procuring entity & fund	Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, Biman, Head Office, Balaka Bhaban, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka, Biman own fund.		
13	Official inviting tender	Dy. General Manager, BFCC, Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Phone: 880-2-8901760-64 Ext-13 Fax: 880-2-8901638		
14	The tender schedule and other related information will also be available in Biman website: <a href="http://www.biman-airlines.com">www.biman-airlines.com</a> for ready reference.			

GD-10 **Dy. General Manager, BFCC**

**উন্নয়নের অঙ্গিভেদ রাজস্ব**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর  
৪৫০, জিএল রায় রোড, পূর্ব কামালকাছনা, রংপুর  
সাধারণ শাখা  
[www.rangpurvat.gov.bd](http://www.rangpurvat.gov.bd)

জনকল্যাণে রাজস্ব  
অনলাইনে রেজিস্ট্রেশনের জন্য  
ভিজিট করুন: [www.vat.gov.bd](http://www.vat.gov.bd)

**মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়ার উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা প্রকৃত পরিবেশক বা সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে The Public Procurement Act-2006, The Public Procurement Rules-2008 এবং Standard Request For Quotation (SRFQ) Procurement for Goods অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত খামে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২। অধিদপ্তর/দপ্তর	জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা এর অধীনে কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, জি.এল রায় রোড, পূর্ব কামালকাছনা, রংপুর।
০৩। ব্যয়ের উদ্দেশ্য ও সময়সীমা	জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক ২০১৯-২০ অর্থবছরে এ দপ্তরের অনুকূলে বরাদ্দকৃত বাজেট। অর্থনৈতিক কোড-৩২১১১০৭-মানবান্ন ব্যবহার (মুক্তিভিত্তিক)। ৩০ জুন ২০২০ পর্যন্ত।
০৪। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, জি.এল রায় রোড, কামালকাছনা, রংপুর।
০৫। দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির দপ্তরের নাম	কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, জি.এল রায় রোড, কামালকাছনা, রংপুর।
০৬। দরপত্র গ্রহণের দপ্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা	কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, জি.এল রায় রোড, কামালকাছনা, রংপুর।
০৭। দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা	কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, জি.এল রায় রোড, পূর্ব কামালকাছনা, রংপুর।
০৮। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪/০১/২০২০ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৯। দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/০১/২০২০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/০১/২০২০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা, কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর।
১১। দরপত্র দাখিলের যোগ্যতা	সময়মত মাইক্রোবাস (ড্রাইভারসহ) সরবরাহে সক্ষম এমন অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান, যারা তফসিলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী পালনে সক্ষম।
১২। কাজের সর্বক্ষণ বিবরণ	কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর সদর দপ্তরের জন্য ভাড়ায় ব্যবহারের নিমিত্ত ০২ (দুই)টি মাইক্রোবাস সরবরাহ সংক্রান্ত (বিভিন্ন) দরপত্র তফসিলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।
১৩। সিডিউল মূল্য	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, রংপুর শাখা/সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, কার্পোরেট শাখা, রংপুর এর ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফিসতরযোগ্য) ট্রেজারী চালান কোড নং-১-১১৩৩-০০৪৫-২৩৬৬ জে জা দিয়ে চালানের মূল্যকপি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং ফটোকপি দাখিলের মাধ্যমে সিডিউল সম্বন্ধ করা যাবে।
১৪। সিকিউরিটি	কার্যক্রম প্রাপ্তির পর কমিশনার, কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর-এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে ০২ (দুই)টি মাইক্রোবাসের জন্য ৪০,০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার জামানতরূপে (ফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে এবং কার্যক্রম প্রাপ্তির পূর্বে ৩০০ (তিনশত) টাকার স্ট্যাম্পে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত অঙ্গীকারনামা দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৫। শর্তাবলী	ক) মাইক্রোবাসের ভাড়ার হার মাসিক ভিত্তিতে সুস্পষ্টভাবে অংকে ও কথায় উল্লেখ করতে হবে (সকল প্রকার জ্বালানি, সেরামত খরচ, ড্রাইভার বেতনবিলসহ); খ) প্রশাসনিক ও বিল দাখিল সংক্রান্ত সকল কার্যক্রম দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দপ্তর হতে পরিচালিত হবে এবং সরকারি বিধি-বিধান অনুযায়ী প্রয়োজ্য মূল্য সংযোজন কর ও অন্যান্য সমুদয় কর কর্তন করা হবে; গ) প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র ও অন্যান্য বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দরপত্র তফসিলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।
১৬। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

**মোঃ আব্দুল মান্নান সরদার**  
অতিরিক্ত কমিশনার  
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর  
ও  
সভাপতি  
দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ ও মূল্যায়ন কমিটি

জিডি-০২

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১  
(রিজুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)  
প্রধান কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা  
[erecruitment.bb.org.bd](http://erecruitment.bb.org.bd)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ৬৩/২০১৯ তারিখ: ১৪ পৌষ ১৪২৬  
২৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৯

**দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং কর্পোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিমিটেড-এ বিভিন্ন পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রসঙ্গে**

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং কর্পোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিমিটেড, গাজীপুর-১৭০৩ এ নিরাপত্তা সহকারী, 'জট সহকারী', নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী, 'প্রোডাকশন চেকার (পুরুষ)', 'ইন্টারনাল চেকার (পুরুষ)', 'সহকারী' এবং 'পরিষ্কার' পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে ২২/০৩/২০১৮ তারিখে দৈনিক ইকোলাক ও The Daily Star পরিচালিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্রে ২০/০৯/২০১৯ তারিখে 'নিরাপত্তা সহকারী' ও 'জট সহকারী', ২৭/০৯/২০১৯ তারিখে 'নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী', ২৮/০৯/২০১৯ তারিখে 'প্রোডাকশন চেকার (পুরুষ)' ও 'ইন্টারনাল চেকার (পুরুষ)', ০৪/১০/২০১৯ তারিখে 'সহকারী' এবং ০৫/১০/২০১৯ তারিখে 'পরিষ্কার' পদে অনূচিত লিখিত পরীক্ষার নিম্নোক্ত রোল নম্বরধারী (তালিকা মেধাভিত্তিক নয়) প্রার্থীরা উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর
০১.	নিরাপত্তা সহকারী	100007, 100011, 100014, 100015 = ০৪ জন
০২.	জট সহকারী	100020, 100021, 100041, 100063, 100140, 100164, 100170, 100186, 100187, 100188 = ১০ জন
০৩.	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী	100018, 100023, 100029, 100038, 100046, 100055, 100058, 100062, 100064, 100072, 100089, 100095, 100097, 100109, 100116, 100117, 100120, 100169, 100181, 100183, 100190, 100195, 100196, 100199, 100209, 100212 = ২৫ জন
০৪.	প্রোডাকশন চেকার (পুরুষ)	100008, 100009, 100011, 100064, 100077, 100096, 100113, 100116, 100129, 100157, 100176, 100193, 100222, 100235, 100242, 100245, 100257, 100291, 100319, 100365, 100373 = ২১ জন
০৫.	ইন্টারনাল চেকার (পুরুষ)	100011, 100022, 100023, 100053, 100062, 100073, 100090, 100109, 100118, 100121, 100133, 100143, 100188, 100211, 100212, 100270, 100289, 100291, 100308, 100317, 100352, 100363, 100378, 100435, 100439, 100444, 100528, 100548, 100565, 100581, 100584, 100591, 100640, 100642, 100653, 100680, 100692, 100716, 100724, 100736, 100758, 100763, 100786, 100797, 100824, 100839, 100879, 100893, 100924, 100934, 100945, 100951, 100952, 100982, 100983, 101060, 101063, 101089 = ৫৮ জন
০৬.	সহকারী	100051, 100052, 100119, 100138, 100160, 100183, 100185, 100317, 100318, 100339, 100372, 100410, 100623, 100674, 100700, 100741, 100770, 100839, 100843, 100892, 100943, 100974, 100996, 101033, 101045, 101085, 101091, 101131, 101142, 101159, 101203, 101239, 101292, 101342, 101358, 101402, 101419, 101436, 101469, 101479, 101522, 101535, 101601, 101604, 101687, 101779, 101783, 101875, 101879, 101923, 101977, 102013, 102176, 102217, 102321, 102323 = ৫৬ জন
০৭.	পরিষ্কার	100022, 100035, 100078, 100080, 100132, 100142, 100144, 100164, 100172, 100173, 100225, 100240, 100260, 100331, 100332, 100396, 100437, 100439, 100453, 100502, 100528, 100551, 100588, 100606, 100623, 100634, 100689, 100695, 100751, 100753, 100767, 100770, 100807, 100815, 100828, 100840, 100871, 100886, 100887, 100895, 100909, 100968, 100997, 100998, 101006, 101018, 101155, 101206, 101224, 101237, 101266, 101302, 101333, 101556, 101570, 101577, 101623, 101631, 101633, 101636, 101672, 101675, 101684, 101713, 101720, 101723, 101730, 101744, 101746, 101791, 101859, 101865, 101899, 101964, 102004, 102034, 102035, 102046, 102047, 102088, 102119, 102130, 102147, 102217, 102295, 102315, 102330, 102333, 102383, 102417, 102426, 102533, 102537, 102558, 102644, 102681, 102741, 102760, 102773, 102827, 102872, 102876, 102992, 102998, 102912, 102922, 102930, 102936, 102947, 102955, 102998, 102995, 103040, 103074, 103078, 103079, 103085, 103158, 103209, 103244, 103304, 103320, 103384, 103394, 103403, 103409, 103418, 103481, 103508, 103511, 103516, 103535, 103548, 103563, 103609, 103641, 103656, 103687, 103727, 103761, 103782, 103789, 103799, 103802, 103901, 103943, 103980, 103992, 104024, 104094, 104109, 104118, 104132, 104144, 104189, 104199, 104232 = ১৫৭ জন

২। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী পরবর্তীতে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৬৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০১৯-৪৫৬৭  
তারিখঃ ৩০/১২/২০১৯  
জিডি-০৯

নূর-উন-নাহার  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mohammad Naim's 55 formed the bedrock of Rangpur Rangers' 182 for six in their Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League match against Rajshahi Royals at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Rajshahi could only muster 128 for nine in reply as Rangpur won by 64 runs.

## BANGLADESH'S 2020 IN SPORT

FOLLOWING ARE THE SPORTING EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE YEAR 2020:

CRICKET	Cricket World Cup
January – February: Tour of Pakistan (2 Tests and 3 T20Is)	February 21 – March 8: 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup
February: Home series against Australia (2 Tests)	<b>MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM</b>
March: Home series against Zimbabwe (One Test and 5 T20Is)	January 15 to 25: Bangabandhu Gold Cup
May – June: Tour of Ireland (One Test, 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is)	Joint Qualifiers for Qatar 2022 and Asia Cup 2023
July – August: Tour of Sri Lanka (3 Tests)	March 26: Bangladesh vs Afghanistan
August – September: Home series against New Zealand (2 Tests)	March 31: Qatar vs Bangladesh
September: Asia Cup 2020	June 4: Bangladesh vs India
October: Tour of New Zealand (3 T20Is)	June 9: Bangladesh vs Oman
October – November: ICC World T20 2020	September: SAFF Championship in Dhaka
December: Home series against Sri Lanka (3 ODIs)	<b>HOCKEY</b>
	June: Junior Asia Cup in Dhaka
<b>OTHER CRICKET</b>	<b>ATHLETICS</b>
January 17 – February 9: 2020 ICC U-19	April 1 – 10: Bangladesh Games

# Mujeeb seals a thriller for Cumilla

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) saw arguably its most exciting game yesterday, with Cumilla Warriors tailender Mujeeb ur Rahman striking a boundary off the last ball, when three runs were needed to win, to seal a two-wicket victory over table-toppers Chattogram Challengers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Interestingly, Cumilla initially sent Sunzamul

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**RANGPUR RANGERS:** 182 for 6 (Naim 55, Delpoit 31, Gregory 28; Irfan 2-35, Afif 2-40)

**RAJSHAHI ROYALS:** 135 for 8 (Kapali 31, Bopara 28; Taskin 4-29, Gregory 2-28)

**Result:** Rangpur won by 47 runs

**Player-of-the-match:** Lewis Gregory

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**CHATTOGRAM CHALLENGERS:** 159 for 6 (Simmons 54, Junaid 45, Ziaur 34 not out; Soumya 2-20, Wiese 1-26)

**CUMILLA WARRIORS:** 161 for 8 (Malan 74, Van Zyl 22; Rubel 2-16, Rana 1-31, Ziaur 1-36)

**Result:** Cumilla won by two wickets

**Player-of-the-match:** Dawid Malan

With three wins in eight games, Cumilla kept their hopes alive for a play-off spot while Chattogram are still at the top of the points table with six wins from nine games.

For much of Cumilla's chase of Chattogram's 159 for six, it seemed that Cumilla would coast home. They needed 26 off the last four overs with seven wickets in hand with a well-set Malan at the crease on 66. But Cumilla dug a hole for themselves with some poor batting, losing four wickets and scoring just 10 runs in the next three overs, leaving 16 to win off the last over.

Abu Hider took a single off the first ball of the last over to give Malan back the strike. The left-hander also took a single as things started to look difficult for Cumilla, with 14 needed off the last four balls.

Hider then went for a big shot over wide long on, where Nasum Ahmed not only dropped the catch but also failed to save a boundary. Hider

then launched a huge six off Plunkett, and off the fourth ball scurried a bye after missing the ball.

There was still some more drama left as Malan was run out for 74 off 51 balls while trying to take a double. But Mujeeb then made sure that Cumilla's collapse would not cost them.

Cumilla's chase started off well with South African opener Stiaan van Zyl scoring four boundaries at the start of the innings, but it didn't last long as the left-hander fell after scoring 22 off 12 balls.

His partner Robiul Islam also departed for 17 as Malan then took charge, but Cumilla kept losing wickets at the other end. After scoring his second fifty of the BPL in the previous game, Soumya Sarkar failed to deliver and departed for six while Sabbir Rahman once again disappointed, scoring 18 runs.

Earlier, despite the 103-run opening stand between Junaid Siddique and Lendl Simmons after being asked to bat first, the rest of Chattogram's innings lacked impetus.

Simmons was the first to depart after scoring 54 off 34 balls with the help of five fours and two sixes while Junaid followed him soon after, scoring 45 off 37 balls.

Chattogram then lost a flurry of wickets, before Ziaur Rahman's unbeaten 21-ball 34 run – which featured four sixes – eventually helped the side post 159 for six.



Cumilla Warrior's number 10 batsman Mujeeb Ur Rahman is over the moon after hitting his first ball, the last of the match with three needed to win, for four and sealing a two-wicket win over Chattogram Challengers in their BBPL match in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Not afraid to make big decisions: Silverwood

ICC

Head coach Chris Silverwood has admitted that England will not think twice about making changes to their XI for the second Test against South Africa, if the pitch demands them.

A 107-run defeat in the series-opening Boxing Day Test in Centurion has once again spelled out England's red-ball troubles. An outbreak of illness within the squad that laid low 10 people at various times has only compounded matters, with Dominic Sibley joining the long list of players to have been afflicted.

With Jack Leach now having regained fitness, England will have to reassess their bowling combination for the next Test. If they do decide to play a spinner after going for an all-seam attack in the first, then one of the veterans – Stuart Broad or James Anderson – is likely to be dropped.

The Broad-Anderson pair has been one of England's most prolific bowling partnerships, but nostalgia has no place in Silverwood's England, who want to concentrate on building a team for the future.

"In Jimmy [Anderson] and Stu [Broad], we have a wealth of experience and we'd be really stupid not to take that into consideration every game," Silverwood said. "But, equally, you want your youngsters to



come through, and if we're going to make room for a spinner, we've got to have a look at which seamers are right for this pitch. If there's a big decision, we're not afraid to make it." The Newlands pitch is one of the few in the country that assists spin bowling, and Silverwood was well aware of that fact. "We've got to look at playing a spinner at Newlands," he said. "We'll go down there and do what we always do – look through the records, what features where, and who is going to have most impact on that game. We'll do our homework and go from there."

England Test captain Joe Root also echoed these sentiments ahead of the second Test. "It's a fine balance. You've got to look at the surface and at an

attack you feel is best going to counter that and best counter the opposition," he said.

"I think the ideal scenario is to have people pushing them [Anderson and Broad] all the time, so that they're constantly trying to improve themselves. "You don't want to wish those guys away or look back and think, 'we've forced Jimmy Anderson out.'"

Despite the sombre mood in the English camp, Silverwood said that illness and adversity have made his team stronger and let the players come closer. "I think there's some aspects from this Test that have galvanised us," he said.

The second Test of the four-match series begins on Friday, 3 January.

# Process delivers results for Labuschagne

ICC

Having strung together a bounty year in Test cricket after making an appearance midway through the 2019 Ashes series in England, Australia batsman Marnus Labuschagne offered a peek into his mindset and thinking that has catapulted him to much success as his team's No.3 batsman. Since replacing Steve Smith as Test cricket's first ever concussion substitute, Labuschagne has accumulated 1104 runs in 17 innings, the highest run tally for any batsman in Tests this year.

These performances have taken him up

from a ranking of 82 on the MRF Tyres ICC Test Rankings for Batting from when he first arrived as a sub to No.4 on the list, only behind the big three of Virat Kohli, his team-mate Smith, and Kane Williamson.

After tallying 353 runs in seven innings, including four fifties, to finish as Australia's second-highest run-getter in the Ashes, Labuschagne maintained a remarkably consistent level of performance in the home summer, notching up three centuries and two half-centuries across six innings against Pakistan and New Zealand, operating at an average of 103.66 at home.

"I just keeping it process-driven and not on results," Labuschagne told cricket.com.au, after Australia's series-clinching victory in the second Test in Perth. "Making sure that every innings I come in with a clear mind and making sure I'm playing what's in front of me and not what's happened in the past and not what I want to achieve – it's right in the moment." Apart from that, I'm just loving it. It's a great team to be a part of, and the way we're playing at the moment is really enjoyable."

The strategy has reaped rich rewards for Labuschagne so far, as he caps the year as Australia's find of the season.

His red-hot Test form has earned him a call-up to Australia's ODI squad for the tour of India next year, when they play three ODIs between January 14 and 19. With a home ICC Men's T20 World Cup approaching, the time is ripe for Labuschagne to translate his red-ball success and become a force to reckon with across formats.



# ECB to support scrapping 5-day Tests

AFP, London

Five-day Test matches could become a thing of the past from 2023 after England supported calls to cut them by a day, according to Tuesday's Daily Telegraph.

"We believe it could provide a sustainable solution to the complex scheduling needs and player workloads we face as a global sport," an ECB spokesman said.

"We're definite proponents of the four-day Test concept, but cautiously so, as we understand it's an emotive topic for players, fans and others who have concerns about challenging the heritage of Test cricket."

Kevin Roberts, the chief executive of Cricket Australia, had said mandatory four-day Tests were "something that we have got to seriously consider".

Four-day Tests have been sanctioned since 2017 by the sport's global governing body the International Cricket Council (ICC), but only outside of their inaugural World Test Championship.

# What to WATCH

## STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League  
Brighton v Chelsea  
Live from 6:30pm  
Southampton v Tottenham  
Live from 9:00pm

Man City v Everton  
Live from 11:30pm  
Arsenal v Man United  
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

## STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

English Premier League  
Burnley v Aston Villa  
Live from 6:30pm  
Newcastle v Leicester  
Live from 9:00pm

Norwich v Crystal Palace  
Live from 11:30pm



Bangladesh Police FC players and officials celebrate their 3-1 win over Saif SC in a Federation Cup quarterfinal encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: BFF

# Bashundhara buck the trend

## Beat Muktis on penalties after Police oust Saif

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings bucked the trend of shock results in the TVS Federation Cup, but only just, with a 4-1 win in tiebreakers against Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC in the fourth quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The beaten finalists of last year had taken a third-minute lead through Jalal Kdouh, and despite dominating the match, had to go through to penalties following Mahedi Hasan's equaliser for Muktiyoddha on 76 minutes.

With the 30 minutes of extra time not producing a goal, it was up to Bashundhara Kings' goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico to repeat his heroics from last year. The national team goalkeeper had produced similar penalty-saving performances in the Kings' Independence Cup triumph last season, and followed it up with two saves out of four shots as the title-contenders eased to 4-1 win on penalties.

The new powerhouse of domestic football will take on newcomers Bangladesh Police in the second semifinal on January 3 following the first semifinal between Mohammedan and Rahmatganj on the previous day.

### POLICE OVERWHELM SAIF

Earlier, newcomers Bangladesh Police overwhelmed big-spenders Saif Sporting Club in the third quarterfinal with a 3-1 win to extend the spree of shock results in the season's curtain-raising tournament.

MS Bablu's side-volley gave Police a 31st-minute lead after Police goalkeeper Arifuzzaman

SAIF SC (Akhmedov 55')	1 - 3	POLICE (Sydney 45+1', 52'; Bablu 31')
MUKTIYODDHA (Mahedi 76')	1 (1) - 1 (4)	BASHUNDHARA (Kdouh 3')

Himel produced a brilliant save from Jamal Bhuiyan's free-kick to keep the favourites at bay.

Sydney Rivera doubled Police's lead in the first minute of stoppage time with a powerful shot from inside the box before the American forward made it 3-0 with a clever flick on a pass from Luka Rotkovic seven minutes after restart.

Murolimzhon Akhmedov reduced the margin with a superb curling free-kick three minutes later as Saif started creating chances. However, Jahongir Ergashev saw his attempt come off the crossbar, with the rebound headed over by Rahimuddin on

68 minutes before Denier Cordoba blasted the ball over the bar eight minutes later as Saif's effort to stage a fightback amounted to nothing.

This was a big win for a team who started their campaign with a 4-0 chastening against defending champions Abahani and third surprising result in three quarterfinals after Rahmatganj had knocked out Abahani while Mohammedan saw off Chattogram Abahani in the first two quarterfinals.

Police coach Nicolas Vitorovic was, however, unwilling to call the result an upset.

"My players played the way I wanted them to. They showed character to get one more victory. I always felt we could win. I tried to instil a winning mentality among the players," the Cypriot coach said at the post-match press conference.

Saif SC coach Mohammad Nizam was frustrated at the lacklustre approach from his players, especially the local ones.

"There needs to be bigtime change with the mindset and attitude of the players," the Maldivian coach said.

"There is lot of work to be done with the team. We gave away three easy goals. The body language and attitude of the players was not right. They did not take the opposition seriously enough," Nizam added.

# Misfiring Gunners face United today

REUTERS, Manchester



At the start of this decade, clashes between Arsenal and Manchester United were still potentially title-deciding affairs, but when the pair meet tonight at the Emirates they will have more modest goals in mind.

United have not won a league title since Alex Ferguson's final season in charge seven years ago, while Arsenal have to go back to 2004 for the last time they raised the Premier League trophy, during the reign of Arsene Wenger.

Both clubs entered this season hoping to finish in the top four, but while Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has guided United to fifth place, just a point off the Champions League spots, Arsenal languish in 12th, 11 points behind fourth-placed Chelsea after their home defeat to Frank Lampard's side on Sunday.

Arsenal's poor form led to the dismissal of their Spanish manager Unai Emery

and the arrival of his compatriot, former Gunners midfielder Mikel Arteta.

Having left his role as Pep Guardiola's assistant at Manchester City, Arteta is talking big despite beginning with a draw at Bournemouth before Sunday's loss.

"We are the biggest football club in England, and we have to play a little bit with that arrogance, that belief," Arteta told Sky Sports, urging the club's fans to make the Emirates a fortress again.

United head to London on the back of wins over Newcastle and Burnley, and with French forward Anthony Martial and England's Marcus Rashford having struck five times in those games.

French midfielder Paul Pogba is expected to be part of the United squad for the clash with the Gunners as he continues his return from a three-month injury absence.

Runaway leaders Liverpool host Sheffield United on Thursday, looking to maintain their unbeaten run and 13-point advantage over second-placed Leicester City.

## BANGABANDHU'S BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

# Maradona to come in 2020: Salahuddin

SPORTS REPORTER

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona will come to Bangladesh in 2020 as part of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary celebration, confirmed Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday.

Although the time and activities of the World Cup winner has not been fixed as of yet, Salahuddin said Maradona will come here as the BFF's guest to be a part of the celebrations.

"He [Maradona] has given his consent to our invitation to come to Bangladesh as part of Bangabandhu's birth centenary.

Since there are a lot of events to be held for the celebration, it is yet to be decided when he would come," Salahuddin told The Daily Star.

BFF will host the sixth edition of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup international tournament from January 15 to 25 as the first event of the birth centenary celebrations of the father of the nation.

The Bangabandhu SAFF Football Championship will also be held towards the end of this year while there will be a number of domestic football events to commemorate Bangabandhu's birth centenary.



# Brothers sign up Reza Parkas

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union yesterday officially signed up Iranian-born German coach Reza Parkas in hopes of reviving the club's lost glory.

The Gopibagh outfit have been struggling in domestic circuit in recent years, avoiding them w drop from the Bangladesh Premier League by a single point last season while exiting this season's curtain-raising Federation Cup from the group stages with two defeats in two matches.

Reza, a UEFA Pro-licence holder, will replace local coach Mohidur Rahman, who was given charge after former coach Syed Nayeemuddin left midway through last season.

After signing a one-year agreement with Brothers Union yesterday, Reza told reporters that he would try his best to

revive the club's glory.

"My target is always to be champion. I know Brothers have experienced and junior players; junior players are motivated, they are willing to learn which I saw in last two- three days of training. I will try to give them best of my knowledge. We will build the club new," Reza said in regards to vision for the club.

Reza went on to say that: "I have confidence in my knowledge and quality of works, when I change clubs I consider the situation."

Brothers president Nazrul Islam and club director Mohiuddin Ahmed said that they would try to give a new shape to the club and bring it back to the path of success.

The 51-year-old, who watched Brothers' Federation Cup matches, has five years' of coaching experience in Iran, Bahrain and UAE.



# Still have a lot of fire: Sharapova

AFP, Brisbane

Former world number one Maria Sharapova said yesterday she still had "a lot of fire" as she attempts to resurrect her career after an injury-plagued 2019.

The five-time major winner will open her 2020 campaign in Brisbane after being awarded a wildcard by organisers in preparation for the Australian Open later in January.

"To be fair when I was younger I never saw myself playing past 30," the 32-year-old Russian told reporters in Brisbane.

"But I still feel there is a lot in me to give. I still have a lot of fire in me and I am big competitor."

Sharapova has not played since a first-round loss to career-long rival Serena Williams at the US Open in August. She has slipped to 133 in the world rankings after a 2019 season ruined by a shoulder injury which limited her to 15 competitive matches.

"As long as the shoulder stays healthy and my body allows me to, I hope there is a lot of time left for me," she said.

Sharapova won the Brisbane title in 2015 and joins a high-class field for next week's event spearheaded by Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty and Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka.

World number two Karolina Pliskova is also playing as are fellow top 10 stars Elina Svitolina, Petra Kvitova and Kiki Bertens.

# Lemar suffers thigh injury

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid attacker Thomas Lemar, who has been linked with a move away from the club, has suffered a thigh injury, the La Liga outfit said on Tuesday, without noting the length of his absence.

Lyon and Arsenal are reportedly interested in signing the 24-year-old World Cup winner during the upcoming transfer window.

Lemar has scored three goals in 64 appearances since Diego Simeone signed him from Monaco in 2018 for 72 million euros (\$80 million).

Fourth-placed Atletico host Levante in La Liga on Saturday in their first match after the winter break.

# Juan Quintero demands answers

AFP, Bogota

Colombian international footballer Juan Fernando Quintero on Monday demanded answers from the country's new army chief over the fate of his father who went missing almost 25 years ago.

"I don't want to take advantage of the new General of the Army (Enrique) Zapateiro... taking office, but I hope to be able to start a dialogue very soon and find out what happened," Quintero, who plays for Argentine club side River Plate, wrote on Twitter.

"I have the right as a son to know what happened to my father because I have suffered and I have seen my family suffering from psychological problems," added Quintero, who was only two when his father Jaime disappeared in 1995.

General Zapateiro, who was a captain in the unit in which Jaime Quintero served, was cleared of any wrongdoing by the courts in 2001.

According to his family, in 1995 Zapateiro ordered Jaime Quintero to travel to Medellin after an alleged altercation between the two men over bouts of indiscipline, but he never arrived at his destination.



Brothers Union's new coach Reza Parkas (C) displays the club's jerseys alongside club higher-ups at his official signing at their headquarters in Gopibagh yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Rooney set for debut

AFP, London

England's record goalscorer Wayne Rooney will make his debut for second-tier Derby against Barnsley on Thursday, the club's manager Phillip Cocu confirmed.

Rooney, 34, joined Derby as a player-coach from MLS side DC United but has been ineligible to play for his new side until January.

"If a player with the qualities, career and the experience of Rooney (is available) you have to be very happy and glad he is here," said Cocu after Monday's 2-1 home win over Charlton in the Championship.

"He's fit, he can start but he will need a few games. Expectation will be high when

he starts playing but we have to give him a few games to build up his minutes and get in the team.

"So maybe not perfect from the start but it's important he will get in the team as soon as possible so we get a certain shape in our team."

Rooney's debut can't come soon enough for Derby.

Their win on Monday moved them into 17th place in English football's second-tier.

However, they are still nine points shy of the play-off spots and 21 behind the two automatic promotion places.

On Monday, teenage midfielder Jason Knight scored his first goals in professional football to give Derby the three points, ending a run of seven games without a win.



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# Rape victims double in one year

ASK research finds

RAFIUL ISLAM

The number of rape victims in Bangladesh has doubled in 2019 than that of the previous year, said Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday.

A total of 1,413 women were either gang-raped or subjected to rape last year. Of them, 76 were killed after rape and 10 others died by suicide, ASK said in its annual report.

The report was made based on different media reports and was released at a programme in Dhaka's Jatiya Press Club.

According to the report, the number of rape victims was 732 in 2018 and 818 in 2017.

The report shows an alarming overall state of the country's human rights situation though there was development

in women's participation in economy, political empowerment, education and health.

ASK said the actual number of rape victims are much higher as many victims kept mum and did not report the abuses.

Incidents of killing in the borders by Indian Border Security Force has tripled last year. It was 43 in 2019 whereas it was 14 in 2018, the report said.

Besides, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and violence against women and children persisted throughout last year, according to the report.

The Daily Star analysed ASK's reports of the previous years and found that the rights body was advocating for improvement of the human rights situation coming up with almost similar findings every year.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Awami League presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanak getting down from his SUV. Nanak accompanied AL's DSCC mayor candidate Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh as the latter submitted his nomination paper to the Election Commission yesterday. Taposh's entourage had four SUVs carrying AL bigwigs.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



## Noab elects AK Azad new president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AK Azad, publisher of Bangla daily the Samakal, has been elected president of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab).

ASM Shahidullah Khan Badal, chairman of New Age editorial board, and Matur Rahman Choudhury, chief editor of the daily Manab Zamin, have been elected vice president and treasurer respectively, says a press release of the association.

They were elected at the annual general meeting of the association at a city hotel on Monday.

The meeting formed the executive committee of the association.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



### PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Man killed in 'shootout' at Rohingya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with members of Rapid Action Battalion at a Rohingya camp in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar on Monday night.

The dead is Anwar Sadek, 32, of Lether Paschim Para in the upazila.

Shaha Alam, company commander of Rab-15 (Whykong camp), claimed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Send them to prison instantly

JS body asks environment ministry for steps against law violators

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended that the authorities concerned take necessary measures so that people involved in environment related crimes can be sent to jail from the scene.

The parliamentary standing committee on environment, forest and climate change also asked the authorities to make sure that the law is enforced no matter how influential the culprits are.

"Only imposing fine on the spot for polluting environment and committing environmental related crime is not enough to save our environment. The committee

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

# AL, BNP candidates flout polls rules

DHAKA MAYORAL POLLS

Submit nomination papers with processions

RASHIDUL HASAN and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Flouting the electoral code of conduct, mayor candidates from both the ruling Awami League and the BNP submitted their nomination papers with processions yesterday.

The contenders along with their

party men and supporters were seen thronging near the offices of the returning officers.

Asked about the rules violation, the mayor candidates blamed the councillor candidates for the crowd.

A total of 934 mayor and councillor candidates have filed

nomination papers for the Dhaka north and south city corporation polls to be held on January 30.

Among the eight mayor candidates in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), seven have submitted their nomination

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Fireworks explode over Sydney's iconic Harbour Bridge and Opera House during New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney, Australia early today.

PHOTO: AFP

## Vertical farming takes off in ageing Japan



AFP, Kyoto

The nondescript building on an industrial site near Kyoto gives little hint to the productivity inside: 30,000 heads of lettuce grow here daily, under artificial light and with barely any human intervention.

This "vegetable factory", using the latest vertical farming techniques, is part of a trend born out of necessity in Japan, where traditional farming faces a double threat from the ageing population and migration towards the cities.

With the average age of a farmer

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Kerala passes anti-CAA resolution

CM says new law goes against 'secular' outlook of India

PTI, Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala assembly yesterday passed a resolution demanding the scrapping of the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The resolution was moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the state assembly.

Though the one-day special session was convened to ratify the extension of the reservation for SC and ST in the assembly and the Parliament for another decade, the resolution against CAA was also taken up in view of the widespread concerns among public in this regard, official sources said.

While presenting the resolution, Vijayan said the CAA was against the "secular" outlook and fabric of the country and would lead to religion-based discrimination in granting citizenship.

"The Act contradicts the basic values and principles of the Constitution. In view of the anxiety among the people of the country, the Centre should take steps to drop the CAA and uphold the secular outlook of the Constitution," he said.

Noting that the Act had triggered widespread protests among various strata of society, the chief minister said it had dented India's image in front of the international community.

"National freedom movement was a convergence of various streams. The Indian constitution took shape with the essence of modern democracy and secular perspectives from such movements. Indian nationalism is based on lives and cultures of various communities. This is one reason the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Taste of Moments

This New Year, let everyday be a fairytale.

We are at the doorsteps of another new year. How does it look inside? What awaits us there? We don't know. But we can't stop wondering about it. Will the new year be the same as the one we left behind or will it be completely opposite? The timid mind wants to carry on the same but the brave heart wants to take challenge and create something new. The indestructible mind still wants to go to the moon and get a shelter there.

We wish the invocation of something new and colorful in your life. Let the untimely be the time. Let each day be celebrated with flying colors to say alive is awesome. A lot like living well.



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