

NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT
Russia deploys peacekeepers as ceasefire halts fighting
SEE PAGE 7

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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CASH AID FOR THE POOR

Blighted by graft, partisanship

TIB survey on 1,050 people finds 69pc yet to get anything; 18.9pc bribed to get on the list; around 10pc had to prove political identity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taking interviews of 1,050 beneficiaries of the government's cash assistance for the poor, Transparency International Bangladesh has found that 69 percent were yet to receive anything.

Of the interviewees, 18.9 percent had to pay bribes to be included in the list, while 36.1 percent had to request local influential figures to refer their names for the financial support. In addition, 103 people said they had to prove their "political identity" to be listed as beneficiaries.

TIB revealed these findings yesterday in a virtual press briefing, titled "Governance Challenges in Tackling Coronavirus [Part II]". The data was collected between June 16 and October 31 this year and the interviewees were from 35 districts.

Among those who received the money, 26.6 percent said their mobile banking agent deducted a commission from the amount, according to the anti-graft watchdog.

Beginning May 14, the government has distributed a cash support of Tk 2,500 to each of 35 lakh beneficiaries rendered poor due to the coronavirus pandemic. This was a one-time injection, said finance ministry sources.

The government had set aside Tk 1,250 crore for 50 lakh poor families. The sources told The Daily Star that the project was stopped after funds were handed to 35 lakh beneficiaries, because the authorities were not

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Vehicles seized by law enforcers have been piled up in front of Ashulia Police Station in Savar. Storing vehicles in the open causes them to get ruined. In many countries, vehicles are impounded in sheds where they are protected from the elements and theft. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Recovery not possible sans united efforts

Says PM about global initiative for fighting Covid pandemic

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said there is a need for constructive multilateralism more than ever as the Covid-19 pandemic has reminded the world that "no one is safe until everyone is safe".

"The Covid-19 pandemic is a stark reminder that no one is safe until everyone is safe. The pandemic has taught us that global prosperity is embedded in collective

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PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Be judicious while spending state money

HC issues guidelines to ensure transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a set of guidelines to ensure proper expenditure of state money and transparency in the purchase and maintenance of medical equipment in government hospitals across the country.

The guidelines are a part of an HC verdict, which also directed the

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It was a murder

CCTV footage shows mental hospital staff beating ASP dead soon after admission; 15 sued; 10 held

MUNTAKIM SAAD

A day after Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Anisul Karim was allegedly assaulted to death by its staff, the Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital in the capital's Adabor was all but deserted yesterday.

From the outside, the three-storey building -- recently renovated and fitted with modern amenities -- looked serene, but from what the remaining kitchen staffers told this correspondent, there was turmoil within. Inside, there are around 15 rooms. Two of



Anisul Karim

those, situated at the corner, are soundproof rooms where "angry patients" were taken so that their "fury could be neutralised".

Some staffers at the hospital said the rooms were akin to "soundproof torture cells".

"All the patients who come here don't behave the same way. Some behave violently, and are taken into those [soundproof] rooms..." said a member of the hospital's kitchen staff, wishing not to be named.

The soundproof rooms are located on the ground floor and first floor of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

GOP backs Trump

Leaders say president has right to challenge results; Biden mulls legal action over transition delay

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday pushed ahead with longshot legal challenges to his election loss, as Republican US lawmakers and state officials defended his right to do so.

Pennsylvania Republican state lawmakers called for an audit of results in the state that on Saturday enabled Democrat Joe Biden to secure the more than 270 votes in the Electoral College he needed to win the presidency.

Biden, the president-elect due to take office on Jan 20, 2021, also leads Trump in the popular vote by more than 4.6 million votes, according to the latest count of ballots.

Trump has made baseless claims that fraud was marring the results. The count has been delayed by a surge in mail-in ballots prompted by voters' desire to avoid infection from the coronavirus pandemic.

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THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZ ANAM

TRUMP IS PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME

Now we know why he likes the likes of Putin and Kim

SEE PAGE 8



A mobile court of the Khulna district administration fines a cyclist Tk 500 for not wearing a mask at Dakbanglo intersection in the city yesterday. He later put on his mask. Mobile courts detained 33 people and fined 64 during drives in the district to enforce Covid-19 health guidelines.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

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2 CHINESE PROJECTS

PMO asks rail ministry to cut costs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's Office has directed the railways ministry to significantly reduce the cost of China-funded Akhaura-Sylhet and Joydebpur-Ishwardi rail line expansion projects.

The PMO issued the directives following a report of a special committee formed to review costs of three projects and to assess whether the projects should go ahead as planned.

As per the directives, railways have to reduce Tk 3,354.31 crore cost from the project for converting metre-gauge rail line to dual-gauge line between Akhaura and Sylhet, which is 20.8 percent of the total project cost.

For upgrading the Joydebpur-Ishwardi dual-gauge line to dual-gauge double line, Tk 1,495.52 crore cost has to be slashed. The amount is 12.91 percent of the total project cost.

Such directives from the PMO is "not only rare, but I think this is the first", a railway official said.

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SCHOOL ADMISSION

No decision yet, parents worried

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Every November, the stress levels of many parents seeking to get their children admitted to private schools begin to escalate as the admission process of most reputed schools in the capital kicks off by the middle of this month.

But this year, the anxiety of the guardians grows deeper as the coronavirus pandemic has made school admissions complicated and uncertain.

"I have already communicated with three good private schools, but all of them said they are yet to decide about the admission tests. They cannot say anything specific now and asked us to keep in touch with them," said Riasat Alam, a father of a six-year-old from Mirpur.

School admission has always been a nerve-wracking ordeal for guardians as there are only a handful of "good" schools in the capital against an ever-increasing demand every year.

"We saw on television that there is an apprehension of a second wave hitting the country in winter. If this apprehension turns true, we don't know what will happen. We are anxious," said Riasat, a private job holder.

Thousands of parents like Riasat are anxiously waiting for the start of school admissions as none of the public and private school authorities have yet taken any decision about selling admission forms and holding tests.

Private schools usually start selling admission forms as early as mid-November. On the other hand, government schools begin the form distribution process in December.

But the Covid-19 pandemic situation, which forced the authorities concerned to shut down all educational institutions till November 14,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

daraz

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SALE

NOVEMBER 11

আজ ১১ নভেম্বর

বিশ্বের সর্বচেয়ে বড় সেল

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BANGLADESH UPDATE



1,699
New cases in 24hrs



4,23,620
Total cases



6,108
Deaths



3,41,416
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



1,275,472
Deaths



51,635,791
Total cases

MPs laud Bangabandhu's extraordinary leadership, sacrifice for the nation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Treasury and opposition bench MPs yesterday lauded Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his extraordinary political life and leadership, and sacrifice for liberating Bangladesh.

However, a number of MPs, including Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, said Bangladesh had deviated from the path dreamt by Bangabandhu.

They cited widespread corruption and said secular nature of the state must be ensured.

The MPs were participating on the resolution for discussion brought by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament on Monday.

Hasina brought the resolution, under section-147 of the rules of procedure of parliament, to pay solemn tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through a special discussion on his political life, activities, and philosophy.

Hasina in the resolution said Bangabandhu presented an independent country, the red-green flag, and the constitution. Bangabandhu created the scope for the Bangalee nation to move into the international arena with its head held up high.

"Let us pay our solemn respect to the greatest Bangalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through a special discussion in parliament over his colorful political and work life and philosophy on the occasion of Mujib Borsho celebration marking his birth centenary in 2020," said the leader of the house.

Taking part in the discussion, Menon said Bangabandhu had said in parliament that politics based on religion would not work in this country.

"Bangabandhu's remark is very relevant now in Mujib Year. I see on YouTube that 'Amar Sonar Bangla' is being Islamised. Hefajat is saying that the country will have to be run according to their words. The demand for enacting blasphemy law is now rising," he said.

The Workers Party president also said Bangabandhu was strict against corruption. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared zero-tolerance policy against corruption. The society must stand up against corruption.

Menon said, "If we really want to remember Bangabandhu, we have to be in favour of the oppressed. Thanks to the prime minister that we are on the path of development during this Covid period. But at the same time inequality in the society is growing. The poor are getting poorer. I also saw that business interests were fulfilled regarding vaccines of Covid-19."

"Bangabandhu does not belong only to the Awami League. Bangabandhu is not a property of any party. He is the father of the nation."

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haq in his speech said that Ziaur Rahman-Mushtaq clique not only protected the killers of Bangabandhu, but also encouraged them by providing them with jobs.

"The assassination of Bangabandhu is not just the assassination of any person. Those who did not believe in Bangladesh killed him."

He demanded revelation of the real killers of Bangabandhu through a truth commission.

Ruling AL MPs Tofail Ahmed, land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, and Abul Hasan Mahmood Ali, Jatiya Party MP Fakhru Imam among others took part in yesterday's discussion.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

A cop checks the lock at the main gate of Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital in the capital's Adabor area yesterday. Law enforcers closed the medical facility, which was running without a licence, after Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Anisul Karim died there on Monday allegedly due to beating by some hospital staffers.

It was a murder

FROM PAGE 1

hospital. Anisul was taken to the room on the first floor. The small air-conditioned room, with foam attached to the interior walls, is fitted with a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera.

Monday's incident, during which Anisul was wrestled to the floor and his hands were tied by hospital staffers, was captured on the CCTV camera.

Visiting the hospital around 1:00pm yesterday, this correspondent found no management personnel or staffers -- all the rooms were empty.

Situated on Road 2 at Baitul Aman Housing Society, 17 patients were admitted at the hospital till Monday. But all had left by yesterday.

Anisul's father Faijuddin Ahmed has filed a murder case with Adabor Police Station, accusing 15 people, including five management personnel, of killing his son.

Police yesterday arrested 10 employees of the hospital involved in the incident, terming it an "obvious murder".

The arrestees are: the hospital's Marketing Manager Arif Mahmud Joy, Coordinator Redwan Sabbir, Kitchen staffer Masud, ward boys Jobayer Hossain, Tanif Mollah, Sajeeb Chowdhury, Asim Chandra Pal, Liton Ahmed, Saiful Islam Palash and pharmacist Tanvir Hasan.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed the 10 accused on seven days' remand each. "After analysing the CCTV footage, we think it's an obvious murder. Eight to nine people were beating the police officer. There was not a doctor among those handling the patient," Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Tejaon Division Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harun-Ur-Rashid told a press conference at his office around noon yesterday.

He said the hospital authorities could not show any legal documents and licence required to run a mental hospital. "It will be sealed off," he added.

Police will also investigate why and how ASP Anisul was transferred to the hospital from the National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital. "We will investigate whether there was involvement of any middle man in it," he said.

A family member of the deceased police official said they shifted the patient because they thought the environment of the government hospital was not suitable.

"We wanted a comfortable room with an AC. We were informed that we would get 24/7 doctor's service along with the consultation of a psychiatrist."

"But we are shocked to see their patient management service... Anisul was not violent at all at that moment," a family member said.

This correspondent found several business cards of psychiatrists of National Institute of Mental Health, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College, Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre, Enam Medical College and Hospital, at the Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital.

According to the case document, the hospital was run by five people in the management -- Dr Muhammad Niaz Morshed, Abdullah Al Mamun, Sakhawat Hossain, Sazzad Amin and Fatema Khatun Moyna.

The Daily Star made several phone calls to Dr Niaz, but he did not answer. The Tejaon DC said action would be taken against all those involved in the incident, including the hospital management.

Inspector Faruk Mollah, investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star last night that Dr Niaz Morshed is under their surveillance.

"He is not physically stable. He can't move from his waist to toe. We will inform the court in this regard," the IO said.

Family members of the victim said he had been suffering from mental health complications and was "quiet" for three to four days.

Describing the incident, DC Harun-Ur-Rashid said Anisul went to the Mind Aid Hospital around 11:35am. Ten minutes after the patient had breakfast, hospital staffer Arif told Anisul's family members that they would take Anisul to washroom. When his sister Umme Salma wanted to go with them, they barred her.

Around 12:00pm, Arif called Umme Salma when she found her brother lying numb on the floor, the DC said,

adding that he was declared dead at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) at 12:58pm.

Analysing the CCTV footage, it was seen that Anisul was dragged into a soundproof room by several hospital staffers and thrown to the ground by six employees of the hospital. Two more employees dressed in blue grabbed his leg and two others hit him with their elbows. Hospital staffer Arif was present all the while. Anisul's hands were tied behind his back with a piece of blue cloth.

There were no doctors, but all were hospital staffers, ward boys and cleaners, the police official said.

Referring to remain unnamed, a batchmate of the deceased police official said Anisul became angry when he was being taken to the soundproof room. He then hit a staffer, at which point several staffers dragged him into the soundproof room.

Expressing grave concern over the death of the Senior ASP, rights body Ain o Salish Kendra yesterday demanded that the authorities bring all mental health hospitals and service providers under regular monitoring and ensure they are accountable for their activities.

ASK demanded a fair probe into the allegations, proper legal action against the responsible persons and hospital authorities in this regard.

Meanwhile, senior ASP Anisul was buried at Gazipur City Central Graveyard around 9:30am yesterday. His namaj-e-janaza was held at Bhawal Rajbari ground.

Anisul Karim, appointed as a police officer in the 31st BCS, was working in Barishal Metropolitan Police (Traffic). He secured first position in his batch. Earlier he served Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Rapid Action Battalion, and Police Headquarters.

Hailing from Kapasia, Gazipur, he has one child. Anisul was a 33rd-batch student of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Jahangirnagar University.

Around 2:30pm yesterday, his friends, seniors and juniors at Jahangirnagar University, formed a human chain in front of the private hospital and demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the murder.

PMO asks rail ministry to cut costs

FROM PAGE 1

Officials said the PMO sent the directives to the railways ministry last week but they are yet to reach Bangladesh Railway, the implementing agency of the projects.

"The ministry has received the directives but we are yet to get it," Md Shamsuzzaman, director general of BR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Daily Star could not ascertain whether the directives asked the cost to be cut from different parts of the projects or by changing their plans. It also could not be determined what directive was issued for the Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur dual-gauge double line project.

On September 30, the PMO formed the committee to review the three railway project costs and whether they should go ahead as planned. The projects were supposed to be implemented with Chinese finance and by Chinese companies.

The committee, led by Shamima Nargis, the then member (physical infrastructure division) of the Planning Commission, submitted its reports within seven working days, sources said.

Following the submission, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued the directives, the sources added.

The committee had representatives from the railways ministry, Bangladesh Railway, Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

The committee also gave several observations and suggestions and the PMO asked for necessary changes in the projects following them, they added.

Of the three projects, Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) has approved the first

two projects and Chinese companies have been selected and contract costs have also been negotiated.

Final loan and commercial deals were yet to be signed.

The third project has not been approved by Ecne yet.

However, a Chinese company has already been selected and a tentative contract cost has been negotiated.

The Ecne in April last year approved the project to convert the Akhaura-Sylhet metre-gauge rail line to dual-gauge for Tk 16,104 crore.

The contract cost negotiated with China Railway Construction Bridge Engineering Bureau Group Co Ltd is Tk 12,079 crore.

But many questioned the "huge cost" while others asked as to why the government would convert the existing line when it was possible to build a new dual-gauge lines with some extra money.

The government took up the Tk 14,250 crore project in January last year to turn Joydebpur-Ishwardi line into a dual-gauge double line. It is scheduled to be completed by December, 2024.

The negotiated contract cost for this project is Tk 9,839 crore and the selected company is China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation.

The tentative negotiated cost for constructing the dual-gauge double line alongside the existing Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur metre-gauge section is Tk 8,808 crore and the selected company is China Railway International Group.

The Daily Star failed to reach the railways minister and secretary for comments despite repeated attempts.

GOP backs Trump

FROM PAGE 1

Judges have tossed out lawsuits in Michigan and Georgia, and experts say Trump's legal efforts have little chance of changing the election result.

The leading Republican in Congress, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, on Monday carefully backed Trump, saying that he was "100% within his rights to look into allegations of irregularities," without citing any evidence.

McConnell's comments represent the thinking of most Senate Republicans for now, said a senior Senate Republican aide. "The position is tenable until it isn't and might last for a week or two before it becomes untenable," the aide said.

The support apparently made Trump go on the offensive yesterday.

"WE WILL WIN!" the Republican president tweeted early in the morning. "WATCH FOR MASSIVE BALLOT COUNTING ABUSE."

That's a big contrast from what he received from the outgoing president Barack Obama after being elected as the president of the United States.

Exactly four years ago yesterday, Trump had just scored his surprise victory against Hillary Clinton and toured the White House for the first time as a guest of Obama.

That courtesy to a presidents-elect is an old tradition, highlighting the nation's near sacred respect for the peaceful transfer of power.

Trump has not only failed to invite Biden for a chat in the Oval Office, he is blocking the Democrat from access to facilities, funding and expertise that usually come in a ready made package to help the incoming leader.

A Trump appointee who heads the office charged with recognizing election results has yet to do so, preventing the Biden transition team from moving into federal government office space or accessing funds to hire staff.

The General Services Administrator Emily Murphy, appointed by Trump in 2017, has yet to determine that "a winner

is clear," a spokeswoman said. Biden's team is considering legal action.

Emphasizing the atmosphere of intraspection, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday said in a testy news conference that he was preparing for "a smooth transition to a second Trump administration."

BARR MOVE PROMPTS RESIGNATION US Attorney General William Barr on Monday told federal prosecutors to "pursue substantial allegations" of irregularities of voting and the counting of ballots.

He also told them that "fanciful or far-fetched claims" should not be a basis for investigation. His letter did not indicate the Justice Department had uncovered voting irregularities affecting the outcome of the election.

Richard Pilger, who for years has served as director of the Election Crimes Branch in the Justice Department, said in an internal email he was resigning from his post after he read "the new policy and its ramifications".

The previous Justice Department policy, designed to avoid interjecting the federal government into election campaigns, had discouraged overt investigations "until the election in question has been concluded, its results certified, and all recounts and election contests concluded."

Biden's campaign said Barr was fueling Trump's far-fetched allegations of fraud.

"Those are the very kind of claims that the president and his lawyers are making unsuccessfully every day, as their lawsuits are laughed out of one court after another," said Bob Bauer, a senior adviser to Biden.

A bipartisan group of six former US Justice Department officials blasted Barr's move.

"The voters decide the winner in an election, not the President, and not the Attorney General," wrote the group, which includes Don Ayer, a deputy attorney general under former President George HW Bush.

Blighted by graft, partisanship

FROM PAGE 1

able to verify details of the rest of the beneficiaries.

The anti-graft watchdog also took 960 interviews of OMS (open market sales) card holders, and 36.8 percent of them said they got less rice than they were supposed to receive. Ninety-two people said they never managed to get any rice even after having the cards.

The involvement of local parliamentarians, chairmen, union parishad members, councillors or mayors was found in an overwhelming majority of cases of corruption in this regard, according to the TIB findings.

The TIB found that 79.2 percent of the people eligible for the cash assistance and 65.7 percent of the OMS card holders said they faced corrupt practices from the above-mentioned actors.

"The basic standards for transparency have not been upheld," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB. "There is no accountability, supervision or control."

The lists of all beneficiaries of social safety net programmes must be

made open data, and published in the government websites, recommended the organisation.

TIB also surveyed 37 hospitals from 35 districts and found that 49.6 percent of doctors and 45.9 percent of nurses there were still not getting adequate PPE and other protection materials to safeguard them from Covid-19. Staffers working in non-coronavirus units faced this the most.

As many as 48.6 percent of the interviewees said they were given normal surgical masks instead of K95 or other varieties, which are considered standard masks for protection against Covid-19 transmission.

In addition, all the hospitals had vacant positions for doctors while 89.1 percent of the hospitals had vacancies for nurses, the survey found. "But no doctor was appointed in 56.8 percent of the hospitals and no nurse in 48.5 percent of the hospitals," stated the survey report.

Of the hospitals under survey, 51.4 percent reported shortage of safety equipment.

No decision yet, parents worried

FROM PAGE 1

brought a completely different situation for both school authorities and parents. NO SIGN OF ADMISSION PROCESS IN SIGHT

Schools take fresh students for all classes based on vacancy. But they enrol the bulk of students in class-1, at the beginning of students' academic life, and in class-6, after completion of primary education.

Each year, several million students get fresh admission to schools in the capital.

Admission to class-1 takes place through lottery all over the country. Students at class-9 get admitted based on their results of Junior School Certificate (JSC) or Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations.

Top-ranking private schools usually start the admission process before government schools.

Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, for example, started distributing admission forms of class-1 students between October 29 and November 12 last year. Ideal School and College, Motijheel, distributed admission forms between November 9 and 18.

But this year, the school authorities have not taken any decisions yet.

"We are waiting for the government's

decision," said Ideal School and College principal Shahana Ara Begum.

The school has about 1,400 seats. Last year, government schools distributed admission forms from December 1 to 14. Lottery for class-1 took place on December 24 while admission tests for rest of the classes on December 18 to 20.

Benjir Ahmed, district education officer of Dhaka, said, "We are yet to start discussion on admitting students to non-government schools."

The admission process at government primary schools is completely different. The schools enrol all students who apply and no admission test is required.

According to the Directorate of Primary Education, 31,97,713 students enrolled in class-1 across the country. Of them, 1,87,188 were enrolled in schools of Dhaka district last year.

Secondary-level government schools, which also have primary sections, witness stiff competition for enrolling students. About 3.75 lakh students collected admission forms against 71,263 vacancies for class-1 to 9.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, there were 23,68,057 class-6

students last year. Of them, 1.10 lakh were in Dhaka district, according to the district education office.

Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), told The Daily Star yesterday that they have sent a proposal to the education ministry on holding admission tests at government high schools with a wide range of options.

"We proposed face-to-face exams and online tests. Admission tests with MCQ is also an option. But nothing is final yet," he said.

Belal Hossain, director (secondary) of DSHE, said, "We are working on the issue of admitting students at non-government schools."

He, however, said the guideline for enrolling students at public school has already been finalised.

Earlier at a press conference, Education Minister Dipu Moni said there is an apprehension that there could be a rise in the Covid-19 infections during December and January.

"So, we will have to consider the entire admission process. We are in discussion about the matter and will let all know soon," she told reporters.

CORRECTION

In our lead caption yesterday, we mistakenly mentioned that the metro rail line would go over the Raju Bhaskarja on the Dhaka University campus. MAN Siddique, managing director of the Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited, has informed that the Mass Rapid Transit or MRT Line-6 would stand 17 metres east of the centre point of the sculpture and seven metres from its edge.

RAYHAN'S DEATH IN CUSTODY

Suspended SI Akbar placed on 7-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Suspended sub-inspector Akbar Hossain Bhuayan of Sylhet Metropolitan Police was placed on a seven-day remand in connection with the custodial death of Rayhan Ahmed.

Sylhet Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abul Kashem granted the remand, said the case's investigation officer Awlad Hossain, who is an inspector with Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI).

According to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and multiple footages that went viral on social media, Akbar was detained by the members of Khasi community in India's Meghalaya.

Mohammad Farid Uddin, superintendent of Sylhet police, however, claimed that one of their teams detained Akbar while he was trying to flee the country.

Akbar was detained in Dona area along Bangladesh-India border in the district's Kanaighat upazila around 9:00am on Monday, he added.

Rayhan, 33, of Akhalia Neharipara area in Sylhet city, was allegedly detained and tortured by police on early October 11.

He died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital at 7:50am. His wife filed a case with Kotwali Police Station accusing several unnamed people the next day.

On October 12, Sylhet Metropolitan Police suspended four personnel including sub-inspector Akbar, who was the in-charge of a police outpost.

On October 13, PBI was tasked with the investigation of the case.

Including Akbar, a sub-inspector, an assistant sub-inspector and two constables were arrested in the case. WHO ASKED AKBAR TO FLEE?

In a footage that went viral on social media, Akbar was seen telling his detainees (Khasi detainees in Meghalaya) that some high official asked him to run away.

However, a day after his detention and 15 days after the submission of a probe report by Police Headquarters' committee, no senior officer of Sylhet Metropolitan Police was in question.

The probe body, headed by Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Mohammed Ayub, was formed on October 19 and the body submitted report on October 27.

During probing, Sub-inspector Hasan Uddin, newly appointed in-charge of the outpost, was suspended on October 21 for helping Akbar to run away.

Contacted, Azbahar Ali Sheikh, deputy commissioner (north) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "We still haven't got any further instruction based on the probe report. No senior officer is still in question but we've heard that Akbar told about a senior officer in a video."

"As Akbar is now on a seven-day remand with PBI, we'll also try to quiz him about the senior officer who suggested him to flee", he said.

16 more die from Covid in a day

1,699 test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen patients with Covid-19 died in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of deaths due to this highly transmissible virus rose to 6,108 -- 1.44 percent of all cases so far.

During the same 24 hours, the DGHS reported 1,699 new cases, taking the overall number of Covid-19 cases in the country to 4,23,620.

Against a total of 13,520 tests in 114 labs over the period, the positivity rate was 12.57 percent. The overall positivity rate was 17.15 percent against all tests.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,648 patients recovered, taking the total recoveries to 341,416 with a recovery rate of 80.59 percent.

On March 8, the health directorate reported the first three Covid-19 cases in the country and the first death occurred on March 18.

On August 26, the number of confirmed cases in the country surged past the 300,000 mark while the death toll exceeded 6,000 on November 4.

Of the deceased in the 24-hour period, 15 were male.

Include sex education in national curriculum

Speakers at webinar demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There must be training for teachers so that they can deliver the sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) lessons in an innovative and interesting approach, breaking the existing stigma and socio-cultural taboo, said speakers at a webinar yesterday.

They also pointed out the importance of inclusion of SRHR issues in the examinations, so that students become more interested and eager to learn these issues from their curriculum, which will play a great role in preventing sexual violence.

The webinar, titled "Importance of incorporation of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) education in the National Curriculum for the prevention of sexual violence", was jointly organised by Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) and The Daily Star.

Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS, said since in 2021, the national curriculum will be revised, BNPS demands incorporation of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in the national curriculum and it must be treated as the health and sexual rights of women.

Rokeya Kabir also highlighted that a gender-sensitive education system and scientific analysis of CSE from an early age can work as a tool to prevent sexual violence.

Reproductive health specialist Dr Sameena Chowdhury, former head of the Department of Gynaecology and Obs at Dhaka Medical College, who is currently the president of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB), stressed on the importance of knowing one's body and highlighted the existing taboo related to sexual health issues.

She also condemned the irrelevant objectification of women in the media and stressed on the importance of humanitarian development.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Moshfeka Begum was reeling from cancer when she began gardening. Today, she is devoted to spreading the joy to as many people as she can. Fellow green enthusiast Barkat, inset, finds a similar kind of zen in his garden, which has over 150 species of plants.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

She found a lifeline

Rooftop gardening helps 65-yr-old cope with cancer; vibrant community budding in Barishal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

College teacher Moshfeka Begum was diagnosed with breast cancer six years ago. At 59, her vision for a long life was suddenly blurred by this revelation. She was devastated.

When she went to Singapore for treatment, doctors told her to spend time in serene settings, specifically around greenery. They told her to begin gardening, with the hope that tending to leaves and petals help her.

Moshfeka was desperate for a way out of her woes, and she took their words to heart. Immediately after getting back home, she started planning a garden. Living in an urban space, she had no choice but the roof of her four-storey building.

Six years later, she is now the owner of a splendid little rooftop oasis, but more importantly, she is happy as ever.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Giving children a creative outlet

Jolputul inaugurates puppet school in capital



The school offers courses that will teach youngsters everything about the craft of puppeteering, on stage and behind it.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

FAISAL BIN IQBAL, from SHOUT

Jolputul Puppets, a Dhaka-based community of puppetry enthusiasts, inaugurated a new puppet school over the weekend. The school, located at the capital's Elephant Road, will allow young kids to learn the once popular craft of puppetry.

Students will be trained on various aspects of the art form, like how to make and control puppets, and how to design stories and settings for live shows.

"We want our students to get familiar with various kinds of puppets and the process of making them using everyday items," says Saiful. "Our curriculum will also help them understand how to create a setting for a puppet show. Besides, we also teach them how to develop their own stories and make it presentable to their audience."

Originally set to open earlier in the year, the school's inauguration had to be delayed due to the coronavirus. "We had been planning to begin activities at our puppet school for a while," says Saiful Jamal, Creative Director at Jolputul Puppets. "But like everything else, the pandemic brought those plans to a screeching halt."

"Initially, we ran a series of live

puppet-making sessions on our Facebook page. This went on for about 40 days. But we weren't fully on-board with the idea of making kids sit through these virtual sessions," Saiful recounted. "We would rather that they spend less time on smartphones and computers, which is why we decided to begin in-person classes."

Classes are scheduled for weekends, and students can choose to come on any one of the two days. Currently, each session is limited to around 5 to 10 students and is conducted over a period of two-and-a-half hours.

Once the pandemic situation improves, Jolputul Puppets expects to enrol a larger number of students and hold classes outside the capital, Saiful said.

Currently, the school is operating a 2-month course on puppetry. In the first month, students are introduced to the basics, while in the second, they are provided with more advanced lessons related to the craft.

"It's my first day here with my child, and from what I can tell, everything seems very well managed," says Zakir Hasan, parent of a student at the school. "I overheard the children enjoying themselves inside the class, and I feel content to know that."

'MN Larma fought for the marginalised'

Say speakers at event marking his 37th death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manabendra Narayan Larma was a friend of the deprived and marginal people and he fought for their rights, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

The event was organised to mark his 37th death anniversary. The national committee to observe his death anniversary arranged the meeting at Women Voluntary Association (WVA) in the capital.

MN Larma, born on September 15, 1939, was a prominent Chakma politician and a leading proponent of the rights of CHT people. He was assassinated on November 10, 1983.

At yesterday's event, speakers said MN Larma does not belong to any particular group or party; he is a leader for all to follow. He fought for a democratic and progressive Bangladesh, they added.

Larma raised debate in the parliament about the constitution as he thought it did not include the voice of the deprived and marginalised, said speakers. But the government is yet to recognise the rights of the people living in the hills, they said, adding that people there are still fighting for their rights.

Abu Sayeed, journalist and columnist and convener

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Dhaka to have 42 bus routes, down from 291

Says Taposh after meeting of bus route rationalisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buses on 291 routes in Dhaka city will in future only run on 42 routes, and a high-powered committee on bus route rationalisation is working on it.

This was stated at a press briefing by Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

He also said buses which come from different districts will have to stay at terminals at the bordering areas of the city and will not be allowed to enter.

"If we can do it, it will reduce pressure on Dhaka and traffic congestion will lessen," Taposh said.

After the committee meeting of "Bus Route Rationalisation and Operation of Bus Services on Company Basis in Dhaka", he said they have received a report yesterday on bus routes and companies, and following proper examination, they have decided to decrease the 291 routes to 42 primarily.

"There are 2,500 bus owners running their vehicles in Dhaka city. Authorities will bring the number of bus companies down to 22, and all the owners will be able to get ownership of the companies as shareholders," he said.

He said they will hold the next meeting on December 8, and stakeholders will examine the proposal further, and will determine the cluster and routes.

"If we can all come to an understanding of clusters and routes, it will be a major step," he added.

The mayor said they are hopeful for a good result by the end of next year but did not want to give a specific time-frame.

The number of terminals in Dhaka city is very limited: only three in Dhaka, two in DSCC and one in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC).

Buses usually park on roads due to lack of space, he said.

A feasibility study is ongoing and a report will be submitted by March, where

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'He siphoned off Tk 195cr'

Samrat shown arrested in money laundering case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Chowdhury Samrat, one of the "casino kingpins" in Dhaka and his close aide Enamul Haque Arman have been shown arrested in a Tk 195 crore money laundering case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzzaman Ansary yesterday passed the order after Md Mehedi Maksud, an inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and also the case's investigation officer, produced the duo before the court with a petition to show them arrested in the case.

The magistrate rejected a bail petition of Samrat

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



The onset of winter ushers in a busy few months for quilters, as demand for comforters hit the sky. This photo was taken yesterday from Barishal city's Padmabati area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



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Govt, EC need to learn from US polls: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged both the government and the Election Commission to take a lesson from the US presidential election.

"The Awami League government has completely destroyed democracy by using state institutions and ruined all the prospects of democracy. But it's not the end," he said.

Speaking at a press conference, the BNP leader said, "They (govt) should review the election (US election). Awami League and those who are in charge of the Election Commission should take a lesson from the polls."

BNP arranged the press conference at its chairperson's Gulshan office to present the party's observations on the role of the government and EC in the Dhaka-18 and Sirajganj-1 by-elections.

Fakhrul said the election authorities in the US remained steadfast in the face of pressure and upheld the verdict of people. "That's called democracy."

"Democracy cannot be established without democratic institutions. The institutions must be neutral, the Election Commission, the judiciary and the administration must be completely impartial and strong. They should work for the welfare of people," he observed.

He alleged that the AL government cannot realise the country's situation and read the languages of people's eyes and writings on the wall as it has plunged into darkness.

About the atmosphere in the by-polls to Dhaka-18 and Sirajganj-1, he said law enforcers are raiding the houses of BNP leaders and activists at night and threatening their family members of dire consequences if they stay in their areas.



Lines of rickshaws remain parked on the capital's Green Road all day, narrowing the space for vehicular movement, which often results in traffic congestion on the busy road. Encroachment of road space is a common scene in Dhaka, with little effort from authorities concern to address the public nuisance. The photo was taken earlier this week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DMP chief helps out Nannu Mia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moved by the picture of 70-year-old Nannu Mia, who was carrying a sack of grass he cut from the capital's Bangabandhu National Stadium to earn a living, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner gave him Tk 25,000 to buy two rickshaws to ease his struggles.

The Daily Star published a photo of the man on its front page on November 5.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of DMP Motijheel Division Zamil Hasan handed over the money on behalf of DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam on Monday.

Walid Hossain, DC (media) of DMP, said the story of Nannu touched the commissioner. Later, police found the elderly man and took him to Shafiqul.

Nannu had to work for several hours in scorching heat to get grass from the stadium, to sell for Tk 100. He has no family member, and cannot even see clearly.

64th death anniversary of Maj Abdul Gani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 64th death anniversary of veteran military officer Maj Abdul Gani, founder of East Bengal Regiment.



He was born in Cumilla's Brahmanpara. He studied in Cumilla, and later in Kolkata. He graduated from Kolkata Islamia College in 1940 and joined the British Indian Army in 1941, during the Second World War. He was commissioned as a lieutenant, and fought in the Burma sector. As a mark for his courage, he was nicknamed "Tiger Gani".

Following the Partition of India, he was promoted to captain in 1948. He dreamt of an independent Bangladesh, and so, established the regiment in 1948 to give a unique identity to Bengali soldiers. Maj Gani was one of the greatest military officers of the nation, who directly protested the then Pakistani president Ayub Khan's speech against the Bangla language in 1948.

The relief he received after the establishment of East Bengal Regiment did not last long, as Pakistani rulers deprived him of everything, including promotion. Angered, he quit his service in 1953 and joined politics and eventually got elected as member of East Pakistan Provincial Assembly as an independent candidate.

Bangladesh Army and Major Gani Parishad will pay tributes at his mausoleum, while RAOVA, and the parishad jointly organised a doa-mahfil today.

She found

FROM PAGE 3

"I spend most of my time with my plants. It's as if they're my children," the 65-year-old said. "It definitely helps (the fight against cancer)."

This whole concept of gardening as a lifestyle, as a meditation, as a cure touched Moshfeka so much that she has become something of a gardening advocate.

"To spread this concept, a couple of us have opened a Facebook group called 'Green Agriculture Barishal'. We are trying to build a platform for green enthusiasts," she told this correspondent.

The group has helped her during the pandemic, she said. "When the going got tough, we kept each others' spirits high talking about plant care."

"With 'Green Agriculture Barishal', we are spreading the idea of a green Barishal to thousands," said Barkat Hasan. A textile engineer by profession, he is one of the founding members of the group.

"People from all quarters are flocking to the group. There are agriculturists, researchers, students, teachers, engineers -- everyone is getting involved with this initiative," he added. His own garden hosts 120 different species of rare fruit and flowers, he told The Daily Star.

This creates a unique mood for knowledge exchange in the group. Members share opinions,

articles, donate saplings, raise green awareness, and respond to each other's queries. There is also a budding network, as members are exchanging information on buying and selling gardening-related items. On top of this, many members are also going out of their ways to physically help others set up their gardens.

"I have been associated with rooftop gardening-related activism since 2012," Barkat said.

"We have another platform called 'Sabuj Krishi Barisal' which has over 3,700 members."

Some of them are renowned agricultural researchers, like Prof Abdur Rahim, founder of Bangladesh Agriculture University's Germplasm Center. Government Barisal College's professor Latifa Akhter, herself a rooftop gardener, is also part of the community.

"Our dream is to build a green Barishal," she said. "It will be built with the love of all."

Humayun Kabir, the recently retired deputy director of Rahmatpur's Barisal Horticulture Centre said rooftop gardens are trending up. At the moment, about 3,000 orchards have sprung up across Barishal's skyline, he added.

When one such garden has helped Moshfeka with her fight for life, who knows how many ways the 2,999 help their gardeners.

Dhaka to

FROM PAGE 3

location of bus depots and terminals will be selected, he said.

Ten terminals were decided primarily, but the study will find out how many terminals are required, he said.

DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam virtually joined the meeting, while DMP Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam, BRTA Chairperson Nur Mohammad Majumdar, BRTC Chairperson Md Ehsane Elahi, Rajuk Chairperson Md Sayeed Noor Alam, public transport expert Dr SM Saleh Uddin and Bangladesh Transport Owners Association General Secretary Khandaker Enayet Ullah were present in the meeting.

Include

FROM PAGE 3

Prof Dr Md Mainul Islam, head of the Department of Population Science, University of Dhaka, said, "Along with incorporating the CSE issues in the national curriculum, we must monitor the practice of such lessons in the national, mass and local levels."

He also stressed on setting up the learning outcomes, as well as timing and delivery method for CSE.

Shaheen Anam, executive director, Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the lack of SRHR issues has a severe impact on our society.

"Although adolescence is the most vulnerable stage of our life cycle when boys and girls experience a change in their body and mind... and need support, we don't have any support system for these groups," she said.

"The way pornography is spreading, the uneducated minds cannot process the information, and it directly creates an impact on violence against women and girls," she said.

"When we talk to married women in field level, we come across the magnitude of sexual violence they face, which is the result of the lack of sex education," she added.

Dr Mushfiq Zaman Satiar, senior adviser,

the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Bangladesh, in her speech as special guest said, "Although we have good policies (like youth policy and education policy), action plans, and initiatives, we are lagging behind in terms of implementation."

Among other recommendations, Dr Mashfiq stressed the availability of age-specific CSE and incorporation of menstrual health management issues in the primary school curriculum.

Prof Md Moshuazzaman, member, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), said "We are working on how effectively we can incorporate the CSE issues in our national curriculum revision, and how we can ensure proper output from our effort."

NCTB is working on creating innovative, gender-sensitive and interdisciplinary learning methods in the next curriculum revision, he assured.

Prof Dr Syed Md Golam Faruk, director-general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education; Dr Noor Mohammad, executive director of Population Services and Training Centre; and Sanjib Ahmed, director (programme), Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, also spoke at the webinar.

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Recruitment of Principal

An academically qualified Principal will be recruited in Dhaka City College in accordance with the Government recruitment rules and the service rules (Revised) - 2019 of the teachers of non-government colleges under National University, Bangladesh.

(a) Educational Qualification and Experience : Principal in a degree college / Vice-Principal / Professor / Associate Professor / Assistant Professor with at least second class in Graduation and Post-graduation levels can apply. Applicants must have 15 years of teaching experience in a degree college. Candidates must have the experience of 3 (three) years as a Vice-Principal or 5 (five) years as an Assistant Professor in a degree college.

(b) No third division / class in any level of academic career is acceptable.

(c) Candidates must not cross the age limit of 55 years on the date of the publication of the advertisement. Age limit may be relaxed in the case of experienced candidates.

(d) Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications to the college office by 25/11/2020 with 3 passport size coloured photographs, attested copies of all academic and experience certificates, non-refundable bank draft or pay order of Tk. 1,000 (one thousand).

(e) College authority preserves the right to cancel any application if it is found incomplete.

Professor Dr. Syed Modasser Ali
Chairman
Governing Body, Dhaka City College
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205

He siphoned

FROM PAGE 3

after his lawyer moved it on grounds that he has been suffering from different ailments including heart disease.

The prosecution opposed it, saying that the accused had committed offences by laundering money abroad.

On September 13, CID filed the case against the duo under the Money Laundering Act with Ramna Police Station.

In the case, it was alleged that Samrat siphoned off Tk 195 crore to Singapore and Malaysia illegally with the help of his aide Enamul.

On October 6 last year, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Samrat, who was the president of Dhaka South unit of Jubo League, and Arman, former vice-president of the same unit, from Cumilla after raiding a house near the Indian border.

Samrat came under the spotlight after Rab busted his illegal casino business at different sporting clubs in Dhaka and later was expelled from the Jubo League following his arrest.

Biman to start Sylhet-Cox's Bazar flights from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is going to start direct flight from Sylhet to Cox's Bazar from November 12.

Considering the demand and development of domestic tourism, the national flag carrier has taken the initiative to launch flights on the Sylhet-Cox's Bazar route, Biman said in a release.

This is the first time in Bangladesh's domestic flights history any airline of the country will fly on the route. Biman hopes that this will create a bridge between the tourist areas of Sylhet and Cox's Bazar for rapid development of tourism and commercial development.

The flight will leave Sylhet for Cox's Bazar every Tuesday at 11:45am and Thursday at 11:50am. Besides, it will depart from the tourist city of Cox's Bazar to Sylhet twice a week on Sunday at 12:05pm and on Tuesday at 1:45pm.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Mokabbir Hossain said it will take around one hour 17 minutes to fly from Sylhet to Cox's Bazar using Dash 8Q aircraft.

Biman is now operating flights on all seven domestic routes -- Chattogram, Rajshahi, Jashore, Barishal, Sylhet, Saidpur and Cox's Bazar from Dhaka.

Besides, the national airliner is operating flights on 10 international routes including London, Singapore, Malaysia, Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Jeddah, Dubai, Riyadh, Muscat and Doha, said the Biman MD.

MN Larma

FROM PAGE 3

Robayet Ferdous of Dhaka University and joint convener of the committee.

Among others, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Kapeng Foundation, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Sammilito Samajik Jote, Hill Women Federation, and Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network co-organised the event.

Rashed Khan Menon, president, Workers Party of Bangladesh; Pankaj Bhattacharya, president, Oikya Nap; Rokeya Kabir, executive director, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha; Dr Sadeka Halim, dean of social science faculty, Dhaka University; Dr Mushtak Hossain, former general secretary of Ducus; Shamsul Huda, executive director, Association for Land Reform and Development; Prof Mesbah Kamal of DU; Ruhin Hossain Prince, central member, Communist party of Bangladesh; Numan Ahmed Khan of Institute of Environment and Development; Sanjib Drong, general secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, and Ushatun Talukder, vice president of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti, also spoke at the programme.

BGB gets riot control vehicles, APCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sophisticated Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) and riot control vehicles were included in Border Guard Bangladesh's (BGB's) arsenal yesterday to enhance its operational activities and capacity building.

In addition to ensuring its own security, riot control vehicles have been added to BGB for effectively maintaining the country's internal law and order and controlling domestic riots, BGB said in a release.

Through the efforts of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and overall supervision of the BGB director general, the inclusion of these APCs and riot control vehicles has greatly enhanced the capacity of BGB, the release added.

BGB has already started operational activities to ensure proper and maximum use of the sophisticated equipment.

"As a result, BGB is able to play a more dynamic role in the overall security of the border as well as in controlling the internal law and order situation and protecting the sovereignty of the motherland," BGB said in the release.

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General Manager

Establishment Division
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The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above 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 supplied drawing to the Tender box kept at The Purchase Department of EDCL, Dhaka till 12.00 pm on 01/12/2020 which will be opened on 01/12/2020 at Dhaka office at 12.30 pm in presence of the Tenders/their representative (if any).

All interested bidders are requested to attend pre-bid meeting on 24.11.2020 at 11.00 AM, EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Resident Representative UNDP Bangladesh

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Anir Chowdhury
Policy Advisor a2i

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Entrepreneur: Md. Ziaul Haque
Hujripara Union Digital Centre, Rajshahi

My journey as a woman entrepreneur was very challenging. On one hand, my family, on the other, my dream of becoming self-dependent as an entrepreneur. I wanted to improve my own standard of living, while making life easier for the people of my village by serving them. The citizens of my village are now able to access more than 200 services through my Digital Centre including admission of their children, government or private jobs, online applications, etc. It gives me great joy as an entrepreneur. When I started working, we only had one computer in our Digital Centre but as demand increased, we bought two laptops with our own profits. In addition to providing services, we also use these to provide computer training to local educated youths in the hope of creating jobs for them. Over the last 10 years, countless women entrepreneurs have transformed their lives by establishing Digital Centres in unions across the country. This participation of women in the progress of the country is part of the great movement towards women's empowerment.

Entrepreneur: Tahera Akhter Shirin
Snaghat Union Digital Centre, Habiganj

I have always tried to serve people with sincerity from the moment I took charge as a Digital Centre entrepreneur. During 2013, most of my clients were expatriates or migrants going abroad. Along with various other services, I

was busy with ticketing and providing visa and passport application services. One day, one of my regular clients, Rashid, went to India on business. I processed everything for his travel starting from his visa application. Suddenly, one night at around 3 am, Rashid called me from India crying that his father had died. His father was an elder of our neighborhood. Rashid told me that he wanted to come back to Chittagong as soon as possible but was unable to find any tickets. He asked if I could make any arrangements. I reassured him and immediately arranged a ticket for him. He returned the next day. Even today, whenever I meet him, he hugs me and says "I was able to my father for the very time only because of you. God bless you." The days go by, I continue to try to build trust of people in the Digital Centre through my services.

Entrepreneur: Rajib Chowdhury
Municipal Digital Centre, Rangamati

People of my union started coming to my Digital Centre for services as well as with various problems. Once a middle-aged man came to my centre and said, "I am in big trouble. I have to go to Gaibandha often to test my diabetes wasting both my money and time." I advised him to buy a machine to measure his diabetes through EkShop. I told him, "You can order the machine online, it will take only four or five days to arrive." He thought the machine was very expensive. I told him that the machine would cost 1,900 takas only. He was quite amazed, instantly ordered the machine and jokingly said, "You kids can do anything in the world!" I informed him once the machine arrived five days later. He went home satisfied after learning how to use it. Few days later, he returned to my centre to order dates for the month of Ramadan. He said, "I need some dates for the month of Ramadan." He was not surprised this time since he knew he could order anything from Digital Centres. Due to our relentless efforts over the last 10 years, citizens of every union across the country have now come to trust Digital Centres for any sort of service.

Entrepreneur: Md. Monowar Hossain
Fulchhari Digital Centre, Gaibandha

My husband went abroad four years ago. He started sending money to the bank in my name to support the family. But the bank is in the district town, quite far from our village. Every time he sent money, I had to wake up early to go to there. I was wasting a lot of my time and money to travel to and from the bank. My entire day was wasted on these days. But now, I can avail these banking services at the Digital Centre in my union. I no longer need to go to the town and can now withdraw money any time. Not only this, I can also submit my electricity bills from the centre. Being close to my home, I can easily walk to the Digital Centre saving both time and money. We never dreamt of having a bank in our village and that is why everyone in the village is now very happy.

Service Recipient: Jhorna Begum, Cumilla

Over time, many things have changed. We now have electricity, gas cylinders in our village and our roads are also paved. In general, we now have a lot of things that used to be available in the cities only. Last time when my son fell sick, my family informed me that I had to go to abroad as soon as possible but my passport had expired. I then got to know that I could apply for passport renewal from the Digital Centre in our Union Parishad office. All my life, I have standing in line, the middlemen days to renew my passport, but now I can do all these from near my home. I did not believe

NOBODY DREAMT OF HAVING PASSPORT SERVICES NEAR OUR HOME

this was for real and they were really accepting request for passport renewal request. I was very happy. 10 years back, a village that had no electricity, today one can apply for their passport there! The country has really advanced a lot.

Service Recipient: Gaur, Khulna

About a year ago, the government announced that it would

provide an allowance to poor, pregnant mothers. I was 6-7 months pregnant back then. I inquired about this but people were saying that I would need to pay a lot. I would also need a voter ID card. I had only completed the initial stage of becoming a voter back then and had not received my voter ID card yet. Later, I heard that there is an office in our union called 'Digital Centre', where I can get the solution to my problem. Those at the centre, typed my name in the computer and astonishingly, handed in my voter ID card. I was amazed at how easy it was to get my voter ID card. I am now using that card to withdraw my maternity allowance given by the government. The government has given us many opportunities, and has made arrangements to solve any sort of problem that might arise when taking up these opportunities. I am very happy with the work of our government.

Service Recipient: Ruma Akhter, Thakurgaon

I live in a village. Our family survives by cultivating the land left by my father. A couple of years ago, I needed some money urgently. But, I did not have any cash in my hand I decided to sell some of my ancestral property. I also had an prospective buyer but then the difficulty arised. The buyer looked at my papers and said that the land papers were fine but my father still legally owned the land. The mutation was not in my name and as a result, the deal stalled. After making inquiries, I realized it took a long time for the registration of mutation. Our village is far from the city. Just then, to my surprise, I found out that this service can be availed from our union's Digital Centre. I went on to the Digital Centre and got to know that land registration could now be done online because of the government had launched the digital e-mutation service. I quickly applied for e-mutation and the application was also granted on time saving me a great deal of trouble. I was then finally able to sell my land. I used to hear that there were a lot of hassles related to land related services. But now, I see that anyone can avail e-mutation services right from their village. The government's digital services have made our lives much easier. Big problems can be solved easily now.

Service Recipient: Abul Kashem, Barisal

On the 10th year anniversary of Digital Centres, congratulations to the administration, entrepreneurs, public representatives, service recipients and everyone else.
VISIT DIGITAL CENTRES, ACCESS SERVICES

Church ransacked in Kulaura Khasi village

The attack was carried out hours after the authorities evicted illegal occupants from a betel leaf garden owned by a Khasi family

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A church was ransacked and at least one person sustained injury during an attack on Ichhachhara Khasi village in Kulaura upazila on Monday night -- several hours after the upazila administration in a raid evicted illegal occupants from a betel leaf garden belonging to an indigenous family at Katabari Paan Jum.

Around 50 to 60 men armed with local weapons, led by Rafiq Ali, who had been evicted from the garden several hours earlier, first vandalised a grocery store owned by one Lal Mia around 7:00pm and they later ransacked the nearby church too, locals said, adding that when the attackers started to throw stones at houses up on the hills, at least one person was hurt while running to safety.

AKM Shafi Ahmed Salman, chairman of Kulaura Upazila Parishad, told this correspondent over phone that the attackers fled by the time Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) ATM Farhad Chowdhury, Additional Superintendent of Police (Kulaura Circle) Sadeq Kawsar Dastagir, Kulaura Police Station Officer-in-Charge Binay Bhushan Ray and Karmadha Union Parishad (UP) Chairman MA Rahman arrived at the scene.

UNO ATM Farhad said all steps have been taken to ensure security of the indigenous community.

To dispel the tension, the five-acre property, which was freed from illegal occupation earlier in the day, has been placed under the responsibility of the local UP chairman and two UP members and Village Police will guard the property.

This correspondent could not reach Rafiq Ali for his version of the incident despite making multiple calls on his cell phone.

Yesterday's attack further escalated tensions among around 12,000 members of small ethnic communities residing at 32 villages in the upazila.

The inhabitants in the villages had been



The ransacked church at Ichhachhara Khasi village in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila. Left, ATM Farhad Chowdhury, magistrate and upazila nirbahi officer of Kulaura, (sixth from left) along with other members of the eviction team during the Monday afternoon drive at Katabari Paan Jum in the upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

living in anxiety since the betel leaf garden, locally known as 'paan jum', was taken over by force on the night of September 27.

A group of men led by Rafiq Ali, an influential local from Tatriuli village, forcibly entered the property at Katabari Paan Jum and took its possession, said Jospur Amlorong, the local owner of the garden.

Jospur is a Khasi by ethnicity and suffering from cancer for the last three years. Like most Khasis, the betel leaf garden had been the only source of income for him and his family.

The sudden loss of income sent the family into tremendous financial hardship while Jospur's physical condition deteriorated without timely treatment of the cancer in his body.

The Daily Star ran two reports in this regard on its Bangla online portal on October 10 and November 5.

On Monday, around afternoon, UNO ATM Farhad, also the magistrate of Kulaura, led a team of law enforcers during the eviction drive.

Tanvir Hossain, executive magistrate of Moulvibazar and Mizanur Rahman, deputy assistant director of Rapid Action Battalion-9 (Srimangal), also accompanied the eviction team.

Ever since occupying the garden forcibly, Rafiq Ali and his hired goons had been claiming that the land belonged to Rafiq. They even had been issuing death threats to Jospur and other members of the community if they

tried to go near the garden, said Jospur.

Rafiq engaged outsiders to guard the garden 24 hours-a-day and they had been damaging the betel plants by plucking leaves without following proper procedures, he also said.

During a visit to the area on November 3, this correspondent witnessed a couple of workers collecting betel leaves in the garden. When the correspondent made attempt to enter the garden, he came under resistance from Rafiq's workers.

One of the workers, Bashir Ahmed, introduced himself as the caretaker of the garden. He claimed that his brother Rafiq Ali owns the garden.

When contacted over phone, Rafiq became furious for attempting to enter the property "without his permission". He also said, "Do you have any court order? I will implicate you in false cases... We've got your photo."

The inhabitants of the indigenous villages in the meantime have been in a state of shock and disbelief after witnessing how easily someone encroached on a property belonging to one of their community members, by preparing fabricated land deeds.

Flora Babbly Talang, general secretary of Kuboraj Inter-punji Development Organisation, condemned the ransacking of the church and demanded immediate arrest of the persons responsible for Monday's attack.

Whenever there is an incident of encroachment on an ancestral property of any indigenous community, the authorities have to act swiftly. Otherwise, land grabbers might take over thousand other betel leaf gardens in indigenous villages in a similar fashion, she also said.

Father Joseph Gomes OMI, an executive committee member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said livelihoods of the Khasis depend on betel leaf cultivation and the community will face extinction if encroachment on their gardens and property continues unabated.

Thanking the administration for the eviction drive, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong said the government needs to take swift action as incidents of encroachment on ancestral property of the minorities with fabricated documents are rising alarmingly.

UNO ATM Farhad said in mid-October, when he called the two parties in a meeting to settle the dispute by arbitration and mediation, Rafiq Ali did not show up.

Later, the land documents provided by Rafiq were found to be fabricated after those were sent to the sub-registrar's office in Dhaka for verification.

Dublar Char, other spots buzz with fish drying

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Fish drying is going on in full swing at Dublar Char and several other areas in the Sundarbans. Fish drying season has started in the char areas on November 5 which will continue till March. Dublar Char is the largest fish drying centre in the Sundarbans.

The other areas include Alorkol, Narkelbaria, Shelarchar and Meherali Char in the Sharankhola Range of the Eastern Sundarbans Division.

Around 20,000 fishermen are engaged in drying fish after netting them from the sea. The fishermen use more than 30 types of nets to catch fish and dry them in the sun and make it suitable for export.

Various species of fish including rupchanda, churi, laitya and different kinds of shrimp are dried in the areas.

More than ten thousand of fishermen from Chattagram, Barguna, Pirojpur, Satkhira and other districts go to the Sundarbans during the fish drying season. In the five months, they will dry

a large quantity of fish in several chars including Dublar Char after netting them from the Bay of Bengal.

Besides the fishermen, fish traders also go there for drying fish for preservation and sale.

The government also gets a large amount of revenue from here. However, fishing in the Sundarbans for a long time cannot improve the financial situation of the fishermen.

According to the fishermen, the fish drying season in the Sundarbans starts every year before the onset of winter. They stay in the Sundarbans for five months, braving natural disasters. But they cannot run their family properly with the money they earn during the fish drying season.

Fisherman Dulal Sheikh of Sharankhola upazila said they have to go to sea during the fish drying season every year after taking loans. They do not get any financial help from the government.

Shukur Ali, a dried fish trader, said with six nets, three trawlers

and 30 employees, he goes to the Sundarbans every year during the fish drying season. About Tk 20 lakh is required for a season. This time, he has borrowed the money from local NGOs and moneylenders at high interest.

Contacted, Sundarbans East Forest Divisional Forest Officer Belayet Hossain said they are taking steps to help the affected fishermen.

He added that coronavirus situation may intensify in winter. So, they have allowed fishermen to go to sea on some conditions, which include maintaining health guidelines and hygiene.

Leaders of the fishermen have been asked to follow the health guidelines strictly, Belayet said.

In the fiscal year 2019-20, revenue of Tk 2.73 crore has been collected from there while it was Tk 2.46 crore in the 2018-19 fiscal year. The forest department has set a revenue collection target of Tk 3.20 crore for the 2020-21 financial year.

3 fraudsters arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) arrested three alleged members of a gang, involved in bKash fraud and mugging, from Madhukhal upazila early yesterday.

Debashish Karmakar, company commander of Rab-8 in Faridpur, said acting on a tip-off, they conducted a drive at Dumain village and arrested Nur Alam, 19, Shaharup Sheikh, 18, and Shakil Sheikh, 19, around 12:30am.

They also seized 16 mobile phone sets and 27 SIM cards from them.



Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Sunday seized this touchstone statue of Hindu god Vishnu, weighing 380 kilograms, from Dewra village in Joyprhat's Akkelpur upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Health Services Division
Health Economics Unit
14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For Recruiting Research firm for the "Study on Economic Burden of COVID-19 in Bangladesh"

1. Ministry/Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Agency	Health Economics Unit (HEU).
3. Name of the procuring entity	Director General, HEU.
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5. Type of organization	Research Organization.
6. EOI Ref. No.	45.05.0000.007.31.012.20.937
7. Date	10 November, 2020
KEY INFORMATION	
7. Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
8. Budget and source of funds	Funds of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
9. Project/program name (if applicable)	Study on Economic Burden of COVID-19 in Bangladesh.
10. EOI closing date and time	Date: 25 November, 2020 Time: 14:00
11. Brief description of the assignment	The COVID-19 recession is a major ongoing global economic crisis which has caused both a recession in some nations, and in others a depression. It is currently the worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression. The Bangladesh economy is losing Tk 33 billion every day from its service and agriculture sectors during the nationwide shutdown over the coronavirus outbreak. The healthcare facilities in the country are limited to serve its 160 million-plus population. Initially Bangladesh's capacity to test for corona virus infection and to isolate and treat patients confirmed to have COVID-19 is restricted by only public health infrastructure. Later it has been extended to private facilities. "Overburdened" at the best of times, this infrastructure is in no position to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19. The aim of the study is to find out the direct and indirect cost of treating the Covid-19 in Bangladesh during the year 2020 as well as to estimate the economic burden of Covid-19 from societal perspective (i.e., both household and hospital) in Bangladesh during the year 2020.
12. Experience, resource and delivery capacity required	To be selected, the organization must have the following: • Familiarity with the health, nutrition, and population sector program • Extensive expertise on economic evaluation & cost analysis of healthcare related exercise • Expertise in use of STATA/SPSS statistical software for data analysis • Proven expertise in quality report writing & policy recommendations in English.
13. Other details (if applicable)	EOI should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked "Study on Economic Burden of COVID-19 in Bangladesh" to the undersigned.
14. Association with external firm	Not applicable.
15. Indicative start date (month/year)	January, 2021.
16. Indicative completion date (month/year)	May, 2021.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
17. Name of official inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahad Hossain Mahmud.
18. Designation of official inviting EOI	Director General (Additional Secretary), Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
19. Address of official inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka 1000.
20. Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 9586822, Fax: 9582207 e-mail: dg@heu.gov.bd
21. Detail information available in the website	www.hsd.gov.bd; www.heu.portal.gov.bd; www.cpiu.gov.bd
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.	

Director General (Additional Secretary)
Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division
GD-1799

Youth jailed for life term for killing schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, LALMONIRHAT

A Kurigram court on Monday jailed a youth until his natural death in connection with a case for killing a teenage girl in Roumari upazila of the district in 2015.

Kurigram District and Sessions Judge Abdul Mannan handed down the verdict in presence of the convict Anarul Haque, 24, of Batagram village in the upazila.

Besides, the main accused in the case Ayub Ali, 20, fell unconscious and drowned while washing his blood-stained clothes in a local waterbody soon after the murder.

According to the case statement, Ayub and with his accomplice Anarul went to the house of Arjina Khatun on June 14 in 2015 as she refused to accept Ayub's love proposal.

The duo killed the girl by slitting her throat with a knife when none of her family members were present.

Meanwhile, soon after the incident some of the villagers saw Ayub and Anarul fleeing the spot, police said.

Victim's mother Sajida Khatun later filed a murder case with Roumari Police Station accusing Anarul and two to three other unnamed people.

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং- পাববি/সস্বাপন/২৮২/ ১০০২ তারিখ: ০৯/১১/২০২০ ইং

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জন্য স্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

পদের নাম, বেতনস্কেল ও গ্রেড	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
(১) আইন কর্মকর্তা (২২০০০-৫৩৩০) (গ্রেড-৯)	১টি	প্রার্থীকে কোন বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে আইন বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে স্নাতকসহ স্নাতকোত্তর/ সমমানের ডিগ্রির অধিকারী হতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের সর্বল পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/ সমমানের গ্রেড থাকতে হবে। স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি পর্যায়ে উভয়টিতে ১ম শ্রেণি প্রাপ্তদের আধিকার দেয়া হবে। আইন পেশায় অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের আধিকার দেয়া হবে। আইন পেশায় লাইসেন্সধারী হতে হবে। বয়স অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর।

*** উল্লেখ্য যে, পদ ২২/০৫/২০১৯ ইং তারিখের পাববি/সস্বাপন/২৮২/৬৫৬ স্মারকসূত্রের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী যে সকল প্রার্থী আইন কর্মকর্তা পদে ইতিমধ্যে আবেদন করেছেন, তাঁদের এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

শর্তাবলী :

- আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ৩০/১১/২০২০ ইং। সকল আবেদনপত্র রেজিস্ট্রার, পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রাজাপুর, পাবনা, বরাবরে উক্ত তারিখের (৩০/১১/২০২০ ইং) মধ্যে কার্যদিবসে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (৯:৩০টা থেকে ৫:৩০টা) কেবলমাত্র ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারী জন বিদ্যালয়ের নিম্ন গ্রেডের সাইট (www.pust.ac.bd)-এ প্রদত্ত ফরমেটে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত তথ্যসমূহসহ অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে এবং প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রে স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে :
(ক) সদ্যতোলা পাসপোর্ট আকারের ০৩ কপি রঙিন ছবি (খ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/ জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (ঘ) অভিজ্ঞতা (বেতনস্কেলসহ) সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (ঙ) প্রকাশনা ও প্রশিক্ষণ সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (চ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার।
- (ক) সকল প্রার্থীদের ০৭ (সাত) সেট আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে হবে।
(খ) মূল আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্ন টিকানা সর্মিলিত ১০/- (দশ) টাকার ডাকটিকিটসহ ফেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- উচ্চতর পদসমূহে (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল-২০১৫ এর গ্রেড-৯ এর উর্ধ্বে) নিয়োগের সকল ক্ষেত্রে অভ্যন্তরীণ/বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ব্যতীত নিয়োগ নীতিমালায় যে কোন একটি শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।
- এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে স্বপদ/সমমানের পদে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তা প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে নির্ধারিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও বয়স এর যে কোন একটি শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য হবে।
- কর্মকর্তা পদে (গ্রেড-০৭ থেকে গ্রেড-১০) আবেদনের কোনো গ্রেডিক পদ্ধতির ক্ষেত্রে প্রথম শ্রেণির সমমান বলতে এস.এস.সি/সমমান ও এইচ.এস.সি/সমমান এর ক্ষেত্রে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৫.০০ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ৩.৫০ এবং স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ৩.০০ বুঝাবে এবং দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির সমমান বলতে এস.এস.সি/সমমান ও এইচ.এস.সি/সমমান এর ক্ষেত্রে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৫.০০ এর জন্য ২.৫০ এবং স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ২.২৫ বুঝাবে। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন পর্যায়ে তৃতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/ সমমানের গ্রেড (৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ২.৫০ এবং ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ২.২৫) এর নিচে গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না এবং বিদেশী ডিগ্রির ক্ষেত্রে ইউজিসি কর্তৃক সমতুল্য সনদ থাকতে হবে/ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সমতুল্য সনদ (Equivalence committee) কর্তৃক সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত হতে হবে।
- চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটার ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান প্রার্থীদেরকে সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সনদসহ আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীর পিতার অনুকূলে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্ব প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীর তাঁর প্রার্থিত পদের নাম এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটার ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য অংশটি নামের উপর স্পষ্ট করে লিখতে হবে।
- প্রাপ্ত দরখাস্তসমূহ প্রাথমিক বাছাইয়ের পর কেবলমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে লিখিত পরীক্ষা/ মৌখিক পরীক্ষা/ জববেস্ট এ ডাকা হবে। এর জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অনুকূলে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর যে কোন শাখা হতে উল্লিখিত পদের প্রার্থীদের ৫০০/- টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নং, টাকার পরিমাণ ও তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল কিংবা সংশোধন করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

অধিকতর যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন/ বিভাগীয় প্রার্থী/ পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে এতদসংশ্লিষ্ট অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের আধিকার দেয়া হবে এবং বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন কর্তৃক পদের অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষে কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস বা বৃদ্ধি করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

৩০/১১/২০২০
অতিরিক্ত রেজিস্ট্রার
পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
পাবনা।

GD-1801

BIHAR STATE ELECTION

NDA claims victory ahead of final result

AGENCIES

Amid allegation of election fraud, BJP and its ally JD(U) yesterday declared their victory in Bihar state polls ahead of the final result.

The ruling NDA coalition appeared inching towards a simple majority in the 243-member Bihar assembly despite its rival opposition coalition giving it a run for its money. If the present results and trends available hold, the NDA will end up with 124 seats, just the half-way mark required to form the government, and the RJD-led mega coalition with 111.

However, there were 50 seats still undeclared when the ruling NDA coalition announced their victory.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his congratulatory tweet, said people of Bihar have given their "decisive decision for development".

The opposition, led by Tejashwi Yadav's RJD, claimed it won 119 seats but the JD(U)-BJP government had put pressure on election officials to delay the results. The EC said delay in counting votes were due to coronavirus-related restrictions.

According to results published till 1:00am today, the Rashtriya Janata Dal won 55 seats and was leading in 22. The BJP won 48 seats and was leading in 24. The Janata Dal United won 32 seats and was leading in 11. The Congress won 14 seats and was leading in five and the CPI-ML won nine seats and was leading in three seats.

Despite difference of opinion, BJP leaders in the state indicated that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will continue in his post if the NDA secures victory.

The election had taken place after a bitter campaign that saw Nitish Kumar battling anti-incumbency, a rebellion by Lok Janshakti Party's Chirag Paswan against his leadership -- seen by many as being backed by BJP. Paswan's rebellion, which has cut into Nitish Kumar's votes, has hugely benefitted the BJP.



Azerbaijanis wave the national flag as they celebrate in the streets of the capital Baku yesterday, after Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed a ceasefire following a string of Azeri victories in fighting over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

PHOTO: AFP

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS

WHO WENT TO WAR

Ethiopia's PM Abiy Ahmed -- who won last year's Nobel Peace Prize -- has ordered a military offensive on the northern Tigray region of the country. Ahmed, who won it for ending the 20-year conflict with Eritrea, is far from the first laureate to later wage or support war.



BARACK OBAMA: The first black US president got the prize only nine months after his inauguration in 2009. But far from ending America's foreign wars, as he said he hoped to do, they continued for all eight years of his term, with airstrikes or military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan.



AUNG SAN SUU KYI: The reputation of Myanmar's leader has been left in tatters with the country accused of the ethnic cleansing of Rohingyas and trampling on the rights of other minorities. The 1991 laureate, who won the prize for her heroic resistance to the country's military, now rules in an uneasy power-sharing agreement with them.



HENRY KISSINGER: In 1973, the US secretary of state shared the prize with North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho for negotiating ceasefires that didn't hold. Critics said the award "made political satire obsolete" given Kissinger's role in the carpet bombing of Cambodia and Operation Condor killings to keep pro-US South American dictators in power.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT: The then US president won in 1906 for negotiating an end to the Russo-Japanese war a year earlier. But even at the time, the nomination of the "military mad" leader of the "Rough Riders" volunteer cavalry regiment in the Spanish-American war, was disputed, with Swedish newspapers saying Alfred Nobel would be spinning in his grave.

Ceasefire halts fighting

Russia deploys peacekeepers; celebrations in Azerbaijan, anger in Armenia

REUTERS

Russian peacekeeping troops deployed to the mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday as part of a ceasefire deal to end six weeks of heavy fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces.

Under the deal, Azerbaijan will keep territorial gains made in the fighting, including the enclave's second city of Shusha, which Armenians call Shushi. Ethnic Armenian forces must give up control of a slew of other territories between now and Dec. 1.

Armenia's defence ministry said military action had halted and calm had been restored in the breakaway territory, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but populated and, until recently, fully controlled by ethnic Armenians.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the deal should pave the way for a lasting political settlement of a conflict that has killed thousands, displaced many more, and had threatened to plunge the wider region into war.

Nato member Turkey, Azerbaijan's main supporter and arms supplier, said the deal had secured important gains for its ally and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu hailed it as a "sacred

success".

The ceasefire triggered celebrations in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, where cars and buses sounded their horns in delight and people cheered and waved the Azeri national flag. "This (ceasefire) statement has historic significance. This statement constitutes Armenia's capitulation. This statement puts an end to the years-long occupation," Azeri President Ilham Aliyev said.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

Some Azeris regretted fighting had ended before Azerbaijan controlled all of Nagorno-Karabakh and were wary of the arrival of peacekeepers from Russia, which long dominated the region in Soviet times.

Unrest broke out in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, where crowds stormed and ransacked government buildings overnight, labelling the deal a betrayal. Some demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Nagorno-Karabakh leader Arayik Harutyunyan said there had been no option but to conclude a peace deal because of the risk of losing the whole enclave to Azerbaijan. Pashinyan said he had

concluded the peace deal under pressure from his own army.

In fighting that flared on Sept. 27, Azerbaijan says it retook much of the land in and around Nagorno-Karabakh that it lost in a 1991-94 war in which about 30,000 people were killed.

The capture of Shusha, or Shushi, appears to have been a turning point. Perched on a mountain top above Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's biggest city, it gave Azerbaijan's forces a commanding position from which to launch an assault.

Russia, which has a defence pact with Armenia and a military base there, is likely to hail the deal as a sign it is still the main arbiter in the energy-producing South Caucasus, which it sees as its own backyard, despite Turkish attempts to muscle in.

Russian peacekeepers will remain for at least five years, expanding Moscow's military footprint in the region. Putin said they would be deployed along the frontline in Nagorno-Karabakh and in a corridor between the region and Armenia.

Under the agreement, Azerbaijan will gain a road link to an Azeri enclave on the Iranian-Turkish border, something that will give Turkey a land bridge to the rump Azerbaijan.

African bloc wants ceasefire in Ethiopia

REUTERS, Nairobi

The African Union (AU) called for a ceasefire in north Ethiopia where federal troops fighting local Tigrayan forces were reported to have captured an airport yesterday and the region's leader accused Eritrea of sending soldiers across the border.

Hundreds have died in air strikes and fighting in an escalating conflict some fear could slide into civil war given deep animosity between the Tigrayans and PM Abiy Ahmed, who comes from the largest Oromo ethnic group.

Various Tigrayan forces surrendered during the seizure of Humera airport, near the border with Sudan and Eritrea, while the military also captured a road leading from the town to the Sudanese border, the Fana broadcaster reported.

Abiy, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, ordered air strikes and sent troops into Tigray last week after accusing the TPLF of attacking a military base. Tigrayans say Abiy's government oppresses and discriminates against them and behaved autocratically in postponing a national election.

Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a peace deal two years ago, but Afwerki's government remains hostile to the Tigrayan leadership after its role in a devastating 1998-2000 war.

The 44-year-old prime minister is Africa's youngest leader and won his Nobel prize for democratic reforms and for making peace with Eritrea. But his militancy against Tigray has alarmed diplomats and a full-scale war could further damage an economy already reeling from the coronavirus crisis.

US SC unlikely to repeal Obamacare

REUTERS, Washington

US Supreme Court justices yesterday signaled they are unlikely to strike down the entire Obamacare healthcare law in a legal challenge brought by Texas and other Republican-governed states and backed by President Donald Trump's administration.

The justices heard about two hours of arguments by teleconference in an appeal by a coalition of Democratic-governed states including California and New York and the Democratic-led House of Representatives to preserve the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as Obamacare is formally known.

Chief Justice John Roberts and fellow conservative Brett Kavanaugh both asked questions that suggested they were skeptical of Republican arguments that all of Obamacare must fall even if one key provision, known as the individual mandate, is found to be unconstitutional. That provision originally required people to obtain insurance or pay a financial penalty.

"It's hard for you to argue that Congress intended the entire Act to fall if the mandate was struck down," Roberts said, noting that Congress did not repeal the entire law in 2017 when it eliminated the mandate's financial penalty.



PHOTO: REUTERS

A protestor holds a sign outside the US Supreme Court building, as the court justices engage in arguments over the fate of Obamacare laws yesterday.

The case represents the latest Republican legal attack on the 2010 law, which was the signature domestic policy achievement of Democratic former president Barack Obama. The Supreme Court in 2012 and 2015 fended off previous Republican challenges to it. Republicans also have failed in numerous efforts to repeal Obamacare in Congress, though Trump's administration has taken steps to hobble the law.

If Roberts and Kavanaugh in the court's eventual ruling, due by the end of June, join with the court's three liberal justices, it would be enough to keep the vast majority of the law intact. President-elect Joe Biden, who served as vice president under Obama, Biden has criticized Republican efforts to throw out the ACA in the midst of a deadly coronavirus pandemic and hopes to buttress Obamacare after taking office on Jan 20.

Roberts and Kavanaugh appeared to agree that the mandate to obtain insurance can be separated from the rest of the law.

The fact that Congress in 2017 left the rest of the law intact "seems to be compelling evidence," Roberts added.

Kavanaugh, a Trump appointee, added that "this is a fairly straightforward case for severability under our precedents, meaning that we would excise the mandate and leave the rest of the act in place."

The justices - conservatives and liberals alike - also raised questions over whether the Republican challengers had the proper legal standing to bring the lawsuit.

The Supreme Court has a 6-3 conservative majority after the Republican-led Senate last month confirmed Trump's third appointee, Amy Coney Barrett. Most legal experts think the justices will stop short of a seismic ruling striking down Obamacare.

If Obamacare were to be invalidated, up to 20 million Americans could lose medical insurance and insurers could once again refuse to cover people with pre-existing medical conditions. Obamacare expanded public healthcare programs and created marketplaces for private insurance.



WHY CAN'T TRUMP ACCEPT HIS DEFEAT?

With his defeat in the US presidential election, Donald Trump finds himself fighting against being tagged with a label he frequently applies to rivals but which runs completely counter to his own brand: "loser."

The Republican is pursuing legal action in several battleground states, though his lawyers have so far failed to substantiate claims of fraud and observers see the possibility of the courts overturning the result of the vote as vanishingly small.

Yet according to scholars and mental health professionals, the same authoritarian qualities that defined Trump's rise to power and his presidency make it almost impossible for him to digest a graceful concession to Democratic President-elect Joe Biden.

This, they warn, could make the post-election, pre-inauguration period a particularly unstable time for the country.

A growing number of mental health professionals have publicly warned that Trump is a "malignant narcissist." People who have this personality type exhibit narcissism, antisocial personality disorder, paranoia, and sadism.

John Gartner, a Baltimore-based psychologist said he was worried that Trump may attempt to pursue a "Nero decree" or "scorched Earth" strategy as a means to deal with his loss.

For Mary Trump, the president's niece and one of his most strident critics, her uncle's decision to declare himself the winner of the election and accuse his rival of cheating spoke of his desperation at circumstances he wasn't accustomed to.

"Donald has never been in this place before where there's nobody to bail him out, there's nobody to buy him out," the clinical psychologist, told MSNBC.

Trump has built his public persona on the idea of being a winner in every field.

Lawrence Douglas, author of "Will He Go? Trump and the Looming Election Meltdown in 2020," argued there are prudential reasons why remaining in high office is beneficial.

In addition to being hundreds of millions of dollars in debt, he is facing defamation cases by women who have accused him of sexual misconduct and even potential criminal charges stemming from his business practices -- with his immunity ending when he is no longer president.

But beyond that, Trump's refusal to concede helps keep his connection alive with his base, said Douglas. "Even in defeat, this way his brand will remain irresistible to his supporters."

SOURCE: AFP

AFGHAN WOMAN SHOT, BLINDED, FOR GETTING A JOB

REUTERS, Kabul

The last thing 33-year-old Khatera saw were the three men on a motorcycle who attacked her just after she left her job at a police station in Afghanistan's central Ghazni province, shooting at her and stabbing her with a knife in the eyes.

Waking up in hospital, everything was dark.

"I asked the doctors, why I can't see anything? They told me that my eyes are still bandaged because of the wounds. But at that moment, I knew my eyes had been taken from me," she said.

She and local authorities blame the attack on Taliban militants - who deny involvement - and say the assailants acted on a tip-off from her father who vehemently opposed her working outside the home.

For Khatera, the attack caused not just the loss of her sight but the loss of a dream she had battled to achieve - to have an independent career. She joined the Ghazni police as an officer in its crime branch a few months ago.



The rights activists believe a mix of Afghanistan's conservative social norms and an emboldened Taliban gaining influence while the United States withdraws its troops from the country is driving the escalation. Khatera's dream as a child was to work outside the home and after years of trying to convince her father, to no avail, she was able to find support from

her husband.

But her father, she said, did not give up on his opposition.

"Many times, as I went to duty, I saw my father following me ... he started contacting the Taliban in the nearby area and asked them to prevent me from going to my job," she said.

She said that he provided the Taliban with a copy of her ID card to prove she worked for police and that he had called her throughout the day she was attacked, asking for her location.

Ghazni's police confirmed they believed the Taliban were behind the attack and that Khatera's father had been taken into custody.

Khatera and her family, including five children, are now hiding out in Kabul, where she is recovering and mourning the career she lost.

She struggles to sleep, jumps when she hears a motorbike and has had to cut off contact with her extended family, including her mother, who blame her for her father's arrest. She hopes desperately that a doctor overseas might somehow be able to partially restore her sight.

UK Lords block Brexit laws

REUTERS, London

Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered a heavy defeat in parliament's upper chamber on late Monday over proposed laws which would allow him to breach Britain's EU exit treaty.

The Internal Market Bill is designed to protect trade between Britain's four nations after Brexit. It contains clauses ministers say are needed to protect Northern Ireland's delicate status as part of the UK, but would also break international law in a "specific and limited" way.

The House of Lords voted to strip those clauses from the bill in a series of defeats for the ruling Conservative Party.

Far from backing down, however, the government said it would retangle the contentious clauses when the bill returns to the House of Commons, where it had previously passed by 340 votes to 256.

However, the clauses may no longer be needed if talks with the EU on how to make the Irish border work are successful.



Palestinian negotiator Erekat dies

REUTERS

Saeb Erekat, one of the most experienced and high-profile advocates for the Palestinian cause over decades of dispute with Israel, died yesterday after contracting Covid-19. He was 65.

Having sat down with Israeli and US leaders in the 1990s and 2000s, in recent years Erekat was the principal face of a war of words with President Donald Trump's administration over a Middle East plan that envisaged leaving Israel in control of Jewish settlements and large parts of the occupied West Bank.

Erekat, the secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said on Oct. 8 he had contracted the coronavirus. Three years earlier he had undergone a lung transplant in the US that left his immune system compromised.

He died following multiple organ failure after being hospitalised for three weeks in Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared three days of mourning, calling his death "a big loss for Palestine".

Tzipi Livni, a former Israeli foreign minister, said he had dedicated his life to his people. "Reaching peace is my destiny he used to say. Being sick, he texted me: 'I'm not finished with what I was born to do'. My deepest condolences to the Palestinians and his family. He will be missed," she wrote on Twitter.

Sweeping change to primary, secondary schooling

NCTB must engage experts and allow their opinion to shape its policies

In a major policy shift in school education, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has recommended holding the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams on just five subjects, based on the syllabus of class X only, and the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams in two phases (in classes XI and XII). If implemented, this will mark a departure from the tradition of holding the exams at the end of their two-year periods. In another major shift, the NCTB has sought to move away from the highly unpopular Primary Education Completion (PEC) and Junior School Certificate (JSC) exams, respectively held at the end of class V and class VIII. NCTB officials said instead of holding the PEC and JSC exams, emphasis will be given on continuous student performance assessment at schools. Among other major suggestions are ending the practice of having separate "groups" for students of science, humanities and business studies at the school level, and having a two-day weekend in place instead of just one.

These reforms, if implemented even partially from January 2022, will change the face of school education as we know it. We are told that the NCTB is seeking opinion from all stakeholders, after which it will revise its draft curriculum outline and send it to the National Curriculum Coordination Committee. While the sweeping nature of the changes sought raises questions about the practicality of our education policies, there can be no question about two of the recommendations: the end of PEC and JSC exams, and the need for a two-day weekend starting Friday. Why the government introduced the PEC and JSC exams in the first place remains a mystery even 10 years after their implementation. Not having to worry about public exams at such an early age will no doubt be a big relief for the students, and will make learning significantly more fun and stress-free. Students should also have enough time to relax and play and acquire social skills, which is not possible with the present one-day weekend.

Ideally, we also agree with the logic for the elimination of the month-long, ritualistic and often emotionally draining exams taking place at the end of school and college years. It's nothing but a waste of time and energy. Any policymaking at this stage should focus on reducing unnecessary pressure on the students and finding quicker, more effective and flexible methods of performance assessment, but whether the course suggested by the NCTB is the way to go can be the subject of a healthy debate. We can begin with the questions: will holding the HSC exams in two phases increase their pressure rather than decreasing it? Will it be more cumbersome for the students and perhaps a logistical nightmare for the authorities? Again, any strategy in which the students have less exams to worry about is welcome, but it will be self-defeating if the time and energy saved in the process cannot be dedicated to improving the quality of their education.

The best course of action for the NCTB right now would be to engage the experts and NGOs working on school education and allow their opinion to be reflected in its final policy suggestions. The pandemic has laid bare the grim underbelly of our school education system. We must, therefore, be simultaneously practical and innovative as we chart our next path. The government should also stress more on improving the quality of education through more engaged and creative teaching and learning methods.

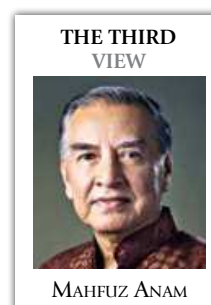
Rohingya repatriation under the new Myanmar govt

UK minister has hit the nail on the head

We endorse the comments of the British government on the issue of the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees, calling on the new government in Myanmar to take steps towards safe, voluntary and dignified return of the Rohingyas to their place of origin in Rakhine State. Lord Tariq Ahmad, the UK Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth has hit the nail on the head by flagging the main issue—the solution is in Myanmar and with the Myanmar government; we believe it lies with Aung Sun Suu Kyi particularly.

Much depends on Suu Kyi and how she handles the Rohingya and the Rakhine issue. With only the second election held in Myanmar since the end of military rule in the country in 2011, her NLD is expected to win and indeed she has already claimed victory. But how much can we depend on her for a solution? The Rohingyas have been disenfranchised along with other minority groups and election in the Rakhine was postponed on the excuse of unrest and security concern in the region. The disposition of Suu Kyi towards the Rohingyas, her pandering to the military and her stubborn unwillingness to uphold the principles of human rights and justice have denigrated not only her credentials as a Nobel Peace Laureate but demeaned the status and dignity of the prize too.

Thus the moot point is will the new government in Myanmar rise above the ingrained parochial and prejudiced attitude that have infused the psyche of the government of Myanmar, which have also afflicted Suu Kyi, and accord due recognition to the Rohingyas and give them their due rights? We also have been calling for the fulfilment of the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations, including recognising the Rohingyas as citizens of Myanmar, giving them freedom of movement, and ensuring their access to essential services. We thank the minister for reiterating it. But while we are heartened by his affirmation of providing the political support needed to resolve this crisis in the long-term, we restate that the political support cannot lack teeth. Given that the rulers in Naypyidaw have become so inured to international criticism, only a very strong and substantive pressure can work. Otherwise, all that is being said will be merely sound and fury signifying little.



MAHFUZ ANAM

"ELECTION is free and fair if I win it and rigged if I lose". I wrote this sentence many times during our period of contested elections under the caretaker government system. I never imagined that I would have to write this about a US election. After having raised the bogey of possible massive election fraud during a re-election campaign, President Trump is now refusing to accept its result. He is opting for litigation to ascertain "legal" votes, implying that there were "illegal" ones, without any shred of evidence so far. Even the Republican controlled states have stood by the accuracy of the election process.

Trump is doing what he does best—disrupt. He did it all through his tenure and he is doing so as he departs, not, of course, if he can help it. But it is a dangerous game he is playing. If he really follows through with his threat of not "conceding" the election, he will cause serious problems in smooth transfer of power and push American politics towards uncharted waters, not to mention making his country subject of ridicule all over the world.

So much of democracy depends on following norms, precedence, procedures, decency and a willingness to play by the rules. Democracy is as much a system as it is a mindset, a collection of values fundamentally rooted on the respect for the "public will" and conceding to it when voted out. If a major actor of this process—in this case Trump—refuses to play by the rules and norms then the whole edifice of democracy risks being seriously dented. Trump's refusal to accept the electoral verdict will create all sorts of problems for a smooth transfer of power, a cornerstone of democracy. After all, politics is about gaining power and democracy is about its smooth and peaceful transfer reflective of people's choice. The more sober section of the Republican Party leadership must rise to the occasion and see that the choice of the majority is honoured.

A seriously vulnerable point of the US presidential election is the practice of "conceding" the election when one is defeated. Since its founding days in

every election the defeated candidates had "conceded" to the winner. Normally presidents complete two terms and the election, held at the end of the second term, has two new contestants, neither of whom are in power. However, if the defeated candidate is the incumbent, as is in this instance (Trump being one of four one-term presidents) then the case is radically different. The sitting president, who is in power, has to "concede" to allow the process of transition to the new leadership to take place in a smooth manner.

So, what happens if Trump does not concede as he has announced he would not? Courts will come into the picture and their verdicts will set the course. We do not know how long it will pan

"widespread election fraud" is being raised and the president himself is talking about "election being stolen" is a reality that US voters have never faced before. It shows that the political divide between the two parties—considered to be two pillars on which the functioning of the American democratic process depends—has come down to such a level that they do not hesitate to question each other's integrity. The suspicion has become so deep, so entrenched, so all-consuming that they do not think twice before accusing each other of such vile crime as "stealing an election". Imagine how the Senate, the House, the various committees, the caucuses, the bipartisan groupings will function with such mutual questioning of political ethics. Differing

that a good part of his supporters are extremists, believing in narratives that are neither fact based nor logical, prone to provocations—and many are armed—and ready to take to the streets if called upon. We may soon understand the true meaning of Trump's earlier directive of "stand back and stand-by" to followers.

Thanks to Trump, I had almost forgotten that US presidents could be eloquent. For four years "nobody did as much for America as I did, nobody created as many jobs in the US history as I did, nobody did (this or that)... as much as I did..." repeated ad infinitum and also using a vocabulary of limited words half of which consisted of "I", "great" and "never before" made listening to the US president—as a journalist I had to—a strain on the ears, the brain, and finer sensibilities. I used to be filled with sadness at what the US presidency had been reduced to—a pulpit for unabashed self-praise.

However, one speech by the president-elect, Joe Biden, refreshingly changed it all. Suddenly the speech was making sense, the words made an impact, one point led to another, it addressed the urgent issues at hand and the listener was eager to hear the finish of what the speaker had started to say. There was substance, meaning, vision, and the future in what Biden was saying. The presidency seemed on its way to getting its sheen back. Obviously, Joe Biden is no Barack Obama but what he lacked in eloquence he made up for by substance.

It is definitely the understatement of the moment to say president-elect Biden has a huge task in hand. Bringing together a divided nation is obviously his first priority and he appears to be best suited for this challenge. Forty-seven years in politics and numerous instances of bi-partisan work will give him personal links with many ranking members of the Republican Party that will facilitate his task.

Post script

It may be asked why I, as a Bangladeshi journalist, am so bothered about who becomes the next US president. The answer is simple. I care about democracy as the best political system and elections as a best process of expressing people's choice. Its success or failure anywhere, especially in the US, will greatly determine the prospect of its success elsewhere.

Mahfuz Anam is Editor and Publisher, The Daily Star.

Trump is playing a dangerous game



US President Donald Trump.

PHOTO: AFP

out but we can be sure that it will make the relations between the winning and defeated parties—between the democrats and the republicans—bitter. The "time to lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other" appeal by Biden may fall on deaf ears making the "healing" difficult if not well-nigh impossible, definitely in the short run. People expect Biden to remain patient and he, perhaps, will. But much will depend on how elaborate, protracted and time consuming the legal process ends up being. Thankfully there is a time limit till January 20, 2021 when the new president is set to take oath. It is hoped by then some solution will emerge and power will be transferred without fracturing the time honoured process.

The fact that accusations of

on policies or party ideology is one thing but accusing an opponent of a criminal act is something quite different. Seldom, if ever, in nearly two and half centuries since it gained its independence had US politics stooped as low as this.

As we see, from the outside, the US post-election scene unfolding, we are horrified at what President Trump is dragging the US politics into. The fact that he got 71 million votes to Biden's 74 million is a testimony to the support he enjoys. It is to his considerable credit that in spite of his unbridled narcissism and the fact that hidden within his message of "America First" was another message of "Trump First", he still managed to gain the confidence of 48 percent of the American voters. No mean feat in any democracy. It is a matter of great concern

Can Biden fix the economy and kill the virus at the same time?



ABDULLAH SHIBLI

WHILE the recent US Presidential Election has left a number of issues unresolved, one thing is clear. The US electorate which vaulted Joe Biden into power want him to be a magician: to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and accelerate economic growth at the same time. It is not clear whether Biden will be able to do that since it is a tough call. His predecessor Donald Trump could not do it and lost his re-election bid. Not only are the two goals apparently at loggerheads with each other, they have not worked anywhere in the world except for in New Zealand. Biden has been espousing lockdown from the get-go and his opponent Donald Trump has even coined a new sobriquet, "Lockdown Joe"! The country can't expect otherwise from the Biden presidency. The important question now is, can Biden deliver on his promises to fight the pandemic, listen to the "pro-lockdown" camp, and still keep the economic recovery going?

There are clear signs the economic recovery is in full swing. Last quarter, the GDP registered a whopping 33.3 percent growth rate and the unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent in October. Businesses are gradually learning to keep chugging along in the face of a second wave, and Pfizer has announced its vaccine is over 90 percent effective, though it is not known how soon it will be available. Clearly the new president can use the bully pulpit to promote the safety of the vaccine and also to boost public faith in its efficacy. But, in the meantime, Biden has to fight the virus and coax Congress to provide an additional stimulus package for the economy. Whether the Republicans retain their majority in the Senate is still up in the air, but they have been very reluctant to go with the House and pass a second stimulus bill before the elections.

Joe Biden will face other challenges from his own party as he tries to balance the various factions, particularly the group of liberals led by Bernie Sanders and the conservatives and moderates

from the South. Before the 2020 elections, the Democrats had a solid majority in the House but in this recent elections, many of the "New Age" liberals lost their seats. This will make it harder for Biden to get some of the key items in the Election Manifesto passed by the House, let alone by the Senate which is still controlled by Mitch McConnell, the nemesis of Obama.

The Democrat's Election Manifesto has a number of economic measures that will also trigger some anxieties. First of all, higher taxes will soon follow if US

Department of Justice (DOJ). The regulatory body is to be tasked with enforcing new rules governing the relationship between industry and environment.

Thirdly, Biden has promised to take the US back to the Paris Climate Agreement, ban fracking, and come down hard on carbon emissions. The Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency is likely to once again enforce the Clean Air Act, the Clean Power Plan, and other executive orders to regulate coal-fired power plants and fossil fuels.



There are clear signs the economic recovery is in full swing. Last quarter, the GDP registered a whopping 33.3 percent growth rate and the unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent in October.

PHOTO: AFP

Congress is willing to oblige the new president. Biden has repeatedly declared his intention to roll back the Trump-era tax cuts. During a fund-raiser last summer, he said, "I'm going to get rid of the bulk of Trump's USD 2 trillion tax cut. And a lot of you may not like that but I'm going to close loopholes like capital gains and stepped-up basis."

Secondly, Biden will probably strengthen regulation on big business and like his mentor, Barack Obama, revive the institutions that he and Obama built during 2009-2017, and were weakened or decimated by Donald Trump. The practices and infractions committed by Wall Street, the big conglomerates and the energy sector will come under increased scrutiny. Biden plans to create a Climate Justice Division within the

Whether this will have a negative impact on growth and employment in the energy sector is an open question. However, Biden's commitment toward "net-zero carbon emissions by 2050" will impact several markets. Some states, including Pennsylvania, Texas, and New Mexico can expect to see job losses in excess of 500,000.

It is unlikely that there will be a major impact on the economy in the first year of Biden's presidency. He is likely to tread waters very carefully given the reality of the situation, the sky-rocketing budget deficit, and the multiple crises the country is facing. But, once the pandemic has been contained, either due to enhanced lockdown policies or the widespread availability of a vaccine, the challenges and the hard choices is

likely to rise to the surface of the national discourse.

David Gergen, Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and former White House adviser to four presidents including Clinton, summarises well the dilemma Biden will eventually be confronted with. He wrote, "Biden campaigned with bold pledges to strengthen health care, contain the coronavirus pandemic, pump trillions into the economy, address racial and social inequities, and save the planet from climate disaster." Gergen then wonders how "Biden will navigate the cross-pressures within his own party, where squabbles are already breaking out."

Let us now consider the other major leftover from the Trump era, the tariffs on Chinese imports to correct the US balance of trade. It is obvious that China would love to see the USA take a more conciliatory approach towards the multitude of issues that bedevilled the relationship of these two countries during the last four years. There is no doubt that Biden will take a second look at the trade relations with China, and may even lower tariffs on some imports. During an interview with National Public Radio (NPR) in August when asked "Would you keep the tariffs?", Biden said, "No. Hey, look, who said Trump's idea's a good one? Manufacturing has gone into a recession. Agriculture lost billions of dollars that taxpayers had to pay. We're going after China in the wrong way."

In short, the contrasts between the policies of the incumbent Donald Trump and the incoming Joe Biden could not be any sharper. The former was for deregulation and a minimalist tax structure while the latter favours higher corporate tax rates and stricter environmental protections. We will see the net changes in three main areas: taxes, foreign trade, and the regulatory regime.

As for the next president's economic priorities, fortunately, his must-do list is very short. Invest in infrastructure, get to work on a new stimulus bill, and strengthen the healthcare services. And the rest of the economy will take care of itself.

Dr Abdullah Shibli is an economist and currently works in information technology. He wishes to acknowledge the contributions and feedback of his associates: Dr Syed Mushtaque Ahmed (Oklahoma), Dr Mazhar Islam (Florida), and Dr Ashraf Nakib Ullah (Texas). Opinion expressed here are the writer's own.

Yasser Arafat: Modern era's Saladin

STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING



BRIG GEN SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN NDC, PSC (RETD)

THE west saw him as a terrorist; to the rest of the world he was an intrepid warrior trying relentlessly to right the wrong his nation was done in 1948. He was fighting to regain for his nation a country which was cynically snatched away from the Palestinians through a mix of British treachery and western hypocrisy. To his people, he was an icon of the struggle for freedom. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the full fruition of his dreams, a Palestinian state.

Sixteen years ago on this day Yasser Arafat, who had assumed the *nom de guerre* Abu Ammar, passed away under questionable circumstances that have not quiet been answered satisfactorily. But this is not the occasion to dwell on the circumstances of his death; suffice it to say that doubts remain regarding the cause of it even today. Instead, let us look at the man who dominated global news and influenced world and in particular Middle Eastern politics, for a good part of four decades, with a dispassionate eye.

Yasser Arafat and Palestine are linked umbilically, and one day his name may become a symbol for the state of Palestine. He was one person with three personae—leader of a freedom movement that was being participated in by more than one group fighting for the liberation of Palestine, each with their individual ideological leanings, an acclaimed leader of a stateless nation whose homeland had been usurped, and an administrator of a nebulous state entity that went by the name of Palestinian Authority—a leader with people but no well-defined state.

According to Adam Shatz, the well-known literary editor at the London Review of Books, "In the Arab imagination, Palestine is not simply a plot of land, any more than Israel is a plot of land in the Jewish imagination. As the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish has observed, Palestine is also a metaphor—

for the loss of Eden, for the sorrows of dispossession and exile, for the declining power of the Arab world in its dealings with the West." And it was to right the wrong, to retrieve the loss and revive the Arabs that Arafat dedicated his life. Those who belittle Arafat as being merely a symbol rather than a leader, caring more about the state than his legacy, often forget that a person cannot be one without being the other, but that first and foremost he has to be a leader before he can assume the status of an icon. Near the end of his life Arafat had subsumed himself within the people saying, "Each Palestinian

existence, while Palestinian nationalists believed the battle was for the West Bank and Gaza", reconciliation and bringing the various groups together was a tall order. That led to a deficit of trust between the stakeholders. In return for Israeli recognition of PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians, PLO accepted Israel's right to exist, thereby, risking Arafat's own future. He is criticised for acceding to the Accord since he could not achieve a Palestinian state during his lifetime. But the critics do not realise that the Accord was not an end in itself since it was meant to be a prelude to future

blamed for not clamping down on violence, Israel can be blamed, according to a Hamas leader, for "misusing such negotiations to win time with a view to imposing more realities on the ground." Violence was as a reaction to Israeli actions. There were 100,000 settlers before the agreement and now the number hit 750,000 settlers living illegally in the occupied West Bank. Currently, Israel has annexed 30 percent of the occupied territory under Trump's so-called "Deal of the Century" announced on January 28 this year. It refers to Jerusalem as "Israel's undivided capital" and recognises Israeli sovereignty

is convenient to overlook history selectively. At least the leaders of Israel, a country that was born out of a violent terrorist movement, have no moral right to label any other group or nation fighting for their independence as terrorists. Recall the name Irgun, the Jewish right-wing underground movement in Palestine, founded in 1931, an extremist nationalist group which called for the use of force to establish a Jewish state on both sides of the Jordan River. It has many terror acts to its credit, including the bombing of the King David Hotel in 1946. Interestingly, this very terrorist group was subsumed in the Israeli defence forces after Palestine was given away to the Jews, in 1948. Perhaps the names Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir would jog our memory too. Apart from the fact that they were the sixth and seventh prime ministers of Israel, they were also leaders of this terrorist organisation. Several Israeli politicians and prime ministers are offsprings of Irgun members. And for the US to apply the terrorist label to others is like the pot calling the kettle black. It was fined by the ICJ in 1986 for its support for, and acts of, terror in Nicaragua. Even Nelson Mandela's name remained on the US terrorism watch list till 2008. His ANC was dubbed a terrorist organisation during the period of the Cold War.

Sixteen years after Yasser Arafat's death, people are still dissecting his legacy. His name has become synonymous with Palestine and its aspirations. He can be credited with reviving the Palestinian cause after the serious reverses of the 1967 Arab Israeli War along with his generation of Palestinian leadership by bringing the disparate groups under one umbrella and giving it an identity and a revolutionary character. He wanted to give peace a chance, but Israel had other plans. Even after more than 70 years, Israel continues to be motivated by Golda Meir's view that: "There is no such thing as a Palestinian people... It is not as if we came and threw them out and took their country. They didn't exist."

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



Palestinian university art students work on a mural depicting late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city of Nablus.

PHOTO: ABED OMAR QUSINI/REUTERS

is Yasser Arafat, who is part and parcel of the Palestinian people, the great people, who will stand fast until doomsday."

He is often vilified for his failure to transform the Oslo Accord into a permanent peace, unfairly, overlooking Israel's contribution to the failure of the 1993 Accord. Given the disparate and divergent views within the Arabs and within the Palestinians, since, by the concept of the Palestinian struggle, "Islamists and others hoped the struggle was to end Israel's

negotiations. Yasser Arafat may not have lived to see success but that the Palestine issue remains at the top of the global agenda is because of him.

The Oslo Accord was bound to fail, being flawed *ab initio*. What else could be the fate of a treaty that did not address the fundamental abrasive issue for the Palestinians—illegal settlements? Giving in to the pressure of the rejectionists, Rabin refused to include the settlement freeze clause. This saw settlement double between 1993 and 2000. If Arafat is

Those who belittle Arafat as being merely a symbol rather than a leader, caring more about the state than his legacy, often forget that a person cannot be one without being the other, but that first and foremost he has to be a leader before he can assume the status of an icon.

over large parts of the West Bank. Trump's acknowledgement of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the latest Middle East peace plan has pushed back any immediate resolution of the problems, including the implementation of Oslo Accord.

The US and the west are known for their hypocrisy as far as terrorism is concerned. But their greatest hypocrisy is labelling Yasser Arafat as a terrorist. Not surprisingly, these critics do not see their own faces in the mirror, particularly the Israelis; for them it

America returns to the Paris Agreement on climate change

POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

It is indeed a great relief that Biden has already declared that he will immediately re-enter the Paris Agreement from which Trump had withdrawn the US two years ago. However, simply re-joining the Paris Agreement will not be enough

THE election of Joe Biden as the next president of the United States of America has brought a great sigh of relief to everyone around the world who wants to see

global action to tackle the threat of climate change. It is undoubtedly true that another term for Trump would have caused almost irretrievable harm to the ability of the rest of the world to tackle the climate change problem while the US was actively opposing collective global actions.

It is indeed a great relief that Biden has already declared that he will immediately re-enter the Paris Agreement from which Trump had withdrawn the US two years ago. However, simply re-joining the Paris Agreement will not be enough as the US has lost significant time and in many ways moved backwards under Trump. Hence the US has a lot of catching up to do and will have to move very quickly to do so.

There are undoubtedly a number of positive developments which can be built upon. The first is the improvement of solar and wind energy technology in efficiency and costs such that they have already become cheaper than coal and will very soon become cheaper than even petroleum and then natural gas. Therefore, despite Trump's efforts to support coal, he has been largely unsuccessful for simple economic reasons and even Republican governors of states like Texas and Montana have embraced renewable

energy since it is cheaper, cleaner and generates new well-paying green jobs. In fact one of the most effective election arguments that Biden made was to say "jobs" when asked about climate change where Trump said "hoax"!

The second important positive development has been the technology for electric cars, trucks and buses such that not just companies like Tesla who pioneered the sales of electric vehicles are benefiting from their sales but even the major manufacturers of combustion engine based vehicles are changing to electric vehicles much quicker than anyone had anticipated. Hence the economic forces of the market are driving a positive change in the vehicle market of the US as well as the rest of the world.

The third and perhaps most powerful positive change in the US is the attitude of young people, who overwhelmingly want much stronger actions to tackle climate change and it is quite likely that it is their votes that have propelled Biden over the finish line against Trump. It is also quite evident that Biden himself was not initially a great believer in the need to make tackling climate change a major plank of his agenda, but was persuaded by the more progressive parts of the Democratic Party to do so and it is now a major part of his agenda.

The good news is that Biden is a pragmatic rather than ideological politician and hence he will accept the reality of success in the transition from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy which is the key factor that needs to be addressed.

In terms of addressing the Paris Agreement, which in fact was agreed under President Obama and Vice

President Biden in 2015, all countries are supposed to submit their revised plans for enhancing their reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases by December 31, 2020. Because Biden won't be sworn in as president until January 20, 2021, we can allow him an extension of a few weeks to submit the US Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) where they have to say by when they will be able to reach net zero emissions of greenhouse gases. The good news is that already



ILLUSTRATION: SARAH GRILLO/AXIOS

major emitters such as China have agreed to do so by 2060, Europe by 2050 and even California has said it will do so by 2045. Hence the US needs to at least do so by 2050 if not sooner.

The second major promise that the developed countries made—including the US—in the Paris Agreement was to provide the developing countries with up to USD 100 billion a year by 2020 to tackle climate change. The US share of that would have been at least USD 3 billion in 2016.

One of the last things that President Obama did before he handed power over to Trump was to provide USD 500 million to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as he knew that the first thing Trump would do was stop the US contribution, which is what he indeed did.

Thus the US now has to fulfil its own share of the USD 100 billion from 2020 onwards.

From the perspective of the most vulnerable developing countries, the

final element that the US will need to address is somewhat more politically sensitive. It is the issue of addressing loss and damage from climate change. The US Secretary of State John Kerry, on behalf of President Obama, made the developing countries accept that they could not raise the issue of liability and compensation under Article 8 on loss and damage of the Paris Agreement. The reality of human induced climate change impacts during 2020, including the super wildfires in California and Oregon and the successive hurricanes hitting the Gulf Coast of the US, is showing that loss and damage from climate change is now a reality for all countries whether rich or poor and hence the issue cannot be postponed any longer.

Hence the most sensitive test for the incoming Biden presidency on climate change will be its willingness (or not) to genuinely address the issue of funding loss and damage from climate change for the most vulnerable developing countries who will be demanding this at COP26 to be held in November 2021 in Scotland.

Hence it is up to Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the UK and Biden to make sure that this issue is dealt with in a spirit of solidarity with the vulnerable developing countries at COP26. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh can play a significant role on behalf of the CVF countries if invited to do so.

Thus the test of how seriously and quickly Biden will act to tackle the different aspects of climate change will be revealed at COP26 next year.

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

QUOTABLE Quote

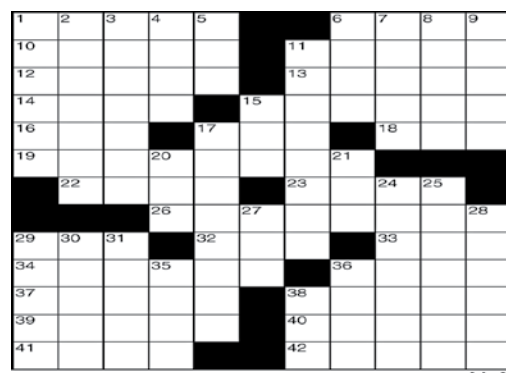


NORMAN MAILER (1923-2007) American novelist and journalist.

Harsh words live in the dungeon of the heart.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 34 Opinion opener | 9 Traded |
| 1 Lily variety | 36 Gambling city | 11 Wise saying |
| 6 Herring's kin | 37 Hag | 15 Shelley work |
| 10 Steer clear of | 38 Car part | 17 Bar member |
| 11 Make amends | 39 Twisted | 20 Brief time |
| 12 Orange coats | 40 Writer Walker | 21 Plopped down |
| 13 Lively dance | 41 Hangs low | 24 Kind of map or code |
| 14 Quiche start | 42 River to the Rio Grande | 25 Venezuelan river |
| 15 "That's life" | | 27 Diving bird |
| 16 Finish | DOWN | 28 Future ferns |
| 17 Commotion | 1 Line of work | 29 Chooses |
| 18 So far | 2 City on the Rhone | 30 Parts of hearts |
| 19 Coffee workers | 3 Stressful period | 31 Skimpy swimwear |
| 22 Russian denial | 4 Toppers | 35 Print supplies |
| 23 "Othello" villain | 5 TV spots | 36 Part |
| 26 Amusement park attractions | 6 Hide away | 38 Atlas page |
| 29 Touch lightly | 7 Like colanders | |
| 32 Toddy base | 8 Sock site | |
| 33 Quick taste | | |



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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

Recovery not possible sans united efforts

FROM PAGE 1
actions, unity and international cooperation," she said.

The PM was addressing a high-level event titled "Call for Action: In Support of Multilateralism" held on a virtual platform yesterday.

The Spanish government organised the event in the wake of unique challenges caused by Covid-19 across the world.

Hasina said constructive multilateralism is not an option in a globalised world, but it is the only way out for a rules-based international order and common progress of humankind.

She said history proves that any deviation from this united approach would only bring disastrous effects for humankind.

"However, unless a multilateral effort is taken at the global level, global recovery won't start and it'll never be sustainable," the PM observed.

To face the crisis caused by the pandemic and protect the people's

livelihoods, the Bangladesh government has so far allocated \$14.14 billion, which is 4.3 percent of the country's GDP, she said.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, the country's GDP registered a 5.24 percent growth due to the government's timely interventions.

She said the recent trend of protectionism and xenophobia in some countries may bring further sufferings for innocent people and adversely impact the peaceful multilateral environment.

Hasina said all should guard against this type of activities which are detrimental to international peace, security and global development.

In order to reduce inequality, eradicate poverty and protect the planet by reducing carbon emissions, all need to work together and reinforce their multilateral efforts, she added.

The premier said Bangladesh is a flagbearer of multilateralism and pursues international peace and security by its high presence in the UN peacekeeping and peace-building process.

In the Political Declaration adopted on September 21 on the occasion of the UN's 75th anniversary, all countries had laid emphasis on shared responsibility and collective efforts for unified prosperity and advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, Hasina said.

"However, to achieve the benefits out of these international instruments and understanding, strong multilateralism is required," she observed.

The PM said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had also highlighted the importance of collective efforts and the role of the UN in his statement at the UN General Assembly in 1974.

King of Spain Felipe VI was present at the programme. President of Spain Pedro Sánchez, South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden, and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, among others, spoke at the virtual event.

Be judicious while spending state money

FROM PAGE 1
health secretary to collect Tk 5 lakh compensation from four officials of the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) for their negligence in preserving and protecting hospital equipment, including intensive care unit ventilators.

The four are AMM Shariful Alam, a director and project director between May 3, 2007 and February 8, 2009; Professor Mollah Obaidullah Baki, a professor between August 16, 2009 and May 19, 2013; Prof Md Moarraf Hossain, a director and project director between December 31, 2014 and June 6, 2019; and Prof Manosh Kumar Bashu, who has been the chief of the anaesthesia department since February 7, 2015.

On January 2 this year, the HC issued a suo moto rule and directive after Supreme Court lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick placed a report by The Daily Star titled "ICU on sickbed" before it, seeking necessary orders on this issue.

The same day, it also ordered the health secretary and the DG of DCHS to form a committee and conduct an enquiry into the allegations of negligence by the NICRH authorities, and submit a report before the court upon its completion.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman delivered the verdict after a hearing on the probe report.

In the verdict, the court also ordered three officials of health ministry (service department), directorate general of health services and Cancer and Research Institute to conduct an enquiry into whether Moarraf Hossain had sent letters to the chief technical

managers of National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop and Training Centre (Nememw and TC) in order to activate the ventilators in question.

They will complete the enquiry in 15 days on receiving the verdict.

The HC in its judgment said the demand for medical equipment, machineries and medicines must be determined through an expert committee before their purchase, and their standard and quality must be ensured by the committee in accordance with relevant purchase rules.

It also ordered the health secretary and director general of the DCHS to take necessary steps about the recommendations placed by the Anti-Corruption Commission to the health ministry in order to resist corruption and irregularities in the health sector.

It said the authorities must determine whether structures need to be built to install the equipment and machineries after the demand is finalised. The equipment and machineries will have to be purchased only after the structures are ready.

Competent officials and staffers will have to be appointed and trained to operate and maintain the equipment and machineries.

The appointment of the officials and staffers should be made under the revenue sector, not from outsourcing, as outsourcing appointment has no accountability, the HC said in the verdict.

The court ruled that a high-powered committee must be formed at every hospital to examine the standards and quality of the medical equipment and machineries and to keep them active and functional round the clock.

The tenures of the medical equipment and machineries must be displayed at outside of the rooms where they are installed, it said.

NICRH NEGLIGENCE
The court said if the enquiry committee finds that the claim of Moarraf Hossain of sending letters to activate the ventilators is not true, Tk 5 lakh will have to be collected from him.

If it is proved in the probe that the Nememw and TC officials concealed Moarraf's letters, Tk 5 lakh will have to be collected from each of them (Nememw and TC) officials Md Abdul Kaiyum (joint secretary, now retired) and Md Rezanur Rahman (joint secretary).

The HC bench lifted its January 2 order that directed the government to suspend the retirement financial facilities of Moarraf.

Yesterday, the bench also ordered the health secretary to take departmental action against Prof Manosh Kumar Bashu along with collecting Tk 5 lakh from him.

In the rule, the court asked the government authorities concerned to explain as to why the reported negligence of the NICRH authorities should not be declared illegal.

The NICRH, situated in Mohakhali, is the hospital of choice for patients in the low-income group.

According to an International Agency for Research on Cancer report released last year, about 1.08 lakh people die of cancer while 1.5 lakh are infected with the disease every year in Bangladesh.

Deputy Attorney Generals Amit Talukdar and Sarwar Hossain Bappi represented the state while Kazi Ershadul Alam appeared for The Daily Star.

Awami Jubo

FROM PAGE 12
one lakh tonnes of US wheat for shipment in December 1972 and January 1973.

FM'S EASTERN EUROPE TOUR CONTINUES

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad reached Sofia yesterday on an official visit. He declared upon his arrival at the airport that he was most satisfied with his talks with leaders of other socialist countries he had visited recently.

Samad expressed warm sentiments of his people towards Bulgaria. The Bulgarian people, the minister said, supported Bangladesh's liberation struggle with a great deal of sincerity and honesty, for which the newborn country is grateful. Bulgaria was one of the first states to establish diplomatic relations with the country immediately after liberation. Azad hoped that this visit would lead to further expansion of the already established friendly relations between the two countries, he added.

SOURCES: November 12, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Court frames

FROM PAGE 12
November 19 to start the trial.

On August 6, Abu Sayeed, investigation officer and also an additional SP of Criminal Investigation Department, submitted the charge sheet of the case against GK Shamim and his seven bodyguards.

In the charge sheet, Sayeed said Shamim has Tk 337.3 crore in 180 fixed deposit accounts with different banks, two houses in the capital, and 52 kathas of land worth Tk 41 crore.

Shamim amassed the wealth through tender manipulation at government departments and extortion at bus terminals and cattle markets, the charge sheet added.

Scientists discover

FROM PAGE 12
might be several species, though there was never sufficient proof, he added in a news release from the university.

There were hints such as differences in their size, color and physiology, which had been chalked up to a subspecies rather than an entirely different group.

But DNA sequencing allowed the team to analyze the gliders' genetic makeup, and confirm the theory for the first time. The study was published in the journal Scientific Reports.

"It changes the whole way we think about them," said Denise McGregor, a PhD student at James Cook University and one of the study authors.

The three species' Latin names are now *Petauroides volans*, *Petauroides minor* and *Petauroides armillatus*, according to the study.

Like koalas, greater gliders eat only eucalyptus leaves. They live in forests along the Great Dividing Range, a major mountain range that runs along the east coast from northern Queensland to southern Victoria.

They were once common -- but their numbers have been falling for years, raising concern among conservationists. Habitat loss and fragmentation pose the biggest threats, with contributing factors like natural disasters, logging and climate change, according to Victoria's environmental agency.

These threats have hit many animal populations hard; Australia has the highest rate of species loss of any area in the world. But greater gliders are particularly vulnerable due to their specific diet and dependence on mature trees for shelter, and are now listed as "vulnerable" under the IUCN's Red List of threatened species.

Australia's devastating 2019-2020 bushfire season struck another blow to wildlife, including the gliders -- the fires burnt over 97,000 square kilometers (9.7 million hectares) of land and killed millions of animals, said the study. It marked a major environmental and biodiversity crisis, with scientists afraid entire species may be wiped out by the months of relentless fire.

1,200 stuck with expired

FROM PAGE 12
about 70 percent of Bangladeshi workforce in the Gulf country is involved in this field as unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers, according to the Bangladesh mission there.

An official at the Bangladesh Embassy said those who have valid visas were able to go back to Bahrain from Bangladesh maintaining due health guidelines at present.

However, those who saw their visas expired amid the pandemic are unable to do so, the official said, seeking anonymity.

He added the Bahrain government did not give the embassy any assurance on such visa-holders despite repeated communications.

Sheikh Mohammed Tauhidul Islam, labour welfare counsellor at Bangladesh Embassy in Manama, said the number of Bahrain-based expatriates stuck in Bangladesh with expired visas could be around 1,200.

Most of them are migrant workers while the list also includes investors and family visa holders. The embassy collected their numbers from various sources, Tauhidul told this newspaper via WhatsApp on October 28.

He said the embassy has been trying in different ways including "issuing an official note verbale" to negotiate with the Bahrain government so that the latter reinstate the expired visas.

Talking to The Daily Star again on Monday, Tauhidul said as per the directive of the ambassador, the mission has prepared a fresh "note verbale" to send to the Bahrain authorities in a day or two. This might lead to a solution, he added.

UK unhappy at exclusion

FROM PAGE 12
transparency. It is now vital to amend the citizenship laws to ensure that everyone can participate fully in Myanmar's political process," the British minister said.

Nigel urged the Myanmar authorities to ensure free and fair elections are held at the earliest opportunity in those areas where they were cancelled.

"We also condemn the kidnapping of parliamentary candidates by the Arakan Army and call for their immediate release," he added.

Meanwhile, regional rights body Fortify Rights has called upon the international community to condemn the mass disenfranchisement of Rohingyas in Myanmar's November 8 national elections.

"A core principle of elections under international law is universal and equal suffrage and that is not what took place," said Ismail Wolff, regional director of Fortify Rights, in a statement on Monday.

Human rights groups and other observers have expressed serious concerns regarding Myanmar's elections this year, including the disenfranchisement of ethnic minority voters, most notably the Rohingyas.

Other concerns include the government's continued crackdown on the rights to freedom of expression

and peaceful assembly, including the arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society actors and activists.

Myanmar's constitution continues to reserve 25 percent of seats in parliament for unelected military officials and grants the military control of key government ministries in contravention of democratic norms, Fortify Rights said.

Following decades of authoritarian military rule, the international community mostly lauded Myanmar's elections in 2015 as a formative step towards democratisation and restoration of human rights despite the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya voters.

Five years on, the Rohingya suffered genocide and crimes against humanity and the National League for Democracy (NLD) government continues to imprison human rights defenders while also failing to reform key institutions, including the military and judiciary, said the rights body.

"Governments in the region and around the world must urgently step up efforts for international accountability and ensure the root causes of the Rohingya genocide are addressed and refugees are able to return to their homes in a safe, dignified, and voluntary manner," said Ismail Wolff.

Europe's Covid

FROM PAGE 12

Britain, which has imposed a fresh lockdown in England, has the highest death toll in Europe at around 49,000 and health experts have warned that with a current average of more than 20,000 cases daily, the country will exceed its "worst case" scenario of 80,000 deaths.

But France, Spain, Italy and Russia have also reported hundreds of deaths a day and together, the five countries account for almost three quarters of the total fatalities.

Already facing the prospect of a wave of job losses and business failures, governments across the region have been forced to order control measures including local curfews, closing non-essential shops and restricting movement.

France, the worst affected country in the EU, has registered more than 48,700 infections per day over the past week and the Paris region health authority said last week that 92% of the region's ICU capacity was occupied. Facing similar pressures, Belgian and Dutch hospitals have been forced to send some severely ill patients to Germany.

In Italy, which became a global symbol of the crisis when army trucks were used to transport the dead during the early months of the pandemic, daily average new cases are at a peak at more than 32,500. Deaths have been rising by more than 320 per day over the past three weeks.

While the new vaccine being developed by Pfizer and German partner BioNTech will take time to arrive, authorities are hoping that once winter is passed, it will stem further outbreaks next year.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday said the European Union would soon sign a contract for 300 million doses of the vaccine, just hours after the drugmaker announced promising late-stage trials.

Mumbai cruise to 5th IPL

FROM PAGE 12
tournament's most successful side, Delhi, coached by Australia great Ricky Ponting, needed a strong start but were reeling at 22 for three instead in the fourth over.

Boult dismissed the in-form Marcus Stoinis with the first delivery while Shikhar Dhawan, the other opener, lost his wicket to off-spinner Jayant Yadav attempting a slog-sweep.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (65 not out) and Rishabh Pant (56) steadied the innings but Delhi did not get a late flourish and settled for a score which Mumbai chased down easily.

Quinton de Kock fell for 20 and Suryakumar Yadav (19) sacrificed his wicket after a mix-up with Rohit but Mumbai were hardly tested in their

Yet health experts cautioned that the vaccine, should it be approved, was no silver bullet - not least because the genetic material it's made from needs to be stored at temperatures of minus 70 degrees Celsius (-94 F) or below.

Such requirements pose a challenge for countries in Asia, as well as Africa and Latin America, where intense heat is often compounded by poor infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Brazil's health regulator said it had suspended clinical trials of China's Sinovac Biotech Covid-19 vaccine after an "adverse incident" involving a volunteer recipient, a blow for one of the most advanced vaccine candidates.

Sinovac Biotech on Tuesday stood by its creation, saying: "We are confident in the safety of the vaccine".

The Brazilian regulator Anvisa said it had "ruled to interrupt the clinical study of the CoronaVac vaccine after a serious adverse incident" involving a volunteer recipient on October 29.

It said it could not give details on what happened because of privacy regulations, but that such incidents included death, potentially fatal side effects, serious disability, hospitalization, birth defects and other "clinically significant events."

Sinovac, however, said the incident was "not related to the vaccine", adding it will "continue to communicate with Brazil on this matter."

The public health center coordinating the trials of the vaccine in Brazil, the Butantan Institute, said it was "surprised" by Anvisa's decision.

CoronaVac has been caught up in a messy political battle in Brazil, where its most visible backer has been Sao Paulo Governor Joao Doria, a top opponent of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro.

The Sinovac, Pfizer and Oxford vaccines are all in Phase 3 trials, the final stage of testing before regulatory approval.

chase.

Rohit shrugged off the twin setbacks and smashed four sixes in his rollicking knock before holing out with victory in sight.

Delhi's Kagiso Rabada finished as the IPL's leading wicket-taker with 30 scalps, ahead of the Mumbai duo of Jasprit Bumrah (27) and Boult (25).

This year's IPL, originally scheduled to begin on March 29, was shifted to the United Arab Emirates following the Covid-19 outbreak in India.

"We know it's a difficult time, everyone is stuck at home," Bumrah said, putting things in perspective.

"We're lucky that we could come and entertain people. If we could bring smiles to their faces, it's the best thing we could do."

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নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থসালে ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের ষোড়া ও ক্যানাইন স্কোয়াডের খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি ষাণ্মাসিক ক্রয়ের (২য় ষাণ্মাসিক-জানুয়ারি-২০২১ হইতে জুন-২০২১ পর্যন্ত) জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ এবং বিধিমালা-২০০৮ মোতাবেক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।	
০১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২। সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
০৩। দরপত্র ক্রয় কর্তৃপক্ষ	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
০৪। দরপত্র আইটেমের নাম	(১) ক. ষোড়ার বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (আইটেম বাই আইটেম ব্যাসিস) খ. ক্যানাইন স্কোয়াডের খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (লট বাই লট ব্যাসিস) (২য় ষাণ্মাসিক-জানুয়ারি-২০২১ হইতে জুন-২০২১ পর্যন্ত)।
০৫। দরপত্রের আহবানের নম্বর	২৭ (২০২০-২০২১) অর্থসাল।
০৬। দরপত্রের তারিখ	১০/১১/২০২০।
০৭। দরপত্র জামানত	দরপত্র জামানত হিসাবে (১) ক এর জন্য ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা এবং খ. লটের জন্য ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংক এর পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট পুলিশ কমিশনার, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের অনুকূলে প্যাকেজের প্রতিটি ক্রমিক নং অনুযায়ী দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
০৮। দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য (১) ক. এর আইটেমের জন্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) এবং খ. লটের জন্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
০৯। দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (স্থানীয়)।
১০। দরপত্রের অর্ধের উৎস	জিওবি (রাজস্ব)।
১১। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৯/১২/২০২০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১২। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০/১২/২০২০ তারিখ সময় ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে।
১৩। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১০/১২/২০২০ তারিখ সময় ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪। দরপত্র দলিল সজ্ঞাহের ঠিকানা	(১) সহকারী পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইকুইপমেন্ট), রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস্, ঢাকা (২) ডিসি (অর্থ), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা অফিস-৩৬ শহীদ ক্যাপ্টেন মনসুর আলী স্মরণী, ডিএমপি সদর দপ্তর, রমনা, ঢাকা (৩) পুলিশ সুপার (এডামিন ও টেলিকম), টেলিকম ভবন, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা।
১৫। দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার ঠিকানা	(১) সহকারী পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইকুইপমেন্ট), রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস্ এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে, (২) ডিসি (অর্থ), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা অফিস-৩৬ শহীদ ক্যাপ্টেন মনসুর আলী স্মরণী, ডিএমপি সদর দপ্তর, রমনা, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে, (৩) পুলিশ সুপার (এডামিন ও টেলিকম), টেলিকম ভবন, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে।
১৬। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স) এর কার্যালয়, রাজারবাগস্থ লজিস্টিক্স বিভাগের (কনফারেন্স কক্ষ নং-১৪), ৩য় তলা, ঢাকা। দরপত্রদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে।
১৭। কাজের সর্বাঙ্গিক বিবরণ	(১) ক. ষোড়ার খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (আইটেম বাই আইটেম ব্যাসিস) ও খ. ক্যানাইন স্কোয়াডের খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (লট বাই লট ব্যাসিস) (২য় ষাণ্মাসিক-জানুয়ারি-২০২১ হইতে জুন-২০২১ পর্যন্ত)।
১৮। দরপত্র আহ্বান কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিক্স), ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	লজিস্টিক্স অফিস, রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস্, ঢাকা।
২১। দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে। ক) সিটি কর্পোরেশন/পৌরসভার/ইউনিয়নের নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স। খ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট। গ) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট। ঘ) সদ্য ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট। ঙ) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট। চ) দরপত্রদাতা কর্তৃক উদ্ধৃত একক মূল্যের হিসাবে স্বশিষ্ট আইটেমের মোট সভ্য মূল্যের ২৫% Liquid Asset (Working Capital) থাকিতে হইবে মার্চে ব্যাংকের সনদপত্র। ছ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রসিদ ছবি অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। জ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের/আইটেমের ০১ (এক) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
২২। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে অত্র দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাহান করার ক্ষমতা অত্র সংস্থা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

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TEN 2 INT'L FRIENDLY

Turkey v Croatia
Live from 11:45pm
Netherlands v Spain
Live from 1:45am
(Thursday)

TEN 1 INT'L FRIENDLY

Belgium v Switzerland
Live from 1:45am
(Thursday)
SONY SIX
INT'L FRIENDLYNorway v Israel
Live from 11:00pm
Germany v Czech Republic
Live from 1:45am
(Thursday)

Mumbai Indians players celebrate with the IPL trophy after winning the final against Delhi Capitals at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: IPL

High five for Rohit's Mumbai

AGENCIES

It looked like Mumbai Indians were definitely not going to lose the IPL 2020 final and it remained that way as Rohit Sharma's men won a record-extending 5th title by decimating first-time finalists Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets. Barring blips in their first and

SCORES IN BRIEF

DELHI CAPITALS:

156 for 7 in 20 overs (Dhawan 15, Shreyas 65 not out, Pant 56; Boult 3-30, Coulter-Nile 2-29)

MUMBAI INDIANS:

157 for 5 in 18.4 overs (Sharma 68, de Kock 20, Suryakumar 19, Ishan 33 not out; Nortje 2-25)

RESULT:

Mumbai Indians win by 5 wickets.

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:

Trent Boult.

MAN-OF-THE-TOURNAMENT:

Jofra Archer

EMERGING PLAYER:

Devdutt Padikkal

IPL 2020 STATS

HIGHEST TOTAL: 228/4, Delhi, against Kolkata**LOWEST TOTAL:** 84/8, Kolkata, against Bengaluru**MOST RUNS:** 670, KL Rahul, Punjab**MOST WICKETS:** 30, Kagiso Rabada, Delhi**MOST CENTURIES:** 2, Shikhar Dhawan, Delhi**MOST SIXES:** 30, Ishan Kishan, Mumbai**HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORE:** 132*, KL Rahul, Punjab, against Bengaluru**BEST BOWLING:** 5/20, Varun Chakravarthy, Kolkata, against Delhi**MOST DOT BALLS:** 175, Jofra Archer, Rajasthan**FASTEST DELIVERY:** 156.22 (km/h), Anrich Nortje, Delhi, against Rajasthan

Blazing a trail of success

NABID YEASIN



"I hope many more girls in our country will focus more on playing cricket and work on their fitness in order to achieve something for their country after seeing my performance or Jahana's [Alam] performance," Salma Khatun said after helping Trailblazers win the Women's T20 Challenge for the first time.

Salma had to go through a challenging six-day quarantine period at a hotel in the United Arab Emirates before she got the chance to introduce herself to the rest of her Trailblazers teammates, with whom she participated in the three-team T20 tournament.

But by the time the tournament ended, Salma ensured that she would need no further introduction, at least not to players from around the globe playing in the franchise T20 tournament -- popularly known as the Women's IPL.

In her debut campaign, she played an important part in helping Trailblazers to the title. Adapting to tough situations was never an issue for a girl whose family had endured poverty for most of their lives. And Salma yet again proved her mettle at a crucial juncture of the final as she returned miserly figures of three for 18 in her four overs after coming on to bowl at the latter stages during their 16-run victory over Supernovas on Monday.

Salma belongs to the very first batch of women cricketers of the country and so her cricketing journey is laying the foundation for future batches of cricketers in the country. And in that regard, Salma has rarely failed to inspire. It was under her leadership that

Bangladesh won the Asia Cup in 2018 -- the first major cricketing trophy for a country where male cricketers usually get the lion's share of the spotlight.

According to Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, who was manager of the BCB women's cricket wing development for a long time, Salma is just as good as any male spinner the country has.

"Salma has the ability to turn the ball away from the batters and can also bowl the arm ball very effectively. She is as good as any spinner we have in the Bangladesh [male] side," opined Nazmul.

Salma was however not the only Bangladeshi player who featured in the tournament. Pacer Jahana Alam completed her second stint with Velocity. Even though Velocity could not make it to the final, falling short on net run-rate, Jahana did not fail to make a name for herself. The right-arter scalped two crucial wickets during their win against Supernovas in the opening game.

In the early 2000s, it took some inspiring performances from the likes of Mohammad Rafique, Mohammad Ashraful and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to help instil the confidence in the next generation that they too can do well on the international stage. Similarly, the likes of Salma and Jahana could be the ones to lay the groundwork and pave the path for the upcoming batch of women cricketers, who could reach new heights at the highest level.

They just need to work harder in order to turn what Salma already believes into reality, "I believe we have more girls capable of playing in the IPL. Since it's only three teams, they could not get in but if there are more teams I am sure two to three more players from Bangladesh would get called up."



HIGHLIGHTS

Mumbai Indians became only the second team (after Chennai Super Kings, 2010 and 2011) to successfully defend their IPL title.

The Rohit Sharma-lead team clinched their fifth title, extending the record as the most successful team in the tournament. They have lost only once in the final (2010).

33-year-old Rohit, the dashing Indian opener, is now the most successful captain in the IPL with five title wins.

Rohit became the first captain to score 50+ runs in two IPL final (50 of 26 balls vs Chennai, 2015 and 56* of 27 vs Delhi, 2020).

last league games, Mumbai were always on top gear and they made it all look easy at the end.

The powerhouse of T20 cricket needed just 18.4 overs to gun down a target of 157 in what turned out to be the shortest final in the history of IPL, in terms of the overs played. Led by captain Rohit Sharma's 68 and a terrific Trent Boult, Mumbai Indians used all their experience of having featured in 5 previous IPL finals to good effect against Shreyas Iyer's men.

"Pretty happy with how things went the entire season for us. We said at the start we want to make winning a habit, and you couldn't have asked any more

from the guys. We were right on the money from ball one and even until today, we never looked back," said Mumbai captain Rohit Sharma.

"IPL always amazes you. Probably one of the toughest leagues to play. I feel overwhelmed playing in such a league. It's been a great journey. I'm very proud of my boys, it's not a small feat to reach the final. It was a great achievement. Winning the IPL is something more - one step ahead. We'll come back stronger and see to it that we win the trophy. I would just like to tell the fans that you've been great support through the season," said Delhi captain Shreyas Iyer.



Mominul tests positive

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque became the latest cricketer to be infected by the coronavirus. The left-hander had himself tested on Monday due to slight symptoms and the report yesterday came positive.

"I was feeling slightly feverish a couple of days back. So I got tested yesterday and the result came out positive," said Mominul yesterday.

"My wife has also tested positive. We are in home quarantine," the Test skipper said, adding that he has mild fever.

Mominul became the second national cricketer to test positive this week after T20 captain Mahmudullah Riyad tested positive earlier in the week which forced him out of the PSL playoffs.

Meanwhile, the second and final day of the mandatory fitness test of the cricketers outside the national, high performance, and under-19 side, completed yesterday.

Nasir Hossain and Sohag Gazi failed the fitness test for the second consecutive day.

BCB awaiting CWI feedback

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is hopeful about bringing international cricket back to the country as the board is waiting for a feedback from the West

Indies cricket board regarding the Windies' scheduled to tour to Bangladesh in January next year for three Tests, three ODIs and two T20Is.

The BCB has already sent a bio-bubble plan to Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the health authorities of the government and is awaiting a feedback before making the final decision.

"As per our communication with the West Indies cricket board, we have already sent a bio-bubble plan to them and the authorities of our government. Once we get the feedback from the West Indies board, we can make the final decision," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told media yesterday.

Chowdhury also said that the BCB is willing to complete the tour in a short time. "What we understand from the West Indies board is that we need to keep the tour short and our main target will be to fulfil what we have on our FTP (Future Tours Programme). We are working accordingly



but we are yet to reach a final decision," he said.

The BCB is all set to host the Bangabandhu T20 Cup by the end of this month, and although the schedule of the five-team domestic tournament is yet to be finalised, according to Chowdhury the board is willing to finish the tournament by the time they host West Indies.

Following a seven-month halt due to the coronavirus pandemic, cricket in the country returned through the 50-over BCB President's Cup. However, it was in March this year that Bangladesh had an international series, with the Tigers hosting Zimbabwe.

Hosting an international series after the pandemic might be challenging in regards to maintaining safety protocols, but BCB is gradually gaining experience by hosting domestic competitions.



Barcelona and Argentina superstar Lionel Messi returned to national team duty yesterday ahead of World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay, in Buenos Aires on November 13 and Peru, in Lima on November 17.

PHOTO: TWITTER

This season might be a bit different

REUTERS, LONDON



Eight rounds into a Premier League season is usually a sufficient period for the big guns to start gathering near the top of the table and for the surprise early pace-setters to be on their inevitable slide.

Now and again a club from outside the accepted top-six will defy gravity for longer and once in a blue moon miracles happen, as Leicester City proved by winning the title in 2015-16 as 5000-1 outsiders.

A glance at the standings after the weekend's games raises the prospect that this season might be a bit different.

Southampton, beaten 9-0 by Leicester a year ago, began the weekend perched on top for the first time in 32 years after winning on Friday, Tottenham Hotspur beat West Bromwich Albion to take over for a few hours on Sunday before Leicester moved to the summit with 18 points from eight games by beating Wolverhampton Wanderers.

With Aston Villa's 3-0 drubbing of Arsenal hoisting them to sixth, three points behind Leicester with a game in hand, Everton in seventh, Crystal Palace in eighth and Wolves in ninth, it resembles a table from the 70s or 80s, long before the evolution of a Premier League big four and then big six.

Manchester City are 10th, albeit from only seven games, while Arsenal and Manchester United languish in the bottom half.

BBC pundit and former England striker Alan Shearer says he still expects champions Liverpool and Manchester City to battle each other for the title again and the bookmakers agree.

But the quality so far displayed

by Leicester, Southampton, Villa and early on Everton suggests a shake-up in the top half is not beyond the realm of possibility.

According to statistics provided by Nielsen's Gracenote, Leicester's start is the best by a team from outside the big six since Leeds United also took 18 points from eight games 19 years ago, eventually finishing fifth.

What is more, Leicester are three points better off after eight games than they were in 2015 and are enjoying their best start to a top-

The last time that happened was in 2006 when Bolton Wanderers and Portsmouth eventually finished in seventh and ninth places respectively.

Should Villa get a point in their next game against Brighton, it would mean three teams outside the big six have taken 16 or more points from their opening eight games -- something that has happened in only two Premier League seasons since 1995.

While the appearance of the table is refreshing, it is far too early to start talking about the prospects of

FEARLESS FOXES
OUR STORY

flight campaign since 1930.

While Leicester's form is perhaps less surprising, given they were impressive last season before a late fade, Southampton's is more so considering their squad is more or less the same as last season's when they struggled.

They have 16 points, meaning it is the first time in 14 years that two teams from outside the big six have averaged at least two points per match in their first eight games.

another Leicester-like fairytale.

Of the 21 teams from outside the big six to have taken 16 or more points from their first eight games, only five finished in the top four, with Newcastle United blowing a golden chance to win the title in 1995-96, finishing second to Manchester United.

And a cautionary take is that of Hull City who took 17 points from their first eight games but two from their last eight, surviving on the last day of the 2008-09 season.

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RETURNEES FROM BAHRAIN

1,200 stuck with expired visas

JAMIL MAHMUD

About 1,200 returnees from Bahrain, who got stuck home for months amid the coronavirus pandemic, are facing uncertainty over going back to their workplaces as their visas expired.

The Bangladeshi expatriates, mostly migrant workers, came home on vacation before the virus spread across the world early this year. They got stranded following the suspension of global air communications.

Now without income for several months, many of them are finding it hard to meet expenses of their family members. They sought immediate steps from the Bangladesh government to diplomatically negotiate with the Bahrain authorities for allowing them return to the Gulf country.

"The pandemic changed everything. I remained stuck and saw my visa get expired. Now I see a bleak future ahead," said Imdad Ullah, a migrant worker, who came home on February 15 on a three-month vacation.

The 35-year-old from Sylhet's Goainghat used to work at a coffee shop in Bahrain and was supposed to go back in May. His visa expired in June.

He said his immediate supervisor assured him of rehiring if he could make it to Bahrain. But there is little chance for

him to enter the Gulf country in the current situation, since the Bahrain government is not allowing renewal of his expired visa.

"All of my papers were valid," he said, adding that he could apply for a new visa but issuance of such visas for Bangladeshi workers also remained suspended.

He said his identity card, known as Central Population Registry (CPR) which allows him to stay in Bahrain, still remains valid till 2022.

Phul Miah, 39, is facing a similar problem. Employed as a driver in Bahrain, he came home on February 25 and was supposed to return on July 22.

"But now, I am stuck home without work," he said recently over the phone, adding he has been facing acute financial hardship.

"My wife and seven siblings largely depend on my income," said Phul, who is from Sylhet's South Surma area.

If the Bangladesh government takes steps considering the coronavirus situation and negotiate with the Bahrain government, it will help many of migrants like him to return to their workplaces, he added.

Bahrain is home to around 150,000 Bangladesh nationals.

Construction is the biggest sector of employment for Bangladeshis in Bahrain --

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Dust kicked up by vehicles makes life difficult in Amin Bazar Truck Stand area beside Dhaka-Aricha highway. Vessels carry sand via the Turag and offload it to trucks at Amin Bazar. The vehicles usually drop some of their cargo as they travel on the highway, leading to the dust problem. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MYANMAR ELECTION UK unhappy at exclusion of Rohingyas

Calls for amendment to citizenship law

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK has urged Myanmar to amend its citizenship law and hold elections in parts of Rakhine and other areas where polls were cancelled on Sunday.

Nigel Adams, the British minister for Asia at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, in a statement on Monday said the 2020 elections are a significant milestone on Myanmar's path from military dictatorship to democracy. He said his country would work with the new government and civil society to this end.

However, the minister expressed disappointment that the Rohingyas and other minorities were once again disenfranchised.

Some 600,000 Rohingyas live in Rakhine state of Myanmar, while about 750,000 fled a violent military crackdown there and took shelter in Bangladesh.

"Elections were cancelled in areas of conflict without a clear rationale or

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Awami Jubo League formed

November 11, 1972
 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NEW YOUTH POLITICAL ORGANISATION FLOATED Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni, a member of the Awami League organising committee, at a press conference at the National Press Club today announces formation of a new youth political organisation under the name of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League (BAJL). Shiekh Moni, who is also the convener of the BAJL, declares that the aim of the new organisation would be to organise the youth forces of the country with a view to reconstruction of the war-torn country on the basis of the four basic principles of the state policy as enunciated by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, popularly known as Mujibbad.



\$1 BILLION AID COMMITTED TO BANGLADESH Bangladesh has so far received tentative commitments of about one billion dollars in aid, grant and loans from different countries. The money will be available to Bangladesh within December this year. The highest individual contributor is the United States, followed by India, Canada and the USSR. The international community and specialised financial institutions are expected to place an additional 800 million dollars at the disposal of the Bangladesh government by the middle of June next year.

BANGLADESH WILL BUY WHEAT FROM US Government of Bangladesh today signs a contract for purchase of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

LAUNDERING Tk 168CR Court frames charges against GK Shamim, seven others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against expelled Jubo League leader GK Shamim, a top contractor of government projects, and his seven bodyguards in a case filed for laundering Tk 168 crore.

The eight, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Md Nazrul Islam of the Special Judge's Court-10 of Dhaka read out the charges.

The seven bodyguards are: Delwar Hossain, Murad Hossain, Zahidul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Kamal Hossain, Samsad Hossain, and Aminul Islam.

Yesterday, the judge dismissed seven petitions submitted by their lawyers for discharging them from the case.

The judge fixed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Scientists discover two new marsupial species in Australia



CNN ONLINE

If you take a walk through the forests of Australia's east coast, you might come across the greater glider -- a possum-sized marsupial with big ears and a long furry tail, that glides from tree to tree.

Until last week, the glider was classified as a single species, but a new study found that it was actually three different ones, marking the discovery of two new marsupial species.

"Australia's biodiversity just got a lot richer," said Professor Andrew Krockenberger of James Cook University, who was part of the research team. "It's not every day that new mammals are confirmed, let alone two new mammals."

Scientists have long suspected the glider

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Mumbai cruise to 5th IPL title

REUTERS, Dubai

Defending champions Mumbai Indians claimed their fifth Indian Premier League title after romping to a five-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals in yesterday's final in Dubai.

Mumbai's bowlers, led by Trent Boult (3-30), laid the foundation for their comprehensive victory by restricting Delhi to a below-par 156-7.

Mumbai skipper Rohit Sharma smashed a breezy 68 and Ishan Kishan made 33 not out as they prevailed with eight balls to spare for their fourth win against Delhi this season.

Playing their maiden IPL final against the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

GRAFT ALLEGATION Postal dept DG sent on forced leave

UNB, Dhaka

The Posts and Telecommunications Division yesterday sent Sudhangshu Shekhar Bhadra, director general of the Directorate of Posts, on forced leave as primary investigation found evidence of graft against him.

A notice was issued in this regard yesterday and it will come into effect from today. The leave will remain in force until further notice.

According to the notice, several allegations of corruption have been brought against Sudhangshu and evidence was also found in this regard.



Maintaining proper hygiene, Ranu Begum (right) has been offering homemade food to students, teachers and others at an affordable price on Dhaka University campus for almost 13 years. Between 200 and 250 people are served at her stall near TSC in regular times. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Europe's Covid death toll set to top 300,000

Brazil halts trials of Sinovac vaccine after an 'adverse incident'

AGENCIES

The Covid-19 death toll in Europe was set to pass 300,000 yesterday, according to a Reuters tally, and authorities fear that despite hopes for a new vaccine, fatalities and infections will continue to rise as the region heads into winter.

With just 10% of the world's population, Europe accounts for almost a quarter of both the 50.9 million cases and 1.2 million deaths globally and even its well-equipped hospitals are feeling the strain.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 238,251 deaths from 10,110,552 cases. After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 162,628 deaths, India with 127,059, Mexico with 95,255 and the United Kingdom with 49,063 deaths.

After achieving a measure of control over the pandemic with broad lockdowns earlier this year, case numbers have surged since the summer and governments have ordered a second series of restrictions to limit social contacts.

In all, Europe has reported some 12.3 million cases and 295,000 deaths and over the past week, it has seen 280,000 cases a day, up 10% from the week earlier, representing just over half of all new infections reported globally.

Hopes have been raised by Pfizer Inc's announcement of a potentially effective new vaccine, but it is not expected to be generally available before 2021 and health systems will have to cope with the winter months unaided.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 11

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:25 7:30

JAMAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION