

## Bangabandhu

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until all UN resolutions on the Bangladesh-Pakistan War were implemented.

**BAR ON TRANSFER OF PROPERTY LIKELY**

The government is contemplating imposition of restrictions on the transfer of properties through sale, exchange or gift up to December, 1973, as it has come to the notice of the government that “persons inimical to Bangladesh have been disposing of their immovable properties and other assets in this country and transferring the sale proceeds elsewhere through invisible and illegal means.”

**TK 6 CR PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CTG PORT**

Chittagong Port Authority has drawn up an ambitious development and reconstruction programme for the year 1972-73. An amount of more than taka six crore will be spent for the development and reconstruction of the port.

*SOURCES: August 24, 1972, issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla, and Dainik Ittefaq.*

## Gandhi’s glasses

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The non-violent protestor gave the glasses to the vendor’s uncle while he was working for British Petroleum in South Africa during the 1920s or 30s, said the auction house.

The sale price smashed the original estimate of around £15,000.

Auctioneer Andrew Stowe told Sky News earlier this month that the vendor had told him: “If they’re no good, just throw them away.”

When he suggested they might be worth £15,000, “I think he nearly fell off his chair.”

## Rab takes

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said Jail Super Mozammel Hossain.

First, they were taken to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital for medical check-up and later taken to Rab-15 office, said Rab officials.

Rab arrested the three APBn members on August 17.

Police superintendent Mohammad Hedayetul Islam, commander of APBn-16 in Cox’s Bazar, said according to the service rule the three APBn members were suspended on August 18.

## Libya rivals take steps to end hostilities

REUTERS, Tripoli

Libya’s internationally recognised government in Tripoli announced a ceasefire on Friday and the leader of a rival parliament in eastern Libya also appealed for a halt to hostilities.

The statements offered hope for a deescalation of a regionalised conflict that has wracked the country since a 2011 uprising, displacing hundreds of thousands, slashing oil production and opening space for migrant smugglers and militants.

However, previous efforts to secure lasting truces and political settlements have stalled, and political leaders hold limited sway over armed groups in two broad factions that have been split between western and eastern Libya since 2014.

The Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) faces east-Libyan based forces led by veteran commander Khalifa Haftar, who launched a 14-month offensive on Tripoli before Turkish military support for the GNA forced him to retreat in June.

Both sides and their foreign backers have been mobilising around the central city of Sirte, though there has been little fighting in recent weeks.

Following international calls for a ceasefire and a demilitarised zone around Sirte, on Friday the GNA said its head Fayez al-Sarraj had “issued instructions to all military forces to immediately cease fire and all combat operations in all Libyan territories”.

There was no immediate comment from Haftar or his Libyan National Army (LNA), but the head of an eastern-based parliament aligned with Haftar issued a statement appealing for an end to hostilities across the country.

The GNA and eastern parliament speaker Aguila Saleh both cited the spread of coronavirus as a reason for backing a ceasefire.

Saleh is seen to have gained influence compared to Haftar since the LNA’s retreat from Tripoli.

International involvement has often swung the course of Libya’s conflict since 2011, and has deepened since the LNA, which is backed by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia, began its offensive on Tripoli in April 2019.

Regional powers have long voiced support for a political solution while routinely violating an arms embargo on Libya, according to U.N. experts.

On Friday, many welcomed the ceasefire push, including Egypt, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Qatar, which is aligned with Turkey and the GNA, also praised the move.

The GNA called for the lifting of a seven-month blockade on oil facilities that has all but stopped the country’s output, saying revenue should be held in a special account and only be released after a political deal was reached.



**Demonstrators gather around a group of Malian soldiers during a protest to support the Malian army and the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP) at the Independence square in Bamako, on Friday, 3 days after the military overthrow of the President. The United States on Friday suspended military aid to Mali after the coup.**

PHOTO: AFP

## Swept under the rug

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Since 2001, the Chattogram divisional forest office (South) has seen 19 elephant deaths -- the highest toll in the Chattogram Forest Circle -- among which six were electrocuted.

However, this divisional forest office was only able to file one case so far.

According to forest department data, 106 elephants died in the Chattogram Forest Circle -- which includes Cox’s Bazar, parts of Bandarban, Chattogram city, and Rangamati -- in the last 19 years.

During this period, forest departments across this region filed only two cases and 74 general diaries in relation to elephant deaths.

Of these 106 elephants -- 32 died in accidents, 29 of sickness, 22 from old age complications, 15 of electrocution, and eight from gunshots.

Banshkhali upazila alone saw the deaths of three elephants in two months this summer.

Locals in Sadhanpur village alleged that forest officials don’t rush to the spot when they are informed of elephant deaths.

In these three incidents, these officials only went to the spot when the carcass was already decomposing, Anwar Hossein, a resident of the village in Banshkhali upazila, told The Daily Star.

Kamal Hossen, professor of the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chattogram University, told The Daily Star the forest department tries to avoid hassle by not going after the elephant killers.

The data proves it, he said, with the low number of cases filed in relation to these killings -- indicating that the forest department doesn’t want the hassle.

“Until elephant killers are brought under the purview of law and given exemplary punishment, this crime

against wildlife will not decrease and there will be no awareness on the matter,” he added.

Mozammel Hoque Shah Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of Chattogram (South), did not respond to several calls and a text from this correspondent.

Contacted, Abu Naser Md Neyaz Yeasin, divisional forest officer (wildlife and nature conservation), told The Daily Star that wildlife law is defective in many aspects -- the scope the law permits can’t be fully utilised due to the negligence of forest officials.

“In brief, that’s the reason behind the low number of cases against elephant killings in the country,” he said.

As per the law, the concerned forest officials can file a case if any wildlife is killed within their jurisdiction in consultation with the warden of the wildlife divisional forest office.

Mihir Kumar Dey, conservator of forest for the wildlife and nature conservation circle of the forest department, claimed that in every incident where an elephant was killed, they filed cases.

When asked how many cases had been filed so far, he was unable to give an exact number.

Abu Naser added that actual natural deaths of wild elephants are also worrying for forest and wildlife conservation officials.

Elephants falling down hills, those killed in fights with other elephants, and those dying of sickness count as natural deaths.

“The number of natural deaths is also a great concern for us as the toll from natural death tops the list. It could be attributed to genetic change due to the loss of corridors and habitat. In fact, we need significant research to determine the root causes of this crisis,” he said.

## Flood worsens in 6 southern districts

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food situations.

In Bagerhat, more areas have been inundated due to the water levels of adjacent rivers increasing following incessant rains for the last four days and tidal surges.

Several thoroughfares and markets in the district headquarters have also been flooded. Many houses have been inundated and fish enclosures have been washed away.

“The tidal water has been increasing with incessant rains. Over 100 fish enclosures, including ours, have been submerged,” said Abdul Halim, a resident of Uttar Fulhata village in Morrelganj upazila.

“We were cultivating fish in the pond covering around 22 bighas of land. I had to invest Tk 7 lakh for this purpose. But all the fish have gone away as our pond has overflowed due to the flood,” said Kaikobad Mridha, a resident of Ghashiakhali village, under the same upazila.

Another flood victim Rabiul Sheikh, a resident of Chitalmari upazila, said many vegetable gardens have been damaged due to water-logging.

Meanwhile, several thousand fishermen have been stranded in the Sundarbans due to rough weather.

Contacted, Joyнал Abedin, assistant forest conservator of the Sharankhola Range in the East Sundarbans Division, said fishermen usually take shelter in forest canals when there is a storm at sea, and the same has happened this time. If any fisherman faces problems at sea, the forest department tries to rescue them.

Local agriculture and fisheries officials could not tell the exact the

amount of damage and said it would take more time to estimate it.

In Barishal division, water levels of most of the rivers, including Meghna, Tetulia, Bishkhali, Kocha, Boleswar , Payra and Kirtankhola, have risen.

The Meghna was flowing 74cm above danger level at Daulatkhan point of Bhola, Tetulia was flowing 40cm above danger level at Bhola Kheya Ghat point and Kirtankhola river was flowing above eight cm above danger level at Barishal town, said Water Development Board officials.

Flood-affected people are enduring immense sufferings amid a crisis of food and shortage of drinking water.

Local administrations have already taken necessary measures to protect embankments by dumping GEO bags in different areas.

At least 72 shoals have already been submerged by high tides in Bhola.

“As we are residents of coastal areas, we are familiar with tides and waves. But I have not seen such severe high tides in my entire life,” said Abdur Rakib, a resident of Manpura Beribandh area of Bhola.

“I have a shop at Ulania Bazar in Mehendiganj upazila . It has been inundated by four to five feet of water. Many products of my shop has been damaged,” said Saikat, a resident of the same area.

In Manikganj, the Jamuna is swelling again but was still flowing 28 cm below danger level at Aricha point.

(Our correspondents from Barishal, Bagerhat and Manikganj contributed to the story.)

## Weeks, months

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count of the votes the day after the November 3 election.

While meddling by Russia, China, Iran and others in the run-up to the poll is a concern, “I’m worried about Election Day on,” said Bill Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

He said external actors could use hacks like ransomware and other cyberattacks against the infrastructure for delivering, counting and transmitting the votes.

“We need to prepare as a nation that the election will not be decided on November 3,” he said.

“I’m worried about ransomware attacks. I’m worried about cyberattacks. I’m worried about the inability of people to vote because of cyber penetrations and ransomware.”

“So for me I worry about not up to the election, from the influence perspective, I’m worried about the interference perspective come November 3, 4 and all the way through November,” he said.

## Suspend postal

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day after he reportedly received his test reports from the IEDCR.

According to the legal notice, Sudhangshu went to the Gono Bhaban for the inauguration of a special commemorative stamp and data card on August 14 marking the 45th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. During the event, he stood very close to the PM, it said.

Based on media reports, it also said the IEDCR took samples from the DG on August 12 and handed the report stating he tested positive the next day.

The lawyers also said what the DG did was a crime as per Section 26 of the Communicable Diseases (Prevention, Control, and Eradication) Act 2018. They also said concealing such information was a punishable offence under the law.

“Sudhangshu concealed that information, went to the PMO and stood very close to the prime minister. It is not only illegal but it also posed a serious risk to the personal safety and health of the PM,” they said in the notice.

The two lawyers sent the notice through an email to the principal secretary to the Prime Minister’s Office, secretaries to the ministries of home, public administration, and health, the director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and the director of the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

They also urged them to conduct an inquiry into the incident and take necessary steps in 48 hours.

Besides, the two demanded launching an inquiry into whether there was any loophole in ensuring the PM’s security.

Talking to The Daily Star later in the day, Pallob said they would move a writ petition before the High Court seeking necessary directives if the respondents failed to act.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach the DG for comments as his cell phone was found switched off.

## SI held

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2, said police.

His brother Khorshed Alam filed a case accusing SI Ratan and 16 others with Rajarhat Police Station, police said.

OC Raju said SI Ratan Mostaq was sent to Kurigram jail after his arrest.

Police are conducting drives to arrest the other accused, he said.

## Poor testing, facilities result fewer cases

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Covid-19 testing in the district is currently in trouble as the Rajshahi testing lab hasn’t been accepting samples from Pabna since early August.

Rajshahi Covid-19 testing facilities have been burdened with samples from nearby smaller districts such as Pabna which have no or limited testing facilities.

“The Rajshahi lab has stopped taking samples from us so we are having to send samples to government labs in Dhaka from the start of this month,” Dr Rahim said.

In the same period of time, a total of 1,711 and 2,193 Covid-19 patients have been identified in Sirajganj and Kushtia respectively as of August 15 -- both adjoining districts of Pabna -- according to data from their respective civil surgeon’s offices.

In both districts, the government and local health authorities had set up PCR labs in the early weeks of the outbreak -- meaning more suspected patients have come in to be tested at facilities in these districts, sources said.

“It is true that we get very few patients, but that does not mean the disease has come under control,” said Dr Saleh Mohammed, dedicated doctor for Covid-19 patients at the 250-bed Pabna General Hospital which has 100 beds allotted for coronavirus cases.

Although over 900 patients have been infected in the district so far, only 20 patients have taken treatment at the dedicated Covid-19 hospital in Pabna in the last five months.

“If we get testing facilities, we will get more patients. Unfortunately, we are depending on others for Covid-19 testing which might be the reason behind the poor numbers.”

Not just testing -- treatment facilities are lacking too. The facility has only been seeing patients presenting mild symptoms because it does not have the capacity to treat those with more severe symptoms, he said.

“Although we are running a 100-bed Covid hospital in Pabna General Hospital, there are no special arrangements for Covid patients. There is no central oxygen supply and no ICU unit has been installed in the last five months, so critical patients do not come to the Pabna Covid hospital,” said Dr Saleh.

Asked about poor treatment facilities in Pabna, the civil surgeon said the district is in a much better position than other districts pointing to the low number of cases and patients being treated in hospitals.

“The situation is under control,” said Pabna Civil Surgeon Dr Mehedi Iqbal.

He also said though three PCR machines have been allotted for Pabna -- one from the health ministry and two from the science and technology ministry through the Rooppur nuclear power plant project -- the district is yet to receive a single one though his office has repeatedly submitted official letters to the authorities concerned.

“A floor of the Pabna Medical College Hospital has been selected for setting up PCR machines. I have sent letters to the health ministry and Rooppur nuclear plant authorities to set up the PCR machines but neither of these authorities have taken steps in this regard till now,” said the civil surgeon.

He said that he is unable to say the reason for the delay as it is not at his end and he is in communication with the respective ministries.

However, an official of the Rooppur nuclear power plant, seeking anonymity, said that the science and technology ministry is ready to send the two PCR machines but the local health authorities are stalling after receiving the high operating cost numbers and manpower requirements.

So, administrative negligence means PCR labs are yet to be set up in Pabna five months into the outbreak although adjoining districts such as Kushtia and Sirajganj have received machines and set up labs by April.



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### পুরাতন গাড়ি বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়, পাবনার অকোজো ঘোষিত ০১ (এক)টি গাড়ি (যা বর্তমানে সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়, পাবনায় সংরক্ষিত আছে) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে ইচ্ছুক ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য, দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়, পাবনায় রক্ষিত গাড়িটি প্রয়োজনে পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন। দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান গাড়িটির অনুকূলে অফেরতযোগ্য নগদ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মূল্যে আগামী ২৫-০৮-২০২০ইং তারিখ সন্ধ্যা ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ০৭-০৯-২০২০ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত এ কার্যালয় হতে ক্রয় করতে পারবেন। দরপত্রের উদ্ধৃত দরের ১৫% টাকা জামানত/আর্নেস্টম্যানি হিসাবে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্রের সাথে সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার, পাবনা বরাবরে অবশ্যই জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ০৮-০৯-২০২০ইং তারিখ সন্ধ্যা ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার, পাবনা এর অফিস কক্ষের (৩য় তলা) সামনে রক্ষিত বাসের দরপত্রের কপি দাখিল করা যাবে এবং ঐদিনই দুপুর ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। দরপত্রের সিডিউলে বিক্রয়যোগ্য গাড়িটির বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী উল্লেখ করা রয়েছে। বিআরটিএ কর্তৃক বিক্রয়যোগ্য গাড়িটির নির্ধারিত দর নিম্নরূপ:

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