

US ELECTION
Trump's team asks judge to declare Trump winner in Pennsylvania; Georgia, Wisconsin to release recount results
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"We need to understand and internalise that, and realise: we have got to climb this mountain Coronavirus second wave this time, without vaccines."
WHO'S EMERGENCIES DIRECTOR MICHAEL RYAN



"The government will intensify its actions and use all laws, all articles, to take action against protesters who broke the law."
THAI PM PRAYUTH CHAN-OCHA WARNS PROTESTERS



"Pompeo is intoxicated by apartheid wine stolen from Palestinian land. It is opportunistic and self-serving, and it damages the chances for peace."
HANAN ASHRAWI, A PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATOR, ON US TOP DIPLOMAT'S VISIT TO WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS



LOCALLY MADE THREE-WHEELERS

Bribes keep them running

Local syndicates get cuts to enable operations of the illegal, risky vehicles ignoring court, govt directives



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Despite being illegal and risky, they are used nationwide, thanks to the backing of influential who find them an easy way to make a quick buck.

Tens of thousands of locally made three-wheelers have been operating for years, ignoring court and government directives issued to get them off the roads.

Over the years, the use of these vehicles, usually motorised by single-cylinder diesel engines meant for power tillers or pumping water and lacking even half decent braking capabilities, has seen exorbitant growth in districts, upazilas and rural Bangladesh.

They have become an unofficial part of the transport system.

Mostly unskilled, untrained, and unlicensed drivers operate these vehicles bribing local syndicates of some unscrupulous political leaders, policemen, and administration officials, insiders said.

When these slow-moving vehicles at the hands of unskilled drivers get on highways or roads alongside fast-moving vehicles, it becomes a perfect recipe for disaster.

Experts say the slow-moving vehicles are posing serious threat to road
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People gather as an illegal vehicle, locally known as Bhotbhoti, lies in a roadside ditch in Barik Bazar area of Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila. Nine farmers were killed and five others injured after the vehicle skidded off the road and fell into the ditch around 5:30am yesterday. Such three-wheelers, which are banned on highways, are often involved in road accidents. Inset, one such vehicle plies the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Tarabo area of Narayanganj, defying the ban.

PHOTO: RABUL HASAN/ FILE PHOTO

Nine killed as three-wheeler falls into ditch

Loaded with rice, it was carrying passengers far more than its capacity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Nine people were killed and five injured when a locally made three-wheeler carrying paddy overturned and plunged into a roadside ditch in Barik Bazar area of Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila yesterday.

Mahbub Alam Khan, additional superintendent of police, and locals said the accident occurred around 5:30am when the vehicle -- carrying some 15 people returning to Baliadighi after harvesting paddy -- reached Barik Bazar, overturned and plunged into a roadside ditch, killing seven on the spot and injuring six persons.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Kashem, Mohammad Babu, Mohammad Tajamul, Mohammad Mithun, Mohammad Karim, Mohamad Minu, Ahad Ali, Abdul Latif of Baliadighi village and Ataur Rahman of Lawghata village (whose in-laws' house is in Baliadighi) under the upazila.

One of the injured, Ahad Ali, succumbed to his injuries on the way to Shibganj Upazila Health Complex.

Police recovered the bodies of eight victims and later handed them over to their families in the presence of upazila administration officials.

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SIPHONING OFF Tk 10,200Cr Explain steps taken to arrest PK Halder

HC asks ACC, govt agencies to reply in 10 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what steps were taken to arrest Proshanta Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, and bring him back home from abroad.

Halder, former managing director of NRB Global Bank and Reliance Finance Limited, fled the country after allegedly siphoning off about Tk 10,200 crore from four non-banking financial institutions.

The court ordered the government authorities concerned and the Anti-Corruption Commission to explain in 10 days the steps taken to arrest and bring Halder back home.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities to show causes why their
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'Govt cannot put children at risk'

PM against opening of schools; historic JS session on Mujib Borsho ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday acknowledged that staying at home had been increasingly difficult for students, but the government would not put children's lives at risk by reopening the educational institutions.

She was delivering the winding up speech in the first ever special session in parliament.

Before her speech, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader demanded that the government reopen all educational institutions.

The PM replied that the USA, different European countries, and the UK had reopened their educational institutions. "But amid rising cases of Covid-19, those countries were forced to shut their schools again," she said.

Hasina said she and the education minister had discussed reopening of schools when there were fewer daily new cases of coronavirus.

"But there has been a second wave of Covid-19 in Europe. No treatment for this contagious disease has been invented. There are risks of infection if children go to school. Why would we take the risk?"

GM Quader in his speech criticised the government for promoting children to the next class without exams.



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Country sees rise in Covid deaths again

30 die in a day, 2,364 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily number of Covid-19 deaths has increased again as the health directorate reported 30 deaths in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

This was the second highest single-day casualty in the past 37 days, while the highest -- 39 -- during this period was reported on Tuesday.

During the same 37-day period, the number was limited to 25 or below for several days, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Over the last week, a
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SENIOR ASP'S DEATH

Psychiatrists want judicial probe

Voice distrust of police probe after arrest of NIMH registrar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Psychiatrists have protested the arrest of National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital Registrar Dr Abdullah Al Mamun in connection with the death of senior ASP Anisul Karim after he was assaulted by staffers of Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital on November 9.

At a press conference yesterday on the NIMH premises, Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists President Prof Wazul Alam Chowdhury expressed distrust over the investigation by police and demanded a judicial probe into the death of the police official and the arrest of their colleague Dr Mamun.

Terming Dr Mamun's arrest "unjustified", they called police's assertion that he took commissions through brokers from private hospitals for referrals a false one.

Demanding the unconditional release of Dr Mamun, BAP announced closure of all psychiatrists' private chambers and online therapy until further notice and vowed to announce tougher programmes from tomorrow.

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THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZZ ANAM

FROM A PRO-PARTY TO PRO-PEOPLE POLICE FORCE

Political use has prevented its growth into a neutral professional institution

SEE PAGE 8

RAPE OF DU STUDENT Lone accused gets life term

Tribunal completed trial in just 12 working days

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The 30-year-old man who was accused of raping a Dhaka University student in January was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday.

Judge Begum Mosammat Quamrunnahr of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 in Dhaka delivered the verdict in a packed courtroom after the trial ended in just 12 working days.

The judge also fined the convict, Md Majnu, Tk 50,000, and said he would be in jail for an additional six months if he failed to pay the fine.

She said the prosecutors proved the charges of rape and the accused had been handed the highest punishment for his crime.

The accused committed a heinous crime and he deserved the highest punishment as per the existing law, the judge observed. This judgment will send a clear message to all rapists like Majnu, the judge added.

Before the delivery of the verdict, Majnu, a homeless man, told reporters that he was tortured into giving a confessional statement before a magistrate.

"Release me," he said, claiming that police arrested him for no reason. Four others had raped the girl, and he got
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A child shows another a discarded bag which she just found at Aminbazar landfill on the outskirts of the capital. Dozens of ragpickers, including children, search for recyclable items amid heaps of garbage at the landfill every day. None, however, uses any gloves or masks, putting their health at risk. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Rape linked to women clad in T-shirts

Bogura-7 MP tells

The Daily Star

GOLAM MORTOZA

Independent lawmaker Rezaul Karim Bablu on Tuesday told parliament that feminists are to blame for the rise of rape incidents across the country. He even advocated the implementation of the "tamarinds theory (women are like tamarinds, men will salivate at the sight of them, and so they must remain covered)" of late Hefajat-e-Islam supremo Ahmad Shafi.

Regarding his remarks, which caused outrage, The Daily Star spoke to the Bogura-7 lawmaker over the phone yesterday.

Following is an excerpt of the impromptu interview:

DS: How did it dawn on you that feminists are responsible for the rise of rape incidents in the country?

Bablu: Bangabandhu formed the Women's Rehabilitation Board on February 16, 1972. That board gradually became the
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BANGLADESH UPDATE



2,364
New cases in 24hrs



4,41,159
Total cases



6,306
Deaths



3,56,722
Recoveries



1,361,707
Deaths



57,001,890
Total cases

Act fast to save the planet

Hasina urges world leaders about combatting climate change, calls for \$100b fund a year to support adaptation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked global leaders to ensure concessional finance and debt relief and access to technology for all to overcome the impending crisis posed by climate change.

She also called for the promised \$100 billion per year to support adaptation and mitigation activities.

"The time to take action to save the planet is not tomorrow, it's today. Strict implementation of the Paris Agreement is the only way out and the issue of 'Loss and Damage' must be mainstreamed," the PM said.

Hasina was addressing the high level panel closing session of the UNFCCC Race to Zero Dialogues on "Transformational Leadership to Meet Net-Zero Ambition" through a pre-recorded video message.

The premier said though climate change is a stark reality for all, it is more evident for the climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.

"A further rise in the sea level, even for half a metre, could threaten the very survival of many climate vulnerable

countries," she said, adding that the global leadership must take bold decisions to reduce carbon emission to save life and precious resources.

Considering global high risks, the national parliament of Bangladesh declared a "Planetary Emergency" and called upon the world to work "on a war footing" to stop climate change, the PM said. "We expect the same approach from the rest of the global leadership."

Hasina mentioned that Bangladesh this year faced recurrent flooding along with two cyclones that damaged crops and habitats, and affected people's livelihood amid the Covid-19 pandemic. "All these were happening due to global warming which is altering nature."

The PM said the bottom 100 countries account for just 3.5 percent of the global emission whereas the G20 countries are responsible for three-quarters.

"So, we expect more responsible actions from the leadership of these countries. We also call for an international day to be named 'Climate Resilience Day' to secure our harmony with mother earth."



Policemen put a sticker on the windshield of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Sadar Road in Barishal city as part of a rally organised to raise awareness on the importance of wearing masks in curbing the spread of novel coronavirus. The programme was organised yesterday by Barishal Kotwali Model Police Station under the Barishal Metropolitan Police.

PHOTO: STAR

Bribes keep them running

FROM PAGE 1

safety. But there is no visible initiative to get them off the roads even though people are getting killed because of them almost every day.

Yesterday, nine people were killed and seven others injured when one of these vehicles flipped into a roadside ditch in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj.

These vehicles and similarly illegal easy bikes were involved in more than 15 percent of total 5,516 roads crashes last year, according to Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, a passenger welfare body.

The exact number of such vehicles on the roads is almost impossible to ascertain but people involved in the sector claimed that there were more than 10 lakh plying the roads.

BANNED, YET NOT
As per section 46 (4) of Road Transport Act-2018, nobody is allowed to operate faulty, risky, banned or restricted vehicles on roads and highways or issue permission to operate such vehicles.

The section explains that "Nasimon, Karimon, Bhatbhati, easy bike, powered rickshaw and van are such vehicles".

Even before the enactment of the law, Road Transport and Bridges Ministry imposed a ban on three-wheelers on 22 major highways in August 2015.

The High Court in January 2017 ordered imposing a ban on such improvised three-wheelers on highways across the country to reduce the number of road crashes.

Almost all probe committees investigating major crashes over the last three years recommended stopping the movement of these locally made three wheelers and unfit vehicles on highways.

But the vehicles remained on the roads and highways.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister

Obaidul Quader, on several occasions, admitted that the government could not fully implement the ban due to opposition from many politicians, including public representatives.

"Many politicians of the country are behind it. We give order [banning these three-wheelers] ... on the other hand, many public representatives encourage the plying of such vehicles," he said at a views exchange meeting on September 4, 2018.

"Even though I want it [the ban], local representatives won't let it happen," a participant of a meeting of National Road Safety Council held in November 2017 quoted Quader as saying.

Osman Ali, general secretary Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, said, "Some of these vehicles operate under 'minister's names', some under 'MP's names' and others under the local 'mayor's names'."

"The authorities should first investigate who actually manage the operations of these illegal vehicles," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Another top transport leader said before putting one of these vehicles into service, the owner has to pay Tk 2,000 to Tk 3,000 to get it listed with so-called transport organisations, which are usually run by the local political leaders.

The owners also have to pay a particular amount daily and some people from police and administration get a cut, he said wishing anonymity.

Whenever the administration wants to take actions against these vehicles, the local leaders say it is cruel to the poor people who run these vehicles. "But the fact is they want to protect their interests -- money and vote," the leader said.

NO PROPER KNOWLEDGE OF SAFETY FEATURES

These vehicles are risky because makers of these vehicles do not have

the proper knowledge about safety features while drivers are not aware of road-safety rules and regulations, said Prof Md Hadiuzzaman, director of Accident Research Institute of Buet.

"With the rise in the number of such vehicles, the number of road crashes will increase," he said, adding that the government should take immediate and strong steps to control them.

"It may not be possible to stop operations of such vehicles overnight, but the government should phase those out gradually and replace those with standard public transport," he added.

About easy-bikes, which are battery powered, he said some "authorities" are giving them permissions but these are also sub-standard. Apart posing risks of accidents on roads, they are also the reason behind traffic jams in towns.

The batteries are also one of the causes of environment pollution as they are not recycled.

Prof Hadiuzzaman said the prime minister issued a directive to formulate a masterplan for rural road network and the authorities should synchronise standard public transports with it.

Nur Mohammad Mazumder, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), the government's transport regulatory body, said mobile courts of the BRTA and district administrations were regularly conducting drives against such illegal vehicles.

Replying to a question, he said road transport and bridges ministry has formed a committee, led by an additional secretary of the ministry, to find a way out of this problem. The committee is yet to submit its report, he said.

KL's plan to make foreign workers wear wristbands discriminatory

Say two rights groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two rights groups of Malaysia yesterday condemned the country's government for planning to make migrant workers wear wristbands under the pretext of containing Covid-19.

Tenaganita, a migrant rights group, and Lawyers for Liberty, a human rights lawyers' organisation, have termed the Malaysian government's move "discriminatory", reported The Star.

The Southeast Asian country is home to a large number of Bangladeshi migrant workers, regular and undocumented.

Tenaganita said compulsory wristbands would be discriminatory, reported The Star.

The NGO's Executive Director Glorine Das said that if all foreign workers were forced to wear wristbands in the country, it would be a clear "criminalisation of migrant workers".

"They are not criminals or animals to be tagged," she said when contacted by The Star yesterday.

Glorine's statement came after Malaysia's Security Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob's remark that the government is mulling whether to make it compulsory for all foreign workers to wear wristbands, The Star reported.

Nine killed

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Deputy Assistant Director of Chapainawabganj Fire Service Mohammad Saber Ali Pramanik said another victim, Abdul Latif, also died on his way to the health complex and the body was later handed over to family members.

Pramanik also said carrying a load greater than the vehicle's capacity and the narrow road were the main reasons behind the accident.

The victims were returning to Baidighi with paddy they got as part of their labour charge after harvesting paddy from Naogaon's Niamotpur upazila.

When informed of the accident, police and the fire service officials rushed to the spot and rescued five injured people, who were then taken to Shibganj Upazila Health Complex. On-duty doctors at the complex sent them to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Bodiu Rahman of Barik Bazar village, who witnessed the incident, said, "I went out of my house and saw the vehicle overturned in a roadside ditch and I shouted for help. Many people came forward to rescue them."

Bodiu said the road is very narrow. Shakib Al Rabbi, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Shibganj upazila, said when handing the eight dead bodies to their family members, they also gave them Tk 10,000 to each family.

They had also arranged ambulance to send injured persons to RMCH instantly, he said.

Govt cannot put

FROM PAGE 1

In reply, the premier said that it was not a big loss for the students and that England had done the same.

The PM again urged people to follow the hygiene rules and not to go outdoors without a mask as she warned about a possible second wave of coronavirus.

On November 9, the prime minister and leader of the House placed the resolution under rule 147 of the Rules of Procedure to pay solemn tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through a special session convened by President Abdul Hamid on the occasion of Mujib Borsho.

Seventy-nine MPs from treasury and opposition bench MPs took part in the 19-hour-long discussion on the resolution in five work days.

The House on November 15 unanimously adopted a resolution to pay tributes to Bangabandhu to mark the birth centenary of the father of the nation.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "gave us a country. He wanted to build a... developed and prosperous country. But he got only three and a half years," she said.

"The name of the Father of the Nation was erased from history after his assassination. Many false rumors were spread about Bangabandhu and his family. But Bangabandhu... wanted to change the fate of the people of Bangladesh."

A total of nine bills, including the one on Women and Children Repression Amendment, had been passed in the special session in 10 work days.

On January 31 and June 18 in 1974, while the parliament was in session, special sittings were arranged, officials at parliament secretary told The Daily Star.

Former Yugoslav President Marshal Josip Broz Tito and then Indian president VV Giri addressed parliament respectively on those occasions.

Rape linked to women clad

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Ministry of Women's Welfare Foundation and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The government has been working for the rehabilitation of women and their rights all the time, especially under the leadership of our prime minister.

Bangladesh has a culture of its own. Parliament has approved death penalty for rape, and we all appreciate this as a timely measure. There is a social custom in Bangladesh.

It would not be right if anyone takes what I meant by "feminists" personally or organisationally. What I meant was not to go beyond the policy of the government or religious norms. For example, when I go out on the street, if I don't wear proper clothes, if I walk around wearing a T-shirt -- that was what I meant.

DS: What do you mean by proper clothes? Is there any law in the constitution that forbids women to wear T-shirts? Why would it be an offence if a woman comes out on the street wearing a T-shirt and what does it have to do with rape incidents?

Bablu: Of course, rape has something to do with wearing a T-shirt and going out on the streets. Whenever a grown-up woman walks down the street in indecent clothing, perverted men with evil intention will look at her.

DS: Then the problem lies with the man.

Bablu: We will have to get to the root of that evil.

DS: So, where is that root?

Bablu: We all have to understand that.

DS: We want to know your understanding. Nusrat and Tanu used to be all covered up and they did not wear t-shirts, yet they were victims of rape. How do you explain that?

Bablu: We cannot take those incidents as examples. We will have to focus on the overall issue. The evil desires of those perverted men stem from watching people on the streets or online pornography. Their lust is created in one place and they abuse it in another.

DS: Do you think maintaining hijab will put an end to these heinous acts?

Bablu: Not really, but will curb it greatly.

DS: You wanted the implementation of the "tamarinds theory" of Hefajats late amir Ahmad Shafi.

Bablu: We are aware of the explanation given by Maulana Shafi Sahib. We have our own culture and social system. We cannot compare our culture with that of the "free-sex countries" of the West, which is not acceptable here.

DS: You are talking about free-sex of the West. Will you be more specific about which countries you are referring to?

Bablu: I have visited France and Spain.

DS: Do you mean France and Spain are free-sex countries?

Bablu: If you consider things lexically, then it won't help. In these countries, women enjoy complete freedom. After the age of 18, a girl can no longer be ruled by her parents. In our country, families follow different social norms and we need to abide by them.

DS: You are talking about our culture. What is the culture of Bangladesh -- shari, hijab or jeans and t-shirt?

Bablu: I don't mean shari or t-shirt as reference in our culture. It is about dressing decently.

DS: What do you mean by dressing decently?

Bablu: It's not all about clothes but also about how we move around. One dress code will not define how decent we are.

DS: Are we not acting like decent people?

Bablu: Many of us are following, but I also notice deviation.

DS: That is why you want the "tamarinds theory" to be implemented?

Bablu: It is not necessary that we will have to implement that theory. It is all about our mothers and sisters going anywhere and presenting themselves in a certain way so perverts will not get an opportunity and be provoked to rape.

This will definitely reduce rape incidents. At the same time, the way the government is enforcing the law will also curb it. But a law alone cannot solve this problem. We will also have to combat this heinous crime socially.

DS: Do you think decent clothing needs to be included in the anti-rape laws?

Bablu: A law alone will not help if we as citizens do not have the awareness of the law. Legal obligations must be associated with our awareness.

DS: A few days ago, you came to the discussion with a picture of weapons in your hand on a Facebook post. What is the state of law and order? Why do you need weapons?

Bablu: It was not like that. Many people, including MPs and contractors, can keep arms for their own safety with the permission of the government. I also took it for my safety. If you take a good look at the picture that has been published, you will see that I was just having a feel of the weapon in the showroom. One of the people who was with me posted the picture.

DS: The photo was posted from your own Facebook profile. Does it mean the law enforcers are not enough to protect an MP or contractors like you or others? And is this the reason that you are keeping your own weapons and forces?

Bablu: What you said is exaggerated. The fact is that that the present government has upgraded the Bangladesh Police and made it stronger.

DS: Then why do you need personal weapons?

Bablu: As people's representatives, we have to travel a lot and go to places at night. Sometimes we don't have police with us. So, we need weapons for personal security.

Explain steps taken to arrest PK Halder

FROM PAGE 1

inaction and failure to arrest and bring Halder back home should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel came up with the order and rule on a suo motu move following a report run by Bangla daily Bangladesh Pratidin on November 18 about Halder's fleeing and embezzling a huge amount of public money, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

During the court proceedings, the HC bench observed that Halder fled the country after misappropriating thousands of crores of taka, but he was not arrested as if he was showing disregard for the state, which is not acceptable.

No one, including Halder, is above the law, the court said.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan was present during the HC proceedings.

On October 21, another HC bench directed the law enforcement authorities to arrest Halder immediately after his return home.

Allowing Halder to return home, the HC asked the inspector general of police and the immigration police to arrest him immediately after his arrival at Hazrat Shajalal International Airport.

The HC bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar also asked the law enforcers to give Halder the scope to refund the money to the organisations from which he embezzled it.

Country sees rise in Covid deaths again

FROM PAGE 1

rising trend was observed in daily deaths and the number of new cases.

With the latest figure, the Covid-19 death toll rose to 6,306.

In the same 24 hours, another 2,364 people tested positive for the virus, taking the total number of infections to 4,41,159.

Against a total of 17,531 tests in the same period, the positivity rate was 13.48 percent, which is more than the previous day's 12.82 percent.

With this, the overall positivity rate was 16.92 percent.

According to experts, the daily positivity rate is one of the important parameters to measure the transmission level of the virus.

If the rate remains below five percent and does not increase, it means the transmission is under control, epidemiologists said.

Throughout the last two months till last week, the positivity rate was below 12 percent almost every day and started increasing over the last week. Since last month, countries across Europe and

America have been witnessing a sharp spike in Covid-19 cases with the advent of winter even after successfully slowing the outbreak earlier in the year.

Observing a rising trend of cases and deaths, experts in Bangladesh stressed the need for immediate acceleration of scientific virus curbing measures.

Meanwhile, at least 1,934 Covid-19 patients have recovered in the same 24 hours. The total number of recoveries rose to 3,56,722 and the recovery rate was 80.86 percent.

Among the 30 dead, 25 were male and five were female.

All of them died in hospital, according to the DGHS press release.

Two of them were aged between 41 and 50, seven between 51 and 60 and the rest were above 60 years, added the release.

A total of 2,720 patients were undergoing treatment in general beds while 289 were in ICU beds in Covid-19 dedicated hospitals across the country.

KIIT
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
Deemed to be University
(Established US 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
Winner of 'Awards Asia 2020' in the category
'Workplace of the Year' by Times Higher Education

16th Annual Convocation
Date: November 21, 2020 (Saturday)
Time: 09.30 a.m.



Chief Guest
Prof. Muhammad Yunus
Founder, Grameen Bank &
Nobel Peace Laureate, Bangladesh
will deliver the Convocation Address

Watch live on www.kiit.ac.in & Kalinga TV from 9.30 a.m. onwards

Every upazila will have fire station: home boss

Fire Service and Civil Defence Week begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is constantly working to increase the capacity of fire service, and it has already taken steps to set up fire stations in all upazilas, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

The minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave direction to set up fire stations in all upazilas, which is being implemented in phases.

"So far, there are 436 fire stations across the country, and authorities will set up some 129 new ones by 2021. Besides, there are also plans to set up 11 more modern model fire stations in industrial areas of Gazipur, Narayanganj, Dhaka and Chattogram," he said.

Along with it, three separate projects are underway to set up 155 stations across the country, he further said, adding that there would be around 720 stations after implementing the plans.

He made the remarks while inaugurating Fire Service and Civil Defence Week-2020 via video conference from the ministry yesterday.

Home Ministry Security Service Division Secretary Md Shahiduzzaman and Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brigadier General Md Sazzad Hussain also joined the video conference.

Asaduzzaman said the government is also working to increase the workforce of fire service. In 2009, the total workforce under Fire Service and Civil Defence was only 6,175, but has risen to 13,100.

The government is moving to reform the organogram of the service to increase its workforce to more than 25,000, the minister said.

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The area around Dhaka Medical College Hospital typically gets a lot of footfall as countless people visit the hospital daily. However, little space remains for pedestrians in such a busy area as hawkers have encroached nearly two-thirds of the footpath in front of DMCH.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NOT WEARING MASKS 87 fined in Dhaka by district admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities yesterday fined 87 people Tk 21,500 in a total of 85 cases for not using face masks in and outside Dhaka city.

Fifteen mobile courts of the district administration also distributed 1,600 masks among poor people in different areas and conducted awareness programmes, says a press release.

The courts conducted the drives and awareness programmes in five upazilas of Dhaka and Judge court, CMM court, Bahadur Shah park, Secretariat, Motijheel, Jigatola, Khilkhet, Press Club and Jatrabari areas in the capital.

A man named Mizan, who was fined Tk 200 in secretariat area around 2pm, told The Daily Star that he forgot to take a mask while leaving home.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 18 said though the intensity of Covid-19 pandemic has declined slightly in the country, it is likely to increase in the upcoming winter. She was replying to lawmakers' queries in parliament during

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A motorcyclist and his pillion stop a car that hit their bike and was driving away in the capital's Farmgate. While they engaged in a heated exchange, the bike and some items they were carrying lay in the middle of the street. According to a recent report, over a thousand people died in motorcycle accidents in the country this year till October. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CHARGE FRAMING AGAINST MATIUR BFUJ leaders express concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of a faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday expressed concern on the framing of charges against five people, including Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman.

A court framed charges in a case filed over the tragic death of college student Naimul Abrar Rahat. BFUJ president M Abdullah and General Secretary Nurul Amin Rokon said in a statement that despite the absence of Prothom Alo editor and him having no direct involvement with the death of Naimul Abrar, the issuance of arrest warrants have raised questions.

"This is part of a series of attempts to block the path of independent journalism," said the statement.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

ACC to get digital forensic lab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To improve investigation capacity and ensure accuracy, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is going to set up a digital forensic lab.

The contracted firm has already supplied all necessary equipment for the lab, and they are being installed, according to a report of the anti-graft watchdog.

Yesterday at an evaluation meeting, ACC Director General AKM Sohel pointed out various activities of the information technology department before the commission.

In reply to a question, an ACC director said, "Once the lab starts functioning, we'll be able to detect forged documents and signatures."

Pointing out a limitation of ACC's drive against bribery, he said there were instances of recipients of bribes getting away with the crime.

"They used to say they don't know where the money came from and would get away without punishment from the court, terming the whole incident as conspiracy," he continued.

"But we'll be able to detect fingerprints using

forensic tests, and recipients of bribes won't get a chance to escape," he added.

"Not only documents, ACC will also be able to examine voices of telephone conversations. This will help us identify the accused," the officer said.

Earlier, the commission was dependent on other agencies for such verification.

Hev said they are establishing the forensic lab with support from the US's FBI and India's CBI.

In the report, Sohel said the creation of investigation and prosecution management software is almost done. Through the software, the commission will be able to monitor the status of enquiry, investigation and prosecution.

According to the report, over 70 officers and staffers have been infected with coronavirus and three died. Nonetheless, the commission is carrying out activities using technology.

Setting up local area network for smooth communication among its headquarters, divisional and district offices is almost done, said Sohel.

Between March and October this year, ACC has so far scrutinised 7,270 complaints. Of these, over 400 have been selected for enquiry, he added.

Only one-third of RMG workers use sanitary napkins

Finds SANEM study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recent survey on family planning and menstrual health on garments workers in Bangladesh found only 34 percent of women garment workers use sanitary napkins during menstruation, while 44 percent still use clean clothes instead.

It also found that three percent of them use no measures of the sort during their periods, while two percent use toilet tissues on days they have heavy flow.

Among those female garment workers to whom family planning was applicable (i.e. they were married, of reproductive age and ability), 71 percent reported employing active family planning strategies.

Fifty-two percent reported using some kind of contraceptive pill, while 30 percent used some kind of contraceptive injection.

Only nine percent were found using a condom, while one percent was found using an intrauterine device. Permanent surgery, or implant was each used by less than one percent of applicable female respondents.

The study was conducted by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Microfinance Opportunities (MFO). The researchers asked women respondents specific questions about their family planning strategies and menstrual health.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Six youths held on rape charges in capital

Police claim to have detained them 'within hours'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested six persons in connection with a rape case in the capital's Kalyanpur area.

The arrestees are Raihan alias Nayeem, Imon Hossain, Md Imran, Joy Mia, Abu Sayeed, and Al Amin. They are all aged between 18 and 20, police said.

They were made accused in a rape case filed with Mirpur Police Station by the victim's family yesterday.

Law enforcers claimed they detained the six within hours, by 3am yesterday, after the incident took place near House Building Research Institute in Kalyanpur between 8:35pm and 9:20pm on Wednesday.

According to a police release provided to media during a press conference at Mirpur Police Station yesterday, the victim, a garment worker aged 18, met Raihan and Joy around 8pm Wednesday near a foot-over bridge in Darus Salam area.

At one point, Raihan held her mouth shut and took her to a place near the House Building Research Institute under Mirpur Police Station. Other suspects joined them there. Raihan and Imon raped the victim,

while other accused were present there during the incident, said the release.

Officer-in-Charge Mustazirur Rahman of Mirpur Police Station said they will produce the accused before a court today.

The OC said they conducted a drive after receiving a complaint over the incident and first detained Raihan from Darus Salam area. Police later apprehended others based on information gleaned from Raihan.

Police also sent the victim to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for forensic test, said the OC.

The victim's father, a street vendor, told The Daily Star Raihan is a relative of the family and that his daughter used to have friendly relations with the accused.

He claimed that after his daughter described the incident to family members upon returning home on Wednesday night, they went to Raihan's house for justice.

Despite hearing everything, Raihan's family reportedly refused to take any step, and instead rebuked father of the victim.

He said later they informed police about the incident, demanding justice for her daughter.

MINI BYTES



TikTok, Google Maps, Zoom and Instagram rolling out important upgrades

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

MORE TIKTOK PARENTAL CONTROL. YEP, THAT EXISTS.

TikTok is now allowing parents more privacy and nanny options over what content their ward will view. Parents can now restrict who will see the videos uploaded by their children. This is much like the friends-only post viewing option on Facebook. They will also be able to manage search options such as hashtags used to search restricted or inappropriate content. There's been just too much of #babukhaiso.

This is in addition to the existing ability to turn off or limit direct messages. It comes after the \$5.7 million TikTok paid to settle children's safety issues faced by the predecessor Musical.ly.

INSTAGRAM ROLLING OUT KEYWORD SEARCH

Users in six English speaking countries can now search using keywords. Bangladesh, not yet. Previously, search options were restricted to hashtags or accounts limiting the actual variety of content showing up. While the update sounds promising, so far the machine learning has not caught up to better curate content that has not been tagged. This will roll out elsewhere but for now, users in Bangladesh have to still rely on #challengingtimes for relief on, well, challenging times. On a side note, I'm kind of disappointed that #challengingtimes has not yielded a single watch related image from BD. You will know if you follow your

memes.

ZOOBOMBERS: TIME TO KILL THEM DEAD

The new term is coined for people who invade zoom meetings to disrupt the flow of often serious discussions. They show dubious content to either ruin or in some cases, spice up meetings and classes. Now Zoom is allowing temporary pauses in meetings to help kick these invaders out and report them.

Simply click the security icon and select 'Suspend Participant Activities' effectively shutting down the Zoombomber.

GOOGLE MAPS TO PROVIDE NEW OVERLAY FOR COVID

This will come with details and numbers on infected cases in particular areas provided by local authorities. I can sense you raising eyebrows at the last two words. Maps will also provide crowd density information on public transport allowing you to decide whether or not you want to avoid certain places. Great for social distancing. Just remember, Farmgate in Dhaka will always be red or a deeper shade of red.

The US is getting early access to the Google Assistant driving mode. Released on some Android devices, the features include telephony options to be accessible straight from maps without having to navigate different screens as well as having messages read out.

For queries, mail to ronnyraza@thedailystar.net



With the arrival of winter comes the need for blankets, and the demand for comfy and colourful ones are reaching the sky. To meet this, mobile retailers are stocking up their vans and hitting the road, like this trader operating around the capital's Central Shaheed Minar area. This photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Expelled BCL leader now given post in Jubo League

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohiuddin Rana, who was expelled from Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Dhaka University over his involvement in leaking questions and digital fraud, is now a member of the newly formed central committee of Jubo League.

Almost a year after holding its 7th Congress, Jubo League, the youth wing of Awami League (AL), announced its 201-member central executive committee and 200-member central committee on Saturday.

Mohiuddin was 186th in the central committee list. Many former and present BCL leaders congratulated him for getting into the committee, as observed in his Facebook profile.

Mohiuddin was a student of physics department at Dhaka University (DU), and was arrested from Shahidullah Hall on October 19, 2017, the night before D-unit admission test.

Law enforcers found soft copies of question papers in his phone and equipment that was used in fraudulent activities, reported different newspapers the next day.

He was an assistant secretary of Central Chhatra League (Sohag-Zakir Committee), and was expelled from BCL the day after he

got arrested, said SM Zakir Hossain, then general secretary of BCL.

His expulsion had not even been withdrawn before he was given the Jubo League post, he said.

On January 30, 2018, DU syndicate expelled Mohiuddin and 14 other students for life. In that decision, the authority said Mohiuddin had provided digital devices to admission seekers.

Mohiuddin's name was also in a charge-sheet filed by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) against 125 people, including 87 DU students on June 23, 2019.

In this regard, Saifur Rahman Sohag, organising secretary of Jubo League - who is also former central president of BCL, told The Daily Star, "We had expelled Mohiuddin, but I need to find out what happened next and how he has got the post now."

On October 20, 2019, Jubo League Chairperson Omar Faruk Chowdhury was relieved of his post amid allegations of corruption, and Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash was elected the new chairperson the next month.

Parash and Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, general secretary of Jubo League, had unveiled the full committee.



Non-regularised workers of government colleges continued a hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding regularisation of their jobs. PHOTO: STAR

Madrasa education bill passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliament yesterday passed "Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board Bill, 2020" to replace a 1978 ordinance in this regard.

Education Minister Dipu Moni placed the bill which was passed by voice vote.

According to Article 28 of the new law, there will be (legal) protection for activities of madrasa education since 1978. The activities would be considered under it, and no activities of the past can be challenged as illegal. Important changes in the bill say board employees were declared as public servants and their retirement age fixed at 60 years like all other education boards.

In December, the cabinet approved the bill in principle bringing some amendments to the Madrasa Education Ordinance, 1978 as the SC declared all laws made during military regimes illegal.

Shafiqul Alam's 11th death anniversary

CITY DESK

The 11th death anniversary of Shafiqul Alam Khan, a retired employee of Karnaphuli Paper Mills Ltd in Chattogram, is going to be observed today.

On this day in 2009, Shafiqul Alam died at a hospital in Dhaka.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held today at his residence in Boalkhali of Chattogram.

Similar programmes will take place at Khurshid and Associates, the chamber of his elder son Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan, at 204 Bijoynagar in Dhaka.

Family members have requested all relatives, friends and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

'DEAD' GIRL FOUND ALIVE

Judicial body gets 1.5 months to finish probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday gave one and a half months to the judicial inquiry committee formed by the court to complete probe into the police actions regarding the arrest of three men and their subsequent confessions to raping and killing a girl, who turned out to be alive later.

The fifth-grader was rescued 49 days after she was said to be abducted and murdered.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman granted the time after the chief judicial magistrate of Narayanganj sought time till December 17 for completing the inquiry into the matter, saying that the probe is yet to be finished.

The bench, however, asked the chief judicial magistrate to submit the

probe report to it by January 5 next year as the court will go on a two-week annual vacation from December 18, Mohammad Shishir Manir, a lawyer of the case, told The Daily Star.

On September 24 this year, the HC bench formed the judicial inquiry committee and fixed yesterday's date to hear and pass order on this issue.

The HC came up with the directives following a revision petition that challenged the police action of arresting the three accused, and the latter's confessional statements to a magistrate about the alleged rape and killing of the child who was rescued alive in Narayanganj.

During hearing on the revision petition on September 17, Shamim Al Mamun, the investigation officer of the case and Sub Inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station,

and current IO of the case and SI Mostafizur Rahman appeared with case records before the HC bench as per its August 27 order. The court did not hear their statements.

SI Shamim's lawyer Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury told the HC bench that the police administration has already suspended his client and initiated departmental proceedings against him.

Five lawyers led by Mohammad Shishir Manir had submitted the revision petition on August 25. The petition stated that a fifth grader went missing on July 4 this year.

Her father Jahangir Hossain filed a case with Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station on August 6 on charge of abducting his daughter.

Police arrested three accused Abdullah, Belal, Rakib in connection with the case.

SELLING POLYTHENE

DoE seals off 4 warehouses, 3 businesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

The Department of Environment (DoE) in Chattogram sealed off four warehouses and three shops for storing and selling illegal polythene at Riazuddin Bazar in Chattogram city yesterday.

A DoE team led by Nurullah Nuri, director of DoE Chattogram metropolitan, seized five tonnes of such polythene from there.

Nurullah Nuri told The Daily Star that on a tip off, they conducted the drive at the bazar.

"We also issued notice to three people to appear at DoE office for hearing," said the official.

BFUJ

FROM PAGE 3

They said Naimul Abrar Rahat was electrocuted at a Kishor Alo event where Matiur Rahman was not present.

It was an unexpected and tragic incident. "We want justice through a fair and impartial investigation to determine whether there was any real negligence or irresponsibility in the accidental death. But after the incident, we saw statements and instructions from the higher ranks of the government which would affect the investigation and judicial process. They expressed their resentment against the newspaper [Prothom Alo]," said the statement.

BFUJ leaders demanded that the "harassment" of Prothom Alo editor and other journalists be ended immediately.

87 fined

FROM PAGE 3

the question-answer session.

"A second wave of the pandemic has already started in Europe and America," the premier said.

Noting that extensive preparations have been taken to deal with a possible second wave of the virus, the PM said the government has instructed the authorities concerned to implement "no mask, no service" policy to contain the spread of novel coronavirus during the winter.

"Screening continues at the country's entry points. A 14-day quarantine has been made mandatory for the returnees from abroad. Activities are being carried out according to the action plan adopted for preventing and checking Covid-19," she said.

WB expands \$100m help for Rohingya, host communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a \$100 million grant financing agreement with the World Bank. The fund will be used to scale up access to energy, water, sanitation services, and disaster-resilient infrastructures for the Rohingya and surrounding host communities.

"Since the very beginning of the crisis, the World Bank has been supporting Bangladesh respond to the needs of Rohingya people as well as the host communities," said Mercy Miyang Tembon, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan. The funds will be a continuation of this support, she added.

The additional financing to the ongoing Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project will benefit about 780,800 people, including 140,800 local people, states a World Bank press release. The project aims to achieve this by

installing mini-piped water supply schemes, point water sources, and rainwater harvesting systems, along with household and community toilets in the Cox's Bazar district, the press release added.

The additional fund will go to building 40 multi-purpose disaster shelters, accessible to 81,000 people, and climate resilient evacuation roads. It also be used to install around 4,000 solar streetlights and 975 lightning protection systems, the release added.

The financing is expected to help government agencies strengthen institutional systems and capacities for the planning, coordination, and response to crises and emergencies.

The agreement was signed by Additional Secretary of Economic Relations Division Md Shahabuddin Patwary and Mercy Tembon, on behalf of the government of Bangladesh and the World Bank, respectively.

Only one-third

FROM PAGE 3

It was conducted through phone interviews from a pool of 886 female workers in September this year, 875 of whom indicated they were comfortable with answering the questions.

These workers are employed in factories spread across the five main industrial areas of Bangladesh -- Chittagong, Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Savar.

SANEM in collaboration with Microfinance Opportunities (MFO) has been conducting a series of surveys on the garment workers of Bangladesh. The surveys are part of a project titled "Garment Worker Diaries."

The Garment Worker Diaries collect regular, credible data on the work hours, income, expenses, and use of financial tools of workers in the global apparel and textile supply chain in producing countries.

The objective of the project is to encourage data-driven government policy decisions, collective bargaining, and factory and brand initiatives related to improving the lives of garment workers.

The project began in 2016 when Microfinance Opportunities, a global non-profit, in collaboration with local research firms in Bangladesh, India, and Cambodia, collected data from 180 women in each country every week for a year.



Citizens of Sylhet city's ward-3 line up yesterday to collect water from a city corporation vehicle as their supply had been cut off for a little over two days.

Electricity services resumed in all areas of Sylhet yesterday evening, around 55 hours after most parts of Sylhet and several parts of Sunamganj districts plunged into darkness due to a fire at the 132/33 KV substation in Sylhet's Kumarganj on Tuesday morning.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)
পিকেএসএফ ভবন, প্লট- ২/বি, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরে বাহাদুর নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
ফোন: ৮৮০-২-৮১৮১৬৫৮-৬১, ৮১৮১১৬৯, ৮১৮১৬৫৮-৬৯, Website: http://www.pksf-bd.org

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)-এর মূলকার্যক্রমের আওতায় নিম্নলিখিত পদে কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের জন্য উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীগণের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

পদের নাম ও সংখ্যা : উপ-ব্যবস্থাপক (রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ)-১টি

শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা : ন্যূনতম ২টি প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণী বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-সহ যেকোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/ইনস্টিটিউট হতে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণীতে বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (সিভিল) ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। এছাড়া প্রার্থীর ইনস্টিটিউশন অব ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইইবি)-এর সদস্যপদ অবশ্যই থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষাজীবনের কোনো পর্যায়েই তৃতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

অভিজ্ঞতা : সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/খ্যাতনামা বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে সহকারী প্রকৌশলী/সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক বা সমমানের পদে কমপক্ষে ০৩ বৎসরের চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে স্ট্রাকচারাল ডিজাইন ও বহুতল ভবন নির্মাণ কাজ তদারকী ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ কাজে পারদর্শী হতে হবে। অটোম্যাটিক-এ বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন হতে হবে। বহুতল ভবন নির্মাণে রিজেক্ট, সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও অন্যান্য সংস্থার সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা, বিএনবিসি ইত্যাদি সম্পর্কে অবশ্যই স্চ্ছ ধারণা থাকতে হবে। সরকারী ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়ায় আবশ্যিকীয় বিবিধাধন, পিপিআর-২০০৮ সম্পর্কে অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

বয়স : সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর (আবেদন জমাদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখে)।

বেতন ও সুবিধাদি : মূলবেতন টাকা ৬২,০০০/-, বাড়ি ভাড়া (মূল বেতনের ৬০%), উৎসব ভাতা, আনুষ্ঠানিক, ভবিষ্য তহবিল, গৃহ নির্মাণ ঋণ সুবিধা, গোষ্ঠী বীমা সুবিধা, দেশে শিক্ষারত সন্তানের শিক্ষাভাতা, অর্জিত ছুটি নগদায়নসহ বিবিধ মোতাবেক প্রচলিত অন্যান্য সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে।

প্রার্থীগণকে সংশ্লিষ্ট পদের দায়িত্বাবলী, যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি ও আবেদন করার বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী পিকেএসএফ-এর ওয়েবসাইটে দেখার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অগ্রহী প্রার্থীকে আগামী ১২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২০ তারিখের মধ্যে পিকেএসএফ-এর ওয়েবসাইটে (www.pksf-bd.org)-এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করার অনুরোধ করা হলো।

পিকেএসএফ যে-কোন প্রকার তদবির নিরুৎসাহিত করে। কেবলমাত্র সংক্ষিপ্ত তালিকাভুক্ত (short-listed) প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচনী প্রক্রিয়ায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হবে। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যেকোন বিষয়ে পিকেএসএফ-এর সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

উপ-ব্যবস্থাপক পরিচালক-৩

Every upazila

FROM PAGE 3

He said an initiative was taken to set up Bangabandhu Fire Academy for better training personnel. Once set up, firefighters will be able to receive advance training.

Presently, fire service can douse fires and conduct rescue operations up to 19th floor of a building, he said, adding that the capacity will be raised to 21st floor, as vehicles with 68-metre ladders will be added next year.

There were only 63 ambulances under the service, which has increased to 185. Authorities will provide ambulances to each fire station in phases, he said.

Commenting that people consider fire service as a friend when in danger, Asaduzzaman said, "Wherever I have seen accidents on the road or in the river, firefighters have stood by people with their services."

"I think observance of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week will enhance professionalism of staffers and increase public engagement," he said.

Fire Service and Civil Defence Week-2020 started across the country from yesterday, aiming to raise nationwide awareness on the theme "Training, Plan and Preparation: Speed up Disaster Management".

The week will be celebrated till November 21 through various programmes conducted by the service.

TO-LET

Super-luxurious, brand new unfurnished apartments at Navana Wedgewood (Plot # 24, Road # 65, Gulshan-2, Dhaka) are to be rented. Each unit is 4000 square feet in size and the complex has state of the art swimming pool and gymnasium. Please call at: 01304420337

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এপার্টমেন্ট ভাড়া/বিক্রয় হইবে

কখন কখন নিম্নোক্ত এন একটি বারস্থানে যেকোন ঘরে দু'বার পরও মনে হবে বাইরের মতোই যোগা মেলা: উত্তর-পশ্চিম গুলশানে ওরিয়েন্টাল কমপ্লেক্স ফে-সুই এগ্রাই করা গার্ডেন এপার্টমেন্ট (২০১৬)। অত্যাধুনিক, বিলাসী এবং নার্দনিক ইন্টেরিওর। পূর্ব, দক্ষিণ ও উত্তর দিক সম্পূর্ণ খোলা, চমকবর আলো-বাতাস খোলে। ৪ বেড (১ টি বেড ক্রিস্টেন মার্জ করা হয়েছে), ৪ বাথ, সু-নির্মাণ আধুনিক কিচেন (ওয়েট এন্ড ডাইং কিচেন অংশ), ডইং, ডাইনিং, গুপ্তন বাড়ি, স্টেপেড বেড, বাথ, স্ট-ওরাস। ৩০০০ বর্গফুট + অতিরিক্ত ১৮০ বর্গফুট বাগান ও বার-বি-কিউ এরিয়া। ৩ টি উর পার্কিং সহ আধুনিক সকল সুবিধা। রিজিডেন্সিয়াল, মালিকের আপডেটেড। যোগাযোগঃ ০১৯১৮৬৩৬৪১: am.baashaar@gmail.com

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বাড়ী/ প্লট বিক্রয়

ঢাকাস্থ বিলপুর মনিপুরে বিক্রিবে ১১.৫০ কাঠা। পশ্চিম রামপুরায় দিনশেভ বাড়ী ১.৫০ কাঠা। আফতাবনগরে এফ-১৫৫ ৫ কাঠা, এম ১৫৫ ৩-ই কাঠা, ৪ কাঠা, ৫ কাঠা ও ১০ কাঠা, এইচ-১৫৫ ২-ই কাঠা + ৩ কাঠা। ০১৯১৮৬৩৬৪১, www.gdslandinfo.com

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM (DLP)
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS)

ADMISSION NOTICE
CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DIABETOLOGY (32nd Batch)

Applications are invited from doctors (MBBS with permanent BMDC registration) for admission into the Certificate Course on Diabetology (CCD) for the session January to June-2021. This course was introduced by Diabetic Association of Bangladesh with experts on distance learning of Open University, UK. The standard of the course is set to create Specialist in Diabetes Mellitus. Due to COVID-19 pandemic some changes have been adopted for the course (for details see: <http://www.badas-dlp.org>).

Doctors willing to get admitted into the course are requested to go for online registration in the following website (<https://education.dldchc-badas.org.bd/>) from 01.12.2020. The selected candidates will be instructed to complete the admission formalities through online of the same platform.

Prof A K Azad Khan
President BADAS & Chairman DLP
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh

Farmers all smiles over fair prices of coriander leaves

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Farmers in the district are all smiles as they are earning handsome amount of money from coriander cultivation.

This year, the growers are getting fair prices for the coriander leaves compared to last year's prices like in 2019, per kg of coriander leaves was sold at Tk 8 to Tk 10, which is being sold at Tk 35 to Tk 40 in the local markets this year.

Afzal Hossain, a farmer from Jamurtari village in Saptibari union of Aditmari upazila, said he has already earned Tk 20,000 from selling coriander leaves on one bigha of land. He can sell coriander leaves for Tk 3-4 thousand more.

"This year the coriander field was destroyed twice due to floods and heavy rains. I got the yield by sowing seeds for the third time," he said.

Afzal's wife Jamila Begum said they had to work hard to get the yield. They spent Tk 3,000 for the cultivation.

Dinesh Chandra Barman, another grower from Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said farmers are earning



A farmer couple pluck coriander leaves from a land at Jamurtari village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

a good amount of money from selling coriander leaves, but the coriander fields were damaged several times.

"All kinds of vegetables have been severely damaged due to floods and heavy rains this year. The cost of vegetable production has doubled since last year," he said.

Farmer Nazer Ali of Bhatibari village in Sadar upazila said he used to cultivate coriander leaves on 60 decimals of land but he got the yield from 20 decimals of land. The coriander leaves on 40 decimals

of the land have been completely damaged due to heavy rains.

However, they are earning good amount of money from the cultivation as the market price of coriander leaves is high, he said.

Hamidul Islam, a resident of Sahebpara area in Lalmonirhat town, said that they were not buying much coriander leaves now as its price is high.

Meher Ali, a vegetable seller at Goshala Bazar in Lalmonirhat town, said they were buying coriander leaves from farmers at high rate and selling them to buyers

at high prices.

Although the price of coriander leaves is high, its demand has not decreased, he said.

Shamim Ashraf, deputy director (DD) of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, said coriander leaves on about 1,800 bighas of land in the district have been damaged due to heavy rains and floods this year.

The farmers are earning satisfactory money from selling the coriander leaves due to its high demand among the consumers, said the DD.

Last year per kilogram of coriander leaves was sold at Tk 8 to Tk 10 in the local markets, but this year it is selling for Tk 35 to Tk 40

Malta cultivation sees success in Majapara of Nilphamari

The sandy land brought fortune to many growers as it is suitable for malta cultivation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Once people of Majapara in Sadar upazila used to cultivate tobacco because of sandy land but now the locality has attained new identity as 'green malta producing village' amid the pandemic as the villagers cultivate the tasty fruit containing vitamin C that help boost immunity against Covid-19.

The sandy land has brought fortune to them as they found that it is suitable for malta cultivation where water does not stand during monsoon, said Abdus Salam, pioneer of malta cultivation in the village.

He added that sub-assistant agriculture officer of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Nilphamari Anarul Islam motivated youths to cultivate the fruit as it is more profitable than tobacco.

In 2017, Salam first cultivated 65 malta saplings on one bigha of land as the officer supplied him BARI Malta-1 variety from his office free of cost and also gave him technical support.

"A year after plantation, I collected 25 kg of malta from each tree and sold per kg at Tk 100. Thus, I earned Tk 1.5 lakh. It is very profitable," he said.

Seeing Salam's success, educated youth Moniruzaman Razu in 2018 created a malta orchard on five bigha of land.

At present, there are 35 orchards in the area, said local resident Dr Atiar Rahman, adding that Majapara is now widely known as green malta producing village.

At the beginning of March when coronavirus spread in the country, distant traders stopped buying. Razu then created a Facebook page for advertisement of his orchard's green malta containing vitamin C that help to boost immunity and fight Covid-19 as well.

"Elite consumers from Dhaka and other

big cities started giving orders over online. I sold the fruits at higher rate. I benefited financially from selling the malta," said Razu.

Following him, many other growers in the area adopted same marketing policy as Razu earned good profit from selling the fruit.

Orchard owner Mahfuzar Rahman said many buyers even booked their orchards



A farmer at his malta orchard in Majapara village of Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

in advance before harvesting of the fruit in October-November.

Deputy Director of DAE in Nilphamari Obaidur Rahman Mondol said Majapara malta producing village proves that the district has bright prospect for malta production and accordingly, they have taken up programme to create at least a malta orchard in each union of Sadar upazila.

ADMISSION NOTICE
Applications invited for admission to one year

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Spring 2021
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Application Process
Application can be done either online through website or offline from the program office.

Application Timeline	: 03 November 2020 to 02 December 2020
Admission test (Online)	: 04 December (Friday) 2020, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Orientation Class	: 01 January (Friday) 2021, 10:00 am

*Class will be held on Friday and Saturday

To apply visit:
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Contact: Department of Government & Politics Office, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342
Website: www.govpoliuj.com/pmgds | Email: wmgds.ju@gmail.com | Phone: +88027792629 | Cell: +8801917033852
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mgdsju

FRAUD CASE Ex-AL leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Police early yesterday arrested a former leader of Jubo League, youth wing of ruling Awami League (AL), from Dhaka in connection with separate cases filed for fraudulence.

The arrestee, Khalil Ullah Azad Milton, 45, son of Mohammad Habibullah of Hossainpur village in Khansama upazila, was former joint cultural affair secretary of district unit Jubo League.

Police said the arrestee allegedly took away Tk 7 lakh from two people, assuring them of giving lease of local sand quarry (Balu Mahal).

Officer in Charge of Khansama Police Station Kamal Hossain said, acting on a tip-off, they raided Mohammadpur area in the capital and arrested Milton.



In a bid to stop illegal sand lifting from the Jamuna river, a mobile court during separate drives yesterday and on Wednesday destroys at least 13 such dredgers in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Arrest trader Anisur's killers, demand protesters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Local traders brought out a protest procession and formed a human chain at Laohati Bazar in Delduar upazila yesterday, protesting the brutal killing of trader Anisur Rahman.

Speakers at the human chain programme condemned the killing of Anisur and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

Among others, valiant freedom fighter Khandakar Karim, Laohati Bazar Traders' Association leaders Habibur Rahman, Abdul Based, Hasmat Ali, Shipon Khan and Mansur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Anisur, 50, owner of a private clinic, went out of his Laohati house on Monday afternoon and remained missing since then. His mobile phone was also found switched-off.

The following afternoon, locals spotted Anisur's throat-slit body wrapped in a sack at adjacent Pachuria village and informed the police, who recovered it and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

Youth killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A youth was killed by his rivals allegedly over a land dispute in Narsingdi Sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased, Russell Mridha, 34, was son of Hanif Mridha of Baghabo area in the upazila.

Victim's brother Tarek Mridha said there had been a feud between his family and one of their neighbours Belayet for nearly 15 years over the ownership of a disputed land.

As a sequel to the conflict, Belayet's men waylaid Russell near UMC Jute Mills area while he was returning home around 10:00pm and stabbed him indiscriminately with sharp weapons, leaving him severely injured.

Hearing cry for help, local people rescued Russell and took him to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead, OC of Sadar Model Police Station Biplob Kumar Dutta said.

Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited
Office of the General Manager (Procurement)
Telephone Revenue Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Web: www.btcl.com.bd

Reference No. 14.33.0000.752.07.008.20-95 Date: 19/11/2020 AD

Invitation for International Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Posts and Telecommunications Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited.
3	Procuring entity name	Managing Director, BTCL.
4	Procuring entity code	BTCL-001.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Tender
7	Invitation Ref. No.	14.33.0000.752.07.008.20-95
8	Date	19/11/2020 AD.

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	OTM (International).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	BTCL's own fund.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	None.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code	
13	Project/programme name	
14	Tender package No.	Single Package.
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Internet Protocol Version 4 (IPv4) Addresses for BTCL Data and Internet Network.
16	Tender publication date	19/11/2020 AD.
17	Tender last selling date	05/01/2021 AD up to 05:00pm.
18	Tender closing date and time	06/01/2021 AD @ 12:00pm.
19	Tender opening date and time	06/01/2021 AD @ 12:10pm.
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Office of the General Manager (Procurement), BTCL, Telephone Revenue Building, 2nd Floor, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the General Manager (Procurement), BTCL, Telephone Revenue Building, 2nd Floor, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
	-Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.
	-Receiving tender document	Telejogajog Bhaban, 2nd Floor, Room No. 314, 37/E, Eskaton Garden, BTCL, Dhaka.
	-Opening tender document	Telejogajog Bhaban, 2nd Floor, Room No. 314, 37/E, Eskaton Garden, BTCL, Dhaka.
21	Pre-tender meeting	Shall not be held.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	All international eligible bidders having experience and other requirements as per conditions of tender document.		
23	Brief description of goods	Procurement of Internet Protocol Version 4 (IPv4) Addresses for BTCL Data and Internet Network.		
24	Brief description of related services	Procurement of Internet Protocol Version 4 (IPv4) Addresses for BTCL Data and Internet Network.		
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 5,000/- (Taka five thousand) non-refundable.		
26	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount	Completion time in days
	Single Lot	Project site: Data and Internet, Mogbazar, Telephone Bhaban, BTCL, Dhaka-1217.	USD 10,000.00 (USD ten thousand) or equivalent BDT [USD selling rate of Bangladesh Bank on the tender opening day will be considered for currency conversion]	As mention in the tender document

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

27	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Aslam Hossain.
28	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Procurement).
29	Address of official inviting tender	Office of the General Manager (Procurement), BTCL, Telephone Revenue Building, 2nd Floor, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone (02) 5815 0500 Fax (02) 5815 0511 ddcpl@btcl.net.bd http://www.btcl.com.bd
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md. Aslam Hossain
General Manager (Procurement)
Phone: (02) 5815 0500
E-mail: gm.proc@btcl.gov.bd

GD-1847

Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
E/M Division-1, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229
Ref No. 30.31.0000.412.17.001.20/658 Date: 19-11-2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Package information is available in tender notice under e-GP System Portal.

These are online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Detailed Name of the Work, Package No., Tender ID, Tender Closing Date & Time are as follows:

Sl No.	Name of the work	Package No.	Tender ID	Closing date and time
1	Providing installation testing & commissioning of Generator i/c Electrical Substation and related works for Circuit No. 2 of Runway Lighting System at HSA. (S.H-Procurement of various type filter spare for All Engine Generator Sets under main power plant at HSA.)	CAAB/EM-1/HSA/2020-21/Eco code-107	501433	10-12-2020 15:00
2	Providing of Portable Engine Generator set under Main Power Plant at HSA.	CAAB/EM-1/HSA/2020-21/Eco code-123	501393	10-12-2020 15:00
3	Renovation of LT panel at ETB Substation at HSA. (S.H-Providing and installation of Generator control panel with ATS i/c related works at ETB sub-station at HSA.)	CAAB/EM-1/HSA/2020-21/Eco code-224	501434	10-12-2020 15:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shahriar Morshed Siddiqui
Executive Engineer (E/M) (C.C)
E/M Division-1, CAAB, Dhaka

নং-৩০.৩১.০০০০.৪১২.১৭.০০১.২০/৬৫৮
তারিখঃ ১৯/১১/২০২০
GD-1848



Pompeo visits Israeli-occupied West Bank

REUTERS, Shaafr Binyamin

Mike Pompeo yesterday became the first US secretary of state to visit an Israeli West Bank settlement and the Golan Heights, in a show of solidarity that led Palestinians to accuse him of helping to cement Israeli control over occupied territory.

Pompeo's trips came during the Israeli leg of what may be his last tour of the Middle East in the final months of President Donald Trump's administration.

Trump delighted Israel in 2019 by recognising Israel's claim to sovereignty over the area of the Golan Heights that it captured from Syria in a 1967 war and later annexed, in a move that was not recognised by most of the international community.

Last year, Pompeo, an evangelical Christian, broke with decades of US foreign policy to announce that the United States under Trump no longer viewed Israel's settlements in the West Bank as "inconsistent with international law".

Yesterday morning Pompeo appeared alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said both Pompeo and Trump were long-standing friends of Israel.

Pompeo issued guidelines for Israeli products made in settlements to be labelled "Made in Israel" or "Product of Israel" when exported to the United States, removing the distinction between goods made within Israel and those produced in occupied territory.

First, Pompeo travelled the short distance from Jerusalem to the Israeli-occupied West Bank - known to most Israelis as Judea and Samaria - where more than 440,000 Jewish settlers live uneasily among three million Palestinians, mostly in fortified hilltop settlements.

Pompeo later flew to the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau that overlooks Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

"I very much wanted to come here on this trip to tell the world that we have it right. That we, the United States has it right. That Israel has it right," Pompeo said from a hilltop looking into an area of the Syrian Golan that was until recently controlled by militias fighting the Syrian civil war.

WHO chief backing Tigray rebels

Accuses Ethiopia

REUTERS

Ethiopia's military yesterday accused the World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of supporting and trying to procure arms and diplomatic backing for Tigray state's dominant political party, which is fighting federal forces.

"He himself is a member of that group and he is a criminal," army chief of staff General Birhanu Jula said in a televised statement, before calling for him to be removed. Birhanu did not offer any evidence to support his accusations.

There was no immediate WHO comment on the allegation against Tedros, who is Ethiopian of Tigrayan ethnicity.

Tedros served as Ethiopia's health minister and foreign minister from 2005-2016 in a ruling coalition led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The TPLF effectively ruled Ethiopia for decades as the most powerful part of the coalition, until Prime Minister Ahmed Abiy took office in 2018.

Abiy has since folded the other three regional parties into his own national party, but the TPLF refused to join.

Fighting is raging Ethiopia since November 4 when Abiy attacked Tigray state accusing the TPLF of attacking two federal military camps in the region. His controversial campaign has seen warplanes bombing Tigray and heavy fighting, while the UN says a "full-scale humanitarian crisis" is unfolding, with 36,000 people having streamed into neighbouring Sudan, according to that country's refugee commission.



Students of Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) hold up the names of the 12 detained in mainland China, in Hong Kong, China, yesterday. Dozens of Hong Kong students yesterday turned their graduation ceremony into a march to commemorate pro-democracy protests last year that included violent clashes with police across city campuses.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US death toll passes 250,000

New York closes schools; situation worsens in Russia

AFP, New York

US coronavirus deaths have passed a quarter of a million people as New York announced it would close schools to battle a rise in infections and anti-restriction protests in Europe turned violent.

America has now registered 250,426 fatalities, according to a running tally by Johns Hopkins University on Wednesday, by far the highest reported national death toll.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,350,275 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 11:00 GMT yesterday. At least 56,234,440 cases of coronavirus have been registered.

On Wednesday, 11,013 new deaths and 582,654 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were the United States with 1,751 new deaths, followed by Brazil with 756 and Italy with 753.

US states and cities were imposing a raft of new



restrictions, including home confinement, the closure of indoor dining and a limit on gatherings as cases soar across the country, with more than 157,950 new infections recorded over the past 24 hours on Wednesday.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said the city's 1,800 public schools would revert to remote learning beginning Thursday after the Big Apple recorded a seven-day average positivity rate of three percent.

Europe meanwhile remains the hardest-hit region, accounting for 46 percent of new global cases and 49 percent of deaths last week, according to WHO.

In Russia, total coronavirus caseload surpassed two million. The country has witnessed a surge in cases over recent weeks but authorities have stopped short of reintroducing stringent lockdown measures like several European countries.

Health officials reported 23,610 new infections yesterday and 463 virus-related deaths, both record highs since the beginning of Russia's outbreak.

CLIMATE INACTION

Court gives France 3-month deadline

AFP, Paris

In a ruling hailed by campaigners as "historic", France's top administrative court yesterday gave the government a three-month deadline to show it is taking action to meet its commitments on climate change.

The government of France, which brokered the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, was hauled before the Council of State by Grande-Synthe, a low-lying northern coastal town which is particularly exposed to the effects of climate change.

The Council, which rules on disputes over public policies, noted that "while France has committed itself to reducing its emissions by 40% in 2030 compared to 1990 levels, it has, in recent years, regularly exceeded the 'carbon budgets' it had set itself." It also noted that President Emmanuel Macron's government had, in a decree in April, deferred much of the reduction efforts beyond 2020.

In January 2019, the then Greens mayor of Grande-Synthe, Damien Careme petitioned the Council of State over what he called the government's "climate inaction".

Careme said his town of 23,000 people, which is built on land reclaimed from the sea, risked being flooded by rising sea levels.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Post-Brexit UK announces military spending boost

Britain pledged to end the "era of retreat" by announcing a major increase in military spending, despite the coronavirus crisis pummeling the economy, as it seeks to define its post-Brexit role on the world stage. In a speech to parliament yesterday outlining first conclusions from a big review of foreign policy and defence, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced an extra 16.5 billion pounds (\$22 billion) for the military over the next four years. The defence budget is now just under 42 billion pounds a year.

Mumbai attack mastermind jailed for terror financing

A Pakistani court yesterday sentenced Islamist leader Hafiz Saeed, founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the militant group blamed by the United States and India for the 2008 Mumbai siege, to 10 years in prison on two charges of terrorism financing, his lawyer said. Saeed is already in jail serving two sentences of five-and-a-half-years each, handed down to him in February this year, which means he will not serve any extra jail time. The conviction comes as Pakistan tries to avoid punitive blacklisting by global dirty money watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which judges a country's ability to combat illicit financing, including to militant organisations.

Pelosi wins bid to lead Democrats in US House

US Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday chose House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to lead the party into the Joe Biden era and preside over their narrow House majority as the most powerful person in Congress. The 80-year-old Pelosi -- the highest-ranking woman in US congressional history and outgoing President Donald Trump's chief nemesis on Capitol Hill -- ran unopposed for the top job. A formal House floor vote for the speakership occurs in January after the new congressional session begins, and shortly before Biden takes office as president. She is widely expected to win.

Samoa records first case of coronavirus

Samoa announced its first case of Covid-19 yesterday, as the coronavirus pandemic continued to spread to previously untouched Pacific island nations. Prime Minister Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi called for calm in the nation of 200,000 after confirming a man who flew into the country last Friday tested positive while in managed isolation. With the infection report, only territories of Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Tonga, and Tuvalu are believed to still be free of the virus.

SOURCE: AFP



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani (R) and Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan meet at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday. Khan's first visit to Afghanistan comes at a time when peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government have been stalled. It also comes days after the Pentagon announced it would reduce the number of US military personnel in Afghanistan from 4,500 to 2,500 by mid-January. PHOTO: REUTERS

'WAR CRIMES' IN AFGHANISTAN

Australian special forces 'unlawfully killed' 39

AFP, Canberra

Australia's elite special forces "unlawfully killed" 39 Afghan civilians and prisoners, including summary executions as part of initiation rituals, according to evidence in a searing military inquiry now being referred to a special war crimes prosecutor.

A years-long internal investigation into military misconduct was released yesterday, prompting the Chief of the Australian Defence Force to admit a "destructive" culture of impunity among special forces leading to a string of alleged murders and cover-ups spanning years.

"Some patrols took the law into their own hands, rules were broken, stories concocted, lies told and prisoners killed," General Angus Campbell said, apologising "sincerely and unreservedly" to the people of Afghanistan.

"This shameful record includes alleged instances in which new patrol members were coerced to shoot a prisoner in order to achieve that soldier's first kill, in an appalling practice known as 'blooding'."

The report also reported evidence that troops were engaged in "body count competitions", and covered up unlawful killings by staging skirmishes, planting weapons and adding names to target lists retrospectively.

The military's own inspector general produced the harrowing 465-page official inquiry into events between 2005 and 2016 that detailed dozens of killings "outside the heat of battle". It recommended 19 individuals be referred to Australian Federal Police, compensation be paid to the families of victims, and the military makes a slew of reforms.

Campbell went a step further, saying the perpetrators would be referred to the office of the special investigator for war crimes. He also moved to revoke distinguished service medals awarded to special operations forces who served in Afghanistan between 2007 and 2013.

Thai PM threatens to use all laws against protesters

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha yesterday threatened to use all laws possible against protesters, as demonstrations escalate for his removal and for reforms to curb the powers of King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Activists voiced concern that this could mean the resumption of prosecutions under some of the world's harshest royal insult laws.

"Prayuth has declared a battle against the people," said rights lawyer and protest leader Arnon Nampa. "For civil servants who have not chosen sides, you need to decide whether to live in the past or to build a future with us."

The protests since July have become the greatest challenge to Thailand's establishment in years and have broken a longstanding taboo by criticising the monarchy, which can carry a jail term of up to 15 years.

Prayuth's announcement came a day after thousands of protesters threw paint at the headquarters of the police in what they said was a response to the use of water

cannon and teargas that hurt dozens on Tuesday, the most violent day of protests since July. Some protesters also sprayed anti-monarchy graffiti.

"The situation is not improving," Prayuth said in a statement. "There is a risk of escalation to more violence. If not addressed, it could damage the country and the beloved monarchy."

"The government will intensify its actions and use all laws, all articles, to take action against protesters who broke the law."

He did not specify whether this included Article 112 of the criminal code, which forbids insulting the monarchy. Prayuth said earlier in the year that it was not being used for the moment at the request of the king.

Police have been collecting evidence since July for possible prosecutions for violating the article but had not taken further steps, one police source said.

Outraged by the anti-monarchy graffiti at Wednesday's demonstration, some royalists called for the application of Article 112 in posts on social media.

Georgia set to release recount result

Trump's legal team asks judge in Pennsylvania to declare him as winner

REUTERS, Washington

The US presidential election battleground state of Georgia was expected to affirm Joe Biden's victory over Donald Trump after a painstaking recount, which would deal yet another setback to the president's attempts to cling to power.

Georgia's top election official, a Republican, has said the manual recount of almost 5 million votes is unlikely to erode Biden's initial 14,000 winning margin by enough to hand Trump victory in the state.

That would leave Republican Trump with a dwindling number of options to overturn the results of an election in which Democrat Biden won 5.8 million more votes nationwide. Barring a series of unprecedented events, Biden will be sworn in on Jan 20.

In the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner, Biden has captured 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232, well ahead of the 270 needed for victory. The winner in each state is awarded that state's electoral votes, a number roughly proportional to the population.

Flipping Georgia's 16 votes would still leave Trump at least two closely contested states away



from overturning Biden's victory. Georgia officials say they expect to release results later yesterday ahead of a certification deadline on Friday.

In Pennsylvania, where Biden won by 82,000 votes, the Trump campaign is asking a judge to declare him the winner there, saying its Republican-controlled legislature should choose the state's slate of 20 Electoral College voters.

In Wisconsin, the Trump campaign has paid for a partial recount, even though election officials there say that likely only add to Biden's 20,000-vote advantage in a state that carries 10 electoral votes.

Trump's campaign has filed lawsuits in a number of other states, including Michigan, with scant success so far.

Those legal motions, sprinkled with factual errors, have been dismissed by Biden's campaign

as "theatrics" that are not based on sound law. Several prominent law firms have pulled out of the operation, leaving Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani to spearhead the efforts.

Trump yesterday said on Twitter that lawyers would discuss a "viable path to victory" at a news conference at noon ET (1700 GMT).

State and federal election officials, as well as outside experts, say Trump's argument that the election was stolen from him by widespread voter fraud has no basis in fact.

However, it does appear to be affecting public confidence in American democracy. A Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Wednesday found about half of Republicans believe Trump "rightfully won" the election.

Arizona's top election official, Democrat Katie Hobbs, said she and her family had been getting violent threats and urged Trump to stop casting doubt on the result, in which he lost by just over 10,000 votes.

Trump administration has so far refused to recognize Biden as the winner, which has held up funding and security clearances to ease the transition from one president to another ahead of the Jan. 20 inauguration.

Growing up with Apu, Feluda and many others

I was first introduced to Soumitra Chatterjee in my early childhood by his recitations of Sukumar Ray's "Abol Tabol," his astonishing voice kept me hooked to the record player for hours on end. Later, I first saw him as the enigmatic Feluda in the film, "Sonar Kella." Being an avid Feluda fan, this film, along with "Joi Baba Felunath" was an integral part of my childhood. Through him, I was able to fit Feluda perfectly into my imagination. Till date, I can only picture him as Feluda, every time that I revisit the books.

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

From the young detective Feluda to Bishwanath Majumdar in "Bela Seshe" we all fell in love with Soumitra Chatterjee's bewildering charm and talent, at some point in our lives. Brimming with intensity and brilliance, his sharp gaze keeps us hooked to his characters. In "Aparajito" (1959), while sharing his idea of writing an autobiography, his eyes light up, his voice shakes with emotions and every one of us can relate with Apu's dreams. It is impossible to ignore his intense eyes and charm while watching his films.

The starting of Soumitra Chatterjee's acting career in cinema revolves around an interesting story involving legendary director Satyajit Ray. Ray's debut film, "Pather Panchali" came out when Soumitra Chatterjee was just a college kid. He was introduced to Ray by a friend, and he was hoping to play the lead role in "Aparajito", the second film in the Apu trilogy.

The director refused to cast Soumitra Chatterjee, as he was too tall and 'grown-up' for the part. Ray actually had no further plans to continue Apu's story after "Aparajito," but later, he decided that 24-year old Soumitra Chatterjee was perfect for the lead role in "Aparajito," the final film in the Apu trilogy.

The iconic director-actor duo of Satyajit Ray and Soumitra Chatterjee continued with another thirteen films throughout their careers. Soumitra Chatterjee considered it as the biggest achievement of his life.

"Our outlook and philosophy towards life, our likes and dislikes, looking at life from a certain standpoint, were common," shared Soumitra Chatterjee about Ray in an interview with journalist Shamik Bag in 2016. "There must have been a spiritual connection," the actor added, as many considered him to be Ray's alter ego.

As the audience, we fell in love with Apu's simplistic charm in "Aparajito," we were attracted to Sandip's revolutionary characteristics in "Ghare Baire" (1985) and we shared Amal's perplexing dilemma in "Charulata,"

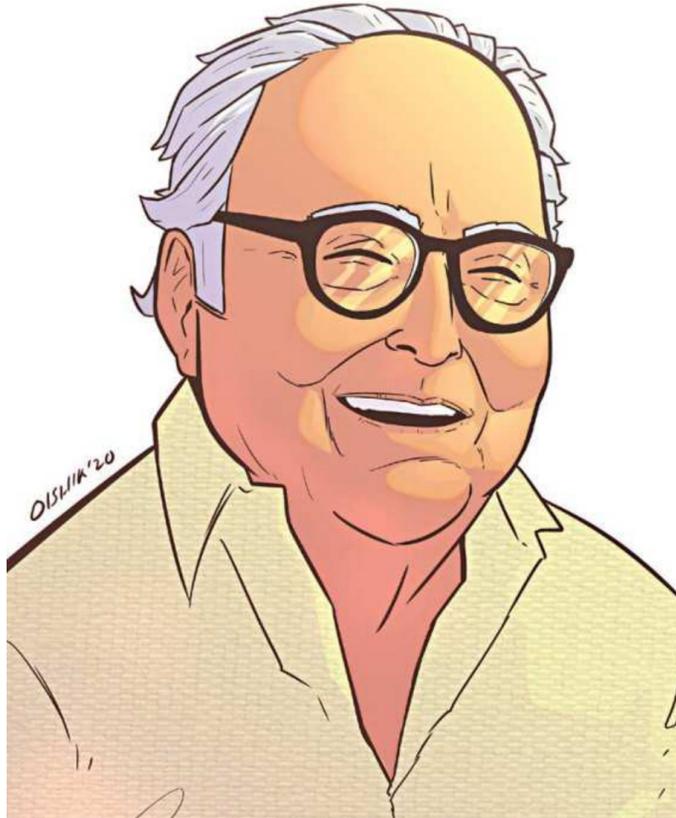


ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD

(1964). Soumitra Chatterjee also worked with Ray in classics such as "Hirak Rajar Deshe", "Ashani Sanket", "Devi", "Abhijan", "Aranyer Din Ratri" and "Ganashatru" among others.

Apart from Ray, he worked with other legendary filmmakers such as Mrinal Sen, Tarun Majumdar and Tapan Sinha on several films. Tapan Sinha's "Kshudhita Pashan" (1960), Asit Sen's "Swayambhara" (1961), and Mrinal Sen's "Punascha" (1961), among others, are notable

mentions. In the 1980s and 1990s, he started working with contemporary directors Goutam Ghose, Aparna Sen, Anjan Das and Rituparno Ghosh, among others.

As Mayur-Vahan, the swashbuckling horse-riding villain in Tapan Sinha's "Jhinder Bandi" (1961), alongside legendary actor Uttam Kumar, Soumitra Chatterjee proved his versatility as an artiste.

At a time when Uttam Kumar and his roles as the romantic hero captivated the

audience, Soumitra Chatterjee's emergence as an actor changed the mainstream idea of a protagonist. We could relate to his portrayals of an ordinary man; he was not necessarily the 'hero' or the 'lover'. We see a reflection of ourselves in the characters Soumitra masterfully portrayed onto the screen.

Listening to Kishore Kumar's Rabindra Sangeet "Ami Chini Go Chini Tomare", Manna Dey's "Hoyto Tomari Jonnyo", and "Jibone Ki Pabona," among other timeless classics picturised on Soumitra Chatterjee's characters, is always a delightful experience for the fans.

He started his career on the stage, and considered thespian Sisir Bhaduri as his mentor. He went on to become an icon in the theatre arena. Apart from acting, Soumitra Chatterjee was also known for his exceptional talents as a playwright, poet, painter and theatre director.

"Dori Dhore Maro Taan, Raja Hobe Khan Khan", Soumitra Chatterjee's iconic line from Ray's "Hirak Rajar Deshe", is still relevant today, and used by revolutionists from all walks of life.

Soumitra Chatterjee's powerful voice also earned him the title of one of the most prominent elocutionists in Bengal. His strong command and his undeniable love for Bengali literature and language, made him decline several offers in Hindi films. He devoted himself to films in Kolkata, wholeheartedly.

"The end is inevitable and it is useless to be afraid of it," shared the cancer survivor, in an interview with Amit Roy in 2009 in London. "My time has become shorter now, I can almost see the end. I am not afraid of dying."

Although we mourn Soumitra Chatterjee's passing with heavy hearts, he will live among us through the beloved Apu, Feluda and Bishwanath Majumdar, among countless other mesmerising characters.

Rasheek Tabassum Mondira is an authentic night-owl and an actual zombie throughout the day. She loves binge-watching, reading and writing. If you want to chat about anything and everything in life, mail her at rasheekmondira@gmail.com.

When I met Apu

APURBA JAHANGIR

My introduction to Soumitra Chatterjee happened in a strange way. It was in the early 2000s, around the month of September, when Nrityanchal used to host dance festivals of three or four days.

My Abba, Muhammad Jahangir, being one of the founders and coordinators of Nrityanchal, the joy of these festivals used to be evident in our household as well. But I remember, the family was a bit too excited for this particular one. As a 10-year-old, I saw my father's eyes beaming with excitement, the smell of jasmine perfume on my mother was more than usual, and my sister wore the best shari she owned. I only knew that Feluda was in town! We were off to see Nrityanchal's 'Soumitra Shondha'.

Now, I was accustomed to Feluda, as movies like "Sonar Kella" and "Joi Baba Felunath" were my after-school entertainment, and so, I was ecstatic to be meeting P C Mitter in person. Now, the thought of people aging was yet to be established in my 10-year-old mind. Consequently, I was a bit disappointed after seeing him. He looked nothing like he did in the movies! I remember he was wearing a dark blue *punjabhi*, with a grey shawl over it, and the first thing he said to me was, "Baah! Tumio Apu!(Wow! You're Apu too!)"

At the show, he recited Rabindranath Tagore and talked about working with Satyajit Ray. He read excerpts from *Aparajito*, *Charulata*, and *Ghare Baire*. Everyone at that Shilpakala Academy hall was in awe of Soumitra, but I was just bored out of my mind, because he didn't talk about Feluda!

After the show my father and I hopped into his designated car and I remember, people were all over the windows just to see a glimpse of the actor. I really didn't get what the big deal was. I wish I had known back then.

We were stuck in traffic, when he suddenly turned around and said, "Apu, Tomar kemon laaglo ajke?(Apu, how did you like today?)"

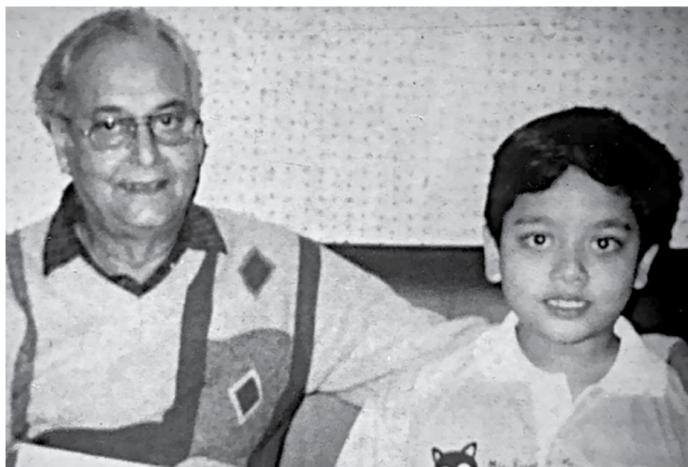


PHOTO: COURTESY OF APURBA JAHANGIR

He didn't have to ask me, he already knew what happened in that auditorium. Yet, he asked in such a way that I was somewhat his equal. I was amused, but I managed to reply, "Apar .32 Colt ta to dekhale na(You didn't show your .32 Colt)."

We went to an after party, and it was filled with familiar faces. Renowned artistes were there, trying to have a meaningful conversation with the man who was the face of Bangali cinema. For a 10 year old, it was a bit overwhelming, so I tried to concentrate on the buffet. Around the end of the party as I was hopelessly roaming around trying to figure out when will this be over, I spotted the man, sitting beside my mother and our eyes connected. He called me by hand.

When I stood in front of him, he held my hand and said, "Shuno, amra duijon e Apu, kintu ami hocchi nokol Apu ar tumi hoccho ashol Apu.(Listen, we're both Apu, but I am the fictional Apu and you're the real Apu). Now, I don't know what happened back then, or

what he meant by it. All I remember is that my mother was weeping as he said it.

To this day, I don't know what he meant by it, but I am truly lucky that he said it to me. Now as a filmmaker and a fan of cinema, I could've gone on about how amazing of an actor Soumitra was or how he portrayed Apu in *Aparajito* in such a charming manner, but I won't, because to me, Soumitra Chatterjee is very personal.

The beloved character, Apu, is my namesake, and Soumitra is one of the reasons that I fell in love with cinema to begin with.

They say that when you're named after someone, you inherit some of their qualities. Now I don't know if that's true but somewhere in the back of my mind, I would like to believe it is — and to me, he will always be the real Apu.

Apurba Jahangir is a filmmaker, writer and an entrepreneur. Find him @apurba_jahangir on Instagram.



www.youthop.com

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

One Young World Virtual Scholarship Program 2021 by Johnson & Johnson

The Johnson & Johnson Global Community Impact Team supports and champions the people on the front lines who are at the heart of delivering care. The Team leads the global Johnson & Johnson partnership with One Young World and believes that changing the trajectory of health for humanity requires putting people first so that communities and health systems have the ability to address the health needs of the

world's most vulnerable people. Through its global and community-based partnerships and programs, the Team aims to support the next generation of global and community-based health leaders to develop the skills and tools they need to drive health and well-being in underserved communities.

DEADLINE: November 27, 2020 | Scholarships

Deutsche Welle (DW) Traineeship 2021

DW is looking for young people from all over the world interested in a comprehensive, exceptional quality journalism program with an international broadcaster. Candidates should have journalism experience or be passionate

about switching to journalism from technology/IT, economics or the sciences. DW is looking for open-minded people full of creative ideas.

DEADLINE: November 27, 2020 | Internships



Youth Opportunities Campus Ambassador Program 2021

Youth Opportunities is launching the 3rd season of its Campus Ambassador Program for the aspiring youth of Bangladesh. The program aims at empowering the youth as changemakers in their institutions to promote different aspects of global and local

opportunities among their fellow students so that they can avail of these opportunities and transform them into successes.

DEADLINE: November 20, 2020 | Volunteer Service

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 5, 1427 B5

Govt's plan to strike off coal power plants appreciable

What about Rampal?

WE welcome the government's plan to get rid of coal power for cleaner options of energy, such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), petroleum and solar, owing to rising coal import costs and environmental concerns. According to the power, energy and mineral resources ministry, if the plan gets the go-ahead from the highest office, all but five coal-based power projects will be scrapped. Unfortunately, the Rampal power plant is not among the projects that will be cancelled.

Over the last 12 years, the government has approved 18 coal-based power plants, 13 of which could not make any progress or ensure funds to construct the proposed plants. However, the work of the remaining five projects—Payra (1,320MW Bangladesh-China joint venture in Patuakhali), Rampal (1,320MW Bangladesh-India Maitri thermal project in Bagerhat), S Alam (1224MW, at Banskhali in Chattogram), Barisal Electric Power Company Ltd (307MW, in Barguna), and Matarbari (1200MW Bangladesh-Japan joint venture in Cox's Bazar)—has been going on.

Of these five coal-based projects, the Rampal power plant touched off an unprecedented uproar among green campaigners as well as the general public at home and abroad, as it is being constructed close to the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world. The state minister for power and energy has insisted that there is no chance of the Rampal power plant being cancelled, as 40 percent of its work has already been completed.

Although the government assures us that none of these power plants will cause any harm to the environment as "ultra super critical technology" is being used in constructing the plants, it is common knowledge how coal-based power plants create black smog and pollute the surrounding air and water. The Rampal power plant will definitely destroy the delicate ecosystem of large parts of the Sundarbans as the fleet of ships carrying coal for the power plant will cause air and water pollution, according to environmentalists.

According to Bangladesh Power Development Board, the country's electricity demand is now a maximum of 12,000-13,000MW against a production capacity of 20,383MW. So, what could be the logic behind building more coal-based power plants, especially Rampal, when they are most likely to be extremely harmful for our environment? While we understand that the government has been working to increase power generation considering future demand, we hope that it will do so by using clean sources of energy and considering the environmental aspects.

Arson attacks on buses demand proper investigation

Politicising the attacks will only let the real perpetrators off the hook

IT is astonishing that Zakir Hossain Siddiqui—a vice-president of Jubo Dal who was admitted to LabAid Hospital between November 10 and 15, and has the documents to prove it—has been charged for torching a bus on November 12. This newspaper obtained those documents, yet the police did not? On what basis would they have filed the case otherwise? And what sort of an investigation did they carry out where such a crucial piece of evidence simply escaped them? Another Jubo Dal member who underwent bypass surgery less than a month before November 12, and was prescribed to be in bed rest for three months by doctors, also claimed to have been falsely accused in relation to the incident.

A previous report published by this newspaper on November 15 unearthed similar cases of BNP leaders and activists being charged over buses getting torched in the capital, despite multiple eyewitnesses confirming that they were in a completely different location at the time. In one particular case, the individual charged was present in a Dhaka court when the arson attack took place—surely it could not have been that difficult for the police to find that out.

All these glaring anomalies do not indicate that the police are going after those who are actually responsible for the attacks—rather it seems that people are being charged based on their political affiliation. In fact, as this newspaper reported yesterday, two individuals who were actually seen setting fire to a bus on a CCTV camera are apparently yet to be identified or apprehended by the police.

While we are not saying whether BNP is involved or not in this incident, we are extremely worried about how these cases are being handled and how impartially the investigations are being carried out. At the end of the day, setting buses on fire is a very serious and dangerous offence. And by politicising the attacks, the police are trivialising the matter and failing to apprehend the criminals behind them—who could potentially launch more such attacks in the future if they are let off the hook. We call on the authorities to conduct proper investigations into the attacks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

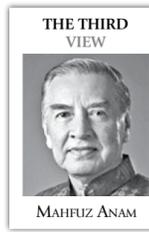
Be ready for a second wave

Experts have predicted the possibility of a second wave of coronavirus in Bangladesh starting this winter. Yet, all warnings seem to be falling on deaf ears. That's what I feel every time I step out of my house and notice the total disregard for health safety. Recently, the highest daily casualties in around two months were recorded: 39 reported in a day! What more proof do we need to take this pandemic seriously? However, I appreciate the initiative of the authorities to conduct mobile court drives and fine those not wearing masks. We must all be alert and make sure we carry out all precautionary measures.

Zahid Alom, *Khulna*

From a pro-party to pro-people police force

Political use has prevented its growth into a neutral professional institution



THE THIRD VIEW

MAHFUZ ANAM

DURING the AL's agitation for a caretaker government in the mid-90s, we carried a picture of AL leader Matia Chowdhury pinned down by the police on the Manik Mia Avenue, in front of Jatiya

Sangsad, trying to protect herself from police assault while protesting against the then BNP government. A few years later, we published a photo of Sadeque Hossain Khoka, a BNP leader later to become Mayor of Dhaka, with blood streaming down his forehead after facing a brutal police attack at nearly the same spot. The two photos showing police behaviour at two different junctures of our history when two different parties were in power (namely BNP and AL) tell one single story: how the police, as they are presently used, are not enforcers of law but rather implementers of the politics of the day, including and especially its vengeful aspects.

The above story acquires new relevance as we see how the police are handling the case of the torching of nearly a dozen buses in Dhaka city and how opposition party members are being picked up indiscriminately, even when they were far away from the scene of the occurrence. This paper ran two reports, on November 15 and 19, detailing how people are being indiscriminately arrested or put in wanted lists that include people who are most unlikely to be able to torch buses, either because they are too old, too sick (some have been in hospital during the occurrence) or too far away from the scene of the crime. We can't say whether BNP was involved or not—it is for the investigation to reveal. We are merely pointing out that the political nature of the arrests is greatly corroding the credibility of the process.

One would perhaps shrug their shoulders and say this is hardly unusual in our part of the world. The question is, why should it be so? Why should it happen at all if we believe in the supremacy of our constitution and the sanctity of our laws? Not only does it continue to happen, we also consider this trend natural and inevitable. This is where the problem begins: our readiness to accept that the police will be a handmaiden of the government and not a protector of the people. Maybe its roots lie in the colonial times. But how long are we going to sing that song? Are we never going to have a modern, neutral and professional police force fully

committed to the people, whose taxes pay for their service? Not even now when we are about to celebrate 50 years of our independence?

It has been 30 years since we toppled autocracy, and yet instead of moving forward with a neutral professional police force, we have, in fact, moved backwards. The political use of this essential institution constitutes the central reality of today and it is also perhaps the most important law and order issue. They are now a part of the apparatus. That law is "blind" is belied by the fact that police look at almost everything wearing politically coloured glasses. Just as they are looked upon as an integral part of ruling-party politics, they too look upon themselves as servants of the party

is ever asked.

The absurd situation of allegations of torture against police being investigated by officers from the same units, or within the same official hierarchy, is a commonplace occurrence. In almost all cases, such investigations, while taking an unnecessarily long time, more often than not exonerate accused police officials from the charges. In this regard, the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) recommends that Bangladesh establishes an investigation mechanism to handle complaints regarding torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials that is independent of law enforcement agencies. The CAT also urges empowering the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh by making necessary

not only legal but also inevitable. Before, citizens used to be victimised by the misuse of law. Now, they are victimised by its use, done very much by the book.

In making new laws it is generally expected that we follow the spirit of the 17th-century English philosopher and political theorist, John Locke, that "the end of law is not to abolish or restrain but to preserve and enlarge freedom." Ours are on the opposite trajectory. We have made laws whose clear purpose is to "restrain", if not "abolish" freedom outright. The Digital Security Act (DSA) is a law that is structured—from beginning to end—to curb freedom of expression. Made in the name of restraining cybercrimes, it has become the very symbol of the most oppressive law that Bangladesh has enacted in the recent past.

Instead of protecting people's fundamental rights, police are now the preferred instrument for curbing them. The most common feeling among the people is that "I don't need any protection. Just leave me alone." For, once drawn into a legal tangle, it usually takes years, if not a lifetime, to see the light at the end of a never-ending legal tunnel. Being left alone, by the law, is the earnest desire of the majority of the citizens.

But that's not how "laws" were meant to be viewed. They were meant to be embraced, not feared. The story of the shifting of power from the sovereign monarch to the sovereign people is the most edifying and uplifting—and not-so-often-told—story of our civilisation.

Where power should reside, who should exercise it and how, and how its use will be monitored are essential questions that have engaged the best and brightest of minds throughout history, and have triggered struggles between the rulers and the ruled. Bringing power into the hands of the people has been the stuff of most revolutions, ultimately flowering into democracy and, in Abraham Lincoln's words, into governments "of the people, by the people and for the people."

With the shrinking democratic space for the people and with law enforcement acquiring a deeper political hue, while enjoying complete impunity for their actions, what is the future of our dream for a pro-people law enforcement? The power, the privilege, the "exceptionality" that they have been made used to will be something they will be reluctant to part with. How the police will turn, if ever, from being pro-party to being a pro-people law enforcement force is a question that only the future can answer.

But it should definitely be one of our immediate goals as we celebrate the 50 years of our independence.

Mahfuz Anam is Editor and Publisher, *The Daily Star*.



The way the police are handling the case of torching of nine buses in Dhaka city on November 12, 2020 raises questions about their neutrality as a law enforcement agency.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

rather than of the public. Otherwise, how can one explain that Officers in Charge (OCs) of police stations routinely refuse to accept citizens' complaints without ensuring that the complaints are politically koshered?

Today, there is practically no accountability of police behaviour, the most glaring proof of which is that no serious investigation has ever been undertaken for custodial deaths. People have been picked up by individuals claiming to be police from their houses, who later turned up dead in hospitals or whose bodies were discovered lying by the road side, and yet no investigation was done to ascertain how it happened. Routinely, the wrong people are made accused in terrorism, arson and political cases and later released, allegedly after hidden transactions, and yet no question

amendments to its Act so that it can investigate all alleged acts of torture and ill-treatment committed by law enforcement agencies directly. But who listens?

Another reason behind the impunity of police officers is that the victims of torture are extremely reluctant to file complaints fearing reprisals. Here, the enactment of a victim and witness protection law could serve a useful purpose.

The use made of the police in the last general election and subsequent by-elections, and in suppressing road safety, quota reforms and other movements, shows how police have been made an integral part of the political power structure, which has further removed any possibility of their accountability. What is of further concern is how even laws have been changed to make such police action

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

The Global South's Pandemic Path to Self-Reliance



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

COVID-19 continues to have a devastating impact on public health and to rattle the global economy with structural shocks. The pandemic has already killed more than one million people,

while the International Monetary Fund estimates that global GDP will shrink by 4.4 percent in 2020. But, strange as it may seem, the current crisis could offer developing countries a path toward greater economic self-reliance.

This is partly because developed countries have in general borne the brunt of the pandemic's health effects so far. Many advanced Western economies have experienced more Covid-19 cases and deaths relative to their populations than have developing countries of the Global South, despite their superior health-care systems and stronger social safety nets. For example, India's health system ranks 112th globally, while that of the United States ranks 37th. But whereas India has so far reported about 6,467 Covid-19 cases per million population, America's tally is more than five times higher.

Some developing countries like Vietnam combated the coronavirus effectively by introducing strict testing, tracing, and quarantine measures at a very early stage—something most developed countries failed to do. Even after allowing for possible underreporting and data inaccuracies in poorer countries, the relative performance of developed economies remains a paradox.

Moreover, development financing has already started to plummet as richer countries focus on engineering domestic post-pandemic recoveries. The OECD estimates that external private finance inflows to developing economies could decrease by USD 700 billion year on year

in 2020, exceeding the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis by 60 percent. Non-resident portfolio outflows from emerging markets totalled USD 83.3 billion in March 2020 alone, according to the Institute of International Finance. And the OECD thinks global foreign direct investment (FDI) will drop by at least 30 percent this year, with flows to developing economies likely to fall even more. Such trends imply a grim outlook for Global South countries that historically have largely relied on development aid from the Global North.

But studies have shown that development aid and humanitarian assistance do not necessarily foster economic empowerment. A recent OECD survey found that between 48 percent and 94 percent of respondents in developing countries do not believe that humanitarian assistance helps them to become economically self-reliant. People want financial autonomy, not prolonged assistance.

The debate over the effectiveness of development aid is an old one, with critics claiming that rich countries use aid as a tool to exploit developing economies' resources, and often attach conditions to ensure that donors reap the bulk of the export receipts. But many developed countries have lost much of their soft power because of their shambolic pandemic responses.

Even before Covid-19 struck, many developing economies had been looking for ways to make a sustainable shift from aid dependency to self-reliance. In 2018, Rwanda banned second-hand clothes imports with the aim of encouraging its domestic textile industry to produce higher value-added garments; the US responded by ending the country's duty-free export privileges. And last year, the United Kingdom's government allocated part of its 14 billion pound (USD 18.5 billion) aid budget to capacity-building projects intended to help developing countries increase their international trade and attract FDI.

Today, developing countries have more opportunities to become self-reliant. For starters, trade in developing East Asia has declined less sharply than in the West during the pandemic, according to the World Trade Organization. A key reason for this is that industries producing high value-added goods usually suffer more during downturns. Developing countries' greater resilience, stemming from their reliance on low value-added manufacturing, is evident in Vietnam's textile and garments sector, which has

pharmaceuticals sectors are expected to thrive in the post-pandemic economy as people become more aware of the importance of health and fitness. Least developed countries can take advantage of World Trade Organization provisions by producing more generic drugs, which face no patent-related obstacles.

Finally, governments in the Global South can mobilise domestic resources to offset the decline in external development finance—in particular by transforming their tax policies to generate revenue from fast-growing digital economic activities. Currently, developing countries' low levels of tax revenue as a share of GDP—typically between 10-20 percent, compared to 40 percent in high-income countries—hinder development by constraining governments' ability to invest in public goods like health, infrastructure, and education.

Developing countries face several hurdles on the path to self-reliance, not least poor governance, unfavourable business climates, and civil conflicts. But they also must break with the post-1945 paradigm of external development finance, which has been primarily driven by the Global North and shaped by its geopolitical agenda. For far too long, developing countries have had to listen to lectures from those who think they know better. Today, developing-country governments must chart a development agenda that is free from donor conditionality.

Every crisis contains great opportunities, and the Covid-19 pandemic is no different. It offers developing countries nothing less than the chance to reinvent and reboot their economies—and to shake off the disabling legacy of external aid dependency.

The debate over the effectiveness of development aid is an old one, with critics claiming that rich countries use aid as a tool to exploit developing economies' resources, and often attach conditions to ensure that donors reap the bulk of the export receipts.

remained operational throughout the pandemic and is expected to have a swifter recovery in 2021 compared to their regional competitors. Second, digitisation will play a crucial role in the post-pandemic recovery by significantly boosting e-commerce, which implies a fairer competitive playing field for producers around the world. Bangladesh's e-commerce sector grew by 26 percent year on year by August, and other South Asian countries show a similar trend.

Third, the health-care and

Syed Munir Khasru is Chairman of the Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG).
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Metro Rail Through DU: At What Cost?



AZMIN AZRAN

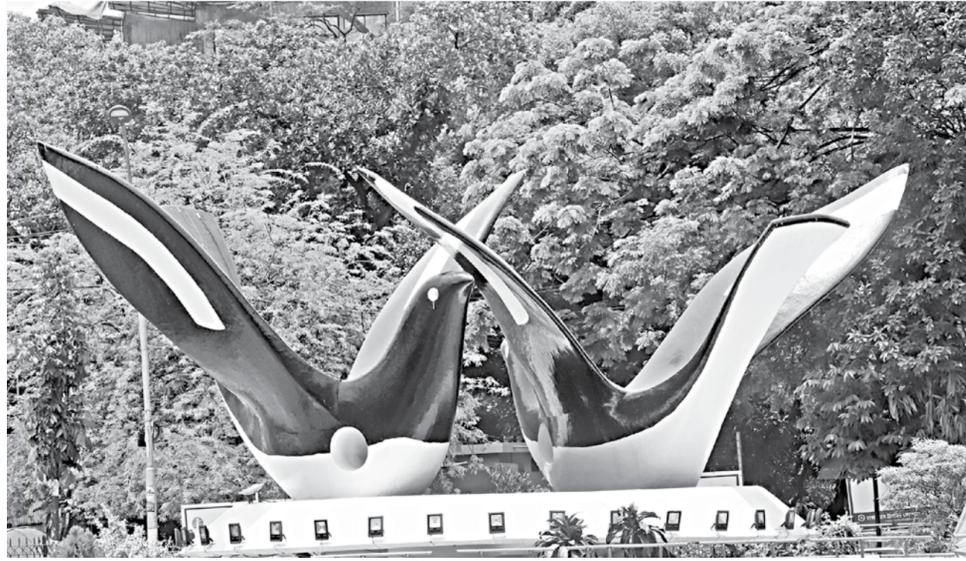
"SOON to be shadowed"—read the caption of an image on *The Daily Star's* front page last week. It featured the iconic Shontrash Birodhi Raju

Bhashkarja, and looming over it, the towering structures of Bangladesh's first-ever metro rail, the MRT 6, still under construction. The image brought into focus an issue that has been a point of contention for the students of the University of Dhaka (DU) for four years now.

On the face of it, it might feel like there shouldn't be much to complain about. MRT 6 is a long-awaited project for the people of Dhaka, the beginning of long-term public transport infrastructure which is vital if this city were to remain functional going forward. Public transport that traverses a university should, in theory, help the students who study there by providing them with a fast option of getting in and out of the campus. But there's more to this issue than meets the eye.

The metro rail is being constructed along the edges of a large number of important academic and cultural centres of the university. The current alignment of MRT 6 takes it past the Faculty of Fine Arts, two libraries (Central and Science), research centres in CARS (Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences) and CARASS (Centre for Advanced Research in Arts and Social Sciences), the Atomic Energy Centre, Bangla Academy, the Institute of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Mokarram Bhaban, and Curzon Hall, all of which include critical research labs and of course classrooms.

It's not hard to imagine the disruption that will be caused by trains going past all of these buildings every four minutes. The overall detriment to the academic environment and the inevitable drop in quality of education



File photo of Doyel Chatter on the Dhaka University campus. The metro rail is being constructed along the edges of a number of important academic and cultural centres of the university.

PHOTO: SK. ENAMUL HAQUE

that this will bring is what makes it so hard to get behind this project.

Then there's the "small" problem of the MRT 6 straddling some notable landmarks inside the DU campus. Other than Raju Bhashkarja, Dhaka Gate, a Mughal-era landmark, will find itself placed directly under the viaducts taking the metro from Doyel Chatter towards the High Court area. Tin Netar Mazar and Ramna Kali Mandir will also be within earshot and eyeshot of the rapid trains which are going to produce noise and vibrations, the intensity of which is still unclear.

Additionally, the decision to place a station inside the campus, in the area adjoining Bangla Academy and TSC, is particularly vexing. Trains at this station are expected to arrive with passengers headed for the major destinations of Dhaka New Market and Dhaka Medical

College Hospital, which will increase foot traffic and exacerbate the already pressing problem of outsiders crowding the DU campus.

A 2018 interview with the late National Professor Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, published by *The Daily Star*, paints a clear picture of how the current alignment for the MRT 6 came to be.

"The other change was the construction of Mayor Hanif Flyover, previously not in the plan. It was originally selected as the route for MRT 6, terminating at Jatrabari. The revised alignment necessitated a route passing through east of TSC, University of Dhaka, towards Curzon Hall and then turning towards Topkhana Road and terminating in front of Bangladesh Bank," said the veteran professor.

This plan that he referred to is the Strategic Transport Plan (STP), the initial

version of which covered the period of 2005-2025. A Revised Strategic Transport Plan (RSTP) was drawn up in 2015. Why the city failed to adhere to a long-term plan that was already in place when the flyover's construction began in 2010 is hard to comprehend. This eventually led to the current alignment, and for the students who are opposed to the MRT 6 going through DU, it leaves us in a place where not much could be done to divert it.

The MRT 6 going through DU has been Plan B all along. The lack of a Plan C and the improbability of dedicating more funds and time to come up with one has hamstrung any and all protests against the current alignment.

There have been grumblings against the metro rail's construction among students right from the beginning. In 2016, students took to the streets to

protest it, but the student body was split in their actions.

I spoke to Meem Arafat Manab, a student at the time, to learn about the protests four years ago. "Students were angered when the first signs of work were visible. We gathered in front of Raju Bhashkarja, but the students were split into different groups with different ideas of what they wanted. The protests were disorganised, the leadership was confused, we contacted the VC, but in hindsight, I don't think there was much he could do," he recalls.

Yet, the protests never stopped. Most notably, earlier this year, students protested the felling of trees near TSC for a metro rail station, but to no avail. The coronavirus restrictions have not been ideal in gathering large crowds to voice any substantial opposition. Protests have been largely limited to social media, and failed to gather any momentum.

The first time I walked into the University of Dhaka campus as a student was a cold January morning in 2018. I had class at half past eight, so I got there with 20 minutes in hand and sat down on a broken bench outside TSC and got myself a cup of *malta cha*. I remember sitting down facing Raju Bhashkarja, and looking at Suhrawardy Udyan beyond it and really thinking about the significance of the history this venue had witnessed. The cup of tea in my hand was not the sole source of the warmth I felt at that moment, and I'm sure there had been many before me standing on the same spot, having the exact same feelings.

The fact that this view and the inspiration it provides will no longer be available for future generations may not seem worthy of consternation within the bounds of the cut-throat objectivity that drives development in our country. But if there's one place where subjective thinking and deliberation can be expected, it should be a university. The fact that such thinking never seems to materialise is, more than anything, disappointing.

Azmin Azran is a subeditor at SHOUT, *The Daily Star*, and a student of computer science and engineering at the University of Dhaka.

THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE PROJECT

University Life: A Dream or a Nightmare?

The Academic Experience Project is a faculty-student collaborative work aimed to glean insights about the experiences of tertiary-level students. Each Friday, *The Daily Star* publishes an op-ed highlighting its findings. Today's is the third article of the series.

SIFAT ZEREEN and SYED SAAD ANDALEEB

UNIVERSITY life is going to be the best time of your life! We often hear this growing up, and yet when we do reach that level, we find that it is not at all what we expected it to be. So, what exactly did we expect and why are we not satisfied?

The Academic Experience Project that evolved from a class project showed that the quality of campus life and that of academic programmes jointly play a part in determining whether students end up being satisfied with their university life. Students come together from varying backgrounds. While this may provide an exciting opportunity at socialising for some, for others it can be a stressful experience. With their newfound sense of freedom, taking part in club activities or hanging out together after classes is something that many students look forward to. However, the introverted students and those who come from various districts often suffer from anxiety as they worry about being accepted in their new environment. The high cost of education, especially in the private universities, can also weigh down the minds of many. Those who come out with flying colours in their pre-university exams and get admitted to a public university worry less about such costs.

Then there are those who struggle with the demands of their studies. Many come to the universities hoping to learn new and exciting things and grow with the challenges they expect to confront. The lucky ones even find help in the

form of like-minded and compassionate peers or seniors. Some take part in debates and competitions besides course work. Large numbers of students end up having to face the same old traditional way of learning—memorising materials that are not even updated in the context of a rapidly changing world. They start questioning what they are even learning at the university, and whether their academic experience will really be useful in real life, especially when they go out looking for jobs and building careers. They fail to experience and enjoy a rich learning process and end up being miserable and unable to associate positively with their educational institution.

Some students look for campuses with open grounds and gardens, while some look for state-of-the-art lab facilities and extensive libraries. There are still others who come with big dreams of doing something exceptional, benefiting society and the country at large. They have great expectations that the university will be where they find the big idea and expert guidance to take that initiative forward. Many universities do not manage to live up to those expectations.

So, what can universities do for the multitudes who feel miserable and continue to struggle during their undergraduate years and beyond? This is a question that must be addressed at many levels: from educational planners and policy makers to university administrators, faculty members, and even the students themselves.



Whether at a public institution or a private one, university life has the capacity to play a huge role in shaping the lives of students.

PHOTO: RANAK MARTIN

For starters, universities can draw realistic pictures of themselves during the orientation programme so that students know what they are signing up for and what kind of expectations to formulate. Universities could also arrange for interactive, fun sessions to help students settle in and socialise. In addition, they can adopt a more approachable and responsive attitude towards student complaints, viewing these as areas for improvement.

Whether or not we are willing to face reality, the fact is that the students' educational experience allows very little for exploration and self-discovery,

especially in terms of extra-curricular activities. While it may be difficult to accommodate this option at the primary and secondary education levels at present, universities can play a huge role by introducing to their students a range of people of different backgrounds, experiences and interests and take them beyond bookish knowledge. Seminar speakers, artists, social workers and a plethora of professional, social, and even political personages can be invited to campus to engage with the students and enlighten them.

It is also high time we moved away from the "only doctor-engineer-

businessman is acceptable" mentality to accepting the fact that students can have a passion for and talents in areas other than these traditional job roles. Researchers, painters, filmmakers, adventurers, musicians and writers can all get their start during the much-coveted "university life". The authorities will also be pleased to find that given the right platform and support, students will themselves come forward to form clubs, find activities to take part in, share ideas they have been bursting to pitch, and even find funding for various co-curricular activities. Besides, faculty members could also have much to offer beyond the typical classroom slides and lectures.

Whether at a public institution or a private one, university life has the capacity to play a much bigger role in shaping the lives of its students. They are not robots who can turn out productivity on demand. As humans, their productivity will always be tied to happiness, to finding motivation and enjoyment. Students and authorities must work jointly to transform university life into a worthwhile and diverse experience where one can add the highest value to oneself. And, together, they can become the most important co-creators of a better nation.

Sifat Zereen is working on her MBA degree at IBA, University of Dhaka. Syed Saad Andaleeb is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Pennsylvania State University, and former Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University. The article is a result of his collaboration with the IBA students to turn the spotlight on higher education in Bangladesh. For more information on The Academic Experience Project, contact Dr Andaleeb at bdresearchA22@gmail.com.

QUOTABLE Quote



ARTHUR ASHE (1943-1993) American tennis player.

Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

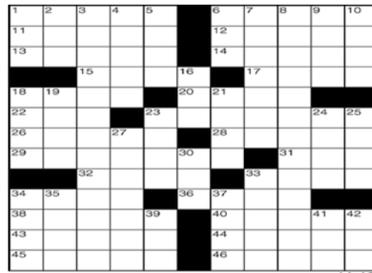
- 1 Wall worker
- 6 News summary
- 11 Spare
- 12 Curaçao's neighbor
- 13 Showed over
- 14 Outfits
- 15 Physics bit
- 17 RBI or ERA
- 18 Goopy cheese
- 20 Inking
- 22 Fall behind
- 23 Hoop, perhaps
- 26 Different
- 28 "Lou Grant" star
- 29 "Scram!"
- 31 2016 Olympics host
- 32 Take a breather
- 33 Joined the

CHOIR

- 34 Impact sound
- 36 Himalayan beast
- 38 Greenish brown
- 40 Stopwatch button
- 43 Without aid
- 44 "Superman" star
- 45 Rich cake
- 46 Bender

DOWN

- 1 Sea, to Simone
- 2 Log chopper
- 3 Bard's tool
- 4 Give an address
- 5 Billionth: Prefix
- 6 Cloth scrap
- 7 Pencil ends
- 8 Short play
- 9 "Waterloo" group
- 10 Years gone by
- 16 Hamm of soccer
- 18 Online journal
- 19 Velocity
- 21 "Shucks!"
- 23 Amorous archer
- 24 German denial
- 25 Sailor's quaff
- 27 Lead or lithium
- 30 Sow site
- 33 Expensive
- 34 "Repeat that?"
- 35 Ring of light
- 37 Blunders
- 39 Director Spike
- 41 First lady?
- 42 Golfbag item



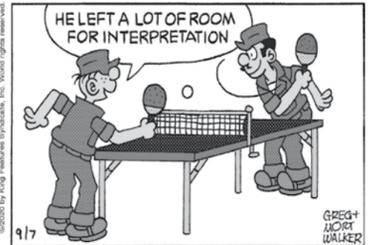
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



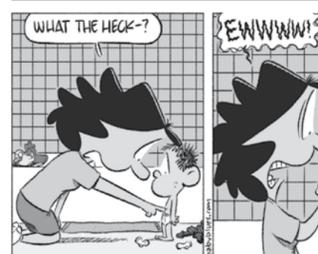
BEETLE BAILEY



BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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

HSC SPECIAL MODEL TEST 2020

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



SUBJECT: ENGLISH FIRST PAPER

Dear Students,

Today we will practise Multiple Choice Questions and Open-ended questions of question number 1 of Part one of English First Paper. With a view to evaluating your comprehensive aptitude, questions will be provided. 15 (5+10) marks will be allotted for this question. Let's practise.

Dear Students,

Today we will practise gap filling activities with clues of question number 4 of English First Paper. With a view to evaluating your aptitude in using appropriate words, a text having 10 gaps will be provided. 5 marks will be allotted for this question. Let's practise.

SEEN PASSAGE

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

One of the sources of water in our country is the rivers. Rivers are everywhere in our life, literature, economy and culture. But are the rivers in good shape? Unfortunately, they are not. A few are already dead and several are going through the pangs of death. The river Buriganga is an example of a dying river. A report published in the Daily Sun describes what has happened to the river Buriganga and why. Its water is polluted and a perpetual stench fills the air around it. But that is not what it was like before.

The report says that the river had a glorious past. Once it was a tributary of the mighty Ganges and flowed into the Bay of Bengal through the river Dhaleshwari. Gradually, it lost its link with the Ganges and got the name Buriganga. The Mughals

marvelled at the tide level of the Buriganga and founded their capital Jahangirnagar on its banks in 1610. The river supplied drinking water and supported trade and commerce. Jahangirnagar was renamed Dhaka which grew into a heavily populated city with a chronic shortage of space.

The city paid back the bounty of the river by sucking life out of it! According to newspaper report, the Buriganga is dying because of pollution. Huge quantities of toxic chemicals and wastes from mills and factories, hospitals and clinics and households and other establishments are dumped into the river everyday. The city of Dhaka discharges about 4500 tons of solid waste everyday and most of it is directly released into the Buriganga. According to the Department of Environment

(DoE), 20,000 tons of tannery waste, including some highly toxic materials, are released into the river everyday. Experts identified nine industrial areas in and around the capital city as the primary sources of river pollution: Tongi, Tejgaon, Hazaribagh, Tarabo, Narayanganj, Savar, Gazipur, Dhaka Export Processing Zone and Ghorashal.

The river would need a monster's stomach to digest all the wastes mentioned above. There is a limit up to which it can put up with its cruel and thoughtless treatment. We the humans have successfully killed one of our rivers. There are other rivers in the country that are being subjected to similar thoughtless treatment. Unless we take care of our rivers, there may come a time when we will cry 'water, water' and find it nowhere.

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

1×5=5

(a) The best way to save the river is ____.

- (i) introducing strict law
- (ii) involving all concerned people
- (iii) punishing polluters
- (iv) cleaning the river

(b) Dhaka grew into a ____ populated city with a short space.

- (i) thinly
- (ii) densely
- (iii) widely
- (iv) openly

(c) What was renamed?

- (i) Dhaka
- (ii) the Buriganga
- (iii) Jahangirnagar
- (iv) the Ganges

(d) A huge quantity of toxic chemicals and wastes are ____.

- (i) thrown in the river everyday
- (ii) produced from the river everyday
- (iii) made from river water everyday
- (iv) sold in the market everyday

(e) What would need a monster's stomach to digest all the wastes?

- (i) Dhaka city
- (ii) the capital of Dhaka
- (iii) the capital of Jahangirnagar
- (iv) the Buriganga



2×5=10

B. Answer the following questions.

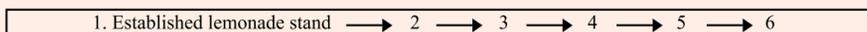
- (a) What should we do to bring back the glorious past of the rivers?
- (b) According to the passage, what happened in the year 1610?
- (c) What, according to the experts, are the primary sources of river pollution in and around Dhaka city?
- (d) What amount of solid waste is produced in Dhaka city and where does it go?
- (e) Why should the river need a monster's stomach?

2. Read the following text and make a flow chart showing the things Alex and her foundation have done for the children with cancer. (One is done for you.) 2×5=10

Alexandra 'Alex' Scott was born in Connecticut in 1996, and was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of childhood cancer, shortly before she turned one. In 2000, just after turning four, she informed her mother that she wanted to start a lemonade stand to raise money for doctors to help

children. Her first lemonade stand raised 2,000 dollars and led to the creation of the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. Alex continued her lemonade stands throughout her life, ultimately raising over one million dollars toward cancer research. She passed away in August 2004 at the age of eight.

Today, Alex's Lemonade Stand sponsors a national fundraising weekend in the United States which is popularly known as Lemonade Days. Each year, as many as 10,000 volunteers at more than 2,000 Alex's Lemonade Stands make a difference for children with cancer.



Read the following text and fill in the blanks with suitable word from the box. There are more words than needed. Make any grammatical change if necessary.

3

universe	character	organize	identify	economy	grow	biology
mark	communicate	early	critic	develop	define	determinant

World Health Organization (WHO) (a) ____ adolescence as the period in human growth and (b) ____ that occurs after childhood and before adulthood. This phase represents one of the critical transitions in one's lifespan and is (c) ____ by fast paced growth and change which are second only to those at infancy. Biological processes drive many aspects of this growth and development with the onset of puberty (d) ____ the passage from childhood to adolescence. The biological (e) ____ of adolescence are fairly (f) ____; however, the duration and (g) ____ characteristics of this period may vary across time, cultures and socio (h) ____ situations. This period has seen many changes over the past century—puberty for example, comes (i) ____ than before, people marry late and their sexual attitudes and behaviour are different from their grandparents, or even parents. Among the factors responsible for the change are education, urbanization and spread of global (j) ____.

4

riverine	natural	region	people	different	metaphors
inequality	material	eastern	great	composed	music

In Bangladesh, folk music has (a) ____ variety, with songs being (b) ____ on the culture, festivals, views of life, natural beauty, rivers and rural and riverine life. These songs are also about social (c) ____ and poverty, about the (d) ____ world and the supernatural. Mystical songs have been composed using the metaphors of rivers and boats. Since the country is basically (e) ____ the Bhatiyali forms an important genre of folk music. Folk music is formed and developed according to the environment. Differences in the (f) ____ environment are reflected in the (g) ____ of the (h) ____ regions. The dialects too vary across the different regions. Bangladeshi folk music, therefore, varies from (i) ____ to region. Thus there are the northern Bhawaiya, the (j) ____ Bhatiyali and the southwestern Baul songs.

ANSWERS

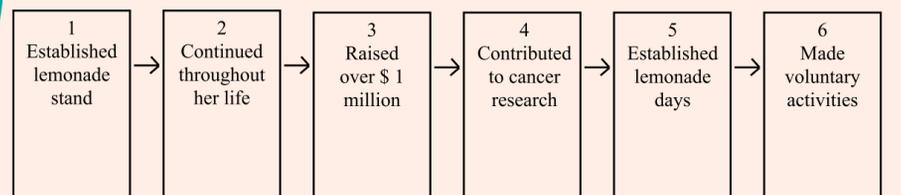
Answer to the question number 1(A):

- (a) = (ii) involving all concerned people
- (b) = (ii) densely
- (c) = (iii) Jahangirnagar
- (d) = (i) thrown in the river everyday
- (e) = (iv) the Buriganga

Answer to the question number 1(B):

- (a) In order to bring back the glorious past of the rivers, we must refrain from throwing waste into the rivers. Throwing huge amounts of waste into rivers hinders and stops their strong flow, of course leading to their gradual death.
- (b) In 1610, the Mughals were highly delighted at the tide level of the Buriganga and so founded their capital Jahangirnagar on its bank.
- (c) According to the experts, the primary sources of river pollution in and around Dhaka city are nine industrial areas namely Tongi, Tejgaon, Hazaribagh, Tarabo, Narayanganj, Savar, Gazipur, Dhaka Export Processing Zone and Ghorashal. Everyday huge quantities of toxic chemicals and wastes from these sources are released into the river Buriganga.
- (d) About 4500 tons of solid waste is produced in Dhaka city everyday and the major part of it goes straight into the river Buriganga.
- (e) About 4500 tons of solid wastes and 20,000 tons of tannery wastes are released in the Buriganga everyday. To digest this huge quantity of wastes, the river needs a monster's stomach.

Answer to the question number 2:



Answer to the question number 3:

- (a) identifies; (b) development; (c) characterised; (d) marking; (e) determinants; (j) universal; (g) defining; (h) economic; (i) earlier; (j) communication.

Answer to the question number 4:

- (a) great; (b) composed; (c) inequality; (d) material; (e) riverine; (f) natural; (g) people; (h) different; (i) region; (j) eastern.





CRAFTING A LIVING

TRAINED by Jagoroni, which has a showroom in Dhaka, women make dolls and other small handicrafts using jute and other plant fibres. The initiative, which started in 1968 by Sister Lilian and Sister Michael Francis of the Associates of Mary Queen of Apostles, initially trained and hired underprivileged women to make rope, twine, and bags. Sister Lilian would then sell these door-to-door on foot, as the organisation could not afford transport. Today, the products made by around 3,000 female entrepreneurs working at Jagoroni are sold both at home and abroad, while allowing them to make a living and support their families. Around 30 women also live in the hostel set up by Jagoroni near its handicrafts showroom and training centre. An initiative that began more than half a century ago is still empowering women to earn a dignified living today.

Photo: PRABIR DAS



Let barriers be removed

FROM PAGE 14
top official of the finance division told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

The dialogue series will start on November 26 on the topic "Job Retention, Restoration of Demand and Maintenance of Supply Chain," the official said.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Ahmad Kaikaus, World Bank's Country Director for Bangladesh Mercy Tembon, Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Ito Naoki, Centre for Policy Dialogue Executive Director Fahmida Khatun, and SANEM Executive Director Selim Raihan are among the panelists of the dialogue, said finance ministry officials.

The second day of the dialogue would be held on December 3 on employment creation and revitalisation of the rural economy. The last part of the series would be held on December 10 on food security, they added.

Experts believe that the dialogues would also help them find out the barriers standing in the way of the packages' implementation, and speed up the execution.

Hailing the initiative, Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, said, "It will be important to focus on the discussion on the specific issues such as food security and assisting the informal sector in the midst of the pandemic as identified."

"The government needs to pay serious attention to the assessments of why the implementation of stimulus packages for the cottage, micro and small enterprises in the formal and informal sectors is so slow," he told this paper.

The government's evaluation of the huge stimulus packages comes after experts and think-tanks decried over the slow disbursement of the funds to some of the sectors hit hard by the pandemic.

Since the virus was detected in Bangladesh in March, both the government and the central bank have unveiled 20 stimulus packages involving Tk 120,053 crore. The combined support now accounts for 4.3 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The packages have been provided in the form of low-cost loans to micro, small, medium and large industries and service-providers and food security, social protection and special allowances as the pandemic-induced shutdown paralysed the economy, drying up millions of jobs and creating the new poor.

For sectors like the export-oriented ones and large industries, the disbursement of the funds was quick. But the needy small and medium enterprises and farm sectors are yet to avail much of the support.

As of September, the banks disbursed 48 percent of Tk 76,000 crore funds they were entrusted with lending to the large industries. It means the banks have disbursed Tk 36,624 crore.

The export-oriented sector, mainly the readymade garments, is ahead of all so far. Initially, they were given Tk 5,000 crore. When the sector demanded more after the funds exhausted, the government allocated another Tk 3,000 crore. The second tranche has also been distributed.

But there are sectors where the disbursement of the stimulus fund has been very slow.

The special refinancing scheme worth Tk 5,000 crore for the agricultural sector can be a case in point.

Some 78,526 farmers or farms received Tk 1,892 crore from 43 banks, which was less than one third of the allocation.

Food security is another sector that apparently gets lesser priority.

The food ministry had aimed to buy 16.70 lakh tonnes of boro rice during the procurement period from April 26 to September 15. But it could manage to purchase only 9.10 lakh tonnes.

Despite the pandemic, the government could distribute around 7.45 lakh tonnes of rice from July 1 to October 15 this fiscal year whereas it was around 7.97 lakh tonnes during the same period a year ago, documents show.

One of the reasons behind the slow distribution is the decline in the country's food reserve.

Food Secretary Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum, however, said the distribution was low because the government doled out cash incentives instead of food under its food programme.

The Tk 20,000 crore fund as the working capital support to the pandemic-hit small businesses has also moved slowly. So far, Tk 4,822 crore have been disbursed from the package. Some 21,642 male entrepreneurs and 1,124 female entrepreneurs received the loans.

Similarly, the pre-shipment credit refinance scheme amounting to Tk 5,000 crore for export-oriented industries has not made any progress.

Bangladesh Bank started the scheme on April 13, but only Tk 16.6 crore was disbursed as of September.

In a recent paper, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) found only 8 percent of the employed workforce benefited from the stimulus packages.

There are about 6 crore people engaged in the formal and informal sectors in the country. But the packages failed to create required jobs to help people, the think-tank said.

Zahid Hussain said local think-tanks have done a lot on this together with the development partners. The dialogue will provide a forum for synthesising the insights obtained from these analyses.

"We hope at the end of it, there will be some clear directions on how to reform the existing initiatives and who will do what going forward. The crisis is deepening all over the world and the challenges are unprecedented. There is good news on the vaccine front, but a long way is still to go.



Submerged houses are seen on Wednesday around San Pedro Sula, 240 km north of Honduras capital of Tegucigalpa, after the devastation of Hurricane Iota. Storm Iota, which made landfall in Nicaragua as a "catastrophic" Category 5 hurricane Monday, killed at least ten people as it smashed homes, uprooted trees and swamped roads during its destructive advance across Central America.

PHOTO: AFP

UN adopts resolution for urgent solution

FROM PAGE 14
of the Rohingya crisis, including granting them citizenship, and ensuring their safe and sustainable return to their homes.

"As a country that hosts over 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas, Bangladesh continues to seek a peaceful solution to this crisis, which lies in their safe and dignified return to Myanmar," said Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Bangladesh permanent representative to the UN.

She thanked the international community for their unremitting support to the UN resolution.

This resolution, which was adopted on Wednesday, would reinforce the calls made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for an urgent solution to this crisis, the root of which lies entirely in Myanmar, said the Bangladesh mission in New York on Wednesday.

The resolution, co-tabled by OIC and European Union, received sponsorship from 104 member states, demonstrating strong and unified support in favour of the persecuted Rohingya Muslims and other minorities, who continue to suffer from human rights violations in Myanmar.

A total of 132 countries voted in favour of the resolution, while nine voted against and 31 abstained.

Apart from the EU and OIC member states, the resolution received significant cross-regional support, with co-sponsorship from the USA, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland etc.

Some key ASEAN countries like Indonesia and Malaysia also cosponsored the resolution.

This year, the resolution has taken some new developments into account, such as, provisional order of the International Court of Justice, initiation of an investigation by the International Criminal Court and the issue of continued disenfranchisement of the Rohingya and other minorities, who were barred from participating in the recent general election in Myanmar.

The resolution also expressed deep appreciation to the Bangladesh government, which under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has demonstrated exemplary humanitarian gesture by sheltering and protecting the Rohingyas.

The Bangladesh government's efforts in tackling the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the largest camp in the world was also recognised. The resolution called for the international community to support Bangladesh in its humanitarian endeavour.

The ambassador of Bangladesh expressed hope that the resolution

would create renewed pressure on Myanmar to address the Rohingya crisis by engaging with Bangladesh and other international actors in a constructive manner.

"The ongoing justice mechanisms in respect of the human rights violations committed by Myanmar authorities will also enjoy greater support from the international community," added Rabab Fatima.

Before the voting on the resolution, the permanent representative of Germany on behalf of EU and the permanent representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of OIC made statements in support of the resolution.

They expressed hope that this resolution would help address the longstanding plights of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities by ensuring their basic human rights to return to their homes in safety, security, and dignity, and would also help Myanmar overcome the challenges it faces in its democratic transition.

They called Myanmar to take urgent actions to address the citizenship issue of the Rohingya minorities.

The UN resolution on Myanmar continues to remain an important source of international norms in guiding a desired solution to this long standing Rohingya crisis.

UP members alone at fault?

FROM PAGE 14
Since the relief was too scanty for a ward of nearly 7,000 people -- mostly CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers, day labourers, beggars, rickshaw and van pullers -- Kabir said he spent money from his own pocket to distribute a separate relief package to 500 families on April 10-11, according to documents submitted to the ACC.

Each package contained 5kg of rice and 1kg of wheat.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify his claims.

"I requested UNO sir to inaugurate the distribution. He declined to come but suggested I carry out distribution maintaining social distancing," reads the letter.

Kabir said the UNO asked for the donation from him on April 10, when he met him that afternoon.

"The UNO asked me whether I'll be able to donate Tk 2 lakh for relief. I told him that I do not have that much money," claimed Kabir.

Two days later, on April 12, Kabir came to know that he had been suspended.

The order stated Kabir's suspension was "for misappropriating relief and tarnishing image of the government by spreading rumour."

Kabir was also show-caused and asked to explain why he should not be suspended permanently.

He replied to the show-cause notice the following day and later appeared in a hearing before the additional deputy magistrate of Narayanganj Khadija Tahera Boby on June 23.

In his written reply to the show-cause, Kabir said neither had the UNO seized any relief from his possession

nor had given him any chance to reply to any query, if the UNO had any.

Khadija said she submitted the probe report to her superiors. "I can't recall what was in the report," she said, when asked about the probe findings.

Saidul was transferred to Tangail Sadar Upazila as UNO on July 14. Contacted recently, Saidul said he took the action against Kabir after "scrutiny".

Asked how many packets of relief Kabir misappropriated, Saidul said: "I sought particulars of the beneficiaries but he failed to submit these."

Saidul refuted Kabir's allegation that he asked for Tk 2 lakh.

"There are so many industries in Sonargaon. If I needed money, I could have asked them. Why do I need to seek it from a member like him?"

Contacted, an official of Pirojpur Union Parishad, wishing to remain unnamed, said all members submitted particulars of the beneficiaries on the same day as the distribution.

"No one had brought allegations of misappropriation against the members," the UP official said.

Talking to this correspondent over the phone, Kabir said, "He [Saidul] has damaged my career with a false allegation and I'll have to live with this scar for the rest of my life."

"I have thought of filing a defamation suit but I know the administration will not allow me to do so."

Earlier this year, Chairman of Muriak union of Habiganj, Rafiqul Islam, too, was suspended over the allegation of nepotism in preparing the list of beneficiaries of the prime

minister's cash aid of Tk 2,500 to poor families.

Rafiqul, however, regained his post following an order of the High Court. He said the UNO called him over phone and asked him to prepare a list of 1,176 beneficiaries within 48 hours, between May 1 and May 2.

"Ward members could prepare a list of 728 people by that time. It was submitted to the UNO's office and the UNO office's secretary completed the full list," he said.

"Some discrepancies were found and school teachers were assigned to check the list," said Rafiqul, adding, "Suddenly I saw on the media that I was alleged to be involved in the irregularities."

"I had no involvement in the list preparation but I was suspended."

Contacted, UNO of Lakhai upazila Losikanta Hazong said the issue of time constraint was there but as chief of the union parishad, the chairman could not avert his liabilities.

Losikanta said departmental proceedings against the UNO's secretary are on-going.

Ifikher Ahmed Chowdhury, deputy secretary of Union Parishad-1 section of LGD, said they have so far suspended 108 UP chairmen and members over allegations of Covid-19 relief misappropriation.

"Two of them are suspended permanently for misappropriation and 30 chairmen and members have regained their positions following stay orders of the High Court, so far," said the deputy secretary of LGD's UP-1.

The fates of the remaining 76 UP chairmen and members were yet to be decided, he added.

Families of POWs

FROM PAGE 14
from Pakistan, the spokesman gives no indication whether Pakistan is ready to respond to the venture by repatriating families of stranded Bangladeshis in Pakistan.

LIFE TERM FOR MALKI
Dr Abdul Mottalib Malik, governor of the then East Pakistan during Yahya Khan's occupation regime, is sentenced to life term today for his offence of waging a war against Bangladesh and helping the occupation forces of Pakistan.

DRAFT ELECTORAL ROLLS PUBLISHED

A total number of 3,51,19,800 voters are registered throughout the country in the draft electoral rolls published today. The CEC says the number of voters registered this time has increased by nearly 12 percent over the number of voters of 1970 elections. The increase is attributed mainly to the extension of franchise to the age of 18 years.

SOURCES: November 21, 1972 issues of *Bangladesh Observer*, *Dainik Bangla* and *Dainik Ittefaq*.

Oxford Covid vaccine safe

FROM PAGE 14
how well the vaccine works in preventing Covid-19 disease.

"We're still waiting to get to the point where we can do the analysis to just work out how well the vaccine can protect people, and we're getting ever closer to that," he told journalists.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine candidate, called AZD1222 or ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, had been among the front-runners in global efforts to develop shots to protect against infection with the novel coronavirus, or SARS-CoV-2.

Pfizer said Wednesday that a completed study of its experimental vaccine showed it was 95 percent effective, while fellow US firm Moderna said this week that its own candidate was 94.5 percent effective. Russia claims its candidate is more than 90 percent effective.

"We're not in a rush. It's not a competition with the other developers," Oxford's Pollard said, adding that AstraZeneca would release headline efficacy data before it was published in an academic journal.

Unlike the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna shots, both of which use new technology known as messenger RNA (mRNA), AstraZeneca's is a viral vector vaccine made from a weakened version of a common cold virus found

in chimpanzees.

The Phase II trial reported in The Lancet involved a total of 560 healthy volunteers, with 160 aged 18-55, 160 aged 56-69, and 240 aged 70 or over.

Volunteers got two doses of the vaccine or a placebo, and no serious side effects related to the AZD1222 vaccine were reported, the researchers said.

AstraZeneca has signed several supply and manufacturing deals with companies and governments around the world.

Meanwhile, while acknowledging the vaccine news as encouraging, WHO urged world not to be too hopeful, at least not for the ongoing second wave of pandemic.

The WHO's Michael Ryan said vaccines should not be seen as a "unicorn" magic solution -- and countries battling a resurgence of the virus would once again have to "climb this mountain" without them.

"I think it's at least four to six months before we have significant levels of vaccination going on anywhere," he said, during a public question and answer session live on social media.

Despite recent promising announcements from final-phase candidate vaccine trials, "We're not there with vaccines yet," said Ryan.

The universe is like a giant

FROM PAGE 14
them up.

It suggests that vastly different physical processes can lead to very similar complex and organised structures.

For example, the human brains works because of the network of nearly 70 billion neurons that together make it up. The universe is thought to have

at least 100 billion galaxies.

In each system, they are assembled together in a complex web or network, spread out in long filaments and nodes that link them up. Those spreading nodes are familiar to pictures of both the universe and the brain, and account for some of the superficial similarities in images.

Lone accused gets

FROM PAGE 1

implicated in the case, Majnu claimed. At one stage, he attacked a policeman and swore at other cops in the court.

Before the pronouncement of the verdict, all reporters and other people were asked to leave the courtroom, witnesses said.

Parents and teachers of the DU student were not present at the court.

Her lawyer Abdur Rashid, who is with Ain O Salish Kendra, expressed satisfaction over the judgment.

Robiul Islam, who represented the accused, however, expressed dissatisfaction and said his client would challenge the judgement with the higher court.

On November 12, the tribunal fixed yesterday for delivery of the judgment after conclusion of arguments from both sides.

During arguments, the prosecutors told the tribunal that they were able to prove the charges against Majnu and sought exemplary punishment for him.

The defence lawyer told the tribunal that there were no eyewitnesses in the case and appealed to it to acquit the accused.

Twenty out of 24 prosecution witnesses, including the victim and complainant of the case, gave their depositions in the case.

On January 5, the DU student was raped while she was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house near Shewra rail gate in the capital around 7:30pm.

The next day, the girl's father filed the case with Cantonment Police Station, accusing unknown suspects.

The rape sparked widespread protests and condemnations across the country. DU students protested on the streets and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

On January 8, the Rapid Action Battalion arrested Majnu in the capital's Shewra area. He was handed over to the Detective Branch of police, which was probing the case.

The following day, Manju was placed on seven-day remand.

On January 16, the arrestee confessed to a magistrate that he alone raped the woman.

DB Inspector Abu Bakar Siddique submitted the charge sheet against Majnu to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on March 16.

On August 26, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka framed charges against the accused.

No separate

FROM PAGE 14
But the proposals were rejected by voice vote.

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

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

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

So, complexities have been created in disposal of cases filed under the Narcotics Control Act-2018 since it has become effective, and the number of pending cases filed under this law keeps growing day by day.

According to article 44 of the proposed law, the courts with jurisdiction can try narcotics-related cases as per the gravity of crimes and a sessions judge concerned or a metropolitan sessions judge concerned can fix one or more courts with the jurisdiction to try narcotics-related crimes in their respective areas.

In the bill, changes have been brought in 22 articles of the existing act.

Rape accused

FROM PAGE 14
Station.

Both the victim and the accused said they were involved in a romantic relationship and got intimate after Zia promised to marry her.

As he refused to keep his promise, she filed a rape case against him, said court sources.

On May 29, police arrested Zia, who later filed a bail petition with the HC.

During the hearing on the bail petition on November 1, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued a condition that Zia would be granted bail if he married the victim as they had a relationship previously.

Zia's lawyer Alamgir Faruk Chowdhury agreed with the condition and told the HC that his client would marry the victim if the court granted him bail. Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi told The Daily Star yesterday.

The same day, the HC ordered the jail authorities to allow Zia and the victim to get married and submit a report in 30 days after compliance.

DAG Bappi said the trial proceedings in the rape case against Zia will not be halted after their marriage and the case will be settled based on statements from the witnesses and victim and relevant documents.

He, however, did not give further details about the accused Zia and the victim, but said the HC will consider granting bail to Zia once the jail authorities submit the compliance report.

Bappi added that same HC bench has so far issued directives on four accused rapists in separate cases to marry their victims considering all the relevant aspects and documents.

GUARDIOLA EXTENDS MAN CITY CONTRACT TO 2023

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has signed a new two-year contract that will keep him at the club until the end of the 2022-23 season, the Premier League club said on Thursday. Spaniard Guardiola has guided City to two Premier League titles and an FA Cup since his arrival in 2016. "Pep's contract extension is the natural next step in a journey which has evolved over many years. It is a product of the mutual trust and respect that exists between him and the entire Club," City chairman Khaldoon Mubarak said in a statement. His current five-year stay at City is the longest spell in charge of a single club since he began his managerial career in 2008. The 49-year-old managed Barcelona from 2008-12 and spent three years in charge of Germany's Bayern Munich before joining City. "Ever since I arrived at Manchester City I have been made to feel so welcome in the club and in the city itself," Guardiola said. "Since then we have achieved a great deal together, scored goals, won games and trophies, and we are all very proud of that success"



...REUTERS

Potential to score fast and plenty to prove

With the Bangabandhu T20 Cup starting from November 24, cricket enthusiasts in Bangladesh are eager to watch local stars battle it out against each. In the lead-up to the tournament, The Daily Star tries to assess and analyse each of the five teams. Today, we present the third part, an overview of Gazi Group Chattogram.

SPORTS REPORTER



BACKGROUND:

Gazi Group Chattogram roped in Mustafizur Rahman, a Grade A player, from the players' draft with their initial call. While Mustafizur seems to have lost the magic touch that he had at the start of his career, the left-hander can still be crucial for any side he represents. His partnership with yet another left-arm quick -- young Shoriful Islam -- in the opening overs, coupled with the top and middle-over batting prowess makes the franchise a contender title.

NATIONAL STARS:

Aside from Mustafizur, Chattogram also boast others national stars including Soumya Sarkar, who was scrutinised in the three-team BCB President's Cup last month for his slow scoring rate. The left-hander would surely like to shrug off all that criticism and start afresh in this tournament, which could well be good news for the franchise. Mohammad Salahuddin, Chattogram's coach, said his biggest challenge would be to get the best out of the left-hander. "There is no doubt about Soumya's potential. I think, as a coach of Chattogram, my biggest challenge will be to bring the best out of him," said Salahuddin.

In the batting department, Soumya will have the likes of Liton Das, Mohammad Mithun, Mominul Haque and Mosaddek Hossain alongside him. In the bowling department, Mustafizur

will have national teammate Taijul Islam bringing in spin variation.

LOCAL PERFORMERS:

National stars failing to fire will not be much of a problem for Chattogram, with national discard Ziaur Rahman, young players like Shoriful, Mehadi Hasan, Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Rakibul Hasan and domestic performer like Shamsur Rahman ready to pick up the slack.

WHAT SETS CHATTOGRAM APART:

According to the experienced

Salahuddin, it is their potential to score quick runs in the middle that sets Chattogram apart from the other four teams. Salahuddin has reasons for what he claimed.

"The strengths of the teams are similar when there are no foreign players involved. The strategies remain simple too. Foreign players are often the ones who score quick runs in the middle. While other teams might suffer in this department, I think players like Mosaddek, Ziaur and young Nahidul Islam give us the edge over others in this regard," explained Salahuddin.

KEY PLAYER:

For Chattogram, the way Liton Das plays at the top will be crucial. Liton, one of the most exquisite players in the Bangladesh national squad, has the ability to set the tone for a big score as an opener. The right-hander had good starts in last month's BCB President's Cup but could not make a mark that reflects his actual ability. The team will surely look up to him and want the exquisite right-hander to give Chattogram a flying start with his treat-to-the-eye shot-making in the tournament.



PHOTO: FROZ AHMED



Bangladesh national football team reached Qatar yesterday to play their away World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifying match against the hosts on December 4.

PHOTO: BFF

'Excited to play but worried about the result'

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite having played two FIFA-sanctioned international friendlies after three weeks of preparation, the fitness of footballers remains a concern and the last-minute withdrawal of in-form striker Nabib Newaj Jibon caused further complications for the Bangladesh national team ahead of their World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifier against Qatar on December 4.

The boys in red and green left for Doha yesterday morning without Manjurur Rahman Manik, who returned a positive Covid-19 test, and Abahani striker Jibon, who was ruled out after sustaining a right-knee injury during Tuesday's second international friendly against Nepal. He was subsequently given a four-week rest.

Jibon was arguably the best performer in the two friendlies against Nepal, netting one of Bangladesh's two goals in the first game and thriving as a No. 10 behind debutant striker Suman Reza.

He had also performed well in the 1-1 draw against India last October and his intelligent movement in the Nepal friendlies gave Bangladesh hope that a fitter Jibon may have caused some trouble for Qatar, although not even the most optimistic of Bangladesh's followers are thinking of an upset against the Asian Champions after losing reverse fixture at

home 2-0.

Most expect that Bangladesh will opt for a defensive strategy in order to thwart Qatar's formidable attack and that there will be little room for attacking players to shine. In that case, Jibon's exclusion would have little impact on Bangladesh's performance and Mahbubur Rahman Sufil, who is expected to step in, could do the same job.

However, left-back Rahmat Mia has a different view about the tie.

"Actually, the backline should be bold against Qatar and the forwards should also avail the opportunities they get during the match. It is a big problem if the strikers can't hit the target regardless of how many times the defenders stop the Qatari forwards. The absence of strikers like Jibon and Matin Mia will be felt; we will certainly miss them," Rahmat told The Daily Star yesterday before leaving the country.

"We all are not fully fit yet but the team is in high spirits and everyone is positive. I believe we can overcome the deficiency in our fitness levels over the next two weeks. The backline kept two clean sheets in the past two matches and we will try to carry that momentum into the Qatar match."

"We are excited to play in Qatar after a long break due to the sudden suspension of the World Cup Qualifiers but we are also worried about the result because we are going to play such a match after a long gap."

Semifinals line-up complete as Italy and Belgium prevail

AGENCIES



Italy gave another impressive performance and extended their unbeaten run to 22 games with a 2-0 win away to Bosnia as they reached the Nations League final four on Wednesday while Belgium cruised past Denmark 4-2 in Leuven to book a place, with Romelu Lukaku scoring twice.

Belgium and Italy join world champions France and Spain in qualifying for next October's finals.

Italy were again missing coach Roberto Mancini after he tested positive for Covid-19 as well as a number of key players including injured defenders Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci, and forward Ciro Immobile over a Covid-19 related issue.

Bosnia, already relegated, were without Ibrahim Sehic, Sead Kolasinac and Edin Dzeko after they tested positive for Covid-19.

"The coach wants us to play our football wherever we go and that is the mentality we've really taken in," said Italy winger Lorenzo Insigne. "This shirt has to be honoured every time and we give our all for Italy."

"It will be nice to measure ourselves up because we're talking about the strongest teams in Europe so we can't wait to compare ourselves to them to see our

level, how far we've come," assistant coach Alberico Evani, who filled in for head coach Roberto Mancini, said.

Roberto Martinez's world-number-one-ranked Belgians only had to avoid defeat to qualify from Group A2 but secured a finals spot in style.

Lukaku, who has now scored 17 goals in his last 14 international games after his second-half double, said Belgium can play with flair and attacking style but also know how to grind out a result.



The Belgians have been one of Europe's form teams in recent years but despite topping the FIFA rankings, they have sometimes looked vulnerable under pressure when not dominating matches.

"We have proven now we can play difficult games. We can play teams off the park but we also know how to win when its needed even if it is not with our best style. When we need we can play with a strong defence and on the counter attack," he said.



Italian players and officials celebrated jubilantly after qualifying for the final four of the UEFA Nations League following a 2-0 win over Bosnia on Wednesday, extending their unbeaten streak under Roberto Mancini to 22 games. It is the best run for the Azzurri since July 2006, when they went 25 games unbeaten and won the World Cup. PHOTO: TWITTER

Cricket to forget all stress and troubles

APP, HONG KONG



After a long week cooking and cleaning in the cramped households of Hong Kong, a group of Filipino domestic helpers are using their Sunday off for an unlikely hobby: cricket. And they're proving rather good at it.

Despite no background in the game, scant coaching and very little time, the SCC Divas have made a startling impact, winning Hong Kong's development league twice in their first two seasons and going unbeaten since stepping up to the main divisions this year.

Along the way, they've inspired the Philippines' first national women's cricket team, providing seven of its players, while shaking up Hong Kong's sleepy cricket scene, a remnant of British colonialism.

"We are all domestic helpers. Some are new players, having their first time holding a cricket ball," said Josie Arimas, 52, captain and founder of the SCC Divas.

The satisfying clunk of bat on ball, at the scenic Po Kong Village Cricket Ground overlooked by green hills and tower blocks, is a world away from daily life for the Divas. Many of them work from 6am till midnight, six days a week, scrubbing, shopping and looking after kids, to support their own children and families left behind in the Philippines.

They get "no rest. They're tough", said Arimas.

Tales of abuse and exploitation abound among Hong Kong's 400,000 foreign domestic workers, most of them from the Philippines or Indonesia. One domestic worker watching the Divas said that rather than the government-mandated rest day every week, her employer gives

her just six hours off a month, and makes her sleep in the living room.

Divas player Liza Avelino said: "It's very relaxing, it makes my day worthwhile. It's good to be active and you forget all stress and the troubles and everything."

During this month's 45-run win over the Cavaliers, a team from the venerable and well-heeled Hong Kong Cricket Club, the Divas' skills honed in baseball, a popular sport in the Philippines, were in evidence. Positive hitting helped set a

member of Cricket Hong Kong. "They get one day off a week, and what do they do? They come and sit and watch, cheer along, train whenever they can. It's pretty impressive."

Alvina Tam, Cricket Hong Kong's director of development and a Cavaliers player, said the Divas had added a new element to the sport in the city, which is dominated by the expat and South Asian community.

"What they brought into women's cricket in Hong Kong was their sense of unity, the



challenging total of 167-6, before the Divas restricted the Cavaliers to 122-4 with some energetic fielding including two side-on, direct hits on the stumps.

The team was cheered on throughout by a vocal band of team-mates and supporters, who picnicked by the boundary rope and operated the scoreboard.

"They're so passionate about it. They all come here and they all watch and they make a day of it," said Cavaliers captain Tracy Walker, an independent board

sense of teamwork and working together," said Tam.

For the Divas players, separated from their families and living far from home, the team also serves as a support network, according to Avelino. "It's not just about sport, it's also about having a family to meet up with. It's a very close kinship, a sisterhood," she said. "Being away from home, to have a group of people doing the same thing is very empowering. We love it and we look forward to doing it on Sunday."



Spotlight on Flick after Spain debacle

REUTERS, BERLIN

Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick has been the talk of the town this week, even though the German champions have not played a game in 10 days.

Spain's 6-0 demolition of Germany in the Nations League on Tuesday has turned Flick into a potential successor to Germany coach Joachim Loew if he quits.

While it is unlikely that Loew, in charge for 14 years, will leave right away, it is hardly surprising that his assistant from 2006-2014 should be linked with the job.

The Bayern coach has enjoyed a sensational first year in charge, winning five titles in 2020, including the Champions League and a domestic double, after taking over last November from Niko Kovac.

In his first Bundesliga appointment as head coach he has had more success than experienced predecessors like Pep Guardiola and Carlo Ancelotti, neither of whom managed to bring the Champions League trophy to Munich.

When the Bavarians take on Werder Bremen on Saturday it will be Flick's 50th game in charge in all competitions. The 55-year-old already boasts an eye-popping managerial record at the club of 45 wins, one draw and three losses.

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RELIEF MISAPPROPRIATION

UP members alone at fault?

Suspended public representatives point the finger back at local admin officials

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Whenever the issue of relief misappropriation arises, the finger is usually pointed toward public representatives. In many cases, they are found to be involved in relief misappropriation. But some local representatives The Daily Star talked with said they were made scapegoats by power-abusing local administration officials in the recent uproar over relief misappropriation during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Local Government Division (LGD) has so far suspended 108 union parishad chairmen and members across the country for Covid-19 relief misappropriation. The LGD covers 4,568 unions. On April 12, Kabir Hossain, the Ward 8 member of Pirjopur Union Parishad under Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj, was suspended by the LGD upon the recommendation of the then UNO Saidul Islam for misappropriating relief. But Kabir said the allegation of relief misappropriation against him is baseless. He was framed for his refusal to comply

with "the upazila nirbahi officer's request of donating Tk 2 lakh for relief". Kabir alleged that he was suspended two days after his refusal to "donate" the amount to UNO Saidul. He filed a writ petition with the High Court on July 22 challenging the LGD's suspension order and won a stay for six months. Kabir also lodged complaints at several government bodies including the Anti-Corruption Commission, where he bought an allegation against UNO Saidul of asking for the money. The Daily Star has obtained copies of the letter submitted to the ACC and certification of the relief distribution by Pirjopur UP Chairman Masudur Rahman Masum. In the letter to the ACC, Kabir said he received relief from the union parishad on two dates -- four packages on March 28 and six packages on April 2 -- which he duly distributed. Each package contained 10kg of rice, 2kg of potatoes, 1kg of lentils, salt, and soap.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3



Pipes have been piled up by Dhaka Wasa on the footpath of English Road for over a month, forcing pedestrians to walk in the middle of the street near Bangshal Police Station in Old Dhaka. Wasa is installing new water supply lines there. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

COVID FALLOUT PACKAGE

Let barriers be removed

Govt to hold dialogue series to find ways to speed up implementations

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

In the face of criticisms, the government is going to evaluate its economic rescue scheme announced six months ago to tackle the fallout of the pandemic. The finance ministry will hold a dialogue series, styled "Stimulus Packages for Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery from Covid-19 Fallout in Bangladesh" on three separate dates with economists, development partners, local think-tanks and other stakeholders. The move comes amid criticisms over the effectiveness of the scheme as disbursement of the funds to small and medium enterprises and farm sectors is still very slow. A local think-tank also noted that the stimulus packages could not create the required number of jobs. "We will present reports on the progress and achievements of the fiscal packages before the stakeholders. The stakeholders will also come up with suggestions. We will then set the next course of action," a

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

The universe is like a giant human brain!



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The universe is similar to a huge human brain, scientists have found. A new study investigated the differences and similarities between two of the most complex systems in existence, though at entirely different scales: the cosmos and its galaxies and the brain and its neuronal cells. They found that while the scale is clearly different, the structure is remarkably similar. In some cases, the two systems seemed more similar to each other than they did to the parts that make

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

HC TERMS FOR BAIL

Rape accused marries victim in Feni jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man detained in a rape case yesterday married his victim at Feni jail gate in order to get bail in line with a directive from the High Court. The marriage took place in the presence of family members from both sides around noon. Moniruzzaman, local assistant commissioner of land and executive magistrate, and marriage registrar Abdur Rahim were also present. Zahirul Islam Zia, the accused, son of a local union parishad member, raped the woman of Chardarbesh area in Feni's Sonagazi on May 27, according to the case statement. The following day, the victim filed the case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Sonagazi Police

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Families of POWs, internees to be repatriated

November 20, 1972
 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

HUMANITARIAN GESTURE BY BANGLADESH AND INDIA Bangladesh and India have decided to repatriate to Pakistan members of the families of Pakistani civilian internees and prisoners of war as "a humanitarian gesture", the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry announces today. The repatriation offer covers "the families - women and children- of Pakistani civilian internees who sought protection with the joint command of India and Bangladesh forces and the families of POWs who had surrendered to the joint command." The announcement expresses the hope that Pakistan "will [be] set in the same humanitarian spirit and allow the families of all Bangladesh nationals who are detained or held up in Pakistan to return to Bangladesh". Arrangements to give effect to this proposal will be made on receiving "positive response" from Pakistan, the announcement adds. A Pakistan government spokesman welcomes the decision regarding the release of 6,000 Pakistani women and children under detention in India. But, beyond claiming that Pakistan had already unilaterally released and repatriated all Indian civilian internees

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



No separate tribunal for trying drug offences

JS passes narcotics control bill dropping the provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The "Narcotics Control (Amendment) Bill, 2020" was passed in parliament yesterday, dropping the provision of setting up separate narcotics control tribunals to pave the way for competent courts to try the narcotics-related crimes. Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq placed the bill on behalf of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan as he was not present in the House yesterday. The bill was later passed by voice vote. Several opposition lawmakers of BNP and Jatiya Party placed proposals to send the bill to the select committee for eliciting public opinion.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

ROHINGYA CRISIS

UN adopts resolution for urgent solution

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has adopted a resolution stating that there should be an urgent solution to the Rohingya crisis to ensure safe and sustainable return of Rohingyas to their homes by creating a conducive environment inside Myanmar. The resolution on "The situation of human rights of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" called for specific actions on part of Myanmar, such as addressing the root causes

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3



A pond heron in hunting mode in a lake on Jahangirnagar University campus. The bird, which has long legs and a long beak, is very common in the country. It feeds on insects, fish and amphibians.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Oxford Covid vaccine safe for older adults

Show results; WHO says vaccine won't arrive in time to fight virus second wave

AGENCIES

AstraZeneca and Oxford University's potential Covid-19 vaccine produced a strong immune response in older adults, data published yesterday showed as the world Health Organisation warned that vaccines would not arrive in time to defeat the second wave of the pandemic. The data, reported in part last month but published in full in The Lancet medical journal yesterday, suggest that those aged over 70, who are at higher risk of serious illness and death from Covid-19, could build robust immunity. "The robust antibody and T-cell responses seen in older people in our study are encouraging," said Maheshi Ramasamy, a consultant and co-lead investigator at the Oxford Vaccine Group. "We hope that this means our vaccine will help to protect some of the most vulnerable people in society, but further research will be needed before we can be sure." Late-stage, or Phase III, trials are ongoing to confirm the findings, researchers said, and to test whether the vaccine protects against infection with SARS-CoV-2 in a broad range of people, including people with underlying health conditions. Results of those trials should definitely be known by Christmas, the Oxford Vaccine Group's director, Andrew Pollard, said, adding it was too early to know whether and

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 20

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	5-05	12-30	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

THE DAILY *Star* ON FRIDAY

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