

ROHINGYA LEADERS HAPPY WITH FACILITIES IN BHASHAN CHAR
SEE PAGE 12

The Daily Star

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BANGLADESH UPDATE

1,892
New cases in 24hrs

3,29,251
Total cases

4,552
Deaths

2,27,809
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

898,006
Deaths

27,562,435
Total cases

PLAN TO REOPEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Health guidelines finalised for kids

Masks mandatory for all; Only two students to sit on each bench; schools to have handwashing arrangements

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Only two will be allowed to sit on each bench at classrooms after the reopening of primary schools, and everyone in those institutions -- students, teachers and other staffers -- will have to wear masks.

All schools will also have to ensure arrangements for hand washing and measuring body temperature.

Although it is not yet certain when schools, closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, will reopen, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has finalised a plan for the reopening, incorporating these provisions following the Covid-19 health guidelines.

The ministry yesterday asked the authorities concerned, including Directorate of Primary Education, deputy commissioners and primary education officers, to make necessary preparations in this regard, said relevant officials.

They also said the government will reopen the educational institutions when the pandemic eases.

"We have finalised the reopening plan and directed the relevant authorities to make preparations in line with the plan,"



primary and mass education ministry's Additional Secretary Alamgir Muhammad Mansurul Alam told The Daily Star.

The ministry also asked officials concerned to prepare drafts of posters and leaflets to educate students about the health rules. Those will be presented before senior officials of the ministry for approval.

Mansurul said they would also launch a campaign highlighting the health rules through the media. "We will go for the campaign only after the government takes a final decision on the reopening."

According to the plan, school authorities can hold classes shift-wise and on alternative days to ensure physical distancing among students.

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Firefighters battle flames at Kewatkhal Power Grid Station in Mymensingh city yesterday. Officials suspect a short circuit at the station set off the blaze that forced the authorities to stop power supply to all four districts in Mymensingh division for several hours since 1:00pm. Power supply to the districts was restored in phases since around 5:30pm.

PHOTO: STAR



Bangladesh unique in vulnerability, resilience

Says PM launching Global Centre on Adaptation regional office

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh is a unique example of climate vulnerability and resilience.

She said people here time and again have shown their resilience against natural or man-made disasters. Yet, a lot of things need to be changed, the PM added.

"I think other countries in the region also have similar experiences and some good practices on adaptive measures. I believe together we can safeguard and build a better future for all of us."

Hasina was addressing a programme

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A brother's quest for justice may end today

A Dhaka court to deliver verdict on first ever case filed under Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Today is likely to be the culmination of a long and strenuous battle for justice.

Imtiaz Hossain Rocky has waged a six-and-a-half-year struggle to see justice for his elder brother, Ishtiaq Hossain Jonny, who was tortured to death allegedly by a police team.

His quest for justice has not only been rocky, but fraught with danger all through. There were threats, intimidation and even monetary temptation, but Rocky chose not to give up the fight.

With fingers crossed, he is waiting for today's judgment to be delivered by a Dhaka court in the case, the first ever filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013. Today's verdict will also be the first under this Act.

"I hope I get justice," Rocky told The Daily Star.

For their mother Khursheda Begum, the last six and a half years have been spent in seemingly unending agony.

"I hope those who are involved in torturing my beloved son to death will be given the highest punishment," she said.

"If they are not punished, the life of my only surviving son may be in danger. I have lost one son and live each day in the fear that the accused may cause harm to my other son. I am always scared when my son goes out," she said in a choked voice.

"At times, the accused police officials have intimidated me and the key witnesses by hiring local goons and using politically influential people so

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PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND CUSTODIAL DEATH ACT ENACTED IN OCTOBER, 2013

The act applies for all law enforcement agencies including police and Rab

Case under the act is to be filed with lower court concerned

Investigation of a case should be completed in 90 days

Maximum punishment for torture is 5 years' imprisonment and a Tk 25,000 fine

Maximum punishment for custodial death is life imprisonment and a Tk 100,000 fine

Convict to compensate family members of the affected/victims with Tk 200,000

CUSTODIAL DEATHS, TORTURE

Law there, but victims afraid to file cases

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Although the government enacted a law to prevent torture and death in custody of different law enforcement agencies seven years ago, not many cases have been filed under the act.

Experts attribute the reason to lack of comprehensive campaign to make people aware of the law and fearing of the victims or their family members that the law enforcers would harm them.

The first-ever verdict in a case filed under the act is going to be delivered today.

The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act-2013 was formulated as part of the country's commitment to the Committee Against Torture, a UN body of which Bangladesh is a signatory, to prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman, degrading punishment or treatment to anyone in law enforcers' custody and punish the perpetrators.

Law Minister Anisul Haque also highlighted the act as an effective edition to the existing laws in combating torture in custody while presenting a report to the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in July-August 2019, Bangladesh's first-ever since its ratification in 1998.

Experts and right activists said the spirit of the prevention of torture and custodial death law is undoubtedly good, but its implementation is not satisfactory as cases have

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MOSQUE TRAGEDY

8 survivors still in critical condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight victims of the Narayanganj mosque fire were still fighting for life at the intensive care unit of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery yesterday.

"The condition of the eight is critical. They all have inhalation burns ranging from 35 percent to 93 percent," Dr Partha Sankar Paul, resident surgeon at the burn institute, told reporters yesterday.

One of the eight injured was shifted to the ICU from the post-operative ward yesterday morning, the physician added.

The death toll from Friday's fire at Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque reached 28 yesterday after another victim died at the burn institute. The deceased is Abdul Hannan, 50.

The eight now

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ROHINGYA KILLINGS 2 Myanmar soldiers taken to the Hague

REUTERS

Two Myanmar soldiers have been taken to The Hague after confessing to murdering minority Rohingya Muslims during a 2017 crackdown, two news organisations and a rights group reported yesterday.

The two men admitted to killing dozens of villagers in northern Rakhine state and burying them in mass graves, according to the New York Times, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the non-profit Fortify Rights, citing statements the men made on videos filmed in Myanmar this year.

Reuters has not seen the videos cited by the news organisations. The New York Times said it could not independently confirm that the two soldiers committed the crimes to which they confessed.

Myanmar government and military spokesmen did not answer calls seeking comment.

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Workers hired by Titas Gas company dig out a gas pipeline at the main entrance to Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque in Narayanganj yesterday. The company is carrying out the digging work as part of its investigation into the Friday's fire incident that led to the deaths of 28 people.

PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

Tk 22.5cr loan taken out thru fake contract

BDBL officials involved in granting it to Dhaka Trading, finds ACC probe

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

It's another glaring example of collusion between bank officials and a businessman who took Tk 22.5 crore loan from the state-run Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL) through a fake contract.

Tipu Sultan, the owner of Dhaka Trading, even changed his father's name and gave false information in the documents, yet the bank officials sanctioned the loan back in 2012, according to the findings of officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

On June 11 last year, the ACC filed a case against Tipu, ex-BDBL General Manager Syed Nurur Rahman Kadri, Assistant General Manager Dewan Mohammad Ishak and ex-principal officer Dinesh Chandra Saha for misappropriating Tk 25.5 crore from the bank.

The matter is under investigation, and Tipu is now on bail. Earlier in February 2016, the ACC had sued Tipu and four others, including general manager of Janata Bank Limited, for swindling more than Tk 250 crore through fake documents.

According to the website of Dhaka Trading, it is a joint exporter based in Khulna.

Seeking anonymity, a BDBL official said Tipu opened a loan account with the BDBL against a Trust Receipt (LTR) account of Dhaka Trading on April 03, 2012.

Bank officials were supposed to collect the updated income tax certificate against the LTR account, but they didn't.

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Taliban say team in Qatar for Afghan peace talks

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban's negotiating team has arrived in Qatar, a spokesman said Saturday, in a sign that long-delayed peace talks with the Afghan government are inching closer to starting.

A date for the talks, to be hosted in Doha, has not been set but the warring sides have this week signalled that negotiations could launch soon, following efforts to wrap up a drawn out prisoner exchange.

"All members of our negotiating team have arrived in Doha. The talks will begin once some small

technical issues are resolved," Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen told AFP.

US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad traveled to Doha on Friday, the State Department said, in another sign that talks could be imminent.

"The Afghan people are ready for a sustainable reduction in violence and a political settlement that will end the war," the department said in a statement.

"Afghan leaders must seize this historic opportunity for peace. All sides have taken important steps to remove obstacles for the start of IAN. Now is the time to start," it added, referring to Intra-Afghan Negotiations.

A brother's quest for justice

FROM PAGE 1

that I withdraw the case or the witnesses refrain from testifying in court," Rocky said.

"At other times, they [the accused] or their family members offered huge sums of money to withdraw the case. But I pledged to continue the fight until the killers of my brother are punished."

Financial constraints were a constant but Rocky, the lone breadwinner of his family -- consisting of his mother, Jonny's wife and two children -- had to spend around Tk 10 lakh to fight the legal battle.

"You know how hard it is to file a case against police and wage a legal battle against them till the end. I have spent much of my time and sacrificed many of my dreams for this cause," Rocky added.

On February 7, 2014, a police team led by Sub-inspector Jahidur Rahman Khan picked up Rocky and his 28-year-old brother from the capital's Pallabi Irani Camp area along with some others from a pre-wedding programme of Jonny's friend.

Putting a single cuff on the brothers' wrists, SI Jahid and several other policemen tied them tightly to a pillar and severely beat and trampled them inside Pallabi Police Station for around two and a half hours from 2:30am, alleged Rocky.

He said when Jonny asked for some water, the policemen spit at him.

"I cannot forget that scene for a single day," he added.

Unable to endure the torture, Jonny collapsed and lost consciousness. Police took him to a local hospital that night where Jonny, driver of a mobile operator, succumbed to his injuries.

Rocky was later shown arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Rocky said it took him six months to file the case since he fell sick being tortured by police.

Both mother and son thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for enacting such a law and requested the government to take the responsibility of Jonny's son and daughter as he was killed in police custody.

THE INCIDENT, CASE, INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL

On the night of February 9, 2014, police informants Sumon and Russell called police after Jonny slapped him

for teasing women at the pre-wedding programme.

The accused policemen then allegedly tortured Jonny to death. The brothers were tortured before three other locals, who were also picked up, according to the case statement.

Rocky filed a case with a Dhaka court on August 7 that year, accusing eight persons.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Maruf Hossain conducted a judicial inquiry and submitted the probe report on February 17 in 2015. The probe found involvement of Pallabi Police Station's then SI Jahid, assistant sub-inspectors Md Kamruzzaman Minto and Rashedul Hassan and two police informants Russel and Sumon in the incident.

SI Jahid and Sumon were arrested later and have been in jail since. Md Kamruzzaman Minto and Rashedul Hassan obtained bail, while Russel has been on the run since the incident.

The court has already issued a warrant for Minto as he did not appear before it during the hearing.

The court framed charges against the five on April 17, 2016, and deposition of witnesses started on May 16 that year.

Rocky said after the court recorded depositions of some witnesses, the accused filed a writ with the High Court seeking stay on the trial proceedings at the lower court.

On February 27 last year, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman cleared the way for the lower court to resume trial against all accused, including the two suspended police officials in connection with the Jonny murder case.

The bench also ordered the trial court to finish the proceedings within 180 days, as per the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

The officer concerned delayed seven months in sending the High Court order to the lower court concerned, prompting the Supreme Court administration to issue a show-cause notice to the official.

Finally, the order was sent to the lower court and deposition of witnesses started again in 2019.

The court recorded statements of 24 witnesses before fixing today to deliver the verdict.

Tk 22.5cr loan taken out

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"He [Tipu] changed his father's name in the bank's Know Your Client [KYC] form," the official said.

In the loan application, Tipu stated that he got a contract from the Directorate General of Food to supply it 50,000 tonnes of wheat worth Tk 120.50 crore.

He also mentioned that he had already supplied the directorate with 15,000 tonnes of wheat by "a truck within a day" after opening the LTR account with the BDBL.

"It is impossible to transport 15,000 tonnes of wheat by only one truck within a day, yet the bank officials sanctioned Tk 25.5 crore loan to Dhaka Trading," the official pointed out.

Without examining Dhaka Trading's

loan repayment capacity or financial records, the BDBL officials hastily approved the loan on April 9, 2012.

When the bank hired an audit firm to look into the matter in 2015, the auditors found that all the documents related to the tender and supply of wheat to the directorate were false. The truck's registration number was also fake.

When the bank contacted the officials of the directorate, they said no such contract was given to Dhaka Trading, added the BDBL official.

Contacted, ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhon said the investigation is still going on. He declined to comment further.

The correspondent tried to reach Tipu over his mobile phone several times, but it was found switched off.

2 Myanmar soldiers

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The reports said the men had been in the custody of the Arakan Army insurgent group, which is now battling Myanmar government troops in Rakhine state, when they made the admissions and were later taken to The Hague in the Netherlands, where they could appear as witnesses or face trial.

It was not clear from the reports how the men fell into the hands of the Arakan Army, why they were speaking, or how they were transported to The Hague and under whose authority.

A spokesman for the International Criminal Court (ICC), based in The Hague, said it did not have the men in custody.

"No. These reports are not correct. We don't have these persons in the ICC custody," said the spokesman, Fadi el Abdallah.

Payam Akhavan, a Canadian lawyer representing Bangladesh in a filing against Myanmar at the ICC, said the two men had appeared at a border post requesting the protection of the government and had confessed to the mass murder and rape of Rohingya civilians in 2017.

"All I can say is that those

two individuals are no longer in Bangladesh," he said.

A spokesman for the Arakan Army, Khine Thu Kha, said the two men were deserters and were not held as prisoners of war. He did not comment further on where the men were now, but said the group was "committed to justice" for all victims of the Myanmar military.

Myanmar has repeatedly denied allegations of genocide, saying its military operations in 2017 were targeting Rohingya militants who attacked police border posts.

The ICC is investigating the crime against humanity of forced deportation of Rohingyas to Bangladesh, as well as persecution and other inhumane acts.

A statement from the ICC Prosecutor's Office said: "The office does not publicly comment on speculation or reports regarding its ongoing investigations, neither does the office discuss specifics of any aspect of its investigative activities."

Myanmar is also facing charges of genocide at the International Court of Justice, also in The Hague, though that body does not bring cases against individuals or hear witnesses.



Locals have turned this area along the Dhaka-Aricha highway into a dumping ground, which is polluting the environment. The photo was taken near Savar's Ulail bus stop yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Health guidelines finalised for kids

FROM PAGE 1

All schools will be cleaned, classrooms and office rooms will be disinfected regularly. Cleaning and disinfection will take place after every shift and following every day of classes.

Measures will be taken to maintain physical distancing inside classrooms among students. No indoor assembly will be allowed, according to the plan.

The authorities should prioritise the mental health of the students and make schools a place of joy. Students must be encouraged not to hug each other, said the finalised plan.

"All schools should have a separate reopening plan and they should take measure in line with our plan. If the authorities think they can arrange classes for half the students, they should do it in turns," Mansurul said.

The plan is also to discourage the use of papers at classrooms and encourage more and more online classes.

Besides, the school authorities must ensure everyone is following the health rules properly.

Asked who would bear the cost of the cleaning and disinfection activities, Mansurul said the government, the school committees and others can share the expenses.

"For that, schools need to prepare a budget," he added.

PARENTS' REACTION

As parents came to know about the plan for the reopening, some of them were found confused, while some criticised it.

"This has left us confused. We don't want schools to reopen now even if the infection rate drops. It's a matter of life and death. Thirty to 40 people are still dying every day due to coronavirus," Mahmuda Akter, mother of a class-II student, told this daily.

Ziaul Kabir Dulu, president of Obhibhabok Oikya Forum, a platform of guardians, said it would be impossible for the government to maintain physical distancing among students during class hours. Besides, parents too will gather in front of schools to pick and drop their children.

"There are more than 80 students in each classroom. How can you arrange a bench for each pair of students?" he asked.

Currently, four, five or even six students share a single bench inside crowded classrooms.

Besides, many primary schools have only one classroom and one or two teachers. "Who will monitor all these health protocols?"

He, however, said if the government reopens the schools, it must bear all the additional costs needed to ensure hygiene at the institutions.

DPE's Primary Education Annual Sector Performance Report 2019 supports his comments.

According to the report, 749 government schools are running with only one teacher, 1,124 schools with only two teachers, and 4,018 schools with just three teachers.

Besides, 6,546 have only one classroom and 2,809 have two classrooms. "This situation hampers teaching and learning," said the report.

There are over 65,500 government primary schools across the country.

All educational institutions have remained closed since March 17 due to the pandemic, hampering academic activities of about two crore students of more than one lakh primary schools and kindergartens.

These are not reopening at least until October 3, according to a government announcement.

The government has cancelled Primary Education Completion (PEC) and its equivalent Ebedayee Education Completion exams as well as this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) and its equivalent Junior Dakhil Certificate exams.

Instead of public exams, students will have to appear in final exams at their schools.

The PEC and its equivalent exams for fifth-graders and JSC and its equivalent exams for eighth-graders were scheduled to take place in November. These are the two largest public exams in the country.

Besides, first- and second-term exams at primary schools and half-yearly tests at secondary schools have been postponed.

This year's Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent exams have also been deferred for an indefinite period from April 1.

Bangladesh unique in vulnerability, resilience

FROM PAGE 1

marking the launch of the regional office of the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) in Dhaka.

She expressed optimism that the GCA regional office would serve as a "Centre of Excellence" and a solution-broker for climate adaptation measures in the South Asia region.

"I hope this regional office will share the best adaptation practices of Bangladesh as well as other countries and exchange practices within the region," the PM said.

Hasina and former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, also the chair of the GCA Board, jointly inaugurated the "Global Centre on Adaptation Bangladesh" in the capital's Agargaon digitally. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also spoke at the virtual function.

Noting that climate change is a global affair, the Bangladesh PM called upon all countries to enhance their nationally-determined contributions by December 31 this year in tackling the menace as well as executing the 2015 Paris Agreement.

About the newly-opened GCA office in Dhaka, she said this is a

historic moment for combating climate change in South Asia through adaptation.

"It is heartening to note that the GCA Bangladesh office will facilitate, support and develop on-the-ground action in South Asia to enhance adaptation and climate resilience."

Hasina expected that the GCA Dhaka office would also support Bangladesh during its chairmanship to Climate Vulnerable Forum and Vulnerable-20, two climate-based important international bodies under the UNFCCC process, during the next two years.

She said South Asia is the most vulnerable region to climate-induced natural disasters like cyclone, flood, tidal surge, drought, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood, landslides and avalanches. Even a 1.5 degrees Celsius rise in temperature would have severe consequences for Bangladesh and the region.

"We also must not forget the vulnerability of the children, women, elderly people and people with special needs against disasters," she added.

Hasina said Bangladesh remains committed to implementing the Paris Agreement and adopting all measures

to prevent the rise in temperature from the emission of greenhouse gas and other environmental degradation.

She said her government has taken up various mitigation and adaptation programmes under Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan formulated in 2009 to offset climate change impacts.

"We established Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund in 2009 and so far allocated \$430 million from our own resources to implement the action plan."

The government has also been spending about 1 percent of GDP equivalent to \$2 billion per year since 2010 for adaptation purposes, Hasina said.

The PM urged the GCA to explore the opportunity of supporting the Delta Coalition on a long-term basis.

She said the Covid-19 pandemic fallout calls for greater cooperation and collaboration among the nations.

Ministers from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives as well as GCA Chief Executive Officer Patrick Verkooijen also spoke on the occasion.

Law there, but victims afraid to file cases

FROM PAGE 1

An executive member of Bangladesh Bar Council and a trustee member of Bangladesh Legal Aid, ZI Panna said if the people are made aware of the law, cases will be filed under it and custodial torture and death will be reduced in future.

They made the remarks ahead of delivering judgment in such a case.

In January 2014, the case was filed with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka against a former sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station and four others over the custodial death of Ishtiaq Hossain Johnny.

Speaking on the issue, Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna said, "The act has been formulated by the government to prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman, degrading punishment or treatment to anyone in law enforcers' custody. But its implication is not found as the victims of custodial torture and families of custodial death victims dare to lodge cases against the law enforcers."

Citing an example, he said a rickshaw-van puller, detained by police on charge of possessing drugs, allegedly killed himself in custody a month ago.

"We requested the victim's family to lodge a case under the act against the police. But they did not dare to do it. So, no case was filed and therefore, no justice was ensured to the victim's family," said ZI Panna, also the chairperson of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a leading rights organisation.

offences defined under the law. Again, any person attempting to commit, aiding and abetting to commit, or conspiring to commit an offence must be considered an offender.

The law also stipulates that torture at a time when there was a state of war, threat of war, internal political instability or any public emergency; or on an order of a superior officer or a public authority; shall be unacceptable as an excuse.

Torture by a law enforcement officer is punishable with at least five years' imprisonment and a Tk 25,000 fine, and custodial death due to torture is punishable with life imprisonment and a Tk 100,000 fine. In addition, they must compensate family members of the affected with Tk 200,000.

Meanwhile, 1,426 incidents of custodial deaths took place from January 2017 to July 2020, according to a report of Ain o Salish Kendra.

Of the incidents, 195 were in 2016, 162 in 2017, 474 in 2018, 388 in 2019 and 207 from January to July 2020.

The incidents happened due to "encounters, crossfire and gunfight" with the law enforcers.

The ASK prepared the report based on the news published in different leading newspapers, including The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo.

SUSHANT DEATH PROBE

Bollywood actor Rhea arrested

THE HINDU ONLINE

India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) yesterday arrested actor Rhea Chakraborty, in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, for allegedly procuring drugs. Her brother, Showik, was arrested last week.



"Rhea has been arrested and the due process of informing the family has been completed," said agency spokesperson KPS Malhotra. She had earlier refuted all the allegations, stating that she was innocent.

The agency had first summoned Rhea on Sunday for recording her statement and for the next two consecutive days, she appeared before the investigating team. The NCB yesterday decided to place her under arrest on the basis of the findings so far.

Apart from her brother, Sushant's housekeeping manager Samuel Miranda and staff member Dipesh Sawant have also been arrested in the same case. They all are currently in NCB custody.

Following his son's arrest, Rhea's father Indrajit Chakraborty had issued a statement to lodge his protest.

"Congratulations India, you have arrested my son, I'm sure next on the line is my daughter and I don't know who is next thereafter. You have effectively demolished a middle-class family. But of course, for the sake of justice everything is justified. Jai hind," he said.

Indrajit Chakraborty is also an accused in the case, being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation, in which Sushant's father has alleged abetment of suicide, criminal conspiracy, cheating, breach of trust, theft, wrongful restraint and confinement. He has been examined several times by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate.

On Sunday, the NCB had arrested another alleged drug peddler, Anuj Keshwani, after drugs and cash were seized from him on Sunday.

Testing Maj Sinha's equipment unnecessary

Rab says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion did not want to perform forensic and ballistic examination of seized equipment of Major (ret'd) Sinha as the investigation agency did not find anything anti state during the investigation.

But on August 17, Rab in an application sought the court's permission to do a forensics report of the seized iPhones, Canon DSLR camera and a forensic ballistics examination of the magazine loaded gun.

On August 19, the court accepted the application and permitted the examinations to be carried out.

But on September 5, Khayrul Islam, Rab's senior assistant superintendent of police and the investigation officer of the murder case, wrote a letter to the Senior Judicial Magistrate saying they did not find any threats to the state related to the seized objects and thus, think that a forensics and ballistic examination was unnecessary.

He also said that they did not find any evidence pointing to the fact that the victim was shot from the seized gun.

Maj (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan was shot dead at Shamlapur police check post on Marine Drive in Teknaf on July 31 night, triggering an uproar across the country.

8 survivors

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undergoing treatment are Md Farid, 55, Sheikh Farid, 21, Md Kenan, 24, Nazrul Islam, 50, Sifat, 18, Abdul Aziz, 40, Amzad Hossain, 37, and Abdus Sattar, 40.

Meanwhile, Md Mamun, who suffered 12 percent burns to his body, became the first victim to have been discharged from the burn institute on Monday afternoon.

The 30-year-old man from Pashchim Talla area of Narayanganj was walking along a road beside the mosque on Friday night when the blast took place.

Doctors asked Mamun to come again after a week for a follow-up.

Speaking to reporters before leaving the burn institute, he said, "I am lucky that I am returning home, but many could not. It's God who has saved me."

Fire Brigade officials suspected that an explosion occurred due to leaks in a gas pipeline that runs beneath the mosque.

They found two leaks in an underground gas pipeline adjacent to the mosque. The Titas Gas company suspended eight of its officials and employees over negligence.

The leaking pipeline might have caused gas to accumulate inside the mosque, and a spark then probably led to the explosion, leaving at least 40 people burnt, Fire Brigade officials said.

It happened at the end of Esha prayers around 8:45pm on Friday. The ground floor of the three-story mosque was badly damaged.

All the victims had got trapped on that floor. Besides, six air conditioners there were found melted.

Civil society slams councillor's 'attack' on Drik exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members have condemned and protested an attack on a photography exhibition on extrajudicial killings organised by Drik Gallery on September 4. In a statement issued on Sunday, sixty members of civil society also alleged that there was an ill attempt to foil the peaceful event held at the Dhaka University campus on September 4.

"The entire protest programme against crossfire was being streamed live on Facebook. We clearly saw that more than 100 activists of the ruling party led by councillor of ward-26 of Dhaka South City Corporation, Hasibur Rahman Manik, stormed into the programme," read the statement.

At that time, Manik told the protesters that the trial of August 21 grenade attack case has to be carried out first and the trial of other cases should not be done till then, said the statement.

"The ruling party men then started pushing around the rights activists, snatched photos displayed for the exhibit, tried to seize activists' mobile phones and stood in front of the gallery's banner wielding their own placards," it said. The ruling party men allegedly snatched loudspeakers from the rights activists.

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Bangladeshi expatriates yesterday organised a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club, demanding their return to Malaysia and favourable loan schemes to deal with the pandemic. The Malaysian government imposed an entry ban from Monday on citizens of 12 countries, including Bangladesh, which have recorded more than 1,50,000 Covid-19 cases.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Arrest of 81 migrant workers against law

Say experts, activists on Vietnam returnees

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Eighty-one migrant workers were recently arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), in violation of the law and Supreme Court directive, as there is no specific allegation against them, some legal experts and rights activists have observed.

Even a writ petition may be moved before the High Court to challenge the legality of their arrest and seek necessary directives on this issue, a lawyer said.

Syed Sayedul Haque Suman, a Supreme Court lawyer, told The Daily Star that the workers, who returned from Vietnam, were arrested on the sole charge of damaging Bangladesh's image, which is inhuman and violates the law and SC directive.

According to those laws and the directive, a person can be arrested under CrPC's Section 54 only if there is any specific allegation against them, which is not the case here, he said. "I will move a writ petition before the High Court, challenging the legality of the law enforcers' action," he added.

SC lawyer and Ain O Salish Kendra Chairperson ZI Khan Panna told this newspaper that the media should play a vocal role to stop such arrests and make law enforcers aware of relevant laws.

SC lawyer and Dhaka Law Reports Editor Khurshid Alam Khan said if the workers would have committed any offence in Vietnam, they could be tried and punished in that country, not Bangladesh.

Khurshid said according to the Penal Code of Bangladesh, an offender can be tried and punished in Bangladesh if they commit the crime within the country's territory.

However, eminent lawyer Dr Shahdeen Malik said if any Bangladeshi national commits a serious crime in any other country and then returns to Bangladesh, they can be arrested and tried in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

VICTIMS OF N'GANJ MOSQUE BLAST

High Court order on compensation today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will pass an order today on the writ petition that sought its directive upon authorities of Titas Gas Ltd to give Tk 50 lakh in compensation to each family of victims, who died and suffered injuries from the Narayanganj mosque blast.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam yesterday fixed the date for delivering an order on the petition after concluding hearing on it.

Advocate Taimur Alam Khondker appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Noor Us Sadik represented the state.

Supreme Court lawyer and a resident of Narayanganj Mar-um Khondaker submitted the writ petition as public interest litigation to the HC on Monday seeking its directive.

In the petition, she prayed to the HC to order the government to identify the persons responsible for the negligence in

repairing the gas pipeline which reportedly caused the explosion.

The petitioner requested the HC to order the authorities concerned to regularly check the utility service lines including those of gas, electricity and water across the country and take necessary measures to repair if there is any defect in the lines.

Mar-um Khondaker said officials of Titas Gas have reportedly sought Tk 50,000 from the mosque committee to repair the leak of gas pipeline. Titas did not repair it as its officials were not given the money, she stated in the petition.

Twenty-eight people have so far died and several others suffered injuries from the explosion at Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque after Esha prayers on Friday.

There has been widespread allegation that the explosion was caused by gas that leaked from underground pipeline and accumulated inside the ground floor of the mosque.

Petition seeks Ramna Park reopen in 24hr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the secretary to the ministry of housing and public works to reopen the Ramna Park in 24 hours.

Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as public interest litigation to the HC praying to it to issue a rule asking the housing and public works secretary to explain why the closure of Ramna Park should not be declared illegal.

In the petition, the lawyer said the housing and public works secretary has violated people's freedom of movement -- guaranteed by article 36 of the constitution -- through closing Ramna Park.

Citing the writ petition, Akond told The Daily Star that Ramna Park was opened as a public space in the Mughal era.

The government has closed the park in March this year in order to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Locals cannot walk, exercise and run in the park as it is still now closed although all offices and streets have already been reopened, he said.

The petitioner said many diabetic patients who used to walk and exercise in Ramna Park have been seriously ill or passed away.

Akond said the HC may hold hearing on the writ petition today.

Countrywide chemical metrology service soon

JS also passes two other bills including Gazipur Unnayan Kartripakkha Bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a bill aimed at forming Bangladesh Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements to provide chemical metrology service across the country.

There will be no need to go abroad for chemical tests after setting up the institute. Rather any other country will be able to test chemicals from Bangladesh.

Science and Technology Affairs Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman placed the Bill titled "The Bangladesh Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements (BRICM)", passed by voice vote.

According to the bill, the institute will facilitate the Designated Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements to smoothly conduct tests of its chemical activities by maintaining the ISO standards.

For chemical measurement, DRICM was

introduced on June 10, 2012 under the Bangladesh Science and Industry Research Council.

With the new law, this old institute will go under the jurisdiction of the Science and Technology Ministry.

Meanwhile, "Bangladesh Engineering Research Council Bill 2020" was passed at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, which was placed by Yeafesh Osman.

According to the proposed legislature, a 10-member governing body, headed by a chairman, will run the research council. The chairman will also be the chief executive officer.

Besides, there will be a 45-member advisory body, headed by the science and technology minister, for the research council. There will also be a six-member expert panel where internationally reputed Bangladeshis or expatriate Bangladeshis

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Railway to add 84 trains between Sept 10 and 16

50pc tickets at stations from Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is adding 84 more trains, mostly locals and commuter services, to the fleet in between September 10 and 16, as the state-run transport agency is trying to normalise service.

However, BR will continue to operate trains at half capacity, according to a circular signed by Deputy Director (traffic transportation) Khairul Kabir on Monday. The 84 trains will bring the total number of trains in operation to 218 as BR is gradually increasing trains in its fleet, Shariful Islam, senior information officer of the railways ministry, said.

The rest 144 mail and local trains would resume operation gradually, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The authorities have started selling of all tickets of local, mail and commuter trains from stations from September 5. The authorities could not bring those trains under online ticket selling system.

In another circular issued Monday, BR said it will start selling 50 percent tickets of intercity trains from the stations from September 12 while other 50 percent tickets would be sold out through online.

After resumption of train services, BR has been selling all tickets of intercity trains through online and a mobile app.

Out of 84 trains, 28 will resume operation from Thursday while 20 will resume operation on September 13 and the rest on September 16, according to the circular.

BR started resuming operation of rail services from May 31, more than two months after the authority suspended operation of passenger trains on March 24 to curb the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

ABDUCTED FROM DU CAMPUS

9-year-old flower seller rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine year-old Zinia, who used to sell flowers in Dhaka University's TSC area and was abducted a week ago from the campus, was rescued in Narayanganj on Sunday night.

A team of detectives also detained a woman named Lopa Talukder during a drive at Amtola, said Mahbub Alam, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Mishu Biswas, additional deputy Commissioner of Raman Division, said the woman abducted the girl with ill motives. She lured the child with money, the ADC said.

Zinia's mother Senura Begum earlier told media that she last saw her daughter with two unidentified women near Suhrawardy Udyan on September 1.

Finding her nowhere, she later filed a general diary with Shahbagh Police Station.

Zinia lives with her mother and two siblings in TSC area. She sells flowers on the campus. Many students as well as campus-based street vendors know her.



Homeless people collect bricks from here and there, and break them under a makeshift shed beside this footpath near Dhaka Medical College Hospital. This venture takes up quite a bit of space on the road, causing some trouble for vehicles and passers-by.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



At Savar's Ashula-Baipail Road, mini-trucks are parked indiscriminately by the side, taking up around a quarter of the road. This regularly causes traffic congestions and tailbacks that could be easily avoided if there were more space on the road for commuting vehicles. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DEATH OF ELEPHANTS

Writ petition to form probe body rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected a writ petition that sought its directive upon the government to form a high-standing committee to conduct an inquiry into the deaths of 84 wild elephants in Chattogram region in the last 19 years.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam passed the rejection order as the petitioner did not serve any demand of justice (legal) notice on the authorities concerned of the government for necessary action to this effect, Deputy Attorney General Noor Us Sadik told The Daily Star.

He said the authorities are duty bound to protect the wild animals as per section-36 of the Wild Animals Protection Act. The petitioner could have sought remedy under this law, DAG Noor Us Sadik added.

Supreme Court lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick on August 24 submitted the petition as public interest litigation to the HC, also challenging the "negligence" of the authorities concerned to protect the wild elephants from unnatural deaths in Chattogram forest region.

In the petition, he said the officials concerned of the forest department are constitutionally bound to protect the wild elephants but they failed to comply with the constitution as 84 elephants have reportedly died in last 19 years in Chattogram.

Manoj told The Daily Star that he filed the writ petition based on a report published in The Daily Star on August 23 in this regard.

The report said, "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.

Khalidi's bail challenged at SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging a High Court order that granted anticipatory bail to Toufique Imrose Khalidi, editor-in-chief of online news portal bdnews24.com, in a corruption case.

In the petition, the ACC prayed to the apex court to stay the HC order of bail to Khalidi, saying that there are specific allegations against him of committing corruption, ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the ACC filed the stay petition with the SC on August 27. The chamber judge of the Appellate Division might hold hearing on the ACC's stay petition tomorrow, the ACC lawyer added.

On August 26, the HC granted anticipatory bail to Khalidi for eight weeks in the corruption case.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order after hearing a bail petition filed by Khalidi. His lawyer Mahbub Shafiq told The Daily Star that the HC granted bail to his client considering the argument that he has not committed any corruption.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal's mother passes away

BSS, Bhola

Mosammat Maleka Begum, mother of Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal, passed away of old-age complications yesterday morning. She was 96 years of age.



She breathed her last at her residence at Moutupi village Alinagar union under Bhola Sadar upazila.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Eidgah Maidan after Asr prayers today.

On August 18, Maleka was admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital with anemia, kidney, respiratory and other complications. On August 20, she was flown to Dhaka by a Bangladesh Army helicopter and was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) for better treatment.

She was later brought back home on Thursday.

President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Maleka Begum.

In separate condolence messages, the head of the state and the premier prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

SI, ASI suspended in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A sub-inspector and assistant sub-inspector of Kotwali police of Barishal Metropolitan Police (BMP) have been suspended on various charges including negligence in duty and indiscipline.

On Monday night, the two accused policemen were suspended and directed to file a departmental case, confirmed BMP officials and the district's deputy police commissioner.

Suspended police members are Sub Inspector (SI) Md Bashiruddin and Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Md Sharif.

Police Commissioner Md Sahabuddin Khan said that punitive measures have been taken against the two of them for committing irregularities and breaking discipline. At the same time, departmental cases will be filed against them. He

said the disciplinary action was taken against them not only due to the recent developments in the Riag murder case, but also because of anti-disciplinary actions in other cases.

On the morning of April 19, 2019, deed writer Riag Hawlader was killed with a sharp weapon at his home in Bukhainagar village. His wife Amina Akhtar Liza was arrested after Ripon filed a case against unknown miscreants at Kotwali police station.

Meanwhile, three men were arrested by Inspector Sagir Hossain of Kawnia police station under the same case in mid-August this year, all of whom confessed to the crime.

Liza filed a complaint with the district police commissioner that she was forced to confess to murdering her husband in the face of police brutality, accusing police officers including SI Bashir of torture and molestation.

5 'muggers' held for killing driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Police yesterday arrested five persons on charge of killing a private car driver during an alleged mugging incident in port city's Chowmuhuny area on Saturday night.

Police also seized a pick-up van from their possession.

The arrestees are Md Rabbi (22), Md Al Amin (22), Md Sohel (25), Md Babu (20) and Md Kamal Hossain (20).

Additional Deputy Commissioner (west) AAM Huyamun Kabir said the arrestees were active members of a mugging gang and they used to snatch valuables from people at night riding on that van.

Inspector (Investigation) Jahir Hossain told The Daily Star, "A private car driver, Ayub Ali (50), hailing from Faridpur, was stabbed by muggers in Chowmuhuny area around midnight."

He said around six muggers intercepted Ayub's rickshaw in front of a car showroom and tried to take his bag. As he tried to resist, they stabbed and looted his valuables.

Locals rescued and took him to Agrabad Maa O Shishu Hospital, where he passed away. His sister filed a case accusing unknown persons with Double Mooring Police Station, he added.

Ayub was going to his friend's house at Barik Building from his sister's house at Lalkhan Bazar. ADC Humayun said four out of the five arrestees are accused in several mugging cases.

Arrest of 81

FROM PAGE 3

The 81 workers, who returned to Bangladesh after being exploited in Vietnam for months, were thrown into jail on September 1, whereas the perpetrators either remain scot-free or are facing little action.

They are among the 107 migrants who were deported from the Southeast Asian country on August 18. At the end of their 14-day quarantine, Turag Police Station Sub-Inspector Md Anwarul Islam produced all 107 before a metropolitan magistrate on September 1.

The SI prayed to the court to keep them in jail until the probe was over. The court then sent the 81 to jail and freed 26. Two other workers, who returned from Qatar, also landed in jail.

Talking to The Daily Star, one of the 26 freed workers said the returnees were thrown into jail when they were preparing to go home and meet their families at the end of their quarantine.

He believes the 81 workers were jailed because they had demonstrated in front of the Bangladesh embassy in Vietnam, demanding justice and repatriation.

Khalidi's bail Civil society slams

FROM PAGE 3

ACC on July 30 this year filed the case against Khalidi, for allegedly depositing Tk 42 crore which have no "legal source" in different banks.

Gulshan Anwar Pradhan, deputy director of the anti-graft watchdog, filed the case with ACC's integrated district office Dhaka-1.

The case statement said that Khalidi earned the money through illegal means by creating "fake documents".

Toufique Imrose Khalidi, however, has denied the allegations.

The civil society members also questioned the role of police, claiming they played the role of silent spectators during the whole incident.

They asked, "In the context of this whole incident, we want to ask the government whether it favours extrajudicial killings and is against peaceful protest and cultural expressions recognised by the constitution."

"Are the stances of the government and other government employees regarding extrajudicial killings similar to Manik? We want to know," questioned the statement signed by Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Hameeda Hossain, Shaheen Anam, Prof Anu Muhammad, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, and Syeda Rizwana Hasan among others.

Meanwhile Hasibur Rahman Manik denied attacking anyone, saying, "There should have been images and footage of any attack as journalists and police were present there during the protest. We demonstrated in our way and they did in their way. They are trying to achieve some political agenda with these allegations."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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 ০৭ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ খ্রিঃ

স্টেশনারী ও স্টেশনারী (প্রিন্টিং) সামগ্রী সরবরাহের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে স্টেশনারী ও স্টেশনারী (প্রিন্টিং) সামগ্রী সরবরাহ নেয়া হবে। সে লক্ষ্যে আঞ্জী ও অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পুনঃ দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। পত্রিকা বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ২৩/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় নগদ ৫০০/- টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) মূল্যে ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, ২য় তলায় অবস্থিত সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) এর দপ্তর ৩/এ, নীলক্ষেত, কাটাবন ঢাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৫ এবং ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রশিক্ষণ ও শৃঙ্খলা শাখা থেকে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। আগামী ২৪/০৯/২০২০ তারিখ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের ২য় তলায় সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) এর কক্ষের সম্মুখে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তব এবং ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রশিক্ষণ ও শৃঙ্খলা শাখার সামনে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তব দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। এদিনই বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকায় ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, ২য় তলায় সম্মেলন কক্ষে দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।

খান এ. সরুর খান
 সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)
 ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, ঢাকা
 ফোনঃ ৯৬৭৪৪৩১

জিডি-১৪১৯

AAA
RENATA LIMITED SECURES 'AAA' RATING

Alpha Credit Rating Limited has rated Renata Limited as "AAA" in the long term and "ST-1" in the short term along with a stable outlook based on audited financial statements of the Company up to June 30, 2019 and relevant qualitative information up to August 23, 2020. This rating is valid up to August 23, 2021.

RENATA LIMITED

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
 কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়
 পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী

তারিখঃ ০৮/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ

আরক নং-পিটিসি/নোয়াঃ/রেশন/৮৩২

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-রেশন-০২/২০২০-২০২১

নিম্নে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ এবং তদাধীন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর বিধান মোতাবেক ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টার অর্থাৎ (অক্টোবর, নভেম্বর ও ডিসেম্বর/২০২০খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) মস্তর ডাল ও সয়াবিন তৈল ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে প্রতিযোগীভাৱে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়	২য় তলায় প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র (জাননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ)।
০২।	সংস্থা	পুলিশ বিভাগ।
০৩।	ক্রয়কারী/সরবরাহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
০৪।	ক্রয়কারী/সরবরাহকারী যন্ত্রাংশ	নোয়াখালী জেলা।
০৫।	যে কাজ/ক্রয় এবং যে সময়ের জন্য দরপত্র আহবান	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনের ২য় কোয়ার্টার অর্থাৎ (অক্টোবর, নভেম্বর ও ডিসেম্বর/২০২০খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) মস্তর ডাল ও সয়াবিন তৈল চাহিদা মোতাবেক ক্রয়। মস্তর ডাল ২ কেজি, ১ কেজি ৫০০ গ্রাম উন্নতমানের স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকেট প্যাকেটজাত করে সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে।
০৬।	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত।
০৭।	দরপত্রদাতা/যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, ন্যায়িকত্ব সনদ এবং রেশন সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র।
০৮।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের প্রাপ্তির স্থান	১। কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী। ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, লক্ষীপুর জেলা।
০৯।	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ২৮/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান, শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী, তারিখঃ ২৯/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী, তারিখঃ ২৯/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ সমস্রঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ	তারিখঃ ২৯/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ।
১৩।	সিডিউল বিক্রয় মূল্য	প্রতিসেট ৫০০/- (পাঁশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১৪।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
১৫।	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত মোট	১। মস্তর ডাল = ৪০,০০০/- টাকা ২। সয়াবিন তৈল = ৪০,০০০/- টাকা।
১৬।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১। পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ এবং তদাধীন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর সকল বিধিবিধান দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে। ২। ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনা ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলে কর্তব্য সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য হবেন। ৩। দরপত্র সিডিউলে অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বর্ণিত রহিয়াছে। ৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।

এস এম রোকম উদ্দিন
 বিপি-৬৬৯৫০০৯৭৩১
 কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি)
 পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী
 ফোনঃ ০৩২১-৬১০৯০, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৩২১-৬১৮৩০

জিডি-১৪১৯

Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.
 -Rabindranath Tagore

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our beloved grandfather, Ziauddin Tariq Ali, a maverick who lived life with integrity and a thirst for justice.

He was an inspiration to us all, and we will miss him dearly. There will never be another quite like him.

Please keep him in your thoughts today, and be kind to one another.

Ishaan, Amari, Abyan and Darian

ARMS CASE AGAINST PAPIA

Recording of witness statements ends

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday concluded recording the statements of witnesses in an arms case against expelled leader of Jubo Mohila League Shamima Nur Papiya and her husband Mofizur Rahman Sumon.

On completion of cross-examination of Arifuzzaman, last investigation officer of the case, KM Emrul Kayesh of Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka, set today for recording self-defence statements of the accused.

The tribunal then will fix the date for arguments from the prosecution and the defence. After completion of arguments, the tribunal will fix a date for judgement of the case. With the IO, the tribunal recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses, including complainant of the case.

During yesterday's hearing, the couple

was produced before the tribunal.

A team of Rab arrested Papiya and her husband -- a former Chhatra League leader -- and their two accomplices from Dhaka airport on February 22 while they were trying to leave the country.

The following morning, Rab raided the house of Papiya at Indira Road in Farmgate and recovered a foreign pistol, two magazines, 20 bullets, five bottles of foreign liquor, Tk 58,41,000 in cash, credit and debit cards of different banks.

On February 24, an arms case was filed against the couple with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

On June 29, Sub-inspector Md Arifuzzaman of Rab submitted the charge sheet against the couple to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka

Countrywide

FROM PAGE 3

scientists, engineers, professionals, industrial entrepreneurs or educationists will be incorporated.

The JS also passed "Gazipur Unnayan Kartripakkha Bill 2020" amid harsh protest by the opposition lawmakers, concerning mismanagement among other development agencies including the city corporation with the newly formed authority.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Sharif Ahmed placed the bill.

The opposition members argued that formation of a separate body under a new law will not be helpful for people as it is widely believed that the formation of a separate entity with the name of Gazipur Development Authority, which is 56.32km away from the city, would cause huge

wastage of the government exchequer.

The state minister, however, said the proposed authority with an area of 1741.53sq km, will help build a modern city and ensure the planned development.

Fakhru Imam of Mymensingh-8 said endorsement of the law will weaken the local government authority.

Another JP MP Pir Fazlur Rahman of Sunamganj-4 said coordination between Gazipur City Corporation and the newly formed body is not at all clear in the bill.

JP MP Shameem Haider Patwary of Gaibandha-1, BNP MP Rumeen Farhana, and other opposition lawmakers including Kazi Feroz Rashid of Dhaka-6, Mujibul Haque Chhunu of Kishorganj-3 and BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid of Chapainawabganj-3 also spoke on the issue.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Local Government Engineering Department
 Office of the Executive Engineer
 District: Thakurgaon
www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
 শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.02.0094.000.14.001.20-1666 Date: 06/09/2020

e-Tender Notice-02/2020-21 (OSTETM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System of Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of undermentioned work FY 2020-2021.

SI No.	Tender ID	Name of work & Package No.	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time	Completion time
1	488179	Construction of Two 2-Storey Rural Marker with 04-Storey Foundation in Zadurani Hat under Haripur Upazila District Thakurgaon. Package: CRMIDP/THAKR/w-08/247	07.10.2020 17.00pm	08.10.2020 10.00am	346 days
2	488180	Construction of Two 2-Storey Rural Marker with 04-Storey Foundation in Ramnath Hat under Sadar Upazila District Thakurgaon. Package: CRMIDP/THAKR/w-06/248	07.10.2020 17.00pm	08.10.2020 10.00am	346 days

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 up to 07.10.2020, 5.00pm. For further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md Shaharul Alam Mondol
 Executive Engineer
 LGED, Thakurgaon
xe@thakurgaon.lged.gov.bd

GD-1416

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষকের কার্যালয়
 সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল
 মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১

তারিখঃ ০৭/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ

মেমো নং সইআমেকহাটি-১৩/২০২০-২১/OTM/২৯৮

পুনরায় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (রাজস্ব)-২০২০-২০২১

সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা (২০২০-২১ অর্থ বৎসরের) পঞ্চা সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীর বিধিবিধান মোতাবেক প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে পুনরায় দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২।	এজেন্সি/প্রতিষ্ঠান	সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা।
৩।	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার নাম	অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক।
৪।	দরপত্র ক্রয় বাবদ চালানসহ মোট নং	১ ২ ৭ ১ ১ ০ ০ ০ ০ ২ ৩ ৬ ৬
৫।	কাজের নাম	(১) পঞ্চা (২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসর) সরবরাহ।
৬।	দরপত্র ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া/পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত (OTM)
৭।	বাজেট ও তহবিলের প্রকৃতি	রাজস্ব বাজেট।
৮।	দরপত্রের কাজের বিবরণ	প্যাকেজ নং-(০১) পঞ্চা (২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসর)।
০৯।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	প্যাকেজ নং-(০১) পঞ্চা সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, মূল্য সংযোজক কর নিবন্ধনকরণ, ডিআইএনএস আয়কর সনদপত্র, আর্থিক সচ্ছতা সম্পর্কে ০১ বৎসরের বাস্তব ঠিকাদার, বাণিজ্যিক সনদপত্র, মালিকানা সনদপত্র/প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে ক্ষমতাপত্র, ছবি-০২ কপি, নমুনা স্বাক্ষর, কাগজে তালিকাভুক্ত নয় এর অধীকারনামা গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত, জোটার আইডি কার্ড/পরিচয়পত্র, পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার স্বাক্ষরিত তথ্য আবেদনের সত্যায়িত স্বাক্ষরিত) ও ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদপত্র দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল, দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা হিসাবে বিবেচিত হইবে।
১০।	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) ও প্রাপ্তিস্থান	১ প্যাকেজ নং (০১) পঞ্চা সরবরাহের জন্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা হারে ট্রেডারি চালানসহ মাঝামাঝি অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক, সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংকে অনলাইনের মাধ্যমে জমা দিয়ে, অনলাইন ডিপোজিট ট্রিপের মূল্যকপি জমা করলে দরপত্র তফসিল সরাসরি নিম্নোক্তসরকারি দপ্তর এবং পরিচালক, হেমিও ও দেশজ চিকিৎসা, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এর অফিস হইতে, অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
১১।	দরপত্র তফসিল সজ্ঞার তারিখ ও সময়	০৮/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ মঙ্গলবার হইতে ২৮/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ সোমবার পর্যন্ত মোট = ২১ (একুশ) দিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
১২।	দরপত্র তফসিল দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ সোমবার সকাল ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্রসমূহ অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক এবং পরিচালক, হেমিও ও দেশজ চিকিৎসা, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত ট্রেডারি বাস্তব করিতে হইবে।
১৩।	দরপত্র তফসিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ সোমবার মধ্যাহ্ন ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪।	দরপত্র পদবী	অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক।
১৫।	আহবানকারীর	সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১।
১৬।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর	৯০৩২০৪৮।
১৭।	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	ক. দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার দিন সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটি ঘোষণা করা হইবে, সেই ক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবস দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে। খ. দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী দরপত্র তফসিলের অন্তর্ভুক্তসমূহে সন্নিবেশিত আছে।
১৮।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক. কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র/ক্রটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের সময়ে ক্ষমতা রাখেন। খ. সর্বক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীর বিধিবিধান অনুসরণ করা হইবে।

ডাঃ শপন কুমার দত্ত
 অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক (খাদ্য)
 সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল
 মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১
 ফোনঃ ৯০৩২০৪৮/মোবঃ ০১৮১৯২৯৯৩৩১
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জিডি-১৪১৬



Flooding of vegetable fields, like this one in Durgapur village of Pirojpur's Sadar upazila, has caused the demand for vegetable saplings to fall significantly.

PHOTO:
HABIBUR RAHMAN

IMPACT OF FLOODS

Vegetable sapling demand takes a nosedive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Growers of vegetable saplings in two unions of Nazirpur and Nesarabad upazilas are counting huge losses due to the flood this year.

Farmers in Kalardoaniya union of Nazirpur and Balodia union of Nesarabad are well known for growing saplings of different varieties of winter vegetables on floating seedbeds in marshlands in the area.

Around 215 hectares of marshlands in the two unions are used for producing vegetable saplings, according to data received from Department of Agricultural Extension in Pirojpur.

The demand for the saplings dropped significantly while vegetable fields remain flooded in a large swath of land in the district as well as elsewhere in the country.

It costs around Tk 9 thousand to make a 180-foot-by 4-foot floating seedbed with water hyacinth and other aquatic plants. About 2,000 saplings can be grown on a seedbed, with a thickness of nearly two feet.

Between June and October, various saplings of winter vegetables including bean, tomato, beet, pumpkin, bitter melon, papaya, aubergine or brinjal and chilli are grown on the seedbeds, the growers said.

After the saplings are ready for sale in about a month's time, wholesale buyers buy the saplings from the growers and transport those on boats across the country.



The process can be repeated a maximum of five times during the wet season, said farmer Mizanur Rahman from Gagan village in Nesarabad upazila.

But with agricultural land inundated in floodwaters in Pirojpur, the demand for saplings has plummeted, he added.

Mohammad Ibrahim, another sapling grower from the same village, said a large number of wholesale buyers arrive at their village for the saplings every year, but this year, the picture is gloomy as only a handful of them turned up for the saplings.

He also said that if vegetable farmers are unable to prepare their land for cultivation again after the

floodwater recedes completely, the sapling growers might suffer massive losses this year.

The vegetable saplings planted by farmers are damaged in the floods, while the saplings on their seedbeds have become unfit for sale as those, left unsold for long, have grown too tall, said sapling grower Saidul Islam from Mugarjhor village in Nazirpur upazila.

Prodip Kumar Sikder, sub-assistant agriculture officer for Mugarjhor block in Nazirpur upazila, acknowledged the situation and said that the farmers this year might be able to grow saplings only three times.

2 cousins drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Two minor cousins drowned in a pond in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Monira Aktar, 10, a Class III student at a local primary school and daughter of Mamun Mollah, and her five-year-old cousin Selina Aktar, daughter of Selim Mollah, of Mollahpara village.

Quoting the villagers, Sadarpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Purabi Goldar said Monira and Selina along with some other kids of their age went to play near an abandoned pond adjacent to their house in the morning.

At one stage of playing, Monira suddenly slipped into the pond water and drowned. Selina also fell into the water while trying to save her cousin and drowned.

Hearing the news from their playmates, family member and locals rushed to the spot, rescued the minor girls and took them to Sadarpur Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared them dead. A pal of gloom descended in the area after the incident.

1 arrested over attempted rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested a youth for allegedly attempting to rape a schoolgirl in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila on Monday.

The arrestee was identified as Noor Jamal, 19, son of Abdul Hakim of Kalihala village in the upazila.

Earlier, victim's grandmother lodged a case with Kalmakanda Police Station accusing Noor, a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver, on Monday evening.

Quoting the case statement, Officer in Charge (Investigation) of the police station Sirajul Islam Khan said neighbour Noor entered the house of the victim, also a Class V student at a local primary school, on Monday evening and tried to rape her forcibly when none of her family members were present.

Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed in, rescued the girl and caught Noor red-handed.

Police produced the arrestee before a Netrakona court yesterday that sent him to jail.

Flood dashes hopes of sugarcane growers

Sugarcane of around 65 hectares of lands have been damaged by flooding

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Farmer Jinnat Ali of Dhitpur village in Sadar upazila of the district cultivated sugarcane on his three and half bighas of land this year and the yield had been good. But the recent flood damaged his sugarcane fields fully.

"My sugarcane fields have been submerged under the floodwater during the second week of July. The sugarcanes were supposed to be harvested after one month and a half," Jinnat said.

"I had cultivated the sugarcane spending Tk 70,000 after borrowing money from others. I hoped to sell the sugarcane at Tk 2 lakh. But the prolonged floods dashed my hope," he added.

"Now it is time to cultivate Aman paddy on the fields but I do not know how I will arrange the money for it," Jinnat said.

All sugarcanes of the 50 decimals of land of Mohammad Ali of the same village were also damaged fully by the floods.

"However, none from the agriculture office came to visit our damaged fields," Ali said.

Farmer Rafiqul Islam of the village said the flood also hit his sugarcane field. He incurred a huge loss due to the flood.

Not only Jinnat, Ali and Rafiqul of the village but also sugarcane of around 50 farmers in the area and adjacent areas were destroyed by the floods and the poor farmers incurred huge losses, sources said.

The local growers said farmers in the area are interested in cultivating sugarcane for higher yield. Its cultivation is very profitable too. It is more profitable than other crops.

According to the office of the deputy director (DD) of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Tangail, sugarcane was cultivated on 467 hectares

of land in 10 upazilas of the district with a target to produce 21,456 tonnes of sugarcane.

Sugarcane of around 65 hectares of lands have been damaged fully and partially by flooding. Of these, the crops on 16 hectares of land in Tangail Sadar upazila were damaged fully.

Contacted, Ziaur Rahman, upazila agriculture officer in Tangail Sadar upazila, told The Daily Star that a part of the total flood affected farmers will be provided government supports such as seeds and fertilisers, which will be distributed soon.

Local growers said farmers in the area are interested in cultivating sugarcane for higher yield and its cultivation is more profitable than other crops.

Meanwhile, several local sugarcane farmers have demanded separate allocation for them.

Agriculturist Ahsanul Bashar, deputy director of DAE in Tangail, besides sugarcane, other crops such as banana and lemon in some areas were also damaged by the floods.

They have plan to help the flood affected sugarcane, banana and lemon growers in the district by providing them saplings, he said.

A proposal has already been sent to the higher authorities in this regard, said the DAE official.



A flood-damaged sugarcane field at Dhitpur village in Tangail Sadar upazila.

PHOTO:
STAR

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

(মুসক বাস্তবায়ন ও আইটি)

রাজস্ব ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।

‘গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি’

মুসক পরামর্শক লাইসেন্স প্রাপ্তির লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তির নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান

মূল্য সংযোজন কর ও সম্পূর্ণক শুদ্ধ আইন, ২০১২ এর ধারা ১৩০ এর উপ-ধারা (১) অনুযায়ী কোনো কার্যধারায় কোনো করদাতার পক্ষে প্রতিনিধিত্ব করা বা তাকে পরামর্শ প্রদানের জন্য চার্টার্ড একাউন্টেন্ট বা চার্টার্ড সেক্রেটারী বা লাইসেন্সধারী মুসক পরামর্শকগণের মধ্য হতে যে কোনো ব্যক্তিকে নিয়োগের বিধান রয়েছে। মুসক পরামর্শক হিসাবে কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করতে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিকে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি ও সনদসহ ফরম “মুসক- ১৮.১” এ ৩১ শে ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ তারিখের মধ্যে মূল্য সংযোজন কর ও সম্পূর্ণক শুদ্ধ বিধিমালা, ২০১৬ এর বিধি ১০৯, ১১০ ও ১১১ এবং মুসক পরামর্শক লাইসেন্সিং বিধিমালা, ২০১৯ এ নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতি ও শর্ত মেনে মহাপরিচালক, কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট ট্রেনিং একাডেমি এর নিকট কেবল রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(২) মুসক পরামর্শক লাইসেন্স প্রাপ্তির জন্য আবেদনকারীর নিম্নবর্ণিত যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে, যথা:-

- (ক) বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে;
- (খ) আবেদনের তারিখে বয়স অন্যান্য ২৫ (পঁচিশ) বৎসর হতে হবে;
- (গ) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে যে কোনো বিষয়ে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে।
- (৩) নিম্নবর্ণিত যে কোনো ব্যক্তি মুসক পরামর্শক লাইসেন্স পাওয়ার জন্য অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন, যথা:-
- (ক) সরকারি বা কোনো স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের অধীনে চাকুরি, চাকুরি হতে অপসারিত, বরখাস্তকৃত কোনো ব্যক্তি;
- (খ) ফৌজদারী অপরাধে সাজাপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি, যার সাজা ভোগ শেষ হওয়ার পর ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসর সময় অতিবাহিত হয়নি; এবং
- (গ) ইতঃপূর্বে যার মুসক পরামর্শক, মুসক এজেন্ট ক্লিয়ারিং ও ফরোয়ার্ডিং, ফ্রেইট ফরোয়ার্ডার্স বা আয়কর পরামর্শকের লাইসেন্স বাতিল করা হয়েছে এমন কোনো ব্যক্তি।
- (৪) মুসক পরামর্শক লাইসেন্সের জন্য আবেদনপত্রের সাথে আবেদনকারীকে নিম্নবর্ণিত দলিলাদি দাখিল করতে হবেঃ
- (ক) বয়স নির্ধারণের জন্য এসএসসি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার সত্যায়িত সনদ;
- (খ) ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের সত্যায়িত ছবি;
- (গ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা বা প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি;
- (ঘ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি; এবং
- (ঙ) মহাপরিচালক, কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট ট্রেনিং একাডেমি এর অনুকূলে আবেদন ফি হিসেবে ৫ (পাঁচ) হাজার টাকা মূল্যমানের পে-অর্ডার বা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট।

(৫) নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতি ও শর্তে, মুসক বিভাগে জাতীয় বেতন স্কেলের নবম গ্রেডের নিম্নে নন এমন পদে ন্যূনতম ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অবসরপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা বা ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন চার্টার্ড একাউন্টেন্ট বা চার্টার্ড সেক্রেটারী বা কস্ট এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট একাউন্টেন্টগণকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ ব্যতীত আবেদনপত্র সঠিক প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে লাইসেন্স প্রদান করা হবে।

(৬) মহাপরিচালক, কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট ট্রেনিং একাডেমি প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র বাছাইয়ের পর যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের তালিকা ও পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি একাডেমির ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশ করবেন এবং সুবিধাজনক সময়ে লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করবেন।

(৭) নির্ধারিত শর্ত পূরণ করা হয়নি, এমন আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

Noakhali

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7500.000.07.007.20-2413

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 06/2020-21

Reference No. APP ID: 166992, 166995

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Schemes. (For LTM, only updated enlisted contractors of the Noakhali Region, LGED are eligible. In that case, tenderer must be submitted updated tenderer's Enlistment Book of LGED).

Tender ID & Package No.	Procurement method	Name of scheme	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank
Tender ID-487308 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-31	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Fenaghat Amin Bazar to Mirpur Monir Chowdhury Road from Ch 00m-1000m ID No. 475075340 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487309 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-32	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Mirwarishpur-Takia Road Ahmadulla Road from Ch 00m-760m ID No. 47504204 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487310 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-33	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Banabaria-Aladinagar Road Beer Muktzudda Al-Haz Kazi Abdul Rob Road from Ch 1000m-2000m ID No. 475074007 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487311 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-34	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Chamuhani-Sharifpur UP Office Via Arif Hazir Pool-Boro Sharifpur Road from Ch 3580m-5580m ID No. 475073023 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487312 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-35	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Bachur Dokan R&H-Kendurbag Via Mirwarishpur UP-Barirhat Road from Ch 00m-1750m ID No. 475073016 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487313 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-36	LTM	Rehabilitation of Puranbibi Bazar-Sharifpur UP office Via Mujahidpur Road from Ch 00m-2113m ID No. 475073027 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487314 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-37	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Zamirhat-Majidee Bazaar via Rasulpur UP-Shaheberhat-Hasanhat Road from Ch 2000m-3500m ID No. 475072010 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487315 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-38	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Bangla Bazar-Amishapara Bazar via Padipara Road from Ch 00m-1050m & Ch 1500m-2500m ID No. 475072003 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487316 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-39	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Zamirhat-Majidee Bazaar via Rasulpur UP-Shaheberhat-Hasanhat Road from Ch 3500m-5000m ID No. 475072010 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-487317 Package No. e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M-20/21/W-40	LTM	Periodic Maintenance of Rafiquepur Purnachandra Buiarhat - Joy Bangla Hat Via Rafiquepur Gov. Prg. School Road from Ch. 179m-2785m ID No. 475074188 [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-482769 Package No. GNP-3/NOA/BEG-20/21/W-279	LTM	A. Maintenance of Fataypur Betagi Bari-Chowdhry Mia Tek Road at Ch. 00-500m ID No. 475075044 earth work A. i. Maintenance of Fataypur Betagi Bari-Chowdhry Mia Tek Road at Ch. 00-500m ID No. 475075044 Pavement & Surfacing Works A. ii. Providing 175.00m Palisading work [Begumganj]	Up to 05-10-2020 at 4:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1414

'Be united, or be doomed'

UN chief says on climate change, urges all to take lessons from Covid-19 crisis

AFP, London

World powers must pull together and retool their economies for a green future or humanity is "doomed", UN chief Antonio Guterres has warned, telling AFP that failure to control the coronavirus pandemic illustrates the danger of disunity.

Before the virus struck, 2020 was billed as a pivotal year for the plan to dodge the bullet of catastrophic global warming, with high profile summits planned to catch a wave of public alarm over the future of the planet.

The coronavirus crisis may have shunted climate into the sidelines as nations launched unprecedented shutdowns to try to slow its spread, but Guterres said the need for climate action was more urgent than ever.

In a searing assessment of the international response, Guterres said the pandemic should sharpen governments' focus on cutting emissions, urging them to use the crisis as a springboard to launch "transformational" policies aimed at weaning societies off fossil fuels.

"I think the failure that was shown in the capacity to contain the spread of the virus -- by the fact that there was not enough international coordination in the way the virus was fought -- that failure must make countries understand that they need to change course," he told AFP.

"They need to act together in relation

to the climate threat that is a much bigger threat than the threat of the pandemic in itself -- it's an existential threat for our planet and for our lives."

The UN chief said "pollution and not people" should be taxed and called for nations to end fossil fuel subsidies, launch massive investments in renewables and



commit to "carbon neutrality" -- net zero emissions -- by 2050.

"We need to have a number of transformational measures in relation to energy, in relation to transportation, in relation to agriculture, in relation to industry, in relation to our own way of life, without which we would be doomed," he said.

His comments come as the landmark Paris climate deal goes into effect this year in a bid to cap the rise in temperature to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

Guterres said there was currently no

clear sign that a United States government recovery policy would align with Paris goals, but he expressed hope that states, businesses and individuals "will compensate for the lack of political commitment that exists at the present moment."

He said much now rests on the actions of major emitters, China, the US, Europe, Russia, India and Japan, in interviews with AFP and other members of Covering Climate Now, a global collaboration of news outlets committed to increased climate coverage.

"We have never been as fragile as we are, we never needed as much humility, unity and solidarity as now," he said, blasting "irrational demonstrations of xenophobia" and the rise of nationalism.

"Either we are united, or we will be doomed," he added, ahead of a largely virtual UN General Assembly this month.

He said the pandemic had demonstrated society's capacity to adapt to transformation. "I don't want to go back to a world where biodiversity is being put into question, to a world where fossil fuels receive more subsidies than renewables, or to a world in which we see inequalities making societies with less and less cohesion and creating instability, creating anger, creating frustration," he added.

"I think we need to have a different world, a different normal and we have an opportunity to do so."

China unveils global data security initiative

Says some countries bullying others

REUTERS, Beijing/Shanghai

China yesterday announced an initiative to establish global standards on data security, saying it wanted to promote multilateralism in the area at a time when "individual countries" were "bullying" others and "hunting" companies.

The announcement, by State Councillor Wang Yi, comes a month after the United States said it was purging "untrusted" Chinese apps under a program dubbed "Clean Network". India has also banned scores of Chinese apps in retaliation amid border tensions.

China's initiative calls for technology firms to prevent the creation of so-called backdoors in their products and services that could allow data to be obtained illegally, as well as for participants to respect the sovereignty, jurisdiction and data management rights of other countries.

It also calls for participants to not engage in large-scale surveillance of other countries or illegally acquire information of foreign citizens through information technology.

It did not detail the nature of the initiative or say whether any other country had joined.

"Some individual countries are aggressively pursuing unilateralism, throwing dirty water on other countries under the pretext of 'cleanliness', and conducting global hunts on leading companies of other countries under the pretext of security. This is naked bullying and should be opposed and rejected," said Wang.

China tightly controls and censors its own cyberspace through the popularly dubbed Great Firewall, which has for years restricted access to firms such as US majors Twitter Inc., Facebook Inc and Google owner Alphabet Inc.

NEWS IN BRIEF



UK judge rejects Assange bid to delay US extradition case

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is fighting to avoid extradition to the United States from Britain, failed on Monday in a bid to further delay hearings that resumed after a pause of months caused by the coronavirus lockdown. The US authorities accuse Australian-born Assange, 49, of conspiring to hack government computers and of violating an espionage law in connection with the release of confidential cables by WikiLeaks in 2010-2011. Assange, clean-shaven and wearing a suit at Monday's hearing, formally declined to be extradited. He has been presented with a new, wider superseding indictment issued by US authorities in June, which contains 18 alleged offences of conspiring to hack government computers and espionage. The judge rejected his lawyers' application for the case to be adjourned until January to allow them more time to consider new US accusations.

Japan ruling party launches race for Abe's successor

Japan's ruling party yesterday kicked off the race to pick Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's successor, with his powerful right-hand man Yoshihide Suga commanding an all-but-insurmountable lead. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, 71, has already secured the support of major factions in the Liberal Democratic Party ahead of its leadership vote on September 14. But he isn't running unchallenged, with a popular former defence minister and the party's policy chief standing against him. Thanks to the LDP's solid legislative majority, the race's winner is certain to win a parliamentary vote on September 16 and be named the country's next prime minister. The LDP race began after Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, abruptly announced late August that he would resign for health reasons.

Australian journalists flee China fearing arrest

Two Australian journalists yesterday fled China under diplomatic protection, fearing arrest as political pawns in the rapidly worsening relationship between Canberra and Beijing. Their dramatic overnight exit came following days of secret wrangling that had seen both men holed up in Australia's diplomatic missions to escape the clutches of China's feared security police. Bill Birtles and Michael Smith had to consent to questioning before they were allowed to leave China, shepherded out of the country on a late-night flight by Australian diplomats. Both men were quizzed about fellow Australian journalist Cheng Lei, who has been detained since last month. China confirmed the two men had been questioned, but insisted the move had been legitimate.

18 killed and more trapped in Pakistan mine rockslide

At least 18 miners were killed and more than a dozen were still trapped yesterday after a rockslide at a marble mine in northwest Pakistan, officials said. Boulders of white marble came crashing down on workers on Monday evening in the mountainous Mohmand district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, near the border with Afghanistan. Officials said around 20 more miners were still believed to be trapped under the rubble with a rescue mission under way.

EU warns Serbia over Jerusalem embassy move

The EU voiced "serious concern and regret" on Monday over Belgrade's commitment to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, casting a shadow over the resumption of Serbia-Kosovo talks. The EU is still committed to the "two state solution" -- under which Jerusalem would be the capital of both Israel and a future Palestinian state -- and its own diplomatic mission is in Tel Aviv. The bloc expects prospective members such as Serbia to align with its foreign policy positions. "In this context any diplomatic steps that could call into question the EU's common position on Jerusalem are a matter of serious concern and regret," EU foreign affairs spokesman Peter Stano told reporters in Brussels.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

BELARUS UNREST

Key protest leader detained at border

Lukashenko rejects dialogue

REUTERS, Kyiv

Prominent opposition leader Maria Kolesnikova was detained by Belarusian authorities, a border official said, after thwarting what a Ukrainian government minister described as an attempt to expel her from Belarus.

The Interfax Ukraine news agency said the activist had deliberately ripped up her passport so that Ukrainian border officials would not be able to let her through.

Soon after the incident, President Alexander Lukashenko told Russian reporters that he would not rule out holding new elections after four weeks of mass protests, but rejected any talks with opponents who he said were bent on steering the country towards disaster.

The fate of Kolesnikova had been a mystery since supporters said she was snatched in the street by masked men in the capital Minsk on Monday.

Lukashenko, who has crushed dissent in Belarus for the past 26 years, conceded in his interview with Russian journalists that he may have held onto power too long. But the 66-year-old leader said he was the only person capable of protecting the country for now.

Lukashenko denies opponents' accusations of vote-rigging and has accused foreign powers of trying to topple him in a revolution. He retains the backing of Russian President Vladimir Putin, a key ally, but faces the prospect of EU sanctions later this month.



A home is engulfed in flames during the "Creek Fire" in the Tollhouse area of unincorporated Fresno County, California early yesterday. Wildfires in California have torched a record more than two million acres, the state fire department said, as smoke hampered efforts to airlift dozens of people trapped by an uncontrolled blaze.

PHOTO: AFP

Campaign enters final stretch

Biden, Trump trade blows as survey shows race tightening

AFP, Milwaukee

Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden traded tough blows Monday as the White House race entered its final stretch, with the Republican leader branding his opponent "stupid" -- and the Democrat firing back that the president lacked the "guts" to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.

As Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris took their campaign message to must-win swing states Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, the president convened a surprise news conference at the White House.

In a freewheeling and grievance-laden performance, Trump once more teased the possibility of a Covid-19 inoculation by Election Day -- something experts say remains unlikely -- and accused his opponents of playing politics with a vaccine after Harris said she would not take his word alone on its safety.

Touting an upswing in job creation -- after tens of millions lost jobs -- and claiming the US is turning the corner on the pandemic, he called Biden "stupid," saying he "wants to surrender our country to the virus, he wants to surrender our families to the violent left-wing mob, and he wants to surrender our jobs to China."



Labor Day traditionally kicks off the final sprint of the campaign, with less than two months until the November 3 election -- but the rival campaigns have been knocked off stride by multiple layers of turmoil, from the pandemic to the struggling US economy to deep racial unrest.

Addressing an event in the swing state Pennsylvania, Biden hit back at Trump, charging that "he didn't have the guts to take on Covid."

"We know he's been great for his rich friends, but he hasn't been so great for the rest of us," charged Biden, who went on to assail Trump over a report in The Atlantic magazine that he has disparaged the military and its veterans. "He's downright un-American," Biden fumed.

Biden's visit to Pennsylvania on Monday kicked off a flurry of travel to battleground states this week by both Biden and Trump as some opinion polls show the race tightening with less than 60 days to go until the Nov. 3 election.

Polls in Pennsylvania, which Trump won narrowly in 2016, have consistently put Biden in the lead, but averages show that margin narrowing to roughly 4 to 5 percentage points, down from about 8 points in late June.

RUSSIAN COVID-19 VACCINE

First batch produced for public circulation

THE STATESMAN/ANN

In some good news for millions living in hope for a Covid-19 vaccine shot, the Russian Health Ministry yesterday said that the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine has been produced for civilian circulation.

The supplies of the medication to the Russian regions are expected soon, the Health Ministry told reporters, reports Tass news agency.

"The first batch of the vaccine for preventing the novel coronavirus infection, Gam-COVID-Vac (Sputnik V) developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry passed the required quality tests and was produced for civilian circulation. In the near future, the supplies of the first batches of the vaccine to the regions are expected," the ministry said.

Earlier this month, a study published in the peer-reviewed journal The Lancet said a Russian Covid-19 vaccine has shown no serious side effects and elicited an immune response in early human trials.

Russia last month registered the "Sputnik V", becoming the first country to approve a Covid-19 vaccine.

Meanwhile, India yesterday said it has received an offer from Russia to conduct a trial and manufacture its "Sputnik-V", with several Indian companies currently studying the proposal, an official said yesterday.

"The government of India attaches great importance to this offer of partnership from a friend," he added. The outcome of discussions on the offer were expected soon, he added.

Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University (MBSTU)
Planning, Development & Works Office
Santosh, Tangail-1902

Memo No. PDW/e-GP/Chemistry/2020-2021/01/100 Date: 08/09/2020

e-Tender Notice (OTM) No. 01/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Scientific Equipment under the Strengthening of MBSTU Project this tender is as follows:

Sl No.	Invitation Ref	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender security (Tk)	e-Tender document price (Tk)	Tender last selling date & time	Closing and opening date & time
01	PDW/e-GP/Chemistry/2020-2021/01	491911	Procurement of Scientific Equipment for the Department of Chemistry under the Strengthening of MBSTU Project	1,50,000.00	2,500.00	22-09-2020 17:00	23-09-2020 11:45
02	PDW/e-GP/Chem-AC/2019-2020/4038/20/19/R (Re-Tender)	488811	Procurement of Scientific Equipment for the Department of Chemistry under the Strengthening of MBSTU Project	40,000.00	1,000.00	22-09-2020 17:00	23-09-2020 11:40
03	PDW/e-GP/BGE/2019-2020/4038/19/R (Re-Tender)	488809	Procurement of Scientific Equipment for the Department of BGE under the Strengthening of MBSTU Project	50,000.00	1,000.00	22-09-2020 17:00	23-09-2020 11:30

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 bank's branches date on 22-09-2020 at 17:00 of receiving tender. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sd/-
Md. Mostafa Kamal
Director
Planning, Development and Works Office
MBSTU, Santosh, Tangail-1902
Phone: 0921-51328

GD-1413

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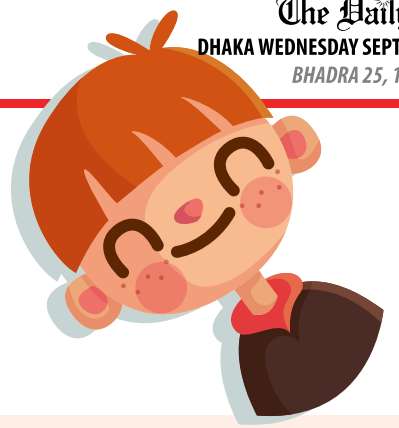
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HSC SPECIAL MODEL TEST 2020

Md. Jasim Uddin Biswas, Lecturer, Department of English
Dhaka Residential Model College, Dhaka



SUBJECT: ENGLISH FIRST PAPER

SEEN PASSAGE



Read the passage and answer the following questions.

Shilpi was only 15 years old when she married Rashid in 2008. Marrying off daughters at an early age is a standard practice for many families living in rural Bangladesh. After her wedding, Shilpi joined a local empowerment group that provides adolescent girls with the tools needed to gradually change cultural practices, particularly those pertaining to early marriage and pregnancy. The group's activities include discussions on how to most effectively change behaviour related to reproductive health as well as one-on-one counselling. It also offers peer-to-peer support and life skills training that helps adolescents say 'no' to early marriage. The empowerment

group is one of more than 10,000 groups supported by some local Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working all over Bangladesh. These NGOs work through Canada's Adolescent Reproductive Health Project which also aims to increase access to quality health services for adolescents. During one of the group sessions, Shilpi came to understand the potentially harmful effects of early marriage and pregnancy.

While maternal mortality in Bangladesh has declined by nearly 40 per cent since 2001, the rate remains high with 194 maternal deaths per 100,000, live births in 2010-dropping from 322 in 2001 with a projected decrease to 143

by 2015. Girls who get pregnant are at risk of serious health complications. These include dangerous haemorrhage and fistula, a painful internal injury caused by obstructed childbirth that commonly leads to serious maternal morbidities and social exclusion. When Shilpi heard about those risks, she invited her husband, Rashid, to discuss pregnancy with a counsellor. After hearing about the risks, Rashid agreed to delay having children for five years despite pressures from his parents and neighbours to produce an offspring. Together, the couple met a female health care provider, who informed them about the various family planning options available.

1. A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1×5=5

- (a) According to the text, what is the synonym of 'standard'?
- (i) relevant (ii) regular
(iii) sophisticated (iv) rare
- (b) In Bangladesh, many people have a tendency to marry their daughter off ____.
- (i) when they are adult (ii) prematurely
(iii) timely (iv) when they reach maturity
- (c) The best synonym of 'declined' is ____.
- (i) reduced (ii) divided
(iii) defeated (iv) washed-up
- (d) Girls who get pregnant are ____.
- (i) free from any risk (ii) intelligent
(iii) fortunate enough (iv) at risk of serious health complications
- (e) What is the passage about?
- (i) the life cycle of Shilpi
(ii) the conjugal life of Shilpi
(iii) the harmful effects of early marriage and pregnancy
(iv) the empowerment of rural women



B. Answer the following questions.

2×5=10

- (a) Why is female child marriage so common in rural Bangladesh?
- (b) Why was Shilpi married off at an early age?
- (c) Marrying off daughters at an early age is a standard practice of many families in rural Bangladesh. Do you support it? Why/Why not?
- (d) Describe the end results of early pregnancy?
- (e) When and to whom was Shilpi married off? Was Shilpi's marriage early?

2. Read the following text and make a flow chart showing the different organizations or societies in the process of peace movement in the world and their activities. (One is done for you.)

2×5=10

The first peace movement appeared in 1815-1816. The first such movement in the United States was the New York Peace Society, founded in 1815 by the theologian David Low Dodge, and the Massachusetts Peace Society. It became an active organization, holding regular weekly meetings, and producing literature which was spread as far as Gibraltar and Malta, describing the horrors of war and advocating pacifism on Christian grounds. The London Peace Society (also known as the Society for the Promotion of Permanent and Universal Peace)

was formed in 1816 to promote permanent and universal peace by the philanthropist William Allen. In the 1840s, British women formed 'Olive Leaf Circles' groups of around 15 to 20 women, to discuss and promote pacifist ideas. The peace movement began to grow in influence by the mid-nineteenth century. The London Peace Society, under the initiative of American consul to Birmingham, Elihu Burritt, and the Reverend Henry Richard, convened the first International Peace Congress in London in 1843. The congress decided on

two aims: the ideal of peaceable arbitration in the affairs of nations and the creation of an international institution to achieve that.

Afterwards, peace organizations were set up in many countries. The United Nations was founded with the primary objectives to maintain peace and resolve inter-state conflicts in the world. Many treaties have been signed between many nations, a noteworthy one of which is the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Everyone wants peace and likes the principles of non-violence.

1. New York Peace Society founded in 1815 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → 6

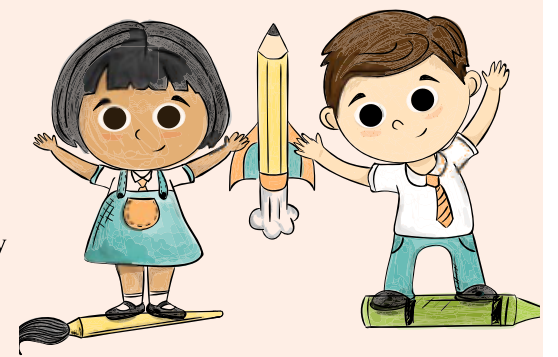
4. Identify the unclear pronoun references in the following paragraph. Where necessary, rewrite the sentences so that all pronoun references are clear. 1×5=5

At the Writing Centre, you can receive help on any writing assignment. It can make your writing stronger by discussing it with someone else. This will lead to a greater understanding of the proper mechanics and style expected in academic writing. This is an important part of the writing process, and they spend a good deal of time making sure you understand the expectations of written assignments. Using it will definitely make your writing skills stronger, and that will give you greater confidence for your next assignment.

ANSWERS

Answer to the question number 1(A):

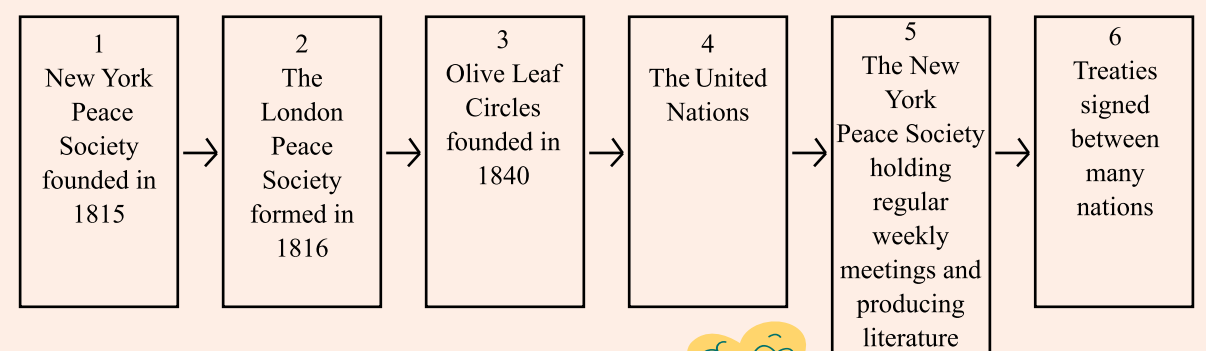
- (a) ⇒ (ii) regular
(b) ⇒ (ii) prematurely
(c) ⇒ (i) reduced
(d) ⇒ (iv) at risk of serious health complications
(e) ⇒ (iii) the harmful effects of early marriage and pregnancy



Answer to the question number 1(B):

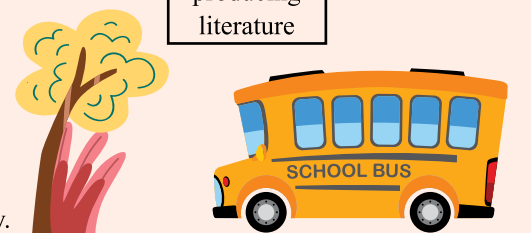
- (a) There are mainly two reasons for female child marriage becoming so common in rural Bangladesh. Firstly, most people are poor. And due to poverty, they cannot afford their daughters' education. And secondly, due to lack of education, they are mostly ignorant of the negative sides of early marriage.
- (b) Shilpi was married off at an early age because she was a member of a traditional family living in rural Bangladesh where marrying off daughters at an early age is a standard practice.
- (c) No, I don't support it. Because marrying off daughters at an early age makes them suffer from various health complications, which may result in death. These complications include dangerous haemorrhage and fistula, a painful internal injury caused by obstructed childbirth that commonly leads to serious maternal morbidities and social exclusion.
- (d) Early pregnancy may cause dangerous haemorrhage and fistula, a painful internal injury caused by obstructed childbirth that commonly leads to serious maternal morbidities and social exclusion.
- (e) Shilpi was married off to Rashid when she was only 15 years old. She was married early in the sense that it is not permissible to get a girl married off at the age of 15.

Answer to the question number 2:



Answer to the question number 3:

- (a) In fact, very few curses are as big as it is.
- (b) It is unfortunate that this has been accepted in our society.
- (c) In a family of five or six children, the parents have to send some of their kids to work to fill their empty stomachs.
- (d) These poor children have to work hard all day long but in return, they are rewarded with all kinds of abuses.
- (e) The government should stop child labour.



Answer to the question number 4:

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EXCLUSIVE MODEL TEST 2020 ON ENGLISH SECOND PAPER

Part A: Grammar

3. Read the text and change the sentences as directed.

1×5=5

Child labour is a great problem in our country. (a) In fact, it is one of the biggest curses. (Make it positive). It is a violation of human rights. (b) Unfortunately, this has been accepted in our society. (Make it complex) (c) In a family of five or six children, the parents have to send some of their kids to work so that they can fill their empty stomachs. (Make it simple) (d) Though these poor children have to work hard all day long, in return they are rewarded with all kinds of abuses. (Make it compound) (e) Child labour should be stopped. (Make it active)

Six months into the pandemic

Are we heading in the right direction?

IT has been six months since Bangladesh was struck by the worst disaster of the century by any definition, and it is time to assess if we are heading in the right direction and how we have fared during this rather traumatic period.

Bangladesh is the 14th worst affected country in terms of total caseload, with a total of 329,251 confirmed cases as per the data till September 8. The number of casualties is comparatively low at 4,552, according to DGHS, and there were 36 new deaths in 24 hours till the morning of September 8.

It would appear, given the way the people are going about, that Covid-19 is a past phenomenon, and we are out of the woods. Experts believe otherwise. Presumably, statistics might have something to do with the country assuming the business as usual mode, except for the educational institutions, which remain closed. But statistics can often be misleading, more so when we are dealing with a matter such as Covid-19 where inferring a positive indication based on the daily counts of infected cases and coronavirus related fatalities does not give us the true picture. One has to look beyond the statistics to get the real picture, as per the experts' advice.

We have commented many times on the manner the administration handled the situation since the first cases were reported on March 8. It is not necessary to recount those except to say that the handling of the pandemic should have been much better than what it was. What we are more concerned about today is the direction we are proceeding in.

The lowering number of infections should not give us much comfort, not only because a large number of cases remain undetected and people have given up on the hospitals, but also because the positivity rate, 12.68 percent, is still high compared to the global trend. The World Health Organization recommends achieving a positivity rate lower than five percent for two weeks before going back to the normal routine. But all restrictions have been lifted already.

With the daily number of tests still being very low, the much-needed antigen-based rapid testing has not been launched as of yet. Neither has the government approved the antibody-based rapid testing. Considering the very large number of people not tested for the virus, rapid testing is essential to identify and isolate the infected. And that is the only way to contain the outbreak and eventually snub the virus.

At the risk of sounding bleak, the worst is not quite over. Warning from the experts that Bangladesh is now heading towards an unpredictable destination may well come true unless the past mistakes of procrastination, poor coordination and lack of control are not corrected.

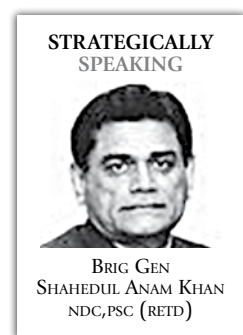
Stronger commitment needed to address adult illiteracy

Govt's literacy campaign marred by lack of efficiency, proper planning

IT is disheartening to know that the government's literacy campaign targeting people aged 15 and above has been consistently failing to deliver results, despite several deadline extensions. According to a report by *The Daily Star* published on World Literacy Day, the government project in this regard has failed to meet its target for the third consecutive year. More than 21 lakh people in the target age group are still functionally illiterate, although the project was supposed to provide literacy skills to 45 lakh people in 64 districts by June 2018. Three deadlines had to be renewed to bridge the gap, and there is still no guarantee that it can be done in time. The excuse given by the officials—coronavirus-induced shocks—is totally unconvincing as the pandemic is a recent phenomenon that doesn't account for all the poor planning and lack of efficiency bedevilling this project since its undertaking in 2014.

The importance of adult literacy cannot be overestimated. Before coming to power in 2008, the ruling Awami League recognised this by pledging, in its election manifesto, to achieve 100 percent literacy in the country by 2014. The literacy rate then was 48.8 percent among those aged 15 and above. Twelve years later, that rate stands at only 74.7 percent. The gap between the target set and the reality can be explained by a lack of strong commitment at the policy level. This is reflected in the way formal, degree-based education is still promoted as the panacea for all our socioeconomic problems including poverty, disregarding other means of education including vocational training and adult literacy programmes. Adult literacy projects undertaken by previous governments were also marred by the same lack of vision as well as allegations of irregularities, corruption and poor planning. The consequences of this could be profound, experts say, as adults with poor literacy skills not only suffer economically; they are also more likely to have shorter life expectancy, be socially isolated and lack self-esteem. They are also unable to help their children with schoolwork, thus reinforcing a cycle of illiteracy and intergenerational poverty. A large section of society will remain cut off from the opportunity to lead a healthy life unless the government undertakes targeted, sustained and well-planned interventions to eradicate adult illiteracy.

There is no denying the impact of coronavirus on all existing projects and their future. We may have to face its repercussions for at least several years. The adult illiteracy campaign is no exception. However, there can be no excuse for lack of vision, inefficiencies and consistent failures, especially given their far-reaching effects on the wider society. Those at the government's literacy project must understand this.



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

BRIG GEN SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN, NDC, PSC (RETD)

ONE would like to know more than what one has come by so far about the killing of Major Sinha. There were two ongoing investigations of the murder—a rare thing—and the report from one, instituted by the home ministry, has been submitted. Usually, one would hear very little of a criminal investigation till the framing of charges. Thus, very little of the Rab investigation has come to light.

However, the very little but useful information emanating from the home ministry inquiry, makes one wonder whether deliberate attempts are being made to keep as many holes as possible in the investigation to divert the focus of the case. What good is an inquiry, for whatever purpose it is set up, if it is incomplete and encumbered with "limitations", as the home ministry's inquiry is? The chairman of said committee has admitted as much. However, even if the inquiry has no *locus standi*, one would hope that its findings would be of help to the investigating officer of the case, including the fact that the killing was motivated by ill intention, according to at least one newspaper.

Unfortunately, there are also subtle attempts being made through most obfuscatory statements from certain officials to infuse such elements in the investigation process as would create doubts regarding the role of some of the accused in the killing of Major Sinha. It is surprising the way senior police officers, unrelated to the inquiry or with the local police administration, and sitting in Dhaka, are making statements that appear to paint ostensibly exculpatory circumstances in favour of the officer-in-charge (OC) of Cox's Bazar police station. It has been more than a month since Major Sinha was brutally murdered in a preplanned manner by the police in Teknaf. And it is more than apparent from what one has learnt from the news in the media on the killing that the top cops of the Cox's Bazar police station were either present on the spot or aware of what was going to happen. There is much more than had met our eyes initially as to the motives behind the killing. The argument being offered is that the main accused was not present at the place of occurrence, as if that is enough to exonerate an accused

from his complicity in and abetment of the crime. Does one have to be present in, to be involved in a crime?

That is what instigates one to ask whether Major Sinha's case demands a judicial inquiry. Although the issue of judicial inquiry in this case is infructuous, since the court has taken cognisance of the case and the investigation is in the hands of Rab, a judicial inquiry would have been in the hands of a magistrate, who would have been independent of the agency whose personnel are the alleged

along the border near Benapole in July or August 1974. I cite this "insignificant" instance to show that the law holds that the life of a pauper is as valuable as that of a prince, which no state, let alone a state agency, can forfeit without the proper legal process. The said inquiry demonstrated the commitment to law by the administration of that time. How very far we have drifted from those values and principles!

Unfortunately, extrajudicial killings have become such a regular phenomenon



PHOTO: COLLECTED

culprits. And police investigations, one cannot discount, are more likely than not to be heavily weighted by subjectivity if the accused happens to be policemen. Besides, there is always the slip between the process of police inquiry and the charge sheet, and the exact formulation of the charges. This is not just any other police inquiry, since those accused of perpetrating the preplanned murder are policemen.

I am ill-informed as far as legal matters are concerned, but I understand that every killing which involves a state force has to be followed up by a judicial inquiry, to determine the circumstances and ascertain the justifiability of that action. I recall that a judicial inquiry was held in the death of a smuggler (a head load carrier) who died while being chased by the law enforcers

that judicial inquiry would be a waste of time, a cosmetic effort at best. However, there is at least one recent example of judicial inquiry into an extrajudicial killing that may not starkly resemble the case of Major Sinha, but it involved the law enforcing agency. It was the case of one Arzu Miah who was, allegedly, killed in what Rab described as a gunfight in mid-August, 2015.

Arzu Miah was summarily done away with, as was Major Sinha, allegedly, after being picked up by Rab. Furthermore, about a week into the alleged gunfight, the commanding officer of the concerned Rab battalion was withdrawn from command. The move, according to Rab, was to ensure a fair probe into the allegation raised against said commanding officer. Never before the

Arzu Miah killing did we have a judicial inquiry on crossfire killings, and hardly has a case been registered before this particular incident on this count, let alone leading to the commanding officer of a Rab battalion losing his command because of it. And at last there was an acknowledgement, at least from one Awami League MP, that innocent people do get killed in "crossfire". Arzu happened to be a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader.

The above illustration reinforces the logic of withdrawing the superintendent of police (SP) of Cox's Bazar from his current post since there is alleged complicity on his part in the killing, and his continued presence in his current appointment is likely to influence the probe, leaving aside the very real possibility of tampering with evidence. The home ministry report, according to the same newspaper that reported on the SP, validates this apprehension. Some of his actions create doubts in one's mind. The roles of some low level police officials of the police station is questionable too. Hiding or destroying evidence equals to abetment of the crime, and there are reasons to believe that some incriminating evidences have been removed or destroyed. We would hope that the investigation officer would be able to dig those out. We hope too that he would be able to access the calls unless of course the calls have, by some act of Providence, ceased to exist. One cannot put such possibilities aside.

The obvious lackadaisical approach in handling the case indicates the questionable motives of the local police. It is a case between the "State and the Accused" (who happen to be former police personnel), and one would expect that the police administration would have nothing more to do with the case except to play the role they would, i.e., assist the State, and only the State, in the legal process. Is this the case? One is not sure.

We believe that lies and fabrications, distortions and deceptions have a very short shelf life, but only if the process of the inquiry is not deliberately tampered with.

The army chief's call for exemplary punishments reflects the sentiments of the people at large. But much would depend on the investigation. This being a test case, it is important for the administration to ensure that evidence is not tampered with, witnesses are not intimidated and nothing new is cooked up to deflect, distort or misdirect the legal process. The truth must prevail, and the guilty meted the severest punishment.

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (Retd), is a former Associate Editor of *The Daily Star*.

ABUL MANSUR AHMAD

Still relevant for his diplomatic wisdom

KAZAL RASHID SHAHEEN

ABUL Mansur Ahmad, a man of versatile genius, is still remembered and revered by all as a litterateur, politician and journalist. A reputed lawyer, he was well-known for his people-friendly role as well. However, one of his qualities that remained hidden or was hardly discussed is his diplomatic wisdom, which is still relevant today.

We can try to understand his diplomatic wisdom and skills in light of his India tour, which he described in his book *Amar Dekha Rajneeti Ponchash Bochor*. Under the chapter titled "India Tour", there are six sub-chapters: 1) Indo-Pak trade agreement, 2) New developments in Indo-Pak relations,

to exaggerate or take refuge in cleverness. For instance, a) he explained to the Nehru government the basic difference between Muslim League and Awami League in their stance on Indo-Pak relations, and b) he logically explained why some of the Indian Hindu's ideas about Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy were wrong. He was sure that Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru had a completely different opinion about Suhrawardy. Nehru clearly mentioned that there was a possibility that both India and Pakistan would have a realistic outlook about their bilateral relations under the leadership of Suhrawardy.

During that time, the Hindu community had an "extremely adverse" attitude towards Pakistani Prime Minister Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. And Abul



Abul Mansur Ahmad (1898-1979)

Indian Muslims would have faced any problem if Pakistan was not created. But since Pakistan has been created, it must last and become a strong state. If not, not only the Pakistani Muslims but also the Indian Muslims' future will be bleak. You Pakistanis should always remember this. To this end, India and Pakistan must come to a respectable and realistic understanding."

From the sub-chapter "Protest of a fool", we have come to know that Abul Mansur Ahmad took two pots of honey from Madhupur for India's President Dr Rajendra Prasad and Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In a speech given there, Abul Mansur Ahmad said: "This honey symbolises the wish of the people of Pakistan to have a friendly relationship with the people of India. India and Pakistan are the twins of Mother India, they are like two siblings."

There were mixed reactions in the newspapers about this honey episode. While some Pakistani newspapers such as the *Morning Sun* and those associated with the Muslim League published hostile criticisms of the event, the Indian newspapers published statements like "we have warned the government beforehand that although Abul Mansur Ahmad has brought honeyed words, there is poison hidden underneath in his thoughts... The Indian leaders were so confused having received the honey Abul Mansur Ahmad had brought for them that they could be easily tricked into giving in to all his demands..."

Abul Mansur Ahmad realised that these people did not want friendly relations between India and Pakistan. Although

Abul Mansur Ahmad's opinion was, it would be easy to solve a diplomatic problem if we could adopt the approach that we resort to in solving our personal and family problems. He believed that there could be many conflicting issues that needed to be resolved. However, if we cannot resolve all of them together, we have to solve them one by one and use our "common sense", which means we have to solve the simple problems first.

3) Deshai's dinner, 4) In the service of Maulana Azad, 5) Protest of a fool and 6) Three private hours with Nehru.

What we get to learn from the sub-chapter "Indo-Pak trade agreement" is that the purpose of his India visit was successful. In his own words: "India showed a very friendly gesture towards us."

In the sub-chapter titled "New developments in Indo-Pak relations", it is important to note Abul Mansur Ahmad's attitude, observations and realisation of the overall events of that time. He wrote that there was not only diplomatic friendliness but also actual sincerity, which acted as an ice-breaker to their discussions on long-standing issues. As Abul Mansur Ahmad believed, he was able to give some clear and logical idea to the Nehru government about some important issues. He didn't have

Mansur Ahmad was able to draw the attention of Jawaharlal Nehru towards the difference between Suhrawardy's approaches before and after the creation of Pakistan and also towards Suhrawardy's logical, accurate and democratic thoughts.

In "Deshai's dinner", we get an idea on how the diplomatic relations between the two countries could get stronger only through an informal and friendly dinner.

In the sub-chapter "In the service of Maulana Azad", we see how an informal meeting had raised hopes for friendship and brotherhood between the two countries. It was in this meeting that Maulana Azad had said: "Once I had opposed the creation of Pakistan with all my heart and strength. Likewise, today I wish Pakistan's stability and success with all my heart. If I had the strength, I would have participated in this work. I never believed and still do not believe that

time and circumstances have changed and East Pakistan became independent Bangladesh, did people's mindsets change at all? Still, some newspapers look for opportunities to provoke people towards division and create instability in society. Politics still spreads the poison of hatred. Instead of being sincere in solving the problems of the past, they are made to linger for political gains, and the common people are the victims of this. Such practices hurt Abul Mansur Ahmad and he wanted to see an end to these. He used his diplomatic wisdom to remove this darkness from society.

In "Three private hours with Nehru", Abul Mansur Ahmad tried to understand the complexities and contours of the India-Pakistan relations through Nehru's statements. About the no-war pact, he shared the same thoughts with Nehru.

"I also believe that India and Pakistan can reach a no-war pact keeping the Kashmir issue unresolved," Abul Mansur Ahmad said.

As time passed, it has become clear how realistic that understanding was.

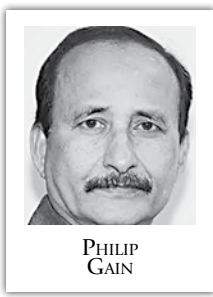
Abul Mansur Ahmad's opinion was, it would be easy to solve a diplomatic problem if we could adopt the approach that we resort to in solving our personal and family problems. He believed that there could be many conflicting issues that needed to be resolved. However, if we cannot resolve all of them together, we have to solve them one by one and use our "common sense", which means we have to solve the simple problems first.

Abul Mansur Ahmad believed that the Kashmir issue should not be left behind but considering it as an unresolved issue, other small issues of the two countries needed to be solved first. Abul Mansur Ahmad's diplomatic wisdom is hidden in this realisation, which is still relevant but remains unpracticed.

While it is true that there are many unresolved issues in India-Pakistan relations, if the kind of diplomacy that Abul Mansur Ahmad had introduced during his single tour to India could continue for some more time, and if Pakistan had not been continuously ruled by the military, there is no doubt that Indo-Pakistan relations would be very different from what it is now.

Dr Kazal Rashid Shaheen is a journalist, writer and researcher. This is an abridged version of an article that was translated into English by the editorial desk at *The Daily Star*.

Time to pay just wages to tea workers



PHILIP GAIN

RATAN Shadhu (56), a tea worker from Doloi Tea Garden in Moulvibazar district, earns a daily cash wage of Tk 102 (USD 1.2).

This includes contributions to the employee provident fund, religious funds and the membership fee of his trade union. Fringe benefits added to this cash payment include five kilograms of rice or flour (3.5 kg for himself and 2 kg for his wife) that he gets at a subsidised price (for Taka 2 per kg). As a registered worker, he also gets two yearly bonuses of Tk 4,590. Like other workers, he lives in the labour line and pays no rent for the house. He also gets basic medical care for free. Ratan and his wife have two daughters, aged 17 and 14. The daughters do not get rations, since it is granted to two dependents of a registered worker if they are aged up to 12.

Cash pay and fringe benefits added, Sadhu's monthly incomes stands at Tk 4,202 (USD 50). This excludes house rent and medical care. The owners meticulously calculate their contribution to provident funds and the cost of other smaller items, such as *pati gamcha* (cotton towel measuring 60x40 inch) and *chupi* (handmade hat to protect the head from scorching sun and rain), that are required in picking tea leaves. And thus "a worker's daily wage is Tk 270," asserts a top official of Bangladesh Tea Association (BTA) on condition of anonymity. So according to the owners' association, a worker's monthly income is Tk 8,100 (USD 95), which matches the wage of a seventh grade garments worker.

Rambhajan Kairi, general secretary of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union (BCSU), does not agree with the owners' calculation. "A worker gets maximum Tk 170," says Kairi. "This is not anywhere close to just wages."

One may wonder why I am raising such details of tea workers' wages during a global pandemic. A minimum wage board was initiated in October last year, reportedly for the third time in independent Bangladesh, to determine the minimum wage of 122,000 tea workers. There is a two tier mechanism to determine the minimum wage of Bangladeshi tea workers. One is negotiation between

BCSU representing the workers and BTA representing owners, which results in an agreement every two years; the other is the minimum wage board.

Fixing wages and fringe benefits of tea workers is a long-standing and complex issue. That the tea workers have never been paid full wages in cash is manifested in historical facts. Back in the 1880s and 1890s, a tea worker in Assam (today's Sylhet division was part of Assam then) had an average monthly income of six rupees. With this wage, they could not buy enough rice for a month. The price of a maund of rice back then was two rupees, whereas the workers could only afford to pay one rupee for rice. The planters were then legally obliged "to provide rice at below market prices, when these

actual pay. The rations of rice or flour are highly subsidised—whatever the market prices, the workers pay Tk 2 per kg. The owners monetise medical care, housing, contributions to provident fund, festival bonuses etc. However, they remain silent about sharing five percent of the profits they make with the workers—despite labour laws, they have never paid the gratuity.

Traditionally, tea workers' wages have been fixed through negotiations between BCSU and BTA. In independent Bangladesh, the first minimum wage board for tea workers was set up in 1982, which reportedly fixed wages according to wages decided by BCSU and BTA. The second minimum wage board of 2009 fixed the minimum wage at Tk 48.50 (USD

An agreement between BCSU and BTA effective from January 2019 is pending. Both parties have met several times, but no consensus was reached. In the meantime, a minimum wage board was set up in October 2019 for the third time to fix the minimum wage. While the pandemic has delayed negotiations, it is likely the board will announce minimum wage soon.

Now a burning question from the tea workers: what will be their minimum cash pay? Rambhajan Kairi, who is representing the tea workers' union in the six member minimum wage board, is demanding Tk 300 in daily cash pay. This is a big jump from the current daily pay of Tk 102 and Kairi knows the tea garden owners will never agree to this amount.

What I could gather from an official on the owners' side and others who exchanged views with him is that the BTA is keen to see the cash pay increased by at best Tk 15. The official argues that the prices of tea have been very low recently, which is reducing profit margins. "If an unrealistic wage is fixed, we will consider curtailing the facilities that we provide to the tea workers," he said. "We buy rice at Open Market Sale (OMS) prices of Tk 24 per kg and sell it for Tk 2 to the workers. For subsidised food and other benefits to continue, the cash pay must stay within our capacity."

The tea workers, who have witnessed the lavish lifestyles of the managers and owners, do not believe that the owners are under any stress because of the occasional fall of made tea prices. According to Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB), in 2019-2020, the average price of a kilogram of tea was Tk 176.08, which was Tk 262.96 in 2018-2019. The average price of a kilogram of tea for the last five years was Tk 206.248. The pandemic may have contributed to a fall in prices, but they will certainly go up again.

Another important thing to note is that the owners do not disclose their audit reports and profits to the BCSU and workers. BRAC, which owns three gardens in Chattogram, seems to be an exception. In its 2018 annual report, it reported making a profit of Tk 148 million, an increase of 114 percent from the previous year.

BRAC's disclosure gives a hint that all other tea gardens are hiding facts from BCSU and the workers, who remain in the dark when it is crucial to know this information while negotiating their wage. What is obvious is that the tea communities

are left far behind other citizens due to deprivations of many kinds, including wage discrimination. This is demonstrated in a BBS-UNICEF survey (2018) that finds that 74 percent of tea garden households are still under the poverty line, which was 24 percent in 2016 at the national level.

In this context, what shall not be forgotten is that tea workers in Bangladesh are the lowest paid in the tea industry in the whole world. Their average family income is much lower than the poverty level income and household income at the national or rural level. In our two neighbouring countries—Sri Lanka and India—a tea worker's daily cash pay is more than USD 5 and USD 2 respectively, excluding fringe benefits such as housing, childcare and health at no cost, and other mandatory allowances such as attendance allowance, attendance bonus and "over kilo payment" (made for kilos of tea leaf plucked after fulfilling the day's quota).

In 2015, while a kilogram of Sri Lankan tea was sold for USD 2.99, the world market price was USD 2.59 and the Chattogram auction price was USD 2.41. Despite Sri Lanka tea getting the highest prices in the world market, it is clear that the average auction price of Bangladeshi tea is not bad enough to justify the miserable daily cash pay of tea workers. In Sri Lanka, 63 percent of cost of production goes to labour and four percent to staff and management. This should be compared to the situation in Bangladesh while fixing wages.

Lastly, the tea workers of Bangladesh, most of them non-Bengali and tied to the tea gardens for five generations, lack a life of dignity. In most labour lines, many families share their living rooms with cattle. The constitution of Bangladesh guarantees "basic necessities of life including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care" to its citizens, with special care for disadvantaged populations. Both the owners of tea gardens and the authorities have a responsibility to fulfil the needs of the tea workers. They should treat them with dignity, foster healthy trade unionism and work closely with them to explore a win-win situation for all. Sri Lanka, with strong multiple trade unions, is the best example before them.

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Women tea workers during pruning time in January.

PHOTO: PHILIP GAIN

were high and minimum medical facilities," as written in the book *Tea: The Drink that Changed the World*.

It was from this time that fringe benefits such as housing, a piece of land for vegetables etc were provided for free or at subsidised prices. Subsidies to buy rice were crucial for tea workers to survive the famine of 1856 that killed 1.5 million people in Orissa and Bihar, and the 1920-21 depression. All these arrangements proved convenient for the owners to keep the workers dependent and tied to the tea gardens. This is how the practice of subsidies and the dependence of tea workers on owners took shape.

What we see today in the tea gardens of Bangladesh is that the cash pay workers receive is part of their

0.63 then), raising it from Tk 32.5 in 2008. Government mediation and negotiations between BCSU and BTA since 2008 raised the cash pay to Tk 69 from June 2013. From January 2015, this was raised to Tk 85 for A class gardens, Tk 83 for B class gardens and Tk 82 for C class gardens.

The latest agreement between BCSU and BTA was signed on August 20, 2018 (effective from January 1, 2017) and the minimum wage of daily workers was fixed at Tk 102 for A class gardens, Tk 100 for B class gardens and Tk 99 for C class gardens. In this agreement the owners, for the first time in independent Bangladesh, granted weekly holidays with pay and agreed to pay gratuity according to the labour law, which the workers are yet to receive.

Bangladesh takes another step towards tackling global climate change

POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

DURING July last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hosted the Global Commission on Adaptation meeting in Dhaka attended by the co-chairs

of the Commission, former Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and Kristalina Georgieva, head of the International Monetary Fund. During the bilateral discussion between the Prime Minister and Ban Ki-moon, she offered to host the regional centre of the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA), which is based in the Netherlands and which he chairs.

Yesterday, the South Asian Regional Centre of the GCA office in Dhaka was launched by the Prime Minister and Ban Ki-moon in an online event. The Prime Minister of the Netherlands and ministers from the countries in South Asia also attended and spoke at the event.

This new GCA office will be located in the new building of the Department of Environment (DOE) in Agargaon and will be an international centre hosted by the Government of Bangladesh. The new GCA Dhaka office marks a significant step in taking Bangladesh's knowledge and experience to the regional, as well as global, levels over the coming years.

The South Asian Regional GCA centre will aim to share knowledge and experience on adaptation to climate change between countries in the region as well as globally. It will have a special focus on locally led adaptation which has become a signature achievement in the region, including Community Based Adaptation (CBA) in Bangladesh and the Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA) in Nepal. The new Dhaka based GCA Centre will aim to be a global centre of excellence on locally led adaptation.

The other area of special focus will be on ensuring that future development, particularly that of infrastructure, is based on Nature Based Solutions (NBS). One thing that the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us is that all future investments globally

need to be NBS focused if we wish to avoid future pandemics. The countries of South Asia already have some excellent examples of such investments, ranging from the coastal afforestation in Bangladesh, community based forestry in Nepal and Bhutan, marine ecosystem based tourism in Sri Lanka and Maldives, drought management through water conservation in India and Pakistan and many other such examples. The aim of the GCA Dhaka centre will be to help accelerate and scale up all these examples of NBS in all the countries in the region.

Another major focus of the new centre will be to assist the countries in the region to ensure that their cities and towns, which are already having to host an increasing numbers of climate induced migrants, are able to ensure adequate housing, water and protection from heat stress and other health hazards, which are becoming bigger issues in the region quite rapidly.

The modality of work of the new regional centre in Dhaka will be to partner with governments, private sector, development partners, civil society and media in each country,

as well as across the region, and then link to the global level on adaptation to climate change and the collective journey towards resilience.

The fact that Bangladesh currently chairs the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and that the GCA is the managing partner of the CVF will enable the Dhaka office to support the sharing of knowledge and collective advocacy across the nearly 50 CVF countries as well. This will be particularly important as we approach the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021, as well as the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) to be held on January 25, 2021.

Finally, the GCA will be making a major effort to galvanise the world's youth through a global Youth Adaptation Network (YAN), which will have chapters at the regional as well as national levels around the world. This global YAN was officially launched yesterday by Saima Wajed Hossain, who is the Special Envoy for Vulnerability of the CVF. It will start by having a series of consultations with



PHOTO: STAR

youth based in every region, starting in South Asia and Bangladesh.

The future success in the battle against human induced climate change over the next decade will need to be fought by the youth of today, who will become the leaders of tomorrow. The youth of Bangladesh will thus have an opportunity to lead this movement in the coming years.

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

QUOTABLE Quote



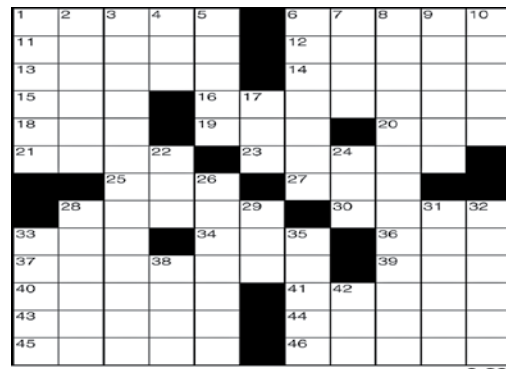
ALBERT CAMUS (1913-1960)

French philosopher, author, and journalist.

Sometimes, carrying on, just carrying on, is the superhuman achievement.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cuban cash
 - 6 Venomous snake
 - 11 Vigilant
 - 12 Paris divider
 - 13 Daytona entrant
 - 14 Blitzen's boss
 - 15 Polite address
 - 16 Decorated
 - 18 Afternoon hour
 - 19 Golf goal
 - 20 Hosp. sections
 - 21 Brooklyn team
 - 23 Mixes up
 - 25 Deli order
 - 27 Distress call
 - 28 Take exception
 - 30 Comfy spot
 - 33 For each
- DOWN**
- 1 Church leader
 - 2 Galahad's mother
 - 3 Presidential protectors
 - 4 Lode material
 - 34 Frank McCourt book
 - 36 Pi follower
 - 37 Completely enclose
 - 39 Promise
 - 40 Too trusting
 - 41 Full of energy
 - 43 Peptic problem
 - 44 Kitchen gadget
 - 45 Berth places
 - 46 Canary chow
 - 5 Gown part
 - 6 Classifies
 - 7 Precious
 - 8 Set of dishes
 - 9 Keys in
 - 10 Goes through
 - 17 German article
 - 22 Add up
 - 24 Charged bit
 - 26 Household employees
 - 28 Alaskan peak
 - 29 Carnival city
 - 31 Pushed hard
 - 32 Castle parts
 - 33 Confine
 - 35 Ship poles
 - 38 Continually
 - 42 Avoid the truth



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



BEETLE BAILEY



BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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

Another doctor

FROM PAGE 12
Covid-19 infection.
Dr Nirmalendu, from Bogura's Dupchanchia upazila, was infected with Covid-19 a month ago and put on life support at Asgar Ali hospital on August 23.
He was also a former deputy director of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura.
According to BDF, apart from 100 doctors' deaths from Covid-19, 11 others passed away showing Covid-19 like symptoms.
At least, 2,768 doctors have so far been infected with the virus.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12
This morning, the British ambassador to the UN European Headquarters calls on Bangabandhu at his hotel.
TK 118 CR. FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS IN 7 MONTHS
The foreign exchange earning of Bangladesh during the first seven and a half months after liberation has been estimated at Tk 118 crore from exports. The highest earning came from jute and jute goods. The total foreign exchange earnings from jute and jute goods till July last beginning from December 16, 1971 was 110.54 crore.

\$100MN IDA LOAN SOON
The World Bank is likely to soon finalise IDA loan to Bangladesh totaling 100 million dollars for 11 major projects in the country. The proposed loan will be the first major commitment of the World Bank to this republic.
20 PERCENT ABANDONED HOUSES SECURED
The government has secured possession of only 15 to 20 percent of over 5,000 abandoned houses in Dhaka city. The sources say that the possession of houses could not be secured by the government due to the adoption of lengthy and cumbersome process by the district authority.
SOURCES: September 10, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Positivity

FROM PAGE 12
Earlier on May 9, the nearest positivity rate was 11.63 percent as 5,465 rt-PCR tests were conducted in 35 labs, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
The total number of confirmed cases now stands at 329,251 and the overall positivity rate stands at 19.84 percent.
In the same 24 hours, 36 new Covid-19 patients died, according to a press release of DGHS Covid-19 Control Room.
The total number of casualties due to this highly transmissible virus now stands at 4,552. This is 1.38 percent of all confirmed cases.
Nineteen of the deceased were males while 17 were females yesterday.
Two each aged between 11 and 20 and 31 and 40 while four between 41 and 50, six between 51 and 60, and the highest 22 over 60.
The highest 16 of them were from Dhaka division followed by eight in Khulna, six in Chattogram, two each in Rajshahi and Barishal, and one each in Rangpur and Sylhet divisions.



Chinese President Xi Jinping presents the national medal to respiratory disease expert Zhong Nanshan during a meeting to commend role models in China's fight against the Covid outbreak, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Scientists create

FROM PAGE 12
The breakthrough was made by researchers at Northwestern University in the US and Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands (TU Delft).
"It's the first battery-free interactive device that harvests energy from user actions," said Josiah Hester, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at Northwestern University.
"When you press a button, the device converts that energy into something that powers your gaming."
The device currently only works with a small LED screen and is unable to play sound, while the power is also prone to shutting off occasionally.
As a result it has been designed to shut off without losing game progress and can be reactivated with the push of a button.
Researchers hope it will eventually "enable gaming to last forever" without the need for recharging mobile devices.
The goal is to also reduce society's reliance on costly battery technology that is environmentally hazardous and ultimately ends up in landfill sites.
"Sustainable gaming will become a reality, and we made a major step in that direction by getting rid of the battery completely," said Przemyslaw Pawelczak, an assistant professor at TU Delft.

As a result it has been designed to shut off without losing game progress and can be reactivated with the push of a button.
Researchers hope it will eventually "enable gaming to last forever" without the need for recharging mobile devices.
The goal is to also reduce society's reliance on costly battery technology that is environmentally hazardous and ultimately ends up in landfill sites.
"Sustainable gaming will become a reality, and we made a major step in that direction by getting rid of the battery completely," said Przemyslaw Pawelczak, an assistant professor at TU Delft.

Convicted murderer sworn in as Sri Lankan MP

APP, Colombo
A Sri Lankan politician sentenced to death for murder was escorted out of prison on Tuesday to become the first convict to be sworn in as a member of parliament, to heckles from opposition MPs.
Premal Jayasekara from the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Party (SLPP) was convicted in August of murdering an opposition activist after opening fire at an election rally in 2015.

China leaders celebrate

FROM PAGE 12
against Covid-19.
Xi had stern words for China's doubters, saying "selfish moves, any buck-passing and deeds that confuse right and wrong" risked inflicting damage across the world.
Beijing is also touting progress on its vaccines as a sign of global leadership and resilience.
China put its homegrown Covid-19 vaccines on display for the first time at a Beijing trade fair this week and authorities hope the jabs will be approved for use by year-end.
The vaccines are among nearly 10 worldwide to enter phase 3 trials, typically the last step ahead of regulatory approval, as countries race to stub out an illness that continues to ravage large parts of the globe.
EUROPE SUFFERS
Spain on Monday became the first country in Western Europe to pass half a million infections. The nation had largely gained control over its outbreak but cases have surged since restrictions were removed at the end of June.
In neighbouring Morocco, the government shut all schools and imposed a lockdown on Casablanca on the day classes were supposed to resume after cases surged in the city.
Officials said the virus risked overwhelming the North African country if it was not controlled, but some parents were left fuming, reports AFP.
"They were on cloud nine over returning to school tomorrow," one father wrote of his children on Twitter.
"How do you explain this to a six-year-old and an eight-year-old?"
And in England, officials fiddled with overseas quarantine rules again, imposing curbs on travellers from seven Greek islands popular with holidaymakers, after Britain at the weekend registered a level of infection not seen since late May.
In Asia, India recorded its highest daily deaths from coronavirus in more than a month yesterday, even as new infections slowed, data from the health ministry showed.
The health ministry said 1,133 people had died of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, the highest since July, taking total mortalities to 72,775. But new daily cases were at 75,809, the lowest in a week.
The country's top tourist attraction the Taj Mahal was set to reopen on September 21, more than six months after closing down, said officials.
"All Covid-19 protocols, like physical distancing, masks, will be followed," Uttar Pradesh state's Tourism Department deputy director Amit Srivastava said.
World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday the world must be better prepared for the next pandemic, as he called on countries to invest in public health.
"This will not be the last pandemic," Tedros told a news briefing in Geneva. "History teaches us that outbreaks and pandemics are a fact of life. But when the next pandemic comes, the world must be ready - more ready than it was this time."
In Syria, more than 40 members of UN staff and their families have caught the coronavirus, a UN official said, warning the illness was spreading in the war-torn country.
Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said three people had to be medically evacuated, but most of the others had only "mild" symptoms.

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Probe body yet

FROM PAGE 12
submission deadline as they could not begin the investigation.
Contacted, Abdul Wahab said police were investigating the matter and that had confidence in the investigation of police.
On the other hand, police have not made much progress in investigating the attack.
Debdas Bhattacharyya, deputy inspector general of police in Rangpur, told this correspondent that although police were trying hard, there was no significant development in the investigation.
Meanwhile, detective branch (DB) of police, which is currently investigating the case filed over the attack, detained two people -- Ilyasin Ali, driver of Ghoraghat AC Land office, and Arshola Hembram, house cleaner of the UNO residence -- for interrogation on Monday evening.
Meanwhile, Jobaida Begum, a domestic help at UNO Wahida's residence, was released on Monday evening, said Amirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ghoraghat Police Station.
Eight people have so far been detained in connection with the incident. Of them, three have been released.
Three suspects -- Asadul Haq,

Nabirul Islam and Santu Das -- have been on a seven-day remand.
People of Ghoraghat formed a human chain in the upazila yesterday demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the attackers.
HEALTH UPDATES OF WAHIDA
Physical condition Wahida, who is undergoing treatment at National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital, has improved much, UNB reports quoting the doctors yesterday.
"All the parameters of her health have improved and she is having liquid food," Dr Mohammad Zayed Hossain, chief of the Neurotrauma Department at the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital, told reporters.
Asked whether she was out of danger, Dr Zayed said it was difficult to say.
Replying to another question, Dr Zayed said they were thinking of shifting her to a bed from the High Dependency Unit.
"The decision to shift her to a cabin will be taken on Wednesday and the medical board will make the call," he said.
After the attack, the UNO and her father were initially taken to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.
Later, the UNO was airlifted to Dhaka.

Rohingya leaders satisfied

FROM PAGE 12
Char, an island in Noakhali's Hatiya upazila, under the supervision of Bangladesh Army and Navy and it was coordinated by the Refugee Rehabilitation and Repatriation Commissioner's (RRRC) office.
The government has built 120 cluster villages on the 40sqkm island under a Tk 2,312-crore housing project for one lakh out of the nearly 10 lakh Rohingyas sheltered in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar.
Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled brutal military campaign by Myanmar military. Despite two efforts, not a single Rohingya could be repatriated to Rakhine state, with the refugees saying the conditions in Rakhine were not conducive and safe for return.
Meanwhile, the camp population has made a demographic imbalance of Cox's Bazar, affecting the environment, economy and creating social problems, said government officials.
They said the houses have been built four feet above the ground with concrete blocks and are protected by a 13km-long flood embankment.
There are also 120 cyclone shelters planned to be used as schools, medical centres and community centres. The officials say Rohingyas also could be involved in productive activities.
The UN and aid agencies argue that the island was isolated, flood-prone and would be hazardous for Rohingyas because of cyclones and tidal surges. The UN refugee agency, meanwhile, submitted terms of reference to the government seeking a technical assessment and is still awaiting response. The agency also says any Rohingya relocation must be voluntary.
The government says the cyclone Amphan could not damage anything of the housing project, proving its resilience. As part of the motivational programme, the government arranged the visit of the Rohingyas.
After the three day's visit, the Rohingyas were taken to Chattogram from Bhashan Char by a navy ship

early yesterday. From there, they were taken back to the Teknaf and Ukhiya refugee camps by bus.
Nurul Amin, a community leader of Rohingya camp-7 in Ukhiya's Kutupalong, said he personally liked the facilities at Bhashan Char, which would be good for the Rohingyas to live in.
"We will share our experiences of Bhashan Char visit with the Rohingyas in the camps," he said.
Referring to the 306 Rohingyas who were sheltered at Bhashan Char after they were rescued from boats in the Bay of Bengal in April and May. They tried to reach Malaysia and Thailand, Nurul said, adding that some of them could not stop crying as they met the relatives after a few months.
"We visited the housing project's hospital, cyclone shelters, school, houses, goat farm and fish projects. We also saw the health, food and income-generating opportunities for the Rohingyas," said Mohammad Kalam, a community leader of Rohingya camp-24 in Teknaf's Leda.
"I really liked these facilities. These are far better than that of Teknaf and Ukhiya camps," he said.
Asked, RRRRC Mahbub Alam Talukder said so far, the Rohingyas they interacted with is very positive.
"As Rohingya leaders are happy about the facilities in Bhashan Char, it will be their role to share their experiences with other fellow Rohingyas of the camps. Based on that, we will prepare a list of those interested to move to Bhashan Char," he said.
However, the next course of actions will depend on the higher authorities' instructions.
Asked on UN refugee agency's proposal of a technical assessment of the facilities in Bhashan Char, Disaster and Relief Ministry Senior Secretary Shah Kamal said the government will make a decision on it at the soonest.
Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen recently said the Rohingya relocation may start after the monsoon following the visits of UN, rights groups and media.

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ		
বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী		
সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ		
০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.৫৫.২৪১.২০.২৩৪		০৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজ সম্পাদনের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত তারিখে সীমিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ		
১	কাজের স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
২	কাজের বিবরণ	অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে বাউন্ডারী ওয়ালের উপর স্থাপিত পুরাতন বারবেড ওয়্যার অপসারণকরণে নতুন ব্লেন্ড কাঁটাতার স্থাপন কাজ।
৩	সিডিউলের মূল্য	৫০০/= (টাকা পাঁচশত মাত্র) (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৪	ক্রয়ের প্রক্রিয়া	সীমিত দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে।
৫	সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ক্যাশ সেকশন, হিসাব বিভাগ, ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ। মোবাইল নং-০১৮২২৮১৯৬৭৫।
৬	সিডিউল সংগ্রহের তারিখ	০৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ হতে ১১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) পর্যন্ত।
৭	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা।
৮	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২০ বেলাঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।
৯	অন্যবিধি	তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সীমিত দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বমোট মূল্যের ১% হারে আর্নেস্টম্যানি হিসেবে জমা দিতে হবে।
১০	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি (বিগত ০৬ মাসের স্টেটমেন্টসহ), পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ কপি (তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
১১	তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার	পূর্ত কাজের ক্ষেত্রে তালিকাভুক্তির নথিপত্রাদি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১২	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
১৩	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ	ক। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে। খ। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৬০ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বলবৎ থাকবে। গ। অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ঘ। দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে। ঙ। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখেন।
জিডি-১৪১৮		ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর

Rare gunfire along

FROM PAGE 12
their Indian rivals.
"Despite the grave provocation, (our) own troops exercised great restraint and behaved in a mature and responsible manner," the Indian army said in a statement.
It is first confirmed shooting across the contested frontier for decades, where skittish border forces by convention do not use guns to avoid escalations of violence in remote terrain.
The relationship between the neighbours has plunged following a June clash in the contested region in which 20 Indian troops were killed.
A spokesperson for the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) gave no specifics on the apparent retaliation and gave no report of casualties, calling on India to probe the incident.
Tens of thousands of troops from both sides have been deployed to the disputed Himalayan border, which sits at an altitude of more than 4,000 metres (13,500 feet).
The countries fought a brief border war in 1962, but officially no shots have been fired in the area since 1975 when four Indian troops were killed in an ambush.
Because the frontier has never been properly demarcated and the high-altitude terrain is often disorientating, the practice for decades was for neither side to use weapons.
Detailed protocols set out procedures for peaceful disengagement if patrols strayed into areas that the other side believed were their territory.
But a serious clash in the Ladakh region on June 15 -- fought with fists and mediaeval-style weapons such as clubs studded with nails -- left 20 Indian troops dead.
China has also acknowledged suffering casualties but haven't revealed any figures.
Since then, reinforcements have ranged on either side of the border.
India's military has also reportedly changed its rules of engagement, allowing troops to carry guns.
Defence ministers from both countries met in Moscow last week but statements released later suggest reconciliation remains distant.
Earlier this week an Indian minister said Delhi had alerted China to allegations five men had been abducted by the People's Liberation Army close to the disputed border.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

চট্টগ্রাম

Website: www.bb.org.bd

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রাম অফিসের ব্যাংক ভবন, আত্মবাদস্থ কর্মচারী নিবাস এবং নাসিরাবাদস্থ বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক হিউম্যান রিসোর্স এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডেভেলপমেন্ট ইনস্টিটিউট এর পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতা কাজ সম্পাদনের জন্য ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রাম অফিসের নতুন ও পুরাতন অফিস ভবন (সকল এনেক্স ভবন, সংলগ্ন আঙ্গিনাসমূহ, লিংক রোড ও যাবতীয় স্থাপনাসহ), চট্টগ্রামের আত্মবাদস্থ কর্মচারী নিবাসের সকল ভবনের সিঁড়ি, রাস্তা, ড্রেন, ডাস্টবিন, সুয়ারেজ লাইন, মসজিদের বাথরুম/অজুখানাসহ বহিরাঙ্গন ও কাউন্ট ডেনের সম্মুখস্থ আঙ্গিনাসমূহ এবং নাসিরাবাদস্থ বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক হিউম্যান রিসোর্স এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডেভেলপমেন্ট ইনস্টিটিউট (সকল এনেক্স ভবন, সংলগ্ন আঙ্গিনাসমূহ, লিংক রোড ও যাবতীয় স্থাপনাসহ) এর পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতার কাজ সম্পাদনের জন্য ০৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে আয়কর ও ভ্যাট নির্বাহিত লাইসেন্সধারী ও ন্যূনতম ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা তরল সম্পদের অধিকারী দেশীয় ক্রিনিং ঠিকাদার যাদের বিভিন্ন সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থা/হাসপাতালের অধীনে ন্যূনতম ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর এবং বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের মধ্যে নিবন্ধিত/অনন্যভাবে কর্মপক্ষে ২ (দুই) বছর অল্পত একটু চুক্তিতে একক কার্যাবলীর আওতায় ন্যূনতম ৩০ (ত্রিশ) জন ক্রিনিং কর্মী নিযুক্ত করে মাসিক মোট ৬৫,০০,০০০.০০ (টাকা পাঁচ লক্ষ মাত্র) এর ক্রিনিং কাজ সন্তোষজনকভাবে সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে তাদের নিকট হতে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট www.bb.org.bd এ ই-টেন্ডারিং পদ্ধতিতে অনলাইনে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এতদসংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলী ও বিস্তারিত বিবরণ বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট www.bb.org.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে।

দরপত্রের সাথে টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি মানি হিসেবে বাংলাদেশে অবস্থিত যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রামের অনুকূলে ৬১২,০০,০০০.০০ (টাকা বার লক্ষ মাত্র) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (ফেরতযোগ্য) স্ক্যান করে PDF ফরমেটে অনলাইনে দাখিল করতে হবে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ই-টেন্ডারিং এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আত্মবাদস্থ দরদাতাগণকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট www.bb.org.bd এ রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্নকরণে আগামী ০৪/১০/২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ০৩ ঘটিকার মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট www.bb.org.bd এ প্রাপ্তি ফরমেটে অনলাইনে পূরণ করে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। একই সময় পর্যন্ত সহায়ক দলিলাদি, ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এবং যথাযথভাবে স্বাক্ষরিত দরপত্র দলিল সিলমোহরযুক্ত খামে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রাম অফিসের ৪র্থ তলায় অবস্থিত উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন-১) এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবায়ন দাখিল করতে হবে। সে ক্ষেত্রে খামের উপর "বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রাম অফিসের ব্যাংক ভবন ও আত্মবাদস্থ কর্মচারী নিবাসের পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতার কাজ সম্পাদনের দরপত্র" কথাটি লিখতে হবে। একই দিন বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাগণ অথবা তাদের মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ ডাউনলোড/খোলা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, আর্থিক প্রস্তাব গুণুগ্রহণ অনলাইনে দাখিল করতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ, ক্রটিপূর্ণ ও জামানতবিহীন দরপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নয় এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে কোন করণ।

এ, বি, এম, জহুরুল হুদা
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জিডি-১৪২০

Zaniolo tears ACL again

REUTERS

Italy midfielder Nicolò Zaniolo will undergo surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee just weeks after recovering from a similar injury in his right knee, his club AS Roma said on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old limped out of Monday's Nations League match against the Netherlands in obvious pain after what looked like an innocuous tackle.

"Nicolò Zaniolo will undergo surgery on Wednesday after MRI scans today confirmed the player has suffered a complete tear to the anterior cruciate ligament of his left knee," Roma said in a statement.

Zaniolo was previously out of action for the first six months of this year after the first injury, which he suffered during a 2-1 defeat to Juventus in January.

He returned to action against Napoli on July 5



(L) Italy's diminutive midfielder Nicolò Barella rose above Virgil van Dijk and Nathan Ake -- two towering defenders of Netherlands -- to power home the decisive goal during their Nations League fixture in Amsterdam on Monday.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Mancini pleased with dominance

Haaland hits brace in Northern Ireland rout



and scored arguably one of the best goals of the Serie A season in a 6-1 win at SPAL with a run from the halfway line which left several defenders in his wake.

He was making his seventh appearance for Italy on Monday.

Zaniolo was with Fiorentina as a youth before joining Serie B side Virtus Entella in 2016, where he spent one season and made his professional debut.

He was signed by Inter Milan for the 2017-18 season but played only for their youth team and then joined AS Roma where his talent began to flourish.

AFP, Paris

Nicolò Barella extended Italy's two-year unbeaten run as he scored the winner in Monday's 1-0 victory away to the Netherlands in the Nations League while Erling Haaland netted twice for Norway in a 5-1 thrashing of Northern Ireland.

Roberto Mancini's Italy saw their record 11-match winning streak end with last week's draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina but got the best of the Netherlands in Amsterdam courtesy of Inter Milan midfielder Barella's header in first-half stoppage time.

Barella's header on a Ciro Immobile cross made the difference in Amsterdam, but all the statistics went in their favour

too. The Azzurri had 57 per cent possession, completed 528 passes to 339, and recovered 44 balls to 36.

Mancini pointed out 'it's not easy to dominate the Netherlands on their home turf' after their 1-0 victory.

"The whole team played well, because it's not easy to dominate the Netherlands on their home turf. We could also have won by a bigger margin," said the coach in his press conference.

"Naturally, in the last few minutes we felt tired and they kept putting long balls forward, with Virgil van Dijk a defender going upfront. Overall, Gigio Donnarumma only made one real save in the 90 minutes."

Italy move top of League A, Group 1 while Poland registered

their first points after a 2-1 win over Bosnia in Zeneca despite the continued absence of rested striker Robert Lewandowski.

Haris Hajradinovic put Bosnia ahead on 24 minutes with a penalty but Kamil Glik's powerful header pulled Poland level at the break before Kamil Grosicki nodded home the winner.

Romania came out on top against Austria in Klagenfurt, with Denis Alibec, Dragos Grigore and Alexandru Maxim on target in a 3-2 victory.

Christoph Baumgartner had equalised for the hosts and Karim Onisiwo struck a late consolation as Austria ceded top place in League B, Group 1 to their opponents.

Norway shook off their opening loss to Austria as Borussia Dortmund striker Haaland helped

tear apart Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Paddy McNair cancelled out Mohamed Elyounoussi's fine finish but Haaland, who struck his first international goal in Friday's defeat, thumped in from the edge of the area to restore Norway's lead.

Alexander Sorloth scored twice, the second via an assist from Haaland who completed the scoring on the hour with another superb finish.

Scotland scraped past an inexperienced Czech Republic 2-1 in Olomouc to go top of League B, Group 2.

The Czechs on Sunday announced a squad comprising 21 newcomers for the Scotland encounter after two backroom staff tested positive for Covid-19.

Saif and Lee test positive for Covid-19

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh opener Saif Hassan and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Head of Physical Performance Nick Lee tested positive for coronavirus, the board said through a press release yesterday. They displayed no symptoms leading up to the sample collection, the press release added.

The BCB's medical team has advised them to go into isolation immediately, in accordance with Covid-19 management protocols, until they undergo another test.

The BCB collected samples on Monday from 24 individuals, including 17 players in Dhaka, the results of which came yesterday.

21-year-old Saif made his Test debut against Pakistan in February this year and has played two Tests for Bangladesh.

Lee had reported positive on August 14 in Dubai and negative on August 23 after 10 days in isolation. He also completed a 14-day quarantine on arrival to Dhaka prior to yesterday's test.

"Our consultant for Covid-19 is reviewing Lee's case to determine whether it is a new or previous infection before advising on the management plan," said BCB's chief physician Debashish Chowdhury.

According to chief selector Minhajul Abedin, 37 cricketers -- including members of the preliminary Test squad and High Performance squad who are scheduled to tour Sri Lanka -- will undergo tests.

The 13 remaining players had their samples collected for testing yesterday and the results are expected today. BCB had earlier halted individual training to enhance safety measures and the individual training is expected to resume from today.

The board is planning a week-long residential camp ahead of the tour of Sri Lanka.

The camp is set to begin on September 21. The BCB will conduct Covid-19 Tests in four phases. The three remaining phases are scheduled on September 18, 21 and 24. The final test will be held 72 hours before the Tigers board their flight to Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka, which was originally scheduled for July-August, was postponed due to the pandemic. The Tigers are now expected to travel in late September to take part in the three-Test tour one month before the first Test, expected to begin from October 24.



From clown shoes to quarterfinals

REUTERS, New York

Australia's Alex de Minaur once struggled to grow into his body as a tennis player but the tenacious 21-year-old feels himself a snug fit in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

De Minaur made his first Grand Slam quarterfinal on Monday with a 7-6(6), 6-3, 6-2 win over Canada's Vasek Pospisil, giving Australia a player to rally around in the absence of women's world number one Ash Barty.

"At the end of the day, this is where I want to be, and this is where I truly believe I belong, second weeks of Slams and going deep," De Minaur told reporters after setting up a clash with second seed Dominic Thiem.

The man nicknamed "Demon" has turned heads since 2018 when he made the third round of Wimbledon on his main draw debut and eclipsed tempestuous talent Nick Kyrgios as Australia's number one before turning 20.

His court speed and never-say-die game have also endeared him to fans weary of Kyrgios's lapses in effort.

Behind De Minaur's rise has been plenty

of hard work, though, and waiting for his body to catch up with his aspirations.

"As a young kid, I was probably 11 or 12 and already had the same size (11) foot I have right now," he said.

"So it felt like (I was) a little kid with clown shoes on. I didn't have the best footwork, the best movement. So it was just a lot of work, especially in technique of movement from a young age."

At 6 feet tall, De Minaur is the shortest player in the last eight but stands out as an all-court scrapper among baseline like Alexander Zverev and Daniil Medvedev, who are tipped to dominate the game's future with raw power.

Toppling three-time Grand Slam finalist Thiem will be a big ask for De Minaur, who joked he would prefer to "blast people off the court" if he could.

"This running thing gets tiring," he smiled. "I've got to deal with what God gave me. He didn't give me the best physique, I'm not as strong or as tall as other people so I have to find ways to win. That's the way I win."

"I want that to be my brand of tennis. I want people in the locker-room to know that if they're going to beat me, they're going to have to go through me."

Roy, Manik promise long-term planning

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation presidential candidates Badal Roy and Shaiful Islam Manik promised proper long-term plans that would revitalise Bangladesh football after submitting nominations for the October 3 polls at the BFF House yesterday.

Roy, the incumbent BFF vice-president, and former national coach Manik said that the sorry state of Bangladesh football had prompted them to contest the elections. They will offer a challenge to incumbent BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who has been at the helm of the game's local governing body for the past 12 years and is going to contest for another term under banner of Samilito Parishad, which has submitted nominations for all 21 posts.



"Everyone wants a change in football leadership and if leadership is changed, there is no chance it will be worse than what Kazi Salahuddin has made it. He took Bangladesh from 140 to 197 in the FIFA rankings," said Roy. "I am contesting to save football and my main inspiration is that every organiser at the grassroots level

has turned into a Badal Roy and they will cast votes in my favour. We need a proper plan to develop football and I want to make a good plan with the grassroots in focus. So if there is a good plan, we will walk towards it."

Roy maintained that his "physical condition was not a problem" but lamented that the polls were being held during the pandemic.

"I think the elections should be deferred by a year. Holding the elections in such a situation is to put many lives at the risk of death. I myself am still recovering from post-Covid-19 problems. I can't even talk smoothly."

Manik, also a former Ducus sports organiser, said: "The works being done for the development of football is unsatisfactory and the way they have been working also does not seem like the right way to me. Those who have been working in football for the past 12, including

Badal Roy and Kazi Salahuddin, are failures.

"That's why I feel that I am a capable one to serve football. I had before worked for myself by coaching the national team and club teams but now I am thinking of delivering for the nation and the BFF president's post is the perfect platform."

"If I am elected BFF president, I want to prepare a long-term masterplan collectively. I also want to revive country-wide national tournaments, which were once popular among spectators, as well as focus on age-group development through clubs," said Manik, who urged candidates to refrain from dragging councillors into unethical practices.

All 49 candidates -- three for president, two for senior vice-president, eight for vice-president and 36 for 15 members -- submitted nominations yesterday.

Djokovic urges 'support' for line judge

AFP, New York

Novak Djokovic urged his fans to be "supportive and caring" of the line judge at the centre of his US Open default row after she was attacked by online trolls.

Some critics accused the line judge, who fell to the ground and appeared to have trouble breathing, of exaggerating.

"Please also remember the linesperson that was hit by the ball last night needs our community's support too," the 33-year-old Serb tweeted on Monday.

"She's done nothing wrong at all. I ask you to stay especially supportive and caring to her during this time."



Following the end of a dramatic saga which saw Lionel Messi almost moving away from Barcelona, the Argentine superstar was back in individual training for the second day at his familiar Joan Gamper Training Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: FC BARCELONA

Bid to oust Bartomeu gathers pace

REUTERS, Barcelona

With Lionel Messi's bid to leave Barcelona still raw, president Josep Maria Bartomeu may be counting his days after 'Mes que una mocio' (More than a motion), announced they were racking up signatures for a vote of no-confidence.

The group, supported by candidates for next year's presidential election, said they had reached 7,500 club member signatures of the required 16,520 by Sept. 17.

If the campaign reaches its target, two-thirds of the club's 150,000 members have to vote against Bartomeu to trigger an imminent election.



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Rohingya leaders satisfied after trip



PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Rohingya leaders, who went on a "go-and-visit" to Bhashan Char housing project, said they were happy with the facilities there and that those were far better than their current living conditions in Teknaf and Ukhiya camps.

Badrul Islam, a community leader of Nayapara refugee camp-26 in Teknaf, said the three days they spent in Bhashan Char were an amazing experience.

"The overall arrangements of Bhashan Char are laudable. I liked it. Security arrangements are also strong. There is a peaceful environment all around. The road communications are also good," he told The Daily Star by phone upon his return.

One concern, Badrul said, however, is that they will have to stay far from the close relatives living in the camps.

On August 5, a team of 40 Rohingyas reached Bhashan

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A tailback of cargo trucks formed at the Paturia ferry terminal in Manikganj yesterday. Ferry connectivity on the Shimulia-Kathalbari naval route was interrupted due to poor navigability on the Padma. Passenger vehicles were carried on a priority basis on the route.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

ATTACK ON UNO

Probe body yet to start investigating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The three-member body formed to investigate the vicious hammer attack on Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam is yet to start its investigation as police investigate the incident.

Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur has formed the committee on Thursday, hours after UNO Wahida and her father Omar Ali Sheikh came under the gruesome attack by unidentified assailants.

Md Zakir Hossain, additional divisional commissioner (general) of Rangpur, is the head of the committee. Asif Mahmud, additional district magistrate of Dinajpur, and the deputy inspector general of police in Rangpur are the members of the committee.

The committee was asked to submit the report within seven working days.

Talking to The Daily Star, Zakir said they would seek an extension of the report

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

INDIA-CHINA BORDER TENSION

Rare gunfire along LAC stirs blame game

AFP, Beijing

China and India accused each other of firing shots first across a flashpoint Himalayan border, intensifying a months-long standoff between the nuclear-armed neighbours that has already claimed at least 20 lives.

China said yesterday its soldiers took "countermeasures" after Indian soldiers opened fire in a contested mountainous region in Ladakh.

India was guilty of a "severe military provocation" on Monday after its soldiers crossed the Line of Actual Control in the western border region of Ladakh and "opened fire", according to China's Defence Ministry.

New Delhi was swift to give its own account, accusing Chinese border forces of "blatantly violating agreements" and firing "a few rounds in the air" to intimidate

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu-Indira summit

September 9, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU AND INDIRA TO MEET ON SEPT 14

The world situation in general and development in the Indian subcontinent in particular will be reviewed by Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at a summit at New Delhi on September 14.

The prime minister of Bangladesh will make a brief stopover at Delhi on his way back home and make himself available for the meeting with the Indian premier.

It is believed that the two leaders will examine in detail the development in the subcontinent against the background of the Chinese veto at the Security Council against Bangladesh, and Pakistani hypocrisy.

Meanwhile Bangabandhu continues to make steady progress in his recovery in Geneva and preparations are afoot for his return home.

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Another doctor dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another doctor who was diagnosed with Covid-19 died at a city hospital yesterday.

Dr Nirmalendu Chowdhury, former director of Institute of Public Health in Dhaka, passed away around 1:45pm in the capital's Asgar Ali Hospital.

He was 63.

His son Dr Mithun Chowdhury mentioned his death on a Facebook post around 2:00pm.

Dr Mily Dey, director of Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation (BDF) Trust, said at least 100 doctors, including Nirmalendu, have so far died with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Scientists create battery-free Game Boy

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Engineers have developed a battery-free Game Boy that harvests energy from the user to allow infinite gameplay.

The Engage device reimagines the Nintendo gaming icon using cutting-edge computer technology and can play the original cartridges of games like Tetris and Super Mario.

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Positivity rate dips

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 12.64 percent people tested positive for Covid-19 in the country in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, which took the positivity rate to the lowest in the last four months.

Among 14,973 people, 1,892 tested positive for coronavirus in those 24 hours. Their samples went through r-PCR tests in 94 labs.

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 9

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:20	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION




Tragedy struck

Mohammad Rois Uddin's life five years ago when he fell on a 33,000KV electric line whilst trying to fix a TV antenna. He lost both his arms. With barely any options left, he decided to work by selling different products on the streets instead of living under the care of others. The photo was taken on Bijoy Sarani.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

IN MEMORIAM



DR. NUMAIR ATIF CHOUDHURY
Author of **BABU BANGLADESH!** & Director BIT

MAY ALLAH GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

MS. LUBNA CHOUDHURY, Mother (Founder Principal & Chairperson BIT)
MS. ANIKA RAHMAN, Sister (Director BIT)
MS. TALITA CHOUDHURY, Sister (Director BIT)
MR. AKBER & MRS. DURE LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, Uncle & Aunt
MR. ARIFE & MR. BUNTY ISLAM, Uncles

"No day shall erase you from the memory of time"

- Virgil's 'The Aeneid'

China leaders celebrate Covid-19 success

Xi honours medical professionals as Europe suffers; WHO warns world must be better prepared for next pandemic

AGENCIES

China's leaders yesterday held a triumphant ceremony to celebrate beating the coronavirus, as billions of people around the world still suffer the fallout from the pandemic and the global death toll nears 900,000.

The upbeat mood in Beijing comes as concerns grow about a resurgence of Covid-19 across Europe, with France tightening restrictions, cases in Britain spiking and schools resuming around the region in recent days.

Worldwide infections to date now stand at more than 27 million and over 893,000 people have died from the disease, with the pandemic showing no sign of peaking.

But in China the virus has been all but banished through a combination of lockdowns and travel restrictions earlier in the year that have officials touting the nation as a coronavirus success story.

President Xi Jinping said China had passed "an extraordinary and historic test" during an awards ceremony for medical professionals decorated with bugle calls and applause.

"We quickly achieved initial success in the people's war against the coronavirus," Xi said.

"We are leading the world in economic recovery and in the fight

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