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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH  
UPDATE

1,918

New cases in 24hrs



2,44,020

Total cases



3,234

Deaths



1,39,860

Recoveries

GLOBAL  
UPDATE

699,699

Deaths



18,540,305

Total cases

KILLING OF EX-MAJOR SINHA

## Cops' FIR, inquest report contradict each other

STAR REPORT

The first information report and the inquest report prepared by police over the death of Sinha Md Rashed Khan contradict each other, raising doubts about the precise sequence of events that led to the former army officer's death.

The FIR, filed by Sub-inspector Nandadulal Raxit of Teknaf Police Station, claimed that Liaqat Ali, in-charge of Baharchhara Police Investigation Centre, fired four shots at Maj (ret'd) Sinha to protect himself and the lives of his fellow officers.

However, the inquest report said a total of six gunshot wounds were found in the ex-army major's body after it was brought to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue.

"His eyes are half-open. His body bears a total of six gunshot wounds: one beneath his left shoulder bone, one in his left rib cage, one above his left hip, one in his left arm, one in his back and one above his hip," mentioned the inquest report prepared by SI Aminul Islam of Cox's Bazar Model Police Station at 1:30am on



August 1.

But police's claims of firing shots in self-defence raised a question as to why the law enforcers had to fire four or six shots to protect themselves. Sinha's mother Nasima Akhter also asked a similar question.

Police could have shot him in the leg, injured him or made him surrender or interrogated him instead of killing him, she told this newspaper.

The FIR claimed that when Sinha was taking out his gun from the right side of his body, the cop fired four shots at him.

His family and friends told The Daily Star that the 36-year-old was right-handed. According to the inquest report, all the injuries on the front side of his body were in the left part.

Sinha, who served in the Special Security Force (SSF), was killed in police firing at Baharchhara police check post on Marine Drive road in Teknaf on Friday night, triggering angry reactions on the social media with many decrying it as police excess.

Following the incident, 21 policemen,

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PM assures Maj Sinha's mother of probe, trial

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said persons responsible for the killing of retired army major Sinha Md Rashed would be brought to justice after a proper investigation when she talked to his mother over phone.

"The prime minister today [yesterday] assured Rashed's family of carrying out a proper probe into the killing and trying the persons responsible," PM Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told BSS.

Karim said the premier consoled Rashed's mother and also assured his family of financial assistance.

He said Rashed's mother thanked the prime minister



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## Why was my son killed?

Asks mother, demands justice

ZYMA ISLAM

"Why was my son killed? If he had broken any law, they could have shot him in the leg or injured him or made him surrender or taken him to the police station for interrogation. But why was he murdered?"

Nasima Akhter, mother of Maj (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan, demanded to know as she spoke to The Daily Star yesterday morning.

She made the demand also when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talked to her over the phone around 10:15am. The PM assured her of a fair investigation and justice.

It is indeed a justified demand. But more importantly, beyond the question of whether Sinha was shot unprovoked by a trigger-happy cop or whether he was shot by the police in self-defence, a mother has lost her son.

Speaking to this correspondent at her four-storey home, built lovingly by Sinha for his mother and sisters in the capital's Uttara Sector 14, Nasima said, "We will file a case and seek justice."

She remembered the details of the day her son was killed and how she found out what happened. "I spoke to him around eleven every night. On the night he was killed, I called him several times, but he did not receive the phone. Then after midnight, I received a phone call from a number."

"The voice asked me about Sinha's identity and where he works. I answered and then asked who I was speaking to. The caller identified himself as the officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Tests reduce yet cases rise in 5 days

50 reported dead in one day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the number of tests dropped significantly in the last five days, including the Eid holidays, the country witnessed a spike in the rate of daily Covid-19 positive case.

Between July 21 and 30, a total of 1,22,534 samples were tested, and results showed that 22.39 percent were positive.

From July 31 to yesterday, 9,131 were positive out of 37,061 samples tested, taking the infection rate to 24.6 percent.

Experts and WHO have been repeatedly asking the government to increase testing coverage to curb the spread of the deadly virus, but the country is lagging far behind in testing.

During yesterday's Covid-19 briefing, Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services, said another laboratory began testing samples.

That brought the number of labs around the country to 83.

A total of 7,712 samples were tested in 83 labs across the country in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, she said, adding that 1,918 more people were diagnosed with coronavirus.

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## Export makes a stunning rally in July

This comes after record remittance inflows

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

July, it seems, will go down the annals as the month in which the Bangladesh economy lifted the pall of gloom brought on by the global coronavirus pandemic.

Soon after the outbreak of coronavirus across the globe, it was feared that Bangladesh's exports and remittance, the two pillars of the economy, would take a massive hit. But July's data of the two indicators suggests the fears were outsize.

Exports fetched \$3.9 billion in July, up 44.4 percent from the previous month and 0.60 percent from a year earlier, according to data released by the Export Promotion Bureau yesterday.

After declines in four consecutive months since February, July's export data "comes as a big relief", said Zahid Hussain, former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

"This much recovery amid the pandemic was unexpected," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

What is more remarkable is July's inflows beat the target for the month by 13.4 percent.

"It is a remarkable achievement given the disruptions to production and trade caused by the virus," Hussain said.

The charge was led by the garment sector, which accounts for about 84 percent of the country's total export earnings.

Garment shipments raked in \$3.2 billion, which is 14.1 percent more

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## CHINESE VACCINE Bangladesh likely to allow phase-3 trials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is likely to allow the phase three trial of a coronavirus vaccine developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Sinovac.

Bangladesh Medical Research Council approved the vaccine in the middle of July more than a month after the icddr,b, local partner of Sinovac, submitted an application to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) for a clinical trial of the vaccine.

"We will study the application for the trial of the Sinovac's vaccine and will let the icddr,b know the decision at the appropriate time," Health Secretary Abdul Mannan told journalists after a meeting with icddr,b scientists at the ministry yesterday.

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## Huge blast in Beirut kills at least 10

Hundreds injured

REUTERS, Beirut

A huge explosion near the centre of Beirut killed at least 10 people, injured hundreds and sent shockwaves across the Lebanese capital yesterday, shattering windows and causing apartment balconies to collapse.

The most powerful explosion to hit Beirut in years shook the ground, leaving some residents thinking an earthquake had struck. Dazed and weeping, some of them wounded, people walked through streets checking to see if relatives were hurt.

The blast occurred in the city's port area. Lebanon's interior minister said initial information indicated highly explosive material, seized years ago, that had been stored there had blown up. Lebanon-based broadcaster Mayadeen cited the country's customs director saying tonnes of nitrate exploded.

Footage of the explosion shared by residents on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



This picture taken yesterday shows the devastation after a huge explosion rocked the port of Lebanon's capital Beirut.

PHOTO:  
AFP

## Tax cheats can whiten money until Nov 30

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Amnesty to black money has always been a nonstarter, so Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal's move to tuck in the facility with added benefits in this fiscal year's budget has left many scratching their heads.

But it now appears the government is racking its brains to ensure the provision is a success this time.

In its latest move, the National Board of Revenue has set a deadline for tax cheats who want to legalise their untaxed money.

To avail the opportunity, they have to declare their untaxed asset and pay the stipulated tax while submitting their income tax returns within November 30.

A notice would be issued by early next month detailing all aspects for whitening the black money, said a revenue official working on the matter. He wished to remain unnamed as he is not authorised to speak with the media.

This comes after the NBR last week came up with a declaration form for tax cheats interested in investing their undisclosed wealth with the capital market on paying taxes at a rate of 10 per cent.

The facility was added in fiscal 2020-21 and the investments would be locked in for a year.

The individual has to declare and give the stipulated tax within one month of pouring in the untaxed money in the stock market.

Besides, the individual has to provide particulars including his/her NID and TIN numbers, contact details, amount of money deposited in the share market, the beneficiary owner's account, the name of the brokerage house, among others.

From this fiscal year, individual taxpayers will be allowed to disclose any type of undisclosed properties, including

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



# Govt extends restrictions over Covid-19 till Aug 31

BSS, Dhaka

The government on Monday issued an order extending countrywide restrictions on public activities and movements until August 31 to contain spread of novel coronavirus.

The Cabinet Division issued a notification mentioning "the restriction will continue from August 4 to August 31. The weekly holidays will also be under the purview of the restrictions."

Markets, shops, and shopping malls must be closed by 8:00pm. The authorities concerned must ensure temperature-checking and hand-washing facilities, sanitizers, and vehicle disinfecting services at the entries to shopping malls. Besides, social distancing and health guidelines must be followed strictly, said the notification which contains a 10-point directive.

It said people should be encouraged in using e-commerce platforms to purchase goods and food items.

During this period, none will be allowed to go outside of home between 10:00pm and 5:00am except for urgent activities (works for burying bodies or last rituals, necessary purchasing or selling, including medicines, medical services and movement towards workplaces), the notification said.

Wearing face mask, keeping social distancing and maintaining health guidelines are a must for everyone while staying outside of home. Otherwise, the rule violators will face legal actions.

The government, autonomous, and private offices, banks and financial institutions, trade and commerce, industries and factories and service-providing institutions would remain open maintaining health guidelines issued by the Health Services Division

(HSD) of the health ministry.

All employees and expectant mothers would refrain from being present at workplaces.

All kinds of transportation services, including public transport, will remain open maintaining health guidelines issued by the HSD.

The ministries and divisions concerned would issue necessary directives to keep educational institutions and coaching centres shut during the restriction period.

All kind of rallies, meetings, mass gatherings and functions would remain stopped during the restriction while arrangement of programmes in virtual platforms should be given priority.

Devotees can offer prayers at mosques and other places of worship following the directives issued by the religious affairs ministry.

Movements in severely infected areas should be controlled following the guidelines and strategy of zone-wise containment system formulated by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Supply and availability of daily essentials should be ensured for the people while city corporations and district administrations will make overall coordination of such activities in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

The Local Government Division, information ministry, religious affairs ministry, Health Services Division, and the district and upazila administrations will carry out massive awareness campaigns to check the spread of Covid-19.

Ministries and divisions concerned have been requested to take necessary measures in line with the directives.

## Cops' FIR

FROM PAGE 1

including Liaquat Ali, were closed. The government also formed a committee which is investigating the incident.

Nandadulal named Shahedul Islam alias Shifat, who was accompanying Sinha, as the lone accused in the FIR. Shifat, a student of a private university, was charged with obstructing government activities and drawing firearms in an attempt to kill, it said.

Besides, police also filed a case against Sinha and Shifat under the 2018 Narcotics Control Act, showing 50 pieces of yaba and 250 grams of cannabis in the seizure list.

The FIR, however, didn't say much about the weapon -- Walther P22 -- recovered from the spot.

Sinha, along with Shifat, was going back to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf by his private vehicle.

The ex-army officer, who was from Jashore, took early retirement from the army in 2018 and had been making travel documentaries for a Youtube channel called "Just Go."

He took three students of a private university with him to Cox's Bazar from the capital on July 3 and had been staying at Nilima Resort in Himchhari area. They went to different mountainous areas of Teknaf for shooting, according to his family members.

But ever since the killing, multiple versions of the incident continued to circulate.

In the FIR, police claimed that Sinha had aimed his pistol at the law enforcers and that they fired shots in self-defence.

They had taken position at the checkpoint at 9:15pm, and Sinha's car arrived there approximately 20 minutes later, the FIR mentioned.

They gave a signal to stop the car approaching the check point. But it tried to cross the checkpoint, defying the signal. At one stage, Liaquat used a block at the chock post to stop the car and asked the people inside it to come out with their hands up.

Liaquat asked the person in the driving seat to come out of the car and put his hands up. Then the policemen wanted to know his identity.

The FIR stated, "Sinha began arguing with the policemen for a little while, and then suddenly took out a gun from the right side of his body." He was then

shot by Liaquat.

Police claimed that they immediately took him to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

But the arrival records of the hospital show that the body was brought in at 11:55pm, meaning there was a delay in taking him to hospital after he was critically wounded.

The scene of the incident in Shamlapur area is 48 kilometres from Cox's Bazar Sadar and it takes less than an hour to reach that place.

Hospital sources said Sinha was in army combat T-shirt and trousers when he was taken to the hospital. His body was later brought to the Combined Military Hospital in the capital where his family members were allowed to see only his face for a few minutes on Sunday.

He was buried at Banani Graveyard on Monday. The autopsy report is yet to be prepared.

The FIR said one Nurul Amin, 22, of Marishbunia village of Baharchhara Union is a witness to the incident.

However, when a correspondent of this newspaper visited his house on Monday, it was found locked.

Nurul's neighbours said he along with his family left the house the same day but they did not know where he went. Nurul, a farmer, is involved with the community police.

Similarly, Md Aiyas (40), listed as a witness in the FIR, also left his house, locals told our correspondent.

The locals also said the muezzin of Baitun Noor Jame Masjid was a witness to the incident. The mosque is about 10 yards away from the scene of the incident. However, the muezzin has been missing since August 1 afternoon. He has not been listed as a witness in the FIR.

### PROBE COMMITTEE

The committee, formed by the home ministry, went to Cox's Bazar yesterday to investigate the incident.

The team members had a long meeting at the Circuit House and drew up an action plan, Chattogram Additional Divisional Commissioner Mizanur Rahman told reporters later.

"The members will go wherever they need to go... The investigation team will talk to witnesses," he said, adding that efforts would be made to submit the report in seven working days.

## Bangladesh likely to allow

FROM PAGE 1

The vaccine had its phase one and two clinical trials done in China "without showing any side effects," he said, adding that the Chinese company wanted to conduct a trial in Bangladesh as coronavirus infection has decreased in China.

"There are still many coronavirus patients in Bangladesh. The Chinese company needs 4,200 people for the trial," Mannan said.

An official present in the meeting told this correspondent that the health ministry officials were convinced after a detailed discussion with the icddr,b scientists about the vaccine trial.

He said there was a misconception that people are used as guinea pigs for drug trials -- which is not true.

Now there are globally-recognised rules and regulations for clinical trials and those would be rigorously maintained in Bangladesh, he said.

Scientists say if the vaccine goes through successful trial in Bangladesh, the country's pharmaceutical companies would be able to go for its production. In that case, the people will get the vaccine quickly and at an affordable price and the country's capacity for vaccine research will be developed, scientists said.

Earlier in mid-July, Mannan said the decision of vaccine trial was a matter of the two governments.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque on

July 22 said the government would decide on the trial upon consultation with the National Technical Advisory Committee for tackling Covid-19.

Mannan yesterday said it would take at least six months to conduct the phase three trial in Bangladesh.

"Therefore, we will not only depend on the Chinese company vaccine. We will also try to get supplies of vaccines from the US, the UK and the European Union countries if they find effective vaccines earlier," he said.

Globally, about 150 research firms are conducting trials of the Covid-19 vaccines. Oxford University in the UK, Moderna in the US and two Chinese companies are at an advanced stage of their trial.

Developed countries are already signing deals with vaccine producers for getting vaccines at the earliest. Vaccine alliance GAVI is also working to ensure that the least developed countries get vaccine supplies free of cost. Bangladesh will also get free vaccines.

"Therefore, Bangladesh government must make the best efforts to establish effective contacts with GAVI and other actors concerned," said a medical scientist who worked with the World Health Organization.

At the same time, Bangladesh should also invite vaccine companies for trial in Bangladesh as it would help the country develop the capacity in medical research, he said.



**A Dhaka-bound bus from Mawa crashes into the central reservation of Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga expressway after losing control in front of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj yesterday afternoon. The accident left several people injured.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Why was my son killed?

FROM PAGE 1

"When I asked the officer to hand the phone to Sinha, he said my son was a little far away and cut the call. I was feeling uneasy so I kept calling the number, but nobody picked up my calls."

Nasima then informed a friend of the deceased army official and asked him to look into it. "I thought Sinha might have been under arrest or something, so I asked him to find out."

The next day was Eid. Nasima kept calling both her son and his friend, but nobody responded. "Around 11:00am, policemen from Uttara (west) police station came to my house. I greeted them, invited them to eat and told them that I am worried about my son. I thought he was under arrest in Teknaf and if I tell them how good my son is, they will release him."

Later in the day, Sinha's friend called back. "He made an excuse for not picking up my calls and asked for the mobile number of my daughter. When I asked why, he said he wanted

to exchange Eid greetings with her. By that time, he already knew what had happened and he did not want me to know it first."

"Around 7:30 in the evening, his colleague's sister came to visit. She started saying she understands the pain of losing a child. That is when I realised Sinha is no longer alive," narrated the mother in excruciating detail.

Sinha, 36, was killed in police firing at a check-post in Teknaf on Friday night. He was returning after shooting for a travel documentary. The home ministry has formed a high-powered committee to investigate the incident.

The retired army official was born on July 26, 1984. He served at the Special Security Force (SSF) as the prime minister's bodyguard between 2009 and 2012.

"Following that he worked in many other cantonments, including in Cox's Bazaar's Ramu which was his favourite," Nasima said. He also went to a UN mission in Ivory Coast. In 2018, while he was posted in Rangpur cantonment,

he decided to take voluntary retirement.

"He wanted to travel the world and an army position left him rooted to one spot. He wanted to explore the Everest base camp and cycle around China. He wanted to begin his world tour this year, but the pandemic stood in his way," she said.

The family reminisced how he had prepared for the tour by buying a trekking backpack and putting up a whiteboard to map out his plans.

"He was different. He had gone to some villages on a tour and brought home two praying mantis insects. He named them Nontey and Fontey. They used to live in a plant in the balcony as his pets," remembered Sinha's sister Sharmen Shahria Ferdush.

His mother added, "Just the other day I was telling him that I can no longer see Fontey in the tree, but that Nontey is waiting for him to come back from Cox's Bazar."

But pet insects, dreams of travel, a house to grow old in and broken hearts are all that's left now.

## Tax cheats can whiten money until Nov 30

FROM PAGE 1

land, building and flat, by paying tax at a particular rate on per square metre.

Individual taxpayers will also be able to make any disclosure of undisclosed cash, bank deposits, savings certificates, bonds or any other securities on paying taxes at a rate of 10 per cent.

No authority, including the NBR and the Anti-Corruption Commission, would be able to raise any question on such declarations.

Until last fiscal year, tax cheats were able to whiten their assets by investing in residential buildings by paying a tax of 10 per cent on the amount invested, which for regular taxpayers is between 10 and 30 per cent. They will also not face any questions about the sources of their income if they invest in economic zones and hi-tech parks.

In the upcoming weeks, the tax administration would run ads in newspapers and televisions, commission TV programmes and publish leaflets and brochures to inform of the added privileges this fiscal year and also encourage people to bring their untaxed money to the mainstream economy.

The NBR would particularly highlight the opportunities introduced in the current budget that no questions would be asked about the sources of the money disclosed, said an official of the government agency.

In fiscals 2007-08 and 2008-09, Tk 9,682.99 crore was legalised during the regime of the Army-backed caretaker government, which was the highest in the country's history, NBR data showed.

In the previous two governments of the Awami League, Tk 1,805 crore and Tk 4,856 crore were respectively legalised.

Meanwhile, in a curious development, deposits at different banks are increasing significantly, which many bankers construed as people parking their untaxed money with lenders after the widened amnesty for black money was declared in June.

The correspondents learned of the rudimentary correlation after speaking with several bank officials from different branches.

"We can easily tell that they are not 'running money'. They have a damp smell and look," said an official of a private bank's Shantinagar branch requesting anonymity.

## Export makes a stunning rally in July

FROM PAGE 1

than the target set by the commerce ministry for July. In July last year, apparel exports stood at \$3.3 billion.

However, Mohammad Abdus Salam, acting president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, is not jubilant about the development.

"Had the sector's export earnings soared 25 percent or more, we could have said the garment sector performed well."

Besides, July's earnings were higher because most of the shipments that were stuck between April and May for the lockdown all over the world were dispatched in the last two months, he told The Daily Star over the phone.

Salam though remains cautiously optimistic.

Bangladesh is strong in basic garment items, whose demand held up amid the pandemic in the Western world, he said, adding that the reopening of stores in the EU and the US is giving hope to the apparel exporters.

"We are expecting that the garment export will rebound strongly from September onwards because the international retailers are coming back with work orders and they are mainly for basic garment items," Salam added.

Exports to European and non-traditional markets appear to have played the dominant role in the rebound, Hussain said, adding that retail sales in the eurozone have recovered significantly since May to near pre-lockdown levels.

"Governments in Europe have spent billions to limit the damage to employment. The good news is France, Germany, and most of Europe have extended short term work support schemes through the rest of 2020. This will help sustain the recovery in consumer spending."

Credit must also be given to the prompt support provided by the

Bangladesh government to keep the supply chains flowing and exporting enterprises afloat through the subsidised credit for wage payments, Hussain said.

In July, jute and jute goods, home textiles, agricultural products, primary and pharmaceutical product shipments picked up too.

Jute and jute goods exports soared 38.2 percent to \$103.5 million, homes textiles 42.5 percent to \$94 million, agriculture products 30.9 percent to \$101.1 million, and pharmaceuticals 49.1 percent to \$17.1 million.

"The pharmaceutical industry appears to have taken advantage of the increased demand due to the virus," he said.

Mansur too said if the momentum of July's non-garment exports is leveraged then the outside reliance on the apparel sector can be toned down.

### REMITTANCE CONTINUES TO BEAT ALL ODDS

The positive oddsflash comes on the heels of another sanguine development the previous day.

After sending home a record \$18.2 billion last fiscal year that ended on June 30, migrant workers sent in another \$2.6 billion in July, which is a record for a single month.

July's inflows were up 62.5 percent from a year earlier and 42.1 percent from the previous month, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

The robust flow of remittance pushed foreign exchange reserves past the \$37 billion-mark for the first time in history. The developments are in stark contrast to the prediction of economists. The Asian Development Bank in a report earlier this week said Bangladesh would be among the five worst-affected developing Asian economies in terms of remittance inflows.

In the worst-case scenario, Bangladesh's remittance will decline 27.8 per cent from its 2018 level. In 2018, Bangladesh received \$15.5 billion

in remittance.

The "worst-case" scenario assumes that the domestic outbreak control and resumption of economic activities take a year. It also assumes that the economic impact of COVID-19 persists throughout the year and dissipates halfway in the last 3 months of the outbreak.

Mansur said the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in the EU and the US had a substantial role to play in the torrent of inflows in the past couple of months.

Since the retail stores were largely shut between March and May, the expatriate Bangladeshis did not spend much, leaving them with unexpected but welcome stashes of money.

Given the near-zero interest rates in much of the Western world, the NRBs felt their savings would yield greater returns if parked with banks in their home country, where the interest rate is 6 percent, Mansur said.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, who recently returned from his month-long trip from the UK, credited the 2 percent cash incentive on remittance that he introduced last fiscal year for the surge in inflows that are beating all odds.

Now, he's eyeing \$3-5 billion more remittance from last fiscal year, said a finance ministry press release on Monday.

All steps will be taken to bring in remittance through the legal channel, he added.

Md. Abdul Halim Chowdhury, managing director of Pubali Bank, however, remains less sanguine given the hordes of returning migrant workers and no new migration for the best part of this year.

And thanks to the 2 percent cash incentive on remittance inflows from abroad, returning migrant workers are wiring their savings in advance instead of bringing it with them in cash.

## Padma eats up bridge-making equipment

STAR REPORT

At least 192 railway stingers and 220 roadway decks, supposed to be used for construction of Padma Bridge, fell into the Padma in between 2:00pm and 8:00pm on Friday as erosion hit a part of the bridge project's construction yard.

Experts, however, said the erosion will not affect the main Padma bridge site as it occurred in Kumarbhog area of Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila, nearly two kilometres off the bridge site.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Bridges Division Secretary Belayet Hossain said no erosion was reported after July 31.

He along with Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, also the immediate past Bridges Division secretary, and some experts has already visited the erosion site.

Replying to a question, he said, "No damage was done to the main structure of the Padma Bridge due to the erosion."

He said as the construction yard is situated outside the river training area of the Padma Bridge project, the Water Development Board will take up a separate project to protect the areas vulnerable to erosion.

Asked about losses caused by erosion, Belayet said the contractor primarily estimated the losses at around Tk 90 crore.

"However, the losses will be less if the railway stingers can be salvaged as expected by the project authorities."

Speaking about the recovery of the roadway decks and railway stingers, an independent expert said most of those are too heavy to be swept away by river currents.

"The decks and stingers are likely to be piled up on the riverbed near the erosion site. Those will be covered with sediment. It is possible to salvage those from the riverbed by using cranes. The salvaged decks and stingers can be used in the bridge if those do not lose strength," he said.

An official of the Padma Bridge project said the government will conduct a survey on more than 20 km area on both sides of the bridge site to predict the possibility of any further erosion of the river bank.

The survey may begin next week, the official added.

The Padma had devoured a part of the construction yard in August and September in 2015 when erosion hit the area.

Construction of the Padma Bridge started in November 2014 to connect the country's southwestern region with the capital through road and rail links.

## Huge blast in Beirut

FROM PAGE 1

social media initially showed a column of smoke rising from the port district followed by an enormous blast that sent a ball of white smoke and fireball into the sky. Those filming the incident from high buildings in other areas of the city were thrown backwards by the shock.

Lebanese President Michel Aoun called for an emergency meeting of the country's Supreme Defence Council, according to the presidency's Twitter account. Prime Minister Hassan Diab called for a day of mourning today.

It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze that set off the blast.

An Israeli official said Israel, which has fought several wars with Lebanon, had nothing to do with the blast.

In Cyprus, a Mediterranean island lying 110 miles (180 km) northwest of Beirut, residents reported hearing two large bangs in quick succession. One resident of the capital Nicosia said his house shook, rattling shutters.

## PM assures

FROM PAGE 1

for enquiring about their family.

Rashed, who also served as a Special Security Force (SSF) member, was killed reportedly in police firing at Baharchhara police check-post in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf on Friday night.

Immediately after the incident, authorities withdrew 16 policemen, including the check-post in-charge, who were on duty at the scene in Teknaf's Marine Drive.

The home ministry has formed a high-level community that launched an investigation into the killing.

## Tests reduce

FROM PAGE 1

The number of positive cases in the country reached 2,44,020.

Of the 49 Asian countries, Bangladesh ranks fifth in terms of total Covid-19 cases, according to worldometers.info.

But it ranks 36th in testing coverage. Data shows the number of tests per million people stands below 7,500 in Bangladesh.

The number of tests per million people in Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka is respectively 24,375, 14,627, 9,085, and 7,567.

Conducting 5,24,173 tests per million, the UAE is the top in Asia.

### BRIEFING

Fifty more people died from coronavirus infections in the 24 hours, said Dr Nasima during the online briefing.

The death toll now stands at 3,234, and the death rate is now 1.33 percent.

Among the victims, 44 were male and six female. They were aged between 31 and 90, Dr Nasima added.

Meanwhile, 1,955 Covid-19 patients recovered in the 24 hours, bringing the number of recoveries to 1,39,860.

Around 374 people were put under isolation during the period, Dr Nasima added.



## CCC gets new administrator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Khorshed Alam Sujon has been appointed administrator of the Chattogram City Corporation.

Local Government and Rural Development Minister Tajul Islam confirmed it yesterday.

A notification will be issued in this regard, the added.

The tenure of incumbent CCC mayor AJM Nasir Uddin will expire today. Sujon, vice-president of city unit of Awami League, will fulfill his duties until a new mayor is elected.

On March 21, the Election Commission postponed CCC polls due to the coronavirus outbreak. The election was scheduled for March 29.

Sujon told reporters that he was grateful that the government appointed him the administrator of CCC.



Sujon



Conservancy workers of Dhaka South City Corporation clean up waste from animal sacrifice on Eid afternoon. The photo was taken from Green Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Capital cleaned up promptly after Eid

26,000 tonnes of waste removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Eid-ul-Azha, Dhaka city could be cleaned within three days through the efforts of the city corporations and city dwellers.

Residents were encouraged to maintain proper disposal and clean their surroundings with bleach. Meanwhile, they also expressed satisfaction over the city corporations' prompt steps.

Earlier, two mayors of Dhaka city had announced that they would ensure that each day's garbage is cleaned within 24 hours.

Around 27,500 waste management workers of two city corporations cleaned up around 26,188 tonnes of waste during the three days of Eid generated due to animal sacrifice during the festival, alongside regular waste.

Among those, 14,921 tones were generated at DSCC areas while 11,267 tones were generated in areas under DNCC.

The waste was dumped at two designated landfills of the capital -- in Matuail and Amin Bazar.

"The city corporations' effort was really good. I noticed the DSCC workers since the night before Eid when they were cleaning the cattle market in Dhupkhola," said Adnan Ahmed, a resident of Distillery road of Gandaria.

"All the cattle markets are now clean, the work has been effective," said Adnan.

Murad Hossain, a resident of Pallabi said city

## COVID-19 Rangpur mayor, wife test positive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The mayor of Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) and his wife have tested positive of Covid-19, an RCC official confirmed yesterday.

Abdul Kayum, head of health at Rangpur City Corporation, said Mayor Mostafiz Rahman Mostafa and his wife Jeli Rahman have contracted the virus after getting tested at the RT PCR Lab of Rangpur Medical College.

However, the couple are not showing severe symptoms and are now at home isolation.

The mayor went for the testing after he felt sick on August 3 while attending a Janaza prayer. Jeli Rahman also got tested out of precaution.

Later that night, they got back the result which showed they are Covid-19 positive, said Dr Hirambo Roy, Civil Surgeon of Rangpur.

## Court rejects bail of JKG officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A virtual court in Dhaka yesterday again rejected the bail petition of two officials of JKG Health Care, in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates.

The accused are Humayun Kabir Himu, a graphic designer of JKG Health Care, and his wife Tanzina Patwary, who also worked for the organisation.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order, after the accused's lawyer submitted a criminal appeal against rejection order of the lower court.

Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on June 24 rejected the couple's bail and sent them to jail after they were produced before it for recording confessional statements in the case.

During yesterday's hearing, their lawyer told the court that their clients were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them. Therefore, their bail petition should be granted.

However, prosecution opposed the defence pleas, saying the couple gave confessional statements before magistrates,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Road crashes kill 11 amid Eid rush

STAR REPORT

The country witnessed at least seven road accidents during Eid vacation, leaving 11 people dead and four persons injured, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Madaripur, a motorbike rider was killed and his pillion passenger injured as the bike fell onto Dhaka-Khulna highway after he lost control over it in Pacha area under Shibchar upazila yesterday.

The deceased -- Md Sadvi (25) from Etna village in Narail -- used to live in a rented house in Munshiganj, said police.

The injured was admitted to Shibchar Upazila Health Complex.

In Gaibandha, a car and a covered-van collided head-on on Dhaka-Rangpur highway in Gobindaganj area, leaving three persons dead and three injured in Nundah Bridge area on July 31.

The deceased -- identified as Shahed (40), his brother Kazol (32) and Shahidul Islam (55) -- were garment workers and were travelling in the covered-van, said Abdul Kader Zilani, officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj Highway Police Station.

The three -- who were going to their Rangpur residences -- died on the spot when the covered-van flipped over, said the OC.

The injured -- who were in the car -- received primary treatment from Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex. Police seized both the vehicles.

In Bogura, an NGO worker named Shapla Khatun (32) died instantly as she was run over by truck after she fell from a motorcycle in Ron Bagha area on Bogura-Natore regional highway in Nandigram upazila on July 31.

Shapla along with her husband and daughter was going to Kahaloo

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Insurance scheme launched to cover losses due to flood

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The World Food Programme (WFP), Oxfam Bangladesh and Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd have launched a new insurance scheme to help protect casual agricultural labourers in the country from the floods during this monsoon.

The scheme will support 2,000 casual farm labourers in Jatrapur and Ranigonj unions and Chilhari upazila of Kurigram, said a WFP statement yesterday.

Based on the parameters of the flood index, each household will receive a pay-out of BDT 2,700 to 18,000 to cover wage losses caused by severe flooding during monsoon -- which runs from the beginning of July to end of September this year.

"People in Bangladesh do not have protection against losses and damages caused by annual flooding. That's why WFP is introducing this flood insurance scheme -- the first of its kind," said Richard Ragan, WFP Country Representative in Bangladesh.

Already dealing with the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic, Bangladesh is currently facing a devastating flood that has submerged towns, washed away homes, and destroyed crops. Experts say climate change and frequent rainfall have lead to the increase in flooding.

Developed with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the overall goal of the scheme -- which is a risk transfer solution -- is to enhance households' and communities' abilities to absorb climate shocks, improve their ability to reduce and manage risk, and maintain food security.

"KOICA believes that the innovative approaches -- such as Index-based Flood Insurance, Forecast-based Financing and Seasonal Livelihood

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Boost monitoring to minimise farmers' losses: agri minister

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday asked officials concerned to visit flood-hit areas as soon as possible, and monitor and supervise field activities to recoup farmers' losses.

"Affected farmers are facing uncertainty, and effective work is needed to minimise losses after water recedes," he told an online meeting with ministry staff.

The government has formed 14 committees to accelerate monitoring and cooperation, including disbursement of fertiliser and seeds.

The committees have started monitoring the government's incentive package to keep up food production and minimise losses of farmers in 38 districts.

Committee members will hold regular online meetings and coordinate incentive distribution programmes in affected districts.

Md Hasanuzzaman, additional secretary (admin) Arifur Raman Apu, additional secretary (research) Kamalaranjan Das, and officials concerned of the ministry were present at the meeting.

## Fighting the good fight

Kumudini Hospital continues to provide healthcare services amid flood, Covid-19 challenges



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Staff members ride a boat to the hospital as the entire Kumudini Complex and nearby roads have remained inundated for two weeks, escalating sufferings of patients visiting the hospital on the premises, below.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Despite the ongoing pandemic situation, Kumudini Hospital in Tangail's Mirzapur has been continuing its health care services through various initiatives to help people in need.

The authorities of the charitable institution, founded by late philanthropist Ranada Prasad Saha, also launched free telemedicine services for patients in this regard.

But amid the coronavirus situation, the country was also hit by flood. Around 37 percent of the country's total area has been flooded, said Prof AKM Saiful Islam, of Buet's Institute of Water and Flood Management, last month after analysing satellite

images.

In Tangail, fresh areas have been flooded after a 30-metre portion of a flood protection dam collapsed at Naogaon in Sadar upazila on July 29.

Although water has started receding from some areas, the flood situation remains unchanged. The premises of Kumudini Hospital have gone under knee-deep water, causing hardships to patients.

The entire Kumudini Complex as well as nearby roads has remained inundated for the last two weeks as water level increased in the adjacent Lohajang river.

The flood situation has been exacerbated further by unplanned constructions in the areas

surrounding the complex, resulting in poor drainage, said hospital authorities.

Despite obstacles, the hospital carries on serving people in need.

But patients and hospital staff continue to face hardships due to the prevailing situation as they are forced to travel on boats to enter and exit the hospital premises, they said.

The hospital authorities have already moved many of its equipment from the ground floor to protect those from flood water, said Animesh Bhowmik Liton, assistant general manager of the hospital.

"However, the health care services including emergency, operation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## ACC files case against Papia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Jubo Mohila League's suspended leader Shamima Nur Papia and her husband Mofizur Rahman Sumon for amassing Tk 6.24 crore illegally.

ACC's Deputy Director Shahin Ara Momtaz filed the case against them, confirmed ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

According to the case statement, Papia paid over Tk 3.23 crore in cash for service between October 12, 2019 and February 22, 2020 to Westin hotel.

During this period, she paid the money for 25 rooms including presidential and chairman suites, restaurant, spa, laundry and bar service.

She also spent Tk 40 lakh for shopping. Between April 2015 and April 2020, Papia paid Tk 30 lakh for house rent and invested another Tk 1.2 crore in business.

Besides, another Tk 30.52 lakh was found on Papia and her husband's account.

During the raid, Rab recovered another Tk 58.41 lakh from her house.

Papia's husband Mofiz owns a sedan worth about Tk 22 lakh.

"They could not show any legal source of income against the wealth and expenditure," reads the statement.

## No rush to return to Dhaka

River ports in Barishal experience manageable crowd flow, first time in years

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Holidaymakers from the southern region have started returning to their workplaces in Dhaka after spending Eid-ul-Adha with their families.

Every year after Eid, river ports in Barishal overflow with passengers during the holidays. However, this year, the ports are much less crowded, mostly due to the caution surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, passenger suffering is at a minimum, launch owners said.

On Monday, two days after the Eid, at least seven launches left Barishal for Dhaka. Although launches were a bit crowded, they did not overflow, this correspondent saw while visiting the ports.

Passengers said they found a lot of available space at the launch decks in the afternoon, something they could not imagine before. Md Alauddin, a Dhaka-bound passenger, said journeying on a spacious launch was a refreshing change.

Alongside decks, cabin tickets



Passengers enjoy a comfortable journey back to Dhaka owing to the decreased number of travellers on the route.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

could be managed without much hassle as well. Abul Bashar, who had come to Barishal from Dhaka, said for the return journey, he managed to book a single cabin on the Sundarban-11 launch without

any problem.

According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) sources, every year during Eid, at least 16-17 passenger launches transport around 60,000-70,000

people daily with double trips. This time around, the seven launches transported only around 20,000 passengers for Monday.

Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice-president of Launch Owners' Association, said launches are not getting expected number of passengers, and incurring losses as a result. On the other hand, Riazul Kabir, owner of the Surovi Passengers' Launch, said he expects the crowd to increase in the next three-four days.

"This time, the number of passengers is relatively low. Maritime security has not been hampered anywhere. In addition, the launches have also maintained social distancing guidelines," said Azmol Huda Mithu, joint director (port and transportation) at BIWTA.

However, upon inspection, this correspondent found that the launches were not fully complying with health guidelines necessary during the pandemic. They rarely facilitated social distancing and only one or two launches were checking passengers for temperature before boarding.

## ASSAULTING PEOPLE IN UTTARA TikTok personality 'Opu Vai' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested TikTok celebrity Yasin Arafat Opu, also known as 'Opu Vai' on social media, along with one of his accomplices, on charges of assaulting, harassing and beating people at the capital's Uttara area.

Opu (20) and Nazmul (21) were arrested from Uttara around 10:30pm on Monday, said Azizur Talukder, a sub-inspector of Uttara East police station, also the investigating officer of the case.

Police produced them before a Dhaka court yesterday with a three-day remand prayer. But the court sent the duo to jail.

TikTok and Likee (formerly Like) are two China and Singapore based video-sharing social networking services respectively, used for creating short videos.

Hailing from Sonaimuri of Noakhali, Opu, followed by millions in these two platforms, stands out with his bright hairstyle, signature dialogues and smile on his TikTok and Likee videos. He recently came to Dhaka to make videos and was staying at a house in Dakkhin Khan area.

The police officer said that Opu and his accomplices assaulted some locals in Uttara on Sunday evening and a victim later filed a case.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3





JAMUNA BANK

Jamuna Bank Limited  
Jamuna Bank Tower, Plot-14  
Block-C, Bir Uttam A.K Khandaker Road  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka. Tel: +880 9610005678

NOTICE OF THE 19th (NINETEENTH)  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all the Members of Jamuna Bank Limited (JBL) that the 19th (nineteenth) Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of the Company will be held on **Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020** at 11:00 A.M. by using digital platform through the link <https://jamunabank.bdvirtualagm.com> to transact the following businesses and to adopt necessary resolutions:

(A) ORDINARY BUSINESS:

- To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December 2019 together with Directors' Report and Auditors' Report thereon.
- To declare the dividend for the year ended on 31st December 2019 as recommended by the Board of Directors.
- To elect/re-elect Directors of the Bank.
- To appoint/reappoint External Auditor(s) of the Company for the year 2020 until the next Annual General Meeting and fix their remuneration.
- To appoint Corporate Governance Compliance Auditor (s) for the year 2020 and fix their remuneration.

(B) SPECIAL BUSINESS:

- To amend Clause-II of the Memorandum of Association of the Bank.**

**Resolved that the Clause-II of the Memorandum of Association of the Bank be and is hereby replaced by the following Clause-II :**

*"The Registered Office of the Company shall be situated at Jamuna Bank Tower, Plot No. 14, Block-C, Bir Uttam A. K. Khandaker Road, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212."*
- To include new definitions at Article 2 h.(i) & Article 2 l.(i) of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the following new definitions be and are hereby included at Article 2 h.(i) & Article 2 l.(i) of the Articles of Association of the Bank:**

*"2 h.(i) Representative Director/Nominee Director*

*"Representative Director/Nominee Director" means a Director who is a member of the Board as the representative for a company/ institute/ organization to be appointed by them and supported by their Board Resolution.*

*2 l.(i) Sponsor*

*"Sponsor" means any person or institution who subscribes to the initial capital of a company."*
- To amend Article 5 of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the Article 5 of the Articles of Association of the Bank be and is hereby replaced by the following Article 5 :**

*"The Company shall maintain electronic Register of Members and Index of Members in accordance with Section 34 and 35 respectively of the Act."*
- To amend Article 16(ii) of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the Article 16(ii) of the Articles of Association of the Bank be and is hereby replaced by the following Article 16(ii) :**

*"The maximum shareholding of a member of the Company shall be subject to restriction laid down in Section 14KA of the Bank Companies Act 1991."*
- To amend Article 26(i) of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the Article 26(i) of the Articles of Association of the Bank be and is hereby replaced by the following Article 26(i) :**

*"The Directors may at their sole and absolute discretion decline to register or acknowledge any transfer of share without assigning any reason therefor and shall if so decline in respect of any shares upon which the Company has a lien or whilst any member executing the transfer is (either individually or jointly with any other person or persons) indebted to the Company on any account whatsoever or whilst any money in respect of the shares to be transferred or any of them remain unpaid and when such transfer results in validation of restriction relating to accumulation of more than 5% voting right in one shareholder or the restriction laid down in Section 14KA relating to centralization of shares in one family, of the Bank Companies Act 1991"*
- To include new Article 91(iii) & Article 91(iv) at the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the following new Articles be and are hereby included at Article 91(iii) & Article 91(iv) of the Articles of Association of the Bank:**

*"Article 91. (iii) A company/institute/organization, holding sufficient qualifying shares of the Company, will also be eligible to acquire an office of Director in the Company provided that such company/institute/organization (if elected as Director) would be represented in the Company by Representative Director/Nominee Director under Section-90(3) of the Companies Act 1994 subject to providing Board Resolution of such company/institute/organization as well as compliance of regulatory requirements.*

*Article 91. (iv) No person shall, unless recommended by the Board of Directors of the Company for election, be eligible for election to act as Director of the Company."*
- To delete Article 94 of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the Article 94 be and is hereby deleted.**
- To amend Article 95 of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the Article 95 of the Articles of Association of the Bank be and is hereby replaced by the following Article 95:**

*"The Directors, as per the provisions of Section 18 of the Bank Companies Act, 1991, shall be entitled to a fee of an amount to be fixed from time to time in accordance with the guidelines of the regulatory body for attending each meeting of the Board/its Committees."*
- To amend Article 107(iv) of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the Article 107(iv) of the Articles of Association of the Bank be and is hereby replaced by the following Article 107(iv):**

*"The post of the Chairman/Chairperson will always be vacated after completion of his/her 1 (one) year term except for the first Chairman which (if approved by the Board of Directors) may be extended maximum for 1 (one) year.*

*Out of total members of the Board of Directors, other than Independent Directors, most senior person (as per age) will be the second Chairman/ Chairperson and the second senior person will be the next Chairman/Chairperson and this process will continue subject to consent of the two-third of the members of the Board of Directors. This process will then rotate in the same way. Seniority will be evident by educational certificate or the age declared to the Bangladesh Bank at the time of application made for approval of the Bank. In case two or more directors have same date of birth then seniority will be determined as per English alphabets of their first main name excluding their first common names & titles such as Md., Ahmed, A. K. M., Kazi, Chowdhury etc."*
- To include new Article 107 (iv) a & Article 107 (iv) b at the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the following new Articles be and are hereby included at Article 107(iv) a & Article 107(iv) b of the Articles of Association of the Bank:**

*"Article -107 (iv) a The successor(s) (i.e. spouse/son/daughter or any legal heirs) of Sponsor Director(s), if elected as the member of the Board in place of an original Sponsor Director, shall be eligible to become Chairman/Chairperson as per the conditions provided in Article 107(iv) above. However, the seniority shall be counted on the basis of the age of the original Sponsor Director(s) from whom he/she has acquired the same.*

*Article -107 (iv) b If there are directors/representative directors/nominee directors other than any sponsor director/independent director in the company, the fate about his/her or representative/nominee of a company/institute/organization becoming Chairman/ Chairperson of the Company shall be determined on the basis of their seniority in the Board/longest in office as the member of the Board and if there are multiple such members of the Board with the same seniority, then most senior person as per age would be elected/selected as the Chairman/Chairperson of the company. In case of two or more persons have same date of birth then seniority will be determined as per English alphabets of their first main name excluding their first common names & titles such as Md., Ahmed, A. K. M., Kazi, Chowdhury etc."*
- To amend Article 107(vi) of the Articles of Association of the Bank**

**Resolved that the Article 107(vi) of the Articles of Association of the Bank be and is hereby replaced by the following Article 107(vi):**

*"The post of Chairman/Chairperson if vacated in case of death or otherwise, the post will be filled up as per the provision of Articles 107 (iv) above as the case may be and shall hold office for 1 (one) year in full as his/her term. A member of the Board of Directors who has held the post of Chairman/Chairperson will not be re-elected again until the rotation of the remaining Directors is completed.*

*Provided that the post of the Chairman if vacated due to longest in office as per Article 102 i.e. before completion of his 1 (one) year term in full, shall be eligible for re-election and hold the post of Chairman until completion of his full 1 (one) year term"*

August 05, 2020  
Dhaka

By order of the Board of Directors  
Sd/-  
M. A. Rouf  
Company Secretary

Notes:

- The Board of Directors recommended @ 15% Cash Dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2019.
- The 'Record Date' in lieu of Book Closure was **Monday, July 20, 2020**. The Shareholders whose names appeared in the Members Register of the Company under CDS on Record Date (July 20, 2020) will be eligible to attend the 19th AGM and would be qualified to receive Dividend.
- A member entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend the meeting and take part in the proceedings thereof on his/her behalf. The scanned copy of "Proxy Form", duly signed and affixed with BOT 20 revenue stamp must be sent through email to Bank's Share Office at [quzi.akbar@jamunabank.com.bd](mailto:quzi.akbar@jamunabank.com.bd)/deposited at the Registered Office of the Bank no later than 72 hours before commencement of the AGM.
- Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Order No. SEC/SMRC/94-231/25 dated 08 July 2020, the AGM will be held virtually, which will be conducted via live webcast by using digital platform. The login into the system, the shareholders need to put their 16-digit Beneficial Owner (BO) Number and other credentials as a proof of their identity. Link(<https://jamunabank.bdvirtualagm.com>) of the meeting and login details will be notified to the respective Member's email address and by SMS. Full login/participation process for the Digital Platform meeting will also be available in the Bank's website: [www.jamunabankbd.com](http://www.jamunabankbd.com).
- Members whose email addresses have been updated/changed in the meantime, are requested to email us at [quzi.akbar@jamunabank.com.bd](mailto:quzi.akbar@jamunabank.com.bd) mentioning their full name, BO ID, email address and mobile number to get the digital platform meeting invitation.
- Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities & Exchange Commission Notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/ 208/Admin/81 dated 20 June 2018, we have already sent the Annual Report-2019 of the Bank in soft form to the e-mail of the shareholders available in their Beneficial Owners (BO) accounts maintained with the Depository. Shareholders may also collect the printed copy of the Annual Report-2019 from the registered address of the Bank. Soft copy of the Annual Report-2019, Notice of AGM and Proxy Form will also be available at the website of the Bank i.e. [www.jamunabankbd.com](http://www.jamunabankbd.com).
- Members are requested to update their 12 digit Taxpayer's Identification Number (e-TIN) through their respective Depository Participants (DPs). In default, the tax from cash dividend of individual taxpayer will be deducted @ 15% instead of @10%.
- Merchant Banks and depository participant (DPs) are requested to email the soft copy of their margin clients list (in MS Excel format) with all required information as on 'Record Date' at [quzi.akbar@jamunabank.com.bd](mailto:quzi.akbar@jamunabank.com.bd) or [mymul.chowdhury@jamunabank.com.bd](mailto:mymul.chowdhury@jamunabank.com.bd) by 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020 for facilitating payment of Cash Dividend.
- As per Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Circular No.SEC/CMRRCD/2009-193/154 dated October 24, 2013, "no benefit in cash or kind, other than in the form of Dividend (i.e. No Food/Box/Gift Coupon etc.)" to be distributed at the AGM.



To get the link of the AGM scan the QR code



This road in the capital's North Kamalapur is clearly in dire need for repair. Puddles of rainwater are abundant, and potholes pose serious risks of accident, as is hinted by a tilted bus in the back. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Insurance

FROM PAGE 3

approaches -- being piloted in this project will help reduce human suffering," said Young-ah Doh, Country Director of KOICA Bangladesh Office.

With a mission to leave no one behind with People-centered Peace and Prosperity, KOICA stands by the people of Bangladesh, Doh said.

"While climate change affects us all, low-income communities in the agricultural sector bear the brunt of the impact, even though they contribute the least to climate change", said Oxfam Bangladesh's Country Director Dipankar Datta. "This drives inequality even further," he added.

"We hope that the government will

replicate and scale up our newly launched index-based flood insurance scheme to minimise the risk of extreme vulnerabilities and inequalities faced by the marginalized communities involved in agriculture," he added.

Farzana Chowdhury, managing director & CEO of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd, said she and her organisation are looking forward to work on the project with WFP and Oxfam.

The index-based flood insurance product got the historical data required to develop the scheme from technical partners Weather Risk Management Services, International Water Management Institute, and Save Earth Climate Services Ltd.

## Fighting the good

FROM PAGE 3

theatres, intensive care unit, delivery rooms and diagnostic centre remain fully operational," he added.

In addition, he said, the Kumudini Welfare Trust arranged for distribution of food relief among low income families in Mirzapur and Narayanganj.

The hospital has also been responding to the Covid-19 crisis by conducting village outreach programmes in the surrounding unions, where its doctors, nurses, intern doctors and administrative staff have been visiting different unions for medical consultation and awareness building, Animesh said.

It also initiated process to ensure safety of its frontline staff who come into contact with patients.

## Capital cleaned

FROM PAGE 3

corporation staffers had been at work since Eid afternoon in their area.

DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam on the third day of Eid in a virtual statement thanked all residents of Dhaka for cooperating with them.

He also thanked councillors, officials and employees of the DNCC who were involved with the activities since the first day of Eid.

Amid the pandemic and dengue season, it was challenging to complete this work, he said.

He said there were 256 designated slaughtering places in DNCC areas and they hoped that people will use the designated spots to sacrifice animals next time as well, so that the city can be kept clean.

Chief Waste Management Officer of DSCC, Air Commodore Md Badrul Amin said following the instruction of the DSCC mayor, they have succeeded in cleaning all the garbage generated in three days, finishing eight hours ahead of their scheduled time.

"It took 4606 trips for garbage management trucks to dump the waste in Matuail," said Amin.

Thanking residents for their cooperation, Amin said the citizens are also a part of the success in cleaning activities, he said.

## Court rejects

FROM PAGE 3

narrating their involvement in issuing fake certificates.

Upon hearing both sides, the judge rejected their bail petition.

Earlier JKG Health Chairperson Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury, her husband JKG Health Care Chief Executive Officer Ariful Chowdhury and their associate Sayeed Chowdhury were sent to jail after being interrogated on different terms of remand in the same case.

Police arrested Sabrina, a government official, on July 12, around three weeks after the scam came to light.

Following her arrest, the health ministry suspended her from the post of registrar at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases for violating rules.

## Road crashes

FROM PAGE 3

upazila on Eid vacation, said highway police.

In Chapainawabganj, a motorcyclist was killed as bus hit the bike on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway in Swarupnagar area on Monday. Victim Golam Sarwar Kawnain (59) was the headteacher of Shohor Government Primary School, said police.

In Bagerhat, a motorbike rider and his pillion were killed after a bus hit it on Khulna-Mongla highway at Khajura area on Saturday.

Ruhul Amin (28) and Mujibur (29) died on the spot, said Superintendent of Police Pankaj Chandra Roy.

In Rajbari, two motorbike riders died as the bike and a pickup collided on Rajbari-Kushita regional highway in Sonapur Mor or Kalukhalia upazila yesterday.

Simul (25) was killed on the spot and Abu Sayad (22) was declared dead at Pangsha Upazila Health Complex, said highway police. Police seized the pickup but its driver fled.

In Lalmonirhat, a seven-year-old girl was killed after being hit by a motorcycle in Milon Bazar area under Hatibandha on Saturday.

The deceased -- Smriti Akhter -- was from Chakishal Chamta area in Kaliganj.

## TikTok

FROM PAGE 3

Police said engineer Mehdi Hassan Robin was driving his private car with his three friends in the vehicle on Sunday evening when Opu and his fellows were making videos on a road in sector-8.

Robin pressed the horn as they had been blocking the road. Enraged, Opu and his accomplices beat up Robin and his friends. Three including Robin was seriously injured.

Robin's friend Hasibul Haque recounted the incident in a Facebook post that since went viral.

Hasibul said that they were chatting near sector-8 on August 2 evening when 60-70 teenagers and youths came and met with someone "with a weird hairstyle".

After some time, Robin came with his car and Hasibul got in alongside his friends.

"Some yards ahead, the TikTok/Likee gang blocked the entire road. When Robin honked, the youths got enraged and hurled abusive words," he said.

"Robin asked, what is your problem? And some members of the group, without saying a word, started beating them up indiscriminately...They were beating up Robin and Shakir with helmet and sticks," Hasibul said.

He said at least 60 youths assaulted seven of their friends after they appeared on the scene.

"When asked why they were beating us, they replied: 'We run whole Bangladesh. In just five minutes, 500 people will join us. Tell your father that we beat you...'" Hasibul quoted one of the attackers.

Police said, Opu and 20-25 others were accused in the case. The charges are: unlawful assembly, unjustly obstructing work, assaulting and causing injuries to the plaintiff and also stealing goods.

Nabid Kamal Shaibal, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Uttara Division), said they will investigate whether Opu and his associates were an "aspiring teen gang" and also investigate if they are involved in drugs and other criminal activities.

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Bangladesh

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# 'It's outright bullying'

## China slams US after Trump gives TikTok 6 weeks to sell itself to US company

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday accused the United States of "bullying" over popular video app TikTok, after President Donald Trump ramped up pressure for its US operations to be sold to an American company.

In the latest diplomatic spat between the world's two biggest economies, Beijing hit back after Trump gave TikTok six weeks to arrange a sale of its US operations -- and said that his government wanted a financial benefit from the deal.

"This goes against the principles of the market economy and the (World Trade Organization's) principles of openness, transparency and non-discrimination," said foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin.

"It's outright bullying."  
The app has been under formal investigation on US national security grounds, and Trump said that Microsoft was in talks to buy TikTok.

He has given ByteDance until mid-September to strike a deal, a tactic that is almost unheard of.

"It's got to be an American company... it's got to be owned here," Trump said on Monday. "We don't want to have any problem with security."

The US and China have clashed over various fronts recently, essentially barring Chinese telecoms company Huawei from the US market and waging a global campaign to isolate the company over national security concerns.

TikTok has as many as one billion worldwide users, who make quirky 60-second videos with its smartphone app.

But the pressure for a sale of its US and international business, based in Los Angeles, has left the company and its Chinese parent ByteDance facing tough decisions.

In an earlier statement on Monday, ByteDance said it has always been committed to becoming a global company and was considering "re-establishing TikTok headquarters in major markets outside the United States".

UK media reported that it was considering a relocation to London.



People carry a fake coffin as they take part in a rally during the National Day of Resistance to schools re-opening, in New York City, US, on Monday. US President Donald Trump's move to re-open schools amid raging coronavirus pandemic has enraged many Americans. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Modi to lay Hindu temple foundations at Ayodhya

The flashpoint Indian town of Ayodhya geared up yesterday for a ceremony today which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lay the foundations for a Hindu temple on the ruins of a mosque destroyed by a mob in 1992. The destruction of the mosque sparked riots across the country in which 2,000 people, mainly Muslims, died. Devout Hindus believe that the mosque was built on the birthplace of Lord Ram some 7,000 years ago. In November last year, India's top court awarded the site to Hindus, giving Muslims another location to build a new mosque. It was a stunning victory for the BJP, but for critics, it marked another step in Modi's agenda to turn officially secular India into a Hindu nation.

## N Korea may have 'miniaturised' nuclear devices: UN report

North Korea is pressing on with its nuclear weapons program and several countries believe it has "probably developed miniaturised nuclear devices to fit into the warheads of its ballistic missiles," according to a confidential UN report. The report by an independent panel of experts monitoring UN sanctions said the countries, which it did not identify, believed North Korea's past six nuclear tests had likely helped it develop miniaturised nuclear devices. Pyongyang has not conducted a nuclear test since September 2017. The interim report, seen by Reuters, was submitted to the 15-member UN Security Council North Korea sanctions committee on Monday.

## Al Jazeera office in Malaysia raided after migrant report

Broadcaster Al Jazeera said Malaysian police had raided its office in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, amid an investigation into a programme it aired on the country's treatment of undocumented foreign workers during the coronavirus pandemic. The July 3 programme, entitled "Locked up in Malaysia's lockdown", prompted a backlash in the Southeast Asia nation, with authorities branding the report inaccurate, misleading and unfair. Malaysia arrested hundreds of undocumented foreigners, including children and Rohingya refugees, after the country imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of the new coronavirus. Human rights activists have condemned the arrests as inhumane. Malaysian officials have said they were necessary to prevent the spread of the virus. Al Jazeera said it stood by its report and called on authorities to drop the criminal investigation.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

# No 'silver bullet' for Covid-19

## Warns WHO; groundwork completed in China to probe origin of virus

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization has said it had completed the groundwork in China to probe the origins of the new coronavirus -- as it warned there might never be a "silver bullet" for Covid-19.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged governments and citizens to focus on known basic steps to suppress the pandemic, such as testing, contact tracing, maintaining physical distance and wearing a mask.

"We all hope to have a number of effective vaccines that can help prevent people from infection," Tedros told a virtual press conference. "However, there's no silver bullet at the moment -- and there might never be."

"The basics of public health" are most effective for now, Tedros

added, saying that wearing a mask in particular was sending a "powerful message to those around you that we are all in this together".

Infections are surging in some countries around the world, but Tedros insisted that however bad the situation was, past examples such as South Korea showed it could be turned around.

"When leaders step up and work intensely with their populations, this disease can be brought under control," he said.

The novel coronavirus has killed more than 690,000 people and infected nearly 19 million since the outbreak emerged in Wuhan in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP. The WHO began pressing China

in early May to invite in its experts to help investigate the animal origins of Covid-19. The UN health agency sent an epidemiologist and an animal health specialist to Beijing on July 10 to lay the groundwork for a probe aimed at identifying how the virus entered the human species.

Their scoping mission is now complete, said Tedros.

Tedros said WHO and Chinese experts had agreed the terms of reference and a programme of work for a WHO-led international team of scientists and researchers from around the world.

Scientists believe the killer virus jumped from animals to humans, possibly from a market in the city of Wuhan selling exotic animals for meat.

# Conflicts worsening amid pandemic : UN

AFP, United Nations

The coronavirus pandemic is worsening the humanitarian situation in the world's deadliest conflicts and threatens to unleash economic devastation that will intensify violence, United Nations diplomats and experts warn.

Covid-19 is hampering aid programs, diverting the attention and resources of major powers battling the deadly virus at home, and cutting remittances to already fragile, war-weary economies, they say.

Lockdowns are restricting the movements of envoys, peacekeeping troops and non-governmental agencies, hindering mediation efforts and impeding the distribution of desperately needed aid to increasingly vulnerable civilians.

"Famine is again on the horizon. Conflict is again escalating. The economy is again in tatters. Humanitarian agencies are again nearly broke. And then the new problems -- COVID-19 is spreading out of control," UN relief chief Mark Lowcock said on Yemen last week.

The situation is more or less same for all the other conflict regions which include Syria, Libya. Experts are also watching with close concern Lebanon, currently mired in its worst economic crisis since its 1975-1990 civil war.



This handout photo taken on Sunday and received yesterday from the Australian Defence Force shows an Australian Army ARH Tiger helicopter near the letters "SOS" on a beach on Pikelot Island where three men were found in good condition after being missing for three days. Three Micronesian sailors stranded on the tiny island in the remote Western Pacific were rescued after Australian and US warplanes spotted the giant "SOS" they had scrawled on the beach on the island, some 190 kilometres from where they set sail three days earlier, officials said. PHOTO: AFP

## Rajapaksas eye super-majority in Lanka polls

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankans head to the polls today with the ruling Rajapaksa brothers looking for a super-majority in parliament to change the constitution and unravel democratic safeguards.

Political observers say the siblings -- renowned for their ruthless crushing of Tamil separatist rebels to end a decades-old conflict in 2009 -- want to end presidential term limits, bring the judiciary and police under their direct control, and extend their dynastic power to a new generation.

Presidential term limits were introduced in 2015 under former president Maithripala Sirisena when parliament approved sweeping constitutional amendments.

Those changes also made the judiciary, police, civil service and election commission independent branches of government.

If the Rajapaksas' party secures a two-thirds majority in parliament, they will be able to sweep away those reforms to extend grip on power, fears political analysts of the island nation.

# Kashmir under curfew ahead of 'black day'

AFP, Srinagar

Thousands of Indian troops imposed a curfew in Kashmir yesterday, with razor wire and steel barricades blocking main roads a day ahead of the one-year anniversary of the restive region being stripped of its autonomy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed direct rule last August 5, promising peace and prosperity after three decades of violence that have seen tens of thousands of people killed in an anti-India uprising.

Officials announced a two-day "full curfew" on Monday citing intelligence reports of looming protests in the Muslim-majority region of seven million people, where locals have called for the anniversary to be marked as a "black day".

Police vehicles fitted with megaphones patrolled the city of Srinagar, with officers ordering residents to remain indoors. Yesterday, thousands of troops fanned across the city and surrounding villages.

For locals, the new curfew brought back memories of the weeks-long clampdown a year ago. Then, a total communications blackout was imposed, with phone and internet access cut and tens of thousands of fresh troops moved into the valley -- already one of the world's most militarised regions.

Around 7,000 people were taken into custody -- including three former chief ministers. Hundreds remain under house arrest or behind bars to this day, mostly without charge.

The move to scrap Kashmir's special status, which has been accompanied by an upsurge in violence that is set to make 2020 the bloodiest year in a decade, has triggered major economic hardship exacerbated by

the coronavirus pandemic.

Many locals are also angry that for the first time, people from outside Kashmir are being granted rights to buy land, fearing that India wants to change the region's demographic makeup.

"Indian government claims that it was determined to improve Kashmiri lives ring hollow one year after the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional



status," Meenakshi Ganguly from Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "The authorities instead have maintained stifling restraints on Kashmiris in violation of their basic rights."

Kashmir has been split since 1947 between India and Pakistan, both of which claim it in full. It has been the spark for two wars between the arch-rivals.

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to visit Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, today to mark what Islamabad has labelled the "Day of Exploitation". Anti-India protests are planned throughout Pakistani Kashmir while all major cities in Pakistan will hold solidarity marches, along with a one-minute silence.



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### Invitation for Tender

Issue No- ctacol/cedp/idg/otm(w)/ift(r101-2) Date: 05/8/2020

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/ National University
3	Procuring Entity Name	Principal, Chittagong College, Chattogram
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram
6	Invitation for	Refurbishment of multiple class rooms, library, wash rooms, common rooms etc. at Chittagong College, Chattogram.
7	Invitation Ref No	Issue No- ctacol/cedp/idg/otm(w)/ift(r101-2)
8	Date	05/8/2020

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit)
11	Development Partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project Code	224017200
13	Project Name	College Education Development Project (CEDP)
14	Tender Package No.	W-01 and W-01 (two separate tender packages)
15	Tender Package Name	Refurbishment of multiple class rooms in Chittagong College, Chattogram (re-tender). Refurbishment of Class rooms (2-Nos), Library, wash rooms and female common room (ground floor inside) at Chittagong College, Chattogram (re-tender).
16	Tender Publication Date	05/8/2020
17	Tender Last Selling Date	24/8/2020, Time: 4.00 pm
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	25/8/2020 Time: 12.00 pm
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	25/8/2020 Time: 1.00 pm
20	Selling Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Chittagong College, Chattogram
	Receiving Tender Document	Address (PRIMARY PLACE): Office of the Principal, Chittagong College, Chawkbazar, Chattogram. Address (SECONDARY PLACE): Office of the Officer in Charge (OC), Chawkbazar Thana, Chattogram.
	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Chittagong College, Chattogram
21	Place /Date/Time of Pre - Tender Meeting	Shall not be held

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have a minimum 05 years' general experience in activities (renovation/repair/extension) and physical services. 2. The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities of minimum BDT 40, 00,000 (forty lac) only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. 3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 200, 00,000 (two crore) only over the last 03 years. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be BDT 45, 00,000 (forty five lac) only. 5. Other criteria mentioned in Tender data sheet.		
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Brick work, Plaster, Floor & wall tiles, Plastic paint, door window repair, grill repair, enamel paint, Electrification works, sanitary works etc.		
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular Conditions of Contract, Section 6: Bill of Quantities		
25	Tender Document Price	BDT 1,500 (One Thousand Five Hundred) only		
26	Tender Name	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion time (in Months)
	Refurbishment of multiple Class rooms in Chittagong College, Chattogram.	Chittagong College, Chattogram	1,30,000.00	2 (two) months
	Refurbishment of Class rooms (2-Nos), Library, wash rooms and female common room (ground floor inside) at Chittagong College, Chattogram.	Chittagong College, Chattogram	1,20,000.00	2 (two) months
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Mohammed MujibulHoqueChowdhury		
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Principal, Chittagong College, Chattogram		
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal, Chittagong College, College Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram		
30	Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 031-615007 Mobile: 01814662829 email: ctacollege@yahoo.com		
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

(Professor Mohammed MujibulHoqueChowdhury)

Principal, Chittagong College

GD-1215





# WHEN INUNDATION IS A CONSTANT

**F**LOODS over the last two months have ravaged the country. Bangladeshis' famed resilience now includes going about their daily activities with inundation of homesteads, inside homes and in front of community clinics, while also accepting that an entire school building can be swallowed by the flood. Makeshift rafts have become commonplace, rickshaw-vans in villages have been replaced by boats to transport goods, and the ubiquitous earthen stoves raised above water levels inside rural kitchens.

Photo: STAR





The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5, 2020, SRABAN 21, 1427 BS

## Good news on the remittance front

*But don't miss the wood for the trees*

THERE cannot be anything better in the midst of the gloom and despondency that Covid-19 has brought upon us than the news that remittance in the month of July has beaten all odds. It has belied all the negative predictions that Bangladesh would be one of those Asian economies, according to the Asian Development Bank, that would suffer the most from a fall in foreign remittance. Defying all expectations of a huge fall due to the economic slump caused by the global coronavirus pandemic, we have seen our workers abroad send in USD 2.6 billion in July, a record for a single month. This has pushed foreign exchange reserves beyond the USD 37 billion mark for the first time in history. Equally gratifying to note is the percentage of increase—62.5 percent more than last year and 42.1 percent from the month of June, according to Bangladesh Bank. A big thanks to our expat workers for this.

The worries that the most important prop of our economy would be severely dented by the pandemic that has affected all the economies has not come to pass, at least as of yet. While we can justifiably feel happy about the remittance figure, we should go deep into the underlying causes and see whether the spike is episodic—is it a one-off phenomenon, or will it be a repetitive feature, of course with the normal variations? Is the spike the result of the two percent incentive declared by the government to discourage illegal transfer by expatriate workers? While that is good news, it would be well to consider that the rise could also be due to the fact that the returning workers have chosen to bring back all their savings from abroad, there being little chance for them to get back their jobs once the pandemic has receded.

While we might feel comfortable with the current situation, we should plan for the eventuality that the large number of our workers who have returned home may not get their jobs back. As such, we should focus on creating jobs for the returnees while they are here and help them to seek new destinations after the pandemic is over, as well as add value to these workers and help them graduate from low to higher paying jobs.

## Young but wise: Inspiring story of a library activist

*Atif Asad's initiative should inspire millions in their quest for knowledge*

YOUNG and wise are not attributes we use interchangeably or place side by side when describing a person. Wisdom, we like to believe, comes with age. Yet the story of 19-year-old Atif Asad, a resident of a remote village in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila, shows us that it is never too early to start the good fight. According to a report by *The Daily Star*, Atif, a first-year honours student at Jamalpur Government Ashok Mahmud College, has established a library to enlighten not just students like him but also people in general. The library, founded in January 2018 with only 20 books, now boasts over 2,000. This is not your usual brick-and-mortar library in the heart of a town where people occasionally visit and read in the comfort of carefully archived collections with modern amenities. Housed in the veranda of his house with shelves made of jute sticks, he built his library from the ground up, slowly enriching his collection with help from young learners and local benefactors. His vision is built on a model of maximising outputs that sees him take his books to the doorsteps of his readers, rather than expecting them to visit his library.

This model has proven to be effective in a poor village like his where education is viewed as a luxury for those who can afford it. Riding his cycle, Atif travels to neighbouring villages 10 to 15 kilometres away to give his books, and makes the same journey to bring them back when his readers—now around 100—are finished with them. This is no easy task for someone who also has to work as a mason's helper to provide for his family as well as support his own education. His struggle didn't diminish his spirit; on the contrary, it enabled him to look past the tribulations of his life and focus on the importance of literacy for people who come from similar backgrounds.

We congratulate Atif for his tireless service for his community and expect others to follow his example. Such initiatives are an important way of improving lives in the rural backwaters of Bangladesh, which usually receives scant attention from the country's policymakers. Atif's story is also proof that any radical change desired in a society must involve contributions from the community members who understand their limits and problems and can solve them in the best way possible.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Stop promoting smoking

Smoking and the consumption of tobacco products are harmful for health and our surrounding environment. It is not possible for the government to directly ban tobacco because a significant number of people are employed in the sector. However, the advertising, promotion and display of tobacco has been banned in public under the Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products Act 2005 (Amended 2013), but there is no proper enforcement of this law.

Cigarette packs are displayed openly in many stalls as well as leaflets and stickers promoting cigarettes. Many of the youth become tempted to smoke because of these promotions. To reduce the number of smokers and keep the new generation away from this harmful substance, it is necessary to stop the advertisement of cigarettes and smoking in public. There is no alternative to ensuring proper implementation of the laws enacted for this purpose.

Abu Faru, Bandarban

# Kajol may have been found, but justice is still missing



OVER 120 days have passed since photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol, also the editor of *The Daily Pokkhokhal*, went missing after leaving his office on the evening of March 10. Fifty-three restless nights and days his family spent searching for him. Fifty-three days the media wondered aloud whether one of their own would return alive. Yet, for 53 days, the authorities showed little interest in finding what happened to Kajol.

This, despite the coincidental fact that the day before he disappeared (March 9), almost close to midnight (at 11:30 pm), a case was registered against Kajol under the infamous Digital Security Act, along with 31 others. As well as the presence of a CCTV footage from outside his office showing several unidentified men snooping around his motorbike—and at one point meddling with it—for at least three hours before he was to be last seen. It wasn't until a month and a half later that Kajol was suddenly "discovered" near the India-Bangladesh border by a BGB patrol—as the authorities claimed—in what appears to be a bizarre stroke of luck.

Instead of finding what happened to Kajol during those 53 days, the authorities immediately put all their effort to go after him. In fact, if one didn't know any better, one might think that Kajol had committed a violent crime judging by the way he has been treated since being "discovered" near the border, beginning with him being dragged into a local court in Jashore with his hands cuffed behind his back—in violation of a High Court directive in this regard.

Why weren't the authorities at all curious to know what had happened to him? Did they already know? If so, why haven't they shared it, not even with his family? These are reasonable

questions. After all, according to Ain O Salish Kendra, between 2014 and August 2018, 310 people had disappeared in the country, of whom only 33 people have so far been "discovered"—and we know nothing about what had happened to them either.

The sheer number of disappearances and the state's outright failure to uncover and reveal what happened to those who disappeared have prompted even the United Nations Committee against

horrible scenario.

So why did two police stations refuse to file a case of disappearance at the request of Kajol's family until a court intervened? And what explains the contrasting urgency with which the authorities accepted multiple cases lodged against Kajol by persons affiliated with the ruling party?

As if the ordeal he had to endure during the time that he was missing wasn't bad enough, the authorities



Photojournalists stage a demonstration demanding the safe return of Shafiqul Islam Kajol, in front of the National Museum in Dhaka, on March 18, 2020. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Torture to question the government's claims and actions in those cases. But even if we accept that "the government is correct that the state-actors are not involved" with the many strange disappearances, then that "only means that non-state actors have become so powerful in the country that they can abduct anyone" and even "kill the abductees if they want," according to distinguished professor at Illinois State University, Ali Riaz. If that is the case, even then it is the government that is responsible for addressing this equally

charged Kajol for illegally entering Bangladesh under the Passport Act right after they had "discovered" him. And as soon as he received bail for that, he was again arrested under the Criminal Procedure Code Section 54, which allows police to arrest someone without a warrant and detain them for up to 15 days without a lawyer.

Even more ironically, during a bail hearing for that case on the 15th day of his detention, Kajol was refused bail on the ground that the magistrate had asked the police for a report which the police

didn't submit even though the last day of submission was the day before. Finally, on May 20, the Section 54 case was dismissed after the police submitted the report and confirmed that several cases had been lodged against Kajol under the DSA.

Without going into further legal jargon, it can be said that what appears to be happening is that Kajol is being punished through a process that is ideally meant to deliver justice.

For more than 120 days, he has been denied his freedom in one way or another, and still, somehow Kajol is yet to receive his day in court. And, it was only on June 23 that he was arrested for the first time in the DSA case, after having spent 52 days in jail already on top of the 53 days during which he was missing.

How is that justice? And is this "actually" about justice?

So far, many artists, journalists, human rights defenders and others have emphasised that it is not, through their activism for Kajol, which may very well have led to his (relatively early) "discovery". And the huge number of people that have vehemently opposed the treatment of Kajol illustrates quite blatantly how the majority of people view this case.

And how they do is not how the authorities have tried to portray it, but more in line with what Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch said: "Bangladesh authorities are flouting the rule of law, arbitrarily arresting anyone they feel might be criticising the government... At a time when the government should be reducing the prison population to protect against the spread of Covid-19, they are locking people up simply for their comments on social media."

The authorities, of course as we all know, have repeatedly denied such allegations before. And will no doubt do so again. But the (mis)treatment of journalists—as in Kajol's case—that we have been witnessing for some time now, speaks much louder than empty rhetoric.

Eresh Omar Jamal is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

# A ten year journey to achieve resilience to climate change



IN January 2021, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh will be holding the 7th annual Gobeshona conference with an overall

theme of starting a ten year journey to promote locally led adaptation towards resilience in Bangladesh, as well as in other vulnerable developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) countries.

The aim of the proposed journey is not to announce a new grand top-down action plan for the upcoming decade to 2030, as there are already sufficient goals including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In Bangladesh, we have just published the Perspective Plan to 2041.

In contrast, the ten year journey is an attempt to influence and modify all the top-down efforts by national governments as well as international institutions who are supporting adaptation and resilience plans, and to ensure that they genuinely support the empowerment and actions of the most vulnerable communities, in both towns as well as rural areas, in order to enhance their resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change while also tackling poverty at the same time.

The first element of this journey is the structure of knowledge sharing and evaluating our successes or failures (we explicitly accept that we will indeed make mistakes and that we will acknowledge such mistakes and do our best to learn from them and not repeat them). This will be done through three key meetings each year.

The first meeting will be the annual Gobeshona conference held in Bangladesh each January where the partners who will be involved in carrying out the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) of locally led adaptation (LLA) will meet and share their findings. One such group is the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), who will be carrying out a bottom up learning programme in each LDC.

The second annual meeting will be the international conference on community based adaptation (CBA), which takes place mid year in a different part of the world each year. This meeting brings together several hundred participants from all over the world who have been actively engaged in LLA for over a decade.

The 14th annual CBA conference this year was supposed to have been held in Bangkok, Thailand in May this year, but had to be postponed to September and will now be an online event. This event brings together the Community of Practice on CBA from all over the world and next year's CBA15 will be held in Bangladesh in the second half of 2021, hosted by BRAC. At this annual event, the grassroots groups themselves will share their experiences and evaluate to

involved. This will be an occasion to see to what extent this noble, but very top-down, initiative actually enhances LLA.

Finally, the fourth meeting each year is the annual Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is held in November or December each year on a different continent. The next COP26 will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021 (postponed from November 2020



PHOTO: ZIAUL HAQUE OISHARJH

what extent the top-down efforts are actually helping them on the ground. It will be a place for all national and international projects and programmes to come and be answerable to the grassroots communities. One set of LDCs who are part of the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) have already promised to allocate 70 percent of their adaptation funding to support LLA and will be invited to report back regarding their performance at each CBA conference.

The third event that takes place each year is the United Nations General Assembly, which is also associated with the UN Secretary General holding a Climate Change Action Summit. At last year's summit, the UN Secretary General launched an initiative on adaptation and resilience with the United Kingdom and Egypt as the co-leaders with several other countries, including Bangladesh,

due to the pandemic) and will bring together all the national governments in the UNFCCC to review progress. Under Article Six of the Paris Agreement adopted at COP21 in 2015, countries agreed to set up and achieve a global goal on adaptation, which should also include locally led adaptation.

This journey is being planned to include a number of partners, ranging from national governments of some of the LDCs as well as CVF under the leadership of Bangladesh. At the same time, intentional development partners, multilateral development banks and UN agencies are also invited to join to share their experiences in supporting LLA. The one condition for joining is to be open to being critically evaluated by the grassroots groups that are supposed to be the beneficiaries of their respective programmes.

In the Bangladeshi context, the

is to enable the countries involved to transform themselves from being some of the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change to becoming some of the most resilient. This will require all the citizens of each country to understand the risks of climate change impacts and also become prepared to deal with them effectively when they occur.

The one big lesson that the global Covid-19 pandemic has already taught us is that in every country where the leaders as well as the citizens have listened to the scientists and acted according to their scientific advice, the death toll has successfully been minimised. This lesson applies to tackling the climate change impacts which will continue for decades to come.

Dr Saleemul Huq is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh.



# Bangladesh-India ties are not a zero-sum game

MOHAMMAD A ARAFAT

It all began with an op-ed that Shyamal Dutta, the editor of the *Bhorer Kagoj*, wrote on the front page of the Dhaka-based newspaper. The blistering intro narrated the genocidal events that took place in what was East Pakistan in 1971 in the hands of the Pakistani military. It went on to remind readers that successive Pakistani leaders failed to apologise for those atrocities committed by their predecessors.

The article would have been just fine as a lesson on history. Instead, Shyamal Dutta invoked all these painful memories because Pakistan's current leader, Imran Khan—who he mistakenly called the nephew of General AAK Niazi, the man responsible for the carnage in 1971—spoke to Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for about 15 minutes.

A mere phone call, the article suggested, represents a major shift in tone vis-a-vis Bangladesh's stalled relations with Pakistan—that too, at the expense of Dhaka's historical relations with India.

The call was initiated by the Pakistani side, and it would have been discourteous of Bangladesh if it declined a call from a foreign head of government. "After all," Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Abdul Momen has said, "we live in the same world."

Thorny matters such as the Kashmir issue were raised by the Pakistani premier, to which the Bangladeshi prime minister reiterated the country's position that it was India's internal matter—an act publicly appreciated by India's high-level officials. In fact, Bangladesh did not take cognisance of the standing of Pakistan regarding these issues, as evident by the statement put out by Bangladesh which only mentioned discussions related to Covid-19.

For all its explosive claims, Shyamal Dutta's article did not garner much attention at the initial stage and it would have perhaps remained so only if it had not been for *The Hindu*, the influential Indian newspaper which picked up the

story with grave urgency.

*The Hindu* avoided Dutta's emotional remembrance of atrocities committed in the war and instead focused solely on some of the piece's most incendiary claims, such as priority towards Chinese projects in Bangladesh and disregard for Indian ones. The title of the report was equally suggestive: "Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina did not meet the Indian envoy, despite requests."

That a foreign envoy did not have a meeting with a country's prime minister

the world and completely altered the way people talk, meet and communicate with each other. Yet, the paper failed to consider the possibility that the outbreak might have been a key factor in why the meeting did not materialise.

What's more, the report left out the fact that PM Sheikh Hasina has not met any other foreign envoys since the outbreak began four to five months ago. In fact, in a subsequent report, *The Hindu* itself cited "diplomatic sources in Dhaka" who said any planned meetings

the narrative, the last four months saw some key progress in bilateral relations between the two countries. On July 21, the first Indian commercial vessels reached Chattogram port, from where goods were quickly transported to the north-eastern part of India. The transit, which saves huge amounts of money and time, has fulfilled a key and longstanding Indian demand, despite the expensive political prices involved for Dhaka.

In recent months, two countries reached commercial deals such as the

issues dating back a very long time. Even sensitive maritime boundary issues have been resolved in an amicable and exemplary manner. These achievements should be celebrated as a victory of peaceful diplomacy in a world beset by a myriad of land and maritime disputes, not least the South China Sea crisis.

There is no denying that Bangladesh has appreciated Chinese investment proposals, including in major infrastructure projects. But PM Sheikh Hasina's government has made it very clear that it intends to strike a delicate balance when it comes to its relations between China and India. It is in line with the policy that the country continues to maintain its relations with two major Asian powers.

Although Indian policymakers understand Bangladesh's positions, certain members of the Indian media are more than eager to paint a picture of fraying proximity between the two neighbours. Especially in the wake of the Galwan standoff, some media outlets are trying to cash in on the increased sensitivity among the local population regarding anything remotely related to China. Let us also remember how *Ananda Bazar*, the prominent Indian Bangla daily, disparagingly described Bangladesh taking Chinese "charity" in a story, which was later retracted due to intense public pressure coming from social media.

Amid the hostile treatment from certain sections of the Indian media, the leadership of both countries have opted for continuous harmony. On July 27, at a virtual meeting, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Abdul Momen termed the bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh as "rock solid." His Indian counterpart, J S Jaishankar, was equally effusive, "very few countries in the world share such close fraternal ties as ours." If anything, this affirmation should quell the confusion spiced up by the click-hungry media.

Mohammad A Arafat is a professor of management at the Canadian University Bangladesh and chairperson of Suchinta Foundation.



Indian PM Narendra Modi, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and Pakistan PM Imran Khan.

in four months is not earth-shattering news anyway. But, against the backdrop of the phone call between Sheikh Hasina and Imran Khan, suddenly it became a big deal.

There was only one problem, though. The source of the news was not Shyamal Dutta himself. In the original Bangla article, he referred to "the Indian media" when he claimed Riva Ganguli Das, the outgoing Indian high commissioner to Dhaka, was reportedly not given access to PM Sheikh Hasina in the last four months despite multiple requests.

Even then, *The Hindu* did not only omit Dutta's attribution to "the Indian media" but also failed to take into account a key factor: the Covid-19 pandemic. The outbreak has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives around

could not take place due to the threat of coronavirus.

To put the final nail in the coffin, a highly placed source in the High Commission of India in Dhaka disputed the very premise of the story: the high commissioner did not even seek any appointment with PM Sheikh Hasina in the last four months whatsoever.

Nonetheless, the story was picked up by other regional outlets including *Dawn* and *Asia Times*. It will go down as an international example of uncritical reporting influenced by preconceived bias, not to mention the poor attribution practices.

Not just this particular aspect of the story; the entire notion that Bangladesh is shifting away from India, bit by bit, is grossly exaggerated. In fact, contrary to

acquisition of Beximco LPG, one of Bangladesh's largest liquid petroleum gas provider, by India's state-owned Indian Oil Corporation. During the pandemic, India has also shown several instances of goodwill gestures to Bangladesh.

Most importantly, the two countries share a relationship that is not based on a zero-sum game. By the same token, Bangladesh's relations with India should not be measured by its relations with other countries and vice versa. In fact, the ties are so powerful that even the realpolitik issues—which would have been the thorniest had it been between countries with normal ties—have been peacefully resolved by the two countries.

For two nations sharing the longest boundary in the world, Bangladesh and India have resolved land boundary

## Revitalising these four areas will help developing Asia cope with the new normal



SHIXIN CHEN

To date, more than 650,000 people around the world have died from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). The pandemic has brought

despair to countless families and caused unprecedented economic damage. The response has been significant: governments halted global travel, imposed nationwide lockdowns, quarantined large swaths of the population and scaled up medical care services. Governments have also funded the development and production of testing technology, in addition to the ongoing search for a vaccine.

Yet, it is widely accepted that even when a vaccine is ready and effective, the virus is likely to persist given challenges associated with universal vaccination. The highly contagious nature of the virus means that where there are resurgences in cases, areas that had reopened will need to reimpose restrictions. This is the pattern that we are seeing playing out in several countries including Kazakhstan, India and Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, and most recently Viet Nam.

So, we must learn to live with the virus. In this uncertain "new normal", the prospects for rapid economic recovery are limited. A return to business as usual looks unlikely, too, and may not

fully restore the economy. Focusing on high-impact segments of the economy is therefore an efficient approach to reaching a new normal.

Revitalising four key areas can help developing Asia cope with the new normal and find a path to economic recovery.

First, revitalise the health sector. Due to the lack of long overdue investment, there is a significant gap not only in hospital infrastructure, but also at the primary care level, including human resources necessary to staff effective health systems. In response to the pandemic, developing Asia has made record investments in strengthening the health sector. For example, the Indian government in April sanctioned approximately USD 1.9 billion to address the immediate gaps in strengthening the Covid-19 response by scaling up delivery of services. This was followed by the recent announcement of a major programme to comprehensively strengthen the public health system. Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have adopted similar approaches in their pandemic response plans. There is also a sizeable gap in health-related sectors such as pharmaceuticals and health insurance. Current levels of investment are insufficient to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC); however, countries have committed to achieving UHC by 2030. The health sector has huge growth potential.

Second, revitalise the social protection

sector, which remains fragile and underfunded in developing Asia. In response to Covid-19, great efforts have been made to ensure that affected populations are covered by social safety nets. For example, in India, the government announced a scheme to provide free food to 800 million people until November 2020, as well as direct cash transfers and free cooking gas to women, old and socially disadvantaged groups. The Pakistani government has allocated USD 1.2 billion for emergency cash transfer payments to 16.9 million poor households, including daily wage workers. In Nepal, over one million poor families have been assisted by similar programmes. In Uzbekistan, more than USD 70 million has been allocated to expand the social safety net for the poor and vulnerable. Yet, social protection schemes require long-term efforts to develop, including establishing disaggregated databases, registration and monitoring systems, and strong budget support. The development of the social security sector will help promote economic inclusion and sustainable growth.

Third, revitalise digital technology. The pandemic is transforming people's behaviour and social norms. Working from home has completely changed people's mindset. Web-based collaboration and sharing platforms have been widely recognised for their effectiveness in facilitating remote collaboration and co-working, while webinars are successfully replacing

physical seminars. More importantly, digital technology has been widely and effectively used to promote trade and tourism, support small and medium-sized enterprises and boost microfinance. It is being used increasingly in government, procurement, and education. Strategically developing digital technology will have a huge impact on the quality of growth.

Fourth, revitalise the global supply chain. During the great lockdown, the global supply chain virtually came to a standstill, resulting in incalculable job losses and economic damage around the world. For example, Bangladesh's exports of apparel products were affected due to cancellation or suspension of orders, while international contracting projects in Pakistan, Nepal, Uzbekistan and Georgia were largely suspended due to the interruption of raw materials supply. The pandemic has highlighted the need for urgent reform of the global supply chain. We must pursue high-level multimodal transport, more effective trade facilitation, and stronger trade and supply chain financing mechanisms. In addition, further enhancing the international network of global supply chains will help to ensure that goods continue to flow in the face of disruptions. The global supply chain is the main artery of the world economy and its smooth flow is the basis of economic recovery.

Developing Asia has experienced many crises and disasters and has always bounced back. Following the

Asian financial crisis, which severely hit the banking sector, the region adopted painful but necessary regulatory reforms of its systemically important financial institutions. These reforms introduced vital resilience into the Asian banking



PHOTO: COLLECTED

system, enabling it to survive the global financial crisis a decade later. The Covid-19 pandemic should give us similar inspiration—the more severe the crisis, the greater the chances for reform and revitalisation.

As we confront the new normal, a return to business as usual looks unlikely and may not fully restore the economy. Instead, a unique revitalisation in these areas can offset losses and help realise developing Asia's potential.

Shixin Chen is Vice-President (Operations 1) at the Asian Development Bank.

### QUOTABLE Quote



JAMES BALDWIN (1924-1987)

American essayist, novelist, and playwright.

*There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now.*

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Hunt
- 7 Pulsate
- 11 Gazelle's cousin
- 12 Take apart
- 13 Orders to set aside
- 15 Old car starter
- 16 Enjoy the tub
- 18 Long sandwiches
- 21 Influence
- 22 Train stops
- 24 Throw in
- 25 Model buy
- 26 Sticky stuff
- 27 Applied with a trowel
- 29 Phoenix team
- 30 Close by
- 31 Church area

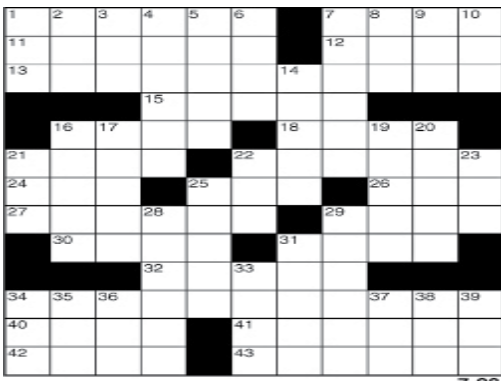
- 32 Kaaba setting
- 34 Injures, informally
- 40 "Got it"
- 41 Clothing
- 42 Banana leftover
- 43 Service for a social

#### DOWN

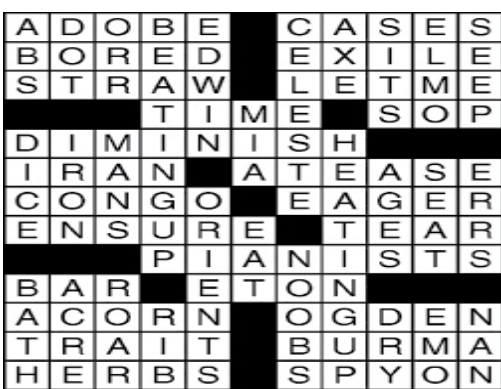
- 1 Tentative taste
- 2 Aussie bird
- 3 Fitting
- 4 Knave
- 5 Lewis's partner
- 6 "Very funny!"
- 7 Build body mass
- 8 Finish
- 9 Commotion
- 10 Great weight
- 14 Beginning

- 16 African nation
- 17 Nostalgic song
- 19 Fake
- 20 Go piece
- 21 Buddy
- 22 Racket
- 23 Sinking signal
- 25 Asian nation
- 28 Maiden

- 29 Rival of Athens
- 31 Not obtuse
- 33 Casual talk
- 34 Card spot
- 35 Take advantage of
- 36 Golf need
- 37 "My country – of thee"
- 38 Mine material
- 39 Badminton need

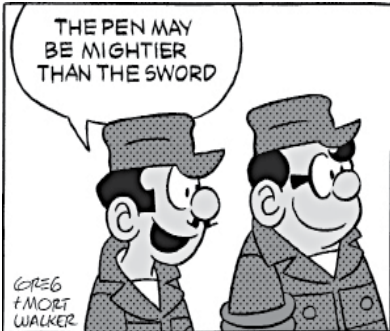


### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



### BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



### BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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



## Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12  
**BOLIVIA ACCORDS RECOGNITION**  
Bolivia has recognised the People's Republic of Bangladesh, says an announcement by the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka today. Bolivia is the 85th country to accord recognition to Bangladesh.  
**SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD IN THREE YEARS**  
Acting Prime Minister Syed Nazrul Islam today declares that the government has taken up a scheme to achieve self-sufficiency in food within the next three years. Inaugurating the four-day seminar on agricultural policy and education at the Agriculture University, he says that Bangladesh must produce the entire food requirements of the country from her own soil.  
**TK 3.2 CRORE GERMAN LOAN FOR BANGLADESH**  
West German government has decided to offer a loan of Tk 3.2 crore to Bangladesh to be used for the most urgent requirements of the ongoing German capital aid projects and for emergency aid supplies.  
*SOURCES: August 6, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.*

## India tops

FROM PAGE 12  
Philippines have resorted to reimposing economically painful restrictions on travel and businesses. More than 27 million people on the main island of Luzon, including the capital Manila, went back into a partial lockdown for weeks from yesterday. People have been told to stay home unless they need to go out to buy essential goods, for exercise or for work after the number of recorded infections surged past 100,000. With only 24 hours' notice of the shutdown, many found themselves stranded in Manila and unable to get back to their hometowns after public transport and domestic flights were halted. "We've run out of money. We can't leave the airport because we don't have any relatives here," said Ruel Damaso, a 36-year-old construction worker trying to return to the southern city of Zamboanga. "We will have to stay here for two weeks until we get our flights back." The world's hope of ending the current cycle of outbreaks and lockdowns rests on a vaccine. Russia said Monday it aimed to launch mass production of a vaccine in September and turn out "several million" doses per month by next year.

## Water reduces, sufferings

FROM PAGE 12  
Sariakandi point yesterday morning. One week ago, the Jamuna was flowing 94 cm above of the danger level and the Bangali was flowing 21.7 cm above of the danger level at the same point. In north-eastern region, although all major rivers of Sunamganj and Sylhet flowing below the danger level, the haor water is still above the danger level and in many areas. Water is receding very slowly. People of low lying areas in all upazilas of Sunamganj and Sylhet's Gowainghat and Companiganj upazilas are still struggling with floodwater. According to the district administration, 881 families of Sunamgnaj are still at 34 flood shelter centres still open in the district and thousands of people had to spend their Eid at the shelter centres. Abdul Reza of Sreepur Dakshin village in Tahirpur upazila, said, "We are workless for months, completely dependent on money lent from others. We left home few days ago as our house was submerged. We had to pass the Eid day in flood shelter." Jinnat Ali of Chandrapur village

in Dakshin Sunamganj said, "Flood ravaged my house. We are now living in fear that the house might collapse. And I don't know how to get money to repair it". Abul Kashem Azad, chairman of Aatgaon union in Shalla upazila, said, "Many people already lost their houses and many houses at the verge of collapsing. They need immediate cash and corrugated tin support from the administration". Meanwhile, there is no further forecast of flood in Sunamganj, says Sabibur Rahman, executive engineer of WDB in Sunamganj. He said, "We consider 6.5 metre as danger level of haor waters and all haors are above the danger level. As the water receding slowly, many areas are still flooded and will be flooded for days more". Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner of Sunamganj, said, "As the water is receding, we are now focusing on rehabilitation and on the long-term planning to face flash floods. We've already given some proposals to the ministries concerned and hopeful to see positive feedback soon". Our correspondents from Bogura and Sylhet contributed to this report.

## Jittery HK authors seek Taiwan safety after security law

AFP, Hong Kong

China's new security law has cast a threatening shadow over Hong Kong's dynamic book industry, with anxious publishers combing through back catalogues for potentially "subversive" material, and looking to Taiwan as a safe haven for printing fresh titles. The city has long been a refuge for intellectuals, free from the authoritarian grip of the Chinese mainland's communist leaders. But that status is at risk of crumbling as Beijing's new legislation sends fresh jitters through a publishing industry already wary of overstepping China's red lines. "Major publishing and printing houses now dare not touch a project like ours," said Woody, one of a group of journalists putting together a book of interviews with witnesses of Hong Kong's explosive pro-democracy protests last year. face of opposition from some teachers and parents while Covid-19 is surging in many parts of the country. The coronavirus, which first appeared in China late last year, has infected 4.6 million people in the United States and killed more than 155,000 Americans since February, according to a Reuters tally. Deaths rose by over 25,000 in July and cases doubled in 19 states during the month. Globally the coronavirus has infected at least 18.3 million people and there have been more than 694,000 known deaths worldwide, according to the Reuters tally.

## UN warns of generational

FROM PAGE 12  
of progress, and exacerbate entrenched inequalities," said Guterres as he launched a UN "Save our Future" campaign. "Once local transmission of Covid-19 is under control, getting students back into schools and learning institutions as safely as possible must be a top priority," he said. "Consultation with parents, carers, teachers and young people is fundamental." The UN recommendations for getting global education back on track come as US President Donald Trump pushes for schools to reopen in the

mainland's communist leaders.

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## Teen downs

FROM PAGE 12  
Bangladeshi territory on the day and informed police. On information, the law enforcers recovered the body around 11:30 am and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Lt Col Shahidul Islam, commanding officer of 50th BGB battalion in Thakurgaon, said they were conducting an investigation and further step would be taken once the autopsy report is produced.

## 3 AL leaders

FROM PAGE 12  
different areas of Faridpur town on Friday and Sunday following the instruction of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), said Md Alimuzzaman, superintendent of Faridpur police.

The arrestees were sent to jail through a Faridpur court, he said. The CID is currently investigating a money laundering case against Sajjad Hossain, general secretary of Faridpur town unit AL, and Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel, former president of Faridpur Press Club.

The two on July 30 told a Dhaka court that Nazmul, Billal, and Ariful were also involved in siphoning off a huge sum. Sajjad and Rubel were arrested on June 7 for their alleged involvement in attacking the house of Subal Chandra in the town's Goalchamat area on May 16.

During primary probe, police came to know that the two had laundered around Tk 2,000 crore abroad.

Later on June 26, the CID filed a case against the two under the money laundering act with Kafurl Police Station in the capital.

## Mumbai

FROM PAGE 12  
"This is just the start," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. India's financial capital has for some time operated women's coaches on suburban trains and reserved seating on buses, and is widely regarded as one of the country's safest cities for women.

## 5 killed in 'gunfights'

FROM PAGE 12  
said police officer Aminul. The three were members of a gang which smuggled in yaba tablets, he said, adding that of them, Jahir stood accused in three narcotics cases. Around 1:00am on Friday, police arrested two people with yaba pills from Baniachhara. During interrogation, they told police that some yaba dealers were distributing the pills in Boitoli area. The officer said police conducted a drive in the area around 2:30am on Saturday. But sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire. Police retaliated, triggering the "gunfight". After the "gun battle", police found the three bullet-hit bodies lying on the spot, he added. Police also claimed to have recovered 44,000 yaba tablets, two firearms, and seven cartridges from the spot. Another alleged drug dealer was killed in a "shootout" with police in Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila early Monday. Abdul Manna alias Munna, 35, of Khadiman village, was accused in 12

cases, including seven drug-related cases. The "gunfight" took place between 3:30am and 4:00am in Ajorgram village, said OC Meer Md Abu Naser of Zakiganj Police Station. "Police arrested Munna in connection with a narcotics case on Sunday afternoon," he said, adding that during interrogation, Munna informed them that a large number of yaba pills was hidden in his home. He said, "A police team, taking him in a police van, raided Ajorgram village where some criminals opened fire on them around 3:00am. "Munna jumped off the police van and tried to run, but was shot by several bullets. Then we fired gunshots in self-defence," the OC said. Munna was rushed to the local health complex where doctors declared him dead, the police official said. He claimed that police recovered 800 yaba tablets, a locally-made firearm, five bullets, and six sharp weapons from the spot. "Seven policemen were also hurt in the incident, but no one is critically injured," the OC added.

In another incident, a drug peddler was killed when two groups of criminals were exchanging bullets in Jashore's Keshabpur early Monday, claimed police. Md Moniruzzaman, 30, of Dormutia village of the upazila, stood accused in 15 cases, including murder, filed with different police stations of the district. Jasim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Keshabpur Police Station, said police went to Dormutia village on information that two groups of drug dealers were involved in a "gunfight". Sensing the presence of police, the criminals fled. Police then found a body lying near a brick field in Dormutia village. The injured was taken to Keshabpur Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the OC said. Moniruzzaman's cousin Aksad Ali said he heard gunshots in the morning, went to the brick field and found the body lying on the spot. [Our correspondents from Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, and Jashore contributed to this report]

## Steps taken, yet rawhide wasted

FROM PAGE 12  
In Bangladesh, a cow or buffalo's skin is 20 to 25 square feet and a goat's 4 to 5 square feet. While cowhides, which sold between Tk 100 and Tk 500 per piece, managed to find some takers, the goat skins were simply chucked away despite the prices as low as Tk 5 in some districts.

"The demand is just too low," said Mohammad Shamim Hossain from Narsingdi district, who sold four pieces of cowhide for Tk 400. Uddin though begs to differ.

Fewer number of rawhides were thrown away this year compared with last year, when one crore pieces of animal skins worth Tk 100 crore were disposed of across the country, he said.

The slide in prices of leather goods in international markets, compounded by the global coronavirus pandemic, are to blame for the emerging trend of throwing away rawhide, he said.

Delays in applying salt on the skins is another reason for the low prices.

Aftab Khan, chairman of the Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association, blamed the poor inflow of funds to the sector for the low demand for rawhide in the country over the last two years.

For decades, the tanners paid the full arrears to the merchants every year to buy the rawhides from the field level.

But over the last two years, the tanners are clearing only a small portion of the merchants' dues, as a result of which the merchants were unable to channel funds to their regional depot owners and seasonal traders to buy rawhides at the field level.

"This badly impacted the rawhide

business. The poor trading system of rawhides have been exposed over the last two years," Khan said.

And the tanners' excuse for not clearing the arrears? It is a laundry list, including the lower demand for tanned leather, the price fall in the international markets, the US-China trade war and the global coronavirus pandemic.

Of the total quantity of tanned leather produced in Bangladesh, 60 percent are shipped to China.

China is the main export destination for Bangladesh's leather because the others are not interested in purchasing leather from the country's non-compliant factories.

Bangladesh is yet to obtain the much-required certification from the Leather Working Group (LWG) that guarantees international standard compliances in the leather business.

The Savar Tannery Industrial Estate (SITE) was supposed to ensure the LWG certification. But despite spending several hundred crores of taka and eight years, the construction of the mandatory Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) remains incomplete.

In the absence of a functional CETP, an LWG certification is out of the question.

Now, in the absence of the accreditation, the local exporters have to export leather at rates 40 percent lower than the going rates in the international markets to China.

The Chinese importers re-process the Bangladeshi leather in their factories to make those international standards.

But, over the last two years, the export of leather goods from China also declined significantly because of the US-China trade war, which, in

turn, badly impacted Bangladesh's leather trade.

Last fiscal year, leather exports fetched \$98.3 million, down 40.3 percent from a year earlier, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau. The overall export of the leather and leather goods sector stood at \$797.6 million, down 21.8 percent year-on-year.

The tanners are sitting on unsold leather worth Tk 2,500 crore due to low demand from the international buyers, according to Md. Shaheen Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Tanners Association.

Like Khan, Ahmed also blamed the fund crisis in the sector for the piles of unsold rawhide this Eid.

The tanners had demanded loans amounting to Tk 500 crore ahead of Eid-ul-Azha but the lenders gave only Tk 120 crore. And the loan amount was used to clear arrears amounting to Tk 60 crore, Ahmed said.

"There is a cash crunch in the sector," said Ali Hossain, a rawhide trader, adding that the banks are also not lending freely to the tanners to ease the situation.

The tanners have invested Tk 7,000 crore on the SITE, which created fund crisis for them, he added.

Amid the backdrop, the special committee formed to decide on rawhide exports will meet in two or three days, the commerce secretary said.

The committee, which has representations from the business community, government higher-ups, leather goods manufacturers and exporters and experts, will take stock of the rawhide inventory in the country and then decide.

Our district correspondents contributed to the story



**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**

৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা

রিয়েল এস্টেট ডিপার্টমেন্ট

**বাণিজ্যিক স্পেস ভাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকাস্থ হেড অফিস ভবন, ১২, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকাস্থ বিভিন্নবিল ভবন-২ ও খুলনাস্থ বিভিন্নবিল ভবন এর নিম্নোক্ত অফিস স্পেসসমূহ খালি রয়েছে, যা ব্যাংক/বীমা/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/খাত্তশাসিত/স্বত্বাধীন বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট ভাড়া নেয়ার লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহীদের নিকট থেকে প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা হচ্ছেঃ

ক্রঃ নম্বর	ভবনের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ভাড়াযোগ্য স্পেস	
০১।	বিভিন্নবিল ভবন, ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, হেড অফিস, ঢাকা-১০০০	লেভেল-১০	৯,৩৪০ বর্গফুট
		লেভেল-১১	১,৩৫৫ বর্গফুট
		লেভেল-১২	৯,৩৪০ বর্গফুট
		লেভেল-১৩	১,৯৩৮ বর্গফুট
		বেসমেন্ট-২ (কার পার্কিং)	১,১৩৭ বর্গফুট
০২।	বিভিন্নবিল ভবন-২, ১২, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫	লেভেল-১৪	২,৪৯৩ বর্গফুট
		লেভেল-১৫	৪,৫৬১ বর্গফুট
০৩।	বিভিন্নবিল ভবন, ২৫-২৬, কেডিএ বা/এ, খুলনা	লেভেল-৬	২,৩৫০ বর্গফুট
০২।	আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান নিম্নাঙ্ককারী দপ্তর হতে ভাড়া নেয়ার শর্তাবলী অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।		

**ইঞ্জিঃ মোঃ রিয়াজুল ইসলাম**

এজিএম ও ডিপার্টমেন্ট হেড

বিভিন্নবিল ভবন, হেড অফিস, ঢাকা

ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৫৫৮২

জিডি-১২১৪



**Rajshahi City Corporation**

Engineering Department

Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1080

Date: 29.07.2020

**e-Tender Notice**

(IFT-03/2020-21)

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

Sl. No.	ID	Reference No.	Name of works	Tender document last selling time and date
1.	481400	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1072	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 01, 02, 03 & 06 (Salvage Tk 537655.45).	12.30pm on 31-Aug-2020
2.	481411	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1074	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 04, 05, 07 & 26 (Salvage Tk 3497096.16).	
3.	481432	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1073	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 05, 08, 12 & 14 (Salvage Tk 4661440.45).	
4.	481433	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1075	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road, Footpath and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 18, 21, 27 & 28 (Salvage Tk 3365278.09).	
5.	481434	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1077	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 10, 17, 18 & 19 (Salvage Tk 2110813.23).	
6.	481436	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1078	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 13, 15, 29 & 30 (Salvage Tk 5,585,810.04).	
7.	481435	46.12.0000.006.14.273.20.1079	Construction of Carpeting Road, CC Road and RCC Drain under the project of "Integrated Infrastructure Development of Rajshahi City" in Ward No. 11, 20, 22, 23, 24 & 25 (Salvage Tk 5609246.43).	

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

সিনিয়র ইঞ্জিনিয়ার-১৭ (২০২০-২০২১)

৯৫৮-৫০-৭, ২০২০

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GD-1216

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**Kh. Khairul Bashar**  
Superintendent Engineer  
Rajshahi City Corporation  
Tel. 0721-772119  
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**বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট**

**Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute**

সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা

জয়দেবপুর, গাজীপুর

সুবিই স্মৃতি

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[www.bari.gov.bd](http://www.bari.gov.bd)

Date: 03 August 2020

Memo No. PN-01, 02 & 03/797

**e-GP: Tender Notice No. 01 (2020-2021)**

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID & Ref No.	Description of goods	Tender documents last selling (date & time)	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
1.	PN-01	481379 & IRN-437	Offset Paper, A4 & Legal Size	17.08.2020 17:00	18.08.2020 12:00	18.08.2020 12:00
2.	PN-02	481518 & IRN-436	Stationery Goods	17.08.2020 17:00	18.08.2020 15:00	18.08.2020 15:00
3.	PN-03	481838 & IRN-435	Printing Goods	17.08.2020 17:00	18.08.2020 16:00	18.08.2020 16:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Sd/-

**Md. Ferozur Rahman**

Deputy Director (Additional Charge)

Procurement & Store Section

Email: [dd.procure@bari.gov.bd](mailto:dd.procure@bari.gov.bd)

Phone: 02-49270140

For Director General

BARI, Joydebpur, Gazipur

GD-1213



# Limited spectators at Afghanistan game?

ANISUR RAHMAN



The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will allow its member associations to hold the upcoming Joint Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup in the presence of full spectators, limited spectators or without spectators amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Since the postponement of all types of matches in March following the outbreak of the coronavirus, there had been an apprehension that the AFC might instruct member associations to hold the Qualifiers behind closed doors with hopes to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

"The AFC sent the guidelines and protocols on July 31, where they mentioned holding the match in three ways -- like normal, with limited spectators or behind closed doors," Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) competition manager Zaber Bin Taher Ansari told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The BFF has to take the highest level of health and sanitary measures if we want to hold the match like normal in presence of a full crowd. However, the AFC is encouraging us to admit only



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

50 per cent of the total capacity. All spectators must wear masks, maintain social distancing and hygiene inside the seating area and their temperature must be scanned before entering."

He added that the AFC also encouraged them to put only 30 to 50 per cent of tickets on sale, keep eight per cent for the visiting team and the rest reserved as complementary for stakeholders.

The AFC has also recommended dividing the stadium into nine areas to be monitored with sufficient manpower, who will ensure sanitary measures, and

recommended to clear all areas.

"The stadium must be vacated and disinfected on the matchday in presence of the match commissioner before spectators, teams, match officials, supporting staffs and security personnel enter," Zaber said.

Generally, players of both teams shake hands before and after the match but this time there is no need to maintain such gestures. Even players were instructed to not shake hands with teammates. There is even no need for players to be escorted by children.

Bangladesh will host Afghanistan

at the Sylhet District Stadium which had a 15,000 capacity. But the capacity has been reduced to 12,000. According to an NSC source, 8,000 seats have already been installed and the remaining seats will be installed by August. If the BFF decides to hold the match with limited spectators, they may put 3,500 tickets on sale as per instructions.

"The BFF is yet to decide because there is a huge involvement of manpower to maintain everything and, also, there is an issue of expenditure to ensure AFC match protocols. However, we are looking at the possibility of holding the match in presence of limited spectators," Zaber said.

Head coach Jamie Day believes having some spectators is better than none.

"I think any spectator is better than no one as long as it is safe for everyone involved and attending the matches," said Jamie, who believes support from the gallery depends on the number of spectators.

"I suppose supporting the team from the gallery depends on how many spectators are allowed to watch the matches. If it is only a small amount, then it won't have much of an impact on the players' performance," said Jamie.



**EID SPECIAL WORKOUT!** Following the successful completion of the first phase of individual practice sessions last month at BCB facilities across the country, it is expected that more cricketers have now gained the confidence to return to the field from August 8 after the Eid break. But wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim continued his outdoor training even during the break and posted photos and videos of his 'Eid special workout' training on Facebook.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Can England break their decade-long jinx?

AGENCIES



If anything that history suggests, England will have their work cut out when they go in search of a first series win over Pakistan in a decade when the two sides get their three-Test contest underway with the first Test at Old Trafford today.

International cricket returns after the coronavirus break when England took on West Indies in a historic series last month and the series was a fine advertisement for Test cricket on its return; England bounced back to clinch the series 2-1 against a spirited Jason Holder's side.

England are certainly going to face a tougher challenge. While England can point to recent series victories over most of their rivals, their last such success against Pakistan was back in 2010 -- a campaign overshadowed by a 'spot-fixing' scandal.

Pakistan will also boast confidence from the fact that since the series in 2010, the two series that Pakistan

played in England -- in 2016 and 2018 -- ended in draws.

However, to Pakistan's disadvantage, they will be going into the first Test on the back of just a couple of intra-squad warm-up fixtures -- that too after completing a 14-day mandatory quarantine following their arrival in the

### HIGHLIGHTS

England have lost the first Test in eight of their last 10 series.

England's James Anderson -- on 589 wickets in 153 matches -- could become only the fourth bowler in history with 600 Test wickets.

country in late June -- compared to an English side that have already played and won a three-match series against West Indies 2-1 last month. But the fact that England have lost the first Test in eight of their last 10 series -- including their last series

against West Indies -- is sure to be an encouragement for the tourists ahead of the first Test today.

Nervousness could however also get the better of the Pakistan side just as head coach Misbah-ul-Haq suggested on Monday.

"We've had good preparations and team bonding. Still we feel there is always a slight nervousness when you just play Test cricket after a long, long time (away)," Misbah added ahead of his side's first Test in six months.

Pakistan have eight quicks in their 20-man squad for the series -- understandable from the success that Pakistani pacers have had over the years playing in English conditions.

Meanwhile, England will have to decide if they will stick with four quicks as they did during their 269-run win against West Indies last week as Ben Stokes played as a specialist batsman due to a quad injury that restricted the all-rounder from bowling.

Good news for the hosts is that the star all-rounder was, however, reported to have bowled with good pace in the nets on Monday.



JOE ROOT



AZHAR ALI

## Murray wants assurances on quarantine

REUTERS



Players need assurance that they would not face mandatory quarantine upon returning to Europe from the U.S. Open before travelling to New York amid the Covid-19 pandemic, former world number one Andy Murray has said.

Organisers United States Tennis Association (USTA) will set up a strict bio-security 'bubble' to minimise the risk of coronavirus during the Grand Slam, which will be played from Aug. 31.

The Western & Southern Open, which was relocated from Cincinnati this year because of Covid-19, will also be held in New York from Aug. 20-28 and will serve as a tune-up for the hardcourt Grand Slam.

Mandatory quarantine would rule out players' participation in other ATP and WTA

claycourt events scheduled in Europe before the French Open from the end of September. The two major claycourt events in the leadup to Roland Garros are in Madrid and Rome.

While Spain does not require mandatory quarantine, Italy would need travellers to quarantine for 14 days if coming from the U.S. The USTA has said the organisers are working with authorities to resolve issues.

"My understanding is that it would be sorted before we go to America. But things can change in the next 10 to 12 days," Murray told British media.

"Hopefully before we leave, the players will have the assurances that, when they come back from America, they won't have to quarantine for two weeks.

"If that is the case, and if you do well in the U.S. Open, you can't just arrive on the Sunday before the French Open starts on the Monday. That's not going to work."

## Casillas hangs up his gloves

REUTERS

Spain's World Cup-winning captain Iker Casillas announced his retirement at the age of 39 on Tuesday.

Casillas had suffered a heart attack during a training session last year and has not played since April, 2019. "The important thing is the path you travel and the people who accompany you, not where it takes you, because that comes with work and effort alone, and I think I can say, without hesitation, that the path I have taken is the one I dreamt about #Thanks," Casillas said on Twitter.

Casillas was given a role on Porto's technical staff at the start of last season.

## BCB refutes FICA claims

*FICA says non-payment in BPL is still an issue*

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board [BCB] has termed FICA's [Federation of International Cricketers' Associations] claims regarding the handling of franchisee event contracts and payment of players from ICC events misleading and misinformed.

In a report titled 'Men's Global Employment Report 2020', FICA listed the Bangladesh Premier League T20 (BPL) as one of the sanctioned leagues and the only league among the ICC's Test-playing nations where the issue of late payment or non-payment continues.

Since the start of the BPL in 2012, the first few editions of the cash-rich T20 tournament were marred with irregular payments. The BPL also endured match-fixing and spot-fixing scandals in its initial stage, but the franchise-based tournament seemed to have come a long way in terms of ensuring payment to players and support staff in the latter editions, until the FICA report revealed recent irregularities.

In a statement yesterday reacting to the claims made by FICA on BPL payments, BCB said, "BCB would like to clearly state that the only unresolved/disputed payment from the BPL concerns four (04) persons -- three overseas players and a coach, of one particular team that had participated in the 6th edition of the BPL held in 2018. This is an isolated case in a tournament where more than 170 local and overseas players and support staff were contracted.

"Between January and April 2020, the BCB received complaints from the representative(s) of the players and coach that the franchisee in question had failed to comply with its obligations and did not complete payment. As per the franchisee agreement it was the responsibility of the franchisee to directly pay in full its contracted players and support staff.

"Nevertheless, as the regulatory body of the event the BCB had duly inquired the matter and subsequently has initiated legal proceedings against the accused franchisee

to realise the pending payment and resolve the issue. It should be noted that the Board has kept constant contact with the concerned individuals and representative(s) who are fully aware of the steps taken by the BCB."

According to sources all three players and the coach mentioned by the BCB had participated for Sylhet Sixers in the 2018 edition. It was learned that the three overseas cricketers were West Indian cricketer Nicholas Pooran, Pakistani pace bowler Sohail Tanvir, Gulabdin Naib from Afghanistan and the coach is former Pakistan pace legend Waqar Younis.

"Initially, there were issues over irregularities in players' payment in the BPL and I heard a few local and foreign cricketers were anxious about their payments. But it has changed over the years -- there might be one or two cases of payment irregularity.

Initially, there were issues over irregularities in players' payment in the BPL and I heard a few local and foreign cricketers were anxious about their payments. But it has changed over the years.

Personally, I have never faced such a situation in the BPL as I have been playing the tournament since the beginning," said an experienced domestic cricketer who preferred not to be named.

The FICA report also mentioned that Bangladesh national players are still owed their ICC event prize money, which the BCB claimed as a 'misrepresentation of facts'.

"The board has completed prize money payments to players from all previous ICC events including the last, which was the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 in England and Wales. It may be mentioned that the BCB has maintained a standard by which players on a number of occasions have received additional incentives from the Board on top of the prize money from ICC events during distribution," said the BCB statement.



**Jesse Lingard was on the periphery of Manchester United's rise into the Premier League's top four over the second half of the season. The 27-year-old had to balance off-field issues with trying to win his place back in a flourishing team. He could play a key role in the Europa League, which restarts today with United's game against LASK at Old Trafford in one of four fixtures. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side hold a 5-0 advantage from the first leg in Austria**

PHOTO: TWITTER

## Booters to join camp today

SPORTS REPORTER

After four-and-a-half months of inaction caused by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, national footballers will finally return to the training process today when the first group will go through medical procedures. Three Bashundhara Kings booters, who recently recovered from injury, will however miss the national camp.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan and Finland-born defender Tariq Raihan Kazi will also be missing as they are still looking for tickets to return to Bangladesh from Denmark and Finland respectively.

On July 26, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) announced a 36-member preliminary squad for the rest of the four fixtures of the Joint Qualifiers for World Cup and Asian Cup, but head coach Jamie Day has to start the camp with 33 players.

Although Kings have agreed to release 11 other players for the national camp up to August 31, they did not allow fit-again striker Matin Mia, midfielders Masuk Mia Jonny and Atiqur Rahman Fahad to join the camp saying that the trio had sustained serious injuries before the pandemic-induced shutdown.

Kings are supposed to start a rehabilitation camp this month with their injured players before starting the pre-season camp for the AFC Cup in early September as they are scheduled to resume their campaign on October 23 in Maldives.

Kings also mentioned in the letter sent to the BFF that they would release all players on October 5, just two days before Bangladesh's tie against Afghanistan on October 7 in Sylhet, as per FIFA regulations, as they believe that the World Cup Qualifiers and AFC Cup are of equal importance because both teams will represent Bangladesh on the international stage.

Thirty-three players will join the training camp separately with the first 12 players to check into Sarah Resorts in Gazipur today after taking the Covid-19 test at BSMU, while 12 more will join them tomorrow after undergoing the same process. The seven remaining players will join the camp on August 7.







# Steps taken, yet rawhide wasted

*Demand still not there despite reduction in prices*

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government was hoping there would be no recurrence of the waste of rawhide last Eid-ul-Azha.

It fixed a lower rawhide price than last Eid and even kept the window open for rawhide and wet blue exports after a gap of 30 years, all to tempt traders to snap up the sacrificial animals' skins from the ordinary citizens.

And yet, the same scenes were played out this year, and with greater zeal.

This Eid-ul-Azha, 70 lakh cattle were sacrificed, down 30 percent from last year, according to Commerce Secretary Jafar Uddin.

Still, the volumes of rawhides thrown away -- in almost all districts including Sylhet, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Natore, Pabna, Noakhali, Gazipur and Chittagong -- were higher than last year, report our correspondents.

Last week, the government fixed the price of salt-applied cow and buffalo rawhide between Tk 35 and Tk 40 per square foot in Dhaka, which is 29 percent lower than last year. Outside of the capital, the prices were Tk 28 and Tk 32 per square foot, down 20 percent year-on-year.

The prices of male goat skins were set between Tk 13 and Tk 15 per square foot, which is 27 percent less than last year. The female goat skin prices were fixed between Tk 10 and Tk 12 per square foot, down 23 percent from last Eid.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



A man dumping unprocessed rawhide in the Monu river of Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila. Despite protests from environmental activists, many throw away such hides in water bodies every year after Eid-ul-Azha, instead of burying them, causing water pollution. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

## 5 killed in 'gunfights' in 3 days

STAR REPORT

Four alleged drug peddlers were killed in "gunfights" with police in Cox's Bazar and Sylhet from the beginning of Eid holidays to Monday.

In another incident, a drug dealer was killed in infighting in Jashore early Monday, police claimed.

In Cox's Bazar's Chakaria upazila, three suspected yaba dealers were killed in a "shootout" with police early Saturday.

They were Jahir Ahmed, 45, of Shantinagar area of the upazila, Mohammad Zafar, 35, of Kachuya village, and Md Hasan, 37, of Paikpara village of Chattogram's Patia upazila.

Four police personnel -- Officer-in-Charge of Chakaria Police Station Habibur Rahman, In-charge of Harbang Police outpost Aminul Islam, and constables Sajjad and Sabuj -- were injured during the "gunfight".

The injured took treatment at Chakaria Upazila Health Complex.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

### SCHOOL CLOSURES

## UN warns of 'generational catastrophe'

*Says getting students safely back to classroom must be top priority*

REUTERS, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned yesterday that the world faces a "generational catastrophe" because of school closures amid the coronavirus pandemic and said that getting students safely back to the classroom must be "a top priority."

Guterres said that as of mid-July schools were closed in some 160 countries, affecting more than 1 billion students, while at least 40 million children have missed out on pre-school.

This came on top of more than 250 million children already being out of school before the pandemic and only a quarter of secondary school students in developing countries leaving with basic skills, he said in a video statement.

"Now we face a generational catastrophe that could waste untold human potential, undermine decades

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

### FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Bangabandhu progressing well

August 5, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### ANXIOUS ENQUIRIES ABOUT FLOODS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is now progressing well, today discusses some official business with the Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in London. A health bulletin issued today by the Bangabandhu's personal physician Professor Dr Nurul Islam says that the Prime Minister is much better this morning. Bangabandhu is again examined by Sir Edward Muir, who expresses great satisfaction at the rate of progress. The health bulletin adds that Bangabandhu has made some queries about the flood situation in Bangladesh.

WALDHEIM'S BEST WISHES CONVEYED TO BANGABANDHU Sir Robert Jackson, under-secretary-general of the UN, who is in charge of relief operations in Bangladesh, calls on Bangabandhu today at the London Clinic. He flies into London this morning from New York to convey to Bangabandhu the best wishes of UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim. Sir Robert Jackson informs the prime minister that relief operations are going on satisfactorily and the present condition in flood-affected districts is receiving special attention of the UN. He also says that the Indian government is also helping in the movement of relief materials. He expresses hope that the UN secretary-general's appeal for one million tonnes of food grain would be answered well.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



## Water reduces, sufferings not

STAR REPORT

Although the floodwater started receding hundreds of people remained waterlogged in northern and north-eastern region of the country.

Many of these flood victims passed their Eid-ul-Azha in flood centres amid crisis of sufficient food and drinking water.

The overall flood situation in Gaibandha and Bogura districts has improved in the last couple of days as water of almost all the major rivers have been decreasing since last week.

Mokhesur Rahman, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), said there was no chance of increase in water level in the next two weeks in the region.

In Bogura, water of the Jamuna river was flowing 50 cm above of the danger level at the Mathurapara point and the Bangali was flowing 9.7 cm above of the danger level at the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Mumbai installs female figures on traffic lights



THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION , Mumbai

Mumbai has become the first Indian city to introduce female figures on its traffic lights, a move welcomed by women's rights campaigners as a step towards greater inclusivity.

Authorities are swapping the green and red male stick figures on more than 100 pedestrian crossings to female figures as part of a broader plan to make roads more pedestrian-friendly.

"The signage reflects the character of the city ... that it believes in gender equality and promotes women's empowerment," said Kiran Dighavkar, assistant commissioner with Mumbai's municipal corporation.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Teen drowns after 'BSF threw stones at him'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police have recovered the body of a teenage boy from the Nagar river near Ratnai border in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon.

The dead is Al Mamun, 19, of Harinmari Thakbasti village in the same upazila, said police.

Atiqul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Baliadangi Police Station, said Mamun along with some other men intruded inside Indian territory to smuggle cattle on Saturday.

On the way to home, BSF threw stones toward him when he was under the Indian Iron Bridge at the southern end of the 382 (4) -S pillar of the border. He got injured and drowned in the river on Monday, the police official said quoting locals.

Locals found the floating body of Mamun about 200 yards inside

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## 3 AL leaders held for money laundering

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police arrested three leaders of the Awami League and its associate bodies, including the president of the party's Faridpur town unit, during the Eid holidays for their alleged involvement in money laundering.

The arrestees are: Nazmul Islam Khandakar, 61, president of Faridpur town unit AL, Billal Hossain, 54, former treasurer of Faridpur Sramik League, and Arifur Rahman, 40, general secretary of Faridpur town unit Jubo League.

The arrests were made in

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### PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15  
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Bichhanakandi, a hotspot for tourists in Sylhet, sees scores of visitors, who are all ignoring health guidelines to celebrate Eid holidays. People came out after months of staying home, posing risks of Covid-19 infections to themselves and others. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

### DAILY DEATHS FROM COVID-19

## India tops world for first time

*The Philippines orders millions to stay home as global cases soar*

AGENCIES

More than 800 people died of novel coronavirus in India on Monday, the highest number of new deaths in the world for that 24-hour period, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The country has also seen more new infections than any other country on earth. India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 18.5-lakh mark yesterday, two days after it went past 17 lakh, with 52,050 cases being reported in a day.

India's rising case numbers are an indicator of the country's struggle with containing the virus as it continues to lift restrictions and open up its economy. Flooding in some parts of the country are adding to the problems.

In the Philippines, millions of people were ordered to stay home yesterday as global coronavirus infections kept soaring, with the World Health Organization warning against relying on a vaccine "silver bullet" to end the pandemic.

More than 18.3 million people worldwide have been infected with the virus since it first emerged in China late last year and it shows no sign of slowing down.

Brazil is driving a surge in Latin America and the Caribbean where infections have topped five million.

South America's largest country has recorded 2.75 million cases, and close to half the region's more than 202,000 deaths.

Only the United States has been worse affected. Desperate to contain the spread and relieve pressure on overwhelmed hospitals, some countries such as the

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