



POST-POLLS CRISIS IN US
Obama slams GOP leadership for not accepting result as Trump remains defiant
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"We [BNP] join polls when we shouldn't and we don't take part when we should. We go to parliament when we shouldn't."
BNP LEADER MAJ (RETD) HAFIZ UDDIN AHMED



"It doesn't matter that I'm fit as a butcher's dog, feel great... that I've had the disease and I'm bursting with antibodies."
UK PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON ON SELF-ISOLATION AFTER A CONTACT TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



"I cannot help but observe that the United Nations Security Council no longer produces useful solutions today."
FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON

Food reserve under pressure

Grain stock drops to 8.8 lakh tonnes, far below comfortable level due to poor procurement, increased distribution amid pandemic

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

The country's food reserve dropped to 8.8 lakh tonnes on Sunday, despite bumper grain production in the last fiscal year.

The reasons include the government's failure to attain its boro procurement target and increased distribution of cereal among the people affected by the pandemic and recurring floods.

On July 1 last year, the food stock under the government's disposal stood at 16.74 lakh tonnes, which came down to 11.88 lakh tonnes within exactly a year.

Two days ago, it fell to 8.8 lakh tonnes, nearly half way down from the comfortable level of 15-16 lakh tonnes, according to data from the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit of the food ministry.

The reserves in government warehouses lowered despite record food production.

Rice and wheat production stood at 3.76 crore tonnes in the fiscal year ending in June, 0.45 percent higher than the 3.74 crore tonnes year-on-year, according to the final estimate of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The food procurement goal flopped



mainly because the government had fixed prices for boro paddy and rice lower than the production cost at the farm level and also at a time when the price of paddy was high.

The food ministry had aimed to buy 8 lakh tonnes of boro paddy during the procurement period from April 26 to September 15. But it could manage to purchase only 2.2 lakh tonnes, falling short of the target by 72.5 percent.

It had targeted to purchase 10 lakh tonnes parboiled rice but managed to

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Violating traffic rules and ignoring a notice right there, motorcycles get on a pavement in the capital's Tejgaon area around 11:30am yesterday and put pedestrians at risk. This photographer, stationed there for around 45 minutes, saw dozens of bikers doing the same whenever traffic came to a halt.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BNP activists behind arson attacks: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that it was the BNP that carried out the recent arson attack on buses to make the election questionable and malign the government.



"There was no reason to set fire to buses. But why did they do so? It was to make the election questionable when they are not getting people's votes and have lost public confidence," Hasina said in an unscheduled discussion.

She made the remark in reply to BNP MP Harunur Rashid's demand for formation of a parliamentary body to find out who were behind the arson attacks in the capital.

Hasina said when two parliamentary by-elections were being held, they all of a sudden set several buses on fire and but are shifting blame on the government.

"We're in power. Then why our

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Seed potato too gets pricier

Potential potato crisis in early December; cultivation delayed due to floods

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

With the high price of potatoes continuing to hurt household budgets across the board, farmers' pockets also bear the brunt as they have to buy seed potatoes at a higher rate.

Traders and government officials said the price of seed potatoes has increased due to the high price of potatoes, a kilogramme of which is now being sold for Tk 45-50 in the capital's kitchen markets.

Due to low prices last year, around Tk 25 per kg, many farmers had reduced the volume of cultivation of the tuber crop, a staple vegetable in kitchens. As a result, a substantial quantity of seed potatoes got damaged in cold storage, said Ruhul Amin, manager of Samabay Cold Storage in Cumilla.

"And this time when the farmers saw a good price of potatoes, they sold their seed potatoes for public consumption. Besides, many farmers are now showing interest in cultivating potatoes this year seeing good prices. So, the price shot up," he told The Daily Star on November 10.

Atiur Rahman, a farmer who has sown seed potatoes (Holland variety) on his one bigha land in Viyail union of Dinajpur's Chirirbandar upazila, said it cost him an additional Tk 4,000 this time to do so.

He used to cultivate potatoes on 2.5 bigha land. "The rest 1.5 bigha is yet to get dry after the flood. Once it becomes cultivable, I'll sow seed potatoes on that field too," he said on November 4, adding he was expecting to start cultivation by the end of this month.

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War hero Shawkat Ali no more



1937-2020

RASHIDUL HASAN

Former deputy speaker Col (ret) Shawkat Ali, who was one of the accused in the historic Agartala Conspiracy Case, passed away at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 83.

A valiant freedom fighter, Shawkat had been suffering from multiple old age complications, including kidney- and heart-related problems.

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Talks essential for viable solution

Says Japanese ambassador to Dhaka about Rohingya crisis during an interview with The Daily Star

PORIMOL PALMA and REFAWET ULIAH MIRDHA

Japan is directly communicating with Myanmar, emphasising the importance of Rohingya repatriation and accountability as it considers a long-term solution to the crisis and regional stability essential conditions for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"For us, to see the resolution of Rohingya crisis and stability in the region is part of our joint efforts to achieve a free and open Indo-Pacific. Japan, Bangladesh and some other countries in the region can jointly work for stability," said Ito Naoki, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh.

"My hope is that Myanmar will listen to Japan and work on early repatriation of the Rohingyas," Naoki said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at his official residence in the capital on November 8.

About a million Rohingyas, 750,000 of whom fled a brutal military crackdown in 2017, are living in Bangladesh. No Rohingya returned home despite repeated attempts over more than three years. Rohingyas say they don't have

RELATED STORY ON B1



Ito Naoki

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Highest daily infection in 10 weeks

2,139 new Covid cases in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 6,215, while the death rate stood at 1.43 percent.

Another 2,139 new cases were recorded in the same 24 hours, taking the number of positive cases to 4,34,472, said the release.

This was the highest number of cases reported in a single day in the last 70 days. Also, this was a major jump from the second-highest count of 1,845 cases reported on Thursday.

On September 7, some 2,202 people tested

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A vacation in Dooars was his last wish

Soumitra's daughter tells The Daily Star

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

One of the greatest icons of Bengali cinema, Soumitra Chatterjee was never short of enthusiasm for work as his magic on the silver screen kept audiences enthralled for around six decades.

Quite understandably, the 85-year-old actor -- who played many iconic roles like "Feluda" and "Apu" -- was not glad when everything came to a halt due to the coronavirus-driven lockdown.

As the restrictions were relaxed slightly, Soumitra started working again, recounted his daughter Poulami Bose in a telephone conversation with The Daily Star.

"We protested the decision immediately, but he would not listen to anyone. He insisted on continuing working.

"We worked on one of my documentaries at Bharat Lakshmi studio even a day before he fell ill. It was a documentary on him. The shooting took place for three days. The work remains incomplete. He could not even watch his

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Drawing lines on the sand, children play games in Itna-Mithamain area of Nikli Haor in Kishoreganj. The area remains submerged under water during most of the year. It appears as a char when the dry season begins, much to the joy of children who live in the haor area. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Violating health guidelines Mobile courts to start penalising within days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile courts will initiate drives in Dhaka within two to three days to make sure that people wear facemasks and follow other health rules, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said yesterday.

He added that the prime minister instructed the authorities concerned to be stricter in enforcing the health guidelines and take more precautionary measures against the spread of the coronavirus.

"We've issued the directive to the mobile courts and asked law enforcement agencies to be stricter... hopefully you'll see the measures in the next two or three days," Anwarul said, when his attention was drawn to the fact that many were not wearing masks in public places.

The secretary was briefing reporters on yesterday's cabinet meeting held virtually with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. She joined the meeting from the Gono Bhaban while her cabinet colleagues took part from the secretariat.

On October 25, the government asked public and private organisations not to provide services to people who would not wear facemasks, in an attempt to fight the possible second wave of the virus in the coming winter.

BRTA DRIVE
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Road Transport
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BANGLADESH UPDATE



2,139
New cases in 24hrs



4,34,472
Total cases



6,215
Deaths



3,51,146
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



1,329,857
Deaths



55,178,450
Total cases

Individuals cannot own this land

HC says in verdict upholding govt decision to declare 13,000 acres in Sylhet as reserved forest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a government decision that declared 13,000 acres of land in Sylhet's Jaintiapur and Gowainghat upazilas as reserved forest area.

Delivering the verdict on two writ petitions, the HC observed that the 13,000 acres is state property and cannot remain under the ownership of individuals.

The HC bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque through the verdict rejected the writ petitions challenging the legality of a gazette notification issued by the then government in 1985 declaring the 13,000 acres as reserved forest area.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Sheikh Saifuzzaman told The Daily Star that the 13,000 acres had been acquired after the Partition of India in 1947 and some of the land was allocated to refugees who had come to that area from Assam of India.

The then Bangladesh government in 1985 issued a gazette notification declaring the land as reserved forest area. The total land area is now under the forest department of the government.

Nineteen people, including Abdul Motaleb and Md Rafiqul Islam, had filed the two writ petitions with the HC in 2012 and 2014 challenging the legality of the 1985 gazette notification.

They claimed in their petitions that they were the Mohajer (refugees) from Assam and they owned the land.

The HC then issued two rules asking the government to explain why the gazette notification declaring the land as reserved forest area should not be declared illegal.

After holding hearing on the rules, the HC bench yesterday rejected the writ petitions as the petitioners could not prove that they were refugees and they could not produce any documents in support of their claim, DAG Saifuzzaman said.

Replying to a query, the DAG said the total land area is now under the possession of the forest department.

He, however, could not give details about the writ petitioners.

This newspaper could not reach the petitioners' lawyer Chowdhury Sanwar Ali for comment.

SM Sazzad Hossain, deputy conservator of forests and also the divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said, "Other than the self-claimed refugees, a large area of the land has been grabbed by stone crushers. Over the years, we have evicted many people from the area, but this type of cases [filed by the petitioners] makes our efforts difficult.

"Once we receive the High Court order, we will conduct drives to evict all occupiers from the area with the help of the district administration," he added.

A vacation in Dooars was his last wish

FROM PAGE 1

biopic played by Parambrata Chatterjee."

Soumitra was looking forward to spending some time close to nature once the Covid-19 restrictions would completely be lifted.

Not a fan of idle pleasure, the actor, however, was longing for a vacation this time. "He had even spoken about this to Horeram Kaku [uncle], his friend, who owns a tea garden at Dooars," Poulami said.

"But that was not to be ... His last wish remains unfulfilled."

Poulami said even in hospital, Soumitra wanted to keep writing. "Baba told me to keep a pen, paper and his spectacles beside his bed. He

said that he might get bored, so he should write a little too. But he could not pen a single word."

Poulami said she did not just lose her father, but the dearest friend and the most trustworthy comrade. "Baba taught me to enjoy life to the fullest. He would always tell me to never get upset in life, and focus on making our lives meaningful. He inspired us to make life worthwhile."

She said her father himself lived according to what he preached. "He lived a complete life and was seldom depressed."

She thanked everyone for showering Soumitra, who passed away on Sunday, with love.

Food reserve

FROM PAGE 1

purchase 6.8 lakh tonnes. Similarly, it bought 99,000 tonnes sun-burnt (atap) rice against the target of 1.5 lakh tonnes.

The food ministry had decided to buy two lakh tonnes of paddy from growers at Tk 26 per kg and six lakh tonnes of rice from millers at Tk 37 per kg.

The prices are lower than the agriculture ministry's estimate of the production cost of Tk 27.29 a kg for paddy and Tk 40.36 per kg for rice.

An increase in the rice distribution to provide food relief for the poor struck by the coronavirus pandemic and natural calamities, such as repeated floods, also contributed to bringing down the grain storage to the current level.

The government distributed 27.77 lakh tonnes of rice in the FY20, up from 25.94 lakh tonnes a year ago.

It is now facing a dilemma on how to build up its food reserves.

On the one hand, it wants to see higher prices of paddy so that farmers get a fair return. On the other, it does not want the consumers to pay too much to buy food, said Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque last month.

Consumers are already in trouble because of job and income losses in the fallout from the pandemic. The recent rise in general inflation, notably the food inflation, added to their woes.

Inflation rose to 6.44 percent in October, the highest in at least five years, driven by a hike in the food prices.

The food inflation rose sharply, climbing by 84 basis points to 7.34 percent, primarily due to the increase in the price of rice. It was 6.50 percent in September this year and 5.49 percent in October 2019, BBS data showed.

The average retail price of coarse rice was Tk 45 per kg in October, which was 32 percent higher than in last year, mentioned the Bangladesh part of a report published by the US Department of Agriculture on Thursday.

"Retail prices of milled rice are increasing irrespective of the category. Analysts attribute the increase in domestic prices to market speculation as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic," said the USDA.

The situation leaves the government with only one option: imports.

On October 28, a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) chaired by Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder instructed the ministry to take steps to import 2 lakh tonnes of rice immediately, said a source.

The agriculture minister said the government might need to import 5-6 lakh tonnes of rice, and a decision would be taken after the aman harvest, which is underway.

"Initially, an initiative has been taken

to import 2 lakh tonnes of rice," he said.

The procurement would be done at the state level, and the government would not reduce the duty on rice imports as the cut would boost imports.

Private importers have not brought in any rice in the last one year. There is 62 percent duty on rice imports, said Chitta Majumder, managing director of Mazumder Group of Industries.

The total import of food grains was 6.44 lakh tonnes in FY2019-20, out of which rice was only 4,000 tonnes.

The government would have to strengthen its reserves to carry out its food-based relief programme as well. It is, however, cautious about the relief programmes and is looking to sell more rice at subsidised rates through open market sales operations to support the poor.

The government may not be successful in its aman procurement target as well because it is again offering a rate that is lower than the production cost.

On October 28, the FMPC decided to retain the price of aman paddy at Tk 26 each kg, unchanged from last year.

Yesterday, Chitta Majumder said farmers have started to bring their just-harvested paddy to local markets.

The yield of aman paddy was lower this year than the previous years, and the prices of the grain are higher, he said.

The coarse grains called Gutiswama were selling at around Tk 1,080 per maund in Sherpur area of Bogura, up more than 50 percent from Tk 700 for the same category of the grain last year, he said.

The prices of medium and fine grains are also higher, said Chitta Majumder.

The government decided to raise the aman rice purchase target to 6 lakh tonnes, up from 3.8 lakh tonnes in the previous season and raised the price of rice to Tk 37 per kg from the previous year's Tk 36.

Last week, Food Secretary Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum, upon field visits, said there has been bumper aman production.

She had already visited four districts to take the stock of the production scenario.

"If the production is good, then we would not buy from abroad."

The secretary said the reserves came down as the food ministry could not achieve the procurement target. "We offered lower prices, whereas the market prices are higher."

The USDA report noted falling stocks of food grains in government warehouses, stating that replenishment of rice stocks through procurement was critical in stabilising the domestic market and ensuring the availability of food.



Carrying pedal-driven knife sharpeners, two men look for work as they hawk on a street in the capital's Basabo area. Some 40 such daily wage earners in Basabo have hardly found any work since the pandemic struck the country in March. On a usual day, they used to earn Tk 200-300 each. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Mobile courts to start penalising within days

FROM PAGE 1

Authority (BRIA) directed its mobile courts to intensify drives to ensure that people wear masks while travelling in public transport like buses and minibuses.

The BRIA will also request the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges to write to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division for the introduction of "No mask, No Fuel system" at filling stations.

The decisions came at a BRIA meeting held on November 9 at the directives of the cabinet division, BRIA sources said yesterday.

The move came at a time when most transport workers and passenger do not care to use masks.

BRIA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder said they already sent letters to the associations of transport owners and workers, asking them to make sure that all workers and passengers wear facemasks. Otherwise, no one would be allowed to board the vehicles, he warned.

"We've also instructed our executive

magistrates to intensify their mobile court drives in this regard," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said his office also sent letters to all of their divisional and district level offices to ensure the "No Mask, No Service" policy.

THE CABINET MEET

The cabinet yesterday approved the Bangla and English drafts of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, a proposal to ratify draft "Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between Bangladesh and Turkey", and the Bangla and English drafts on "National Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response plan".

"The plan has been taken up for the Rooppur Power Plant. ... There is a requirement of the International Atomic Energy Commission for preparing safety guidelines and response plan before the plant operation. Otherwise, they will not allow it to open," said the secretary.

"The guideline is prepared according to the structure of IAEA," he said.

He also said the disaster and relief ministry plays a key role in tackling disasters. The plan is prepared, keeping other interconnected disasters in mind.

Saying that the country lacked the idea on nuclear-related disasters, he said the proposed document would help fulfil the gap. "... enough manpower, including from the armed forces, will be trained to deal with such disasters," he said.

The cabinet secretary added that the government approved the National Financial Inclusion Strategy as part of its vision to digitise financial activities. He said the government has taken up many stimulus packages to recover from the financial disaster caused by the pandemic. Money under the packages has been distributed through banking channels, which have met the target of including a vast portion of people in the digital financial system.

Regarding the contract with Turkey, he said once the deal was finalised, Bangladesh would be able to earn a huge revenue from exports.

Talks essential for viable solution

FROM PAGE 1

guarantee of citizenship, freedom of movement and other basic rights in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Though Myanmar faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice, the UN Security Council has yet to take any concrete measure.

Another conflict in Rakhine, Shan, Kachin and Chin states between Arakan Army and Myanmar military has escalated in the recent months.

Experts see these as threats to regional stability and development.

Meanwhile, Myanmar held its national elections on November 8.

Japanese envoy Naoki has a strong hope that the repatriation process will begin soon after the polls, but for that, the dialogue between Myanmar and Bangladesh needs to go on.

The meeting of Joint Working Group -- comprised of Bangladesh and Myanmar officials -- has not been held since May last year.

He said Myanmar was busy with elections and other domestic issues before the polls and that it would be flexible after the elections in terms of addressing the Rohingya crisis. Also, they will have the new mandate to settle the pending issues affecting the country.

Japan can play its role in whatever way required, the diplomat said, adding, "We are happy to be part of the dialogue if two parties want. We can provide humanitarian assistance and help create other environment that is conducive for repatriation."

Asked for comments that Japan,

a major investor in Myanmar, faces criticism for not doing enough to pressurise Myanmar, Naoki said Japan sent a message directly to the very high level of the Myanmar government.

Following Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe's talk to his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina in August, its foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi visited Myanmar, met its State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar Armed Forces Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing to give a clear message that Japan wants early repatriation and enforcement of ICJ provisional measures.

Japan took the same stance on resolving the Rohingya crisis when Suu Kyi and Min Aung Hlaing visited Tokyo in October last year, he said, adding, "As far as I am aware, Japan is the only country that does this, making use of the channel it has due to its traditional relationship with Myanmar."

Naoki said Japan will also continue to provide humanitarian assistance, noting that over the last three years Japan's contribution is \$123 million.

Stating that free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) focuses on five areas -- humanitarian assistance, disaster prevention, quality infrastructure, connectivity and freedom of navigation, he said addressing the Rohingya crisis is part of FOIP.

Building connectivity and promoting trade and economy between Bangladesh and Myanmar can help solve much of the problem, the Japanese envoy said.

In 2012, Myanmar and Bangladesh

came up with a memorandum of understanding on road and rail connectivity. The two countries can resume the dialogue, he said.

"It may seem unrealistic, but unless you can do that, I don't see a long-term solution or stability of the Rohingya situation. Dialogue is a must for that," Naoki said.

Asked about Quad security dialogue held among the foreign ministers of Japan, Australia, India and the US in Tokyo -- an initiative that generated concerns that a new alliance was in the offing amid escalating US-China tension over trade and India-China strain over border, the Japanese ambassador said Quad is not a military alliance meant to defend the country or region as a group.

"So, we are not asking Bangladesh to be part of a military ally, but we are saying that we should build together free and open Indo-Pacific under the common vision with the shared values."

He said even though currently these four countries are participating in a maritime exercise in Malabar, the Bay of Bengal, they are not military alliance. Similarly, the US and Bangladesh, which are doing naval exercise, are not military allies.

However, it is important to do a joint naval exercise for this region's stability.

"I really see that Bangladesh can subscribe to those shared values ... because that's a common goal of prosperity, stability and development for the country and the Bay of Bengal region in the Indo-Pacific."

Shakib denies inaugurating Kali Puja

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh cricketer Shakib Al Hasan in a video on his YouTube channel yesterday denied that he had inaugurated a Kali Puja mandap on his recent trip to Kolkata.

Shakib went to Kolkata last Thursday for business purposes and was then pictured at a Kali Puja festival in Kolkata's Kakurgachi area.

Rumours then started circulating on social media that Shakib had inaugurated the puja, and that drew some backlash. The most extreme reaction came from a Facebook live video early Sunday morning by a Sylhet user brandishing a sharp weapon and saying Shakib must be killed for "hurting Muslims' feelings".

Yesterday evening in the video on his YouTube channel, Shakib said he had attended a programme adjacent to the venue of the puja and he had to get past the mandap in order to get into his car. He explained that he had been invited to take a picture, which was now being taken out of context.

"The place where we had our gathering was definitely not the puja mandap, it was an adjacent stage. I was there for 30-40 minutes and we did not speak about religion at the time. When we had concluded, I had to get in the car but some of the roads were closed.

"So, I had to take the road through the mandap and I did that. Then the person who invited me made a request, so I lit a candle. Because I have played for Kolkata [Knight Riders in the IPL] for a long time, their journalists were very excited. So, because of everyone's request, I stood there and took a picture," Shakib said in the video, and went as far as reading the part of his invitation card that mentioned the name of the man who actually inaugurated the puja.

"I would like to first say that I am a proud Muslim. I was at our programme and I want to say again that we did not talk about religion. Those two minutes at the mandap are now being shown. As a practising Muslim, I would never take part in the puja.

"If you think that my going there was wrong, then I am very sad and apologetic and I hope you can forgive it and I will try not to repeat such things in the future," Shakib said in the video.

Meanwhile, police in Sylhet are looking for the man who threatened to kill Shakib in a Facebook live video posted at 12:07am on Sunday.

BM Ashraf Ullah, additional deputy commissioner (media relations) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "We just got the video link and forwarded it over to the cyber forensic unit. We are looking for the man and he will be dealt with according to law."

BNP activists

FROM PAGE 1

government will earn a bad name by setting fire to buses. Besides, it is our duty to ensure people's security."

Thanks to the technological advancement, those who are setting fire are being caught red-handed as there are CCTVs in all places. It is clear who were behind the attack, Hasina said, adding that there are images of the culprits in her hand.

Several persons from their procession were seen setting fire to buses with a gas lighter, she went on.

Noting that now technology is advancing far and technology speaks, the PM played the record of a phone call conversation between a leader and a female activist of BNP in the House.

Hasina said it is their old habit that they shift blame on the government after arson. Because there was a problem in the party's foundation.

The PM said the party lost public confidence as it made a fugitive convict of a murder and 10-truck arms haul case its acting chairman.

Hasina said the BNP was trying to get political mileage banking on the trying times of Covid-19 and to give the government a bad name.

Pointing at BNP MP Harunur Rashid, the PM said he should have raised the issue in parliament after knowing his party's information better.

She asked him not to mislead people by raising untrue information in the House anymore.

About the BNP's participation in the elections, Hasina said, "My question is whether they are taking part in the elections at all."

She added that BNP candidates do not campaign or even provide polling agents after securing nominations. They do nothing for the election and at one stage, they withdraw from the race, saying that the election is not held properly.

She advised the BNP to take the polls seriously.

Earlier, speaking on a point of order, Harunur Rashid from Chapainawabganj-3 demanded that the Speaker form a parliamentary committee, comprising of treasury and opposition lawmakers, to reveal who were behind the arson attack.

"[Speaker] set the terms and conditions, we will complete the work in seven days. It should be revealed who were behind the incident and this should be placed before the nation," he said.

He said the BNP does not want to trade blame over the incident.

He said, "Police are saying that actions will be taken after examining video footage [of the incident]. But I want to tell you that Ishaq Hossain [BNP Mayoral candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation], Jewel [Swedchhasebak Dal leader] are infected with Covid-19 [whose names are included in the case]," Harun said.

ONLINE HARASSMENT

Police launch cyber support for women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To contain the rising trend of cyber harassment, Bangladesh Police have launched an all-woman special wing called the "Police Cyber Support for Women".

Police Inspector General Benazir Ahmed formally launched the wing at a ceremony at the Rajarbagh Police Lines Auditorium yesterday.

"We want to make the cyber world safer," the IGP said. Upon receiving complaints, the cell will provide necessary advice and legal assistance to the victims, the police chief said during his speech.

"Crime in the cyber world is increasing by the day. So far, 6,099 cases have been registered for different cyber related crimes, and a majority of these cases are filed by female victims," he said.

Citing a study, Benazir further said that around sixty-eight percent of women in the cyber space have been victims of cybercrime. Of them, 73 percent were subjected to cyber bullying or harassment.

The cell will be composed solely of women -- both for investigation and counselling. The idea is to make victims feel comfortable to share their problems, said the police chief.

Victims' information will be completely confidential, he emphasised.

Two assistant superintendents of police will lead the newly-formed wing. It will be stationed at the police headquarters (PHQ) under the direct supervision of the Lawful Interception Cell (LIC). Initially, the wing will consist of 12 full-time personnel, according to officials of the concerned desk.

The cell will work in coordination with different units of the police -- DMP, DB, CID and PBI -- that are already

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Schools are closed amid the coronavirus pandemic, so children rarely get a respite from staying home. These two little girls were delighted to be outdoors after a long while as they happily trotted across the grounds of Chandrima Udyan recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Coordination must for a complete DAP

Says DSCC mayor Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coordination among relevant organisations is vital to prepare a complete plan and implement it properly for the betterment of the capital, said Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday.

Addressing a views-exchanging meeting between Rajuk and DSCC councillors at Nagar Bhaban on the Detailed Area Plan, the mayor said Rajuk will prepare the DAP and the city corporations will assist them for its proper implementation.

Taposh said both DSCC and Rajuk complement each other while implementing various initiatives and do not create any conflict.

That is why coordination is crucial, he added.

The mayor said in the DAP there are some places earmarked as children's parks but in reality those are occupied by buildings.

He also hoped issues like that, placed in the meeting by city councillors, will be addressed in the DAP and Rajuk will be able to prepare a complete area plan.

Rajuk Chairman Mohammad Nure Alam said, "I have realised in the meeting that many things were done in the existing DAP without involving people for which it was not sustainable."

He said after discussing the issues they have found a guideline for how to go about the problems.

MAN ARRESTED WITH SKULLS, SACKS FULL OF BONES
He's member of a skeleton smuggling ring: police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

The man, who was arrested with a large cache of human skulls and bones during a raid at a house on Mymensingh city's RK Mission Road on Sunday, was sent to jail yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Sub-inspector Md Rashidul Islam raided the area and arrested Mohammad Bappi (32) with 12 skulls and two sacks of bones, said Md Faruq Hossain, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.

Police also seized two containers of

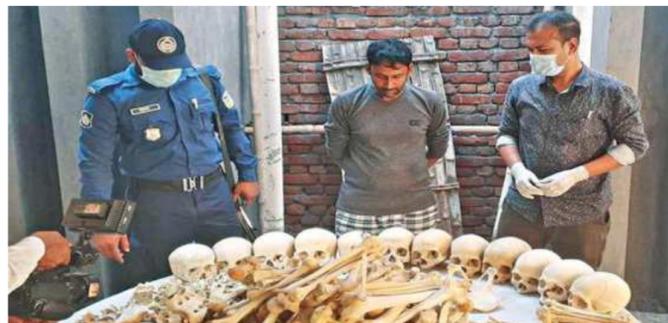
liquid chemicals and three packets of powdered chemicals.

Law enforcers suspect Bappi is member of a skeleton theft and smuggling ring.

The members of the ring are scattered throughout the district and upazilas. They first dig out skeletons from graves, take those to a secluded place, deep in the forest or hilly areas, wash and clean those and then hand those over to other members.

The bones and skulls are then sold to students of medical universities or traffickers to smuggle to neighbouring

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Police arrested one person and seized 12 human skulls and two sacks of bones from a house in Mymensingh city's RK Misison Road area on Sunday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

FISHERIES INDUSTRY

Coastal women remain unsung

COAST study finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in women's political empowerment, a recent study conducted on the female members of the fisheries communities found that women members of coastal fishery families are still lagging far behind in terms of empowerment.

They suffer from socio-economic inequalities -- 65 percent of them are victims of some form of violence, while 31 percent do not have an opinion on the purchase of family property, the study found.

Fifty-six percent of women members do not have an opinion on the general expenditure of the family, it revealed.

It also found that only two percent of women members of these households have directly contacted the Union Parishad concerned for any special need. Eighty-two percent of women have never participated in any arbitration or any other decision-making process of society.

Jahirul Islam, assistant director of COAST Trust yesterday presented these findings at a press conference titled 'Women's contribution to the coastal fisheries sector needs to be recognised.' The press conference took place at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

The study was conducted among 1,200 families that depend on fisheries for a livelihood in six unions of four upazilas of three coastal districts--Cox's Bazar, Bhola, and Bagerhat.

According to Jahirul, all women workers involved in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PRY TEACHER RECRUITMENT

Petition challenges quota system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of the government action for keeping quota system in appointing assistant teachers for public primary schools across the country.

Md Tarek Rahman, a candidate for the

post of assistant teacher, submitted the petition to the HC seeking its order on the authorities concerned of the government to cancel the quota system.

Petitioner's lawyer Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan told The Daily Star that the public administration ministry has cancelled

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

GRAFT CASE

SC refuses to grant bail to Mir Nasir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday refused to grant bail to BNP leader and former state minister for civil aviation Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin in a corruption case in which he was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment.

The apex court kept his bail petition stand over (waiting for hearing) till December 14.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after a hearing on the petition on Sunday.

Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Mir Nasir cannot get released from jail following the SC order.

We join polls when we shouldn't: Hafiz Uddin

BNP leader says street movement 'only way to oust govt'

UNB, Dhaka

Questioning the justification of BNP's participation in the recent elections and by-elections, party senior leader Maj (ret) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed yesterday said the fall of the current government will have to be ensured through a street movement, not by voting.

"As long as this government exists, citizens won't be able to go to voting booths and get a chance to bring change by voting. So, a mass-upsurge is the only way

to do that," he said.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader said, "I can say if only two lakh people take to the streets and stay there for two days then they [AL govt] will be forced to flee from power. Let's regain that courage and take to the streets in the coming days to oust this government."

Ziaur Rahman Samaj Kalyan Parishad arranged the discussion at Jatiya Press Club, marking "November 7, 1975 commemorating the civil-military uprising".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Sylhet's Rikabibazar VIP road area remains in traffic jam most of the day, as row of cars parked on the road narrows down one of the busiest streets of the city, that connects areas all the way up to Chowhatta point. This photo was taken yesterday from Madrasah Field area.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

30,500 yaba pills recovered, two held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of elite force Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-7) have arrested two people with 30,500 contraband yaba pills from the port city's Bakalia area yesterday.

"The duo were held from the Shah Amanat Bridge area of Bakalia while coming towards the city on a salt-laden truck," Flight Lieutenant Ali Ashraf Tushar said.

The arrestees are truck driver Shahidul Islam (44) and helper Arman Ali (22).

Upon being tipped-off, a team of Rab intercepted the truck and detained them, the official said. After interrogation, the duo admitted to carrying the yaba pills. Later, 30,500 pills concealed inside the truck were seized from their possession.

Star HEALTHLINE



CANCER SYMPTOMS that you may easily overlook

Cancer is a major killer, and it is increasingly taking more lives due to many factors. Sometimes, we cannot get alert properly since we don't recognise the symptoms or overlook them. Let's know some this kind of symptoms.

A SUDDEN CHANGE IN YOUR SKIN:

If you develop a new spot, shape, or colour anywhere in the body that does not look like your normal skin, you need to be cautious. You can consult a doctor and perform some test like a biopsy to take a definite diagnosis for cancer cells. You also should notice any change in your breasts.



PERSISTENT COUGH:

Sometimes cough may not subside although you are not a smoker or you don't have convincingly enough reason for that. In that case, immediately consult a doctor. Sometimes negligence may present you an advance stage of lung cancer.

BLOATING:

It could be quite confusing since you may have a full, bloated feeling because of your diet or even stress. But if it becomes persistent, and you also have fatigue, weight loss, or back pain, get it checked out for ovarian cancer.

PROBLEMS WHEN YOU PEE:

As men grow older, they usually develop urinary issues like more frequency, leaks, or the weak stream. Many a time, these might be the signs of prostate cancer.

SWOLLEN LYMPH NODES:

Any kind of swelling should not be overlooked. Immediately consult a doctor, as these may spread very rapidly.

BLOOD IN THE BATHROOM:

If you see blood in the toilet after you complete your job, it may be a sign of something terrible - talk to your doctor to explore what is happening.

It may be a simple treatable condition or a serious kind of cancer.

TROUBLE SWALLOWING:

It may be a common condition in cold or acid reflux. But if it does not get better with time or with antacids, you may need to see a doctor. It could be a sign of a varying range of cancers.

Changes in the mouth: From bad breath to canker sores, most of the changes in our mouth are not dangerous. But if white or red patches or sores in the mouth that don't heal after a couple of weeks, especially if you smoke, you must see a doctor. It may signal oral cancer.

WEIGHT LOSS:

We all want to lose body weight, but sometimes weight loss may not be good news for us. Report any unusual weight loss associated with some other symptoms, consult a doctor for proper investigation.

FEVER:

A fever is a ubiquitous thing and is not usually a bad thing. It is the very first sign that your body is fighting an infection. But the one that is not going away may be a cause of concern.

Source: World Health Organisation

Rajshahi journos demand withdrawal of case against fellows

RU CORRESPONDENT

Journalists in Rajshahi yesterday demanded withdrawal of a case filed against eight journalists, including Jugantor Editor Saiful Alamand Sonali Sanghad Editor Liaquat Ali, under Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

They also sought immediate release of Jugantor campus reporter Manik Raihan Bappi, who was sent to jail on Saturday following the case.

On October 24, 2015, Kazi Zahidur Rahman, a teacher of computer science and then resident teacher of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hall at RU, filed the case against 16 news organisations following reports that he allocated seats in exchange for money. Motihar Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI) Momin, investigation officer of the case, filed a charge sheet against eight people on September 29 last year. Bappi, one of the accused, was arrested at his home in Chapainawabanj on Friday.

In protest, Rajshahi Union of Journalists formed a human chain at the city's Sahebbazar Zero Point in the morning.

Jamaat Khan, general secretary of Rajshahi Raksha Sangram Parishad, also joined the programme expressing solidarity with journalists.



Rajshahi Union of Journalists formed a human chain at the city's Sahebbazar Zero Point yesterday, demanding withdrawal of case against their fellows and abolishment of ICT Act.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Maulana Bhasani's 44th death anniversary today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Today is the 44th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, a legendary politician and dreamer of Bangladesh's independence.

Marking the day, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail, political parties and social organisations have planned elaborate events.

Wreaths will be placed at his grave at Tangail's Santosh in the morning. Other programmes include doa and milad mahfils, food distribution and discussion on the life and work of the leader.

He was born in 1880 at Dhangara village in Sirajganj. The brave and devoted leader worked relentlessly and spent almost his entire life for the oppressed masses, which earned him the title "Mazlum Jana Neta" or the leader of the oppressed.

His belief in the secular struggle for Bangladesh was unequivocal. Bhasani was immensely influential throughout his political career and instrumental in winning many general and local government elections since 1946.

He was the founder of the Awami Muslim League in 1949, which later became Awami League. In 1957, he formed a progressive political organisation named National Awami Party.

Bhasani also fought against the oppression of Pakistani rulers. He played a significant role in the 1969 mass movement against Ayub Khan's autocratic rule. During the Liberation War, he worked as the chairman of All Party Action Committee under the Bangladesh government in exile in India.

Bhasani led the historic Farakka Long March in May 1976.

The "leader of the oppressed" passed away on this day that very year.



We join

FROM PAGE 3

Hafiz, a BNP vice chairman, said he cannot understand as to why their party is taking part in elections. "We join polls when we shouldn't and we don't participate when we should. We go to parliament when we shouldn't."

He said the BNP candidate was given only 400 votes in Sirajganj-1 by-polls though BNP has over a thousand polling agents alone. "But our agents cannot go to polling stations. Voters and even Awami League supporters cannot go to voting centres. This is democracy in Bangladesh!"

The BNP leader voiced concern that the fundamentalist forces are increasing their presence on the streets. BNP and its student body Chhatra Dal "cannot take to the streets... observe processions and the growing presence and number of fundamentalists... It's the greatest ominous sign."

He warned that the prime minister and AL will be held responsible if the country goes under the grip of fundamentalist forces. "We don't want such a situation. We want the government to be changed through voting," he added.

Petition

FROM PAGE 3

the quota system in recruitment of primary school teachers through issuing a notification on October 4, 2018.

But the primary and mass education ministry on October 18 this year issued a circular for recruiting more than 35,000 assistant teachers for government primary schools across the country including the quota system.

According to the circular, 40 percent quota for women, 20 percent quota for children and staff members of existing teachers and only 20 percent quota for male candidates have been kept which is discriminatory, unconstitutional and contradictory to the notification issued by the public administration ministry on October 4, 2018, the lawyer said.

Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan said the hearing on the petition may be held next week.

Abdullah president, Nurul Amin secy gen of BFUJ faction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

M Abdullah was elected president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) while Nurul Amin Rokon became secretary general.

The election results were announced on Saturday night.

Abdullah got 159 votes while his nearest rival Ruhul Amin Gazi 150.

Nurul Amin Rokon was elected uncontested as secretary general as his opponent Abdus Shahid died from coronavirus recently.

Modabber Hossain, Rashidul Islam and Obaidur Rahman Shahin were elected vice-presidents while Nasir Al Mamun, Shafiqul Alam Dolan and Shahidullah Miazi were elected assistant secretary general.

Muhammad Khairul Bashar was elected treasurer, Khurshid Alam organising secretary, Tofail Hossain office secretary and Mahmud Hasan publicity secretary.

The elected members are HM Alauddin, Ziaur Rahman Modhu, Abdus Selim, Shamsuddin Harun, Abu Bakkar Mia, AKM Mohsin and Zakir Hossain.



The first day of the bangla month of Agrahayan marks the festival of new harvest, or Nabanna. In Barishal, the occasion was marked in jubilation yesterday, which included a 'pitha utshab' at the Circuit House premises, organised by the District Administration.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Police launch

FROM PAGE 3

working on similar categories of crimes, Benajir Ahmed said.

Regarding the function of the wing, M Khurshid Hossain, Deputy Inspector General of PHQ, said that women and girls who are victims of cyberbullying, ID hacking, publishing sensitive information-pictures-videos, sexual harassment and similar crimes can submit complaints here. Victims can contact the cell by dialling 999 from any part of the country.

According to officials of the wing, they have already come up with some service delivery plans.

For legal assistance or support, the wing will send the victim to the nearby police station or victim support centre and coordinate the investigation procedure from the PHQ.

HOW VICTIMS CAN CONTACT THE CELL

Facebook page: Police Cyber Support for Women (PCSW)

Email: cybersupport.women@police.gov.bd

Hotline: 01320000888

Coastal

FROM PAGE 3

fish processing are getting 25 percent fewer wages than male workers.

Mustafa Kamal Akand, director of COAST Trust said the contribution of women in this sector is not yet recognised, as their activities are not considered in exchange for money.

When coastal fishermen go to sea for fishing, women of the households take care of the whole family for many consecutive days, he said.

President of Bangladesh Krishak Federation Badrul Alam said that 10-12 percent women are directly and indirectly involved in the fisheries sector, but there is no separate information on their contribution.

Initiatives are needed in this regard, he said.

Garments workers leader Saleha Islam Shantona said that although there is no discrimination between men and women in the labour law, women fishers are victims of clear discrimination.

She pointed out the necessity of strict laws to address the issue.

COAST Trust Deputy Executive Director Sanat K Bhowmik moderated the event, and he said, "Bangladesh is the third largest fish producer in the world. If women's participation is recognised, it will be easier for us to sustain [the industry]."

Several recommendations were made at the press conference, such as formulating special policies to identify the contribution of women in the fisheries sector, involving women members of fishing families in economic activities, ensuring women's participation in various fisheries programmes, and implementing labour policies for fishers.

Lost

I have lost my Kuwait's civil ID (271100401551) & Kuwait's driving license (23085141) in my area Abutorab, Mirsharai, Chittagong, Bangladesh on 12.11.2020. I have filed a general dary (674) at Mirsharai Police Station on 15.11.2020.
Md. Siraj Uddin
Cell-01810588808 D-138

He's member

FROM PAGE 3

countries. Without elaborating further, police said the skeletons are sold at high prices.

In primary interrogation, Bappi of city's Koborkhana area, confessed that he collected the bones from different gangs involved in stealing bones and skulls from graveyards, the OC added.

He said they are conducting drives to arrest his accomplices. A case was lodged with the police station on Sunday night, the OC said.

Police said Bappi was produced before a Mymensingh court in the afternoon with a 10-day remand prayer, which sent him to jail without holding a hearing.

The court may hold a hearing today, the OC added.

জিন প্রকৌশল ও জীবপ্রযুক্তি বিভাগ
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ঢাকা-১০০০
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জিন প্রকৌশল ও জীবপ্রযুক্তি বিভাগ কর্তৃক বৈজ্ঞানিক যন্ত্রপাতি সরবরাহকারী, প্রস্তুতকারক ও স্থানীয় এজেন্ট/প্রকৌশল নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র/সিডিউলের মূল্য ৪,০০০/- (চার হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্যাম্পাস শাখার চলতি হিসাব নম্বর-৩৬০০০৩৯২ এ জমা করতে হবে। সিডিউল/দরপত্র আগামী ২৯ নভেম্বর, ২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বিভাগীয় অফিস থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং ৩০ নভেম্বর, ২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০টা পর্যন্ত বিভাগীয় অফিসে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র জমা দেওয়া যাবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

চেয়ারম্যান
জিন প্রকৌশল ও জীবপ্রযুক্তি বিভাগ
ফোন-১৮৩২

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
Plot #16, Block #B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1212

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
For Digital Car Parking System at IUB

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) hereby invites proposals from the interested companies for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Digital Car Parking System at IUB basement 1 & 2. The interested companies must have experience in the relevant field. Interested companies are requested to submit the proposal in a sealed envelope along with Company Profile, Trade License, TIN, VAT / BIN Registration Certificate and Client List addressing to: **The Purchase & Procurement Department, Independent University, Bangladesh, Plot #16, Block # B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka 1212** by **12.30 p.m.** on or before **December 1, 2020**. Upon receipt of EOI, interested companies' proposals will be evaluated and short-listed for 3D presentation. IUB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. **Note: Interested companies may obtain further information from the above mentioned address and must visit the site before submission of EOI.**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information & Statistics (BANBEIS)
Ministry of Education
1, Zahir Raihan Road (Palashi-Nilkhet), Dhaka-1205
(www.banbeis.gov.bd; Email: info@banbeis.gov.bd)

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

1	Ministry/Division	Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information & Statistics (BANBEIS).
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information & Statistics (BANBEIS).
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Government/Non-Government Research Institute.
6	EOI Ref. No.	No. ৩৭.২০.০০০০.০০৪.৩২.০৭৯.২০-২১৪৮
7	Date	15/11/2020
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	RFP (QCBS).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	GOB (Budget Code: 3257103)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	EOI closing date and time	Date: 06/12/2020, Time: 2.00pm (BANBEIS), 1, Zahir Raihan Road (Palashi-Nilkhet), Dhaka-1205.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
11	Brief description of the assignment	Government/Non-Government Research Institute will be responsible for implementing the quantitative as well as qualitative research in education sector of Bangladesh.
12	Experience, resources delivery capacity required	a) The applicant's institute should have previous experience and proven track record of qualitative and quantitative research. b) The applicants must have an experienced team of trained researchers. The agency should submit the signed CVs of at least four core team members who would be involved in undertaking the tasks. c) The applicant is also required to submit completion certificate for similar assignment carried out in recent past as an evidence of its capability in completing works of similar nature successfully.
13	Other details	Interested institute are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. Brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar condition, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff, logistic support, valid trade licence/registration, VAT, tax certificate, bank solvency certificate etc. to be submitted.
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAIL		
14	Name of official inviting EOI	Habibur Rahman.
15	Designation of official inviting EOI	Director General, BANBEIS, Ministry of Education.
16	Address of official inviting EOI	1, Zahir Raihan Road, Palashi-Nilkhet, Dhaka-1205.
17	Contact details of the official inviting EOI of official inviting proposal	Phone: 9665457.
18	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.	

GD-1834

Habibur Rahman
Director General
Phone: 9665457



A brick kiln is being built near the schools at Dhitpur village in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila despite protest by local people.

PHOTO:
COLLECTED

Brick kiln near schools

There are 3 temples, a mosque and a Qaumi madrasa within 150-metre of the brick kiln

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An influential quarter is constructing a brick kiln in a residential area of Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila, denying the people's objections.

If the brickfield is built in Dhitpur village, the all-out nature-friendly environment will be destroyed and it will pose health risk to students and teachers of two adjacent schools-- Dhitpur Government Primary School and Dhitpur High School-- and local people as well, said some ex-students of the schools.

Locals said Monmohan Nandi donated 32-decimal of land to establish Dhitpur Government Primary School in 1939. Later, his nephew late Ranjit Kumar Nandi donated some 150-decimal of land to establish Dhitpur High School in 1991.

Saiful Islam Talukder and his young brother Abdul Awal Talukder of adjacent Shonoi village are jointly constructing the brickfield on some 150-decimal of cropland at Dhitpur village,

some 70-metre away from the schools. They took lease of the land from one Quaide Azam of the village.

There are some 700 students in the schools. There are also three temples, a mosque and a Qaumi madrasa within 100 to 150-metre of the brick kiln, said a teacher preferring not to be named.

The small village is hugely populated. As most of the people are poor here, the influential persons selected the area for their business.

Mohammad Mainuddin, president of Dhitpur Primary School's managing committee, said they asked the owners not to construct the brick kiln but they did not bother. Mainuddin is also president of Jubo League Pogla union unit.

"If the brick kiln goes into operation, it will bring a disastrous effect on the ecology of the locality. So, the authorities concerned should take necessary steps in this regard immediately", said Md Rukun Uddin Biswas, headmaster of

Dhitpur High School.

Saiful Islam Talukder, one of the owners, said they have taken permission from administration and the Department of Environment (DoE) as well to build the brick kiln.

Chanchal Chowdhury, manager of the brickfield, said the kiln will go into operation in December this year.

Chairman of Pogla union parishad Md Rafiqul Islam said the brick kiln owners met him for trade license on several occasions and when he asked them to show valid papers but they did not show it.

Contacted, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Sohail Rana said he did not know anything about permission of building the brick kiln.

Farid Ahmed, director of DoE in Mymensingh, said there is no scope to construct a brick kiln within one kilometre of educational institutions or farmland.

They will visit the spot soon to take next course of action, he said.

658 homeless families getting house on occasion of Mujib Year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Six hundred and fifty eight landless and homeless families are going to get house in 12 upazilas of the district on the occasion of 100th birthday of Bangabandhu.

Of the 658 houses, 564 houses will be given under the Ashrayan-2 project under Prime Minister's Office (PMO) of the 2020-2021 fiscal year and the rest will be given by Tangail district unit of Awami League with public representatives, district and upazila administrations and other government and private organisations.

Each of the semi-paka houses will comprise two rooms, kitchen and toilet, which will cost Tk 1.71 lakh.

Meanwhile, the district administration has already got allocation for building the 564 houses for the landless and homeless of 'Ka' listed families.

The construction of the houses was inaugurated at all upazilas in the district at a time on Friday.

The construction works will be completed by the next one month, sources at district administration said.

Tangail district unit of AL on Friday

afternoon organised a programme in Dighulia area of the town on the occasion of laying foundation stone of the houses.

Fazlur Rahman Khan Faruk, president of district unit of AL, attended the programme as the chief guest while local lawmaker Sanoar Hossain and Md Ataul Gani, deputy commissioner (DC) of Tangail, were present as special guests.

The DC, in his speech, said following direction of the PMO, the district administration has taken the challenge that no family in Tangail will remain homeless after March 17, 2021.

They have already got allocation for construction of 564 semi-paka houses at 12 upazilas in the district and lists of the beneficiaries were made by local upazila nirbahi officers previously, he said.

"We have sought further allocation for building such more houses. We want to construct total 2000 such houses for landless and homeless families in the district," he added.

The DC also thanked Tangail district unit of AL for their separate initiative to construct such houses for 50 homeless families responding to the urge of the prime minister.



Homeless Maleka Begum, widow of valiant freedom fighter Nawsher Ali, in Tangail town is going to get house on the occasion of Mujib Borsho.

PHOTO: STAR



Months of hard work is almost over for this Aman farmer in Mahendranagar village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. With both weather and price favourable during this time around, he can surely relax till at least the next cultivation season.

PHOTO:
S DILIP ROY

Aman harvest in full swing in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Farmers started harvesting Aman paddy in Lalmonirhat with much fanfare in favourable weather conditions.

The harvesting is mainly being done from fields on higher elevation now. Harvesting in low-lying areas will commence around mid-November.

The farmers who started harvesting the paddy said they were getting a slightly reduced yield per bigha this year, but the prices they were getting for the grain at local markets have so far been satisfactory.

The yield of paddy from each bigha of land this year has been 9 to 10 maunds (one maund is equal to 37.3242 kilograms), which is about 1 to 2 maunds less than that in the previous year, they also said.

Many farmers, however, said even though they have been able to sell the paddy at a bit higher prices -- Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,050 per maund, their

profit margin would remain low as the production cost this year rose due to an increased use of pesticides.

Excessive rainfall this year resulted in an increase in pest attacks and the farmers had to spend a good amount of money on pesticides, they added.

Jiten Chandra Barman, a farmer from Doljor village in Aditmari upazila, said an enhanced use of pesticides this year raised the cost of production on each bigha of land to Tk 5,500 to Tk 6,000, whereas the cost was Tk 5,000 last year.

According to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, Aman has been cultivated on 85,575 hectares of land in five upazilas of the district this year, with a production target for paddy set at 4.5 lakh metric tonnes.

Naderul Islam, a farmer from Mahendranagar area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said he harvested 21 maunds of paddy from two bighas of land last year. But this year, he got 19

maunds from the same land.

Despite the lower yield, he said he was happy with the prices being offered at the markets.

Farmer Azgar Ali, from Bhadai village in Aditmari upazila, said he was harvesting paddy from his fields on higher ground, but he would need another week to be able to harvest paddy from fields in low-lying areas.

The paddy yield declined slightly due to heavy rainfall and floods this year, he said, adding that from six bighas of land this time, he harvested 57 maunds of paddy, which he sold for between Tk 1,000 and Tk 1,050 per maund.

Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, however, said paddy harvesting was already done from 40 per cent of the fields in the district, but they did not notice any decline in yield this year.

The yield from low-lying Aman fields might fall slightly, he anticipated.



ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইনফরমেশন এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজী
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০৩



তারিখঃ ১১/১১/২০২০

স্মারক নং- খুপ্রবি/আইআইসিটি/২০২০/৪০

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামে এম.এস.সি. ইঞ্জিঃ (আইসিটি) ও পি-এইচ.ডি (আইসিটি) এবং পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট ডিপ্লোমা প্রোগ্রাম ইন আইসিটি-তে ২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষের জানুয়ারী সেমিস্টারে ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইনফরমেশন এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজী (আইআইসিটি)-তে Online এর মাধ্যমে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তির জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

- আবেদনের জন্য প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা:
 - পি-এইচ.ডি প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য প্রার্থীর কোন স্বীকৃত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে এম.এস.সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অথবা এর সমতুল্য ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। এ ডিগ্রীতে সন্তোষজনক ফলাফলের উপর ভিত্তি করে প্রার্থী নির্বাচন করা হবে।
 - এম.এস.সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য প্রার্থীর কোন স্বীকৃত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বি.এস.সি ইন ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইলেকট্রনিক্স এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অথবা গ্রাজুয়েট ডিপ্লোমা প্রোগ্রাম ইন আইসিটি/ গ্রাজুয়েট ডিপ্লোমা প্রোগ্রাম ইন আইটি বা সমতুল্য ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীর অবশ্যই বি.এস.সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রীতে কমপক্ষে CGPA 2.50 (Out of 4.00) থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে এম.এস.সি ও এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় যেকোন একটি তে CGPA 3.00 (Out of 5.00) থাকতে হবে এবং এম.এস.সি ও এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমানের সকল পরীক্ষায় অবশ্যই কমপক্ষে CGPA 2.50 (Out of 5.00) থাকতে হবে।
 - পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট ডিপ্লোমা প্রোগ্রাম ইন আইসিটি-এ ভর্তির জন্য প্রার্থীর কোন স্বীকৃত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বি.এস.সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বা এর সমতুল্য ডিগ্রী অথবা ৩/৪ বছরের বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে ব্যাচেলর ডিগ্রী (একটি কোর্সে গণিতসহ) অথবা বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী (একটি কোর্সে গণিতসহ) অথবা বিইউআরপি/বিবিএ/এমবিএ (একটি কোর্সে গণিতসহ)। প্রার্থীকে এম.এস.সি ও এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় যেকোন একটি তে CGPA 3.00 (Out of 5.00) থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে বি.এস.সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/৩অথবা৪ বছরের বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে ব্যাচেলর ডিগ্রী/বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী/বিইউআরপি/বিবিএ/এমবিএ ডিগ্রীতে কমপক্ষে CGPA 2.50 (Out of 4.00) থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে এম.এস.সি ও এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমানের সকল পরীক্ষায় অবশ্যই কমপক্ষে CGPA 2.50 (Out of 5.00) থাকতে হবে।
- ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত সময় সূচী:

ক)	অনলাইনে আবেদন ফরম পূরণ Submission শুরু	২০/১১/২০২০ইং
	অনলাইনে আবেদন ফরম পূরণ ও Submission শেষ	০৭/১২/২০২০ইং (বিকাল ৫.০০ টা)
খ)	টাকা জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ এবং Zip File আপলোড	০৭/১২/২০২০ইং (বিকাল ৫.০০ টা)
গ)	ভর্তির পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/১২/২০২০ইং
ঘ)	ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রকাশ	২১/১২/২০২০ইং
- শুধুমাত্র পূর্ণকালীন পি-এইচ.ডি/এম.এস.সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ছাত্র/ছাত্রীগণ নিয়মানুযায়ী ফেলোশিপ/টিচিং এ্যাসিস্ট্যান্টশীপ (Fellowship/Teaching Assistantship) এর জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে। সেক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে ভর্তির পর পরিচালক (গবেষণা ও সম্প্রসারণ) এর কার্যালয় থেকে টিচিং এ্যাসিস্ট্যান্টশীপ ফরম সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
- অনলাইনের মাধ্যমে আবেদন ফি বাবদ ৫০০/- টাকা পরিশোধ করতে হবে। বিজ্ঞারিত ওয়েবসাইট থেকে জানা যাবে।
- Online- এ আবেদনের সময় নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্র সমূহ ১টি Zip File আকারে Submit করতে হবে।
 - শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল মূল একাডেমিক ট্রান্সক্রিপ্ট/প্রেরণীট এর Scan কপি।
 - শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল মূল/প্রশিক্ষণ সাটিফিকেট এর Scan কপি।

*** উপরোক্ত কাগজপত্রসমূহ Zip File আকারে ০৭/১২/২০২০ইং এর মধ্যে Submit করতে ব্যর্থ হলে আবেদনপত্র অসম্পূর্ণ বলে গণ্য হবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত কোন তথ্যাবলীর জন্য ই-মেইল করুন: pgadmission@iict.kuet.ac.bd
- ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্যাবলী আইআইসিটির ওয়েবসাইট এ (www.kuet.ac.bd/iict) বিস্তারিত পাওয়া যাবে এবং Online Form পূরণ করার ক্ষেত্রে কোন সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হলে ইঞ্জি. মোঃ নাজিম উদ্দিন (e-mail: nazim@iict.kuet.ac.bd) এবং Payment এর ক্ষেত্রে কোন সমস্যা হলে ইঞ্জি. মোঃ সিদ্দিকুর রহমান তানভীর (e-mail: tanveer@kuet.ac.bd) এর সাথে অফিস চলাকালীন (সেকাল ৯-০০ থেকে বিকাল ৫-০০ টা পর্যন্ত) যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

ওয়েবসাইট : <http://admission.kuet.ac.bd/pgiictadm>



(প্রফেসর ড. মহিউদ্দিন আহমাদ)
পরিচালক, আইআইসিটি
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০৩।

GD-1829

POST-ELECTION UNITED STATES

Biden focuses on economy as Trump remains defiant

Obama slams GOP for not accepting result

REUTERS, Washington

President-elect Joe Biden yesterday was to focus on reviving a pandemic-battered US economy as he prepares to take office, while outgoing President Donald Trump has promised more lawsuits of the type that so far have failed to alter his election defeat.

With coronavirus cases surging, Biden will receive a briefing and give a speech in his home state of Delaware on rebuilding an economy that has suffered millions of job losses as the pandemic has killed more than 245,000 Americans.

Biden's scientific advisers will meet this week with pharmaceutical companies developing vaccines to prevent Covid-19, a top aide to the president-elect said, in preparation for the logistical challenges of widespread vaccination after the Democrat takes office on Jan. 20.

Trump, a Republican, briefly appeared to acknowledge defeat on Sunday only to backtrack, saying on Twitter that he concedes "nothing" and repeating his unfounded accusations of voter fraud.

He later promised on Twitter to file "big cases showing the unconstitutionality of

the 2020 Election," even though he has made no headway with his legal challenges in multiple states so far.

Election officials from both parties have said there is no evidence of major irregularities.

Biden beat Trump in the Nov 3 election by the same 306-232 margin in the state-by-state Electoral College that Trump proclaimed a "landslide" when he won in 2016. The former vice president also won the national popular vote by at least 5.5 million votes, or 3.6 percentage points, with ballots still being counted.

Former president Barack Obama, a Democrat who campaigned against Trump, said it was past time for Trump to concede, and criticized Republicans who also refuse to accept the victory of his former vice president.

"When your time is up, then it is your job to put the country first and think beyond your own ego," Obama told the CBS News show "60 Minutes" in an interview that aired on Sunday.

"I'm more troubled by the fact that other Republican officials who clearly know better are going along with this."



US President Donald Trump replaces his putter as he plays golf at the Trump National Golf Club in Virginia, US, on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UK PM self-isolates again

US reels from virus surge; millions remain under curbs in Europe

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in self-isolation yesterday after a contact tested positive for the coronavirus while spiralling infections in the United States saw stay-at-home measures imposed on Chicago, its third-biggest city.

Global infections have soared past 54 million with more than 1.3 million deaths, spurring governments to reimpose unpopular and stifling restrictions on social life, free movement and business.

In hard-hit Europe curbs have been brought back -- often in the face of protests -- from Greece to Britain, where PM and Covid-19 survivor Johnson insisted he was healthy and isolating out of precaution after coming into contact with an MP who later tested positive for the virus.

"It doesn't matter that I'm fit as a butcher's dog, feel great... that I've had the disease and I'm bursting with antibodies," said Johnson, who was hospitalised for the virus in April.

"We've got to interrupt the spread



of the disease," he added, saying he would lead the virus response from Downing Street.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is pushing for tighter measures, including masks in all schools and smaller class sizes.

Outside work or school, contact between people should also be "restricted to those from another fixed household", under a proposal from Merkel's office due to be put to regional leaders.

Germany began a new round of shutdowns in November, closing restaurants, cultural venues and leisure facilities. But while new cases are plateauing, daily numbers,

officials say, are still too high.

In France, which has been under partial lockdown for more than two weeks, health minister Olivier Veran warned the strict measures had slowed the disease but "we have not won against the virus yet".

Concerns of a resurgence also remain in parts of the world that have largely brought their caseloads under control.

In Hong Kong, the government further tightened restrictions from Monday on the number of people in bars and restaurants, to guard against a spike.

Infections in the United States, the world's worst-hit nation, show no sign of slowing after one million new cases in less than a week pushed the total number past 11 million.

The spikes have prompted new curbs while experts warn families against large gatherings for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

A stay-at-home advisory was to come into force Monday in Chicago, while New York is also rushing to flatten a second curve.

EU eyes tax as tool in climate change fight

REUTERS, Brussels

Taxation will not escape the European Union's plans to curb planet-warming emissions, and levies should be revamped to reflect climate and environmental costs, the head of EU climate policy said yesterday.

Brussels is planning a far-reaching overhaul of policies including Europe's carbon market, farming subsidies and CO2 standards for cars as it seeks to slash EU emissions to 'net zero' - meaning that all emissions must be offset in full by absorption measures - by 2050.

As part of those plans, the European Commission will revise EU energy taxation rules by next summer.

Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans said the bloc needs to rectify the current system, where taxes reflect the cost of making and transporting a product but fail to account for its toll on the environment.

"At some point, we need to make sure that our carbon footprint is fully reflected in our taxes," Timmermans told the online European Business Summit. "I say this fully knowing that this is very often (the responsibility of) national policy. But if you want to be consistent on this, and you want us to go into a circular economy, you will have to think about changing the tax system."

Some countries have introduced national environmental taxes. The Netherlands will next year impose CO2 taxes on industry and increase ticket taxes on flights to close the gap in affordability between plane and train tickets.

Meanwhile, EU countries have agreed to a bloc-wide tax on non-recycled plastic waste, and the Commission has said it is considering a jet fuel tax to promote a cut in aviation emissions. However, changes to EU taxation rules need approval from all 27 member countries, making them difficult to pass. The EU currently sets minimum excise duty rates for member countries to apply to fuels such as gas and coal.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Syria's FM Muallem dies

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem, a stalwart of Bashar al-Assad's regime who held his job through a decade of conflict and several reshuffles, died Monday at the age of 79. The veteran diplomat was hit with US and European sanctions early on in the conflict that has torn Syria apart since 2011 and was known for his tirades claiming that the war was the result of a Western plot. Muallem, who had been foreign minister since 2006, started his career in the diplomatic service in 1964. In 2012, he also became deputy prime minister. The government announcement did not specify the cause of his death, but his health was understood to have been deteriorating for some time.

Pakistan's capital blocked off over anti-France protest

Pakistan authorities sealed off a major road into the capital Islamabad for a second day yesterday as a far-right religious party held fresh anti-France protests. A rally in the neighbouring city of Rawalpindi which attracted up to 5,000 people on Sunday spilled over into yesterday, with around a thousand protesters gathered at the roadblock preventing them from entering the capital. Commuters faced lengthy delays on alternative routes into the city. Pakistan has seen small and scattered protests over the past few weeks in response to French President Emmanuel Macron's recent remarks on Islam. The French president spoke out after an extremist beheaded a teacher near Paris after he showed cartoons deemed blasphemous by Muslims during a class on free speech.

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM

Nitish Kumar has been sworn-in as the chief minister of Indian state of Bihar for the fourth consecutive term yesterday in the presence of Union Home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda. Janata Dal-United (JDU) leader Nitish Kumar and 14 ministries have sworn-in including Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi from the BJP as his two deputies. Opposition leader, Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal decided not to attend the event. The NDA won 125 seats in the 243-member state Assembly, three above the halfway mark. The JDU which is the alliance partner of the NDA in Bihar, has just won only 43 seats in the state's assembly elections and the BJP managed to win 74 seats in the state.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Marie-Antoinette's silk slipper fetches \$50,000

AFP, Paris

A white shoe made of silk and goat leather that belonged to Marie-Antoinette, France's last queen before the 1789 revolution, sold for 43,750 euros (\$51,780) on Sunday, the auctioneers said.

The 22.5 centimetre-long (8.8-inch), heeled shoe, roughly equivalent to a European size 36, is adorned with four ribbons and in good condition, apart from slight wearing of the silk, the Osenat auction house said.

With international collectors showing strong interest, Osenat said the price quickly rose from the reserve of 8,000 to 10,000 euros (\$9,450 to \$11,800) and was snapped up by an unidentified buyer.

The sale took place in Versailles, the town west of Paris that was once home to

France's royal court and where from her arrival at the age of 15 Marie-Antoinette enjoyed a lavish lifestyle.

In the turmoil of the French Revolution the shoe ended up in the hands of Marie-Emilie Leschevin, a close friend of the queen's head chambermaid.

Her family held on to it for generations before it came to auction 227 years after her death. Marie-Antoinette -- born an Austrian archduchess -- was the wife of Louis XVI.

"Let them eat cake," she is often said to have responded when told that peasants were starving because there was no bread. The royal couple was executed by guillotine during the Terror in 1793 but France continues to be fascinated by Marie-Antoinette.



UNSC out of 'useful solutions'

Says Macron, urges overhaul of int'l cooperation mechanisms

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron said the UN Security Council no longer provides good solutions to global problems, in remarks published yesterday, and called for an overhaul of international cooperation mechanisms.

Multilateral frameworks "are weakened today, because they are blocked", Macron said in an interview with website Le Grand Continent.

"I cannot help but observe that the United Nation's Security Council no longer produces useful solutions today," Macron said.

Except for one video conference in April, the Council -- whose permanent members are the United States, China, Britain, France and Russia -- has not communicated on the global Covid pandemic.

Macron said "everybody is jointly responsible when some institutions become hostages of the crisis in multilateralism", such as the World Health Organization.

Now was the right time to "strengthen and structure a political Europe" which could be at the

heart of a "new multilateralism", Macron said.

A strong Europe, he said, "is the only way to impose our values" to avoid a Chinese-US duopoly and "the return of hostile regional powers".

In a speech before the UN General Assembly in September, Macron had already called on the international community to avoid being reduced to the status of "depressed observer" of a China-US rivalry.

In yesterday's interview, Macron said he "deeply" disagreed with German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer who said recently that Europe would not be able to replace the United States as a guarantor of its own security.

"I think that is a misinterpretation of history," Macron said. "Luckily, the Chancellor (Angela Merkel) does not share that view if I've understood correctly."

The United States would respect Europeans as allies only "once we are serious about ourselves and once we have sovereignty over our own defence".

He added: "We need to build our own autonomy, just like the United States builds its own, and China builds its own." Then I say the founding principles have been lost."



Pakistan's 'university of jihad'

AFP, Akora Khattak

Maulana Yousaf Shah cracks a wide smile as he rattles off a list of former students turned Taliban leaders, revelling in their victories over superpowers on Afghanistan's battlefields after graduating from Pakistan's "university of jihad".

The Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary has churned out a who's who of Taliban top brass -- including many now on the hardline group's negotiating team holding talks with the Kabul government to end a 20-year war.

"Russia was broken into pieces by the students and graduates of Darul Uloom Haqqania and America was also sent packing," beamed Shah, an influential cleric at the seminary that critics have dubbed the "university of jihad".

"We are proud."

The sprawling campus in Pakistan's Akora Khattak, about 60 kilometres east of Peshawar, is home to roughly 4,000 students who are fed, clothed and educated for free.

It has sat at the crossroads of regional militant violence for years, educating many Pakistanis and Afghan refugees -- some of whom returned home to wage war against the Russians and Americans or preach jihad.

Despite its infamy in some quarters,

it has enjoyed state support in Pakistan, where mainstream political parties are heavily boosted by links with religious factions.

This month, Darul Uloom Haqqania's leaders boasted of backing the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan in a video posted online -- outraging the Kabul government, which is battling a surge in violence across the country as the US prepares to withdraw troops.



Seminaries like Haqqania "give birth to radical jihadism, produce Taliban and are threatening our country", Sediq Sediqqi, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman, told AFP, demanding their closure.

Afghanistan's leaders argue that Pakistan's approval for the madrassas is proof that it backs the Taliban.

Shah scoffed at the notion the madrassa encouraged violence, but he defended the right to target foreign

troops. "If someone armed enters your house and you are threatened... then definitely you will raise a gun," Shah said.

The seminary's late leader Sami-ul-Haq boasted of advising the Taliban's founder Mullah Omar -- earning him the moniker "the father of the Taliban". Haq later sent students to fight for the movement when it issued a call to arms during its rise to power in the 1990s.

The Haqqani network, the Taliban's ultra-violent faction, is named after the madrassa where its leader once taught and subsequent leaders studied.

Some Pakistani extremists who later attacked their own country have also been linked to the seminary, including the suicide bomber who assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Hardline madrassas received a major boost and an influx of cash during the 1980s when they served as de facto supply lines to the anti-Soviet jihad backed by the US and Saudi Arabia, and have remained close to Pakistan's security establishment ever since.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party has also lavished the Haqqania seminary with millions of dollars in return for its political support.



People react after Peru's interim President Manuel Merino announced his resignation facing street protests, in Lima, Peru, on Sunday. Manuel Merino only assumed office on Tuesday, a day after the assembly impeached predecessor Martin Vizcarra on corruption charges.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LAW OPINION

Double taxation avoidance mechanism in Bangladesh

BARRISTER OMAR KHAN JOY

THE Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) is a tax agreement signed between two countries for resolving the issues regarding taxability of income and to help the taxpayers to avoid payment of income tax twice on the same income, asset and financial transaction in two separate jurisdictions. DTAA becomes applicable in cases where a taxpayer is a citizen/resident in one country but has a source of income situated in another country.

Generally, double taxation can arise when the same income is taxed at both the corporate level and personal level. Companies are separate legal entities from



to be one of the major impediments to the development of international economic relations.

Accordingly, in such circumstances DTAA comes to facilitate foreign investment and employment of expats. Such double taxation treaties are being treated as settlements between two countries which help to eliminate international double taxation.

Section 144. (1) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984 allows the government of Bangladesh to enter into an agreement with the Government of any other country for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income leviable under this Ordinance and under the corresponding law in force in that country. The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make such provisions as may be necessary for implementing the said agreement. By invoking such power, the Government of Bangladesh has signed DTAA with 36 countries including Bahrain, Belarus, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, The Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, The Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA, Vietnam, etc.

While the terms and conditions of all the treaties are not fully identical, in general, they either state complete avoidance of double taxation or provide for application of reduced tax rates. Thus, it seems DTAA clearly encourages free flow of international trade and international investment and at the same time brings advantages for each contracting nation. It increases transparency as to the collection of income tax in both the countries and to allocate them rationally.

It is, however, important to note that if a person is making any payment to any non-resident and the non-resident is eligible to

avail any tax benefit in Bangladesh under any DTAA whereby either no tax shall be deducted from the payment or tax shall be deducted at a reduced rate than prescribed in the Income Tax Ordinance 1984, then a certificate from National Board of Revenue (NBR) has to be obtained to that effect. NBR has the sole authority to provide such certificate after detailed scrutiny of the existing DTAs and the payment in issue.

The said issue has been made clear by the Finance Act, 2018 by way of introduction of an amendment in the Section 56 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984. This states that where, in respect of any payment under this section, the Board, on an application made in this behalf, is satisfied that due to tax agreement or any other reason the non-resident is not be liable to pay any tax in Bangladesh, or is liable to pay tax at a reduced rate in Bangladesh, the Board may issue a certificate to the effect that the payment shall be made without any deduction or, in applicable cases, with a deduction at the reduced rate as mentioned in the certificate. It further states that, tax deducted under this section shall be deemed to be the minimum tax liability of the payee in respect of the income for which the deduction is made, and shall not be subject of refund or set off or an adjustment against a demand. Therefore, banks should receive the certificate from the payee before allowing any tax benefit under the DTAA while remitting the money abroad.

Therefore, such DTAs are evidently an interaction of two different tax systems each belonging to different country, which aim to diminish the effect of double taxation. Bangladesh should take initiative to enter into more and more such agreements with other countries to further promote Foreign Direct Investments and engagement of individuals.

THE WRITER IS AN ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH. HE IS THE HEAD OF THE CHAMBER OF A LAW FIRM CALLED 'LEGAL COUNSEL'.

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) encourages free flow of international trade and international investment and at the same time brings advantages for each contracting nation. It increases transparency as to the collection of income tax in both the countries and to allocate them rationally.

their shareholders, where companies pay taxes on their annual earnings, just like individuals. In case of international trade, such income may be taxed in the country where it is earned, and then taxed again when it is repatriated in the business' home country. As a result of such double taxation, international business becomes too luxurious to pursue. On the other hand, this may also be applicable for an individual. An individual who earns income has to pay tax in the country where the income is earned and also in the country where he/she is a citizen. Thus, the responsibility to pay income tax on the same income arises in the country of source of income and his/her home country as well.

Thus, if an individual/entity needs to pay tax at both the places on the same income then they might even be left with almost a zero income. This surely affects the growth of economy as it has a negative economic impact, especially on the profit margin of an entity and salary of an individual.

Hence, this kind of double taxation on the same income causes grave consequences on the future of international trade and investment. Any foreign investor's trade and investment decision heavily depends on the taxation issues, including the tax brackets, tax holiday and the possibility to avoid double taxation. In this era of globalisation, such double taxation is not acceptable as it is considered

LAW NEWS

Celebrating the bi-lingual translation of the HCD verdict on rivers

LAW DESK

ON Wednesday, 11 November 2020, the bi-lingual English-Bangla translation of the 2019 landmark HCD judgment recognising rivers as legal personalities was launched. The HCD judgment of a public interest litigation regarding illegal encroachment and pollution of rivers across the country established that rivers have a legal personality. The judgment relied on the Public Trust doctrine to uphold the public's right to environment.

The translation project was funded by UK Research and Innovation and approved by Justice Ashraful Kamal of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh last month. The launching event was graced by the presence of Her Excellency Saida Muna Tasneem, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom; Honourable Justice Ashraful Kamal of the High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh; and Professor Robert Hope from the REACH Water programme at the University of Oxford. Ms. Rebecca Hope from the School of Geography and Environment, University of Oxford and Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarwar, Lecturer, Department of Law, University of Dhaka and also the Consultant of this project represented the translation team.

The panelists included Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher, The Daily Star; Advocate Manzill Murshid, President, Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh and lawyer for the case; Mr. Sharif Jamil, Secretary, BAPA and Dr. Erin O'Donnell, University of Melbourne and water law specialist. The panel was chaired by Ms. Sharmeen Murshid, Member, National River Conservation Commission.

In her welcome remarks Ms. Peters stated that a widespread commitment to enact law and practice rule of law is essential to effectively implement the judgment. Mr. Golam Sarwar shed light on the significant aspects of the judgment which included the historical, economic literary and cultural aspects of rivers and the need for effective participation of implementing stakeholders such as the NRCC. Professor Hope opined that it is important to understand who is interacting with the rivers and who is at most risks so that early and preventative action may be undertaken.

Her Excellency Saida Muna Tasneem stated that the historic verdict coming coincides with the great political commitment of saving the rivers and the advocacy by the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Honorable Justice Ashraful Kamal shed light on the impact of climate change on future generations and urged for law and policymakers to play an active role for the preservation of nature.

Mahfuz Anam stressed on the importance of proper implementation of existing laws and opined that destroying the rivers is basically destroying our future. Mr. Sharif Jamil and Advocate Manzill Murshid discussed the need for coordinated effort and the role of public interest litigation respectively. Professor O'Donnell shed light on the importance of community engagement.

The remarks by the speakers and panelists were followed by a lively and interactive Q&A session.



RIGHTS WATCH

ONE MOTI MATBOR AND THE PROBATION ORDINANCE

LAW DESK

ON November 8, 2020, in a landmark verdict, the High Court Division upheld five years' imprisonment of a convict, Moti Matbor, in a narcotics-related case, but allowed him to stay with his family on three conditions: ensuring continuation of studies of his 10th-grader daughter and second-grader son, taking care of his 75-year-old mother and not marrying off his daughter, now 15, until she turns 18 as per the relevant law. This historic verdict has brought to the forefront quite an old law: The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960. This law, despite being in place for long, is rarely invoked.

The said Ordinance allows courts to sentence someone to something other than a fine or imprisonment. It also makes room for conditional discharge or release on probation as an alternative to incarceration. According to section 4 of the Ordinance, if first time offenders are convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment for not more than two years, the court may make an order discharging them after an admonition; make an order discharging them subject to the condition that they enter into a bond (with or without sureties) for committing no offence and being of good behaviour during such period not exceeding one year from the date of the order as may be specified therein.

The conditional discharge will be decided having regard to "the age, character, antecedents or physical or mental condition of the offender, and the nature of the offence or any extenuating circumstances attending the commission of the offence".

In any case, Section 5 establishes

that where a court is of the opinion that the offender - "having regard to the circumstances including the nature of the offence and the character of the offender" - should not be sentenced to imprisonment they can order their release on probation. The use of probation has a strong gender dimension, as it has been extended for women convicted of any offence not punishable with death, whereas a man convicted of an offence punishable by death, life imprisonment, or certain other offences in Chapter VI or VII of the Penal Code 1860 (e.g. offences against the State, extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt, offence of harbouring robbers or dacoits etc.) is not entitled to be released on probation.

According to Section 3 of the Ordinance, the High Court Division, a Court of Sessions, a District Magistrate, a Magistrate of the 1st Class, and any other magistrate especially empowered in this behalf shall be empowered to exercise powers under the Ordinance.

With the Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1960, among others, the penal system in Bangladesh does have the essence of reformative form of justice as opposed to a retributive one. However, the use of probation by the courts in Bangladesh is rare, owing largely to certain widespread misconceptions, (such as that probation is available only for first time offenders), absence of comprehensive policies, overarching monitoring or supervision, lack of awareness and capacity-building among the concerned officials, and the lack of clarity in the laws themselves on the administrative accountability with regard to the granting of probation, according to BLAST, a human rights organisation.



LAW VISION

Global Innovation Index 2020 and Bangladesh

MOHAMMAD ATAUL KARIM

WORLD Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has released Global Innovation Index (GII) on September 2, 2020 in which Bangladesh ranks 116th on overall innovation indicators among 131 economies. The GI assesses world economies based on 80 innovation indicators. As per the GI, performance of Bangladesh has been better in this year on innovation outputs than innovation inputs. It ranks 119th in innovation inputs while ranks 114th in innovation outputs. Regrettably, the position of Bangladesh in aforesaid fields have been lower in compared to the last two years. Moreover, Bangladesh ranks 24th and 10th respectively among the 29 lower middle-income group economies and 10 economies in central and southern Asian countries. The GI, 2020 demonstrates that Bangladesh has performed below expectation on relationship between innovation and development. There are seven GI pillars of assessment, namely, institution, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge and technology outputs, and creative outputs. As far as GI pillars are concerned, Bangladesh performed below average in all areas compared to other economies of central and southern Asian countries, and only performed above average on infrastructure and rest of the sectors remain in below average as compared to other lower middle-income group economies.

Some notable sub-areas among the seven pillars of GI may be relevant to depict the scenario of Bangladesh. In expenditure of education as per GDP our rank is 115th while in university and industry collaboration our position is 121th. In terms of intellectual property issues such as in knowledge absorption category- IP payment as per % of total

trade is 106, in knowledge creation-patent by origin is 114 and knowledge diffusion-IP receipts as per % of total trade is 103. In the fields of human capital and research, such as researchers' contribution and QS University ranking, position of Bangladesh is very deplorable. The performance of Bangladesh on the various areas of creative outputs, namely in intangible assets- trademarks, industrial designs, global branding value, etc. is overall satisfactory. As Bangladesh has not joined in the PCT system, thus, we do not have any score thereof.

It is observed that despite the noticeable progress in many areas of Bangladesh, particularly in ICT sectors, economic indicators and GDP, the



overall condition of innovations and creativity has not been up to the mark. Bangladesh needs to revisit and assess why its position remains constantly poor in GI during last three years. In general, our university education is not practical goals oriented, it lacks laboratories, infrastructures, funds and other academic amenities which in turn do not encourage creativity and innovations. Further, we have almost non-existent collaborations between the industries and universities. There should be central or individual and/or both IP policies for universities of Bangladesh which would clearly design and aim at encouraging creativity and innovation. Moreover, national IP academy should be established for disseminating IP education and training.

It will transform the human capital, knowledge generation and at the end generate creativity and innovation. Stable governance, policy stability, coherent IP policies are also needed to improve the overall innovation indicators. Intellectual property office of Bangladesh (DPDT) should adopt the initiatives to increase awareness on various issues of IP in Bangladesh and increase filing and registration of industrial property rights in Bangladesh. Bangladesh should also join to the PCT system for registration of patents and Madrid system for registration of trademarks. This will, overall, help to increase the filing and registration of patents and trademarks from domestic and foreign origins. The Global Innovation Index does not itself generate any new data set for the assessment rather relies on the available data in the relevant fields. Thus, the concerned government institutions of Bangladesh need to take special consideration to make relevant data available. The analysis of Bangladeshi data of last three years and rank thereof in GI, indicate the re-use of similar data set. Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why position of Bangladesh continues to remain poor. There should be coordination and collaboration among the relevant government agencies of Bangladesh, such as prime ministers' office, ICT division, ministry of industries, other relevant ministries and IP office of Bangladesh (DPDT). Intellectual property office of Bangladesh (DPDT) may take lead in coordinating among the relevant institutions to prepare Bangladesh for the next GI assessment. Overall, Bangladesh should particularly pay attention to improve its position in the GI because it may demonstrate, inter alia, image of the country in relation to innovation and may provide a signal to foreign investors.

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Rape survivors face a chauvinistic legal system

Gender sensitivity essential for justice to be delivered

WE are disheartened to see that the legal channels through which a survivor can report rape are gender insensitive to the point of being hostile. A report in this paper on November 15 cites the case of a young woman raped by her stalker in July 2018, who sought help from the local Nari Nirjatan Protirodh Committee (committee to prevent violence against women). But instead of helping her the head of the committee who is also the Union Parishad Chairman called her a “sex worker” and even issued a notice claiming that the rape survivor engaged in “sex work” at home and that her father was a drug dealer. He urged the woman’s landlord to evict her and her father. When the survivor filed a case with Tangail District Court in November 2019 he sent the earlier notice, to the deputy commissioner, police superintendent, and bar association of Tangail. Later when faced with media criticism and official censure he admitted that he had made a mistake and that he had not verified the fact himself but was given the information by influential people in the area. The rapist is now out on bail.

Another survivor, a minor, who was raped by her landlord’s son in 2004 tried to file a case in Mohammadpur Police Station but instead of recording the case the duty officer ogled her and remarked that it was a false case and she was trying to entrap the landlord’s son because she was poor. Later when she filed a case through the court her father was forced to sign a document by the perpetrators saying that it was a fabricated case and that his daughter was of “immoral character”. The rapist walked free.

These two examples demonstrate the very first hurdle in a series of legal hurdles a survivor of rape or other form of sexual violence faces—in these cases, the head of the very committee that is supposed to seek justice for such victims and the police officer on duty. In the first case why didn’t the chairman verify the facts before maligning the survivor’s character? And why didn’t he on his own accord declare his mistake? In the second case the police officer’s sexism was obvious.

Thus major reforms need to take place within the system in which sexism is ingrained and impedes justice. Gender awareness and sensitivity training must be part of training of law enforcers and ensured for courts and relevant government institutions (including committees to prevent violence against women) to stop this culture of victim blaming so that rape cases are tried without these preconceived notions regarding the victim’s character. Police stations must have women officers (with gender sensitivity training) to receive cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

The justice system must recognise that it is “lack of consent” that is relevant and defines the crime as rape or sexual assault, not the survivor’s character, social class, attire, past sexual history or lifestyle.

A brand new trauma centre in Habiganj sitting idle since 2013

Seven years to get gas and electricity supply?

IT is very disappointing that the construction of the trauma centre in Habiganj’s Bahubal upazila which was completed in 2013 is yet to be operational due to lack of electricity and gas connections. Given the mounting tragedies that result from road accidents on a daily basis, the government launched a project named “Physical Development” to develop 10 trauma centres on six national highways aiming to provide emergency treatments to victims injured in accidents on our highways. Unfortunately, after spending Tk 3.18 crore, the three-story, 10-bed trauma centre near Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Bahubal Upazila Health Complex is unable to treat any patients.

In 2013, Habiganj Palli Biddut Samity sent a demand note to Public Works Department (PWD) to pay Tk 48,120 for an electricity connection. Habiganj PWD then received the demand note and deposited the money. It then sent two letters to Habiganj Palli Biddut Samity for the power connection on May 26 in 2014 and January 29 in 2015 respectively, but Palli Biddut Samity later demanded an additional Tk 6 lakh for power connection. In 2013 PWD wrote a letter to the Jalalabad Gas Company asking for a demand note for gas connection which never saw the light of day. As a result, the Health Department never accepted the building.

It is unfathomable why a brand new health complex should be sitting idle for several years because it cannot get the necessary utility connections. Why have the authorities been sitting on this and allowed so much resources to go to waste? A trauma centre is crucial for this area as countless lives are lost on the highways simply because they cannot reach the hospital on time as it is too far away. We hope the government and the concerned authorities will take immediate steps to ensure the supply of electricity and gas to the complex for it to start operating so that road crash victims can get immediate medical attention and lives can be saved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Is tourism safe now?

Given the number of people visiting popular tourist destinations across our country, it may appear that coronavirus is long gone and that is rather worrying.

How is everyone disregarding the safety precautions so blatantly? When will the authorities take control of the situation? Such careless behaviour cannot be allowed to continue, especially with the expected second wave as winter approaches. I earnestly hope that we will consider the severity of this virus and act responsibly, for ourselves and others.

Tahmina Akhtar, Chattogram

Can we turn the city’s waste into wealth?

It’s time to develop a sustainable waste management system for Dhaka



NAZNIN TITHI

RECENTLY, Dhaka South City Corporation has brought some changes to its waste collection system, unfortunately creating more dissatisfaction among its inhabitants

than relief. The DSCC has appointed one primary collection service provider (PCSP) in each ward for collecting waste from all kinds of establishments under its jurisdiction. Until now, DSCC authorities have appointed PCSP in 69 out of its 75 wards. While previously local social service organisations were managing the job of collecting wastes with vetting from the local ward councillors, now the responsibility of collecting waste has been handed over to private contractors.

Reportedly, residents are unhappy with the new system as they are being charged excessively and getting sub-standard service by the newly-appointed contractors. While previously each household unit had to pay around Tk 40-50 to the service providers, now they have to pay an increased amount of Tk 100 for the same service. There are also allegations against the garbage collectors of charging the residents more than Tk 100.

Several residents of Jatrabari’s Konabari area (ward-64) also told *The Daily Star* that the newly appointed garbage collectors often dump all kinds of garbage on canals and sewerage lines. Citizens have also raised questions as to why they have to pay the private companies for waste collection as they are already paying different kinds of taxes to the city corporations. The DSCC needs to give its inhabitants a satisfactory answer and immediately solve the problems faced by them.

Dhaka’s waste management system has always been very chaotic because of lack of proper planning and foresight. With the city and its population growing manifold, garbage disposal has become an acute problem. Heaps of garbage piled up here and there in any given area of the city is a common sight and the residents also seem to have become nonchalant about the pollution it causes to the environment. The newly elected mayors of both city corporations promised to develop a sustainable and environment-friendly waste management system for the city. Now it’s time to see their action in this regard.

Reportedly, around 6,250 tonnes of garbage are produced in both city corporations every day, a major portion of which goes into open drains, canals and water bodies due to the incapacity of the city corporations to collect it. In fact, last year a *Prothom Alo* report exposed how city corporations hardly had any control over the city’s waste collection system and how waste collection became a big business for local leaders and activists of the ruling party who had been earning crores of taka from it annually. (October 13, 2019) After the new mayors took office, has anything changed? Will giving the responsibility of primary waste collection to private contractors improve the service and stop the illegal business with waste?

In developed countries of the world,

“Where waste chutes are not applicable, residents themselves drop their garbage bags into the containers. There are different coloured bags for recyclable, kitchen and medical wastes. The specially designed garbage trucks collect the wastes from the containers through automatic loaders. So, no additional labour is needed to segregate, load and transport the garbage.”

Since we do not have such a system in place, what we the residents can at least do is drop off our own waste to the nearest garbage bins. Unfortunately, that is not an option for many of us since our city authorities could not yet install enough waste collection containers at convenient locations. Also, we have not yet developed the habit of dropping off

most preferred option for dumping all kinds of waste. This is because we could not yet develop a system where each kind of waste can be collected separately. For a sustainable waste management system, kitchen waste, recyclable plastic waste, electronic waste—all must be collected separately. “Unfortunately, what we still do is dump all kinds of waste in the landfills and the recyclable plastic wastes and electronic wastes are collected by the waste pickers from there. Therefore, an important part of waste management goes to the informal sector, which cannot be controlled by the authorities concerned,” says Dr Tanvir.

In a standard system, kitchen waste should be used to produce energy and fertiliser while plastic waste should be recycled and e-waste should be managed by the companies who sell them.

We need to adopt this basic practice of segregation without which solid municipal waste management becomes a difficult job. According to Abu Hasnat Md Maqsood Sinha, co-founder and executive director of Waste Concern, “A regulation called ‘Urban Waste Management Handling Rule’ is being formulated by the government which is in its final stage. It will provide a complete guideline on how to separate waste at source, how garbage will be collected, transported and disposed of, etc.”

Reportedly, the two landfills in Matuail and Aminbazar used by the DSCC and DNCC have almost reached their full capacity. What this means is, soon we will need more land for the purpose of waste dumping, which is not at all sustainable for a city where land is a scarce resource. Besides, these two landfills are causing serious environmental pollution in the adjacent areas, polluting not only air and water bodies but also the groundwater.

In the wake of such a situation, it is good to know about the government’s approval to set up the country’s first large-scale waste-to-energy plant for Dhaka North City Corporation (*The Daily Star*, November 13). The state minister for power and energy has also informed us about a similar plan for Dhaka South City Corporation. These are definitely good initiatives but will only make a difference if we have a complete waste management system which should start from garbage collection and segregation and end in recycle and reuse.

Waste can be turned into wealth through segregation at source and proper management. Are our city corporations ready to work to that end?

Naznin Tithi is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*.



Dhaka’s waste management system has always been very chaotic because of lack of proper planning and foresight.

PHOTO: STAR

there are no such organisations like the primary waste collection service providers. People themselves drop off their waste into the designated bins. According to Dr Tanvir Ahmed, director, ITN-Buet Centre for Water Supply, Sanitation and Waste Management, “In the developed cities, waste from high-rise buildings is directly transported to the garbage containers set up by municipal corporations through waste chute system.”

Garbage chutes are long tunnels built into the interior structure of the building that end in a garbage container. Each floor usually has its own garbage chute. The residents just drop their tied up garbage bags into the chute through the opening which then directly go to main garbage container.

our daily waste ourselves.

According to Dr Tanvir Ahmed, in the USA, Canada and other European countries, the responsibility of garbage collection and management is delegated to the private sector. Individual services are designed by the consultants and implemented by the private companies. The local government bodies are there only to make regulations and monitor the entire system.

However, the major challenge for us to develop such a system is that we do not have the skilled workforce; capacity building is a major issue here.

While a landfill is the least preferred option of waste management in the developed countries, unfortunately in Bangladesh, this has always been the

Humanising migration and the role of state

Some lessons from Qatar

MUHAMMAD MUSTAFIZUR RAHAMAN

MIGRATION continues to be an important agenda due to its role in development. This is particularly true in the case of Qatar, a country well known for having a lot of migrants. Indeed, it is home to more than two million expatriates—comprising 88 percent of the country’s total population. Of note, migrants constituted 94 percent of the total labour force, a ratio considered the highest in the world.

The world has seen some notable reforms of late in Qatar which caught the attention of the international community, in general, and the International Labor Organization (ILO), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), International Organization of Employers (ITO), Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) and Amnesty International (AI), in particular. For example, ILO described the reforms there, such as the removal of the “No Objection Certificate (NOC)”, as the first of its kind in the gulf region, and AI praised the latest reform as a significant step towards protecting migrant workers.

By “humanising migration”, I refer to and reflect on some of the rights of migrants enshrined in the international instruments, namely ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998; Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951; Domestic Workers Convention, 2011; International Convention on the Protection on the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families, 1990; Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970; Decent Work Agenda, 2008; and Global Compact for Migration, 2016.

The interplay between migration and development has long been in existence. The recent ethical imperative of the United Nations (UN)—no one left behind—obviates the need for improving the socio-economic condition of migrants to achieve some of the targets set in the Development Agenda 2030, mainly zero poverty and no hunger. We are fortunate enough to see the visibility of such thinking since US President Franklin D Roosevelt in 1937 called for building the economy from the bottom-up, focusing on the forgotten man in

the bottom of the economic pyramid (BOP). Then, management scholar CK Prahalad popularised the concept in 2004 and lamented that 4 billion people lived at the BOP earning only USD 2 per day. It goes without saying that migrants constituted 3.64 percent of the world population last year and most of them live at the BOP. Leaving them behind, the UN targets are unattainable at least partially, if not fully. Moreover, the current severe economic crisis sparked by the Covid-19 pandemic desperately calls for standing by migrants.

Qatar has set a milestone in humanising migration. Some of the notable initiatives are as follows:

Adoption of minimum wage
Qatar adopted non-discriminatory minimum wage for workers including domestic aids under Law No 17, 2020. It fixed QAR 1,000 per month as a basic wage, QAR 500 for accommodation expenses, and 300 QAR for food, unless the employer provides accommodation and food. Such positive reforms were happening just as the retrenchment policy due to the economic crisis created by Covid-19 began worldwide. It will surely increase the income of poorly paid migrants and thus help them to break the vicious circle of poverty, ultimately contributing to the nation’s achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Earlier, Qatar introduced Wage Protection System (WPS) to ensure timely and regular payment of wages to the workers.

Abolition of the kafala system.
“Kafala” is an Arabic word which stands for sponsorship. Under this system, migrant workers must obtain a NOC from his current employer prior to applying for the change of sponsorship. The recent reform declared on August 30 dismantled the system by removing the requirement of NOC. Workers are no longer required to submit NOC for getting approval of change of sponsorship but they need to give prior notice to the existing company. Moreover, under the kafala system, workers were required to obtain exit permits to leave Qatar which was declared null and void in September, 2018. Coupled with the termination of exit permit, the abolition

of NOC has put an end to the kafala system. Allowing mobility of workers will enable them to find better positions which would be vital to create a dynamic and skilled labour market. Companies will also have the compassion to create decent working environment to retain the existing manpower and their talents.

Promotion of good governance
Good governance is of paramount importance for the development of any country. Accountability and justice are the cornerstones of good governance. To bring accountability and justice within the migration governance, Qatar introduced a smart system in receiving and disposing work related complaints. Workers have been enabled to lodge complaints online and time bound disposal of the complaints has been established which is quite similar to the Citizen’s Charter introduced by John Major in Britain—Labour Department must settle the dispute in seven days. If unsuccessful, it is forwarded to a dispute settlement committee which is obliged to settle it in three weeks. One worker, Mohammad Hossain, explained his case: He used to work in a company for about 15 years but suddenly was terminated without his service benefits being given. He complained to the Labour Department which forwarded it to the committee. The committee ordered the company to pay his service benefits. The worker is highly satisfied with the order.

Healthcare facility
Qatar takes good care of its residents. Patients need to pay only 20 percent of total cost in government hospitals. During Covid-19 crisis, it provided healthcare support to everyone irrespective of nationality and immigration status (both documented and undocumented). Before Covid-19, Qatar’s government provided free treatment to many patients. For example, one Bangladeshi patient suffering from blood cancer was nurtured in Qatar for about 16 months without any charge. Another Bangladeshi patient who had no residency permits was hospitalised due to severe illness. Before being sent back to Bangladesh, the hospital authority provided the necessary treatment and medicine for one week before discharging

him from the hospital without charging a fee.

The role of the state
The role of the state in development has always been a centre of debate. The neo-liberalist school, for example, upholds that the State is a part of the problem, not the solution. At the same time, the governance notion, especially, proposed by RAW Rhodes, proposed for limiting the scope and forms of public intervention, while speaking about hollowing out of the State. Conversely, the World Bank (WB) in its report in 1997 put special emphasis on strong and efficient State institutions in development. In 2000, the WB in its report identified poorly functioning public sector and weak governments as constraints of growth and development in many developing countries. Therefore, the role of the State in development should not be overlooked.

Qatar is a positive example of State led reforms and development. Theoretically, the political system is the supra system of a country and other systems fall under the political system. Arguably, the success of reforms is dependent to a great extent on the efficacy of the political system. The recent reform efforts are a part of Qatar’s National Vision 2030 as mentioned by Othman Fakhroo, Minister of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs (ADLSA): “The State of Qatar is committed to creating a modern and dynamic labour market in line with Qatar Vision 2030.” In fact, the ADLSA is responsible for materialising the Vision 2030 and the ministry took a dynamic role in this case. It is important to note here that Qatar signed an agreement with the ILO in 2018 through which it became the first country among the gulf countries to allow setting up an ILO office. The ILO office in Qatar played a role in putting forward such reforms. Furthermore, Qatar is going to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022. FIFA wanted to maintain the highest standard in its operations. From a global governance perspective, the fulfilment of FIFA’s criteria also acted as a motivating factor which pushed for such measures.

Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Ph.D is currently Counsellor (Labour), at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the State of Qatar.

Rape of a child bride: Laws locked in a time warp



TASLIMA YASMIN

IN the year 1890 during the British colonial regime Hari Mohan Maiti, an adult man aged 35, was charged in the Calcutta High Court with causing the death of his bride Phulmonee who was just about 11-years-old. Phulmonee was still living in her parents' house where her husband had visited a couple of times. During one such visit Phulmonee's mother heard her groaning in pain and found her on Hari's bed, "weltering" in blood. Phulmonee died in excruciating suffering some hours later. The autopsy reports conclusively established that Phulmonee died as a result of being brutally raped by her husband. Medical evidence showed that the body of Phulmonee was wholly unfit for sexual intercourse due to her young age and the forceful cohabitation with a full-grown man, caused the haemorrhage resulting in her painful and agonising death.

In the 1860 Penal Code, the age of consent to sexual intercourse was 10 years for both married and unmarried girls; which meant after reaching 10 years, a married child could not complain of rape against her husband as she was presumed to have given consent to sex upon marriage. In cases when the child was below 10-years-old and was not married to the accused, any sexual intercourse was deemed to be rape with or without consent. As such, Hari Mohan was exempted from both murder and rape of Phulmonee as she was 11-years-old at the time. He was

eventually sentenced for causing death "inadvertently" through a "rash and negligent act" under section 304A of the Penal Code.

The apparent injustice in Phulmonee's death created a compelling narrative in British India to increase the age of consent. Eventually, the Age of Consent Act was passed in 1891, a year after Phulmonee's death, increasing the age of consent from 10 to 12 years in section 375 of the Penal Code. As contemporary historians had commented, while most of India had showed little interest in the legislation increasing the age of consent, in Bengal the Bill was furiously opposed considering it to be an undue interference in the Hindu personal law norms by the British Rulers (Dagmer Engels, 1983). Surprisingly though, the available literature on the legislative debates and political discourses prior to the enactment of the 1891 Act, did not indicate any similar opposition by the Muslim leaders. Rather, when the British lawmakers approached Indian doctors and officials about the increase of the age of consent—with few exceptions—the Muslim respondents supported the Bill holding that under Islamic law, girl's presumed consent does not matter if there is a criminal attack against her person, and if she is underage (Law and History Review, February 2020, Tanika Sarkar). Shocked by the viciousness of the effects of premature cohabitation on girls, many Indian doctors at that time had even demanded to increase the age of consent to 16 at one point (Tanika Sarkar, 2020).

In 1925, while voices of women leaders and activists were getting stronger in favour of abolishing the harmful practice of child marriage, the age of consent was further increased. This time for unmarried girls it



was increased to 14 and for married girls to 13. The clause reads: "Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under thirteen years of age, is not rape"

Inheriting the same Penal Code from the British regime, India had further increased this marital rape exception to 15 years of age. Later, by the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POSCO) 2012, any sexual activity with a child below 18 was criminalised, essentially increasing the age of consent even for married girls to 18. In Pakistan, this marital exemption clause was simply removed from the text of section 375 in 2006, although there seems to be rarely any reported complaint of marital rape since the removal. As far as the modern British laws are concerned, the immunity from marital

rape has long been abolished.

Let us now reflect on the "Phulmonee" of our times—the helpless child Nurnahar of age 14 who died as a result of premature cohabitation by her husband—Rajib, of age 34. Before succumbing to her injuries, Nurnahar told her Grandfather at the hospital: "Although I begged for my life, cried and told my husband that I was bleeding and struggling to breathe, he still did not leave me alone." (Dhaka Tribune, November 3, 2020).

It was 1890, when the laws failed to prosecute rape and consequent death of Phulmonee. 130 years later, we still could not charge the husband of Nurnahar with rape or culpable homicide, and the case was filed under the same section with which Hari Maiti was charged with—section 304A of the Penal

Code, for causing death by rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide. The maximum punishment under the section is only five years of imprisonment. We could not prosecute Nurnahar's husband for rape because unlike reforms in sexual offence related laws that took place in our colonial counterparts and in many other countries around the world, we remained faithful to the colonial legal ideas that provided immunity for marital rape of child brides.

The move to increase the age of consent in the British colonial period was rather driven by the physical incapacity of young girls forced into cohabitation with grown men resulting in severe injuries and loss of lives. In an overtly patriarchal context of the nineteenth century British India, where child marriage was sweepingly endorsed by cultural norms and religious sanctions, increasing the age of consent to 13 for married girls was probably the best that could've been done at that time. What is surprising is that even in 2020, when we had already endorsed several international instruments pledging to protect rights of children and had made abundant commitments at various global platforms to end child marriages entirely—we failed to find a right opportunity to alter this antiquated and openly suppressive law against girl children.

It seems like we are forever locked in a time warp where lives and choices of young girls do not matter—while oppressive traditional and cultural norms continue to remain without being questioned.

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Is development for the World Bank mainly doing business?

ANIS CHOWDHURY and JOMO KWAME SUNDARAM

THE World Bank has finally given up defending its controversial, but influential Doing Business Report (DBR). In August, the Bank "paused" publication of the DBR due to a "number of irregularities" after its much criticised ranking system was exposed as fraudulent.

Apparently, data from four countries—China, Azerbaijan, the UAE and Saudi Arabia—was "inappropriately altered", according to the Wall Street Journal. Exposure of these irregularities was the final straw: now, it is uncertain whether the DBR will return after its suspension.

Exposing the lie

After Chief Economist Paul Romer told the Wall Street Journal two years ago that he had lost faith in the "integrity" of the DBR, and apologised to Chile for possibly politically motivated data manipulation, he was forced to resign. The Economist commented then, "His resignation may not end the controversy".

Romer later received the so-called Economics Nobel Prize subsequent to his resignation. Almost two decades ago, Joseph Stiglitz also received the prize after being forced to resign following differences with US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers in the wake of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

When Justin Sandefur and Divyanshi Wadhwa of the Center for Global Development (CGD) exposed how ostensibly methodological tweaking changed Chile's and India's DBR rankings to bolster "market-friendly" Piñera and Modi vis-à-vis their more centrist opponents. Simeon Djankov, founder of the Bank's Doing Business index, dismissed the CGD and the two authors as "reformed Marxists".

Doing Business vs SDGs

Djankov insisted that the DBR is about the costs of doing business, not "the benefits of running a society". He contemptuously told those who criticised the DBR for failing to consider social or environmental impacts, to create their own "index that says the benefits of...regulation".

For the DBR, it did not matter if reducing

regulations harmed the environment or employment conditions, or if lowering taxes constrained governmental capacity to fund public investment and provide decent public health or social protection as long as such "reforms" lowered the costs of doing business.

Singlehandedly, Djankov exposed the shallowness of the Bank's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By undermining social and environmental dimensions, Djankov exposed the Bank's actual attitude to sustainable development.

Hence, the Bank had little choice but to ditch the DBR, which has already done enormous damage to development by

encouraging harmful tax competition and "races to the bottom" with regard to the protection of the environment and labour rights.

Racing to the bottom for nothing

Governments seek improvements in their country's DBR ranking believing that it will increase growth via increased investment, especially foreign direct investment (FDI). However, the evidence has been disappointing.

For example, a World Bank Policy Research Working Paper found that, "on average, countries that undertake large-scale reforms relative to other countries do not necessarily attract greater [foreign direct investment] inflows". For developing countries, it found an insignificant statistical relationship.

Another study concluded, "the various studies do not provide guidance on which of the wide range of possible [investment climate (IC)] reforms are most strongly correlated with increased growth".

Such ranking competition has encouraged debilitating investor-friendly government behaviour. The index has become a tool for governments to formulate, evaluate and legitimise their economic policies. Some now game the system to notch up their countries' ranking with essentially cosmetic reforms.

Indonesia's recent "Omnibus Bill" ostensibly for job creation includes many market-friendly reforms that would most certainly boost Indonesia's DBR ranking.

The bill, from a government increasingly influenced by the Bank, is now widely criticised for heavily favouring powerful business interests at the expense of workers, human rights and the environment.

Agrarian counter-revolution

Ditching the DBR may be a good start, but is far from enough. The Bank must also end other similar "ideologically driven" exercises, such as its Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) and Investing Across Borders (IAB) indicators, which prioritise FDI, typically at the expense of some SDGs.

The Bank's EBA indicators project is an extension of its Benchmarking the Business of Agriculture (BBA) programme, first launched in 2013. BBA, partly based on the DBI methodology, was created after the G8

asked the Bank in 2012 to develop such an index for the G8's controversial New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition programme.

The Bank claimed, "The indicators provide a tangible measure of progress and identify regulatory obstacles to market integration and entrepreneurship in agriculture", leading to a more modern commercial agriculture sector. Private agribusiness investors will be the main beneficiaries of its proposed land policies and environmental protection deregulation.

But the Bank does not bother to explain how farmers, especially smallholder and peasant farmers, will benefit from the proposed reforms or from large-scale commercial agriculture. Our Land; Our Business highlighted that the EBA will encourage corporate land grabs and undermine smallholder farmers who produce 80 percent of food consumed in the developing world.

In January 2017, over 158 organisations and academics from around the world denounced the EBA to the WB president and its five western donors (USAID, DFID, DANIDA, the Netherlands, and the Gates Foundation), demanding its immediate end.

In response, the Bank made some cosmetic changes and dropped its controversial land indicator. However, its latest (2019) EBA still reflects its strong bias for commercial agricultural inputs and mono-cropping, undermining food security, sustainability as well as customary land holdings.

Favouring foreign direct investment

The Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) introduced its Investing Across Borders (IAB) indicators in 2010. Heavily influenced by Hernando de Soto, the IAB indicators were designed to complement the Bank's DB indicators.

The IAB indicators claim to help accelerate economic growth by giving primacy to FDI as a driver for job creation, technology transfer, upgrading skills, fostering competition and fiscal consolidation. In fact, IAB indicators encourage frameworks that limit benefits for host countries besides enhancing the harmful effects of cross-border investment deals.

The indicators also violate the letter and

spirit of the IFC's Performance Standards for Environmental and Social Sustainability; Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment respecting rights, livelihoods and resources; Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; and various other international instruments.

One size never fits all

The rise and fall of the DBR expose the dangers of using and exaggerating the significance of standardised rankings for very different countries and business environments. An IC is typically complex and difficult to reduce to a few key indicators, let alone a meaningful composite index.

Reforming only certain aspects of business regulation because of the influence of Doing Business cannot possibly be optimal, especially when government capacity is constrained. Academic literature reviews conclude, "while there is empirical evidence that institutional reform can promote growth, it is less clear which reforms matter most, how to prioritise possible IC reforms, and what kinds of institutional frameworks and functions are needed".

Growth drivers and constraints are very context specific, so reform priorities should also be context specific. Therefore, a one-size-fits-all approach to measuring and understanding complex investment environment issues is very problematic, especially one based on the interests and priorities of particular institutions and powers.

The Bank should stop doing harm by concentrating on its original mandate of intermediating finance at the lowest possible cost for sustainable development, relief and recovery in our extraordinary times. It should stop misleading the world, especially developing countries, with its highly biased supposed knowledge products.

Anis Chowdhury is an adjunct professor at Western Sydney University and the University of New South Wales, Australia. He held senior United Nations positions in New York and Bangkok. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor, was United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

Ditching the DBR may be a good start, but is far from enough. The Bank must also end other similar "ideologically driven" exercises, such as its Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) and Investing Across Borders (IAB) indicators, which prioritise FDI, typically at the expense of some SDGs.

QUOTABLE Quote

ALBERT EINSTEIN
(1879-1955)
German-American physicist.

The only thing more dangerous than ignorance is arrogance.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Early carmaker
- 5 Holds tight
- 10 Looks for
- 12 Bizarre
- 13 Amount of appreciation, maybe
- 15 "Do - say!"
- 16 North Pole worker
- 17 French article
- 18 Remember
- 20 Ascend
- 21 Pens for tablets
- 22 Has dinner
- 23 South African coins
- 25 Quite uncommon
- 28 Campaign goal
- 31 Nights before
- 32 Supermarket sections
- 34 Rep.'s rival
- 35 Reunion group
- 36 Debate side
- 37 Downpour
- 40 Road curves
- 41 Writer Sontag
- 42 Bird abodes
- 43 "Holy -!"
- 26 Opposed (to)
- 27 Lax
- 29 Rio Grande city
- 30 Continuing story
- 33 Boxer Liston
- 35 Smooch
- 38 Horse healer
- 39 Mai tai base

DOWN

- 1 Film prize
- 2 Rent agreements
- 3 Show
- 4 Enjoy the slopes
- 5 Course activity
- 6 Floor cover
- 7 Roma's nation
- 8 Mass leader
- 9 Taste and smell
- 11 "Streetcar" name
- 14 Futile
- 19 Actor Lew
- 20 Work breaks
- 24 Events
- 25 Blush
- 26 Opposed (to)
- 27 Lax
- 29 Rio Grande city
- 30 Continuing story
- 33 Boxer Liston
- 35 Smooch
- 38 Horse healer
- 39 Mai tai base

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

H	A	T	S	S	W	E	A	R
O	M	E	N	P	O	O	R	E
R	I	P	A	O	R	N	A	T
S	T	E	R	N	U	M	P	A
E	Y	E	L	E	T	S	A	K
I	T	S	S	H	E	D		
S	C	A	N	S	S	T	O	N
L	U	N	G	S	B	O	A	
O	R	O	G	O	U	R	M	E
P	A	T	E	X	P	L	O	R
E	T	H	A	N	E	I	R	A
D	E	E	P	E	R	N	E	S
D	R	E	S	S	G	L	E	

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

A SALUTE TO OUR CREATOR
MORT WALKER
SEPTEMBER 3, 1923 TO JANUARY 27, 2018

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

BUNNY AND YOLANDA INVITED ME TO A WINE TASTING. THAT SOUNDS GREAT!

AND IT'S TONIGHT. NOW, ACTUALLY.

COOL! OH.

I'M YOUR DESIGNATED DRIVER. AREN'T I?

PUT YOUR PANTS ON AND LOAD UP THE KIDS.

Kathalbari ferry

FROM PAGE 12

Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

In July, 2017, Kathalbari Ghat was shifted to the present site from Kawrakandi in Shibchar upazila due to river erosion.

Sharful Islam, executive engineer (river management) of the Padma Bridge Project, said the main channel of the river runs through Kathalbari area.

"A three-km stretch of the river bank is unprotected. We need to start dredging and work of river bank protection immediately. The ferry ghat had to be relocated from there," he mentioned.

Sixteen ferries, 82 launches and more than 400 speedboats operate on this route.

SpaceX-Nasa

FROM PAGE 12

Crew Dragon will gradually raise its orbit for the next 27 hours through a series of onboard thruster firings, giving the astronauts time to eat pre-packaged dinners and roughly eight hours to rest before docking at the International Space Station at 11:00 pm eastern time on Monday.

An air leak caused an unexpected drop in capsule pressure less than two hours before launch, Nasa officials said. But technicians said they conducted a successful leak check, and the scheduled launch was still on.

The Resilience crew includes Hopkins and two fellow Nasa astronauts, mission pilot Victor Glover and physicist Shannon Walker. They were joined by Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi, making his third trip to space after previously flying on the U.S. shuttle in 2005 and Soyuz in 2009.

The 27-hour ride to the space station, an orbiting laboratory some 250 miles (400 km) above Earth, was originally scheduled to begin on Saturday. But the launch was postponed for a day due to forecasts of gusty winds - remnants of Tropical Storm Eta - that would have made a return landing for the Falcon 9's reusable booster stage difficult, NASA officials said.

Highest daily

FROM PAGE 1

positive for Covid-19 in the country. Since then, the daily infection count had been decreasing gradually.

Against yesterday's 15,768 tests conducted in 115 labs across the country, the positivity rate was 13.57 percent, while the overall positivity rate stood at 16.99 percent.

At least 1,604 Covid-19 patients recovered in the same 24 hours.

With this, the total number of recoveries rose to 3,51,146, while the recovery rate stood at 80.82 percent.

Among yesterday's 21 deceased, 15 were males and six females. Twenty of them died in hospitals, said the release.

One was aged between 51 and 60, six were between 41 and 50, and the rest were above 60 years, added the release.

For a month, experts, as well as policymakers, had been speculating further spike of Covid-19 infections ahead of the cold weather. Many countries across Europe and America have already imposed virus curbs measures in the face of the second wave of coronavirus infection.

Against this backdrop, the government has recently announced a "no mask, no service" policy in all public and private organisations. The announcement, however, has remained a mere announcement except for a few initiatives in some places.

Yesterday, the cabinet decided that measures would be taken soon so that people wear facemasks in the capital.

JS body

FROM PAGE 12

triggered by a viral video footage of a woman being tortured and gang-raped in Noakhali's Begumganj.

At least 975 women were raped across the country in the last nine months and 161 of the incidents took place last month alone, according to a report by rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra.

Several organisations, including Feminists Across Generations, advocated that death penalty was not the solution.

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

The latest bill also proposes changes to sub-articles 11 (Ga) and 20 (7) of the existing law.

Any simple injury for dowry will be a compoundable offence (the complainant can drop the charge) in accordance with the article 11 (Ga) of the proposed law.

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

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



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo participates in a wreath-laying ceremony in homage to victims of terrorism at Les Invalides in Paris, France, yesterday. Pompeo arrived in Paris Saturday at the start of a seven-nation trip to US allies.

PHOTO: REUTERS

War hero Shawkat Ali no more

FROM PAGE 1

He was admitted to the hospital on October 29 with pneumonia.

He was put on life support on November 5, Udoy Shawkat Ali, grandson of the former military official, told The Daily Star.

Shawkat left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

He was in jail for 13 months as an accused in the Agartala Conspiracy Case before the country's independence.

During the autocratic regime of late military ruler HM Ershad, he had been behind bars for 16 months -- from May 1982 to September 1983.

He was also jailed in 2003 during the tenure of the then BNP-Jamaat government.

On February 23, 2011, he told parliament the charges brought against them in the Agartala Conspiracy Case were true.

He also said they had formed Sangram Parishad under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for secession of East Pakistan from Pakistan and the case actually laid the foundation of the country's independence.

Shawkat said as part of the plan called "Agartala Plot", navy steward

Mujibur Rahman and educationist Mohammad Ali Reza went to Agartala to seek India's support for the independence of Bangladesh.

He was a captain in the Pakistan Army in 1968 when he was accused in the Agartala Conspiracy Case. He was accused No-26 among the total 35.

He was supposed to be tried by court martial, but the then Pakistan government felt it would benefit more from a civil trial. However, the case was withdrawn the following year amid public protest.

Shawkat was forced to retire from Pakistan Army in 1969.

The Agartala Conspiracy Case, which had set a new course in the history of the country's independence struggle, was filed in early 1968 implicating Bangabandhu as the prime accused and 34 other Bangalee civil servants, army, navy and air force officers and politicians over "hatching a plot".

The case ultimately resulted in the fall of Gen Ayub Khan in 1969 and subsequently led the nation towards the 1971 Liberation War.

Shawkat was reinstated into the army after the formation of the Bangladesh Forces in 1971 to fight the Liberation War.

The valiant freedom fighter was

forced to retire the second time when he was a colonel in 1975 working as the director of Ordnance Services following the assassination of Bangabandhu.

Shawkat was elected MP from Shariatpur-2 six times. He was elected unanimously the deputy speaker of the ninth parliament on 25 January 2009, following a landslide victory of the Awami League.

He was also a lawyer registered with the Supreme Court.

Shawkat had completed his LLB from University of Dhaka in 1958 before he joined the Pakistan Army as a commissioned officer the following year.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences poured in after his demise yesterday. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages expressed deep shock at the death of the veteran politician.

Hamid in his message said, "Despite being a military officer, the courageous role he had played for the freedom of the country putting his life at risk is really unparalleled."

The premier in her message said, "With his death, the country has lost a veteran leader of the masses and I myself lost a trusted colleague of Bangabandhu's ideal."

Govt to spend

FROM PAGE 12

According to the meteorological department, the country saw the second longest spell of flooding this year since 1998, when floods lasted 63 days.

This time, the duration of floods was 61 days -- from July 27 to September 30. The prolonged floods damaged many roads, bridges and culverts.

Project documents mention that floods hit 182 upazilas of 28 districts in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chattogram divisions. All these areas will be covered under the project.

Moreover, the country witnessed around 50 percent more rainfall in the first nine months of this year, compared to the average rainfall in the corresponding period in the last 30 years.

Meteorological department data shows that on average, 363.621 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the country between January and September.

The project documents say heavy rains damaged roads, bridges and culverts in 139 upazilas of 22 districts in Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka,

Mymensingh and Chattogram divisions. The project will cover these areas.

The LGED prepared the project, incorporating data from public representatives across the country.

Under the project, 6,148 km roads across the country will be repaired.

Besides, 78 km of RCC (roller-compacted concrete) roads will be repaired, and 268 bridges (4,631.85 metres) and 239 culverts (692.37 metres) will be reconstructed.

Trees will be planted on both sides of 328 km roads under the project, say the documents.

Vetting the project, the Planning Commission observed that it will play an important role in fixing rural infrastructure damaged by the cyclone, floods and heavy rains, and also help boost economic activities in these districts.

Four more development projects involving over Tk 2,600 crore are likely to be placed at today's Ecnc meeting. The project areas are in Gaibandha, Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Khulna and Jamalpur. All those will be implemented with the government's own funds.

Moderna vaccine

FROM PAGE 12

Moderna's interim analysis was based on 95 infections among trial participants who received either a placebo or the vaccine. Of those, only five infections occurred in those who received the vaccine, which is administered in two shots 28 days apart.

"Having more than one source of an effective vaccine will increase the global supply and, with luck, help us all to get back to something like normal sometime in 2021," said Eleanor Riley, professor of immunology and infectious disease at the University of Edinburgh.

Moderna expects to have enough safety data required for US authorization in the next week or so and the company expects to file for emergency use authorization (EUA) in the coming weeks.

A key advantage of Moderna's vaccine is that it does not need ultra-cold storage like Pfizer's, making it easier to distribute. Moderna expects it to be stable at normal fridge temperatures of 2 to 8 degrees Celsius (36 to 48°F) for 30 days and it can be stored for up to 6 months at -20C.

Pfizer's vaccine must be shipped and stored at -70C, the sort of temperature typical of an Antarctic winter. It can be stored for up to five days at standard refrigerator temperatures or for up to 15 days in a thermal shipping box.

Another drugmaker Sanofi also said their vaccine also won't need to be super-cooled.

"Our vaccine will be like the flu vaccine, you can keep it in your refrigerator," the Paris-based drugmaker's France chief Olivier Bogillot told the CNews channel. "This will be an advantage for some countries," he added.

The Sanofi vaccine, one of many in development, will be available for distribution next June, Bogillot added.

While the breakthroughs open a chink of light at the end of the tunnel, experts caution there are still difficult and dangerous months ahead.

"A vaccine on its own will not end the pandemic," warned World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Supply will initially be limited to health care workers and other vulnerable populations, which could offer major help to hospital systems but will "still leave the virus with a lot of room to move," he said.

Marriott hotel construction in Bandarban against laws

FROM PAGE 12

of the cultural norms acknowledged by this country's constitution and the CHT Regulation 1900, Bandarban Hill District Council Act 1989 and CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001, said the statement.

"There is no scope to construct such private, profit-making ventures under these laws," it added.

Such a corporate venture is a threat to the existence of the local culture, heritage and ecosystem, said the citizens, adding that they want the project cancelled.

"The Mro protesters are being threatened," the statement said.

"Instead of listening to the legitimate demands of the Mro community, R&R Holding Ltd has begun razing the hills, obstructing the people from reaching their burial places, water sources as well as their sacred stones and trees.

"The hotel and the traffic it will pose a security concern for the women of the community, and their lifestyle," it said.

"On top of that, taking up space for a resort will further decrease the already shrinking space for jhum farming.

"Representatives of R&R Holding Ltd gave several interviews to the media stating that they are doing the project with the permission of the district commission. This would make this project illegal, because the commission cannot hand over ownership of the land to any party without the explicit permission of the community and the mouza headman.

"We demand that all economic activities, including tourism that is not sanctioned by the community, be stopped immediately. We also demand that the land grabbers be evicted."

The statement was signed by, among others, Professor Emeritus of University of Dhaka (DU) Dr Serajul Islam Chowdhury, eminent human rights activist Sultana Kamal, Dr Hameeda Hossain, Coordinator of Nijera Kori Khushi Kabir, executive chair of Power and Participation Research Centre Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, trustee of Gonoshasthaya Kendra Dr Zafurullah Chowdhury, former governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Salahuddin Ahmed. Distinguished Fellows at Centre for Policy Dialogue Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Chief Executive of Transparency International Bangladesh Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam, Professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University Dr Anu Muhammad and Dr MM Akash at DU, Professor Meghna

Guhathakurata, Professor Amena Mahsin, Chakma Raja Barrister Devasish Roy, Chief Executive of Gonoshakhorota Oviyan Rashida K Chowdhury, Secretary of Shujan Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Naripokkho member Shireen Huq, eminent Jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik, writer Rahnuma Ahmed, photojournalist Shahidul Alam, Executive Director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit Dr CR Abrar, Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Executive Director of Coast Trust Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Barrister Sara Hossain, Executive Director of Bangladesh Indigenous Forum Sanjeeb Drong, President of the Bandarban chapter of Chittagong Hill Tracts Forest and Land Rights Protection Committee Juamlian Amlai, and President of CHT Citizens' Committee Gautam Dewan.

Workers to get regularised, recruited

FROM PAGE 12

according to media reports.

"The government is expected to make RM 95 million from compounds and other payments that undocumented migrants and employers will pay," reported The Star, quoting Malaysia Home Minister Hamzah Zainudin.

Migrant worker Abdul Kuddus said many Bangladeshi undocumented workers face different difficulties in and outside their workplaces in the Southeast Asian country.

"You can't move freely and you can't even sleep well when you are undocumented," he said.

Kuddus, who is currently stuck at home because of the pandemic, said he was an undocumented worker before he got regularised under an amnesty programme in 2016.

During crackdowns on undocumented foreign workers by Malaysian police, they flee their workplaces and sometimes have to spend nights in the woods, he added.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, Malaysia has hired about 10.57 lakh Bangladeshi workers since 1978.

The exact number of Bangladeshis living without legal papers in Malaysia is unknown.

Asked, Zahirul Islam, labour welfare counsellor at Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, could not tell how many of them are expected to avail the latest opportunities.

Last year, about 53,000 Bangladeshi undocumented workers obtained legal status and returned home under Malaysian government's Back for Good programme, said the labour welfare official.

Zahirul said the high commission was yet to formally receive the programme details from the Malaysian authorities. Malaysian Home Minister Hamzah Zainudin was quoted as saying on Thursday that under the latest Repatriation Recalibration Plan, the migrants can volunteer to return to their homeland, subject to certain conditions.

The migrants and employers who wish to participate in either programme are to deal directly with the Immigration Department and the Peninsular Malaysia Labour Department, the minister added.

New pay scales on December 16

FROM PAGE 12

introduced new pay scales to suit individual officers who served their purposes.

The new pay scales will confer greatest benefits upon low-paid government employees, particularly the present class four and class three employees. Upon the new arrangement, the maximum pay of class one senior officials may not exceed Tk 2,400 per month while the present class four employees will draw a minimum of Tk 200 per month, including allowances.

WICKMAN CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

The Swedish Foreign Minister Krishter Wickman, who is now visiting Bangladesh, calls on Bangabandhu today at the Gono Bhaban. They discuss bilateral matters during the meeting. It may be mentioned that the official level talks between the foreign minister of Bangladesh and Sweden begin today at the State Guest House in Dhaka.

HUNGARIAN RAILWAY CARRIAGES FOR BANGLADESH

The Hungarian wagon and machine building factory will supply Bangladesh 27 special railway carriages equipped with highly efficient ventilators. Hungary will fulfil the order by December 20, 1972 so that the railway carriages can be supplied to Bangladesh as quickly as possible.

SOURCES: November 18, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Regional Bamboo Research and Training Center Project
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute
Sholoshahar, Chittagong-4211
Telephone: 880-031-2581029, Fax: 880-31-681566
E-mail: pd_rbrtcbrfi@gmail.com

Date: 16-11-2020

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package Reference No.	Description	Tender/proposal last selling date & time	Tender/proposal opening date & time
01	513110	Package: GD14A	Procurement of Small Equipment for Research	29 Nov. 2020 at 16.00pm	01 Dec. 2020 at 12.00pm

The other necessary information for submission of e-Tender is as follows:

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- Registration of interested tenderers with the National e-GP Portal is a must for the submission of tender.
- The required fees have to be deposited in the registered bank through online system for downloading the e-Tender documents.

The interested tenderers may visit National e-GP (<http://eprocare.gov.bd>) and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocare.gov.bd) for further information and guidelines.

Dr. Rafiqul Haider
Project Director
"Establishment of Regional Bamboo Research and Training Center (RBRTC) Project"
at Domar, Nilphamari
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute
Sholoshahar, Chittagong-4211

GD-1831



Bangladesh players cool themselves with a sip of coconut water after a grueling training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, the eve of their second FIFA friendly against Nepal. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Get well soon, Jamie Day

ATIQUE ANAM



When watching Italy take on Poland in a crucial Nations League fixture on Sunday night, it was hard not to draw a few parallels between the four-time world champions and Bangladesh, one of the lowest-ranked footballing nations in the world.

This very assertion might sound preposterous to many but there, indeed, are quite a few similarities between the two teams, and more specifically their coaches, which are hard to ignore.

Roberto Mancini and Jamie Day took of the teams only three days apart at a time when both teams were at the lowest points in their footballing history. Mancini was given the reign of Italy, who had missed out on their first World Cup qualification in 56 years -- the darkest episode in that proud footballing nation's history. Day, on the other hand, was appointed by Bangladesh, who were desperate to emerge from the gloom that had engulfed them for the previous two years since a fateful defeat against Bhutan in October, 2016.

Mancini, a fine forward in his day and perhaps an even finer manager, lifted the Azzurri from the depths where his predecessor, Giampiero Ventura, had left them at the end of his two-year tenure. The 55-year-old has built such a strong group of players that the Azzurri are rightly being considered one of the favourites for the title

in Euro 2020 next year.

Day might not have had a professional career comparable to Mancini's, but as a coach of a struggling Bangladesh team, he has made quite an impression in the last two years. Results may not have always gone in his favour, but the character and the spirit he instilled in the players is commendable.

On Friday, Day guided his side to a morale-boosting, if not clinical, 2-0 win over Nepal just as Italy, playing without a host of first-team players and without their coach in the dug-out on Sunday, cruised past Robert Lewandowski's Poland with a dominant display.

Day would have dearly loved to be at the dugout for today's match too as Bangladesh take on Nepal again but as things turned out, he is in isolation after contracting Covid-19, just like Mancini. Sadly, this is where the similarities end.

While a win against lowly Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday will seal a place in the last four of the Nations League for the Azzurri, the ride only gets bumpier for Day's men.

Within a couple of days, the Bangladesh team will catch a flight to Qatar to play against the 2022 World Cup hosts in a qualifying fixture on December 4. With a second test coming out positive yesterday, Day looks certain to miss out on that flight, but everyone would be praying that the inspirational coach makes a speedy recovery and be with his charges to guide them through not only that tricky fixture, but many more to come.



Teams seek to step it up in final friendly

SPORTS REPORTER



Head coach Jamie Day, having tested positive for Covid-19 a second time yesterday, will

be absent when hosts Bangladesh bid to end the Mujib Borsho FIFA International Series with a second consecutive win against Nepal in the second match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

State-owned Bangladesh Television and private sports channel T-Sports will be telecasting the match live from 5:00pm.

While the two-match series was seen as a way to get back into the swing of things after a long, pandemic-induced break, today's match has become a matter of prestige for both sides after the hosts beat the Himalayan nation 2-0 on Friday.

In the first game, both teams were off the boil in terms of fitness, speed and ball distribution and there were a series of misfires up front, especially from Bangladeshi forwards. Three days later, the teams are expected to be in

relatively good shape, having played a 90-minute match after a gap of more than eight months, so the final game is expected to be more competitive than the first.

Bangladesh will certainly be hoping to go into December's World Cup qualifier against Qatar with the knowledge that they are on an upward graph, having beaten Nepal, who are 17 places ahead in the rankings, in back-to-back games. Nepal, on the other

hand, will be hoping to return home with a share of the spoils by levelling the series, despite being a depleted side due to the absence of some key players.

"I am sure tomorrow's game will be difficult. I think the opposition will be an improved and better side. Hopefully we will also be a better team. So, I am looking forward to an improved performance from Bangladesh and expecting a strong performance from Nepal as well,"

said assistant coach Stuart Watkiss in an online pre-match conference, helming the side in the absence of Jamie Day, who will be absent from the dugout for the first time since taking charge in 2018.

"I have prepared the plan the best way we can. We looked back at the last game including the things we need to improve on."

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan believed Day's absence will have no impact. "I think it will be the same tactic and game plan and us players have to carry out the game plan as the coach will tell us," said Jamal.

Saying Bangladesh may face a bit of problem in Day's absence, Nepal coach Bal Gopal Maharjan said, "We have gained the knowledge from the last match and prepared ourselves accordingly in the last three days because our focus is on putting up a good performance. We are ready for tomorrow's match and I hope Nepal will perform well as a team and individually."

Bangladesh is likely to bring a couple of changes to the playing eleven, with goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana and centre-back Yeasin Khan entering in place of Anisur Rahman Zico and Riyadul Hasan Rafi.



Tomorrow's [Tuesday's] match is very important and is like a final match. We will hopefully play better and have better ball possession than the first match. I think Nepal will also come out strongly to attack more on us and we will also get more opportunities to attack on the break.

BANGLADESH CAPTAIN JAMAL BHUIYAN



I think it is going to be a very tough match for both Nepal and Bangladesh as both teams got some more time to be prepared for the second and final match. However, we will play to win because we lost the first one. We are ready for tomorrow's [Tuesday's] match.

NEPAL CAPTAIN KIRAN CHEMJUNG

Queiroz hits out over 'COVAR'

AFP, Bogota

Colombia coach Carlos Queiroz on Sunday likened the use of VAR technology in football to a disease and claimed it should be rebranded as 'COVAR'.

The Portuguese saw his team lose 3-0 to Uruguay in a World Cup qualifier on Friday and was angry at a series of decisions in the match.

"We are facing a disease, 'COVAR', which no one understands, neither the coaches nor the players," Queiroz said in a video conference on Sunday, in a pun linking the acronym of VAR with the Covid-19.

India through Waugh's lens

AFP, Sydney



Australian great Steve Waugh has long held a deep affection for India, first touring the country in 1986. But his experiences were all too often fleeting glimpses, before he got the chance to return and photograph everyday cricket in the sport's powerhouse.

Travelling from one ground to the next as a player, and function to function as Australia's captain, Waugh felt he never got to properly see and feel the melting pot of life in the teeming, South Asian nation.

But those small peeks into backstreets and alleyways from Kolkata to Jodhpur never left his mind.

Waugh, one of most successful skippers in cricket history, recalls being overwhelmed by "the absolute and complete bombardment of my senses", and vowed to one day go back when his star was shining a little less brightly.

"It's something that's always been in the back of my mind, I was always fascinated by what I saw out of the bus window, everyday life, the spirit of the people," Australia's most capped player told AFP in an interview.

"I couldn't comprehend really how important cricket was to the people and how it was almost a religion."

Waugh, 55, put it off for years, until the Australian team were plunged into crisis in 2018 by the ball-tampering



scandal in South Africa.

With Australian cricket at a low point, he began planning a "feel-good" project which culminated in an 18-day journey through far-flung parts of India with his camera to capture the essence and simple joys of the game, and raise money for sick children at the same time.

"It was just a fun project. You know, 18 months or so ago people were saying that cricket had lost its soul after what happened in Cape Town," Waugh said. "I just wanted to do a feel-good project that I was passionate about."

Accompanied by a mentor in professional photographer Trent Parke, Waugh set off in January before the coronavirus pandemic changed the world.

His journey took him to the desert of Rajasthan, the foothills of the Himalayas and the teeming streets of Mumbai, stopping wherever he saw the game being played.

He met cricketing monks, a 100-year-old player, and a three-year-old Instagram batting sensation, while being inspired by blind and physically challenged players.

Old friends like Sachin Tendulkar got involved and the end product was a book -- *The Spirit of Cricket* -- and a documentary due to air ahead of India's limited-overs and Test tour of Australia.

Proceeds will support his work with charities in India and the Steve Waugh Foundation, which raises funds for children with rare diseases, a philanthropic role he has embraced since a meeting decades ago with the late nun and missionary Mother Teresa.

Waugh took about 17,000 photos and had to whittle them down to 220 for the book. It was a memorable trip for Waugh, who had always been interested in photography. He said he hoped the end product would help people better understand what cricket means to Indians.

T20 Cup players, staff to get tested on Nov 20

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) medical team is prepared to conduct coronavirus testing at the BCB Academy on November 20 for

all the players of the five teams that will participate in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup as well as support and hotel staff.

Teams will check into the hotel the following day and prepare for of the start of the tournament on November 24.

According to sources, players who reside outside Dhaka but test positive will be quarantined at the BCB's Academy complex. If a player whose home is in Dhaka tests positive, he will be sent to quarantine at home.

However, if there are a high number of positive cases, teams will take necessary measures. It was also learned that the BCB will allow teams to get a replacement if a player tests positive.

The cricketers will check into the Pan Pacific Sonargaon in the capital, where they will stay on two separate floors inside a bio-secure bubble. The BCB will appoint each team with a medical officer, whose job will be ensuring health safety protocols.

Sixteen players and no more than nine support staff will stay at the team hotel to ensure proper health safety.

The BCB is taking the upcoming Bangabandhu T20 Cup as the platform to prepare to host international series in the future, with the West Indies scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh in January next year.

Belgium, Italy in pole positions

AFP, Paris



Belgium ended England's hopes of reaching the Nations League finals with a 2-0 win on Sunday while Italy edged closer to next year's title shake-up.

Belgium were just five minutes from joining world champions France at next October's finals when Iceland pulled level at 1-1 with group rivals Denmark in Copenhagen. However, a stoppage time penalty by Christian Eriksen gave the Danes a 2-1 win and kept alive their chances of pipping Belgium to top spot in Group A2.

Youri Tielemans and Dries Mertens scored the goals which gave world number one Belgium victory over Gareth Southgate's England. A second consecutive defeat leaves England down in third place, five points adrift of Belgium.

Denmark's late winner over Iceland means Belgium still need a point when

they host the Danes on Wednesday to secure their place in the final four.

In Copenhagen, Iceland, whose Euro 2020 hopes were dashed by Hungary in a 2-1 play-off defeat in midweek, suffered more agony against Denmark.

Eriksen gave the Danes the lead from the penalty spot after just 12 minutes following a foul by Ari Freyr Skulason on Daniel Wass.

Vidar Orm Kjartansson levelled for Iceland in the 85th minute but another penalty by Eriksen in the second minute of injury time after a handball by Hordur Magnusson gave the Danes the three points.

Italy brushed off the absences of several players and coronavirus-hit coach Roberto Mancini with an impressive 2-0 victory over Poland. The Azzurri took top spot in Group A1 from the Netherlands, who beat Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-1 earlier in the day.

Italy will be sure of a place in next October's finals with victory over the Bosnians in Sarajevo on Wednesday.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho opened the

scoring in the 27th minute with a penalty awarded after Grzegorz Krychowiak had brought down Andrea Belotti.

In the 77th minute, Poland had Jacek Goralski sent off before the Italians added a second goal from Domenico Berardi. Frank de Boer won his first match as Netherlands coach after Georginio Wijnaldum scored twice in the win over Bosnia.

Liverpool midfielder Wijnaldum struck his goals early in the first half to help new coach De Boer break his duck at the fifth attempt following three draws and a defeat, with Memphis Depay scoring the other for the dominant Dutch.

"It had been five games since we'd won, so it was a good feeling to win again," said Wijnaldum. "If I'm playing more in a sitting role, I don't get in the box that often, but tonight I was playing as a No10 so I'm expected to. I basically just did my job."

The Dutch go to Poland in their final group game on Wednesday but even a win won't be good enough should Italy prevail in Bosnia.



Belgium all but ensured their Nations League finals berth while ending England's hopes with a 2-0 win and Italy edged closer to next year's title shake-up with a dominant victory over Poland by the same scoreline on Sunday night. PHOTO: TWITTER



Introducing
BSRM Xtreme
B500 DWR
 the tough steel

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant
 Work in progress using Shah Cement



Moderna vaccine gives more hope

Drugmaker says it's 94.5pc effective against Covid, won't need supercooling

AGENCIES

Moderna Inc's experimental vaccine was 94.5 percent effective in preventing Covid-19 based on interim data from a late-stage trial, the company said yesterday, becoming the second US drugmaker to report results that far exceed expectations.

Together with Pfizer Inc's vaccine, which is also more than 90 percent effective, and pending more safety data and regulatory review, the United States could have two vaccines authorized for emergency use in December with as many as 60 million doses of vaccine available this year.

Next year, the US government could have access to more than 1 billion doses just from the two vaccine makers, more than needed for the country's 330 million residents.

The vaccines, both developed with new technology known as messenger RNA (mRNA), represent powerful tools to fight a pandemic that has infected 54 million people worldwide and killed 1.3 million.

The news also comes at a time when Covid-19 cases are soaring, hitting new records in the United States and pushing some European countries back into lockdowns.

"We are going to have a vaccine that can stop Covid-19," Moderna President Stephen Hoge said in a telephone interview.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Residents of Old Telegraph Road in the port city's Andar Killa area collecting water from a deep tube-well that the locals have installed themselves, as the water provided by the Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority has become undrinkable. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

JS body backs death penalty for rape

Places report on amendment bill
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary body on Women and Children Affairs yesterday placed its final report on the Women and Children Repression Prevention (amendment) Bill 2020 before the House keeping the provision of death penalty for rape.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee Meher Afroze Chumki placed the report in parliament yesterday after it was scrutinised by the committee members.

There were no major changes in the bill made by the parliamentary body.

The committee recommended shunning the use of the word dhorshita, the feminine form of the word raped in Bangla, to refer to women who have been raped. "Victim of rape" should be used instead, it said.

The bill proposes amendments to the previous law to incorporate death penalty as the maximum punishment for rape.

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

This was promulgated through an ordinance on October 13 in the face of popular demands to ensure death penalty for rapists.

The ordinance was placed in parliament on November 8 for its approval by Law Minister Anisul Huq. The bill was also placed there the same day and it was sent to the committee for scrutiny.

The committee was asked to submit its report before the House in seven work days.

The ordinance was issued amid widespread outrage

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

UNDOCUMENTED IN MALAYSIA Workers to get regularised, recruited

JAMIL MAHMUD

Undocumented Bangladeshis living in Peninsular Malaysia will get a chance to be regularised and recruited under a new programme.

The Labour Recalibration Plan would allow employers in construction, manufacturing, plantation, and agriculture sectors to legally employ undocumented foreign workers, Malaysian media reports, quoting the home ministry as saying on Thursday.

Only the employers will apply for direct immigration mentioning the names of their illegal employees via a designated email, says the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia in its posts on social media.

The Malaysia government took the initiative to validate the migrants from 15 countries, including Bangladesh, it says.

Another initiative titled Repatriation Recalibration Plan will let undocumented migrants be regularised and return home voluntarily.

The authorities began implementing the plans yesterday and the windows would remain open until June 30, 2021,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

New pay scales on December 16



Swedish Foreign Minister Krishter Wickman presenting a gift to Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban on November 17, 1972.

November 17, 1972
 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ONLY SEVEN PAY SCALES
 Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is expected to announce the new pay scales of the government on Victory Day, to be celebrated on December 16, 1972. The National Pay Commission set up by the government has almost completed framing the new pay scales. There will be seven pay scales according to the new structure. It may be recalled here that a few days ago Bangabandhu hinted at the new scales of pay. Bangabandhu also said that the number of pay scales would be reduced to seven. At present there are more than 500 scales of pay besides 74 fixed pays. There are several instances where the Pakistani government



SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Marriott hotel construction in Bandarban against laws

62 eminent citizens say in statement
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-two eminent citizens yesterday issued a statement against the construction of the Marriott hotel and resort at Bandarban's Chandrapahar, popularly known as Chimbuk.

Sikder Group's subsidiary R&R Holdings Ltd and the security forces have taken the initiative to build a five-star hotel and amusement park at Kaprupara, Dolapara and Shong Nam Hung of 302 Lulaing Mouza and 355 Sepru Mouza, said the statement.

The statement pointed out that the organisation was building the resort without the free, prior and informed consent of people of the Mro community.

This is in violation

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

SpaceX-Nasa launch first astronaut mission to ISS



REUTERS, Cape Canaveral

Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX has launched four astronauts on a flight to the International Space Station, Nasa's first full-fledged mission sending a crew into orbit aboard a privately owned spacecraft.

SpaceX's newly designed Crew Dragon capsule, which the crew has dubbed Resilience, lifted off atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at 7:27 pm eastern time (0027 GMT on Monday) from Nasa's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

"That was one heck of a ride," astronaut Mike Hopkins said from Crew Dragon to SpaceX mission control about an hour after liftoff. "There was a lot of smiles."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 17
 Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:25 7:00
 JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Kathalbari ferry terminal being moved

Certain to increase crossing time
 A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Kathalbari Ferry Ghat in Madaripur is being shifted to Banglabazar, 500 metres upstream of the Padma, for facilitating construction of the Padma Bridge and protecting the river bank.

With this relocation, ferries and launches from Shimulia Ghat on the other side of the river have to cross 13 km, instead of 12.5 km now, to reach the new ghat.

A ferry now takes about one and a half hours to reach Kathalbari from Shimulia. It will take 10-15 minutes more to reach the new ghat, Shafayet Ahmed, BIWTC manager at Shimulia Ghat, told this newspaper.

Two ferry terminals at Kathalbari Ghat have already been shifted to the new site. Two other ferry terminals and the launch and speed boat terminals will be relocated within a week, said officials of Bangladesh Inland Water

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Sewage water flowing behind a slum in Shyampur's Baraitala in the capital. Toxic waste from the dyeing factories in the area is constantly being dumped in the Buriganga and is a major pollutant there. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AMPHAN, FLOOD DAMAGE Govt to spend Tk 5,905cr to repair roads

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to take up a Tk 5,905-crore project to repair rural roads and fix infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Amphan, floods and heavy rains this year.

The three-year project, which will be implemented with the government's own funds, is expected to be placed at today's meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) for approval.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of the LGRD ministry will implement it by December 2023.

"The objective of the scheme is to fix and maintain rural road network and also save transportation cost and time. The roads, bridges and culverts that got damaged by Cyclone Amphan and floods will be repaired," according to the project documents.

Once the project is completed, it will help facilitate trade, create direct and indirect employment in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and boost the rural economy, said the documents.

Cyclone Amphan, formed in the Bay of Bengal, hit the south-western coastal districts on May 20, causing severe damage to the road communication system.

The cyclone affected 69 upazilas of 14 districts in Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Dhaka divisions. The project will cover those areas.

In late June, the country started experiencing severe floods.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5