



America's first 'second gentleman':
DOUGLAS EMHOFF
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PRIMARY, SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM

Major reform on the cards

No public exams for class-V, class-VIII students; no groups at secondary level

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In a sweeping change to primary and secondary schooling, the government may scrap the PECE and the JSC exams and dissolve the science, humanities and business disciplines.

A new outline of a curriculum meant to be put into effect from January 2022 proposes many other changes.

It suggests holding the Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams in just five subjects, based on the syllabus of grade-X only. The Higher Secondary Certificate exams will be held in two phases: in grade-XI and XII.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board's draft does not make any proposals for holding Primary Education Completion Examinations (PECE) in grade-V and Junior School Certificate Examinations in grade-VIII.

KEY PROPOSALS

- ▶ SSC exams on five subjects
- ▶ HSC exams in two phases
- ▶ No science, business and humanities groups in secondary schools
- ▶ Opportunity for technical education after class VIII

"We did not propose any public exams before grade-X. But if the government wants to hold any public exams before that, it can do so," NCTB Member (curriculum) Prof Moshuazzaman told The Daily Star.

NCTB officials said instead of holding the PECE and JSC exams, which put students under a lot of stress, emphasis

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President, PM greet Joe Biden, Kamala Harris

Hasina hopes ties with US to reach new heights

AGENCIES

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have greeted US president-elect Joe Biden and vice-president-elect Kamala Harris.

In his message to Joe Biden, President Hamid hoped that the ties between the two countries would reach a new height and expand in various fields, including trade and investment, under the leadership of the newly elected President of the United States.

Hamid wished the newly-elected US President and Vice President a great success, good health and long life.

Meanwhile, in separate messages to

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US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris greet supporters at a post-election rally, after news media announced that Biden has won the 2020 US presidential election, in Wilmington, Delaware, US, on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Time to heal'

President-elect Biden urges unity in America after a divisive Trump rule

AGENCIES

President-elect Joe Biden declared it was "time to heal" a deeply divided America in his first speech after winning in a bitter election, even as President Donald Trump refused to concede and pressed ahead with legal fights against the outcome.

Biden's victory on Saturday in Pennsylvania put him over the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes he needed to clinch the presidency, ending four days of nail-biting suspense and sending his supporters into the streets of major cities in celebration. US networks also projected him to win Nevada.

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Take care of your family

HC in landmark verdict puts convict on conditional probation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a landmark verdict, the High Court yesterday upheld five years' jail sentence of a convict in a narcotics-related case, but allowed him to stay with his family on three conditions.

The court granted probation facilities to convict Moti Matbor so that he can stay with his family without going to jail on the conditions.

According to the conditions, Moti must

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PHYSIOTHERAPY IN BANGLADESH

Ailing all along

Long-run negligence, professional conflict keep the much-needed profession from flourishing

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

While demand for physiotherapy has been growing rapidly as an allied health profession across the world, it is still struggling in Bangladesh due mainly to the absence of a functional unique body.

With limited employment opportunities at public healthcare institutions for decades and without uniform academic activities and proper recognition, professionals in this sector are facing neglect and discrimination, say experts.

Given the lack of a well-organised physiotherapy service in the country, affluent patients are going abroad for treatment while many others are frequently becoming victims of quacks. And there is no accountability as well, they add.

The government enacted a law to form a separate

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DEATH FOR RAPE Bill placed in parliament to amend law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Women and Children Repression Prevention (amendment) Bill, 2020 was placed in Parliament last night with an aim to ensure the death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.

State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira, of the women and children affairs ministry, placed the bill, which was sent earlier to the respective Parliamentary Standing Committee for scrutiny.

The committee was

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Students of Wiles Little Flower School and College and their guardians congregate at the institution's premises to submit their assignments yesterday morning. Educational institutions have been closed since March due to the pandemic and around 3,000 students took the opportunity to catch up with their classmates. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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**BANGLADESH
UPDATE**



1,474
New cases in 24hrs



4,20,238
Total cases



6,067
Deaths



3,38,146
Recoveries

**GLOBAL
UPDATE**



1,258,555
Deaths



50,432,229
Total cases

Work for people

PM asks local representatives

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the public representatives of local government bodies to stand beside people and work for their welfare with a service mentality. “The chairmen and councillors of district councils and other public representatives of local bodies have the responsibilities towards people in their localities,” she said.

The prime minister made the call while addressing an oath-taking ceremony of the chairmen of Madaripur, Faridpur and Moulvibazar district councils as they were elected in the recently-held by-elections.

Sheikh Hasina urged them to give special focus on the overall development of their areas with the service mentality.

Recalling the steps of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu for decentralisation of state power, the prime minister said the great leader had upgraded all the subdivisions to district ones.

“Bangabandhu had also undertaken various programmes and begun working with farsighted plans to develop the new districts by appointing district governors,” she said.

In light of the initiatives of Bangabandhu, Hasina said, the government has been working to fulfill all the basic needs of the people, including healthcare, education, housing, food and clothes.

Besides, the prime minister said, the government has also been working to take power to every house of the country in this Mujib Borsho. “Each



house will be illuminated with electricity.”

She mentioned that steps have been taken to ensure food security for all and the government is working to provide housing for every single homeless person.

Hasina directed the chairmen, councillors and representatives of other local government bodies to find out whether anyone left homeless in their localities and come forward to help them get houses.

Talking about coronavirus pandemic, she said the entire world has got stagnant when it comes to social and economic development due to the deadly virus.

Hasina mentioned with satisfaction that leaders and workers of Awami League and its associate bodies stood beside the affected common people alongside the government to face the adverse impacts of the coronavirus.

“They worked hard to provide necessary assistance towards the corona-affected people as well as the farmers to have their crops cut and reached homes safely before floods,” she added.

Earlier, chairmen of Madaripur District Council Munir Chowdhury, Faridpur District Council Shamsur Haque and Moulvibazar District Council Misbahur Fahman who were elected in the recent by-polls were sworn in at a ceremony at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually administered the oath to the newly-elected chairmen of the three district councils from the Gono Bhaban.

Major reform on the cards

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will be given on continuous assessment at schools.

The PECE was introduced in 2009 and the JSC exams a year later. Many educationists frequently termed the exams unnecessary and slammed those for stressing out the students.

“There should be one public exam at the end of the school level. School-based annual exams are enough for younger students,” said Professor Emeritus Manzoor Ahmed of BRAC University.

The SSC exams will be on Bangla, English, mathematics, social science and science only. The other assessments will be made at schools.

Though the HSC exams will take place in two phases, the final result will be prepared after combining results from both phases.

After studying a syllabus for two years in grades-IX and X, students take the SSC exams on 10 papers. They sit for the HSC exams on 12 papers after studying a two-year syllabus in grades-XI and XII.

For decades, secondary schools have been requiring students to choose among science, humanities and business studies when they are in grade-IX. Officials yesterday said this had been creating unnecessary pressure on students.

Students of grades-XI and XII will study the compulsory Bangla, English and the ICT. And they will be able to choose three other subjects from science, humanities and business disciplines. They will pick another subject from vocational courses.

Curriculums were revised the last time in 2012.

Talking to The Daily Star, NCTB Chairperson Prof Narayan Chandra Saha said most countries around the

world do not have science, humanities and business disciplines at the school level.

All school-level students should have similar knowledge, he said.

The new outline also proposed two-day weekend -- Friday and Saturday -- in schools, instead of just Friday.

Narayan said the two-day weekend will have little impact on teacher-student contact hours because the time spent on holding public exams will be saved.

NCTB SEEKS OPINION

The NCTB on Thursday uploaded the draft outline on its website and requested all stakeholders to give their opinions.

Anyone can give their opinions via email by November 18, Narayan mentioned.

“We will finalise the new curriculum after getting opinions from stakeholders and place it before the National Curriculum Coordination Committee (NCCC),” he added.

COMPETENCY-FOCUSED CURRICULUM

Moshiuzzaman said the new curriculum will emphasise competency rather than theoretical knowledge.

There is no alternative to modernisation of education, he noted.

The NCTB has set 10 main competencies that a student will achieve after grade-XII. Those include a student’s ability to communicate, collaborate, express himself or herself, honour other people’s opinions, think critically and solve problems.

The curriculum puts emphasis on learning languages, communication, mathematics and reasoning, science and technology, the ICT, environment and climate, and values and morality.

President, PM greet Joe Biden

FROM PAGE 1

Biden and Harris, Sheikh Hasina said on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh she was conveying warmest congratulations on their victory as the 46th President and 49th Vice-President of the United States of America.

“I believe your resounding victory reflects the profound trust and confidence the people of your great country have in your extraordinary leadership proven over four decades of devotion and dedication towards their welfare, and that of the USA,” the premier wrote to Joe Biden.

“Your astute stewardship will also energise the USA in leading the world into a new era of global peace, and international cooperation in securing prosperity, and unity in facing the challenges of climate change,” she said.

Mentioning that Bangladesh, over the years since its independence in 1971, has forged an excellent and durable relationship with the USA, she hoped, “Now with you at the helm of affairs of your country, I foresee the relationship reaching newer heights in the coming days.

“Indeed, I look forward to working closely with you in attaining those ideals as well as in effectively confronting the evils of terrorism, violent extremism, hatred, forced displacements as of the Rohingyas, and for the realisation of a safer and a better world.”

The premier also extended a very warm invitation to Biden and first

lady Jill Biden to visit and experience Bangladesh and its overall progress achieved by its own efforts, the strength of its people and the support of its good friends like the USA.

Besides, Sheikh Hasia wrote to Kamala Harris, “Surely your glorious victory testifies your heroic leadership, remarkable achievements in public service, and valuable contributions to your great country and people.

“I believe your tenure, in the esteemed office, shall witness the continuation of your relentless efforts and success in establishing equal rights and justice for all people, as well as gender parity inspiring women in the USA and across the world with hope, vigor and drive in fulfilling ambitions of their very own,” she said.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh and the USA, since the establishment of diplomatic relations, have evolved an enduring, productive partnership growing and deepening with time.

“Now with you as Vice-President, proudly representing diversity and endowed with experience and wisdom, I see our two countries’ relationships reaching unprecedented heights,” she added.

The premier also extended a warm invitation to Kamala Harris and Douglass Emhoff to visit Bangladesh the soonest to see firsthand the impressive socio-economic development and the extraordinary level of women empowerment.



A boat with a sail commemorating the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman floats on the Jatiya Sangsad Lake. Two such colourfully decorated boats were floated on the lake on Thursday. This photo was taken on Friday

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ailing all along

FROM PAGE 1

council for physiotherapy two years ago. Such a body has been formed but is yet to be functional.

The demand for establishing a “Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy” has also remained stalled for the last 12 years.

“This situation is a consequence of long-run negligence, professional conflict, bureaucratic tangles and a by-product of the ailing health system of the country,” said Dr Mohammad Abdus Sabur, who teaches health system at the Institute of Health Economics, Dhaka University.

“Physiotherapy is one of the 17 medical technology disciplines in the country. In fact, the entire sector is in a total mess and needs proper planning,” he told The Daily Star.

“Hundreds of thousands of people suffering from pain are deprived of proper care in the absence of a well-organised physiotherapy service in the country.”

An integral part of modern medical science, physiotherapy is a non-surgical treatment process aimed at reducing pain, improving movement and restoring functionality of a patient’s health.

The World Health Organisation has projected that by 2050, the global geriatric population will reach nearly two billion, which was around 547 million in 2010.

According to the Bangladesh Physical Therapy Association (BPA), more than 20 million people in Bangladesh have been suffering from mild to severe chronic pain.

But there are only over 3,000 physiotherapy graduates in the country; less than 1,000 of them are serving in different hospitals -- mostly private, according to BPA.

“We are serving patients, but we have no legal recognition like the MBBS or BDS physicians. It has resulted in mushrooming of quacks posing as physiotherapists. There is neither accountability, nor safeguards for us,” Md Dalilur Rahman, president of BPA, told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students Union (BAPSU) launched a series of demonstrations since August to press home their seven-point demand including infrastructure for the Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy, their appointment in all public hospitals as first-class officers after graduation, and scope of higher education in public institutions for graduates.

“The physiotherapists face discrimination. After completing a graduate degree, we have little scope to join government hospitals,” said Partha Kumar, co-convenor of BAPSU and a final year student at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR).

Contacted, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told The Daily Star, “We are working on it. The ministry is also working for the creation of posts for the physiotherapists.”

‘Time to heal’

FROM PAGE 1

“The people of this nation have spoken. They have delivered us a clear victory, a convincing victory,” Biden told honking and cheering supporters in a parking lot in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware.

The Democrat pledged that as president he will seek to unify the country and “marshal the forces of decency” to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, rebuild economic prosperity, secure healthcare for American families and root out systemic racism.

Without addressing his Republican rival, Biden spoke directly to the 70 million Americans who cast ballots in support of Trump, some of whom took to the streets on Saturday to demonstrate against the results.

“For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment tonight. I’ve lost a couple times myself. But now, let’s give each other a chance. It’s time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again,” he said.

“This is the time to heal in America.”

A meeting was held at the DGHS on October 29 with Prof Nasima in the chair, attended by stakeholders including representatives from Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and the BPA.

The DGHS at this meeting agreed to re-initiate the process to build the proposed college, said Dr Farid Hossain, general secretary of BPA.

“They proposed creating tenth grade posts for the physiotherapy graduates. But we didn’t agree. Because we wanted ninth grade. Another progress was the BMA leader agreed to revisit the recognition issue based on global practice.”

He added, “There was no decision, in fact. It was just a restarting of a frozen issue.”

The government in September 2008 allotted 5.25 acres of land at Dhaka’s Mohakhali to build a physiotherapy college. The land is now occupied illegally and there is a slum on it known as ‘Shattola Bosti’.

The academic journey of physiotherapy in independent Bangladesh started in 1973 with NITOR -- formerly known as the Rehabilitation Institute and Hospital for the Disabled (RIHD) -- initiating a three-year degree course with Ronald J Garst as founding director of the RIHD.

The course was initiated under the medicine faculty of Dhaka University.

But after enrolment of around 25 students under two batches, the course was shut down for the next 16 years before NITOR resumed a four-year honours course in the 1993-94 academic year under DU.

Besides, there are six other institutes, two public and four private, that offer different physiotherapy courses.

Currently, nearly 2,000 students are enrolled in these institutes, according to BAPSU.

A LONG BATTLE FOR RECOGNITION Over the years, physiotherapy graduates and students have been demanding recognition from the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) so that they can avail the same status and benefits as physicians and dentists.

There are two associations for physiotherapists.

Bangladesh Physical Therapy Association is a trade body of physical therapists while Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association, recognised under the social welfare ministry, works as a social welfare organisation and is a member of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.

In 2010, the Physiotherapy Association filed a writ petition with the Supreme Court seeking BMDC registration for physiotherapy and rehabilitation professionals.

Moreover, the amended BMDC Act in the same year that put a clause reading “none but the MBBS and the BDS graduates will be able to use the prefix Dr before their name” prompted the physiotherapists to file another petition with the High Court.

The High Court then gave an interim order that the physiotherapy graduates can also use Dr prefix before their name until formation of a separate council.

He also thanked Black voters, saying that even at his campaign’s lowest moments, the African American community had stood up for him. “They always have my back, and I’ll have yours,” he said.

Casting his eye further, Biden said he would “make America respected around the world again” -- a reference to Trump’s tearing up of traditional diplomatic ties.

Biden was introduced by his running mate, US Senator Kamala Harris, who will be the first woman, the first Black American and the first American of Asian descent to serve as vice president, the country’s No 2 office.

“What a testament it is to Joe’s character that he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country, and select a woman as his vice president,” Harris said.

Congratulations poured in from abroad, including from conservative British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Israeli Prime Minister

However, BMDC refused to take physiotherapy and rehabilitation professionals under its umbrella.

In 2013, BMDC informed the court that they were unable to regulate the physiotherapy professionals due to scarcity of manpower and suggested forming another independent council.

Experts said this was a result of professional conflict between the physiotherapists and the MBBS graduates who study physical medicine as part of their curriculum.

This is not the only example of the conflict.

In 2012, the DGHS launched a file proposing to create 438 posts for physiotherapists in government medical colleges and hospitals, but was halted after the BMA opposed it, source said.

Against this backdrop, the DGHS arranged a meeting with the BPA, BMA, BMDC and several other stakeholders in 2014.

That meeting ended without any decision.

“The professional conflict has always been there. Like all other medical technologists, physiotherapists are also allies of physicians globally. Unfortunately, neither the job of physiotherapists nor any other medical technologists are defined under any legal framework,” said Dr MA Sabur.

Against this backdrop, parliament passed the National Rehabilitation Council Act in 2018 to form a separate council for physiotherapists and several other allied disciplines under the social welfare ministry.

Two years have passed by but the council is yet to start functioning.

“The council has been formed, but appointment of manpower against 25 posts is yet to be approved by the finance ministry,” said Abul Hossain, registrar of the council and a joint secretary of the social welfare ministry.

Experts, however, said such councils other than that under the health and family welfare ministry may create another complication as physiotherapists are part of the health system.

Prof Nazrul Islam, former vice chancellor of BSMMU, told The Daily Star, “Forming a separate council is good. However, ensuring coordination should be a priority. Otherwise, it may create another complexity.”

Dr MA Sabur said, “All technologists -- whether it be diploma or graduate degree -- should be brought under a legal framework. And this must be under the health ministry as they have to serve under the health system in the long run. Otherwise, it would create another chaos.”

BMDC also advocated for forming a separate council for physiotherapy and other allied disciplines under the health ministry.

“We have always said that there is no scope to integrate physiotherapy or any other allied disciplines within the purview of BMDC Act. But we recommended forming a separate council [for physiotherapy] only under the health ministry,” said BMDC acting registrar Dr Arman Hossain.

Bill placed

FROM PAGE 1

asked to submit its report before the House within seven work days.

In the proposed law, the punishment for rape is death penalty or life imprisonment.

According to Article 9 (1) of the existing Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000, the punishment for rape is life imprisonment.

The proposed law was promulgated through the president’s ordinance on October 13 as the parliament was not in session and there were growing demands from people across the country to institute death penalty for rapists.

Law Minister Anisul Huq placed the ordinance in Parliament yesterday, the first sitting of the special session of parliament to mark Mujib Year -- birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The ordinance was issued following waves of anti-rape demonstrations across Bangladesh after footage of five men stripping a woman naked and gang-raping her, and filming the video of the incident in Noakhali’s Begumganj upazila, went viral on social media in early October.

The incident occurred at Joykrishnapur village under Eklashpur union of the upazila on September 2.

At least 975 women were reportedly raped across the country in the last nine months and 161 of the incidents took place last month, according to rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra’s (ASK’s) October report.

Of them, 208 women were gang-raped, 43 murdered after rape and 12 rape victims died by suicide, the report added. Three women and nine men were killed while protesting assault incidents.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, meanwhile, said they recorded 129 rape incidents in September and 83 of the victims were minors.

Several organisations including Feminists Across Generations -- an inter-generational feminist alliance -- however said the death penalty was not a solution and demanded an end to “rape culture”.

According to Article 9 (3) of the existing law, if a woman falls victim to gang-rape, and is injured or dies, the punishment is the death penalty or life imprisonment for each rapist.

As per the bill, changes were also proposed to two other sub-articles -- 11 (Ga) and 20 (7) -- of the existing law.

Any simple injury for dowry will be a compoundable offence (the complainant can compromise to drop the charge against the accused), in accordance with sub-article 11 (Ga) of the proposed law.

As per sub-article 11 (Ga) of the existing law, one shall be sentenced for a maximum of three years and a minimum of one year’s rigorous imprisonment and handed a monetary penalty for making the ‘simple hurt’ for dowry.

In Article 20 (7) of the bill, ‘the Children Act, 2013’ was incorporated in place of ‘Children Act, 1974’ yesterday in order to follow the latest law as much as possible during the trial of any crime committed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000, in case any child commits or witnesses such a crime.

The trial of rape cases shall be completed by 180 days at Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunals, according to the existing law.

Meanwhile, the House went into its first ever special session yesterday evening to mark the Mujib Borsho. This will also be the 10th session of the 11th Parliament. The House session started at 6:00pm with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

At the beginning of the proceedings, the House unanimously adopted a condolence motion expressing profound shock for those who died between the last session of parliament prorogued on September 10 and the beginning of the present session.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury moved the condolence motion, which was adopted unanimously in the House.

This was the first time the Jatiya Sangsad went into any special session, sources at the parliament secretariat said.

The special session was scheduled to be held on March 22, but was postponed following the coronavirus outbreak.

Earlier, the parliament went into a special sitting on two occasions -- January 31 and June 18 in 1974 -- but it was in session on both occasions, addressed by former Yugoslav President Marshal Josip Broz Tito and then Indian president VV Giri respectively.

Due to the pandemic, the media will not be allowed to cover the session directly, except on November 9, when the president will deliver his speech in the House.

mix of disappointment, suspicion and resignation, highlighting the difficult task that Biden faces winning over many Americans, especially in more rural areas, who believe Trump was the first president to govern with their interests at heart.

“It’s sickening and sad,” said Kayla Doyle, a 35-year-old Trump supporter and manager of the Gridiron Pub on Main Street in the small town of Mifflintown, Pennsylvania. “I think it’s rigged.”

Angry pro-Trump “Stop the Steal” demonstrators gathered at state capitol buildings in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Arizona. Protesters in Phoenix chanted “We want audits!” One speaker told the crowd: “We will win in court!”

There were isolated instances of Trump and Biden supporters confronting each other, as occurred between two groups of about 100 each in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but there were no immediate reports of the violence many had feared. The pro-Trump protests mostly faded as the results sank in.

PM declares BGB a '3-dimensional force'

Govt plans to recruit 15,000 troopers in phases

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday declared Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) a three-dimensional force after the induction of two helicopters, Bir Shreshtha Nur Mohammad and Bir Shreshtha Abdur Rouf, into it.



"We're celebrating the Mujib Borsho. In this Mujib Borsho, BGB got two helicopters. This is indeed a matter of pride. I'm declaring BGB a three-dimensional force," she said.

The prime minister said this while addressing a programme for inducting two MI-171E helicopters into the Air Wing of BGB.

The event was held at the BGB Headquarters, Palkhana. The PM attended it virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

She asked the BGB personnel to keep

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A potter lays out earthen pots to dry in Kamrangir Char on the outskirts of the capital, before they go into an oven. These pots are usually used for storing yoghurt, and sell for Tk 7 to 8. The clay for these come from Barishal and transporting each truckload costs Tk 12,000. While plastic containers are used increasingly for storing and packaging food, many still prefer earthen pots for sweets. The photo was taken recently.

DETAILED AREA PLAN

No more unplanned buildings in Dhaka

Says LGD minister Tajul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister and convener of Dhaka's Detailed Area Plan (DAP) cabinet committee Tajul Islam yesterday said no one will be allowed to construct buildings illegally and in an unplanned way.

The minister came up with the statement while talking to reporters after the first meeting of the newly-formed cabinet committee for review of DAP -- and 15th overall -- at the ministry of housing and public works.

Tajul Islam said new buildings will have to be constructed in Dhaka considering issues including keeping the capital a livable city, civic amenities, planned infrastructure and geological and environmental issues.

Replying to a query, the local government minister said a sub-committee would be formed with all the institutions including the city corporations.

Earlier at the meeting, Tajul Islam said an action plan will be formulated to make Dhaka a livable, humane and sustainable city. Mentioning the challenges of implementing the action plan, he said it was possible to present a modern city if all the members of the newly-formed committee and concerned persons work united and discharge their duties with neutrality, courage, honesty and dedication.

The minister said the committee would work to build a livable and scenic city keeping in view other important issues including residential, commercial, hospital, school-college, sports ground, utility service, communication system and shopping mall according to a proper plan.

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'Take steps for our return'

Qatar-bound migrant workers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qatar-bound migrant workers -- who remain stranded at home amid the coronavirus pandemic -- yesterday urged the government to take steps for their return to workplaces, saying their re-entry has been denied by the Gulf country.

Forming a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital, some 30 Qatar-bound migrant workers said about 12,500 of them are currently stuck at home for months since the coronavirus pandemic forced air communication suspension between Bangladesh and Qatar early this year.

They called upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad to take diplomatic efforts to ensure their return to the Gulf country soon.

The migrants, who were employed at different private companies in Qatar, said about 95 percent of their residence permits in the Gulf country now expired.

Besides, their online applications for re-entry permit to Qatar were not accepted in past three months. As a result, the prospect of their job opportunities in the Gulf

country has become uncertain, they added.

They further said without income they and their family members were passing days in economic hardship.

Migrant worker Meraj Hossain said some even remained stranded for about a year now without income opportunities at home. "Amid this, we are seeking attention of the authorities concerned to help us return to Qatar," he said.

He said workers who were employed under private companies in Qatar did not get the re-entry permit even though the Qatar government started giving such permission to Bangladeshi workers few months ago.

As per Qatar government's announcement, anyone can get the re-entry permit, applying online, he said. "We have been applying for the past three months but not a single permit was issued. We don't know, why?"

He said they would take to the street again if their problem is not solved.

Another migrant worker Sarwar Alam Khokon said despite economic hardship, many of them did not seek financial support from the government or other organisations.

ARMS, NARCOTICS CASES

Erfan Salim on five-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Erfan Salim, son of Dhaka-7 lawmaker Haji Salim, and his bodyguard Zahidul Mollah, have been placed on a five-day remand each in four cases filed under the arms and narcotics control acts.

Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Kaisarul Islam yesterday placed Erfan and Zahidul on a three-day remand each in two cases under the Arms Act filed with Chawkbazar Police Station on October 28.

Besides, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Sikder placed them on a two-day remand each in two cases filed under the Narcotics Control Act filed with the same police station the same day.

The courts passed the orders after Md Delwar Hossain, an inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station, and also the case's investigation officer, produced them before the courts with a 28-day remand prayer in four cases. The defence, however, submitted four petitions seeking cancellation of the remand prayers on grounds that during the drive law enforcers "tortured their clients and family members". Police filed the cases only to harass them, the defence added.

Police during a drive on October 27 seized five bottles of foreign liquor and a pistol with two rounds of bullets from Erfan, while 406 pieces of yaba pills and a pistol with four rounds of bullets from Zahidul.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

The area surrounded by railing used to be a pond, which was renovated in 2018, with a budget of Tk 70 lakh. However, as can be seen, the pond has been filled by Sylhet City Corporation, wasting huge amounts of money and violating laws.

Pond filled after spending lakhs for renovation

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) recently filled a pond in the city's Raynagar area, which was renovated spending lakhs in 2018. The authorities claimed that they did so to prioritise locals' demand and undo a mistake made by the contractor. But environmentalists said no matter what the reasons may be, they violated law and wasted a huge sum of public money.

Renovation of the pond, owned by Sonarpara Mosque, was planned with a budget of around Tk 70 lakh, according to SCC.

Construction of guard-wall and railing started in February, 2018, which costed Tk 40 lakh, and Tk 30 lakh was budgeted for excavation.

While excavating, the contractor made a mistake by digging too deep, which eventually wrecked parts of the guard-wall along the adjacent road, and damaged nearby buildings.

SCC Chief Engineer Nur Azizur Rahman said, "As it was the contractor's fault, and the mosque authorities decided to build a market there, we ordered the contractor to fill the pond."

"We understand that Tk 40 lakh got wasted. However, the excavation charge of Tk 30 lakh will not be paid to the contractor. We had to take the decision considering all grounds," he said.

Although the city authorities claimed that the mosque committee and locals asked the corporation to fill the pond, they denied it, saying it was decided by

SCC.

They also pointed to faulty low-grade renovation work by the previous councillor, Dinar Khan Hasu, who allegedly grabbed the tender from the original contractor.

This correspondent could not contact Dinar, as he now lives abroad.

Advocate Shah Shaheda Akther, regional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "The city corporation should be more alert regarding waterbody conservation. By filling that pond, they violated all related laws of environmental protection."

According to Section-6 (E) of Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 (amended in 2010), no public or private pond can be filled without permission of Department of Environment (DoE).

But DoE in Sylhet confirmed that SCC did not take any permission from them.

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Sylhet chapter, said, "Not only did they violate environmental laws, but also wasted public money in the name of development."

"They filled the pond to cover up their misdeeds. Legal steps should be taken against the city corporation," he said.

Emran Ahmed, director of DoE in Sylhet, said, "I just came to know that they filled a pond, which is prohibited by law. I'll look into the matter and will take legal steps."

BNP leader Mir Nasir sent to prison upon surrender in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent BNP leader and former state minister for civil aviation Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin to jail on his surrender in a corruption case in which he was sentenced 13 years' imprisonment.

Judge SM Ruhul Imran of the Special Judge Court-2 of Dhaka passed the order after his lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder submitted a petition for sending Nasir to jail in the case.

Earlier, on October 27, his son Mir Mohammad Helaluddin was sent to jail after his surrender in the same case in which he was sentenced to three years' in jail.

Earlier on November 19 last year, the High Court upheld a lower court verdict that sentenced Mir Nasiruddin to 13 years' jail and his son Mir Helaluddin to three years' jail in the corruption case.

The court also ordered the duo to surrender before the trial court within three months after the trial court receives the certified copy of its verdict.

On July 4, 2007, an anti-graft tribunal sentenced Nasir to 13 years for committing two corruption offences and Helal to three years for abetting his father.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Home for Harijans

44 families get flats from Barishal City Corporation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Forty-four cleaners of Barishal City Corporation, who are from Harijan community, have received flats from the local government agency.

BCC Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah inaugurated the flat handover programme in the city's Amir Kuthir area yesterday.

Expressing gratitude, the cleaners said they have been keeping the city clean for over a hundred years, but had no standard accommodation.

Cleaner Nayon from Amir Kuthir Harijan Colony said a total of 48 families live there. "We demand such flats for rest of the families too."

BCC sources said the six-storey "BCC Sebok Colony" building is going to accommodate 44 families out of the 48.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sumon Das, president of Harijan Oikya Parishad, thanked the PM for providing the cleaners with new homes.

Uttam Kumar Bhakta, a Harijan leader, said, "The city has at least 700 families from Harijan and Dalit communities in five Harijan colonies. They are living in inhumane condition. We seek such flats for all of them."

BCC Executive Engineer Abul Bashar said construction of three such buildings under a project -- BCC Sebok Colony -- at the city's Kawnia and Amir Kuthir Harijan colony started in 2015-16 fiscal at Tk 22 crore with an aim to provide residential support for 150 Harijan families in three phases.

In the first phase, 44 families were accommodated in Amir Kuthir area. The rest will get flats once the other buildings are completed in Kawnia.

Each of the 477.75 square feet flats has two bedrooms, a dining room, one kitchen and toilet. Each building also has a common space, he said, adding that residents will only have to pay utility bills. Out of the total 396 BCC cleaners, 246 are from Harijan community, said the authorities.

At the flat handover event, Mayor Serniabat told journalists that through this initiative living standards of the Harijans will improve.

Rapist gets life term after 16yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A rapist got life-term imprisonment in Rangpur yesterday, 16 years after the incident.

However, he was absent at the court.

The convicted is Rezwan Ali of Kalupara village of Rangpur's Badarganj upazila. He was a neighbour of the victim.

Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 Judge Md Rokonzaman delivered the verdict at a crowded courtroom. The court also fined Rezwan Tk 1 lakh.

According to case statements, the victim, who was a housewife and mother, was staying home alone, as her rickshaw-puller husband used to work in Dhaka.

On the night of March 2 in 2004, when the woman came out of the house, Rezwan caught and raped her.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Resume tidal river management in country's southwest

Speakers at webinar urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a webinar yesterday said resumption of the government's tidal river management project in Southwest Bangladesh was required to help people come out of persisting waterlogging situation there.

Besides, round-the-year dredging of rivers and creating canals in coastal areas to ensure timely high and low tide, and managing riverbed sedimentation are important to reduce waterlogging, they said.

NGO-based initiative Uttaran along with The Daily Star and Bangla daily Samakal organised the webinar on "Emergency Support and Anticipated Effort for Southwest Coastal Bangladesh".

Speakers said due to waterlogging, hundreds of thousands of people, especially women, children, and elderly, in southwestern districts of Jashore, Khulna, and Satkhira have to suffer, as many of them contract water-borne diseases each year.

Uttaran Director Shahidul Islam said the government continued its TRM project, a unique management of tidal rivers, till 2012. There was no waterlogging in the area as long as the project continued. It was stopped due to a "social cause" in Bilkapalia area, he said.

Shahidul said now due to waterlogging, locals in Southwest Bangladesh suffer for six to eight months a year.

In some areas, waterlogging persists throughout the year, he said, adding annually about 10 to 15 lakh people suffer immensely because of waterlogging there. He also said waterlogging forced many people to migrate, either temporarily or permanently.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Eleven-year-old Riazul Islam is trying his best to support the family, selling children's clothes at Chattogram city's Chawkbazar area. The child, who has studied till fourth grade, lost his father when he was only three, and his mother had to take care of the household from then on. But after the pandemic hit, finances took a turn for the worse, forcing little Riazul to start carrying this huge responsibility on his shoulders.

Narcotics control, madrasa edu bills placed at House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Narcotics Control (Amendment) Bill, 2020" was placed at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, dropping the provision of setting up separate narcotic control tribunals to pave the way for competent courts to try narcotic-related crimes.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal placed the bill which was sent to the respective parliamentary standing committee for further scrutiny.

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

The bill was brought to have a provision of holding trial in the courts having the jurisdiction for quick disposal of narcotics cases and easing the backlog of huge drug-related cases.

It was supposed to form necessary number of Narcotics Control Tribunals in line with article 44 of the existing Narcotics Control Act 2018.

But the Law and Justice Division cannot set up any Narcotics Control Tribunal yet or cannot entrust the tribunal's responsibility with any additional district judge or sessions judge for administrative reasons.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Road crashes kill five people

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed in road accidents in Tarakanda and Trishal upazila of Mymensingh in the last two days, while a college student from Patuakhali lost his life.

In Tarakanda, auto-rickshaw driver Sirajul Islam (31) and Monju Mia (42) were killed at Khicha Bazar area on the Mymensingh-Netrakona road yesterday.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Tarakanda Police Station Md Abul Khayer said a Netrakona-bound truck collided head-on with the auto-rickshaw, killing Sirajul on the spot and injuring two passengers around 7am.

In Trishal, Sultan Mahmud (42) and Abdur Rouf (45) were killed in an accident at Ragamara area on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on Saturday.

The two were driver and helper of a cement-laden truck. The accident occurred when the truck collided head-on with another truck, said Mahmudul Islam, the OC of Trishal Police Station.

Tanjil Ahmed (22), succumbed to his injuries at Neurosciences Hospital in Dhaka where he was under treatment, after suffering a motorcycle accident in Karpurkathi area of Baufal in Patuakhali. Two others were also injured in the accident.

CONTEMPT OF COURT HC summons 2 SC lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against two Supreme Court lawyers -- Syed Sayedul Haque Suman and Ishrat Hasan -- for allegedly posting derogatory comments about the judiciary on Facebook.

In the rule, the court asked the lawyers to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them.

The HC summoned them to appear before it in person on November 16 to place their explanations.

The HC bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the rule and summons order.

The court also imposed a cost of Tk 100 on each of the two lawyers.

ROOPPUR SCAM SC upholds contractor's High Court bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted bail to contractor Asif Hossain in a case filed over the much-discussed corruption in purchasing furniture and household items for officials of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed a petition recently filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), seeking stay on the HC order.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Asif cannot get released from jail following the SC order since he is arrested in another corruption case. Lawyer Fida M Kamal appeared for Asif during the virtual hearing.

On October 21, the HC granted permanent bail to contractor Asif Hossain in the case.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohail delivered the verdict after hearing a rule issued over granting bail to Asif Hossain, managing director of Majid and Sons Construction Limited, that supplied some household items for officials of the power plant.

ACC filed the cases with its Pabna district office against Asif and several others on December 12 last year on charges of irregularities involving Tk 26 crore in supplying furniture and household items to the officials of the power plant. Asif was also arrested on that day.

PM declares

FROM PAGE 3

the goodwill of the force by discharging their duties with sincerity and faith imbued with patriotism.

Hasina said the government wanted to make all the forces of the country capable. She said BGB protects the country's border, which is a huge task. "For this, the government will do whatever this force needs," she said.

The premier said to make BGB a modern and time-befitting border force, the government has taken massive reforms and development programmes.

She mentioned that the government has passed the BGB Act-2010 and to make it a world-standard modern boarder guard force, the government has taken plans to formulate "Border Guard Bangladesh Vision-2041".

"Now, BGB is a very much skilled, well-organised and dynamic force," she said.

She said to improve operational capability of BGB, the government has completed many development works and many others will be finished soon.

GOVT TO RECRUIT 15,000 BGB TROOPERS

The prime minister said there is a plan to recruit 15,000 members in the force, which will be implemented in three steps.

In the first step, there will be a regional headquarters with 4,282 personnel, one K-9 unit, one regional intelligence bureau, one station headquarters, one guard police battalion. These activities will be completed by 2022.

In the second phase, she said, there will be a sector, five battalions, one reserve battalion, one K-9 unit and training centre with 5,782 members and increase of manpower for five border guard hospitals is under consideration.

She said purchase of two fast craft, seven high-speed boats, two marina and two trailers are under process.

The PM said in the Ecne meeting held on September 22, the government has approved to build 73 more new composite BOP. This will have a positive impact on soldiers' morality apart from increasing BGB's operational capacity.

Subinay Nandy no more

Cry Desk



Former UN officer Dr Subinay Nandy passed away at a New York hospital on Saturday, said a press release.

Born in Habiganj in 1955, Dr Subinay, younger brother of the late singer Subir Nandy, started his career as UNDP Bangladesh's Head of Environment.

He was UNDP's Deputy Country Director in Vietnam, Country Director in China, UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka and Director (Asia-Pacific) at the UN Department of Political Affairs. He also taught at the New York City University after retirement.

He was clinically dead for months after a massive heart attack and brain damage. His funeral will be held tomorrow in New York.

MA Sabur passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Former chief controller MA Sabur has passed away on November 3, at the age of 65.

The former Office of Chief Controller of Imports and Exports official died after being run over by a train near Banani railway station last Tuesday.

BNP leader

FROM PAGE 3

Later, they challenged the judgment with the HC and it scrapped the trial court verdict and acquitted them in August 2010.

Challenging the HC verdict, the ACC filed a leave-to-appeal with the Supreme Court. The SC on July 3, 2014 sent it to HC for rehearing on the issue.

The HC upheld the trial court verdict that sentenced them to different terms.

On March 6, 2007, ACC Deputy Director Sharmin Ferdous filed a graft case against Nasir with Gulshan Police Station for amassing properties illegally.

As per the charge sheet, Nasir, his wife late Dalia Naznin Nasir, their daughter and son have wealth worth Tk 29.22 crore, but hid information about it.

Resume

FROM PAGE 3

Malik Fida A Khan, executive director of Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, said TRM implementation could be a way out, but this is not the only solution.

It is important to think about how the tidal rivers' water flow could be increased. Besides, initiatives have to be taken for river dredging and their connectivity, he said.

Hosne Ara Hasi, a Satkhira-based development activist, said due to waterlogging, more or less the entire population of coastal region has to suffer.

Awami League lawmaker for Satkhira-2 Mir Mushtaque Ahmed Robi said the long plight of Southwestern people caused from waterlogging hasn't been eased despite different initiatives taken in the past.

He said experts have to come forward with a sustainable solution.

Addressing the webinar, Samakal Editor Mustafiz Shafi said the persisting waterlogging situation in the southwest should be addressed on different mediums for a sustainable solution.

Addressing the session as chief guest, Deputy Minister for Water Resources AKM Enamul Haque Shamim said the prime minister has given her clear directive to bring a sustainable solution to the waterlogging situation.

The deputy minister also said the government has undertaken different projects worth Tk 15,000 crore for the region.

State Minister for Rural Development and Co-operatives Shawpan Bhattacharjee and Bangladesh Water Development Board Director General AM Aminul Haque, among others, addressed the webinar.

Narcotics

FROM PAGE 3

So, complexities have been created in disposal of cases filed under the Act since it has become effective, and the number of pending cases keeps growing day by day.

As per article 44 of the bill, the courts, having jurisdiction, can try the narcotic-related cases as per the gravity of crimes as well as a sessions judge concerned or a metropolitan sessions judge concerned can fix one or more than one courts that have the jurisdiction to try narcotic-related crimes in their respective areas.

In the bill, changes have been brought in 22 articles of the exiting law.

Meanwhile, another bill titled "Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board Bill, 2020" was placed at the House yesterday to replace a 1978 ordinance in this regard.

The bill placed by Education Minister Dipu Moni was sent to the respective parliamentary standing committee that was asked to report back within seven working days.

According to the Article 28 of the proposed law, there will be (legal) protection of the activities for madrasa education.

Rapist gets

FROM PAGE 3

Locals rushed to the scene, as the woman screamed for help, but the rapist fled. Later, the woman filed a case with Badarganj police station accusing the man. Accordingly, the investigation officer of the case filed the charge sheet against him. Rezwan has been skipping court hearings after getting bail.

Jahangir Hossain Tuhin, the court's public prosecutor, said the court gave the judgement after examining all documents and evidence.

The same court sentenced a man to life in a rape case on November 4, 10 years after the incident, in the upazila.

Request for EoI

SME Foundation (SMEF) is an apex Government body for SME development. SMEF intends to conduct a study on 'SME Clusters in Bangladesh-2020 (An Updated Cluster Mapping)'

The Foundation is inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) from the national reputed consulting firms. The EoI must be submitted to the SME Foundation on or before 23 November, 2020 by 02:00 p.m. The Terms of Reference (ToR) and other important relevant information's are available on SMEF website (www.sme.gov.bd).

Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation

4 Panthapath, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka 1215. Phone: 8142983, 8142467 www.sme.gov.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any or all of the following tender, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Civil, Electrical & Networking works** at present premises of our **Farmgate Branch, Dhaka.**
- Civil works for exterior design** at present premises of our **Shahbagh Avenue Branch, Dhaka.**
- Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Air Coolers** at our (i) **Human Resources Division, Head Office, Dhaka** (ii) **DR Center of ICT Operation Division, Uttara, Dhaka** & (iii) **Farmgate Branch, Dhaka.**

Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by **17 November, 2020** duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer in the Tender Box by **18 November, 2020** (before 11.00 A.M.). Tender will be opened on **18 November, 2020** at 11:30 A.M.

Dilip Kumar Paul
General Manager



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

Establishment Division
Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON DHAKA

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Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from bona-fide contractors/manufacturers/dealers/distributors/ suppliers for supply the following items. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

SL No.	Name of the Items	Quantity	Schedule Price (Non-refundable)
1	Replenish of Transformers Oil (4500 Liters Approx.)	01 Lot	Tk.1500
2	Cooling Coil with Blower & Motor for AHU 15 Ton.	02 Nos.	Tk.1500
3	Induction Cabinet	02 Nos.	Tk.1500
4	Hot Water Tank Temperature Controller Valve (Re-tender)	02 Nos.	Tk.1000

Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to **November 25, 2020** during office hours. Tender will be received up to **02:30 pm** on **November 26, 2020** and will be opened on the same day at **03:00 pm** in presence of bidders, if any.

Tender must be supported by an Earnest Money amounting to 5% of quoted price in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164

WANT TO BUY PUPPY

Guard Dog, Sarail, Doberman, German Shepherd, Rottweiler, Husky, Boxer or Greyhound. (Age : 1-4 month)

017 6666 0324, 017 6666 0170

Corrigendum Notice (1st)

Request for Expression of Interest

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1. Ministry/Division
2. Agency
3. Client name

Ministry of Defence.
Survey of Bangladesh (SOB).
Surveyor General of Bangladesh.

This is to inform all concerned that the following correction have been made in the tender "REOI" office memo "23.08.0000.032.26.007.19.214" date 18/10/2020.

The correction replaced as:

13. EOI closing date and time	24 November 2020, 2.00pm
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All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be a part and parcel of the said tender.

Md. Saidus Jaman
Project Manager, NSDI
Mail: jamandu46@gmail.com
Mob: 01520100431

GD-1786

No more

FROM PAGE 3

He also said Dhaka and other major cities of the country have not been urbanised in a planned way, preserving different facilities for its residents.

At the meeting, it was decided to extend for two months the time allotted for taking stakeholders' opinion on height of buildings in the city, taking into account the Covid-19 crisis and other issues.

Minister for environment, forests and climate change Md Shahab Uddin, land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, state minister for housing and public works Sharif Ahmed, state minister for shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury and senior secretaries, secretaries of various ministries and concerned officials were present at the meeting.

The government on October 25 reconstituted the cabinet committee to review and finalise the DAP prepared by Rajuk.

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208

LOCAL PRESS TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Importers / Suppliers / Authorized dealers / Organizations for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of online UPS for EDCL, 3rd Plant Gopalganj Details as follows:

S.L No.	Tender No and Date	Name of Item	Cost of Tender Schedule and Earnest Money
01	EDCL(GP)/Pur/online UPS/2020/322 Date: 08/11/2020	Online UPS (Details as per Schedule and Technical Specification)	Tk. 1000.00/set (Non refundable) Earnest Money Tk. 2.5% of quoted amount

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of **"Essential Drugs Co. Ltd."** without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

The interested bidders may drop their offer along with relevant papers (as per tender schedule) to the tender Box kept at the Purchase Departments, EDCL, Dhaka till 12.00 Noon on 17/08/2020, which will be opened at Dhaka office on 23/11/2020 at 12.30 PM in presence of the bidders / their representative (if any).

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & OHSAS 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.264 **Date: 08/11/2020**

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	506623	Procurement of Different Process Chemicals and Related Service of Water Treatment Plant Under Framework Agreement.	05/11/2020	22/11/2020, 3:30 PM	23/11/2020
2	507793	Procurement of Different Types Resin and Related Service for Production Line-A of Water Treatment Plant.	08/11/2020	30/11/2020, 3:30 PM	01/12/2020

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Asad Halim
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-1785



Construction work of a concrete bridge over the canal in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila is going on at a slow pace, much to the sufferings of commuters. Local people are now crossing a bamboo bridge there amid risk.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bridge work goes on at snail's pace

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Construction work of a bridge on a canal in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila sees very slow progress, causing immense sufferings to commuters. Previously, people crossed a decades-old risky bridge on the canal in Kathuri Chourasta area of Nagarpur Sadar union amid risk of accident. The Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) then took an initiative to construct a 15-metre-long new bridge on the canal at a cost of Tk 1.31 crore. Construction firm Ms Alif Enterprise of Tangail got the work order and started the construction work of the bridge on December 16 last year. On December 31, local Lawmaker Ahsanul Islam Titu formally inaugurated the bridge work. The construction firm was supposed to complete the work by November 15 this year but the contractor has only demolished the

previous old bridge and filled some earth there till now, locals said. Sources at the upazila LGED office said although a 40-metre-long diversion brick-built road was supposed to construct there for facilitating movement of people before starting the bridge work, but the contractor did not construct the diversion road so far. A number of people, especially motorcyclists, are now crossing a bamboo bridge over the canal amid risk. They have built the bridge on self-help basis. Abu Bakar, a local resident, said the local people are suffering a lot as the construction work of the new bridge is going on at a slow pace. They are also struggling to cross the bamboo bridge over the canal. Especially critical patients are the worst sufferers due to the communication problem, he said. Jewel Miah, a hired motorcycle driver, said November 15 scheduled for completion of the bridge on the canal is not likely to be met as the

contractor concerned is yet to start the work. "Local passengers are spending extra money as well as time to go to their destinations through the road as there is no other alternative way," he said. Jasiur Rahman Lukon, a rights activist in Nagarpur, said the authorities concerned should complete the bridge construction work as soon as possible considering the woes of the passengers and transports workers. Contractor Mohammad Minitu, however, said they had to spend more than three months to just remove electric poles from there. "We also filled the place with earth for construction of the diversion road but these were washed away in the recent devastating floods," he said. Mahbubur Rahman, upazila LGED engineer, said the progress of the work has been delayed due to the floods. "We hope the bridge work will be completed soon," he added.

'AMAR BARI, AMAR KHAMAR' PROJECT Staffers 'pocket' Tk 2.38 lakh in Kishorganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The authorities launched an investigation into alleged embezzlement of Tk 2.38 lakh meant for the poor, under 'Amar Bari, Amar Khamar' initiative of the government, in Kishorganj upazila. As many as 34 applicants, mostly impoverished women, who applied for a loan under the programme in Bahagili union, in a complaint to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) alleged that the programme's field assistant Musa Mia duped them into providing him with their photos and copies of national identity cards with the promise of issuing loans for them. But they were in shock when high officials of the programme during a visit to their village, Uttor Durakuti Fakirpara village, in September told them that the purpose of their visit was to review the progress made with the Tk 7,000 loan that had been disbursed to each of the 34 recipients before the Covid-19 lockdown, enforced in March. Following their complaint, the UNO asked the authorities concerned to submit reports to the office upon conducting inquiries into the allegation. Shiuli Begum, one of the complainants, said they also handed over cash deposits along with their photos and photocopies of their ID cards to Musa Mia, the field assistant. According to the complainants,

including Nilufa, Rahima and Irene, their signatures were forged to disburse the money in their names and they had been in the dark about the crime as Musa stopped visiting the village during the months of lockdown. The project activities of Amar Bari, Amar Khamar, formerly known as 'Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar', are currently being conducted under the authority of Palli Sanchay Bank (PSB) of the government. Mohammad Sirajuddin, district coordinator of PSB, said after being directed by the UNO, the project authorities during a primary investigation found the allegation to be true. Now the PSB is conducting another investigation of its own, he added. Contacted, Jannatul Ferdous, PSB senior officer who is leading the investigation, said it was ascertained in their investigation that field assistant Musa Mia with the connivance of the field supervisor and computer operator of the project embezzled Tk 2.38 lakh by disbursing the amount as loan for the 34 beneficiaries. Their probe report will be submitted to the authorities soon, he added. Abu Hanif, PSB's Kishorganj branch manager, said field assistant Musa Mia was sent to Dhaka to ensure proper investigation. Action against any responsible individual would be taken once the probe report is submitted, he added.



Several of the women whose identities were used to embezzle Tk 2.38 lakh meant for the poor, under the 'Amar Bari, Amar Khamar' initiative of the government, in Nilphamari's Kishorganj upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Human chain demands arrest of attackers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Transport workers in Lalmonirhat formed a human chain on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway yesterday, protesting the attack on one of their leaders and demanding arrest of the culprits involved in the incident. Several hundred workers of district Truck and Tank Lorry Sramik Union and Bus-Minibus Sramik Union took part in the programme, organised in front of the district central bus terminal in the town yesterday noon. Speakers at the programme alleged that an identified group had been launching attacks on the transport workers and leaders to take control their union for long. Transport workers' leader Bappi Islam said identified goons equipped with lethal weapons attacked Ratan Miah, vice-president of the district Truck and Tank Lorry Workers' Union, and its general secretary Abul Kalam Azad in the bus terminal area on 2 November, leaving them severely injured. If the attackers are not arrested immediately they would go for a tougher movement soon, he added.

Man held 11kg silver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Bagachhara Police Outpost arrested an alleged smuggler and seized 11kg of silver from his possession near Bagachhara border in Jashore's Sharsha upazila yesterday. The arrestee, Ali Hossain, 35, is a resident of Satkhira's Kalaroa upazila. Officer in Charge of Bagachhara Police Outpost Uttam Kumar Biswas said being informed that a group of smugglers brought the silver from India and were staying in Bagachhara area, a team of police raided the area and arrested Ali along with 11kg silver worth around Tk 11 lakh.



Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Inspector General
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

Invitation for International Tender

Memo No-44.01.0000.434.07.001.20/155 Date: ০৭/11/2020.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/suppliers in their official pad for supply of following items as required by Bangladesh Police in FY 2020-2021.

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.			
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Police.			
3.	Procuring Entity Name	AIG (Equipment-2), Bangladesh Police.			
4.	Invitation for	To Purchase (1) CBRNE Suit for Bangladesh Police			
5.	Invitation Ref. No.	44.01.0000.434.07.001.20/04(2020-2021)			
6.	Date	04/11/2020			
Key Information					
7.	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope (International)			
Funding Information					
8.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB)			
Particular Information					
9.	Tender Publication date	09 November 2020			
10.	Tender last selling date	28 December 2020			
11.	Tender closing date and time	29 December 2020 at 14:00 hrs			
12.	Tender opening date and time (Technical offer only)	29 December 2020 at 14:30 hrs			
Name & address of the office					
3.	Name & address of the office	Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, 6 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka.			
	Selling tender document	AIG (Equipment-2), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.			
	Receiving tender document	AIG (Equipment-2), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.			
	Opening tender document	NCCOM Building (Conference room 'SHURMA' 3 rd Floor), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.			
14.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	18 November 2020, at 14:00 hrs. NCCOM Building (Conference room 'SHURMA' 3 rd Floor), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
15.	Eligibility of Tenderer	1) Up to date Export license 2) Written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the tender in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Principal 3) Affidavit confirming the legal capacity and financial capability 4) Original full Brochure of products of the Principal 5) Other requirements described in the standard tender document (PG 5A).			
16.	Brief description of goods.				
Sl. No.	Description of Good	Quantity	Price of tender document (Non refundable)	Tender security in (USD)	Completion time
1.	CBRNE Suit	20 Pcs	5,000/-	25,000 USD	120 days
Procuring Entity Details					
17.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Shahidul Islam, PPM			
18.	Designation of the official inviting tender	Assistant Inspector General (Equipment-2).			
19.	Address of official inviting tender	Assistant Inspector General (Equipment-2), Room No-225 (1st Floor) 6 Phoenix Road, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.			
20.	Contact details of official inviting the tender	Phone: 02-47120270 FAX: 02-55101641, Mobile: +8801320-000253 E-mail: aigeq2@police.gov.bd			
21. The tenderers shall submit their Technical and Financial offer in separate sealed envelope. Furthermore both envelopes shall be covered by an outer envelope which is sealed.					
Special instructions					
22. a) No tender will be received after the deadline of submission time & date. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason. c) The Procuring entity also reserves the right to omit, increase and/or decrease the quantity of any item(s) of the tender. d) If not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue. e) Evaluation will be on item by item basis. f) Date of financial offer opening will be duly informed to the Technically Responsive Tenderers and their local agents. g) The Tenderer must comply with all requirements as per the tender data sheet provided with the tender schedule. h) The Tender Security shall be in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee issued by an internationally reputable bank and shall require to be endorsed by its any correspondent bank located in Bangladesh. i) The Procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Regulation 2008.					



(Md. Shahidul Islam, PPM)
BP-8006127585
Assistant Inspector General (Equipment-2)
For Inspector General, Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
Tel-02-47120270, FAX-02-55101641
Mobile: +8801320-000253
E-mail: aigeq2@police.gov.bd


GD-1781

TRAIN DERAILMENT Probe body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

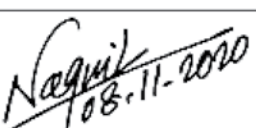
Bangladesh Railway has formed a five-member committee to investigate the reasons behind the derailment of a fuel oil-laden train in Sreemangal that suspended rail communication between Sylhet and the rest of the country for nearly 24 hours since Saturday. The committee, headed by Divisional Transportation Officer of Bangladesh Railway Mohammad Moynul Hossain, has been asked to submit the report within seven working days, the railway's Assistant Commercial Officer Hamidul Islam Khan said. After salvage operations, train services resumed on the route around 12:00noon yesterday, sources at Bangladesh Railway said. Khalilur Rahman, manager of Sylhet Railway Station, said the Dhaka-bound Parabat and Udayan and Chattogram-bound Upoban trains could not leave the station in scheduled time due to the derailment. Moreover, the schedule of Sylhet-bound trains Kalni and Upoban from Dhaka has been cancelled, he said, adding that the ticket prices of all the passengers of the two trains will be refunded. The other members of the committee are Divisional Engineer (Dhaka) Sultan Ali, Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Dhaka) Abu Hena, Divisional Engineer (Mechanical) Rezaul Karim and Divisional Electrical Engineer (Wagon) Rezaul Karim. A small culvert and around 200 feet of rail lines have been damaged due to the derailment, said Sultan Ali.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, এর কার্যালয়
সড়ক বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর
ফোন/ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৬৩১-৬৩২৫৬/৬৬৩৬৭
E-mail: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com



সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৭ম আহবান)

০১	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	:	এফআরডি-০১/২০১৯-২০ (৭ম আহবান)।
০২	ইজারার বিবরণ	:	২০২১-২২, ২০২২-২৩, ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থ বছরে ফরিদপুর সড়ক বিভাগের অধীন দৌলতদিয়া-ফরিদপুর-মাগুরা-ঝিনাইদহ-যশোর-খুলনা-মংলা (দীপগরাজ) সড়কের ৬৬তম কিলোমিটারে অবস্থিত 'গড়াই সেতুর' উপর দিয়ে পারাপারার্থীন বিভিন্ন ধরনের যানবাহন হতে টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্ত ইজারা প্রদান ০১/০৭/২০২১ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪ পর্যন্ত।
০৩	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	:	৩ (তিন) অর্থবছর (০১/০৭/২০২১ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪ পর্যন্ত)।
০৪	ইজারা কোটেশনের মূল্য	:	৫,০০০/-
০৫	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	:	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	২৪/১১/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।
০৭	মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৫/১১/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ দুপুর ১২:৩০ পর্যন্ত।
০৮	ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	:	ভাটি ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার।
০৯	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রয়ের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে	:	বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা/জেলা প্রশাসক, ফরিদপুর/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর/মাদারীপুর/গোপালগঞ্জ/শরীয়তপুর/রাজবাড়ী/মাগুরা/পানি বিভাগ-১, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা/উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার, মধুখালী, ফরিদপুর/উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ ১, ২/১ সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর।
১০	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	:	(ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর/রাজবাড়ী। (খ) অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক জোন, গোপালগঞ্জ। (গ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, ফরিদপুর। (ঘ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ফরিদপুর।
১১	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	:	স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর, তারিখঃ ২৫/১১/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ, সময়ঃ বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২	ইজারা আহবানকারী যেকোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	:	



খ. ম. নকীল বারী
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২২০
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চঃ দাঃ), সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর

জিডি-১৭৮৪



BIDEN WINS
(From top, anti-clockwise) US President-elect Joe Biden and his wife Jill, and vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her husband Doug, celebrate with family at their post-election rally, after the news media announced that they have won the 2020 US presidential election, in Wilmington, Delaware; People celebrate their win in Atlanta, Georgia; Biden supporters react to his victory speech at BLM Plaza in Washington, DC; and people watch celebratory fireworks in Wilmington, Delaware.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Georgia runoffs to settle Senate race

AFP, Washington

Control of the US Senate and prospects for united rule in Congress for incoming president Joe Biden will boil down to two runoff elections in Georgia, with Democrats and Republicans positioning for an epic political battle.

Party leaders and the candidates themselves on Saturday presented the southern state as the new ground zero in a war to either clear a congressional path to help Biden implement many of his proposed reforms, or put a check on President Donald Trump's White House successor.

Democrats were aiming to flip the upper chamber of Congress on Election Day by ousting at least three Republicans, a result that would present Biden with an incoming president's dream: both the Senate and House of Representatives under his party's control.

Had Trump won, Democrats would have needed to gain four seats in the Senate -- where Republicans currently enjoy a 53-47 majority -- as the vice president, as president of the Senate, breaks a 50-50 tie. Democrats so far have a net gain of just one seat. Now they have a lifeline.

Georgia Republican Senator David Perdue leads in his race, but at 49.8 percent he is short of an outright majority, meaning he faces Democrat Jon Ossoff in a January 5 runoff as stipulated by state rules.

A second Georgia race, a special election for the seat of Senator Kelly Loeffler who was appointed to replace a retiring lawmaker last December, is also headed to a special election on the same day. And the eyes of the political world were rapidly honing in on the state.

Georgia has been reliably Republican for a generation, and winning even one of the Peach State's Senate seats would be an uphill challenge for Democrats.



WHAT WILL TRUMP DO NOW?

When networks projected he had lost his bid for reelection to Joe Biden, President Donald Trump was playing golf. He'll soon have plenty more time to enjoy the links if he so desires. But it is not expected that he will be quite and engage in cgaritable work soon.

ANOTHER SHOT AT PRESIDENCY?

Some allies have already spoken of Trump planning a rematch in 2024. Only one other president, Grover Cleveland, has served non-consecutive terms, winning in 1892 after narrowly losing reelection four years earlier. Former White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said with understatement that Trump -- who has refused to concede and made unsubstantiated claims of widespread fraud -- "doesn't like losing." "I would absolutely expect the president to stay involved in politics and would absolutely put him on the shortlist of people who are likely to run in 2024," he told an Irish think tank. "He's a very high-energy 74-year-old."



TRUMP TV?

Trump's main product to fund his lifestyle has been his own name. According to his disgraced former lawyer Michael Cohen, the 2016 presidential run itself was conceived as a "branding opportunity" -- until he unexpectedly won. Trump had rebuilt his public profile in the 2000s as the host of reality TV series "Celebrity Apprentice" following a string of bankruptcies. The president has hinted about seeking to start a "Trump TV" brand as he has increasingly complained about Fox News, accusing the channel that helped fuel his rise of being insufficiently right-wing.

LEGAL WOES AND PRISON?

No less plausible is a scenario where Trump is embroiled in serious legal problems. Prosecutors in New York are already probing Trump's hush money payment to a porn star, his tangled business dealings and mysterious accounting practices. Then there are those old rape and other sexual assault allegations. As president, Trump is largely protected from prosecution. Some have speculated that he may again challenge accepted norms by trying to issue a pre-emptive pardon to himself. Despite the defeat he remains president till Nov 20, 2021.

ROAD TRIP?

Or, just maybe, Trump will want to get away from it all. However implausible this sounds, he has dropped a few hints. The thrice-married New York-born hotel developer and television celebrity has made no secret that he longs for some comforts of his pre-White House days. "I had a nice life. I had the greatest life," Trump said in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in his final campaign rally.

SOURCE: AFP

WORLD MEDIA REACTION TO BIDEN WIN

'Liberator' to 'masked enemy'

AFP, Paris

With headlines such as "God Bless America", powerful media outlets around the world welcomed the defeat of Donald Trump but warned president-elect Joe Biden faced enormous challenges in healing the United States.

The international press also focused on the feat of Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate who will become the United States' first female, and first Black, vice president.

"A new dawn for America", read the headline of The Independent in Britain, showing a photo of Biden standing next to Harris and noting her historic achievement.

The Sunday Times went with a picture of a black woman draped in the US flag and the headline: "Sleepy Joe wakes up America", taunting Trump by using the derogatory nickname he had used for Biden.

The Sunday People tabloid blared in capital letters: "GOD BLESS AMERICA".

Germany's mass-market Bild newspaper carried a photo of Trump with a headline: "Exit without dignity". "What a liberation, what a relief", reported Germany's left-leaning Sueddeutsche Zeitung broadsheet.

In Australia, the Daily Telegraph tabloid owned by Rupert Murdoch's media empire also focused on Trump's expected defiance and described him as a "hotball of fury".

Iran's ultraconservative papers unsurprisingly

celebrated the downfall of Trump, a leader who had applied a "maximum pressure" policy and punishing sanctions since his 2018 withdrawal from a landmark nuclear agreement.

Still, they reserved little warmth for Biden. "The maskless enemy left, the masked enemy arrived," warned conservative publication Resalat.

In Saudi Arabia, the only Gulf country yet to comment on the election results, the pro-government Okaz online newspaper questioned a US strategy in the Middle East under Biden after years of bolstered relations between Riyadh and the Trump administration.

Brazil's leading media outlets reported Trump's defeat in the context of its own populist leader, Jair Bolsonaro. "May Brazil's leaders seize the spirit of the times -- or die, like Trump, who has already left it too late," wrote Folha de Sao Paulo, one of Brazil's major daily newspapers.

Spain's centre-right El Mundo newspaper said Biden's win was a goodbye to Trump's populism, and described Harris as a "symbol of renewal".

Sweden's biggest daily, Dagens Nyheter, headlined its opinion-editorial piece: "Bittersweet victory -- Biden will struggle to heal the US".

Sweden's conservative Svenska Dagbladet daily warned of the dangers posed by the many millions of Americans who will continue to believe Trump's dangerous rhetoric that the election had been stolen from him.

"Election is over -- but conflict continues," read its headline.

4 Indian soldiers, 3 militants killed in Kashmir gunbattle

REUTERS, Srinagar

Four Indian army soldiers and three militants were killed in Kashmir yesterday, an Indian Defence Ministry spokesperson said, in the bloodiest gunbattle in the disputed region since April this year.

An army patrol noticed suspicious movement along the LOC in the early hours of Sunday, Defence Ministry spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

"Army troops were rushed to the area and militant movement was tracked by surveillance devices. A heavy gun battle followed in which three militants were killed," he said. Four army soldiers were killed in the gunbattle, he said.

India scrapped Jammu and Kashmir's special status last year and made it a federal territory. It also imposed a crackdown on dissent and sent tens of thousands of troops to maintain peace in the region.

This is the highest number of army casualties along the Line of Control in Kashmir since April this year. Five Indian troops and an equal number of militants were killed in April this year when armed militants were challenged by Indian troops in the area.



Supporters of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party react in front of the party's headquarters in Yangon yesterday, as votes are being counted after polls closed in the election. Inset, a woman cast her ballot in Yangon.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS



America's first 'second gentleman'

When Kamala Harris makes history as the first woman and first Black US vice president, her husband Doug Emhoff will break his own new ground: as the original "second husband."

Harris and Emhoff, who married in 2014 -- she for the first time, he for the second -- will also be the first mixed-race couple to occupy their positions. He is white while she is the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants. Both are 56.

The contours of Emhoff's new role as the nation's "second husband" -- some prefer "second gentleman" -- have yet to be determined; he has been vague about his plans so far.

Traditionally, the spouses of presidents and vice presidents have been expected to forge a careful balance of supportiveness and independence. Many pick a charitable cause to promote.

Emhoff is an accomplished lawyer specializing in media, sports and entertainment law.

He took leave in August from the multinational DLA Piper, which has lobbying offices in Washington. That could raise prickly conflicts of interest with Harris's work.

Emhoff marks another milestone: he would be the first Jew to be part of America's first or second families.

When Emhoff met Harris on a blind date arranged by friends, it was "love at first sight," he later said.

His children by his first marriage -- Cole, named after John Coltrane, and Ella, named after Ella Fitzgerald -- have embraced their stepmother as "Momala."

The "second husband-elect," incidentally, shares one thing with Donald Trump: both are avid golfers.

SOURCE: AFP

A mighty relief in battle to save Earth

AFP, Paris

Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump has brought hope to climate warriors who now see a better chance to save the planet through massive projects to limit global warming.

Activists and scientists feared further climate change destruction from another four years of Trump in denial in the White House. His defeat totally changes the landscape.

The veteran Democrat leader has pledged to take the United States back in to the Paris climate agreement that Trump forced the country to leave, and which happened officially only on November 4.

The Democrats have drawn up a 1.7-billion-dollar plan to turn the US carbon neutral by 2050.

"Joe Biden's historic election win is the first step towards avoiding climate catastrophe," tweeted Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International.

"The American people are demanding a climate champion in president-elect

Biden and in Kamala Harris," his vice-president, she added.

France's former prime minister Laurent Fabius, who chaired the Paris agreement negotiations, cheered Biden's success saying it "raises new hopes in the indispensable fight against climate change".



"Now is the moment to relaunch global, concrete and coordinated climate action" ahead of next year's COP26 conference on biodiversity and COP26 on climate, Fabius urged.

For Laurence Tubiana, one of the architects of the Paris accords, "The Biden-Harris Administration has an historic opportunity to enact one of the

world's largest green stimulus efforts, to accelerate the US economy toward sustained emissions reductions while rebuilding and creating a fairer society."

To stay within the Paris deal's 1.5C warming limit since pre-industrial times and cut the growing ferocity of wild weather, greenhouse gas emissions need to be slashed almost 50 percent by 2030, UN climate experts say.

That will require radical economic reform on a global scale, a challenge experts hope will be more within reach under a Biden presidency.

The Climate Action Tracker group put out a statement saying the election outcome could prove "a tipping point" that puts the Paris agreement's 1.5C limit "within striking distance".

That would however need the US to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and for Europe, China and Japan to also keep their climate commitments.

Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann declared himself "cautiously optimistic" with Biden at the helm.

"But make no mistake. The sobering reality is that even if every country

meets their commitments under the Paris agreement (and many, including the US and EU are currently falling at least a bit short), that gets us less than half way to where we need to be."

"I.e. on a path to limiting warming below 2C (let alone the more stringent 1.5C many are now calling for)," Rockstrom said.

Biden's room for manoeuvre will depend greatly on his ability to push through ambitious climate legislation. And for that he will need the US Senate, which may yet stay under a Republican majority. With both parties equal on 48 senators, two seats will be run-off in the state of Georgia on January 5. Without the Senate, Biden will have to count on the multitude of non-federal bodies from the states and cities to companies in the effort to meet previous Paris targets.

However, Potsdam Institute co-director Ottmar Edenhofer warned: "Generations to come can either remember the Biden-Harris Administration as one that failed great expectations -- or as one that really served the US people, and the world."

THAI MONARCHY REFORM PROTEST

Clash as protesters march to palace

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai police yesterday used water cannon against thousands of protesters marching to deliver a message to King Maha Vajiralongkorn to demand reforms to curb the powers of his monarchy and the removal of the government.

It was only the second time water cannon had been used in months of largely peaceful protests to call for greater democracy and the departure of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former junta leader.

Reuters journalists estimated more than 10,000 protesters marched from Democracy Monument in central Bangkok.

The protesters reached a barricade of buses and barbed wire. Police fired water cannon to stop them pushing forward, but witnesses said some had managed to reach the area known as Sanam Luang - or Royal Field - next to the Grand Palace. Protesters had said they sought to deliver a message to the Royal Household Bureau.

The protesters say the monarchy has helped enable decades of military domination of Thailand, most recently by approving the premiership of Prayuth, who seized power in a 2014 coup and kept it after disputed elections last year.

The protesters seek to put the king more clearly under the constitution, reversing changes he made shortly after taking the throne as well as moves he made to take personal control of the palace fortune and some army units.



ALL IN THE FAMILY, 1937, Calcutta
Sitting (left to right): Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq, Justice Sir Zahid Suhrawardy and Dr Syud Hossain. Standing (left to right): Syud Ali Ahmed, Syed M Shafiqullah, Hasan Shahid Suhrawardy, Syud Ali Akber, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and Syud Ahmed

PHOTO: BOURNE & SHEPHERD, CALCUTTA
SOURCE: RARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF EASTERN BENGAL (1880-1940), 2003, BY THE WRITER.



A MEMORABLE AFTERNOON OF GOOD-NATURED RAILLERY! GULSHAN, DHAKA, 2004
Clockwise: The writer, poet Sudeep Sen, Nadeem Rahman and Rashid Suhrawardy aka Robert Ashby

The Unforgettable Suhrawardys of Bengal

WAQAR A KHAN

The spectacular socio-cultural efflorescence known by the sobriquet of ‘Bengal Renaissance’ was an extraordinary period from mid- 19th to early 20th century in Bengal. For historical reasons the renaissance was essentially Calcutta based. However, it was an enlightened period when Bengali religious and social reformers, illustrious scholars, literary giants, journalists, patriotic orators, civil servants (ICS), lawyers (barristers and vakils), medical doctors, scientists, public servants and politicians dominated the Indian scene. It was also during this enviable period, that the adage ‘what Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow’ resonated throughout the rest of India. This stupendous artistic, intellectual and societal reawakening was initially heralded by the Hindu gentry (Bhadralok). However, there were some notable Muslim luminaries of Bengal, who also played a part in it.

Two families of Bengal in particular, both products of the Bengal Renaissance, are worthy of special mention here for their predominance in the arts, education, public service and politics of that period who have left an indelible imprint in our history. They are the Tagores of Jorasanko and Pathuriaghata of Calcutta, with Rabindranath the fabled Tagore, being the first Asian Nobel laureate in 1913, and the illustrious Suhrawardy family of Midnapore, West Bengal, who were the foremost family of eminence amongst the Muslims in British India. No contemporary Muslim family at that time had produced such an array of outstanding scholars, educationists, lawyers (barristers), public servants and politicians at the same time. The multifaceted accomplishments and preponderance of these two families in the socio-cultural-political milieu of colonial Bengal and by extension of India prior to the partition in 1947, and in certain cases thereafter, was simply unparalleled in the modern history of our subcontinent. It was indeed the stuff of legends! This article is on the Suhrawardys of Bengal with emphasis on Shahid, Shaheed and Rashid. I shall briefly touch upon the salient features of this famous family. Please note that at times, I have interchangeably used the names Shaheed or Suhrawardy to mean the same person.

The Suhrawardys were of Arab descent having originated from a place called Suhraward in Iraq, from where the family takes its name. Their common ancestor was one Shaikh Shahabuddin Suhrawardy (1145-1235) a famous Sufi saint, who embraced martyrdom by incurring the wrath of the Caliph, on a matter of principle. The family was known since medieval times for their piety, learning and forthrightness. A descendant of the martyred Shahabuddin migrated to India. He sojourned in Delhi during the Khilji Sultanate and finally settled in Multan now in Pakistan. A branch of the family ultimately came down and settled in Midnapore, West Bengal. The Suhrawardiyya and Chisthi are the two oldest and most revered Muslim order of saints in our subcontinent. However, Shah Aminuddin Suhrawardy is reckoned to be the last Pir of the Suhrawardiyya order, after which the family involved itself with law, education, public service and learning. But the ‘saintly halo’ around the name of the Suhrawardys persisted in the public imagination for long years, well into the modern age.

The eminent Ubaidullah Al Obaidi Suhrawardy (1832-1885), was a learned scholar, educationist, translator and writer. He was born in Midnapore, West Bengal, British India, once the heartland of the Suhrawardys in Bengal. He was proficient in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and English. He passed the Final Central Examinations in 1857, from the prestigious Aliya Madrasah in Kolkata. He was appointed as the first superintendent of Dhaka Madrasah in 1874, and remained there till his death. The British Raj bestowed on him the title of ‘Bahrul Ullm’ (Sea of knowledge) in recognition for his great contribution to knowledge, education and society. He was the father of Sir Abdullah Al Mamun and daughter Khujesta Akhtar Banu. Ubaidullah died in Dhaka and lies buried beside the Lalbagh Fort in old Dhaka.

Allama Sir Abdullah Al Mamun Suhrawardy (1877-1935), PhD, was the eldest son of Ubaidullah Al Obaidi. An outstanding scholar and academician, he studied at King’s College in London, and in Cambridge University. For his profound learning the Ottoman Turkish Sultan decorated him with the medal of ‘Tamgha-e-Majidi’, whereas, the Shah of Iran invested him with the title of ‘Ifekhar-ul-Millat’ (pride of the Muslim nation).

Lt. Col. Sir Hassan Suhrawardy (1884-1946), MD (FRCS), was a military officer (IMS), politician, public official and the first Muslim Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University (1930-1934). He was born in Dhaka, son of Ubaidullah Al Obaidi. He was married to Sahibzadi Shahbanu Begum daughter of Nawab Syud Mohammad Azad of Dhaka. Their children were Hassan Masud Suhrawardy and Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah.

Justice Sir Zahid Suhrawardy (1879-1949), Bar-at-Law, was born in Midnapore, West Bengal, the son of lawyer Maulana Mobarak Ali Suhrawardy. He was educated in Dhaka and Calcutta. He became an eminent jurist and served as a judge in the Calcutta High Court. He married his first cousin Khujesta Akhtar Banu the daughter of Ubaidullah Al Obaidi Suhrawardy. Their children included the brilliant Hasan Shahid Suhrawardy of multi-farious talents, and the fifth Prime Minister of Pakistan, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy.



Maulana Ubaidullah Al Obaidi (1832-1885), Calcutta

Hasan Shahid Suhrawardy (1890-1965), eldest son of Sir Zahid was born in Midnapore, West Bengal. He was educated at the universities of Calcutta and Oxford. He taught at the Imperial University and the Women’s University in Moscow, and the universities of Calcutta and Columbia. He was a regisseur at the Moscow Art Theatre and the State Exemplary Theatre, and a member of the League of nations International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation, the precursor of UNESCO. For a few years he was the chief art critic for The Statesman of Calcutta, and a member of the prestigious Bengal Public Service Commission. After the Partition of India he reluctantly moved to Pakistan and served as a member of the country’s Federal Service Commission before taking up the post of Ambassador to Spain. A lifelong bachelor, after retirement he lived in Karachi where he died in 1965. He is regarded as a foremost modern poet of South Asia writing in English with some memorable publications.

When Tagore was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize for literature in 1913, Shahid was in Oxford. He recounted, “it is difficult now for me to recapture the elation and the ecstasy of those days, but I remember distinctly that look of awe which was in my landlady’s eyes when she brought in the breakfast with the morning newspaper containing the scoop.” Shahid’s first impression of Tagore in London was one of exalted adoration. He had gone to invite Tagore to grace their Oxford Majlis, a forum or club run by some progressive Indian students at Oxford University. Shahid captured his first

‘darshan’ of the Nobel laureate memorably, “I was introduced into a large-sized room where I first saw the Poet. He was sitting on a divan and along the walls there were many chairs occupied by men and women, Indian, British and continental, who sat in rapt silence, as in a prayer-hall. In the corner of the room an Englishwoman was modeling the Poet’s head in clay whilst in another a fierce young man, a Pole perhaps, was sketching, as I saw from the corner of my eye, the fine folds of his robe. The windows were wide open on to the Embankment and I do not now remember if incense was burning in that room, but if it was not, it ought to have been because the atmosphere was so charged with awe and admiration.”

Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy (1895-1963), the bright, mercurial and colourful youngest son of Sir Zahid, attended the prestigious educational institutions of Aliya Madrasah, St. Xavier’s College and the Calcutta University in India. He then joined the Oxford University in England from where he received a BCL degree and was called to the Bar from Grey’s Inn in 1918. On return to Calcutta, he married Begum Naiz Fatima in 1920, daughter of Justice Sir Abdur Rahim of the Calcutta High Court. She died young in 1922, leaving behind two children son Shahab and daughter Akhtar Jahan. By this time Shaheed had embarked on a successful legal practice as a lawyer at the Calcutta High Court. However, politics and public



Khujesta Akhtar Banu alias Suhrawardia Begum (1889-1919), Calcutta

service was his calling, and he soon came under the captivating spell of the towering personality of Deshbandhu C R Das. In 1921 Shaheed was elected to the Bengal Legislative Assembly. C R Das appointed him as the deputy in his Swaraj Party and also made him the first Muslim Deputy Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation under him, as per the stipulation of The Bengal Pact of 1923. After the most unfortunate and premature death of C R Das in 1925, The Bengal Pact which was established to foster Hindu-Muslim harmony and political power sharing, was repudiated by the Congress and the Hindu Mahasabha.

A gravely disappointed Shaheed then gravitated towards the politics of the Muslim League and held ministerial portfolios in undivided Bengal. He was a phenomenal organizer and made Calcutta the nerve center of Muslim politics in British India. However, during his tenure as the Civil Supplies Minister in 1943, the terrible Bengal Famine occurred during the WWII period. In 1946, under Suhrawardy’s unique leadership the Muslim League triumphantly won the only provincial election in Bengal, given the failure of the Muslim League to win any other Muslim majority provinces in British India. This was a decisive factor which made Pakistan possible. However, as ill luck would have it, Suhrawardy’s eventual assumption of office as the Prime Minister of Bengal in 1946, was marred by the apocalyptic ‘Great Calcutta Killings’ on Jinnah’s unwitting inflammatory clarion call for ‘Direct Action Day’ on 16 August, 1946 in Calcutta, following the impetuous utterance of Nehru which led to the

failure of the Cabinet Mission Plan. It aroused primordial sentiments amongst Hindu and Muslim troublemakers to a fever pitch, leading to a horrifying conflagration of communal rioting and unprecedented carnage. It sealed the fate of a united India and made the partition of 1947 inevitable. However, detractors of Suhrawardy have vociferously accused him of ideological ambivalence, chicanery and political opportunism during this period.

After the partition Suhrawardy finally came over to Pakistan and became one of the co-founders of the progressive Awami League political party in Dhaka, in 1949. He went on to become ministers in successive federal government ministries, eventually becoming the short lived fifth Prime Minister of Pakistan (1956-1957), before voluntarily resigning being aware of the nefarious designs afoot to unseat him. His resignation practically dealt a fatal blow to the unity of Pakistan, and the last chance to promote and practice parliamentary democracy in the unfortunate country. Shaheed Suhrawardy died a disillusioned man in Beirut from a heart attack in 1963.

In the winter of 1995, I had the pleasure of meeting with Begum Shaista Ikramullah and her nephew Rashid Suhrawardy, the son of Shaheed Suhrawardy at Salma Sobhan’s house in Gulshan. They were both visiting Dhaka. I was keen on meeting them and Salma Apa most graciously made it possible for me to



Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah (1915-2000), COURTESY: RASHID SUHRAWARDY

meet her elderly mother Shaista and cousin Rashid. I wanted to know more about Shahid and Shaheed, from Begum Ikramullah and Rashid. During our interesting conversation I praised the Suhrawardys’ phenomenal gift of oratory, whereupon, Salma Apa gave me a quizzical look and quipped, “how true! But you see, Waqar, the Suhrawardys always had the gift of the gab, but never any money!” Then looking at Rashid who was sitting beside me, she added with a twinkle in her eyes, “right there is a good example of it.” Rashid went ruddy on the face and we all burst into laughter. He then picked up where Salma Apa left off, and added with an amused expression, “How true my dear cousin, actually when Pappa died in Beirut, all I inherited were his boxes of books, unfinished diaries and letters, but very little money and no property.” That said it all about the Suhrawardys, none of whom regardless of their enviable eminence and status in life, were ever wealthy enough. They were not exactly acquisitive by nature.

Rashid once regaled me with some riveting anecdotes. He was an engaging raconteur as many British stage actors are habitually wont to be. His father, Shaheed Suhrawardy, was then convalescing in exile from a chronic heart condition, in Beirut in 1963. He had told his son an interesting incident which took place in 1914. There was a cocktail party followed by dinner hosted by poet Robert Bridges at his home in Oxford, where the brothers Shahid and Shaheed, both students at Oxford were invited to. Shaheed had arrived in 1913 to study law, was new to England and a bit shy.

There was a wonderful mix of people at the party with Britons, Asians and continentals. Therefore, there was instant bonhomie over hors-d’oeuvres and drinks. Shahid was proudly introducing his younger brother to make him feel comfortable. His friends and admirers: D H Lawrence, Robert Trevelyn, Bertrand Russell, Hugh Kingsmill, Basanta Kumar Mullick, Kiran Shankar Roy, Apurba Chanda, Sri Prakash, S K Gupta, Surendra Kumar Sen, Syud Hossain et al were there. Guests came from London and elsewhere. Soon a London socialite, a buxom middle-aged lady with an elaborately curated coiffure, and a heavily made up face took fancy to the Suhrawardy brothers, whom she profusely complimented for their impeccable deportment and for speaking such good English. However, she got into trouble while trying to pronounce their names, Shahid and Shaheed. It was all rather confusing to her. Exasperated, she fluttered her thick eyelashes, rolled her eyes heavenward, pouted coyly and exclaimed, “Oh! No, no, gentlemen, I shall never get this right!” Saying so, she pulled out a small notepad and pen from her sequined vanity-bag and had Shahid and Shaheed write their names for her, to the great amusement of their Indian friends. Out of the corner of his eye Shahid saw the lady jotting underneath their names ‘Shahid’: taller, dusky and slim, and underneath ‘Shaheed’: short, rotund and dark. Incidentally, the brothers met the lady couple of times more, and every time she would take out the little notepad look at them with twinkling eyes and intone, “hmmm...now, let me see if I have your names right this time.” The dear lady finally did get it somewhat right, but not without the help of her jotted description of the brothers.

Rashid Suhrawardy (1940-2019), was the only child (son) of Shaheed Suhrawardy from his second wife a former Russian actress Vera Alexandrovna Tiscenko, whom he eventually divorced in 1951. Rashid was a Bangladeshi British actor based in London. For all practical purpose he was an Englishman, but with Bangladesh enshrined in his heart. He was a respected and a well regarded actor under the stage-name of Robert Ashby. Educated in the UK at Charterhouse School and Oxford University, he trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and is remembered for his time in the Shakespeare Company as well as his role in feature films such as Jinnah (1998) and Legend (2015). However, because of the fact that his father was always busy with his political life and his Russian mother was divorced and away, Rashid grew up alone and rather lonely. He never married. He was fond of the good things in life: gourmet, food, choicest drinks and an enjoyable tête-à-tête. A writer, a quintessential theatre actor and critic, he was a popular figure and moved with panache in the literary circles and elite society of London. He admired his father. However, the London theatre was his first love. He could effortlessly declaim whole passages from Shakespearean plays to my amazement.

He passionately championed the cause of Bangladesh in London during the fateful days of 1971. He severed all connections with Pakistan including his half sister Begum Akhtar Sulaiman in Karachi, who had sided with Yahya Khan’s regime. Between 1995-2004, we met quite a few times in Dhaka. With age he had started to resemble his famous father. He was really one of a kind, the likes of which you don’t come by any more these days. In many ways he belonged to the old school. He was close to Bangabandhu and his family. Rashid Suhrawardy was found dead on 7 February, 2019, at his house in London. He was 79 years of age. He was mourned by his friends, colleagues and admirers, especially by the British Actor’s Guild of Great Britain, and in the select circles of Bangladesh. My last mail to him was in 2017. We had wanted to meet again. Alas!

I can still see Rashid clearly in my mind’s eye, with that lingering half-crescent smile, the condescending Suhrawardian look in his eyes and the inimitable baritone voice. He was truly the last in the long line of distinguished Suhrawardys. Unforgettable, that’s what you all are!

Waqar A Khan is the Founder of Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies

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FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

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Biden’s historic win

Hard road ahead

PERHAPS the most tortuous election in recent US history has been concluded. Although the counting is not over yet in all the states as of writing this editorial, almost all the major channels and election watchdogs have declared Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States. Donald Trump is only a few of one-term US Presidents and the third since the end of WWII. Although Trump has refused to concede and, as predicted, threatened legal recourse, the results are so conclusive that they are unlikely to be overturned. We congratulate President elect Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris for a historic election victory.

The 2020 US election is unique and has several firsts to its credit. It was held when the country is reeling under the most debilitating pandemic in which nearly a quarter of a million Americans have lost their lives and ten million have lost their jobs as America faces a severe economic downturn. Joe Biden, in certain ways, has defied tradition and created history by selecting a black woman, a second generation US citizen of Jamaican-Indian descent, to be his Vice President. This is the first time that not only a woman but a woman of colour will be the second most powerful person in the US. This election has also set a record of voter turnout, as well as votes by mail.

Many have ascribed the puerile handling of the pandemic as the factor that led to Trump’s downfall. We would like to believe that there were other equally more compelling reasons for his defeat. We think that it was also a vote for social order and against chaos and divisive and exclusivist politics; it was for civility, truthfulness, honesty and transparency. It was a mandate against a person driven by the compulsion for perpetuating power, and with a pathological disregard for science and logic.

But the election result tells us more than just the winners and losers. It lays bare the deep divide in US society, exacerbated even further by Donald Trump’s race and religious baiting comments and actions. The figures reveal a disquieting American reality. Biden has tallied more than 74 million votes, more votes than ever before in US history, but more people also wanted Trump to continue as president. Not even the nearly quarter million Covid-19 deaths mattered to them.

Thus Biden and Harris have a tall order to fulfil. At home, they have to put together what Trump has so recklessly destroyed, starting with social cohesion. Biden has made his intentions clear. In his victory speech, he promised to work for all and remove the Blue and Red divide when it came to the interests of the American people, bringing integrity and transparency in actions.

People in America want change and Biden and Harris have been given the formidable responsibility to bring that change by 75 million people of America. As Biden said in his victory speech, it was a battle for the soul of America. We wish them both the very best of luck in their onerous tasks ahead.

Why are minority communities not being protected?

Govt must take legal action against communal attacks

IT is most unfortunate that religious and ethnic minorities across the country have been coming under regular attacks when the party in power always takes pride in upholding the rights of people, irrespective of their religious and ethnic identities. The increasing incidents of communal attacks on the minority communities during the lockdown and the recent arson attack on Hindu houses in Muradnagar of Cumilla expose the incapacity of the government to protect minority communities and uphold the fundamental principles of the 1972 constitution. In May, 16 noted citizens demanded legal action against the perpetrators involved in the torture, harassment and human rights deprivation of the country’s minority communities. And now leaders of the Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad have demanded intervention of the prime minister to stop such heinous attacks.

According to media reports, at least 30 incidents of violence against people of minority communities took place in April and May in the country. On May 15, houses of 10 Hindu families were vandalised and a Hindu youth was arrested on allegations of demeaning religion in Bhola’s Monpura. Two days after the incident, miscreants torched the homestead of Baul Ronesh Thakur, a prominent disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim in Sunamganj’s Dera. The atrocities against the minorities did not stop in torture and attacks, a shocking number of people have also been murdered during the last few months. According to the Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad, at least 17 people have been killed between March and September as communal attacks continued amid the pandemic.

Needless to say, such incidents are on the rise because the perpetrators of previous crimes have hardly faced any justice. It is most unfortunate that four years after the violent attacks on the Hindu communities of Brahmanbaria’s Nasirnagar upazila, police are yet to find the perpetrators. As unbelievable as this might seem, police have not completed the investigation yet in the case. This culture of impunity enjoyed by the attackers only emboldens them and others to carry out further attacks.

The government must take stern legal action against the perpetrators of such crimes because it is their constitutional duty to protect minority communities across the country. It should form a commission to investigate all the attacks since 2012, as demanded by the Oikya Parishad leaders. Such crimes can only be stopped if those responsible face justice.

Can Biden restore America’s lost soul?

STRATEGICALLY
SPEAKING

BRIG GEN
SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN
NDC, PSC (RETD)

THE 2020 US Presidential election has been perhaps the most closely contested election that came down to the wire. It was not without its share of controversy, threats of lawsuits and, surprisingly for a democracy like America, marked by sporadic violence, attempted voter suppression—the intent resembling a trait in many countries of this region but carried out through subtler means—and accusations of likely vote rigging by, of all the people, the President himself. More people have voted in this election for the 46th President of the United States than ever before—around 68 percent of the voting-age population. And more people have turned out for Biden—more than 74 million (50.5 percent of voters), the highest turnout for any candidate surpassing Jefferson. It was a unique race too, conducted under the shadow of a pandemic that Trump handled so pathetically.

Donald Trump seemed to be inflicted as a vengeance on the people of America in 2016 (although not by the majority of the voters), and indeed on the rest of the world, for putting a Black man in the White House for eight years. That “aberration” has been corrected but not without considerable damage at home to the American society, and abroad to its credibility. However, having for the first time not only a woman but an immigrant with Jamaican and Indian parentage as the Vice President of the US, come January 20, 2021, is definitely a balm to this damage.

While the result has given a new President to the US, it has revealed something very ominous and disconcerting about America. One should see more than the visible outcome of the elections. The result shows a divided nation, thanks to Donald Trump’s untiring effort to enlarge the schism over the last four years. It is not surprising that Joe Biden won but that Donald Trump fought so close a battle. The outcome was never a foregone conclusion. And neither was it an outright rejection of Donald Trump, as the statistics show. What is remarkable is that if there are more people now than 2016 who do not want Trump as president, there are more people, more than 70 million (47.7 percent of voters) who want him to be. That means more people than in the past have articulated their preference for what Trump advocates—racism, religious bigotry and social inequality—and more people have come to conform to his values, principles and policies. And that is what is alarming, for Americans as well as for the rest of the world.

His core voter base is now wider than the 30 percent we have been so used to hearing of. And that has wider implications considering that in the

last four years, the Republican Party of yesteryears, the GOP, has mutated into the Republican Party of Trump. What will the party be without Trump? Will the GOP be able to revive its real character, which was so badly mutilated by Trump imposing his own convoluted and distorted persona onto it? The meekness and indeed the lack of ethics and the corrupted morality that was displayed by some of the leading Republican members of the Congress surpass even the most depraved and meanest of some of the politicians of our region.

Second term elections in the US, we are told, is a referendum for the incumbent. According to poll pundits, there has been only one single deciding issue that has determined the results of US second term presidential elections in the last 50 years.

The one that people deemed fitter of the two candidates to address that single issue had won, except on two occasions. The only issue this year was Covid-19 and who could handle the pandemic and its aftermath. The preference was for Biden, not surprisingly, given the ham-handed handling of the pandemic by Trump. That trend has continued in this election too. A botched handling has cost nearly 250,000 American lives lost to Covid-19, so far, and the election being lost to Biden. But one is not sure if the coronavirus has been the only consideration. It was a vote against chaos and divisive policies, for civility and truthfulness and against a person driven by megalomania.

For a country that claims to be the leader of the free world, the world can

only pity America for having been given a person like Donald Trump to lead it over the last four years. The Americans were inflicted the pains of an administration that was “defined by dishonesty” and the world saw an unpredictable, unstable leader.

In an article nearly four years ago, after Trump was sworn in as President, we had predicted that in the world stage, he would be like a bull in a China shop, breaking asunder the existing world order. It has been proved right. He has withdrawn from international agreements and global organisations such as the Paris Climate Accord and WHO, and weakened regional groupings. Biden has expressed his intention of rescinding those decisions. At home, Trump has wrecked the institutions of the government without

any compunction. He has diluted the separation of power between the executive and the other branches, particularly the judiciary, making the Attorney-General his personal layer rather than the US’.

Trump was a divider of people and he has left the US more divided than ever before along social and racial fault lines, evermore vividly exposed. He bared his misogynist tendencies and a megalomaniac disposition for power overriding the interests of his people, often unable to hide his racist inclinations by his race and religion-baiting utterances. To him, lying was first nature, an instinctive reaction. Trump felt more comfortable in the company of autocrats; he sacrificed science to his political interests, discarded global warming as a hoax, and to him,

the figure of a quarter million dead Americans, all due to Covid-19, was only a statistic. He was a President who thrived on fear mongering and xenophobia.

Joe Biden’s message is clear. He has promised change, but he will have much to do to revive the soul of America, putting together a fractured society that has lost its moral compass, and healing the wounds that Donald Trump in his reckless act of dividing the nation has caused. What the world would like to see, in the country that claims to be the leader of the world, is that dignity and civility of the office of the US President is restored, and that sanity of thoughts and actions prevails. The instant reactions of world leaders congratulating Biden on his victory is demonstrative of the relief of the international community. It is extraordinary that so many world leaders have welcomed his victory, even before the election has been officially called. The EU leaders have termed Biden’s victory as a great day for Europe and America while the NATO Commanders’ comments convey a hope for a revitalised organisation.

It was one of the most important elections in the last several decades, which Biden and many others termed as the battle for America’s soul. The common refrain now is, what would a Trump-free US and world be like? And I cannot resist quoting a lady who in answer to that very question on Facebook replied, “Just as a Covid-free US and world would be.” Seldom have so few words conveyed so much.

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

USA’s climate commitment in the Biden era

is manifold—environmental, economic, social and political. Scientists have warned time and again that if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, the world will pass the threshold beyond which global warming becomes catastrophic and irreversible. The Paris agreement was a major breakthrough to address this critical problem universally.

Given its importance, COP21 was attended by 150 heads of states, and the involved parties committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions so that the world can become carbon neutral by the second half of the century. Becoming carbon neutral means zero carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. Countries made specific commitments on the reduction of CO2 emissions by 2025 and 2030. The countries themselves determined how much they would reduce their CO2 emissions and by through what measures. Such promises, known as the intended nationally determined contributions (INDC), were made by 186 countries.

Also, for the first time, the two major emitters, China and the USA, made commitments on reducing their CO2 emissions. The largest emitter of CO2, China, committed to lowering emissions per unit of its GDP by 60 to 65 percent by 2030. The second largest emitter, the USA, committed to reducing its CO2 emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 emission rates by 2025. Other major polluters such as the European Union, India and Brazil also made commitments to lower their carbon emissions.

The Paris agreement is important because this is the only universal climate accord that the world has at present. The previous global commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997 by the UNFCCC, expires in 2020. So it was crucial that the governments reach a new deal that would determine the future of carbon emissions after 2020.

The USA leaving the Paris climate deal

MACRO
MIRROR

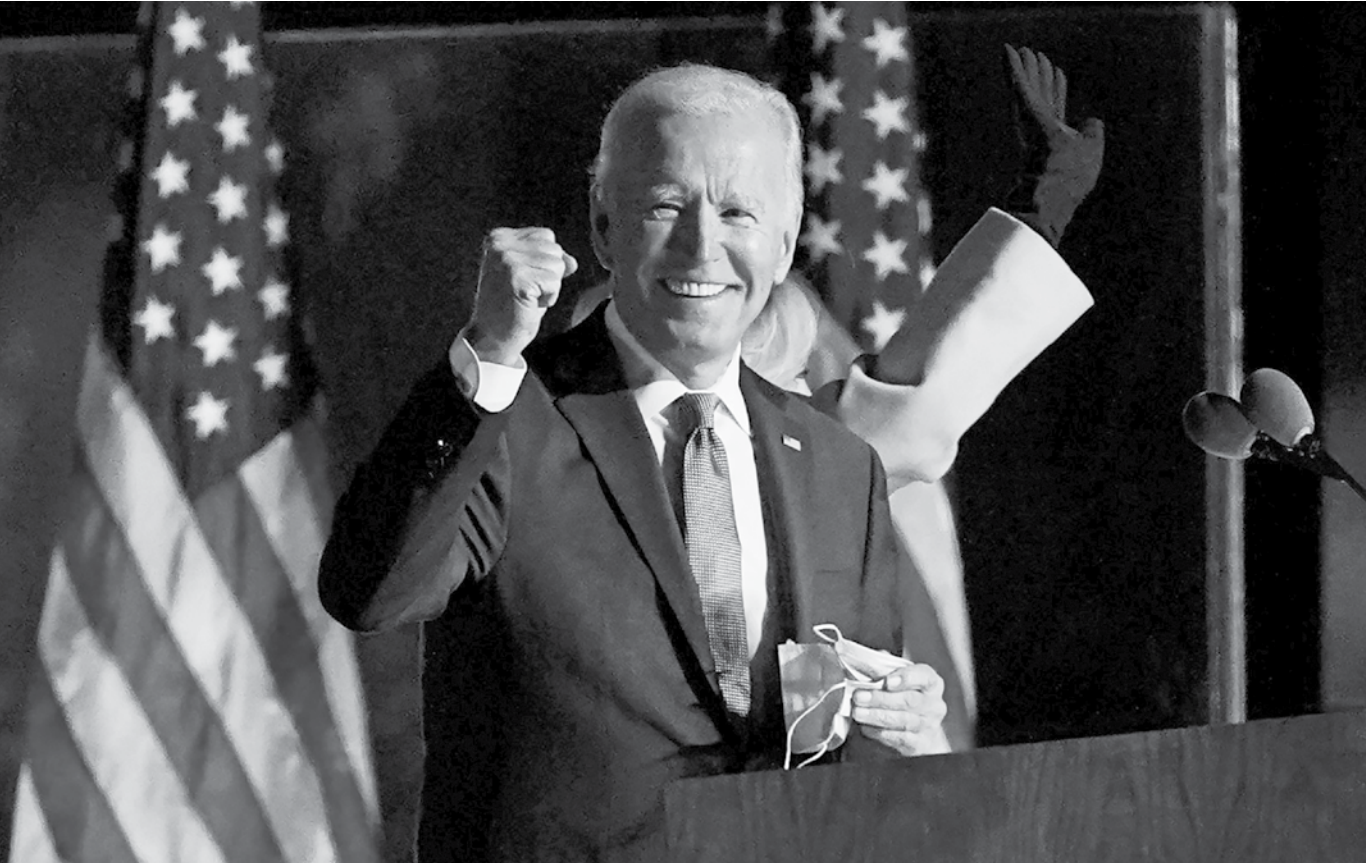
FAHMIDA KHATUN

AS the Democrat Presidential candidate Joe Biden wins the US election, expectations are mounting on several fronts. Action on climate change is one such important area where the USA has consistently weakened its position during the Trump administration. The President-elect Joe Biden had laid out his plan to deal with climate change and create new green jobs during his electoral campaign. Biden also promised that his administration would rejoin the Paris climate agreement. This is a timely and much appreciated pledge.

Indeed, the decision to pull out of the Paris climate agreement by the USA has been a blow to the global commitment to save the world from the negative impacts of climate change. On November 4, 2020 the USA officially withdrew from the Paris climate agreement. Earlier in June 2017, President Trump announced this withdrawal on the ground that it was economically harmful for the USA and would take away jobs. However, this claim is not well founded since the other polluting countries are making large investments in green energy and not feeling such negative impacts.

Back in December 2015, during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris, the climate agreement was adopted by the leaders of 195 countries. Under this accord, countries committed to limit global average warming to “well below” 2 degrees Celsius (above pre-industrial levels) and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius.

The significance of the Paris agreement



President elect Joe Biden on November 4, 2020, in Wilmington, USA.

PHOTO: PAUL SANCYA/AP

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of her organisation.

US ELECTIONS

Representation matters but it is not enough



#Research-Research

NADINE SHAANTA MURSHID

BEFORE the elections, a five-year-old boy asked his mother, my friend, if he would ever be able to be the President of the United States because of the colour of his Brown skin. This is a question that American girls, too, have been asking their parents forever.

That's because they have never seen themselves represented at that level.

That is about to change as Kamala Harris is set to become the first woman, the first Black person, and the first Brown person to become the Vice President of the United States. The excitement, if the celebrations in my neighbourhood are anything to go by, is electric.

But it hasn't come easy.

The intersectional biases that have been exposed in response to Kamala Harris's VP nomination underscore the experience of Black and Brown women in America. Donald Trump called her a monster, twice, paying homage to the racist, dehumanising idea that Black people are dangerous. Radio host Rush Limbaugh accused her of "sleeping her way up," as if women of colour cannot advance their careers in any other way. TV talk-show host Tucker Carlson termed her a "phony," in an obvious attempt to question her citizenship, and then went so far as to accuse her of going after the presidency. Not surprisingly, Twitter mobs launched a "birther" attack popularised during the Obama regime.

With Kamala Harris's rise we are reminded of the identity policing to which we are all subjected as women of colour. Forever "Others", many Bangladeshi immigrants and their children have been coerced to "assimilate" and aspire to whiteness. Accordingly, many of our immigrant friends and family in the United States buy into the myth of meritocracy and hard work. They see the United States as a land of opportunity. Now, they will point at Kamala Harris and imagine that we too can rise to her level. That's why representation matters.

But that is also where tokenism fails us.

When one Kamala Harris rises (or is allowed to rise), she becomes the face of "equality" when none exists—white men continue to dominate US politics even as record numbers of women candidates have participated this election season. Women represent less than third of both the House and Senate candidates, but 50 percent of the population. Meanwhile, Black and Brown women representatives are so few and far between that when there are a handful of them, they get their own name (the "Squad", featuring Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley, and Rashida Tlaib). This is what diversity without inclusion and equity looks like. It is meant to pacify all of us who believe in the value of racial justice.

And it works, for the most part. If Kamala Harris can do it, so can we, we believe, without considering that this is exactly why she's been put there. When we fail to succeed in our endeavours—indeed, not all Brown immigrants from South Asia, indeed Bangladesh, are typically "successful"—we look at ourselves as the problem, not the structural barriers that are meant to keep us in our place, keep us busy, keep us apolitical, like good immigrants, with our heads down, forever trying to appease the master. And when we question it, we are directed to Kamala Harris and the members of the Squad. Their success is used against us. We are reminded that we are responsible for our failures. In this land of opportunity, we just didn't work hard enough.

We must break these myths. And the only way to do so is by continuing the fight for racial justice, dismantling the systems that produce (racial) inequity. Certain gains have been made this election season that will directly benefit the working class, spurred, no doubt, by the social mobilisation and uprising this summer. For example, Florida, Portland, and Maine voted to eventually raise the minimum wage to USD 15 an hour, for rent control, and against the use of facial recognition software for surveillance purposes. All members of the Squad were re-elected. Pramila Jayapal, whose key platform is "Medicare for All", and Ed Markey, a co-sponsor of the Green New Deal, were elected. Many referendums were passed to fund public schools through higher taxes, including in red states. These are all good news, and proof that organising works. But

these are not enough.

As the Biden-Harris administration gets ready for business (because what else is it under capitalism?), we must hold them to their election promises: paths to citizenship for those classified as undocumented, health care for all, a judicious response to Covid-19. These are all intersectional issues of race, gender, and immigration. Undocumented workers are used as cheap labour but compensated poorly, without benefits, while unaccompanied children remain anxious

to "root out systemic racism." Our job is to hold the administration accountable. We demand the dismantling of racist institutions, such as the system of policing. We demand housing justice, economic justice, and climate justice. We demand reparations for Black Americans. We demand that Guantanamo Bay is demolished. We demand that all policies are reviewed through the lens of racial equity. Start by asking, does this policy harm members of different social identity groups? Can human bias at the provider

has been working to "create a Bangladeshi-American voting bloc in New York to elect political candidates and advocate for legislation that protects and advances the well-being of working-class and low-income communities." But we must also reckon with the idea that many of us align with conservative values. Abortion, for example, while not a political issue in Bangladesh, becomes one in the United States, while fiscal conservatism is appealing as it is "the smart thing to do."

What this election season tells us is that the United States is a deeply divided country. We see that in our personal lives, too. Like most of my white friends, many of my Bangladeshi immigrant friends and I have relatives or even friends who vote with their bank accounts and stock options, voting against the interests of their communities. Even if they don't believe in it (sometimes they do), they accept the anti-Black racism, misogyny, Islamophobia, anti-immigration sentiments, and other forms of bigotry for financial gain. Why does that matter? I have heard them ask. Somehow it is not clear to them that racist policymakers make racist, inequitable policies. But that is what capitalism does. It makes economic achievement the only acceptable form of success, one that has to be achieved at all costs.

We have to start "talking to our cousins," as they say, remind them that immigrants have forever been used to drive a wedge between racial groups, between whites and Blacks, remind them of the role that the rhetoric around "good" and "bad" immigrants has had in dividing our own communities.

This election season we have all had to clean house. By next election, maybe we won't need to. By then, we will no longer be pawns sacrificing ourselves for white supremacy's reign.

As I was walking back home from the celebrations on Saturday night, I spotted an elderly woman in a hijab, maybe of Bangladeshi descent, sitting on a folding chair in the middle of Bidwell Parkway. In her hand she held a gigantic rainbow flag as the crowd roared around her.

It made me think: we got this.



Sen Kamala Harris has become the first woman of colour ever elected to the vice presidency in the United States. PHOTO: REUTERS

about the future of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Meanwhile, migrant families torn apart are still waiting to be reunited. Black and Brown people continue to die from Covid-19 at disproportionately higher rates than their white counterparts. Black, indigenous and other people of colour are routinely denied proper healthcare—they are either ignored or treated with aggressive solutions—while the United States is the only OECD nation with a rising maternal death rate.

Structurally, we demand anti-racist practices and equitable policies across the board. Kamala Harris has already promised

level result in disproportionate outcomes for different groups? When policies are found to be inequitable, they must be revised or abolished as needed. A diverse body of experts must be hired to do this work.

Individually, we cannot be satisfied with crumbs—economic successes which divert attention from the entire loaf of bread: a just and equitable society.

An increasing number of young Bangladeshi Americans are working to that end. For example, Sahana Hanif is running to represent Brooklyn's 39th District in the New York City council, while Bangladeshi Americans for Political Progress (BAPP)

Joe Biden eyes arduous path after historic election



NEVER before has a hard-won victory had such a bitter edge.

My heart goes out to Democratic President-elect Joe Biden. What a mess of a country he is expected to lead!

During these last few days of nail-biting suspense as Biden reached the electoral vote target, President Donald Trump, to nobody's surprise, did what he has done all his life whenever he is backed into a corner. He filed a flurry of frivolous lawsuits. He issued a ludicrous, legally untenable call to stop counting votes. He made an appalling claim of electoral fraud without a shred of evidence. It felt uncannily like post-election Bangladesh, and that is not a compliment.

Earlier, pollsters expected a blue wave that would sweep Democrats into the US Senate and add a few House seats. Well, the American people had a rude surprise in store for all of us. The Senate appears out of reach, and Democrats have lost seats in the House.

This is a terrifying turn of events.

After all is said and done, the most important takeaway from this election for me is the shame it has brought upon the US.

Yes, I'm looking at you, Trump voters. All 70 million of you.

This is not about partisan disagreement. It's about facts, common sense, judgement and decency. Let's take a quick look at the man you just voted for.

Trump has mismanaged one of the most serious public health crises of the US in a century. He has falsely dismissed the severity of the virus. He has pooh-poohed public

health measures, making the US the only nation in the world where wearing a mask is politically controversial.

The consequences have been devastating. With just four percent of the world's population, the US has one-fourth of global Covid-19 deaths.

You, Trump voters, enabled it. The Associated Press reports: "US voters went to the polls starkly divided on how they see President Donald Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic. But in places where the virus is most rampant now, Trump enjoyed enormous support."

Here's the thing, Trump voters. It simply boggles my mind to think that all 70 million of you took a good look at what this guy has done and told yourselves: "Wow! Let's give this guy another four years."

The damage you have inflicted on America is grievous. At its best, the democratic process appeals to our better instincts. However, there is a darker side to democracy. It can also appeal to our baser instincts.

Your support, Trump voters, is shocking confirmation that in America, you can coddle bigots, screw up a massive public health crisis, lie, cheat, be divisive and still come

within a whisker of winning the presidency.

There's no way to sugarcoat this.

Trump's loss will make him even more dangerous. He is now a wounded beast, dangerous and ferocious. Now that he has almost pulled off another implausible victory, he will continue to rule the roost in his party.

And what of his party? Trump has led to a precarious hollowing out of the Republican Party. It is now devoid of policy and has become a cult. It's like the inmates have taken over the asylum.

But Trump did not begin this rot. It goes back a long, long way. For many decades, Republican leaders like former President Richard Nixon and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich promoted racially tinged, bomb-throwing politics powered by incendiary hatred. Now the chickens have come home to roost. Under Trump, the party has completed its transition to a party of white grievance. Its short-term benefits are indubitable, but this is a Faustian bargain. Just look at California. A state Republican Party that once gave us Republican presidents like Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon is today completely sidelined in the state because of its shrill anti-immigrant bias in the past.

Democrats, meanwhile, should draw inspiration from the positive developments and gird their loins for the tough battles ahead. Democrats last won Arizona in 1996 and Georgia in 1992. They won both states this time around.

Georgia! In the belly of the deep South, once a Confederate pro-slavery state, it used to be solidly Republican in past presidential campaigns.

Take a bow, Stacey Abrams. This African American Democratic gubernatorial candidate narrowly lost to Gov Brian Kemp in 2018 in a dubious election. She refused

to take her eye off the broader prize. She has been indefatigable in enrolling voters, putting Georgia in the Democratic column.

Democrats owe the White House to the sagacity of African Americans. To the party's enormous credit, it gave them the final say in choosing its nominee.

Many loved the populist policies of Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. I did, too. African Americans knew better. Their bitter experience made them sceptical. They knew all too well the broader public's limited tolerance of progressive policies and its susceptibility to cries of "socialism."

African Americans essentially brought Joe Biden back from oblivion. It was a masterstroke. The Trump campaign tried in vain to paint Biden as a left-wing extremist.

We mustn't also forget the racist bias of the electoral college. Even with a massive margin of four million votes, Biden had to fight pitched battles in battleground states where white non-college voters had a lopsidedly big say.

Finally, it was African Americans who provided the final push for Biden by showing up to vote in massive numbers in Detroit and Milwaukee and Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. These cities are in the traditional Democratic states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, which had flipped in 2016 to Trump. Biden won all three states by extremely slim margins.

Take a bow, African Americans. In poignant scenes repeated all over the country, you showed up and waited for eight, ten, twelve hours to vote.

Thanks to you, come January, we will have President Joe Biden instead of President Donald Trump.

Ashfaqur Swapan is a contributing editor for Siliconer, a digital daily for South Asians in the United States.



Amid nationwide celebrations of the projected victory of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, President Donald Trump said the "election is far from over", a statement that his supporters have echoed at rallies in several states. PHOTO: REUTERS/JIM URQUHART

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 9, 1989
Opening of the Berlin Wall

Long a symbol of the Cold War, the Berlin Wall, erected in 1961 and eventually extending 28 miles (45 km) to divide the western and eastern sectors of Berlin, was opened by the East German government on this day in 1989.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Flavorless
- 6 Freshwater fish
- 10 Debussy composition
- 11 Watchful
- 13 Japanese dog
- 14 Wild party
- 15 Filming site
- 16 Tiny
- 18 Vining plant
- 19 Period of stress
- 22 Equip
- 23 Departed
- 24 Patriot Allen
- 27 Breath fresheners
- 28 Basketball's
- O'Neal, for short
- 29 – de deux

DOWN

- 1 Wild party
- 2 California cager
- 3 Friendliness
- 4 Tennis need
- 5 Enticed
- 6 Insertion symbol
- 7 In the style of
- 8 Exercise program
- 9 Forestall
- 12 Illicit meetings
- 17 Easter find
- 20 Baghdad native
- 21 "Wouldn't that be great!"
- 24 Thirdparty account
- 25 Royal seats
- 26 Loft item
- 27 Augusta tourney
- 29 Links org.
- 31 From Oslo, to natives
- 32 Lower in esteem
- 33 Work the runway
- 34 Use, as force
- 39 – de France
- 40 Energy

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

R	I	C	O	L	A	P	S		
R	E	C	A	P	A	G	I	T	A
A	L	E	R	T	T	O	R	O	S
V	A	M	P	I	R	E	A	N	T
E	T	A	M	O	N	S	T	E	R
D	E	N	T	A	L	A	E	R	O
S	T	I	R	T	I	E	T	A	C
P	H	A	N	T	O	M	E	M	U
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N	E	T	S	T	E	S	S		

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

WILL YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR CAKE WITH ME?
I'LL GIVE YOU HALF OF IT

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

GAOU FABBIN GASHAP PA WEEBOM MOOSHA DAIT MOOP!!
THE PROSECUTION SOMETHING WRONG?
DID I DO

3 held for forcing girls into porn

3 held in Joypurhat, 4 girls rescued

Our CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Rab yesterday arrested three people, including two women, for allegedly forcing college girls to take part in pornographic clips in Joypurhat. It also rescued four victims in this regard.

The arrestees are Md Suman Ahmed, 29, his wife Mousumi Akter, 20, and Minu Akter, 19, all from Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team from Rajshahi Rab-5, raided Professor Para under Joypurhat municipality, around Saturday midnight and arrested them for allegedly forcing the girls into porn.

It also seized different items, including masks, film making equipment, including a tripod, and condoms, sex stimulants, mobile sets and SIM cards.

MM Mohaiminur Rashid, additional superintendent of police of Joypurhat Rab, said the arrestees were engaged in unsocial activities of a “dance troupe” and often forced the girls to make porn by blackmailing them.

Rab handed over the arrestees to police.

Alamgir Zahan, inspector (investigation) of Joypurhat Police Station, said they would produce the trio before a court after the case is filed.

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 12
small boat for fishing.

Myanmar’s BGP personnel, who were patrolling on a speedboat in their territory, opened fire, leaving one of the fishermen injured.

Lt Col Mohammad Foyzal Hasan Khan of Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion-2 said a letter was being sent to the Myanmar BGP to stop “unexpected deaths” on the border.

BGP will also be requested to maintain their protocol to stop such killings, he said.

Talking to the correspondent, Inspector of Teknaf Model Police Station Md Abdul Alim said police are looking into the matter.

18 more die

FROM PAGE 12
the number of confirmed cases to 4,20,238.

As another 1,577 patients were released from hospitals following their recovery during the time, the number of recoveries rose to 3,38,145.

This was over 80 percent of all cases, added the release.

Against a total of 12,760 new tests in 114 authorised laboratories across the country, the positivity rate was 11.55 percent, while the overall positivity rate was 17.20 percent.

Of the 18 deceased, 14 were males and four females. Except one, 17 others died in hospitals, said DGHS.

One was aged between 21 and 30, one between 41 and 50, five were aged between 51 and 60, while the rest were above 60 years old.

One each was from Sylhet and Barishal divisions, two each were from Rangpur and Khulna divisions, three from Chattogram division and nine from Dhaka division.

Of all the Covid-19 deceased, over 52 percent were from Dhaka division.

As of yesterday noon, 2,543 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment in general beds and 271 in ICUs in the designated hospitals, added the release.



Police use water cannons on pro-democracy protesters to disperse them during an anti-government demonstration in Bangkok, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Take care of your family

FROM PAGE 1
ensure continuation of studies of his 10th-grader daughter and second-grader son, take care of his 75-year-old mother and cannot arrange marriage of his daughter, now 15, until she turns 18 as per the relevant law.

If Moti, now on bail, complies with the conditions for next one and a half years, he needs not to go to jail and serve the imprisonment, otherwise, his probation facilities will be cancelled and he will have to serve the imprisonment, the HC ruled in the verdict.

The probation officer concerned will monitor whether Moti complies with the conditions for one and a half years, the HC said.

The bench of Justice Zafar Ahmed came up with the verdict after hearing a revision petition filed by Moti challenging the trial court judgement that sentenced him to five years’ imprisonment in the case.

Moti’s lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star that this is the second HC verdict that granted probation facilities to a convict without sending him to prison.

This is a landmark verdict of the HC under the Probation Ordinance-1960 as convict Moti can live with his

family instead of suffering in jail.

The verdict is very encouraging, the lawyer said, adding that Moti has no record of committing any other crimes and his conduct is good.

The lawyer said police arrested Moti, of Shuvadda area in Keraniganj, with 411 yaba tablets on November 23, 2015. A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in Dhaka the same day.

On January 8, 2017, the Joint Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court in Dhaka sentenced Moti to five years’ imprisonment and fined him Tk 20,000 in the case.

Moti filed an appeal with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court challenging the verdict.

On May 11, 2017, the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court dismissed the appeal and upheld the five years’ jail sentence of Moti.

The same year, he filed a revision petition with the HC challenging the trial court verdict.

After hearing of the petition, the HC bench delivered the judgment yesterday.

Lawyer Shishir said his client already served 20 months in jail.

The HC granted him bail on July 9, 2017, he added.

Deputy Attorney General Enamul Haque Mollah represented the state.

Global cases top 50 million

FROM PAGE 12
across Europe, prompting Germany, France and Britain to order many citizens back to their homes again.

Denmark, which imposed a new lockdown on its population in several northern areas, ordered the culling of its 17 million minks after a mutation of the coronavirus found in the animals spread to humans.

The United States, with about 20% of global cases, is facing its worst surge, recording more than 100,000 daily coronavirus cases on the latest seven-day average, Reuters data showed. It reported a record of more than 130,000 cases on Saturday.

The latest US surge coincided

with the last month of election campaigning in which President Donald Trump minimised the severity of the pandemic and his successful challenger, Joe Biden, urged a more science-based approach.

Trump’s rallies, some open-air and with few masks and little social distancing, led to 30,000 additional confirmed cases and likely led to more than 700 deaths, Stanford University economists estimated in a research paper.

Woman raped

FROM PAGE 12
“As she refused, they physically assaulted her and took all her valuables.”

The victim came to the station to file a case over mugging and torturing but police learned about the rape when she disclosed it to doctors at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where she was sent to get tested at the One Stop Crisis Centre, he said, adding that police later conducted a drive and arrested the four, including Monir with a knife in his possession.

No tests for DU

FROM PAGE 12
The decision, however, will be finalised once it is approved by the university’s academic council.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Sadeka Halim, acting dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, said she did not think the decision was logical.

“The vice-chancellor proposed to close Gha unit to reduce the number of examinations.”

She said, “The Faculty of Social Sciences has its uniqueness. Students from 16 departments of this faculty are going to various sectors in government and private sectors and are doing well.

“In my opinion, there should be a separate unit for our faculty [social sciences]. If you can’t do that, you have to create admission test units in the name of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It will certainly be discussed at the Academic Council.”

Contacted, Prof Akhtaruzzaman said admission tests of Dhaka University would be taken in three units from 2021-22 academic year considering the three streams students study at Higher Secondary level.

The tests will be taken under three units instead of five units.

“It would reduce the pressure of holding tests. However, in the current academic year (2020-21), the examination will be held as per the previous rules,” he added.

Wolves win vote

FROM PAGE 12
and reintroduce a sustainable number of wolves on designated public land west of the Continental Divide.

It is the first time a US state has voted to recover an imperiled species, according to the Denver Post.

Rob Edward, who led the ballot campaign for the Rocky Mountain Wolf Action Fund, called the vote “a nail-biter” but said the result will stand.

“This is an up or down vote,” he told NPR. “If the people of Colorado say we want wolves, the next step is to lean into that reality and find a common path forward.”

The initiative hopes to have “paws on the ground” by late 2023.

Reintroducing wolves in the region will expand wolves comeback along the US’s Rocky Mountains. Over 1,700 wolves now live in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming.

Campaigners backing the initiative said the reintroduction would be “a restoration of global significance”.

Speaking ahead of the final count, Jon Proctor, programme director of the Defenders of Wildlife Rockies and Plains, told the Denver Post: “We’ve been compelled to go directly to voters and cut politicians out of the picture. Wildlife agencies work for us, in theory, but in the case of certain species, the people have not been listened to.

“If wolves are restored to Colorado and habitat connectivity is restored, we will have restored a large carnivore, the wolf, from Alaska to Mexico — a restoration of global significance.

Speaking about the huge rise in the rate of extinctions of species around the world, Mr Proctor added: “It means we’re willing to restore biodiversity that we’ve lost ... it shows that people are willing to help reverse that trend where we can.”

But the reintroduction vote comes after the Trump administration removed wolves from the US’s endangered list, saying the species had made a “successful recovery”. The ruling means states will now decide whether wolves can be hunted or trapped.

Previous reintroductions of wolves — most notably in Yellowstone National park, have been hailed as major success stories.

In Yellowstone, where wolves were reintroduced in 1995, the arrival of the species had a profound impact on biodiversity.

Wolves brought down the booming populations of deer and elk, allowing trees — whose shoots had previously been grazed — to flourish. The new growth provided greater opportunities for flora and fauna, attracting and providing new habitats for songbirds, beavers, and even in the newly shaded waters, for fish and other marine life. This powerful impact, due to addition or removal of one species is called a “trophic cascade”, and in the UK, the reintroduction of beavers has been similarly successful — and for similar reasons.

MURDER OF JEWEL

Four more suspects held

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday arrested four more suspects on charges of lynching and setting fire to Shahidunnabi Jewel, 50, in Patgram, Lalmonirhat.

They were arrested at different places in the upazila in the morning, said Omar Farooq, officer-in-charge of the Detective Branch in Lalmonirhat.

Twenty-nine people have been arrested so far over the murder and vandalism on October 29, he said.

Yesterday’s arrestees are Hasanuzzaman, 25, Abdur Rahman, 22, Sohail Rana, 20, and Mainul Hossain, 26.

They are residents of Burimari area, where the grisly murder took place.

Mainul Hossain was arrested on charges of murder while the rest were arrested for assaulting policemen, Farooq told The Daily Star.

Of the 29 suspects, 13 have been accused of murder and the rest of vandalism and attack on police.

Main accused Abul Hossain alias

Hossain Ali is being interrogated by the police, the officer said.

Meanwhile, Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner Abu Jafor gave Tk 20,000 to Jewel’s grieving family to assist the schooling of his two children.

Jewel’s elder brother Abu Yusuf, an associate professor at the Carmichael College, was present when the cheque was handed over in the DC office conference room.

Jewel’s daughter is an HSC examinee and son a sixth grader.

“We have become orphans. We are helpless without our father. We demand exemplary punishment for the killers,” the daughter told reporters.

Abu Yusuf said, “My brother did not demean the Holy Quran. He was brutally lynched because of spreading rumours.”

DC Jafor said Jewel’s family is being taken care of and the murder is being investigated with utmost importance.

Suu Kyi favoured

FROM PAGE 12
Internationally, Suu Kyi is no longer the democracy icon once adored in the West, primarily because of her handling of the military crackdown against the ethnic Rohingya population, which the United Nations said had “the hallmarks of genocide.”

More than 37 million people are registered to vote, but fears about COVID-19 may dampen turnout, with Myanmar seeing an average of 1,100 new daily coronavirus cases compared to a handful in early August.

In the biggest city, Yangon, queues formed before polling stations opened, with voters in masks, hair coverings and face shields waiting in evenly spaced lines as the sun came up.

Sai Kyaw Latt Phyto, 31, said it was

his first trip outside his home in three months.

“It is worth the risk,” he said. “We must take the risk in such a crucial situation for our country.”

Chaw Ei Twin, 38, said she was doing her civic duty.

“I gave my vote to a party which can transform the country. I voted the same party last time,” she said.

Suu Kyi’s defenders say critics are unrealistic to expect rapid change in Myanmar and are hampering efforts to secure gradual progress.

Among the obstacles to some NLD reforms is a constitution that guarantees the military a significant political stake, including control of several key ministries and a 25% quota of legislative seats, allowing it to veto constitutional amendments.

Demand classes online

FROM PAGE 12
October 28, the medical education division under the health ministry set the third week of December as a tentative period for holding the first and last part exams of first and third-year students of MBBS and BDS courses.

Sources at the ministry, however, said the exams may be rescheduled for January or February, depending on the Covid situation.

Talking to this newspaper yesterday, a number of students said classes of medical and dental colleges remain suspended for around eight months due to the Covid outbreak. There is a risk of virus transmission among the students if the exams are held now.

And if any student gets infected while taking the exams, he or she will lag behind the others. In such a case, the authorities will have to take responsibility of the student, they said.

The students also demanded that the authorities find out an alternative to the professional exams during the Covid period.

“We are lapsing into a session jam. We don’t want to sit for tests amid this pandemic. This time, we want an alternative method for evaluation,” one of the agitating students of Anwer Khan Modern Medical College said seeking anonymity.

“We want the authorities to evaluate us on the basis of the exams we’ve taken so far this year and give us promotion and also start online classes,” the student said.

The students also demanded that the authorities don’t take any tuition fees from them for the last seven months as classes were suspended due to the pandemic.

The students have been staging demonstrations for the last couple of days to press home their demands.

Contacted, Mamun-or-Rashid, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, claimed that they didn’t charge baton on the students.

He said they chased the demonstrators away to clear the intersection and ease vehicular movement at the busy intersection.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১

প্রধান কার্যালয়

ঢাকা

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ৫৬/২০২০

তারিখঃ ১৯ কার্তিক ১৪২৭
০৪ নভেম্বর ২০২০

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে ‘ডাটা এন্ট্রি/কন্ট্রোল অপারেটর (আইটি)’ পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার আসন বিন্যাস ও সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে ‘ডাটা এন্ট্রি/কন্ট্রোল অপারেটর (আইটি)’ পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে গত ০৫/০৭/২০২০ তারিখের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৩৯/২০২০ এর সূত্রে স্ট্যান্ডার্ড এন্ট্রিচিউড টেস্ট এ উল্লিখিত ৩১০ (তিনশত দশ) জন প্রার্থীর ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত হবেঃ

পরীক্ষার তারিখ	পদের নাম	পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র	ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময়	রোল নম্বর	প্রার্থী সংখ্যা
১৪/১১/২০২০ শনিবার	‘ডাটা এন্ট্রি/কন্ট্রোল অপারেটর (আইটি)’	বাংলাদেশ ইন্সটিটিউট অব ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট, ৩৪, তোপখানা রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০	০৯.০০-১০.০০	১০০১৭৩-১০৪৮৭৩	৩৯
			১১.০০-১২.০০	১০৪৯৫৫-১০৯৬৪৫	৩৯
			০১.০০-০২.০০	১০৯৬৯৯-১১৪৯০০	৪০
			০৪.০০-০৫.০০	১১৫০৩৭-১২০৭১৬	৪০
		সেন্ট্রাল উইমেল কলেজ, ১৩/২, অভয় দাস লেন, টিকাটুলী, ঢাকা-১২০৩	০৯.০০-১০.০০	১২০৯৭৩-১২৪৮৬৭	৩৮
			১১.০০-১২.০০	১২৫০২৬-১২৯৪৭৭	৩৮
			০১.০০-০২.০০	১২৯৫৯৯-১৩৪৬৬৯	৩৮
			০৪.০০-০৫.০০	১৩৪৬৭৬-১৪০৯৯৯	৩৮

০১। পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশের পূর্বে প্রয়োজনীয় চেকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরীক্ষা শুরু করণ কমপক্ষে ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোনো প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

০২। পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশপত্রের একটি কপি বাতীত কোন ধরণের কাগজ, বই, মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্টওয়াচ ও অন্যান্য ইলেক্ট্রনিক ডিভাইস নিয়ে প্রবেশ করা যাবে না।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২০-৩১৮১

তারিখঃ ০৮/১১/২০২০


স্বাক্ষরিত/-

কাজী আকতারুল ইসলাম

মহাব্যবস্থাপক

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রাণির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

জিডি-১৭৮৮

<div><div><div>গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার</div><div>নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, এর কার্যালয়</div><div>সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ</div><div>৯৭৮-১-৫২১০১</div><div>E-mail: eenaw@rhd.gov.bd</div></div><div></div></div>		
সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আস্থান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৪র্থ আস্থান)		
০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	০৩-এন,জে, আর, ডি/২০২০-২০২১ইং।
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	সওজ, নবাবগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগাধীন রহনপুর-ভোলাহাট-বিডিআর ক্যাম্প সড়কের ওয় কিমিতে অবস্থিত “সৈয়দ সুলতান সেতুর (মকরমপুর সেতুর)” উপর দিয়ে পারাপারকারী যানবাহন হতে টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে ইজারা প্রদানের বন্দোবস্ত।
০৩।	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	৩ (তিন) অর্থ বৎসর (০১/০৭/২০২১ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত ১০৯৬ দিন)।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য	টঃ ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/১১/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/১১/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	ভ্যাত ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়তশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার।
০৯।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রয়ের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে	জেলা প্রশাসক, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ/রাজশাহী/নওগাঁ/পরিচালনা বিভাগ-১/সেতু ডিজাইন বিভাগ-১, পূর্বমঞ্চল, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা/উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ/শিবগঞ্জ/বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, রাজশাহী।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	(ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ। (খ) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, রাজশাহী (গ) জেলা প্রশাসক, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ।
১১।	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর, সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ। তারিখঃ ২৪/১১/২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ। সময়ঃ ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	ইজারা আস্থানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
সানজিদা আফরীন বিনুস পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২৫১ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চঃ দাঃ), সওজ সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ		
GD-1787		



The Nepal team, which arrived in Dhaka on Thursday, train yesterday at the Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club ground ahead of two FIFA friendlies against Bangladesh as their three-day quarantine period ended. The matches are scheduled for November 13 and 17 at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Time for players to give back'

SPORTS REPORTER



Having mentioned the range of facilities Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has been providing the national footballers, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin wants return from the players through performance on the field.

The four-time BFF president made the statement during a press conference arranged to inform the media about the two FIFA international friendlies against Nepal, scheduled to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Nov 13 and 17.

Asked if the players could receive special bonus for wins, Salahuddin said, "We have always placed players on the receiving end of financial benefits, including giving allowance apart from different facilities. Today [Sunday] before coming out of home, I received a call from the coach [Jamie Day], who informed me that the players have demanded the rest of new contracts' five percent money from the clubs," Salahuddin said.



"You know how the reduction regarding the payment of Bangladesh Premier League is taking place. I will give them but they will also have to pay dividends on the ground because it is about time to give each other," added the BFF boss, who later sat with the head coach to discuss about the players' demand.

"The clubs did agree to pay more than 25 percent of new contracts earlier but Salam Murshedy has already managed to raise it to 35 percent after convincing the clubs. Today I told Jamie that I never promised to ensure 40 percent payment of new contract although I told the players

I would try my best for them. I told the coach to ask the players to be patient and concentrate entirely on the matches. I reckon I should be able to handle the issue but I need some additional time," Salahuddin told The Daily Star after the meeting with Day.

The BFF president was also surprised to learn about the demands ahead of the two international friendlies.

Salahuddin further mentioned that the players have to perform and journalists should ask the question to the players. "Everything including foreign coaches are

"We have always placed players on the receiving end of financial benefits, including giving allowance apart from different facilities. Today [Sunday] before coming out of home, I received a call from the coach [Jamie Day], who informed me that the players have demanded the rest of new contracts' five percent money from the clubs,"

being provided to them and I think time has come that the footballers perform on the ground to win matches," said the BFF president.

The BFF president also stated that two the international friendlies will be dedicated to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as part of the birth centenary of the father of the nation, instead of the four to five programmes which they unfortunately could not arrange due to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, vice-president and national teams committee chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed assured that they are going to arrange the matches maintaining health guidelines of FIFA, World Health Organisation and the government.

He further informed that the Covid-19 tests of both teams have already been performed, which returned negative results. He also said both teams will undergo two more rounds of Covid-19 tests on November 10 and 14.

BFF is expected to sell around 8,000 tickets for each match and Bangladesh Television is scheduled to telecast both matches live from the venue.

BFF wants independent venue

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday claimed that the status of the Bangabandhu National Stadium as an international football venue is in danger and it is due only to BFF's relations with the FIFA and AFC that international matches are still being allowed to be staged there.

The BFF boss said this replying to a journalist's query regarding the haphazard state of the country's premier multisport venue, which will host two FIFA friendly matches between Bangladesh and Nepal next week.

"After getting elected recently, I and my committee decided that we would go to the Prime Minister and ask for a FIFA-compliance stadium," Salahuddin said.

"I have already talked about this with a few and we will take this step maybe within one month that we get a FIFA-compliance stadium. The (international stadium) of the stadium where we are playing now can be cancelled anytime. FIFA/AFC are allowing this on the basis of our relation," said the BFF boss.

The BFF boss's concern is very valid, whether or not there is a real threat from the world football governing body over its international status, as the sporting venue hosts a myriad of non-sporting establishments and activities round the year,



posing security risk to players and spectators during matchdays.

It is quite unique that unlike other countries, most of the stadiums in our country are used for multiple purposes, accommodating business activities from small to large, attracting cross-section of people. High-profile international tournaments force authorities to keep the other establishments shut which leads them to financial losses while still not fully mitigating the security risks associated.

And then there is also the issue of continuous renovation at this aging stadium, which was built in the mid-'50s of the last century. The infrastructure has been renovated countless times at massive cost, yet facilities including capacity of floodlights and seating arrangement at galleries remain way below international standard not to mention the lack of washroom facilities.

MESSI the supersub

AGENCIES



Lionel Messi came off the bench to score twice and lead Barcelona to a 5-2 home victory over Real Betis on Saturday, snapping a four-game winless streak in La Liga for the Catalans.

Barca's captain was surprisingly left out of the starting lineup by coach Ronald Koeman, who later explained that Messi was feeling a little discomfort after the 2-1 win over Dynamo Kyiv in mid-week and had agreed to start on the bench.

"Since yesterday we were talking about some discomfort he was feeling since the game and we decided that the best thing was to leave him on the bench in case we needed him," Koeman said.

There was however a bad news for Barca as Ansu Fati is set for several months on the sidelines after sustaining a knee injury during win over Betis.

A Barca statement said Fati, who turned 18 last month, had ruptured the internal meniscus in his left knee and that the club were currently weighing up different treatment options, without giving details on when he could expect to return.

Fati was included in the Spain squad for their upcoming fixtures against the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany but is unlikely to return to action for the rest of the year.



BANGABANDHU T20 Cup

Shakib among players to take fitness tests

SPORTS REPORTER



With the threat of coronavirus transmission still looming over Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is all set to host the second tournament amid the pandemic in the form of the upcoming Bangabandhu T20 Cup.

Players in the draft list for the tournament -- other than national, high performance and under-19 cricketers who played last month's BCB President's Cup -- will start appearing for mandatory fitness tests from today, which they will have to pass to take part in the tournament.

A total of 113 cricketers will give the fitness test in the next two days. According to Yakub Chowdhury Dalim, the strength and conditioning coach of the high-performance unit, the players will have to cross the 11-point benchmark for the beep test. However, he also added that senior players like Tushar Imran, Abdur Razzak and others may be given some leeway.

"We will do the beep tests of the players, dividing them into groups of 20 cricketers each. They have to pass the 11-point mark which has been kept as the benchmark. Obviously, fitness plays a huge part for players who will be returning after a long gap. Earlier we had done the yo-yo test for players of the national, high performance and the under-19 teams but for others in the draft list we will conduct the beep test. In future, we will gradually introduce the yo-yo test for everyone," said Dalim.

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who returned from the US after the end of his one-year ban by the ICC for not reporting corrupt approaches from a bookie, will also appear in the fitness test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today.

The top-ranked ODI all-rounder was however in hot water as he attended an

inauguration of a super shop in the capital less than twelve hours since his return from the US, contrary to health safety guidelines of going into quarantine after returning from abroad, even if the returnee has a Covid-19 negative certificate. The champion all-rounder tested negative when he took the coronavirus test on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh T20 skipper Mahmudullah Riyad -- who was supposed to travel to Pakistan to take part in the Pakistan Super League playoffs for Multan Sultans -- tested positive twice for the virus and is currently in self isolation.

"I had done the test before leaving for Pakistan and I was shocked after the result came positive on November 6. So, I took another test to make sure and it came back positive again. At the moment I don't have any physical problem but I had a bit of a cold two days back. Currently, I am in home isolation," said Mahmudullah.

Tigers' ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal however tested negative and will travel to Pakistan tomorrow to take part in the PSL for Lahore Qalandars. Tamim is expected to take part in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup after returning from his PSL stint. The PSL final is slated for November 17.

Earlier the BCB confirmed the five teams for the Bangabandhu T20 Cup with the players' draft scheduled to take place on November 12. The board had also finalised the gradings of the players in four grades -- A, B, C and D. Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mustafizur Rahman are in grade A and will receive Taka 15 lakh each.

Since Mahmudullah tested positive, the board is yet to announce any replacement for him in grade A.

There are 20 players in Grade B, who will receive Tk 10 lakh each, and grade C has 25 cricketers who will receive Tk 6 lakh each while young cricketers in grade D will get Tk four lakh each.



Lazio substitute Felipe Caicedo celebrates his stoppage-time goal with coach Simone Inzaghi as his strike earned a 1-1 draw at home to Juventus in Serie A yesterday after Cristiano Ronaldo, who was taken off in the second half after appearing to hurt his ankle, had given the champions a first-half lead.

PHOTO: REUTERS

FIRST ROUND: MATCH 6

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Global cases top 50 million

Infections jumped by 10 million in 21 days

Global coronavirus infections exceeded 50 million yesterday, according to a Reuters tally, with a second wave of the virus in the past 30 days accounting for a quarter of the total.

October was the worst month for the pandemic so far, with the United States becoming the first country to report more than 100,000 daily cases. A surge in Europe contributed to the rise.

The latest seven-day average shows global daily infections are rising by more than 540,000.

More than 1.25 million people have died from the respiratory disease that emerged in China late last year.

The pandemic's recent acceleration has been ferocious. It took 32 days for the number of cases to rise from 30 million to 40 million. It took just 21 days to add another 10 million.

Europe, with about 12 million cases, is the worst-affected region, overtaking Latin America. Europe accounts for 24% of COVID-19 deaths.

The region is logging about 1 million new infections every three days or so, according to a Reuters analysis. That is 51% of the global total.

France is recording 54,440 cases a day on the latest seven-day average, a higher rate than India with a far bigger population.

The global second wave is testing healthcare systems across Europe, prompting Germany, France and Britain to



Police went for action on medical students who blocked Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday. The students were demonstrating for realising their four-point demand, which include no exams amid the pandemic and no fees for the last seven months for medical students. The blockade, which lasted for around two hours, created a traffic jam in the area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MEDICAL STUDENTS

Demand classes online, block Shahbagh for two hours

Several hundred students from various medical and dental colleges yesterday blocked the Shahbagh intersection in the capital for over two hours, demanding introduction of online classes and academic years free of session jam.

Shouting slogans, the demonstrators under the banner of "General students of MBBS and BDS Courses" blocked the road around 11:00am, halting vehicular movement at the key intersection.

At about 1:30pm, police charged baton to disperse the students and cleared the intersection.

The students' four-point demand include immediate steps to end session jam, introduction of online classes, no fees for MBBS/BDS students for the last seven months and no professional examinations considering students' safety.

In a notification on

Woman raped, tortured in Ctg, four held

Our Correspondent, Chattogram

Police arrested four people for allegedly raping and then mugging a woman in the port city's Lalkhan Bazar area.

The arrestees are Md Monir Hossain, 33, Masum, 20, Didar, 22 and Sohel, 24.

Paritran Talukdar, assistant commissioner, Bayezid Bostami Zone of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said the victim used to live with her husband in Lalkhan Bazar and later moved to Cumilla.

"In Cumilla, the couple fought and the husband came back to Chattogram on his own. Monir [an acquaintance of the couple] called the victim over phone and told her that her husband is in Chattogram and to come fix their marriage.

"The woman came to Chattogram city from Cumilla on Friday evening and stayed at Monir's house as a guest. On Saturday morning, as Monir's wife left the house, he held the victim at knifepoint and raped her."

Officer-in-Charge Shahinul Islam of Khulshi Police Station said the woman left after the incident. But at noon, she returned to take her belongings when some men tried to force her into a marriage with Monir after learning about the rape.

Suu Kyi favoured as Myanmar votes



REUTERS, Yangon

Myanmar voted in a general election yesterday seen as a referendum on a fledgling democratic government that remains popular at home but which has seen its reputation collapse overseas amid allegations of genocide.

Leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) is expected to win a second term, following a 2015 landslide that ended more than a half-century of military and military-backed rule.

She has the support of a population that largely sees her as a heroine of democracy for her struggle against dictatorship, though her win will likely be narrower than the victory that propelled her to power.

Bangladeshi shot dead by 'Myanmar border troops'

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

A man died hours after he was shot allegedly by Myanmar Border Guard Police in the Naf river of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar on Saturday.

Mohammad Islam, 35, a resident of the area, was shot while he was fishing around 5:30pm on Saturday, his relatives said.

Around 7:30pm, local fishermen found him and took him to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex from where he was sent to the Sadar Hospital in Cox's Bazar, said Sajjad Hossain, a doctor at the health complex's emergency unit.

Islam succumbed at the Sadar hospital around 10:00pm, Resident Medical Officer SM Nawshad Riyad told The Daily Star.

Witnesses said Islam and another fisherman went into the Naf river on a

Wolves win vote for reintroduction to Colorado



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

As US citizens finally get the results of the presidential election, another "nail biting" ballot has been underway: People in Colorado have voted in favour of the reintroduction of wolves to the US state, where the species was hunted to extinction by the 1940s.

Supporters of the reintroduction had suggested the legislation to bring the grey wolf back to the state would "sail to victory", but in the end the vote was won by the slimmest of margins — just 0.5 per cent — emulating the race to the White House.

The legislation now requires Colorado Parks and Wildlife to create a plan based on the best science

18 more die, 1,474 test positive

Staff Correspondent

Eighteen more people died from Covid-19 in past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services.

With this, the total number of deaths caused by the highly transmissible virus rose to 6,067. This was 1.44 percent of all confirmed cases, according to the release.

In the same 24 hours, 1,474 more people tested positive for the virus, taking



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 9

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:55	12:45	4:00	5:30	7:15
JAMAAT 5:30	1:15	4:15	5:34	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



With huge loads, this three-wheeler, locally known as Nasimon, plying Dinaipur-Panchagarh highway illegally in Dinaipur's Birganj. Slow-moving traffic on a highway where many vehicles do around 80kmph is a recipe for disaster.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAR

No tests for DU 'Gha', 'Cha' units being mullied

DU Correspondent

Dhaka University would not arrange admission tests for "Gha" and "Cha" units under social science and fine arts faculties from the next academic year, decided the university's Deans' Committee primarily.

This is their initial approach towards conducting admission tests in three units instead of five. However, candidates would have to attend admission tests in five units in the current academic year (2020-2021).

Prof Akhtaruzaaman, vice-chancellor of the university, proposed to shut "Gha" and "Cha" units and hold admission test under three units in the light of the three streams (science, humanities and business studies).

The Deans' Committee, in one of its meetings, discussed the pros and cons of this proposal. Most of the deans there voted in favor of the proposal.

ইলেকট্রনিক ভোটিং মেশিন (ইভিএম) এ অনুশীলনমূলক ভোট

১০ নভেম্বর ২০২০

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