



The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

SECOND EDITION

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXX No. 303

AGRAHAYAN 10, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

RABIU SANI 9, 1442 HUIRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



"Use of mask is a must. Those not wearing masks will have to pay fine. This is very clear. The prime minister is serious about it."

ROAD TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER



"I think often of persecuted peoples: the Rohingya, the poor Uighurs, the Yazidi."

POPE FRANCIS POPE SAYS AS HE HOPES FOR A BETTER POST-COVID WORLD



"Greater latitude will be required from the world's largest powers to accommodate the individual interests of their partners and allies. We all need a bit more room to move."

AUSTRALIA PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON AMID US-SINO RIVALRY



AMPHETAMINE SMUGGLING

Stopover Dhaka

Banned chemical brought from India by road, sent abroad by air

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A group of chemical traders in Chennai are found to be the kingpins of amphetamine smuggling from India through Dhaka, according to an investigation by the Department of Narcotics Control.

About a year ago, the unscrupulous traders started to use Bangladesh as a smuggling route and ship the banned chemical to several destinations, mostly in Australia and Malaysia, under false declaration and without the knowledge of courier companies.

Amphetamine could be processed into yaba and sold to addicts in the countries where the crazy pills of Myanmar have started to get popular.

Bangladesh banned import of this chemical and its use in the production of cold medicine in February 2017. India also has banned its export, say DNC officials.

The Chennai-based group linked up with some chemical importers at Mitford medicine hub to run the smuggling smoothly for a year, until a package of 12.32kg amphetamine powder was seized from the cargo village area of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on September 9.

The Mitford allies were being paid handsomely by the drug racket upon every successful shipment of couriers, found narcotics officials.

The contraband was brought to Dhaka by land "every three days" and sent to different countries -- each consignment containing 12 to 20 kilogrammes of amphetamine powder.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

- Amphetamine widely used in producing yaba
- Bangladesh banned its import in February 2017
- Chennai-based syndicate teamed up with chemical importers in Mitford area
- Smuggling continued through Dhaka at least for a year



Firefighters at work at Jahuri Mahalla slum in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday. The fire, which broke out around 4:15pm and was put out after an hour and a half, razed 60 shanties to the ground. No casualties were reported.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Defiant Trump allows Biden transition

Legal battles to continue; president-elect names top cabinet picks

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump came his closest yet to admitting election defeat Monday after the government agency meant to ease Joe Biden's transition into the White House said it was finally lifting its unprecedented block on assistance.

Trump acknowledged it was time for the General Services Administration (GSA) to "do what needs to be done."

In the same tweet he insisted that he was still refusing to concede, saying: "Our case STRONGLY continues, we will keep up the good fight, and I believe we will prevail!"

But for the Republican to sign off on the GSA's decision to work with the Biden transition team

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

METRO EXTENSION, TRANSPORT HUB

Kamalapur station may shift northward

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway and the metro rail authorities have agreed to a new plan which requires shifting of Kamalapur Station Plaza to a nearby location to make space for extending the MRT-6 line up to Kamalapur from Motijheel.

The existing plaza will be demolished and a similar one will be built north of it as per the new plan that will turn the station into a true transport hub, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon told The Daily Star after a meeting between the two sides yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will make the final decision in this regard as the existing plaza, an iconic structure, has to be demolished to implement the new plan, he mentioned.

"The metro rail authorities [Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited] agreed to the new plan proposed by Kajima Corporation [a Japanese company]. We also accepted the plan, subject to the prime minister's approval," he said.

Seeking anonymity, a railway official, who attended the meeting, said the station plaza has to be shifted 130 metres north of its current location to implement the new



plan.

"If the existing plan is implemented, the station will be completely shadowed by the MRT-6 [Mass Rapid Transit] structure. There is no option but to shift the station because even if the existing plan is modified, the station will be partially shadowed by the MRT-6 structure," the official pointed out.

Officials of Kajima Corporation, which is leading the Kamalapur Multimodal Transport Hub (MmTH) Sub Working Group, placed the new plan at yesterday's meeting at Rail Bhaban.

The BR and the DMTC, the implementing authority of the country's first metro rail, have been in a dispute over extension of the MRT-6 line from Motijheel to Kamalapur.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

COVID-19 VACCINE

Work to ensure smooth supply, distribution

PM directs officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Covid-19 cases yesterday crossed the 4.5 lakh mark, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked officials concerned to prepare for the proper supply and distribution of the vaccine before it arrives in the country.

The premier issued the directive at the meeting of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) held at the NEC conference room in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday, Planning Secretary Mohd Asadul Islam said following the meeting.

Hasina also said there should be proper management to ensure there is no waste as the vaccine is a "sensitive" drug.

On November 5, the government signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bangladesh's



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SMART NID FOR EXPATRIATES

EC sending staff to 40 countries

Tk 100cr set aside for this

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will send its officials to 40 countries to hand smart NID cards to the Bangladeshis living there.

The work in this regard will start once the Covid-19 situation improves and the EC plans to deliver the cards in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and the UK in the first phase.

Tk 100 crore was set aside for the work from the funds of Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (phase-II) Project, which will be implemented from this December to November 2025 spending Tk 1,805.09 crore.

Phase-II of the IDEA project was approved at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council yesterday. After the weekly Ecne meeting, Planning Commission member Abul Kalam Azad said the new project had been undertaken as the tenure of the first phase of the IDEA project would expire in December.

He said the EC would send its teams to 40 countries which host the largest number of Bangladeshis to include their names in the voter list and provide them with NID cards.

He also said the EC teams would work in coordination with the respective embassies under the new project.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday evening, IDEA Project Director Brig Gen Mohammed Saidul Islam said they planned to spend Tk 2.5 crore for the work in each country on average.

"But we will need more than Tk 2.5 crore for some large countries as we will need to send several teams at the registration points there," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Veteran journo Muntiruzzaman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated journalist and acting editor of the Daily Sangbad, Khandaker Muntiruzzaman, who upheld progressive ideals, secular politics and freedom of speech, passed away yesterday.

Muntiruzzaman, 71, breathed his last around 7:40am at Mugda Medical College Hospital. Earlier, he was undergoing treatment at his Shantinagar home after he tested positive for Covid-19.

As his condition deteriorated, he was admitted to the hospital on October 31.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Faridul takes oath as state minister for religious affairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League MP Faridul Haque Khan took oath as the state minister for religious affairs last evening.

President Abdul Hamid administered his oath taking ceremony at Bangabhaban, the President's residence cum office, around 7:00pm.

Khandker Anwarul Islam conducted the oath taking ceremony in presence of only three ministers and few other officials concerned for Covid-19 situation.

The three-time lawmaker from Jamalpur-2 succeeded Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who died after having a cardiac arrest on June 14 at the age of 75.

According to the rules, the Prime Minister's Office conducted the activities of the religious affairs ministry after the demise of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A mobile court hands a mask to a woman in the capital's Jhigatola intersection during a drive to enforce health safety rules yesterday. The court fined people for not wearing masks and also distributed face coverings among many others who admitted they should not have come out of home without wearing one.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Good initiative, yet ineffective

Committees formed in unions to prevent repression of women mostly non-functional, doing little to support victims

NILIMA JAHAN

While the government has taken steps to ensure victims of gender-based violence such as rape can go to local-level bodies for remedy, these initiatives largely fall flat because of little action and follow-up.

In 2014, the women and children affairs ministry formed a Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee (NNPC) in every union with the aim of combating the scourge of child marriage and violence against women in the country.

The role of the committee, headed by the union parishad chairman, is to create awareness about gender-based violence and child marriage by holding a ward-based monthly meeting, according to a gazette published on May 11, 2015.

Each committee also includes three female and three male UP members nominated by the UP chairman, one teacher nominated by the UNO, one community police, one local NGO representative, one imam, and one Nikah registrar (kazi).

The ministry also formed an NNPC in every upazila and district, where the UNO and the DC respectively are the heads of the committee.

At the union level, these committees are supposed to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



**BANGLADESH
UPDATE**



2,230
New cases in 24hrs



4,51,990
Total cases



6,448
Deaths



3,66,877
Recoveries

**GLOBAL
UPDATE**



1,408,839
Deaths



59,859,400
Total cases

Slum fire ravaged everything they had

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Rahmat Mia, 23, lives in a tin-shed room with a monthly rent of Tk 3,500 with his wife, mother, sister and niece in Mohakhali's Sat Tola slum.

Rahmat was struggling to make ends meet and had two months' worth of rent pending.

While he was already worried about how to run his family in the days ahead, the horrific fire at the slum on Monday night burnt everything to ashes.

Rahmat's family was able to save their lives but all their belongings were destroyed.

The fire broke out around 11:45pm, gutting 72 houses and 26 shops.

Rakib Islam, 15, sustained burn injuries from the fire. The boy, who works as a labourer, has been undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery around 2:00am since yesterday with 25 percent burns.

Firefighters suspect the fire began from an electric short circuit, while locals say it originated in a shop.

During a visit to the slum yesterday, Rahmat was found searching for anything that could be salvaged from his burnt possessions.

Describing how he came to know about the fire, Rahmat said it occurred after they all had fallen asleep following dinner at 10:00pm. They woke up to people shouting and then saw the fire right next to their house.

"I managed to get out safely with my

family but could not take any valuables out," he told this correspondent.

Rahmat said ever since they came to the slum 16 years back from their village home in Narsingdhi due to struggles, their home had burnt down twice, rendering them helpless and in financial ruins.

"Ten years ago, our house was first burnt. We struggled very hard to save money and buy household items. But now, everything is gone again!" he said with grief.

Like Rahmat, every victim has their own story to tell.

Beauty Rani Chandra was seen crying as she looked at the wreckage inside her home. All the belongings of her one-year-old family, include her wedding attire, were burnt to ashes.

Her husband Dulal Chandra said that though his income dropped due to pandemic, he managed to save some money even after family expenses and house rent.

He saved Tk 40,000 to pay off a Tk 1 lakh loan.

However, the money and his wife's gold were destroyed in the fire. "With everything else, our dreams of our future have also been destroyed. I do not know how will I be debt free," he said.

Shilpi Begum, another resident of the slum, said she lived there for ten years with her husband and two children. "The fire reduced my 10-year savings to ashes," she wailed.

She and other victims of the fire sought help from the government and from those who are financially well off.

Work to ensure

FROM PAGE 1

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd to collect three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines from Serum.

Pune-based Serum has an agreement with AstraZeneca to manufacture the vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, being developed by Oxford University. The vaccine has been named Covishield in India.

Once the vaccine is approved for human application, Beximco Pharma will buy each dose from Serum for \$4 and then supply it to the government for \$5.

The three crore doses will be delivered in phases with 50 lakh doses every month, according to the agreement.

Some 1.5 crore people will be vaccinated and each will need two doses.

Besides, the government will get vaccines from Gavi, the vaccine alliance, under the supervision of the World Health Organization.

Officials said transportation and preservation of the vaccines while maintaining the exact cold chains will be a challenge.

The vaccine must be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius.

According to the deal, Beximco will collect and transport Covishield vaccines to storage facilities under the health directorate's Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) cold-chain network.

Officials said the EPI has the storage capacity.

"They will supply the vaccines in phases -- 50 lakh doses each

month. We have enough capacity to store them. We will, however, place proposals before our high-ups to increase the capacity if the regular vaccination programme does not get hampered," Shamsul Haque Mridha, director of the EPI programme, told The Daily Star after the signing ceremony.

The health ministry has received Tk 100 crore against its proposal for Tk 318 crore for cold chain management of the Covid-19 vaccines, according to media reports.

SURPASSING 4.5 LAKH-MARK

Meanwhile, with 2,230 people testing positive for Covid-19 in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the total number of confirmed cases in the country rose to 4,51,990.

In the same period, 32 people died from the virus, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of deaths has now reached 6,448, with the death rate at 1.43 percent.

Against 15,018 tests in 117 labs, the positivity rate was 14.85 percent.

The overall positivity rate rose to 16.86 percent.

In the meantime, at least 2,266 Covid-19 patients have recovered.

With this, the total number of recoveries reached 3,66,877 and the recovery rate is 81.17 percent.

Among the 32 dead, 25 were men and seven women. One was aged between 31 and 40, seven between 41 and 50, five between 51 and 60 and 19 were above 60, added the release.

Kamalapur station

FROM PAGE 1

According to the BR, the existing design for MRT-6 extension will frustrate its plan to turn the Kamalapur station into a MmTH.

Apart from the railways minister, Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to the PM; Salim Reza, secretary at the railways ministry; Md Shamsuzzman, director general of the BR; and MAN Siddique, managing director of the DMTCL, attended the meeting.

DISPUTE OVER EXISTING PLAN

The latest development comes two weeks after the Sub Working Group formed by the Japanese government provided Bangladesh with an alternative plan for extending the MRT-6 line up to Kamalapur.

The group said the existing design would seriously hamper the prospect of turning the country's premier railway station into a true transport hub.

It sent a letter to the railways secretary in the first week of November, giving details of its alternative plan, ministry sources said.

Besides, the Japanese ministry of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism wrote to the Public Private Partnership Authority of Bangladesh, saying the alternative plan of the sub-working group would bring down costs, compared to that under the existing plan.

The Kamalapur hub is going to be established under public-private partnership model with government-to-government initiative between Bangladesh and Japan.

The MRT-6 line was initially designed as an elevated line from Uttara to Motijheel. Later, a skywalk was planned to connect the line with Kamalapur Railway Station.

Last year, the DMTCL planned to stretch the MRT-6 line directly to the railway station following the PM's directive.

Bangladesh Railway opposed

the proposal and cited its plan for Kamalapur MmTH.

Railway officials said they were not against the extension of MRT-6 line up to Kamalapur, but the DMTCL's current design would upset their MmTH plan. They had asked the DMTCL to modify its blueprint.

The DMTCL sought help of the Prime Minister's Office in resolving the issue. The DMTCL plan was given the go-ahead at a meeting with PM's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus in the chair on September 3.

The meeting also directed the railways ministry to take immediate steps to allow setting up of MRT-6 station and a scissors crossing at Kamalapur Railway Station.

YESTERDAY'S DECISION

The railways minister said that as per the existing plan, the railway station will be shadowed by the elevated structure of MRT-6 and the loop line that allows trains to change direction.

"We had reservations about the plan. Kajima also expressed its reservations."

As per the new plan, the loop line (scissors crossing for trains to change direction) would not go towards the station, rather it would go in a different direction.

"We have taken the decision at today's meeting. If the prime minister agrees to the plan, we will move forward with it."

"Once the design-related problem is solved, we will sign a MoU [memorandum of understanding] with Kajima for establishing the hub," the minister mentioned.

He further said they have to shift the Inland Container Depot from Kamalapur to Dirasram in Gazipur, and a development project proposal has already been prepared to that effect.

Despite repeated attempts, MAN Siddique, MD of the DMTCL, could not be reached for comments over his mobile phone yesterday evening.



Swapna, 25, a domestic help, with her baby on her lap picks through the charred remains of her shanty at Sat Tola Bosti in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday, hours after a devastating fire gutted about 100 shanties and shops there.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Stopover Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

Over the year, at least 600kg was smuggled out of Bangladesh after its arrival from India. One kg of the powder sold at Tk 1 crore.

The DNC learnt all this while probing a case filed over the seizure in September and after arresting 13 people, including six staffers of a courier service.

So far the investigators found the six were unaware that the courier service was being used for smuggling the contraband as they don't have the capacity to detect it. All of them already secured bail last month.

Seven other arrestees -- Abul Kalam Azad alias Bunty, a chemical trader in the capital's Mitford Hospital area, Junayed Ibne Siddiqui, and Bunty's associates Rezaul Haque Bablu, Nazrul Islam, Babul Mazumdar, Md Mazed and Md Bappi -- are now in jail.

Junayed, who is from Chandpur, met Chennai-based chemical trader Habib Master in Bahrain in 2018. In the Gulf country, he was running the real-estate business of his father-in-law, who passed away the previous year.

"In 2019, Habib visited Bangladesh and proposed Junayed get involved in the chemical business. Habib also said they had business in the Mitford area in Dhaka and some Indians are involved in it," said a DNC official, requesting anonymity.

Junayed later met Bunty and Indian nationals Rajkhan and Satish and their operations began.

Bunty was the recipient of the consignments of amphetamine sent through the Benapole border under false declaration while Junayed would courier them to different countries after repackaging at his house. Habib Master and his associates oversaw the entire operations.

The official further said they have so far come to know that this powder used to enter Bangladesh from Kolkata. "We are now trying to

collect details whether it is available in Kolkata or it comes from any other state in India."

Md Mehedi Hasan, assistant director of DNC, told The Daily Star recently that they have got some more names after interrogating the arrestees. "We are now conducting drives to arrest other syndicate members."

He further said they have also learned about some locations and identities of the people who received these consignments in different countries. "We have sought support from the CID for investigating the foreign links and we may seek Interpol assistance."

Fazlul Haque Khan, superintendent of DNC, and also the investigating officer of the case, told The Daily Star that they have made some progress in the investigation and are now trying to get details about the smuggling process of the powder from India to Bangladesh.

Kusum Dewan, director (operation) of DNC, told this newspaper that they have some developments regarding the investigation into amphetamine smuggling.

"We have also found some involvement of Indian smugglers behind it and written to the Narcotics Control Bureau of India," he said.

No response from the Indian side reached the DNC till filing of this report.

SCREENING, DETECTION

"The syndicate used to courier the narcotics after putting it in special packets. As there is no 3D scanner at the airport, it never got detected," said a high official of DNC.

"Such a consignment is difficult to find out if expert narcotics officials do not check the packages properly or an ultra-modern scanner is not used," he told this correspondent.

In some cases, some staffers at the airport or courier service might have been involved, he added.

An investigator said that in the

absence of modern equipment, courier service offices are also unable to detect it. They have been asked by the department to buy 3D scanners and the Dhaka office of one international courier agency already got one.

Asked about the detection of the consignment in September, another official said, "We suspect it was the poor packaging that might have helped law enforcers detect the amphetamine."

The Aviation Security Force (Avsec), the agency which seized the amphetamine, refused to comment on this issue and suggested communicating with the director of Shahjalal airport.

Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul Ahsan, director at Shahjalal airport, told The Daily Star on November 15 that they have already beefed up security after the seizures of amphetamine and yaba earlier this year.

"We have installed some more CCTV cameras to cover every inch of the airport and are working to increase trained manpower to work more efficiently," he said.

Besides, steps have already been taken to buy 11 new X-ray machines for the airport to ensure clear scanning of every package, he said. "The X-ray machines are expected to be included in the airport scanning system within this fiscal year."

Asked whether these are 3D scanners, he said the details cannot be provided without seeing the papers but this will be modern technology.

Regarding smuggling of amphetamine, Group Captain Touhid said multiple agencies are working at the airport.

"We seize illegal consignments whenever we find any. We even sat with Biman, as they also conduct security scanning, so that we can work jointly with them whenever necessary or they find anything suspicious," he added.

Defiant Trump allows Biden transition

FROM PAGE 1

signaled that even he sees the writing on the wall after three weeks of evidence-free claims that the November 3 election was stolen from him.

This means that Biden's team will now have access to funds, office space and the ability to meet with federal officials.

Biden's office, which hours earlier announced a highly experienced group to be nominated for top US foreign policy and security posts, said the GSA would now allow "support necessary to carry out a smooth and peaceful transfer of power."

"In the days ahead, transition officials will begin meeting with federal officials to discuss the pandemic response, have a full accounting of our national security interests, and gain complete understanding of the Trump administration's efforts to hollow out government agencies," Biden's transition director Yohannes Abraham said in a statement.

The sudden break in Trump's dogged attempt to deny Biden's win came after Michigan became the latest state to certify its results and more powerful Trump supporters came out demanding that the impasse end.

BIDEN TO SHIFT DIPLOMACY

Earlier, Biden announced a foreign policy and national security team crammed with veterans from the Barack Obama years, teeing up an end to the upheaval under Trump and a return to traditional US diplomacy.

Top of the list was former State Department number two Antony Blinken, tapped for secretary of state.

Biden also named the first female head of intelligence, the first Latino chief of Homeland Security, the first woman as treasury secretary, and a heavyweight pointman on climate issues -- Obama-era top diplomat John Kerry.

The list put out by Biden's team ahead of a formal announcement demonstrated a push to bring back

the US role of leader in multilateral alliances, in contrast to Trump's "America first" regime.

"They will rally the world to take on our challenges like no other -- challenges that no one nation can face alone," Biden tweeted. "It's time to restore American leadership."

Blinken, a longtime advisor to Biden, will spearhead a fast-paced dismantling of Trump's go-it-alone policies, including rejoining the Paris climate agreement and the World Health Organization and resurrecting the Obama-crafted Iran nuclear deal.

Biden named the first woman, Avril Haines, as director of national intelligence, and Cuban-born Alejandro Mayorkas to head the Department of Homeland Security, the agency whose policing of tough immigration restrictions under Trump was a frequent source of controversy.

Signaling the Democratic president-elect's campaign promise to raise the profile of global warming threats, he named Kerry as a new special envoy on climate issues.

And in a further message of US reengagement with the international community, Biden named career diplomat Linda Thomas-Greenfield for UN ambassador.

Jake Sullivan, who also advised Biden when he was vice president under Obama, was named national security advisor.

Picked to manage the world's biggest economy as Treasury secretary was Janet Yellen, who will make history as the first woman in the job if confirmed. The 74-year-old was confirmed as Federal Reserve chairwoman under Obama in 2014 and replaced by Trump four years later.

The picks underline an emphasis on professionals whom Biden already knows well, in contrast to the Trump White House where officials were often picked without having traditional

background for the job or proved incompatible and departed in acrimony.

Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were expected to formally introduce their appointments in Wilmington, Delaware yesterday.

DWINDLING OPTIONS

The president, meanwhile, has largely halted at least his public work duties, while heading out to a golf course he owns in Virginia half a dozen times since the election.

He has also not taken questions from reporters since the election -- a previously unimaginable silence from a president who for most of his time in office sparred near daily with the press.

His options for overturning the election, however, are dwindling rapidly in the face of repeated court defeats.

With Biden having won a comfortable victory, Trump's last card is to disrupt the normally routine process of state-by-state certification of results, followed by the formal December 14 vote by the Electoral College. However, that too is bearing little fruit.

More cracks appeared in the facade of Republican unity on Monday when Senator Rob Portman said it was "time to expeditiously resolve any outstanding questions and move forward."

Senator Lamar Alexander, a senior Republican and close ally of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, said "it seems apparent that Joe Biden will be the president-elect."

"My hope is that President Trump will take pride in his considerable accomplishments, put the country first and have a prompt and orderly transition to help the new administration succeed," he said after having issued a similar if less forthright statement a few days earlier.

There was also a push from Trump's highest profile Wall Street backer, Stephen Schwarzman, head of the Blackstone private equity group, who told Axios "the country should move on."

Singapore deports 15 Bangladeshis over social media posts 'inciting violence'

AGENCIES

Singapore has deported 15 Bangladeshis over social media posts that incited violence or encouraged communal unrest in response to recent terror attacks in France, officials said yesterday.

France is on high alert following jihadist attacks in recent weeks, including the beheading of a teacher who showed his pupils cartoons considered blasphemous for Muslims and a deadly assault on a Nice church.

Security agencies in Singapore have been on heightened alert since early September and, as a result of their investigations, the Bangladeshis were deported, the interior ministry said.

The individuals, most of whom were construction workers, put up social media posts "which incited violence or stoked communal unrest" in response to the attacks in France, AFP reported citing a ministry statement.

Officials did not disclose the content of the posts.

In a separate incident, a 26-year-old Bangladeshi man was picked up under the Internal Security Act earlier this month in Singapore for his involvement in terrorism-related activities.

Ahmed Faysal was arrested on November 2 after preliminary investigations found that he had been radicalised and intended to carry out acts of armed violence in his home country. The Straits Times reported yesterday.

Faysal left Bangladesh for Singapore in early 2017 to work as a construction worker, and became radicalised the following year through online propaganda.

The interior ministry said investigations so far have not indicated that Faysal intended to carry out any acts of violence in Singapore.

EC sending staff

FROM PAGE 1

Abul Kalam said all citizens above 14 would get smart NID cards under the second phase of the IDEA project. But the project director, Saidul, said, "Our ultimate plan under the second phase of the project is to distribute smart NID cards among all aged above 10."

Till now, the EC has given smart NID cards to citizens aged 18 and above.

Other targets of the second phase of the IDEA project include expansion of the NID database and updating it to make the existing server more efficient and help the EC have a flawless voter list.

"We will need to modernise and enhance the database and server as the number of people and voters are increasing every day. Although the target of distributing smart NID cards was initially set at nine crore, we now have around 10.98 crore voters," said Saidul.

Abul Kalam said the major operations of the project include production and personalisation of smart cards.

"We've placed a recommendation at the meeting that the NID services be brought under the revenue budget, instead of keeping it under any project," he said.

Meanwhile, Planning Division Senior Secretary Ashadul Islam said the government was planning to bring all data registration activities, including NID registration, birth and death registration, and the registration activities carried out by Directorate General of Family Planning under a single entity.

The five-year-long first phase of the IDEA project was launched in 2011, aiming at establishing a secure, accurate and reliable national identification system in Bangladesh.

During the first phase, the commission is supposed to have personalised and supplied NID cards to about nine crore voters up to upazila level. However, it has so far personalised and supplied 6.5 crore cards till date, said EC officials.

After missing four deadlines, the first phase of the project is now set to be completed next month. Its cost has risen to Tk 1,696 crore, up from the primary budget of Tk 1,379 crore.

Rest of the cards will be distributed in the second phase, IDEA project officials said.

Faridul takes oath

FROM PAGE 1

The post remained vacant for around five months.

According to the parliament's website, Faridul Haque Khan is a jute businessman by profession having qualification up to higher secondary certificate.

Born in January 2, 1956, Faridul Haque Khan is hailed from Islampur village in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur. He was also a chairman of Islampur upazila.

Faridul Haque Khan was elected as MP in 2009, 2014 and 2018 parliamentary elections.

With the inclusion of Faridul Haque Khan, the number of members in Sheikh Hasina's cabinet rose to 46.

Of them, 24 are full ministers, 19 are state ministers and three are deputy ministers.

DAP threatens 70pc natural waterbodies

Architects, urban planners slam proposed mega plan for Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite LGRD Minister Tajul Islam’s assurance at a press conference last Sunday that Dhaka will be transformed into a modern and liveable city, the proposed Detailed Area Plan (DAP) for the capital is facing severe criticism from architects and urban planners.

At a press conference yesterday, members of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) spoke at length about the flaws in the DAP draft, which has been formulated by consulting firms Sheltech and DDC under a work order by Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkha (Rajuk).

Implementation of this draft will result in seventy percent of natural waterbodies disappearing, architects warned, adding that flood flow zones will be severely hindered under this plan.

“There is a clear point in the Terms of Reference for preparation of the DAP, which mentions demarcating rivers, canals, water bodies, water retention and catchment areas based on surveys done during the British and Pakistani eras and mouja maps,” said Jalal Ahmed, president of IAB.

“The draft DAP has ignored this point, and proposed a modification in the classification of flood flow zones,” he said.

Flood flow zones are areas which typically remain dry, but store water during rainy season. These are essential to prevent waterlogging in the city.

“The draft DAP proposes two separate terms for the current zones -- primary waterbody and general waterbody. This draft mentions allowing construction (conditionally) on the general waterbodies, which will be severely detrimental to the city and its people,” said Jalal Ahmed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Barred by police, victims of Tazreen Fashions factory fire could not go to Gono Bhaban as planned on the occasion of eighth anniversary of the tragedy yesterday. In protest, they laid down on the street near Jatiya Press Club with banners and placards, and to press home their three-point demand, which include proper compensation and treatment.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Tazreen tragedy victims barred from reaching Gono Bhaban

Eight years on, survivors still cry for justice

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday barred the victims of Tazreen Fashions factory fire from going to Gono Bhaban, on the eighth anniversary of the tragedy where at least 113 workers were killed and 172 injured as fire wrecked the garments factory in November 2012.

The workers -- injured in the deadly fire -- were marching to see the prime minister to press home their three-point demand.

They had been staging a sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka for more than two months, day and night, demanding proper compensation and treatment.

The workers were barred by the law enforcers around 12:15pm. When they faced the barricade, they started to protest there and shouted slogans in favour of their demands.

Rehana Akhter, an injured worker, told reporters that four of her family members died in the deadly fire.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BOOKS BRIEFING

Youthmag‘Quirky’launched

SHABABA IQBAL

Worthy Publications launched their first ever monthly magazine, Quirky, at Prezzie café in the capital’s Dhanmondi on Friday. The publication will be like the Reader’s Digest, with segments devoted to health, advice, lifestyle, entertainment, business, food, travel and literature.

“We wanted to introduce a magazine that is one of a kind, easy to read, yet informative—a quick read for people even on their busiest days. Quirky will have short, factual, engaging articles,” says Nuzaimul Haque Xishan, publisher of Worthy Publications.

The first issue contains reviews of Netflix’s The Haunting of Bly Manor, and books Playing with Fire by and When No One is Watching.

“For story ideas, we rely largely on

our young writers, who represent our target audience,” said Mithila Haque, head of public relations at Worthy. The writing team currently comprises 20 contributors.

“There will be more paid opportunities for guest writers,” says Kasfia Haque Samara, co-founder of Worthy. “Guidelines for submissions will be available in the magazine and on our social media pages.”

Issues of Quirky will be on sale from today at Worthy Books’s social media pages, at bookstores including Baatighar, Bengal Boi, Pathak Shamabesh, PBS, shops in Nilkhet and New Market, as well as popular cafes and online stores.

For more book-related news, follow fb.com/DailyStarBooks, @thedailystarbooks on Instagram, and @DailyStarBooks on Twitter.



CASES AGAINST ‘GOLDEN MONIR’

Rab calls on NBR, BRTA, CID for investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday sent letters to three separate agencies to investigate the irregularities and wealth of Monir Hossain, also known as Golden Monir.

Those three agencies are National Board of Revenue (NBR), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Lt Col Ashique Billah, legal and media wing director of Rab headquarters, confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

“We have sent the letters to BRTA to check documents of his vehicle, CID to check money laundering issues and NBR to check whether he evaded tax. We would provide all necessary legal assistance to the agencies if they need any,” said the media wing director.

Meanwhile, the investigation of the three cases filed against Monir were transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday, Parvez Islam, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Rapid Action Battalion filed the three cases under the Special Powers Act, Narcotics Control Act and Arms Act with Badda Police Station on November 22.

Never-ending wait for justice

Perpetrators of rape, violence thrive amid perpetual legal proceedings, activists say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On February 12, 2018, a Tangail court -- in just 14 days -- sentenced four men to death and another to seven years’ imprisonment for raping and murdering law student Rupa Khatun on a moving bus.

Many praised the quick trial, which is regarded as a milestone for the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal.

“Around three years has passed, and proceedings are still ongoing at the High Court. I don’t know when this’ll end and whether we’ll get justice. I don’t know anyone at the HC and couldn’t get any update about the case,” said Rupa’s brother Hafizur Rahman Pramanik, in a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote (We Can) and Nari Nirapotta Jote, a platform working for women’s safety, organised the conference.

Ramzan Hossain, father of Suraiya Akter Risha -- who was knifed on a footbridge by her stalker Obaidul on August 24, 2016 in the capital’s Kakrail -- also shared a similar experience, as Obaidul received death

penalty and Tk 50,000 fine in August last year, but proceedings are still ongoing at the HC.

Ramzan could hardly speak a few sentences and broke into tears.

The two platforms organised the conference to present a nine-point demand to stop violence against women (VAW) and children, and ensure speedy trial of VAW cases. Of the nine points, two were that VAW cases should be settled in 180 days, and the HC must settle such cases on a priority basis within the prescribed time.

The other demands include ensuring proper security, necessary treatment and compensation for survivors, children and their families during trial proceedings; modernising and sensitising the process of taking witnesses in VAW cases; ensuring necessary policies and actions by the government to execute the 2009 High Court guideline to prevent sexual harassment; making the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2020 successful; adopting a zero-tolerance policy

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Plants bearing bright pink flowers now greet drivers passing through Dhaka-Aricha highway, as Roads and Highways Department planted them on the road divider to beautify the area. This photo was taken yesterday from Savar’s Hemayetpur area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Investigate forced marriage between 85-year-old man and minor: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities to conduct an inquiry into the reported incident of forced marriage of an 85-year-old man and 11-year-old girl in Jamalpur and to submit the probe report to this court on November 29.

According to a news report published in the daily Samakal on November 21, local influentials of Bairapara village under Dewanganj upazila in Jamalpur on November 18 forced 85-year-old Mohir Uddin and 11-year-old girl to marry each other. They also tortured the elderly man at an arbitration, as his grandson Mihir Uddin allegedly raped the girl, the report said.

The HC asked the DC and super-intendent of police in Jamalpur and OC of Dewanganj Police Station to conduct the inquiry and provide victims with protection. The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Shahed Nuruddin came up with the suo moto order after Deputy Attorney General Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashir placed the newspaper report before the judges.

ATTACK ON HASINA’S MOTORCADE

SC clears way to resume trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that cleared the way for a lower court to resume trial proceedings of a case filed over the attack on motorcade of the then opposition leader and now Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Satkhira in 2002.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain came up with the order after dismissing a petition filed by Rakibur Rahman, an accused in the case, challenging the HC verdict.

On October 8, an HC bench led by Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam cleared the way for the lower court concerned to resume the case’s trial proceedings.

Following the petition filed by Rakib, another HC bench on August 23, 2017 stayed the proceedings and issued a rule asking the state why the trial proceedings against Rakib should not be scrapped.

In the petition, Rakib claimed that he was 10 years old when the incident took place in 2002 and therefore, the trial proceedings of the case filed under the Penal Code against him cannot be run.

During hearing on the petition, Rakib’s lawyer AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon told the court that the trial proceedings against his client (Rakib) could take place under the Child Act, 2013 as he was a minor at the time of bomb attack.

Meanwhile, Additional Attorney General SM Munir argued that Rakib was 32 years old during the incident as per the FIR. He did not inform the trial court that he was 10 years old during the time and therefore there is no legal bar to run the trial against him.

Endangered geckos seized while being smuggled in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Chattogram Metropolitan Police have arrested two people and seized two geckos from their possession, while the duo were smuggling them from Bandarban to Dhaka.

The arrestees are Monirul Haque (60) and Md Delwar (50), said police.

They were arrested from Maijartek area under Karnaphuli Police Station of the city early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police detained Monirul from near the Shah Amanat Bridge area, while he was carrying a shopping bag which held the endangered species, Assistant Commissioner of CMP Yasin Arafat said.

Police later arrested Delwar, who had originally given the lizards to Monirul for smuggling, the official said. The lizards will be handed over to the forest department, he added. A case has been lodged against the duo in this connection.

Tokay geckos are attributed supernatural powers in East Asian folklore, and it is an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine. Some buyers are rumoured to pay thousands of dollars for specimens, making them a target for poachers.

Weapons used in Liberation War cannot be sold: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued an injunction restraining the authorities concerned of the government to sell weapons used during the country’s Liberation War in 1971.

In response to a writ petition, the court also asked the authorities to submit a report to it in six months describing what steps have been taken to preserve and protect the weapons and what their present status is.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why their reported wishes to sell these weapons should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim came up with the order and rule, following the petition filed challenging the government’s reported move to sell the weapons.

Zi Khan Panna, a Supreme Court lawyer, and Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a leading rights organisation, jointly submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on November 15 based on a report published by Bangla daily Prothom Alo on October 5 in this regard.

In the petition, they sought necessary directives from the HC on the authorities concerned to not sell the weapons and preserve those as national heritage for the future generations.

Lawyers Zi Khan Panna, Shamsuddin Babul, Syeda Nasrin and Shahinuzzaman appeared for the writ petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Nawroz MR Chowdhury represented the state during virtual hearing on the petition yesterday.



Md Rashed dabbles in small businesses, and takes care of his small household. He was seen gutting a fish to get it ready for cooking, beside the rail line at port city’s Jhautola area. His wife is a worker at a readymade garments factory, and Rashed doesn’t mind taking care of the cooking while she is at work.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Man’s throat-slit body found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered body of a man from Dhaka’s Badda area yesterday morning. The deceased was identified -- through his fingerprint -- as Joynal Mia (40), hailing from Kishoreganj’s Karimganj upazila. Sub-inspector Harun-or-Rashid of Badda Police Station said locals informed police that a body was lying in a pool of blood on a plot at Block-E of Aftabnagar area. On information, police recovered the body, which also bore stab marks in the abdomen. A crime scene unit of CID collected his fingerprints and identified him. Police sent the body to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for autopsy, the SI added. The official said they contacted Joynal’s wife who said he was an auto-rickshaw driver and used to live in Rayerbazar.

COMMODORE RABBANI MURDER CASE
Convict Abu Naser refused bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday refused to grant bail to Abu Naser Chowdhury, a convict in the Commodore Ghulam Rabbani murder case. The apex court, however, ordered the authorities concerned of Chattogram jail to admit him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for his treatment, if it is necessary, and to send him back to the jail after completion of treatment. A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain came up with the order after hearing a petition filed by Chowdhury seeking bail on health ground. Lawyer Nozrul Islam Chowdhury appeared for him while Attorney General AM Amin Uddin represented the state. Ghulam Rabbani, a former Korean Export Processing Zone managing director and a former aide-de-camp of Bangabandhu, was shot in the throat by criminals at Muradpur in Chattogram on his way to the KEPZ on April 11, 2004. Thirteen days later, Rabbani, who also had been a vital prosecution witness in both the Bangabandhu murder and the jail killing cases, succumbed to his injuries at Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok. Rabbani was reportedly killed following a conflict between him and a few of his colleagues at the KEPZ over his appointment as its MD, and termination of two employees of the KEPZ before and after his appointment. Abu Naser and one Md Selim, two convicts of the case, were sent to jail on their surrender before a Chattogram court on December 15, 2016.



The footpath on the opposite side of Dhanmondi’s Popular Hospital is almost always obstructed by reckless parking. This makes life difficult for commuters walking through the busy street. This photo was taken on Friday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

62 fined for not wearing masks in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Barishal District Administration yesterday fined 62 people Tk 11,200 in total for not wearing masks in the city, to check the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Three mobile courts took the action in drives from morning to afternoon at various important points of the city including Bibir Pukur, Sadar Road and Chawkbazar areas, said officials. The fined people include pedestrians, rickshaw-pullers, and three-wheeler drivers as they did not wear masks at that time. Executive Magistrate Subrata Kumar Das, spokesperson of the district administration, said the campaign was aimed at making people aware of the coronavirus pandemic. He assured of continuing such drives.

Tazreen tragedy

FROM PAGE 3

She also had been working at the factory at that time. The only reason she is alive now as she jumped out from the factory building when the fire broke out. Another injured worker, Jorina, told The Daily Star, “I have been participating in the demonstration here for around two months. I jumped from the building’s third floor when the fire broke out in the factory. Now I am living with a broken leg, with no compensation for it.” Meanwhile in Savar, survivors, family members and labour leaders yesterday demanded capital punishment for those responsible for the fire, reports our correspondent. “We could do nothing except sit in front of the burning building and watch the workers die. This was not an accident -- it was a systemic murder,” they said. Taslima Akhter, president of Bangladesh Garment Shramik Samhati, said, “There has not been a single conviction for any of the RMG disasters where garment workers died. This impunity cannot go on. The negligence of the government as well as the garments owners’ association must also be investigated.” On November 24, 2012, fire broke out

at Tazreen Fashions Limited, a garments factory in Ashulia, some 35km from Dhaka city. When the workers attempted to leave the building, the management locked it from the outside. Some 113 workers were killed in the fire. Many jumped through the windows of the building to save their lives. Two cases were filed with Ashulia Police Station against the factory owner and others. Police submitted charge sheets in both the cases against 13 people, including the factory owner Delwar Hossain, in September 2015. The cases are currently under trial at the Additional Sessions Judge Court-1 in Dhaka. Tazreen’s managing director Delwar Hossain is out of jail on bail. Rakib Hassan Shohag, president of Garment Workers Tailors League (Savar, Ashulia unit), said most of the time witnesses remain absent on hearing dates. Yesterday, the victims urged the government to build a hospital and a dormitory for survivors on the land where the factory is located. They also placed wreaths in front of the factory in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the incident.

60 shanties gutted in fire at Mohammadpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty shanties were gutted after a fire broke out yesterday at Jahuri Mahalla slum in the capital’s Mohammadpur area. The fire originated at the slum around 4:15pm. On information, ten fire-fighting units rushed to the spot and doused it around 5:45pm, said Shahjadi Sultana, duty officer of Fire Service Headquarters Control Room. The cause of the fire could not be known immediately, she said. No casualty was reported. Shanto, employee of a private firm who lives nearby, said the fire originated in the middle of the slum. He said the slum is known to locals as “Pora Bosti”, as there were several fire incidents before.

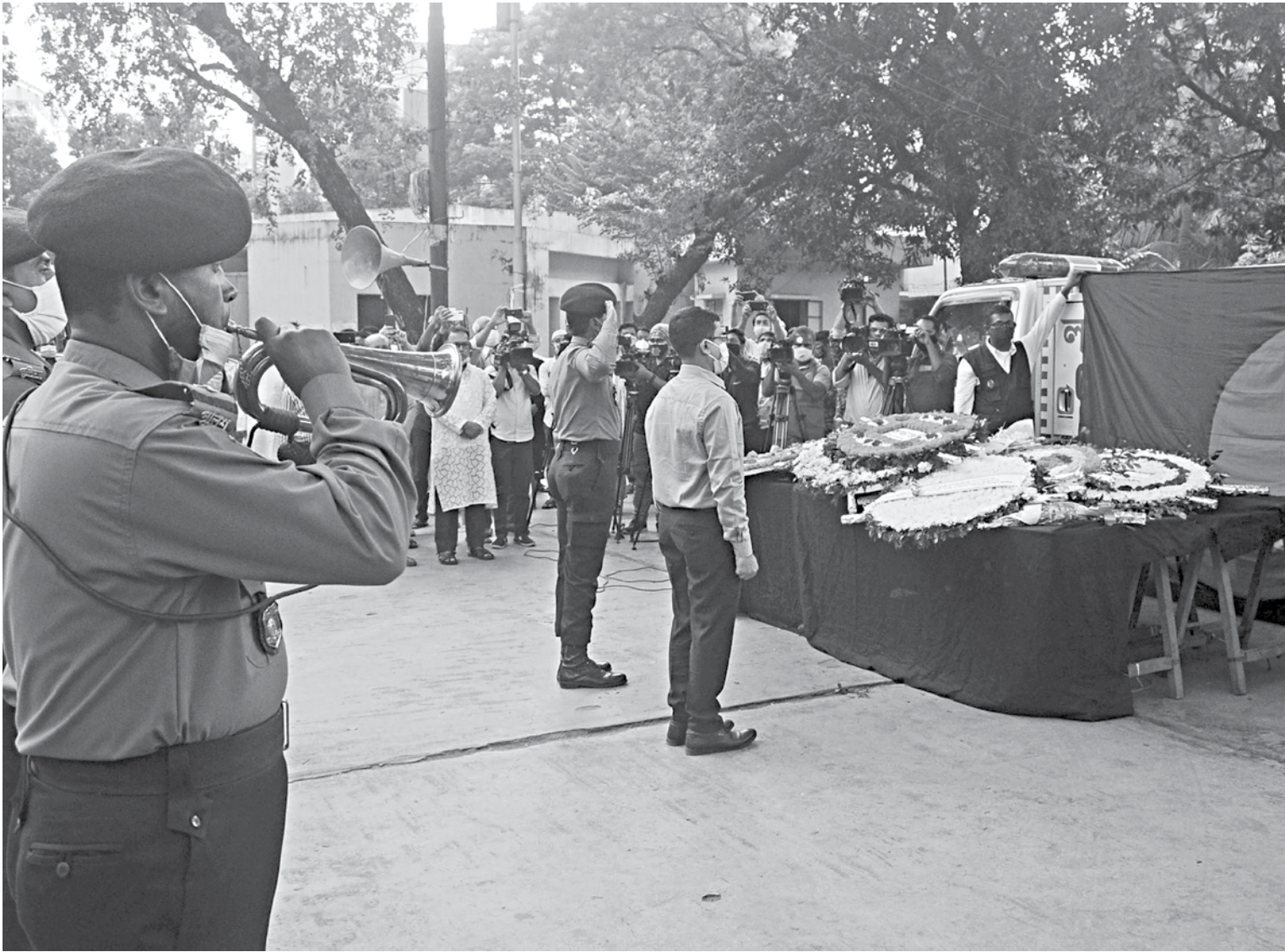
DAP threatens

FROM PAGE 3

Upon implementation of such plans, the city will risk losing 70 percent of its waterbodies, and the proportion of flood flow zones will be reduced to 17 percent. “The 1997 structure plan intended to keep 66 percent flood flow zones,” said Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa). IAB pointed out multiple loopholes in the proposed draft, which includes withdrawal of the mandatory provision of keeping car parking facilities in buildings. “The draft DAP proposes a community parking system, but does not specify where and how they will arrange the land for such a parking system. So this proposition may end in cars occupying more space on the roads due to the lack of parking [in buildings], said IAB’s former president Kazi Golam Nasir. There are many roads in and around Dhaka that are too narrow and in need of development. With the expansion of urbanisation, not extending these roads even by a minimum level will be a suicidal

decision for the city’s development, opined IAB architects. IAB proposed enlisting 2,200 structures that the court has declared protection for, as heritage sites in the DAP. At present, the number of heritage buildings of Dhaka are steadily declining as businesses and other entities continue to encroach and demolish the structures. IAB architects also pointed out that this DAP draft does not evaluate the failures and successes of the previous DAP, which should be an essential step before undertaking a new plan. “Much of the information and statements in the plan are not supported by solid research, or they did not disclose whatever research was done,” said IAB architects. The draft also incorrectly cites the Dhaka Metropolitan Building Construction Rules-2008 as “obstructive”, said the architects. “The 2008 rule dictates that every building must have some specific amount of open space to allow sunlight and wind to pass through for healthy ventilation,” said Nasir. In the proposed DAP, only five

percent area has been designated as purely residential, while the rest will be a mix of residential and commercial. “If this is approved, the entire city save from government spaces and private residences will become commercial,” observed IAB architects. In the proposed DAP, they have kept a provision to allow constructions that deviate from the building codes and do not have approval. All they have to do is pay a fine. “This sets a bad precedent for everyone,” said the architects. Despite over 40 lakh people living in slums, the DAP makes no emphasis on low-cost housing facilities for low-income and poor people, observed IAB. The architects of IAB urged the government to extend the deadline for finalising the DAP and take the opinions of experts, stakeholders, and the public for a thorough examination of the draft. Architects Dr Farida Nilufar, Dr Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, Marina Tabassum, Ehsan Khan and Ishtiaque Zahir also addressed the programme, among others.



A guard of honour was accorded to freedom fighter and acting editor of the daily Sangbad Khandaker Muniruzzaman at the capital’s Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The senior journalist passed away at a Dhaka hospital yesterday, after a battle with Covid-19.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Never-ending

FROM PAGE 3

against rape, sexual violence and violence against women and children; announcing and implementing special campaigns against abusers of women and children; and amending and modernising all kinds of laws discriminatory to women. Aklima Akter, mother of 14-year-old Marufa -- who was allegedly raped and killed by Singdha UP Chairperson Mahboub Murshed Kanchan of Netrokona’s Barhatta upazila on May 9 -- with tears, described how police changed the initial allegations. She also questioned the honesty and efficiency of personnel who prepared the forensic report.

We Can Co-chairperson Shaheen Anam presided over the conference and said perpetrators in VAW cases get away due to the culture of impunity. “Our prime minister said there is a zero-tolerance policy regarding VAW, and for this, we have to work together. We hope our media colleagues will convey these heart-breaking experiences we heard from the victims’ families and the fact that they have not seen justice,” she said. We Can Adviser Mahfuza Khanam expressed serious concern over the silence of 50 female lawmakers and the Speaker regarding the remarks of Independent MP Rezaul Karim Bablu about rape incidents.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Brahmanbaria
Phone: 0851-59632
eebra@rhd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice No. 09/2020-2021

Memo No. ৩৫.০১.১১৩.৪০৬.১৪.২৫৯.১৬-১৯১৬ Date: ২৪/১১/২০২০

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Brahmanbaria for the procurement of:

SL No.	Package No.	Tender ID	Name of the works
1.	09/e-GP/EE/RHD/ Brahmanbaria/2020-2021	517570	Supplying different materials 25 mm stone chips 12 mm stone chips pea-gravels & local sand F.M. 0.80 for repairing of different Roads of Brahmanbaria Road Sub-Division under Road Division Brahmanbaria during the year 2020-2021.


This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tender details can be downloaded are from 24/11/2020 to 08/12/2020 & time 17:00 on e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for pursue. e-Tenders will be accepted only up to 09/12/2020 & time 13:30. Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after 09/12/2020 & time 13:30.

Pankaj Bhowmik
ID No. 602209
Executive Engineer (c.c), RHD
Road Division, Brahmanbaria

GD-1883

Auction Notice
Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) invites sealed quotations from interested parties/ individuals who want to purchase running conditioned used 250KV Petbow Diesel Generator with Canopy, UPS, Battery, Rack & Patch panel. Interested bidders are requested to visit IWM website <www.iwmbd.org> for details.

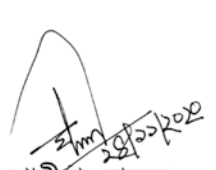
CAREER OPPORTUNITY
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, (BRAC JPGSPH) invites applications for the position of **Research Coordinator** for the project named “**Kishoree Kontha**”, an on-going study evaluating the effects of a variety of training and conditional transfer packages on girls’ marriage outcomes and economic opportunities.
Education: Bachelor’s degree in economics, public policy, or other quantitative social science disciplines (Masters degree preferred)
Experience: as a survey expert or in managing surveys and field staff in developing countries is preferred.
Salary: Negotiable | **Job Location:** BRAC JPGSPH, Head Office, Mohakhali
Suitable Individuals interested in applying for this consultancy must submit their CV along with cover letter to HR, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University through email: recruitment.sph@bracu.ac.bd by, **01 December 2020.**


রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা
Website: www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা নিম্নবর্ণিত প্লটের বরাদ্দ গ্রহিতার অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বরাদ্দপত্রের শর্ত মোতাবেক নির্ধারিত সময়ে প্লটের উপর ইমারত নির্মাণ না করায় রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত ডাকযোগে প্রেরিত পত্র দ্বারা আপনাকে চার বার কারণ দর্শানোর নোটিশ জারি করা হয়। আপনি উক্ত নোটিশের অদ্যাবধি কোন জবাব প্রদান করেননি।

বরাদ্দ গ্রহিতার নাম ও ঠিকানা	প্লটের বিবরণ
জনাব মাকসুদ আলী খাঁন চেয়ারম্যান বাংলাদেশ টি এন্ড টি বোর্ড, ঢাকা। স্থায়ী ঠিকানাঃ পাকিস্থানী দালান বাড়ী নং-২১, রোড নং-০৬, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা।	উত্তরা আবাসিক এলাকার ০৩নং সেক্টরের ১৪নং রাস্তার ০১নং প্লট।

এমতাবস্থায়, অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হতে ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে মূল কাগজপত্রসহ উপ-পরিচালক (এস্টেট ও ভূমি-২) রাজউক উত্তরা জোনাল অফিস বিল্ডিং নং-২৪ (৪র্থ তলা পূর্ব পার্শ্ব), রোড নং-১৩, সেক্টর নং-০৬, উত্তরা আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকায় উপস্থিত হয়ে বক্তব্য প্রদানের জন্য নির্দেশক্রমে অনুরোধ করা হলো। নির্ধারিত সময়ে উপস্থিত হয়ে বক্তব্য প্রদান না করলে আর কোন নোটিশ ব্যতিরেকে আপনার নামে বরাদ্দকৃত প্লটটি বাতিল করা হবে।


শামীমা মোমেন
সচিব (চলতি দায়িত্ব)
রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

জিডি-১৮৮২



A farmer tends to early variety of brinjal saplings in his field at Baniary village in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Floods, rains dash early winter vegetable growers' hopes

Price hike of vegetables worries residents in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Prices of vegetables remain high in the local markets of the district as local growers cannot cultivate early varieties of winter vegetables timely this year due to bad weather. Because of continuous heavy rains and floods during the peak season, cultivation of early winter vegetables has been delayed in Pirojpur, said farmers, adding that they were also badly affected by the bad weather. The growers in the district cultivate early winter vegetables with the hope of getting good prices but heavy rains have dashed their hopes this year as they cannot cultivate the vegetables during the

peak season due to bad weather. Farmer Mohammad Shamim of Baniary village in Nazirpur upazila said growers in the area cultivate early vegetables inside the bed of fish enclosures during the peak season as other fields remain under water then. They grow early varieties of vegetables including cauliflower, bean, brinjal, tomato and different varieties of leafy vegetables there, he said, adding that but this year, they cannot grow them in time after trying several times due to bad weather. "At the beginning of August, we plant vegetable saplings and get production at the end of

September," said another farmer of the village Projesh Mondal, adding that but this time they do not get any yield. "I planted vegetable saplings and seeds for over three times. But rainwater and floods have damaged it," said grower Fazar Ali Khan of the area. Meanwhile, the price hike of the winter vegetables has worried consumers in the district as locally grown vegetable is not available in the markets. Local vegetable traders said the vegetables they sell in the market come from different areas of Khulna division. Prices of winter vegetables are

high due to the crisis of vegetable supply in the market, said trader Ujjal Chandra from Pirojpur town, adding that the lowest price of each kilogram of vegetable is Tk 40. The price of each kilogram of brinjal is Tk 65, bean Tk 100 and each piece of bottle gourd is over Tk 50 while each bundle leafy vegetable is sold for Tk 25. About the matter, Bijan Krishna Hawlader, sub-assistant agriculture officer of Nazirpur upazila agriculture office, said this year farmers cannot produce vegetables in time due to bad weather. Winter vegetables will be available in the markets at the end of the current month, he said.

ATTACK ON ICHHACHHARA PUNJEE

Separate land commission urged for plain land indigenous communities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least ten non-government organizations, campaigning for land and human rights of marginalised population, called on the government to protect indigenous communities living in Ichhachhara Punjee of Kulaura upazila. They made the call on Saturday while visiting Ichhachhara Punjee (village) where indigenous communities came under attack on November 9 over possession of a betel leaf garden belonging to an indigenous family at Katabari Paan Jum (betel leaf garden). In order to promptly settle land disputes of indigenous communities living on plain land across the country, the organisations also urged the government to take immediate steps for creating a separate land commission for plain land indigenous communities. The members of the rights organisations also met with Moulvibazar deputy commissioner (DC) and Kulaura upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) on Sunday. Association for Land Reform and development (ALRD) representative and Programme Officer (Law) AKM Bulbul Ahmed said the land commission for plain land indigenous communities should be comprised of members of the communities and there should be a law that bans the transfer of land from indigenous people to non-indigenous people. The perpetrators of the attack on Ichhachhara Punjee have to be brought to book without any further delay and views exchange dialogues



Father Joseph Gomes OMI, coordinator of Indigenous Environment Movement of Bapa in Sylhet division, speaks to a team of representatives from various rights organisations during their visit to Ichhachhara village of Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

the law, he added. Ripon Banai, student and youth secretary of central committee of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, demanded that a national policy for all indigenous communities and a separate ministry for the indigenous people on plain land be made. Manusher Jonno Foundation Senior Program Manager Evelina Chakma, Coordinator of Indigenous Environment Movement of Bapa in Sylhet division Father Joseph Gomes OMI, KUBRAJ General Secretary Flora Babbly Talang, Nizera Kori central activist Mizanur Rahman, Bapa Habiganj unit General Secretary Tafazzal Soheli, Bapa organiser in Moulvibazar ASM Saleh, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association's Sylhet unit activist Al Amin Sarder, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust's Sylhet district Programme Officer Satyajit Kumar Das and Dr Ali Ahsan Chowdhury also spoke, among others, at Ichhachhara Punjee. Evelina Chakma said, "I witnessed the problem faced by the indigenous people after visiting the spot." The administration needs to make sure that these issues are handled properly and

the media needs to cover the issues with due importance, she added. Moulvibazar DC Mir Nahid Ahsan said the representatives of the rights organisations praised the steps taken by the administration over the attack on indigenous communities at Ichhachhara Punjee. He also said the issue was discussed at the district's law and order meeting and a case was already filed over the attack and vandalism at the village. On the night of November 9, several hours after Kulaura upazila administration in a raid evicted illegal occupants from a betel leaf garden belonging to an indigenous family at Katabari Paan Jum, a church was ransacked and at least one person sustained injury during an attack on Ichhachhara Khasi village. Around 50 to 60 men armed with local weapons, led by Rafiq Ali, who had been evicted from the garden several hours earlier, first vandalised a grocery store owned by one Lal Mia around 7:00pm and they later ransacked the nearby church too, locals said, adding that when the attackers started to throw stones at houses up on the hills, at least one person was hurt while running to safety.

Good initiative, yet ineffective

FROM PAGE 1 Even, Anna Begum, a member of Jhanpa UP of Manirampur upazila in Jashore, was allegedly beaten with the sandal of the head of her committee in August last year, when she asked for an Eid bonus. She was expelled from the committee. Contacted, the committee head, UP chairperson Shamsul Haque Montu defied the allegation, saying the woman was of "immoral character and she used to be involved in sex work earlier."

MONITORING NEEDED According to the latest report of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 975 rapes, 208 gang rapes, and 43 murders after rape occurred across the country in the first nine months of this year.

Despite being armed with various laws, the fight against gender-based violence still remains an uphill challenge. The NNPCs have a major role to play in this regard at the grassroots level, experts said.

They stressed monitoring NNPC activities in order to make these more functional and accountable.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said there has to be a strict monitoring mechanism so that these committees can be held accountable for their activities.

She referred to how in the Eklashpur gang rape and other incidents of violence against women, the media and rights bodies played an active role in helping survivors get access to remedies.

"But is it possible in every case? The system must be working and every committee must be held accountable for their actions."

A project of ASK has been providing gender awareness and sensitivity training to NNPC members and advocating for lawful mediation in the five most violence-prone districts, since 2017.

Khaleda Khanom, team leader of the project, ASTHA: Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh, said most of these committees were inactive before the rights body started working with them.

"The members of the committees didn't know about their roles. We found most of the people went to the UP chairman and members to report the violent incidents, and they would do both lawful and unlawful mediation in rape or severe injury cases," she said.

"In rape incidents, they would also never maintain confidentiality, which affects the survivors. In the case of severe domestic violence incidents, they would often try to mitigate the issue by sending the victims back to their husbands, without ensuring fruitful measures, so that these incidents aren't repeated."

Contacted, Dr Abul Hossain, project director of the multi-sectoral programme on violence against women at the women and children affairs ministry, said they don't usually review the activities after publishing the gazette.

"However, we often tell the DCs to monitor it. The minister and secretaries also urge them to reactivate their activities," he said.

"We just formed the committees, but the UP chairpersons are guided by the local government department. They [LGD] can play an active role here."

রাঙ্গামাটি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ভেদভেদী, রাঙ্গামাটি-৪৫০০

মারক নং-রাষ্ট্রপ্রতি/সংস্থাপন/নিয়োগ-৬(অনলাইন)/২০২০/২০৪

তারিখঃ ০৮ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪২৭ বঙ্গাব্দ
২৩ নভেম্বর ২০২০খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

রাঙ্গামাটি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে শিক্ষক, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী নিয়োগ করা হবে। এ লক্ষ্যে জনস্বার্থে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে (Online) এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	'বেতন গ্রেড' ২০১৫	নিয়োগের ধরণ	
০১	অধ্যাপক- কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এবং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	০১টি	৩য়	স্থায়ী পদে নিয়োগ	
	অধ্যাপক- ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	০২টি	৩য়		
	অধ্যাপক- ফরেন্সি এবং এনভায়রনমেন্টাল সায়েন্স বিভাগ	০১টি	৩য়		
	অধ্যাপক- ট্যুরিজম এবং হসপিটালিটি ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	০১টি	৩য়		
	অধ্যাপক- ফিশারিজ এবং মেরিন রিসোর্স টেকনোলজি বিভাগ	০১টি	৩য়		
০২	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক- কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এবং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	০১টি	৪র্থ		
	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক- ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	০২টি	৪র্থ		
	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক- ফরেন্সি এবং এনভায়রনমেন্টাল সায়েন্স বিভাগ	০১টি	৪র্থ		
	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক- ট্যুরিজম এবং হসপিটালিটি ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	০১টি	৪র্থ		
	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক- ফিশারিজ এবং মেরিন রিসোর্স টেকনোলজি বিভাগ	০১টি	৪র্থ		
০৩	উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব), অর্থ ও হিসাব দপ্তর	০১টি	৫ম		
০৪	সহকারী অধ্যাপক- ট্যুরিজম এবং হসপিটালিটি ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	০২টি	৬ষ্ঠ		
	সহকারী অধ্যাপক- ফিশারিজ এবং মেরিন রিসোর্স টেকনোলজি বিভাগ	০২টি	৬ষ্ঠ		
০৫	প্রভাষক- ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	০১টি	৯ম		
	প্রভাষক- ফরেন্সি এবং এনভায়রনমেন্টাল সায়েন্স বিভাগ	০২টি	৯ম		
	প্রভাষক- ট্যুরিজম এবং হসপিটালিটি ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	০২টি	৯ম		
	প্রভাষক- ফিশারিজ এবং মেরিন রিসোর্স টেকনোলজি বিভাগ	০৪টি	৯ম		
	০৬	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল), পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন দপ্তর	০১টি		
০৭	অডিট অফিসার, ভিসি দপ্তর	০১টি	৯ম		
০৮	সেকশন অফিসার, রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর (সংস্থাপন ও একাডেমিক)	০২টি	৯ম		
০৯	একাউন্টস অফিসার (বাজেট), অর্থ ও হিসাব দপ্তর	০১টি	৯ম		
১০	গ্র্যাসিট্যান্ট একাউন্টস অফিসার (হিসাব), অর্থ ও হিসাব দপ্তর	০১টি	১০ম		
১১	সহকারী এস্টেট অফিসার, রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর (এস্টেট)	০১টি	১০ম		
১২	উপ সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (হার্ডওয়্যার ও মেইনটেন্যান্স), আইটি শাখা	০১টি	১০ম		
১৩	উচ্চমান সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, লাইব্রেরী দপ্তর	০১টি	১১তম		
১৪	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, অর্থ ও হিসাব দপ্তর	০১টি	১১তম		
১৫	ল্যাব টেকনিশিয়ান, মেডিকেল দপ্তর	০১টি	১৩তম		
১৬	অফিস সহকারী কাম টাইপিষ্ট	০৬টি	১৬তম		
১৭	অফিস সহায়ক	০৩টি	২০তম		
সর্বমোটঃ		৪৬টি			

কৃপায়ঃ সর্বমোট ছেট্টিশটি পদ।

উপর্যুক্ত প্রতিটি পদের জন্য শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা, আবেদন ফি এবং আবেদন পদ্ধতির বিস্তারিত বিবরণ রাঙ্গামাটি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট www.rmstu.edu.bd অথবা <http://rmstur.teletalk.com.bd>-এ পাওয়া যাবে। আগামী ২৩/১২/২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ তারিখ রাত ১১.৫৯টার মধ্যে Online পদ্ধতিতে আবেদন সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।

আবেদনের ফিঃ

- (১) অধ্যাপক ও সহযোগী অধ্যাপক- আবেদন ফিঃ টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জসহ অনলাইন ফি (১,৫০০+১৫০) = ১,৬৫০/-
- (২) উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব) ও সহকারী অধ্যাপক- আবেদন ফিঃ টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জসহ অনলাইন ফি (১,২০০+১২০) = ১,৩২০/-
- (৩) প্রভাষক, সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল), অডিট অফিসার, সেকশন অফিসার, একাউন্টস অফিসার- আবেদন ফিঃ টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জসহ অনলাইন ফি (১,০০০+১০০) = ১,১০০/-
- (৪) অ্যাসিস্টেন্ট একাউন্টস অফিসার, সহকারী এস্টেট অফিসার, উপ সহকারী প্রকৌশলী- আবেদন ফিঃ টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জসহ অনলাইন ফি (৮০০+৮০) = ৮৮০/-
- (৫) উচ্চমান সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, ল্যাব টেকনিশিয়ান, অফিস সহকারী কাম টাইপিষ্ট- আবেদন ফিঃ টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জসহ অনলাইন ফি (৬০০+৬০) = ৬৬০/-
- (৬) অফিস সহায়ক- আবেদন ফিঃ টেলিটকের সার্ভিস চার্জসহ অনলাইন ফি (৫০০+৫০) = ৫৫০/-

স্বাক্ষরিত
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

জিডি-১৮৭৭

রাঙ্গামাটি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

In order to promptly settle land disputes of indigenous communities living on plain land across the country, the organisations urged the government to take immediate steps for creating a separate land commission for plain land indigenous communities.

should also be held regularly to solve problems of the communities, he added. Abdul Karim Chowdhury, general secretary of Sylhet unit of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa), said the role of indigenous people in protecting forest, bio-diversity and environment is undeniable and a threat to their existence could easily be defined as a threat to natural forest and wildlife. Despite the fact, the indigenous people are increasingly under threat and the government should take strict action against violators of

3 arrested in rape cases in 2 districts

STAR REPORT

Three people were arrested in two rape cases in Magura and Jashore on Monday night.

In Magura, Rab held two people on charges of gang-raping a 42-year-old woman, a mother of three, on Monday night.

However, the Rab officials did not disclose the arrestees' identities for the sake of investigation.

The victim's family members said they are inhabitants of a village in Jhenidah's Shailakupa. The village is situated in a bordering area of Jhenidah and Magura.

The victim along with her husband used to stay in a makeshift tent near a paddy field at night in Jagla village of Magura Sadar upazila to carry the harvested paddy to its owner's house on their horse cart.

During the paddy cultivation season every year, they normally do this work and get paddy or money for it.

Around 1:00am on Sunday, five unidentified criminals attacked them with sharp weapons.

The criminals tied the victim's husband to a tree and gang-raped the woman at knifepoint. They also looted Tk 5,000 before leaving the scene.

Hearing their screams, locals later rushed there and rescued the couple.

The victim later filed a case against five unknown criminals with Magura Sadar Police Station, said Joydul Abedin, officer-in-charge of the station.

On Monday night, Rab arrested two people from Baittapara Bazar in Magura Sadar upazila over their alleged involvement in the incident. They were being interrogated, said Lt Col Sarwar Hossain, company commander of Rab-6 in Jashore.

In another incident, police picked up a man from Jashore's Keshabpur on Monday night over the rape of a housewife.

The arrestee is Abu Sayed, 33, of Bhainia village of the same upazila.

Police said both the victim and the accused are neighbours. On Sunday night, Sayed asked the 35-year-old victim to go with him to bring medicine from a village doctor.

He then took the woman to nearby Dangir Beel and raped her with the help of some of his associates.

The victim lodged a case with Keshabpur Police Station accusing Sayed and three others.

The other accused -- Sirajul Islam, 33, Jasim Uddin, 32, and Siddiqur Rahman, 30, -- are residents of other villages in the same upazila.

Police were conducting drives to arrest the other accused, said Jasim Uddin, OC of Keshabpur Police Station.

[Our correspondents in Jhenidah and Benapole contributed to this report.]

Man held

FROM PAGE 12

Akhter Nupur, 28 -- was rushed to a local clinic and then to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Anwarul Islam, officer-in-charge of Baraigram Police Station, said Taleb forcibly married Nupur seven years ago when she was a college student.

Nupur divorced Taleb three days ago and moved to her father's house.

On information, Taleb went to Nupur's present address at the upazila's Kamardaha village, threw acid on her face and fled the scene, he added.

Further legal procedures will be followed, the OC said.

2 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 12

During the pandemic, Rina and her team of helpers have served around 400 meals a week -- including rice, vegetables, eggs and meat -- to sex workers in Dhaka who found themselves without clients and struggling to buy food.

"People see our profession as demeaning, but we do it to buy food. I am trying to make sure women in this profession are not left hungry, and their children will not have to do this work," Rina Akter told BBC.

Rina runs a daily drop-in shelter for sex workers in Gopibagh. Floating sex workers who work at night can come to this shelter in the morning to bathe, eat, rest and get treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

Rima Sultana Rimu is an 18-year-old peace activist, and a member of Young Women Leaders for Peace in Cox's Bazar.

This programme -- part of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders funded by United Nations Women -- aims to empower young women from conflict-affected countries to be leaders and agents of peace.

Rima responded to the Rohingya refugee crisis in her community by advocating for gender-responsive humanitarian action.

She organises gender-sensitive, age-appropriate literacy and numeracy classes for Rohingya refugees, and for women and girls in the community who lack access to education.

"I am determined to bring gender equality to Bangladesh. I believe in the power of women and girls to fight for our rights. We will succeed," she said while talking to BBC.



A demonstrator gestures during a protest against racism, after a black man was beaten to death by security guards at a Carrefour supermarket in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on Monday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Vaccine hopes lift spirits across globe

FROM PAGE 12

Johnson said that although the "scientific cavalry" was arriving, he warned "Christmas cannot be normal and there's a long road to spring".

The world is still engulfed in the unprecedented health crisis which has shattered economies, infected almost 58.9 million people and left nearly 1.4 million dead.

Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine is 95 percent effective according to a second interim analysis of clinical trial data, its developers said yesterday.

The two-dose vaccine will be available on international markets for less than \$10 (8.40 euros) per dose, they said, and will be free for Russian citizens.

It can be stored at between two and eight degrees Celsius (between 35.6 and 46.4 degrees Fahrenheit), they said, instead of the temperatures below freezing required for some other vaccines.

AstraZeneca and Oxford University on Monday said their drug had proved on average 70 percent effective at stopping the virus after trying it on 23,000 people, days after tests of two other drugs suggested they were more than 90 percent effective.

The French head of AstraZeneca

says in an interview with AFP that three billion doses of the vaccine will be made available in 2021 at cost -- around 2.50 euros (\$3) per dose.

The European Union has struck a deal for up to 160 million doses of US firm Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine candidate, the head of the European Commission said yesterday, taking the EU's potential stock of Covid-19 shots to nearly 2 billion.

Last week, Moderna said its experimental vaccine was 94.5 percent effective in preventing Covid-19, based on interim data from a late-stage clinical trial.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned yesterday that any Covid-19 vaccine could lead to side-effects in some people, as even popular medicines do, and that the government would only go by science in finalising one for the country.

The comments came ahead of the possible launch of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine by early next year in India.

While World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed the latest batch of results as light at the end of the "long dark tunnel", he cautioned that the world had to ensure drugs were

distributed fairly.

"Every government rightly wants to do everything it can to protect its people," Tedros said. "But there is now a real risk that the poorest and most vulnerable will be trampled in the stampede for vaccines."

QANTAS VACCINE RULE

Australia's Qantas announced that international travellers will need to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to fly, becoming the first airline to suggest rules could become common across the industry.

Chief executive Alan Joyce said the carrier would implement the measure once a vaccine was made available to the public.

"Certainly, for international visitors coming out (to Australia) and people leaving the country, we think that is a necessity," he told Channel Nine.

Joyce predicted the rule would likely become standard practice around the world as governments and airlines consider the introduction of electronic vaccination passports.

However, other major regional airlines, such as Korean Air and Japan Airlines, said it was too early to comment on what travel requirements might be when a vaccine becomes widely available.

PM wants ACC to probe allegations

FROM PAGE 12

Their identities would be revealed once the ACC completes its investigation, he added.

Quader, also general secretary of the ruling Awami League, made the comments the day after the anti-graft body asked the government to provide a list of its officials who own homes in "Begum Para" of Toronto, Canada.

Besides, the High Court on Sunday asked the ACC chairman, secretaries concerned of the ministries of home and foreign affairs, the governor of Bangladesh Bank and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cabinet members, politicians and others from different sectors expressed deep shock and sorrow at Muniruzzaman's death.

In a condolence message, President Hamid said Khandaker Muniruzzaman was a pioneer of neutral, objective and fearless journalism. "His death is an irreparable loss to the mass media," he added.

Prime Minister Hasina prayed for

money abroad, to the court by December 17.

Many Bangladeshis have bought luxurious homes in "Begum Para", spending millions laundered out of Bangladesh. Mainly, the wives and children of Bangladeshi millionaires live in these homes in an area, hence the name Begum Para.

According to a report published in this newspaper on November 20, Begum Para has come up in numerous political discussions in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen recently raised eyebrows saying that government officials are forging ahead of politicians in the race to purchase luxurious homes in Begum Para. The minister spoke to The Daily Star on this issue over the phone on November 19.

Veteran journo Muniruzzaman

FROM PAGE 1

A freedom fighter, Muniruzzaman was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Graveyard in the evening, following his namaz-e-janaza at the National Press Club premises, where he was given state honours.

He is survived by his wife, a son, daughter-in-law and a host of well-wishers.

Soon after news spread of the death of the founding member of Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council), a pall of gloom descended on people of the media community and other spheres.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cabinet members, politicians and others from different sectors expressed deep shock and sorrow at Muniruzzaman's death.

In a condolence message, President Hamid said Khandaker Muniruzzaman was a pioneer of neutral, objective and fearless journalism. "His death is an irreparable loss to the mass media," he added.

Prime Minister Hasina prayed for

the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Sampadak Parishad President Mahfuz Anam and Secretary General Naem Nizam in a condolence message said Muniruzzaman's long years in journalism, experienced leadership and wise counsel helped the organisation stand firm on issues of press freedom and independent journalism.

His lifelong involvement with progressive ideals, upholding of the values of our Liberation War and his unrelenting commitment to secular politics and cultural values made him a leading figure in promoting ethical journalism in the profession and democratic values in the society.

His passing away is an irreparable loss to the journalistic fraternity -- his absence will deprive its younger generation from working with an editor who gave a lot and had so much more to give to the profession of journalism.

"Ever smiling, always warm,

unrelentingly optimistic, he led a life of simplicity and ethics. He was a person of exceptional human qualities admired by all who worked with him and loved by all who knew him," said the message.

A host of ministers and state ministers, including Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Planning Minister MA Mannan, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque, Education Minister Dipu Moni, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim expressed deep shock at the demise of Muniruzzaman.

Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Oikya NAP, Ekatturer Ghatot Dalal Nirmul Committee, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, and others also expressed shock.

Earlier, when Muniruzzaman's body was taken to the press club, his long-

Journo Kajol gets HC bail

FROM PAGE 12

issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why Kajol should not be granted bail in the case.

In the petition, Kajol said he is ill and the section of the law under which he has been implicated is not applicable to him as he did not defame anybody.

After hearing the petition, the HC bench yesterday granted permanent bail to Kajol.

The HC bench also asked the investigation officer of the cases lodged against Kajol with Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations whether he has taken permission from the Cyber Tribunal to probe the cases after 75 days of filing the cases.

The investigation officer and the Cyber Tribunal have been ordered to submit separate reports to the HC by December 15.

The HC bench passed the order after Kajol's lawyer Jyotirmoy told the court that the investigations of the two cases are illegal as the probes had to be concluded within 75 days of filing of the cases.

The investigation officer has not completed investigations of the cases in 75 days, which is a violation of the relevant provision of the law,

Jyotirmoy argued.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi represented the state during the virtual hearing on the bail petition.

On August 24, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka refused to grant bail to Kajol in the case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dhiman Chandra Mondol rejected his bail petition in the case on June 24.

Two other cases under the Digital Security Act were filed against Kajol on March 10 and 11 with Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations.

Fifty-three days following his disappearance after leaving his office in the capital's Hatirpool, Kajol was found by Border Guard Bangladesh in Benapole on May 3.

He was then arrested, initially on charges of trespassing, but was granted bail after being produced before a Jashore court.

Later, he was shown held under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after police informed the court that three more cases against Kajol were pending with different police stations in the capital.

The court then sent him to Jashore jail.

Honorary

FROM PAGE 12

A special convocation will be held at a suitable date so that Bangabandhu could personally receive the degree. Bangabandhu was a student of Old Islamia College and later of the University College of Law.

DHAKA, HANOI RECOGNISE EACH OTHER

The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has accorded formal recognition to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh has also accorded formal recognition to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The announcement of the recognitions is simultaneously made by Dhaka and Hanoi. This brings the total number of countries to have accorded recognition to Bangladesh to 95.

TAJUDDIN, CARGIL TALK AID FOR 5-YEAR PLAN

Finance and Planning Minister Tajuddin Ahmed and visiting Vice-president of World Bank Peter Cargil have a meeting in Dhaka today to explore the possibilities of the bank and its member countries' assistance to finance the five-year plan of Bangladesh.

\$50M IDA CREDIT FOR BANGLADESH

The International Development Association (IDA) will provide a credit of 50 million dollars to Bangladesh to support the government's effort to reconstruct key sectors of the economy following the devastation caused by the cyclone of 1970 and the liberation struggle of 1971.

SOURCES: November 26, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Pianist's velvety

FROM PAGE 12

at a time when Thailand's coronavirus-induced tourism hiatus means fewer visitors to feed them, and less funds for their welfare.

"We need to make an effort to make sure that they eat properly. And when they eat properly they will be calmer and will not be aggressive," said Barton, 59, a long-time Thailand resident.

Barton has played at four venues in Lopburi, a province famous for its marauding monkeys, including at an ancient Hindu temple, a hardware store and a derelict cinema.

The macaques are instantly drawn as he plays Greensleeves, Beethoven's Fur Elise and Michael Nyman's Diary of Love, some sharing his stool, others climbing onto his shoulders and touching his head.

Barton maintains focus as a small monkey runs up and down the piano keys as others chew at his sheet music before one tries to wrest it away.

"A wonderful opportunity to see the wild animals just being themselves," said Barton, from Yorkshire in northern England.

Filling station

FROM PAGE 12

22, Fahad Ahmed Pavel, 28, and Shahidul Islam, 18, in this connection after the victim's father Farid Mia filed a case with Shyampur Police Station.

The incident took place around 4:00am at Salahuddin Petrol Pump at Jurain.

Mofizul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shyampur Police Station, said four operators, including the victim, were on night duty at the petrol pump. One of the four, Emon, was asleep and Riad went to call him for duty.

Unable to awaken Emon, Riad sprayed a little bit of octane on his face. Angered by this, Emon took a container of octane, poured it on Riad and set him on fire, leaving him critically injured, the police official said.

Other employees of the filling station later took the injured to the hospital, the OC said.

Talking to reporters, Farid Mia, a driver by profession, said Riad is a student of Siddheswari College and took the part-time job this month at a monthly salary of Tk 5,000.

BIDEN’S CABINET PICKS

ANTONY BLINKEN: *Secretary of State*
Joe Biden nominated his longtime adviser Antony Blinken to be secretary of state. Blinken, 58, served as deputy secretary of state and deputy national security adviser during the Obama administration and has close ties with Biden. He is widely viewed as a pragmatic centrist on foreign policy who has supported past American interventions and is well respected by some Republicans.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS: *Homeland Security*
Biden announced the nomination of Alejandro Mayorkas, who served under Barack Obama as deputy secretary of Homeland Security and director of the Citizenship and Immigration Services. If confirmed by the Senate, Mayorkas, who turns 61 on Tuesday, would be the first Hispanic, and immigrant, to lead DHS. Born in Havana, Cuba, Mayorkas came to the United States as a political refugee with his family when he was a child.

AVRIL HAINES: *Director of National Intelligence*
Haines, 51, was the first woman to serve as Deputy Director of the CIA, a position she held from 2013 to 2015. If confirmed, she will be the first woman to oversee the 17 agencies that make up the nation's intelligence community. Biden's team are also vetting Representative Deb Haaland for the interior Secretary Post. She'd be the first Native American cabinet secretary.

JANET YELLEN: *Treasury Secretary*
Biden has chosen former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen to serve as treasury secretary, a pivotal role in which she would help shape and direct his economic policies at a perilous time, according to a person familiar with the transition plans. Yellen, who is widely admired in the financial world, would be the first woman to lead the Treasury Department.

LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD: *Ambassador to the UN*
Joe Biden's pick to be the next US ambassador to the United Nations, if confirmed by the Senate, would be the most experienced diplomat of the six people named by Biden for top national security positions on Monday. Linda Thomas-Greenfield is a 35-year veteran of the State Department who served as ambassador to Liberia, director general of the foreign service and top diplomat for Africa before being forced out during the early months of the Trump administration. Biden plans to elevate the position of UN ambassador to Cabinet level.

JOHN KERRY: *Climate Envoy*
John Kerry, one of the leading architects of the Paris climate agreement, is getting one more chance to lead the fight against climate change after Biden named the former secretary of state as climate envoy for national security. It's a sign of how the incoming administration is heeding warnings that natural disasters from global warming will weaken US defense and spur conflicts around the globe. Unlike others, this role doesn't need Senate confirmation.

JAKE SULLIVAN: *National Security Adviser*
Biden will appoint Jake Sullivan to be his national security adviser. Sullivan, who at 43 will be one of the youngest national security advisers in history, was a top aide to former secretary of state Hillary Clinton before becoming then-vice president Biden's national security adviser.



Palestinian demonstrators gather as tear gas canisters are fired by Israeli forces during a protest against Jewish settlements in Jordan Valley in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. Riyadh denied Israeli media reports and a government source that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had held landmark talks in Saudi Arabia with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The reports fuelled speculation that the Jewish state may be getting closer to normalising ties with the biggest Gulf power after its historic US-brokered deals since September with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CORONAVIRUS VACCINE RACE

Poorest must not be trampled: WHO

AFP, Geneva

With Covid-19 vaccines on the horizon, the planet's poorest must not be trampled as countries scramble to get their hands on them, the World Health Organization said Monday. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the latest batch of promising results from final-phase candidate vaccine trials showed there was light at the end of the "long dark tunnel" of the coronavirus pandemic.

But he said the world had to ensure they were distributed fairly across the globe.

"Every government rightly wants to do everything it can to protect its people," Tedros told a virtual press conference.

"But there is now a real risk that the poorest and most vulnerable will be trampled in the stampede for vaccines."

AstraZeneca and Oxford University said their prospective vaccine had proved on average 70 percent effective at stopping the virus after trying it on 23,000 people, days after tests of two other candidate vaccines suggested they had more than 90 percent effectiveness.



"With the latest positive news from vaccine trials, the light at the end of this long dark tunnel is growing brighter. There is now real hope that vaccines in combination with other tried and tested public health measures, will help to end the pandemic," said Tedros.

"The significance of this scientific achievement cannot be overstated. No vaccines in history have been developed as rapidly as these. The scientific community has set a new

standard for vaccine development."

Anticipating the huge demand for any approved vaccine, the WHO has helped create the so-called Covax facility to ensure equitable distribution. Tedros said 187 countries were now on board.

The international vaccine procurement pool aims to lay its hands on two billion doses of safe and effective vaccines by the end of next year.

However, it is struggling to raise the funds needed to provide for the 92 low-income countries and other economies that quickly signed up.

Tedros said \$4.3 billion was needed immediately to support the mass procurement and delivery of Covid-19 vaccines, tests and treatments, while a further \$23.8 billion would be needed in 2021.

"The real question is not whether the world can afford to share Covid-19 vaccines and other tools; it's whether it can afford not to," said Tedros.

Leaders at the virtual G20 summit said Sunday they would "spare no effort" to ensure fair distribution of coronavirus vaccines, but the united front was punctured by Angela Merkel who voiced concern about slow progress.



French gendarmes evacuate a makeshift tent camp set up by migrants, officials and ONG volunteers on Republique square in Paris on Monday night, one week after migrants were evacuated from another camp in the working-class suburb of Saint-Denis, north of Paris.

PHOTO: AFP

ASTRAZENECA-OXFORD VACCINE

‘Half-dose’ method intrigues experts

AFP, Paris

Evidence suggesting an initial half dose of the vaccine being developed by drugs firm AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford is more effective than a full dose is counterintuitive, and even took the researchers by surprise.

Why would less be better than more when it comes to triggering an immune response?

Andrew Pollard, the director of the Oxford Vaccine Group, described the findings from the Phase 3 clinical trial as "intriguing".

They showed that the vaccine had an efficacy of 62 percent among the people given two full doses a month apart. But this rose to 90 percent for another group who received a half-dose first and then a full dose after a month.

Sarah Gilbert, professor at Oxford's Nuffield Department of Medicine, said the better result with a smaller initial dose could be because this better "mimics what happens in a real infection".

Essentially a vaccine uses a safe method to trick the immune system into believing it is dealing with a dangerous infection, triggering an immune response and an immune memory that can activate if the body comes across the real pathogen.

The Astra/Oxford vaccine employs what is known as a "viral vector", using engineered viruses to deliver genetic cargo into cells, giving them instructions on how to fight SARS-CoV-2. The strategy uses the transporting virus as a "Trojan Horse".

The head of AstraZeneca in France, Olivier Nataf, in an interview with AFP called the development an opportunity cause it will require fewer doses to vaccinate more people. He also said the vaccine offers 100 percent protection against the occurrence of severe forms of illness and hospitalisations. Finally, he said, there is greater simplicity in storage, transport, handling, under normal refrigeration conditions of 2 to 8 degrees. And the price of the vaccine is less than most of its rivals: around 2.50 euros (\$3) per dose.

‘We all need a bit more room to move’

Aussie PM lams pressure of US-Sino rivalry

AFP, Sydney

Australia has hit out at "needlessly" worsening relations with China, with the country's prime minister appealing for smaller nations not to be caught in the crossfire of Sino-US rivalry.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison decried mounting Chinese pressure and rejected the portrayal of Australia as a US lapdog, saying it was wrong and "needlessly deteriorates relationships" in an online speech to a London forum late Monday.

Morrison insisted Australia wanted "mutually beneficial" relations with both its largest trading partner and the United States, while having the right to pursue its own interests independent of both.

In recent months, Canberra's relationship with Beijing has gone from bad to worse.

In a nod to the incoming administration of US president-elect Joe Biden, Morrison also insisted countries like Australia should not be asked to pick sides as Washington and Beijing duke it out for influence.

"Greater latitude will be required from the world's largest powers to accommodate the individual interests of their partners and allies. We all need a bit more room to move," Morrison told the UK Policy Exchange.

During the last four years, US President Donald Trump has taken a confrontational approach, trying to rally allies to counter China's rising influence, something critics say risks creating a Cold War-style standoff between two competing power blocs.

Ethiopia war in ‘decisive phase’

Fear for civilians grows as Tigray leader tells PM his people ‘ready to die’

AFP, Gondar

International pressure mounted yesterday on the warring parties in northern Ethiopia to cease fighting and protect civilians in Tigray, whose leaders Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has given a deadline to surrender.

The UN Security Council was to convene its first meeting on Tigray later yesterday, where forces loyal to the region's ruling party have been battling Ethiopian soldiers for nearly three weeks, sparking a refugee exodus, civilian deaths and fears of broader instability in the Horn of Africa.

Abiy, last year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, ordered troops, tanks and warplanes into Tigray on November 4 in response to an alleged attack on federal military camps by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The army says it has encircled Mekele, the regional capital, ahead of a threatened all-out assault.

The prime minister, who has

resisted calls for mediation and insists the conflict has reached a decisive final stage, on Sunday gave the TPLF 72 hours to surrender -- an ultimatum rejected by the dissident region's leader, who says his people are "ready to die" for the homeland.



The prospect of a devastating bombardment of Mekele, a city of half a million people and a refuge for many more fleeing the conflict, has alarmed rights groups who warn such an attack on a civilian centre could contravene international law.

The fighting has already driven more than 40,000 people into Sudan

and reportedly killed hundreds and forced many more to flee within Tigray, though the true extent of death and displacement is not yet known.

A communications blackout and restrictions on reporting in the region have made claims from both sides difficult to verify.

The TPLF on Monday said it routed an army battalion and claimed responsibility for a rocket attack on Bahir Dar, the capital of Amhara region to the south of Tigray, whose local forces are fighting alongside Ethiopian troops. The government said that "a large number of Tigray militia and special forces are surrendering" following the issuance of Abiy's 72-hour ultimatum.

Long-running tensions between Addis Ababa and the TPLF, which dominated Ethiopia for nearly three decades before Abiy came to power in 2018, boiled over in September when Tigray proceeded with regional elections in defiance of the federal government, which declared the vote illegal.

Biden pushes new approach to EU ties

AFP, Brussels

US President-elect Joe Biden spoke with the heads of the European Union institutions and Nato on Monday in a round of calls seen as part of his efforts to repair tattered transatlantic ties.

Biden "underscored his commitment to deepen and revitalize the US-EU relationship," a statement from his office said after a call with Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Commission.

In a marked difference in tone from US President Donald Trump, who branded the EU a "foe" and accused it of ripping off the US in trade, Biden expressed his hope that the two sides would "cooperate on common challenges."

Von der Leyen sounded upbeat and optimistic.

"Great to speak with President-elect Joe Biden," von der Leyen tweeted. "It is a new beginning for the EU-US global partnership ... working together can shape the global agenda based on cooperation, multilateralism, solidarity and shared values," she added.

Biden has already spoken to a host of European leaders bilaterally, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Both Biden, and his nominated secretary of state, Antony Blinken, have both criticised Brexit, a key concern of EU, and have expressed concern about the impact on peace on the divided island of Ireland.

Biden also spoke to the head of the transatlantic Nato defence alliance, Jens Stoltenberg, telling him of the "United States' enduring commitment to Nato - including its bedrock principle of collective defence under Article 5." Article 5 is a mutual defence clause which holds that an attack on one Nato member is an attack on the whole alliance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Darwin notebooks ‘stolen’ from Cambridge University

Two of Charles Darwin's notebooks containing his pioneering ideas on evolution and his famous "Tree of Life" sketch are missing, believed stolen, the Cambridge University Library said yesterday. The British scientist filled the leather notebooks in 1837 after returning from his voyage on the HMS Beagle. The library said they were worth millions of pounds. In one book, he drew a diagram showing several possibilities for the evolution of a species and later published a more developed illustration in his 1859 book "On the Origin of Species". The University of Cambridge's vast library first listed the notebooks as missing in 2001. They were long believed to have been incorrectly filed within the building, which contains around 10 million books, maps and manuscripts and has one of the world's most significant Darwin archives. However a major search this year -- the largest in the library's history -- failed to turn up the notebooks.

Pope, for first time, says Uighurs are ‘persecuted’

In a new book, Pope Francis for the first time calls China's Muslim Uighurs a "persecuted" people, something human rights activists have been urging him to do for years. "I think often of persecuted peoples: the Rohingya, the poor Uighurs, the Yazidi," he said in a section where he also talks about persecuted Christians in Islamic countries. In the wide-ranging "Let Us Dream: The Path to A Better Future," Francis also says the Covid-19 pandemic should spur governments to consider permanently establishing a universal basic income. In the book, a 150-page collaboration with his English-language biographer, Austen Ivereigh, Francis speaks of economic, social and political changes he says are needed to address inequalities after the pandemic ends. It goes on sale on Dec. 1.

Pakistan behind Kashmir attack, India tells UNSC

India on Monday told the main UN Security Council powers that it feels pressure to hit back at Pakistan after accusing its neighbour of arming four militants shot dead in a gun battle last week, diplomats who attended a special meeting said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the four were plotting "to wreak major havoc" with an attack aiming to disrupt local elections in the disputed territory of Kashmir starting this week. A top Indian foreign ministry official handed over a dossier to envoys from the Security Council permanent members -- the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China -- which it said showed Pakistan involvement in the militant operation. India said the four were planning the "biggest" attack since a suicide bomber killed 40 Indian paramilitaries in Kashmir in February 2019.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Former Tazreen workers deserve fair recompense

Why do they still have to agitate for what they are rightfully owed?

THAT former workers of Tazreen Fashions Limited would have to agitate for fair compensation even after eight years since a fire ravaged the factory, killing over 117 workers and permanently disabling many others, is a damning indictment of the true state of Bangladesh's apparel industry. While the authorities shamelessly advertise the success of this industry, about 45 workers have been silently and helplessly protesting on the sidewalks outside the National Press Club for 70 days now. They wouldn't leave the premises until their demands of dignified compensation, rehabilitation and justice are met. These demands are by no means unfair, nor impracticable, yet beyond a cursory visit by the representatives of BGMEA and the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE), nothing has been done to address their grievances.

The apathy with which their demands have been treated is not surprising, given how often it happens to victims of workplace accidents and mass layoffs in Bangladesh. But this tactic of totally refusing to acknowledge them, without so much as a meaningful contact from the authorities, boggles the mind. Why has no one reached out to negotiate their terms? Can a government simply ignore the existence of a section of its citizens? Is it some unholy test of their endurance? The workers say, of the 173 injured workers listed for compensation, only 45 got some kind of financial support. The number is far less than the official count of workers said to have received compensation—and the amount received is a pittance at best. Although labour activists have long demanded that the compensation for permanently disabled workers be equal to their lifetime's earnings, as per the Bangladesh Labour Act, the amount of compensation is only Tk 1 lakh in case of death, and Tk 1.25 lakh in case of permanent disability—one of the lowest in the world.

It is high time the legal provisions for compensation for deceased and injured workers were reformed in line with the gravity of their loss. Many of the former Tazreen workers were the sole bread earners of their family, and they have been living a miserable life since the accident, unable to find work or retain their jobs for long because of their invalidity. Those "lucky" enough to have received some compensation saw it wither away, as is only natural, while those who caused their sufferings through their negligence or complicit silence are being let off the hook. This cannot go on any longer. The government must take the responsibility of these workers and ensure they receive proper compensation, rehabilitation and medical treatment. And those responsible for their sufferings must be brought to book.

Antibiotics losing efficacy

Random and indiscriminate use should be checked

ONE wonders whether we are looking at an impending health crisis, with the most effective medicine that we have known to fight bacteria of various classifications well-nigh becoming ineffective due to their random and indiscriminate use. It has been more so during the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw increased consumption of antibiotics as a quick fix against a hitherto unknown virus. It is feared that most of the nearly one crore people in Bangladesh who had suffered illnesses that mimicked Covid-19, took antibiotics and other drugs. One wonders what we might face in the future if 17 antibiotics are losing their efficacy against the 10 types of illnesses caused by bacterial infection. In future, we will have been left with only three drugs to fight bacterial diseases. These fears are based on extensive studies carried out by specialists and specialised institutions.

The health ministry and relevant administrations should explore the reasons for the situation coming to such a pass. They must take heed of the findings of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 and ensure that all protocols related to the treatment of the pandemic are followed. One of the reasons for the quantum rise in the use of antibiotics is the violation of this protocol. Also, there is much to be said about quality of the drugs; as usual, lack of monitoring and failure to ensure the production standards in pharmaceutical industries have led to lower quality drugs entering the market. It is essential also to take measures to stop antibiotics from entering the food chain, which is happening due to non-therapeutic use of antibiotics for fattening up animals. It is time to consider banning over-the-counter sale of antibiotics. More than any other country, we believe, we have more people who are disposed to self-medication. There is also the practice of not finishing antibiotic courses that has contributed to resistance to antibiotics.

This matter demands immediate attention. Otherwise, the fear of the chairman of Pharmacology at BSMMU—that we might not have any drugs left to treat bacterial infections in future because all the known bacteria have acquired resistance against extant antibiotics—may come true.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Save our elephants

Eleven elephants were killed this year—seven were electrocuted while four, including a three-year-old calf, were shot dead. Most of the killings occurred in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts until 2017, but this year, it all took place in the forests of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong Hill Tracts. We are to blame for the destruction of the elephant's natural habitat, creating food scarcity. We must save their habitats and free up their roaming grounds, and the murder of such magnificent creatures must not go unpunished.

Sanjida Haque, Dhaka

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Why is it so difficult for Bangladeshi women to get justice?

MEENAKSHI GANGULY

IN 2015, Salma's husband and his parents held her down and poured nitric acid down her throat because they wanted more than the Tk 100,000 (USD 1,100) that her parents had already paid in dowry. For months since the wedding, her father-in-law had beat her repeatedly, demanding more. Salma went to stay with her parents to escape the abuse. But when villagers started gossiping about her broken marriage, her parents told her to return to her in-laws. When she said she was being physically abused, they told her "you just need to endure." Now, she is fed through a tube in her stomach.

Salma's story is disturbingly common in Bangladesh, where over 70 percent of married women and girls have faced some form of intimate partner abuse, about half of whom say their partners physically assaulted them. But the majority of women never told anyone about this abuse and only three percent take legal action.

In many cases like Salma's, survivors seeking help are turned away—by family, community, and the police—and can be in even more danger when forced to return to their abuser. When Salma tried to escape the violence, she was met with stigma and—with only a handful of government-run shelters in the country

The Bangladesh government should ensure that legal aid is reaching women and girls in need and that they are aware of their rights. Last year, the national legal aid services organisation distributed funds to 2.5 times more men than women.

and limited access to support services—she had nowhere else to go.

Salma has fought for a legal remedy for over five years now, but to little avail. Her father, meanwhile, had a stroke and the family cannot afford to continue pursuing justice. The public prosecutor bringing the case told her that her in-laws were paying more bribes so she

women and girls seeking legal recourse never have to give up.

The 16 Days of Activism is an annual international campaign in which governments and activists come together to address violence against women and girls. It runs from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until December



For years, Bangladeshi rights organisations have been calling for victims of violence to get speedy access to justice.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

"should pay more money." "That is how you will get justice," he told her. He too, of course, requested bribes, she said.

Every time they go to court to find out the status of the case, court officials, police and the prosecutor all ask for "tea and snacks costs," Salma said. Now she says she is telling her father, "You have been going to the courts for the last five years and nothing is happening. Let's just give up."

But there are concrete actions the Bangladesh government and donor governments can take now—during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence—so that Salma and other

10, Human Rights Day.

The Bangladesh government should work with concerned donor governments, activists and the UN to conduct an audit of currently available shelters, disseminate this information, and commit to opening at least one shelter in each of Bangladesh's 67 districts by 2025. Shelters should remove restrictions that limit their accessibility, such as requiring court orders to stay there or restricting the presence of children. No woman or girl should ever have to "just endure" violence because there is nowhere else to go.

The law ministry should immediately

Championing women's empowerment in a time of crisis

ALEXANDRA BERG VON LINDE and SUDIPTO MUKERJEE

BANGLADESH has come a long way in its fight for women's advancement. The government has prioritised promoting gender equality and women's empowerment as a key development agenda and has undertaken several policy and programmatic measures consistent with its goals. Consequently, Bangladesh has made commendable progress over the past decade and leads South Asia on closing the gender gap in areas such as women's economic participation, educational attainment, health and political empowerment.

Women's empowerment has also been a prime focus of the tripartite partnership between the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP and Sweden. Over the years, we are proud to have supported the government in a range of efforts that helped Bangladesh move forward, from expanding gender-sensitive social protection to countering violence against women and girls.

But challenges remain. Traditional gender roles still prevail. Only about 36 percent of Bangladesh's women participate in the labour market. An estimated nine out of 10 working women are in the informal economy and have less savings and access to social protection than men. Many are burdened with unpaid care and domestic work.

The Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating these challenges. The hard-fought gains for women's empowerment are under threat. Females have been disproportionately impacted when countries announced national lockdowns to contain the pandemic. A UN survey highlights that, in Bangladesh, about 25 percent of female respondents reported losing informal jobs, while another 24 percent saw decreased working hours. Overall, they also received less support compared to men.

In addition to the loss of livelihoods, Covid-19 is affecting human development for women and girls. For example, they are likely to experience more food insecurity than males in the same household. While domestic work increased for both women and men during lockdowns, the burden of unpaid childcare work falls substantially on mothers and female caretakers. At the same time, the lockdown cut off access to critical health services for women, including a major drop in institutionally assisted deliveries. In Bangladesh, ongoing school closures also affect nearly three million ultra-poor, including primary school children enrolled in government school-feeding programmes. The fall in household incomes along with missed meals can also accelerate risks of school dropouts for girls that, in turn, can lead

to child marriage, with further increased health, educational, economic and gender-based violence risks.

Furthermore, the sharp increase in gender-based violence during the pandemic is a great source of concern. This is a global phenomenon, which the UN Secretary General describes as a pandemic within a pandemic. In Bangladesh, surveys documented nearly an increase of 70 percent in reported incidents of violence against women and girls in March and April 2020 compared to the same time last year. Many were unable to escape the violence during the lockdown while access to legal recourse and urgent protection measures were cut short. More worryingly, perpetrators of gender-based violence often get away without serious punitive action. This is despite Bangladesh's main laws on violence against women stipulating that

transfers, skills training and access to networks since 2015. During the pandemic, about 200 destitute women trained in tailoring turned to making WHO-compliant masks and supplied these to local markets and neighbouring districts. They have so far sold more than 67,000 masks, using their skills to provide for themselves and their families while serving a bigger purpose of protecting communities.

Programmes like SWAPNO highlight that the role of social protection should not only be limited to providing relief. They can provide a path to more sustainable and equitable economic and social development. Even before Covid-19, the programme was successfully supporting women to move out of poverty while also contributing to their empowerment. Given the pandemic, the role of social protection has become



PHOTO: UNDP

cases should be resolved in a timely manner. Yet, access to the justice system remains inadequate. Combined with obstacles such as weak implementation of law, pursuing legal remedies becomes extremely difficult for women and girls that are already in a vulnerable position.

Despite these worrying trends, there are encouraging examples. Take the women in the ongoing SWAPNO (Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities) programme, for instance. These resilient women have simultaneously been responding to Covid-19, the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan as well as monsoon floods. A joint initiative of the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, Sweden, BSRM, Marico and Bank Asia, SWAPNO has been empowering women to move out of poverty by combining social security

even more relevant in contributing to recovery plans and addressing underlying issues of poverty, inequality and, in particular, gender inequality.

The ongoing response to Covid-19 is also an opportunity to progress towards a more comprehensive and resilient social protection system, in line with Bangladesh's National Social Security Strategy, in order to ensure better preparedness for the next crisis. As such, a strengthened social protection system that ensures greater stakeholder accountability could contribute to a more robust and greener recovery and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

As advocates of human rights and equality, we hold that full and equal enjoyment of rights is essential for a life of dignity and security. Likewise, the

create an independent commission to appoint public prosecutors to ensure their independence. Donor governments like the US that are involved in justice reform should ensure that training for public prosecutors and police emphasises working with victims of gender-based violence and consider joint training for prosecutors and investigating officers to improve coordination on cases of gender-based violence.

As Salma described, as cases go on for years, justice officials frequently demand bribes, making it more and more difficult to continue to pursue justice. This problem is exacerbated by a lack of transparency and accessibility of case information, given Bangladesh's 3.7 million-case backlog. Without a centralised filing system, cases get lost and survivors are forced to pay bribes to get court officials to find their case information and move cases forward. The German government led an impressive justice audit in Bangladesh and would be well-placed to spearhead a project to move case files into a centralised online filing system—gender-based violence cases would be a good place to start.

The Bangladesh government should ensure that legal aid is reaching women and girls in need and that they are aware of their rights. Last year, the national legal aid services organisation distributed funds to 2.5 times more men than women.

The law commission drafted a witness protection law nearly a decade ago—it should be passed into law in consultation with Bangladeshi women's rights organisations, and donor governments should support the implementation of a witness protection programme.

Violence against women and girls is so pervasive in Bangladesh, it is sometimes dismissed as unsolvable. For these 16 days of activism, the government and donors should listen to activists who are offering workable solutions.

Meenakshi Ganguly is South Asia Director at Human Rights Watch.

While domestic work increased for both women and men during lockdowns, the burden of unpaid childcare work falls substantially on mothers and female caretakers. At the same time, the lockdown cut off access to critical health services for women, including a major drop in institutionally assisted deliveries.

rule of law and accountable institutions are cornerstones of a well-functioning democracy.

This year marks the anniversaries of two landmark legislations addressing gender-based violence in Bangladesh: the Nari-o-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain (Women and Children Repression Prevention Act) from 2000 and the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act from 2010. This year also marks the entering of the final phase of its national action plan to build "a society without violence against women and children by 2025."

Given this context, we work closely with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in generating dialogue on the strengthening of democracy and gender equality as well as full and equal respect for human rights. We support the Commission's efforts to connect with other human rights organisations and citizens alike. Our joint efforts also aim to enhance the capacity of public institutions to combat violence against women, and we advocate more broadly to bring women and young people to the forefront of all developments by removing the obstacles that hinder their progress.

The world is facing challenges on a scale that was hard to imagine only a year ago. In this time of crisis, empowering women and girls and addressing the root causes of inequality become even more important. This is something we must do together. Sweden and UNDP will remain steadfast partners in Bangladesh's journey for sustainable and inclusive development.

Alexandra Berg von Linde is Ambassador of Sweden and Sudipto Mukerjee is Resident Representative at UNDP.

Poverty during the pandemic: Three stories

AN OPEN DIALOGUE



ABDULLAH SHIBLI

IN this time of the pandemic and the resultant economic slowdown, one has to be mindful of the effects of these twin curses on the poor of Bangladesh. The stimulus packages and direct economic relief can help somewhat, but these will bypass a sizeable chunk of the needy. I have been in touch with three families who live in three areas of Bangladesh—Dhaka, Sylhet and Jamalpur—to track the economic and health impacts of the disruptions during the last eight months. What my interactions with them reveal is that pre-existing health conditions and their lack of savings have adversely affected them and their ability to earn a living. One of them has become a dependent and the other two have come back to Dhaka, putting their future plans on hold until the pandemic recedes and true economic recovery takes place.

I, along with many others who have worked on poverty elimination, have voiced the need to support poor families during times of crises such as natural disasters, economic slowdowns and sickness of the principal bread-earner. With no safety net and zero net worth, a single crop failure or morbidity of the head of the household can push a family, which is inching its way up the income ladder, back to square one.

During the pandemic, the impacts on low-income earners in Bangladesh have been of concern from the beginning of the lockdown in March. The G-20 summit leaders this week acknowledged that the

pandemic has had a far-reaching economic impact on developing countries, pushing millions into extreme poverty. Many have lost their jobs, and the pandemic has also adversely affected goals to eliminate hunger and improve health conditions.

It's not all hopeless though. There are voices of optimism who are working on new ways to break the cycle of poverty. Martin Ravallion,

dreamer. We can accept his proposal to “use ideas, data and analysis to help fight global poverty”, but many like me consider that to “think that poverty might one day be gone” could be a little too audacious and out of touch with the harsh realities of the lives of our poor, today.

Coming back to the families who live near the poverty line, consider Anima, who has been working in Dhaka, taking care of

out a subsistence living. They have no adequate resources for healthcare and every episode of illness has taken a toll on Anima and her daughters. She herself has a bad liver condition as well as high blood pressure. Her medicines cost Tk 2,100 per month, which she pays out of her salary, but one of her daughters has a serious illness for which she was divorced by her husband, who was unable to support her or defray the cost of her

middle-class suburb, and sent her children to study at madrasahs, paying for their education from her meagre income. Her daughters, as they were reaching puberty, were enrolled in a residential programme with a madrasah and received good educations. One of them, Urmi, is married and the other, Arifa, is a teacher at a madrasah.

However, Ashura herself is paying for her years of hard work and neglect

she has been associated with since her young age. Recently, once the lockdown began, she had to take early retirement after a brief period of hospitalisation with unpaid bills, and temporarily moved to Netrokona to be near her sister. Her daughters are very close to her, but they are unlikely to be able to support her medical treatment. Any serious episode of diabetic outburst or kidney failure might be catastrophic for her (after finishing this article, I was informed that Ashura sadly passed away on November 22 due to kidney failure).

The youngest of this group, Azim, has been in and out of different jobs since he moved to Dhaka from his birthplace in a small village in Golapganj thana, 20 miles from Sylhet municipality. He was born in a lower-middle-income family but the death of his father at an early age pushed all siblings, seven brothers and three sisters, into severe economic uncertainties, and they had to start finding for themselves. He received very little formal education but managed to learn how to read and perform simple arithmetic on his own. Azim, a young and energetic man who is now in his thirties, has tried his hand in the RMG sector, small-scale business, domestic work as well as rural entrepreneurship. He is able to pick up any trade, but poor luck and the fickleness of small business fortune has prevented him from getting out of the cycle of poverty and destitution. He is saving to launch his next business enterprise as a vendor in the bustling bazaar of Sylhet town, but he has to weigh his prospects of success given his limited capital. He says, “If nothing else works, I will become a caretaker for this family.”

Dr Abdullah Shibli is an economist and senior research fellow at International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI), a think-tank based in Boston, USA.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

During the pandemic, the impacts on low-income earners in Bangladesh have been of concern from the beginning of the lockdown in March. The G-20 summit leaders this week acknowledged that the pandemic has had a far-reaching economic impact on developing countries, pushing millions into extreme poverty.

an economist who had previously advised the World Bank, tweeted “End Poverty” to mark the 28th anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated on October 17 each year. The UN Geneva office was poetic when it tweeted on November 7, “All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. I must concede that Martin Ravallion is a very imaginative person or shall we say, a

an elderly person in an affluent neighbourhood. She has gone through many ups and downs since her birth in Barisal almost six decades ago. Her four daughters and one son have managed to hold their heads above water thanks to the RMG industry and the booming economy over the last 35 years. However, two of her daughters have been in and out of marriage and have depended on each other to eke

medical expenses.

Ashura, another middle-aged woman in my study group, is a model mother who got married early, after she moved to Dhaka from Mymensingh to make a living. Her husband died, leaving her with three young children, a boy and two girls, to raise on her own resources. They lived in one of the slums of Dhaka and she worked as a domestic help in Lalmatia, a

of her health conditions, and suffers from serious diabetic conditions as well as a failing kidney. Although she managed to save a sizeable chunk from her salary while working abroad with a Bangladeshi diplomat in Bhutan and European countries, she has fallen victim to the greed of her relatives, who borrowed from her but failed to return the loan during her times of need. She was working in Dhaka with one of the families

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Investing in a feminist peace



PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA

We should be spending our money not on tools of destruction, but on a kind of “feminist peace” that upholds basic economic and social rights for all. This means guaranteeing broad social protections and delivering vital services, such as health care, childcare, and education.

DURING the Covid-19 pandemic, public life in much of the world has largely ground to a halt. For the two billion people living in conflict-affected countries, however, there has been no lull in violence and upheaval. Some of the world's conflicts have even escalated or been reignited during the crisis, dealing devastating new blows to infrastructure and healthcare systems that were only beginning to be rebuilt. Globally, we continue to invest far more in the tools of war than in the foundations of peace.

Of course, some are working for peace. On March 23, at the outset of the pandemic, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a global ceasefire, in order to enable countries to focus on the Covid-19 crisis and allow humanitarian organisations to reach vulnerable populations. More than 100 women's organisations from Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria and Yemen quickly joined the appeal with a joint statement advocating a broad Covid-19 truce, which could form the basis for a lasting peace.

It should come as no surprise that women were among the first to support the call for a ceasefire. This month, governments and civil society came together to mark 20 years since UN Security Council Resolution 1325 first

recognised women's pivotal roles on the frontlines of peace-building efforts.

It is women—including young women—who do much of the painstaking, long-term work that underpin high-profile formal agreements, which are still often reached in talks that exclude them. For example, in Syria, women have negotiated ceasefires to allow the passage of humanitarian aid, worked in field hospitals and schools, distributed food and medicine, and documented human rights violations. In South Sudan, women have mediated and resolved tribal disputes to prevent conflicts from escalating to violence.

Women also spearhead the critical work of campaigning for peace, including through education programmes, which teach young people that conflict is never inevitable. Feminist organisations have long called for nuclear disarmament, arms control, and the reallocation of funds from the military to social investments.

These appeals are essential. But they have gone unanswered. So has the UN's call for a Covid-19 ceasefire: according to the Norwegian Refugee Council, in the two months following Guterres's appeal, armed conflict in 19 countries displaced at least 661,000 people. Unless we listen to women, and shift our investments from war toward peace, the devastation will continue.

Last year, global military expenditure reached USD 1.9 trillion, following the largest annual increase in a decade. In the last quarter-century—since the landmark Beijing Declaration



PHOTO: REUTERS/MARIANA BAZO

and Platform for Action called on governments to “recognise and address the dangers to society of armed conflict and the negative effect of excessive military expenditures”—defence spending has doubled.

More weapons and soldiers mean fewer resources for the 55 percent of the global population—including nearly two-thirds of the world's children—who lack any social protection, leaving them exposed to the pandemic's brutal social and economic consequences. Military might will not help the 83-132 million people added by Covid-19 to the global tally of the undernourished in 2020.

Liberian Peacemaker and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Gbowee has it right: “Peace is not the absence of war,” she has said, but rather “the full expression of human dignity.” It “is an environment in which human needs

lockdowns, and need more funding to meet it. In addition, governments should be ensuring adequate supplies of medical and personal protective equipment, which have often run out during the pandemic, even in the world's richest countries.

A feminist peace also means that everyone's voice is heard, with all groups included fully and meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives. Here, women's organisations have a vital role to play, helping women and other marginalised groups gain access to decision-making arenas and giving them the resources and confidence to participate.


But, again, more funding is needed. Bilateral aid to women's organisations in fragile or conflict-affected countries averaged USD 96 million per year in 2017-18—a mere 0.005 percent of global military expenditure.

For all the devastation it has caused, the Covid-19 crisis also represents a generational opportunity to build more inclusive economies and societies, free of the scourge of violent conflict. A concerted effort to demilitarise our world and build a feminist peace—beginning with a global ceasefire, and followed by a comprehensive reappraisal of how we allocate our resources—must be central to this vision.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is Executive Director of UN Women.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)

QUOTABLE Quote



ANTHONY EDEN (1897-1977) British politician.

Nothing is more destructive of human dignity than a rule which imposes a mute and blind obedience.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Airport line

5 He hit 61 in '61

10 Test type

11 Sand substance

12 Odometer unit

13 Tooth layer

14 Nightmare

16 Many corny puns

20 Blood line

23 Afternoon break

24 Demi or Julianne

25 Selected

27 Free TV spot: Abbr.

28 Protectively covered

29 Weeper

32 Big-time kudos

36 Tex-Mex treat

39 Concept

40 Banished people

41 Some deer

42 Bargains

43 Goes astray

DOWN

1 Rooster topper

2 Opera piece

3 Lacking locks

4 Luge competitor

5 Singer Nicki

6 Texas landmark

7 Brink

8 Rink makeup

9 Mule of old song

11 Squalid

15 Steak choice

17 Macramé unit

18 Move slowly

19 Went 90

20 Band boosters

21 Painter Bonheur

22 Swamp croaker

25 NYSE entry

26 Harvest festival event

28 Does some programming

30 Petite

31 Yarns

33 Freshener target

34 Jury member

35 Pert talk

36 Slugger Williams

37 Log chopper

38 Farrow of film

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39

40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

11-19

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

B I A S U E L I P S

E N S U E R U N A T

A R I E L I N D I A

T O A N A G G I N G

S A G G I N G G E E

D O I N G B O D

G A S L O R D S

S O N B A G G I N G

T A G G I N G W O E

A L O U D I N A W E

G I R L S N I L E S

S E A L B I D E

BETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

GREET MORT WALKER

WEAR A BROAD-BRIMMED HAT TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN FROM THE SUN

MY HANDS NEED PROTECTION, TOO

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

NOPE NOPE NOPE

NO FAIR!

SINCE WHEN IS FATHER'S INTUITION A THING?

SINCE YOU.

Download
The Daily Star
iPHONE & ANDROID APPS

The Daily Star Online
Fresh | Bold | Fast







GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Directorate General of Food
Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
Probashi Kallayan Bhaban (level-17),
71-72, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka – 1000.
www.mfsp.gov.bd

Memo No: MFSP.13.01.0000.362.07.234.2018.267

Date: 24/11/2020

Name of country: Bangladesh

Name of Project: Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)

Credit number: 5265-BD

Corrigendum

Package No: MFSP GD-27a
Package Name: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Online food stock and market monitoring system of DG Food including data center, software etc

This is for general information of all concerned that the above mentioned bid invited vide this office Memo no: MFSP-13.01.0000.362.07.234.2018.139 Dated: 20/09/2020 has been amended as follows:

SL	Clause of bidding document	Existing Provision in bid doc.	Changed Provision in bid doc.
1.	Vol-1 Page-47 ITB 21.1	Deadline for bid submission is Date: 26 Nov 2020 Time: 14:00 hrs Local Time Last selling date of bidding document: 25 Nov 2020	Deadline for bid submission is Date: 10 Dec 2020 Time: 14:00 hrs Local Time Last selling date of bidding document: 9 Dec 2020

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

(Md. Rezaul Karim Sheikh)
Project Director
Modern Food Storage Facilities Project

GD- 1878



বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান
BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

No-20.08.0000.200.11.001.02. 355

24 November, 2020

Recruitment of Director General

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) is the leading, most prestigious social science research organisation in Bangladesh. BIDS is an autonomous public sector research institute with the Minister for Planning as Chairperson of its Board. The Institute is looking for a new Director General. The Director General should be a person with broad understanding of the economy and society of Bangladesh/other developing countries, derived from relevant, hands-on experience of analytical development policy research. The job involves steering the course of research, development of relevant research agenda, and raising funds for research and related support services. The candidate should have at least 15 years of research/teaching experience, with at least 10 publications in reputed peer-reviewed journals. Other requirements are:

- Track record of research in relevant disciplinary/multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary areas at the frontiers of knowledge that are of particular relevance to Bangladesh.
- Experience of providing leadership in research, including initiating, coordinating and team building for research across disciplinary frontiers;
- Experience of research administration including managing research personnel, research support systems and research funds;
- International linkages through inter-country research, representation in international research committees, and participation in international conferences;
- Background of fund-raising initiatives for pure and applied research from international and bilateral funding agencies along with collaborative research initiatives within the country and abroad.

All research and non-research activities in BIDS are participatory in nature and the chosen candidate shall have to be ready to work in a participatory and interactive environment. Details of some of the activities and relevant committees may be found in the BIDS website (<http://www.bids.org.bd>).

The tenure of the DG is for three years and extendable by another three years, by the BIDS Board. Candidates may send 2 copies of their CV with names of referees to Dr. K A S Murshid, Director General, BIDS, E-17 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, GPO Box: 3854. Tel: +88-02-58160411, Fax: +88-02-58160410, e-mail: dgcircular@bids.org.bd

Applications must be sent within 14 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Candidates are expected to be at least 45 years of age at the time of application. The compensation package is negotiable.

Candidates may also electronically register their applications with **Dr. Mohammad Farashuddin**, Convener of the Search Committee (e-mail: mfarashuddin@gmail.com) pending dispatch of their papers.

Stakeholders of BIDS and others interested are requested, indeed expected, to nominate candidates which may be done electronically at the above e-mail addresses.

(Subash Chandra Saha)
Secretary (a.i.)
Phone: +88-02-58160455

GD- 1879



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue

VAT Online Project (VOP)

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/IRD.
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR).
3	Procuring entity name	VAT Online Project.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Supply and installation of Laptop and related IT accessories.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	08.01.0000.068.11.005.12(47)/2020-992
8	Date	23.11.2020
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	OTM.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	World Bank.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	VAT Online Project.
14	Tender package No.	GD/VOP/20-21/12
15	Tender package name	Project Office Equipment (Computer and IT Equipment etc.).
16	Tender publication date	23.11.2020
17	Tender last selling date	08.12.2020 16:30 BST
18	Tender closing date and time	09.12.2020 12:00 BST
19	Tender opening date and time	09.12.2020 12:30 BST
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling tender document	VAT Online Project, Address: IDEB Bhaban (7th Level), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
	- Receiving tender document	Do
	- Opening tender document	Do

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer		As per qualification Criteria of TDS/ Section-2 of tender documents.	
23	Brief description of goods		Computer and IT Equipment.	
24	Brief description of related services		As per schedule of requirements.	
25	Price of tender document (Tk)		Taka 2,000.00 only.	
26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	1	Single	VAT Online Project	Taka 1,50,000.00 only
				Completion time in weeks/months
				15 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
30	Name of official inviting tender		VAT Online Project.	
31	Designation of official inviting tender		Project Director, VAT Online Project.	
32	Address of official inviting tender		VAT Online Project, Address: IDEB Bhaban (7th Level), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.	
33	Contact details of official inviting tender		Tel: 02-55130714 Fax No. 02-9348514 E-mail: vatonline2012.nbr@gmail.com	
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			

GD-1881



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

প্রধান কার্যালয়

মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০



বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ১৬১/২০২০

তারিখঃ ০৮ অক্টোবর ১৪২৭

২৩ নভেম্বর ২০২০

৭টি ব্যাংক ও আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে 'সিনিয়র অফিসার' (২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক) এর ৭৭১ টি শূন্য পদে সমন্বিত নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকৃত প্রার্থীদের **MCQ Test** গ্রহণের সময়সূচি ও পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের তালিকা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির তত্ত্বাবধানে ৭টি ব্যাংক ও আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে 'সিনিয়র অফিসার' (২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক) এর ৭৭১ টি পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষে এ সচিবালয়ের ২০/০১/২০২০ তারিখে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৬/২০২০ এর প্রেক্ষিতে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট হতে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকৃত প্রার্থীদের ০১ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী ১০০ নম্বরের **MCQ Test** আপাতী ০৫/১২/২০২০ তারিখ শনিবার সকাল ১০.০০ টা থেকে ১১.০০ টা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন দ্বয়ের মধ্যে অবস্থিত নিম্নবর্ণিত কেন্দ্রসমূহে অনুষ্ঠিত হবেঃ

ক্রম	কেন্দ্রের নাম	ঠিকানা	প্রারম্ভ রোল	শেষ রোল
1	Samsul Haque Khan School and College	Para Dagaier, Matuil, Demra	100001	108032
2	Golam Mostafa Model College	Basher Pool, Demra	108034	109780
3	Mannan High School and College	Para Dagaier, Konapara, Zatrabari	109781	111964
4	Matuail Hazi Abdul Latif Bhuiyan College	Matuail	111965	114857
5	Dr. Mahabubur Rahman Molla College	Banga Press, Demra Road, Zatrabari	114858	119966
6	A.K.School and College (Main Campus)	Dhania	119967	122779
7	A.K.School and College (New Campus)	Dhania	122780	124738
8	Bornamala Adarsha High School and College	Dhania, Zatrabari	124739	127624
9	Dhania College	Dhania, Zatrabari	127625	135737
10	Zatrabari Ideal School and College	Zatrabari	135738	139311
11	Mirpur Bangla School and College (Boys Section)	Section - 11, Pallabi	139312	141549
12	Mirpur Bangla School and College (Girls Section)	Section - 6, Pallabi	141550	142992
13	Mirpur Girls Ideal Laboratory Institute	Mirpur-10	142994	151102
14	Mirpur College	Section-2, Mirpur	151104	156207
15	Haji Ashraf Ali High School	884/1 East Shewrapara, Kafrul	156209	157944
16	Ibrahimpur Salahuddin Shikhyalaya	1381 Shewrapara, Kafrul	157945	160092
17	Dhaka Shiksha Board Laboratory School & College	Principal Abul Kashem Rd, Mirpur-1	160093	162281
18	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Academy	Sher-E-Bangla Nagar	162283	164833
19	Model Academy	Paikpara Govt. Colony (D-Tyres), Mirpur-	164835	166642
20	Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Government Girls High School	Agargaon	166643	169840
21	Badda Alatumunessa Higher Secondary School (Girls Section)	South Badda	169843	174363
22	Badda Alatumunessa Higher Secondary School (Boys Section)	South Badda	174364	177335
23	T&T Adrassha Girls High School	Wireless Gate, Mohakhali	177336	179073
24	Banani Biddyaniketon School and College	Road- 23/A, Block-B, Banani	179074	184397
25	Kurmitola High School & College	Khilkhet	184399	188058
26	Mohammadpur Mohila College	Nurjahan Road, Mohammadpur	188059	190300
27	Mohammadpur Government High School	Humayun Road, Mohammadpur	190301	192840
28	Mohammadpur Kendriya College	Nurjahan Road, Mohammadpur	192841	196371
29	Badsha Foysof Institute School and College	Ring Road, Shyamoli, Mohammadpur	196372	198725
30	Dhanmondi Government Boys High School	Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi	198727	201568
31	Dhaka Mohanagar Mohila College	Laxmi Bazar, Sutrapur	201571	207670
32	Kabi Nazrul Govt. College	Laxmi Bazar, Sutrapur	207671	211484
33	Fazlul Haque Mohila University College	12, Akshoy Das Lane, Gandaria	211488	215821
34	Tejgaon Government High School	42 East Testuri Bazar, Tejgaon	215824	219026
35	Government Science High School	Tejgaon	219027	221367
36	Tejgaon Adarsha School and College	446, Tejgaon Commercial Area	221370	223996
37	Naznin School and College	East Rajabazar, Tejgaon	223998	226153
38	Siddeshari College	25 Shahid Shangkbadik Selina Parvin Road, Siddeshari	226155	231260
39	Siddeshari Girls College	148 New Baily Road	231261	235188
40	Siddeshari Boys Higher Secondary School	77, Siddeshari	235189	236909
41	Mogbazar Girls High School	52, Siddeshari	236910	239286
42	Sher-E-Bangla High School & College	Modhubag, Moghbazar	239287	242976
43	Ali Ahmed High School and College	South Goran, Khilgaon	242977	246317
44	Kadamtola Purbo Bashabo School and College	28/3, Kadamtola, Bashabo	246318	248755
45	Rampura Ekramunessa Girls High School	Rampura	248756	251364
46	Khilgaon Girls School and College	Khilgaon	251365	254249
47	Khilgaon Government High School	Khilgaon	254251	256882
48	Model High School Khilgaon	411/A, Shahid Baki Road, Khilgaon	256883	259117
49	Khilgaon Model College	Khilgaon Chowrasta	259118	262790
50	Khilgaon High School	711/C, Khilgaon	262791	264480
51	Kamlapur Share Bangla Relway School and College	Kamlapur	264482	266257
52	Motijheel Government Boys High School	Motijheel	266258	269439
53	Motijheel Government Girls High School	Motijheel	269440	272332
54	Arambag High School and College	110, Arambag	272334	274106
55	T&T High School	Motijheel	274107	276712
56	Tikatali Kamrunessa Govt. Girls High School	Tikatali	276713	278903
57	Central Womens College	13/2, Avoay Das Lane, Tikatali	278904	283228
58	New Model Degree College	Sukrabad, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi	283229	286185
59	New Model Bahumukhi High School	Sukrabad, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi	286187	287675
60	Segun Bagicha High School	26/1, Topkhana Road, Segun Bagicha	287676	290282
61	Lalbag Government Model School and College	43/2, RND Road, Kallamoor, Lalbag	290283	292650
62	West End High School	Azimpur	292653	293870
63	Dr. Shahidullah College	16, Umesh Dutta Road, Bakshi Bazar	293874	295945
64	University Womens Federation College	16 & 16/A (New-13), Road-6, Dhanmondi	295946	297584
65	BCSIR High School	Science Lab, Campus	297585	299660
66	Government Laboratory High School	New Market, Dhanmondi	299662	301836
67	Shaikh Burhanuddin Post Graduate College	62 Nazimuddin Road	301838	304563

উল্লেখ্য, সাময়িক দ্রুত মেনে সারিবদ্ধভাবে কেন্দ্রের অভ্যন্তরে প্রবেশ করার লক্ষ্যে পরীক্ষা শুরু কমপক্ষে ০১ (এক) ঘণ্টা পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে।

প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোনো প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না। পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষার হলে মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্ট ওয়াচ, প্রবেশপত্রের একাধিক কপি বা অন্য কোন ইলেক্ট্রনিক ডিভাইস নিয়ে প্রবেশ না করতে নির্দেশনা দেয়া যাবে।

মাক পরিধান ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২০-৩৪২০
তারিখঃ ২৪/১১/২০২০

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২০৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1880

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
(আর্থিক হোসেন খান)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসপি



Shakib Al Hasan made a solid albeit unspectacular return to cricket through the Bangabandhu T20 Cup, picking up one wicket and scoring 15 in the day's second game between Barishal and Khulna. However, he was upstaged, at least on the night, by 23-year-old Mahedi Hasan, who scored the tournament's first half-century in the opening game for Rajshahi before holding his nerve while bowling the final over against Dhaka to secure a two-run win.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mahedi stars in opener

SPORTS REPORTER



A cracker of a start to the Bangabandhu T20 Cup saw Mahedi Hasan's incredible last over lead Minister Rajshahi to a scintillating two-run win over Beximco Dhaka in yesterday's first game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Following a crucial fifty that helped Rajshahi post a challenging 170, Mahedi remained equally instrumental with his off-spin in the last over when Dhaka required nine to win with an on-song Muktar Ali on strike.

Muktar struck three sixes off seamer Farhad Reza in a 19th over that cost 21 runs and brought the equation down from thirty off twelve balls to nine from six as the game went down to the wire.

But Mahedi held his nerve, opting to bowl a bit quicker in the blockhole and the strategy paid off. Mahedi managed to bowl three dot balls to Mukhtar, who had a proper batsman in the form of Sabbir Rahman at the other end on five.

However, Muktar managed to smash a boundary off the fourth ball, leaving Dhaka with five needed off the last two balls and there was yet another twist in the tale as Mahedi bowled a no-ball off his next delivery.

But Muktar failed to capitalise and, with five needed off the final delivery, he was unable to connect.

Earlier, despite losing three wickets inside seven overs, Dhaka looked on track with skipper Mushfiqur Rahim and Akbar Ali adding 71 for the fourth wicket. The Bangladesh Under-19 World Cup-winning skipper departed after scoring 34 off 29 balls as the pressure began to mount with

Dhaka needing another 44 runs off 26 balls.

The demands of the situation seemingly required skipper Mushfiqur to guide his side through, but the experienced cricketer once again could not resist the temptation to play his trademark scoop over the wicketkeeper's head. His valuable scalp was claimed by pacer Ebadot Hossain as the batsman was caught behind going for the innovative scoop after scoring 41 off 34 with three fours and a six.

Rajshahi made a decent start to the first innings, buoyed by opener Anisul Islam

"It is really difficult for a team to win with players scoring 30 or 40 runs. I think, if any one of us who got set, played a 60-plus innings then we could have won the game. But I am really happy as we got a good start to the tournament as everyone looks to be in good touch. So, I hope that the in-form players make sure that they score big in the next matches."

MUSHFIQUR RAHIM
CAPTAIN, BEXIMCO DHAKA

Emon and skipper Najmul Hossain before the latter departed for seventeen. Emon also departed after a promising 23-ball 35 and Rajshahi went on to lose three quick wickets. Muktar bagged two of those with his pace bowling, including Mohammad Ashraful on five after he was caught brilliantly at point by Naim Sheikh.

It was then the man of the match Mahedi and Nurul Hasan that added a quick 89-run sixth-wicket stand that lay the foundation for a challenging total. Nurul departed on 39 off 20 while Mahedi scored the only fifty of the game from 32 balls, a knock that included four sixes and three fours.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Fortune Barishal: 152 for 9 (Parvez 5; Shafiqul 2-27, Shahidul 4-17)
Gemcon Khulna: 155 for 6 (Jahurul 31, Ariful 48 not out, Shamim 26; Taskin 2-33, Shumon 2-21)
Result: Khulna won by four wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Minister Rajshahi: 169 for 9 (Mahedi 50, Nurul 39, Emon 35; Muktar 3-22)
Beximco Dhaka: 167 for 5 (Mushfiqur 41, Akbar 34; Mahedi 1-22)
Result: Rajshahi won by two runs.

SPORTS REPORTER



Like the tournament opener earlier yesterday, the second match of the Bangabandhu T20 Cup was full of drama and suspense as Gemcon Khulna rode on the last over heroics of Ariful Haque to clinch a sensational four-wicket win over Fortune Barishal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Chasing a 153-run target, Khulna were left needing 22 off the last over. But Ariful provided a grandstand finish by smiting off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz for four incredible sixes to register a memorable win.

Despite Khulna losing wickets at regular intervals, Ariful hung in till the end and the right-hander remained unbeaten on a match-

winning 34-ball 44.

Khulna's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan made a return to cricket after serving a one-year ban, but it was their pacers that led the way, with seamer Shahidul Islam bagging four wickets and young quickie Hasan Mahmud and Shafiqul Islam picking up two each to restrict Barishal to 152 for nine after 20 overs.

Young Parvez Hossain top-scored with 51 off 42 balls, an innings that included four sixes and three fours but none of the other batsman were able to make a mark.

Yet, all eyes were understandably on Shakib and he was introduced into the attack in the seventh over. The left-armed gave away just three runs in the first over and, more importantly, bowled a beautiful line and length.

It did not take long for him to pick up his first wicket as he removed Afif Hossain with his

first ball of the second over with a rather loose half-tracker.

Shakib ultimately bowled three overs in the innings and conceded 18 runs but he seemed to be gradually getting into the groove.

The champion cricketer also showed a glimpse of his class with the bat as well when he came in to bat at number three after the early dismissal of Anamul Haque in the chase.

He remained cautious at the start and started to gain momentum and smashed pacer Sumon Khan for a classical cover drive reminiscent of the Shakib that we saw the ICC World Cup last year.

However, Shakib's promising innings came to an end sooner than expected and he departed for 18 off 15 as he was caught at deep square leg after attempting to pull a banged-in delivery from Sumon.



Booters' endeavour for fitness

Fit-again Jibon to fly to Doha today

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national football team will look to get fitter ahead of the World Cup qualifier against Qatar as they take on Qatar Army, an amateur side, in one of two warm-up matches at the Al Azizyah Boutique ground in Doha today.

With head coach Jamie Day away from the team, the men in red and green have been training under assistant coach Stuart Watkiss over the last three days following a 72-hour quarantine at the team hotel. Yesterday they had nearly one-and-a-half hour's training with the ball and a 30-minute gym session in a quest to getting fitter for the December 4 match.

Bangladesh played two FIFA international friendlies against Nepal before flying for Doha on November 19, but they lacked fitness, cohesion and energy in those two matches, the first of which they won 2-0 before playing out a goalless draw in the second match.

"The main objective [of this practice match] is to get in shape and get some organisation of the team, going into the Qatar game. Obviously we are focusing on full fitness and emphasising on hard working game with organisation and structure of the team. There is no expectation on the result [from the warm-up match]; if we work hard and have good possession of the ball, we will win the game," goalkeeping coach Les Cleeveley said.

A Bangladesh Football Federation statement said that yesterday's practice session focused on activation, passing practice, short games, game training and set-plays and that all players and officials were motivated to perform their level best for today's match.

It has been learnt that Watkiss may field almost the same playing eleven that started against Nepal, with Mahbubur Rahman Sufil and Sohel Rana likely to come in place of Suman Reza and Nabib Newaj Jibon.

Jibon, however, has already recovered from a knee injury which he sustained during the second match against Nepal in Dhaka and he is scheduled to fly to Doha today. "I was in full bed rest in the last six days and took medicine which physio Andre Joan suggested me. Now there is no pain on my knee. Joan, having discussed the matter with Jamie Day, asked me to join with the team for training," said Jibon, who is hoping to play against Qatar with only nine days remaining for the game

BISHWAJIT ROY

The tragic demise of a young cricketer because he could not quite crack it at the highest level brought to mind the forays of an all-time great -- former Australia skipper Steve Waugh's journey earlier this year through India with a camera to rediscover the joys of cricket, the love that keeps an entire population agog.

Waugh said with all the ill-feeling surrounding the infamous Sandpapergate scandal in Cape Town in 2018, when Australia and the wider cricketing world were shocked by the team's leadership decided to indulge in ball-tampering, he just wanted to do a "feel-good" project that he was "passionate about".

Among many others, Waugh came across a three-year-old Instagram batting sensation, a 100-year-old playing the game and was inspired by blind and differently abled players.

The joys that were captured by the lens of one of the greatest captains in the game's history were mostly of people playing the game at the informal, non-professional level.

But if we train the camera on the other end of the spectrum, will the images be the same?

The death of Sajibul Islam Sajib, a member of the 2018 Bangladesh Under-19 World Cup squad who died by suicide on November 15, reminds us of the dark side of the cutthroat demands of modern-day professional cricket.

Sajib was reportedly suffering mentally after not being considered for a competition. His tragic story may have grabbed headlines, but we do not know the number of young men who are battling depression and hopelessness after failing to make the highest level in a sport that they have loved from childhood.

The feel-good factor seen in Waugh's photos, where the simple love and enjoyment of the game is all that mattered, seems to start diminishing the higher up the professional ladder the player climbs. Appetite for success takes over from the thirst for joy when hopefuls enter a structure, where the line between failure and success is all too well-defined.

Every aspiring cricketer wants to be the best and soon wind up

The pitfalls between beauty and duty

carrying more weight than they can withstand. Much like other children are overburdened with schoolbags loaded with books, budding cricketers are bent double under the strain of bulging kit bags and long-nurtured dreams.

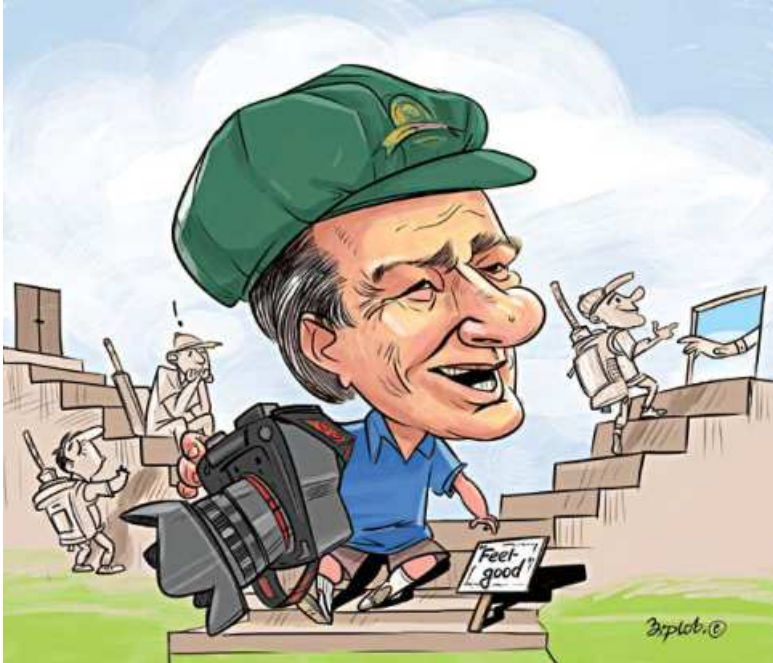
For many, it's also a way out and a way up.

The joy and love of the sport that started the likes of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim on the path to greatness soon vanish amid cricket's unavoidable lure. It is not just name and fame budding cricketers chase, but cricket -- especially over the last two decades in Bangladesh -- offers a way out of hardship as the sport has

Sajib's demise, Marcus Trescothick and Jonathan Trott's battles with depression, point to this divide between the joy that young boys and girls start out with and the pressures and hopelessness they feel at professional levels.

Waugh himself was a paragon of professionalism over an international career stretching nearly two decades, but even he was left seeking the soul of the game.

Is there anything wrong with a professional approach? Perhaps not, but the question is whether professionalism is the solution to everything and whether there is space inside this professionalism to take care of budding cricketers from



become synonymous with wealth.

Famous writer Eduardo Galeano once wrote: "The history of football is a sad voyage from beauty to duty. When the sport became an industry, the beauty that blossoms from the joy of play got torn out by its very roots."

In Bangladesh's context, with the crores to be made by top-level cricketers, Galeano's words apply if "football" is substituted by "cricket".

This dichotomy between beauty and duty is encapsulated by the country's best cricketer -- Shakib. His recent off-field incidents point to greater priority given to gaining more wealth, which made the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

a mental perspective, especially in Bangladesh.

We operate within a cricketing culture that has left little space for cricketers outside the glittering glow of national focus to feel secure.

If the powers that be can begin changing this state of affairs, developing a new more inclusive culture, then perhaps Sajib's tragedy would have resulted in something positive.

But what is more likely is that, as cricket returned yesterday with the Bangabandhu T20 Cup, off-field events ranging from the tragedy of Sajib to Shakib's indiscretions will be lost amid the glow of Mirpur's floodlights.

All the pressure on Real

STAR SPORT DESK



Real Madrid and Inter Milan will meet for a crunch Champions League fixture at the San Siro tonight and both sides will be desperate for a win as they stand on the verge of an embarrassing exit.

Group B might reflect reality more accurately if the standings were reversed, but as things Real Madrid and Inter Milan occupy the last two spots in the group. Borussia Mochengladbach are on top with five points and Shakhtar Donetsk in second with four, equal with Real but ahead on goal difference. Inter, who are winless after three games, have two points and are languishing in fourth.

Zinedine Zidane's plight -- which was exemplified by a loss to a Shakhtar side missing 13 senior players due to Covid-19 -- has been exacerbated by the absence of six players, but Casemiro has recovered and is expected to play a role.

Inter, meanwhile, will be without Marcelo Brozovic, Aleksandar Kolarov and Daniele Padelli -- all afflicted by COVID-19 -- but will welcome back the dynamic Stefano Sensi. However, they will be under the same kind of pressure as Los Blancos simply because Inter have not progressed from the group stages of the Champions League since 2011-12. Their best result in Europe since was last season's run to the UEFA Europa League final, where they were beaten by Sevilla.

That ticket to Europa was provided by Antonio Conte's men finishing third in their group in the Champions League last season, behind Dortmund and Barcelona.

On the other hand, Real Madrid have never failed to reach the last 16. Real will be hoping that Eden Hazard can conjure some magic for them, while Inter's hopes will bank squarely on the performance of Romelu Lukaku, the fourth deadliest striker in 2020 with 29 goals. Elsewhere, a tough test awaits Liverpool against last season's semifinalists, Atalanta, as Jurgen Klopp finds himself without a large number of first-choice players but the positive news is the return of Mohamed Salah, who recovered from Covid-19 and can join a formidable attack with in-form Diogo Jota, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino.

The task should be simpler for reigning champions Bayern Munich, who will aim to continue re-writing the history books by extending their record of consecutive Champions League wins to 15 against RB Salzburg. The Bavarians have been perfect with three wins out of three.



Vinicius Jr has been the X-factor for Real Madrid numerous times and he will be hoping to make the most of any playing time that comes his way against Inter Milan. However, his starting spot has been clouded by the return to fitness of Eden Hazard.

PHOTO: TWITTER

The Steel Revolution Continues

Introducing

BSRM Xtreme

B500 DWR

the tough steel

HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT for more than 15 years

SHAH CEMENT

Air pollution in Dhaka very alarming: HC

Govt asked to implement court directives, place report in 30 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that the present air pollution level in Dhaka was very alarming for all and the people's right to life, one of their fundamental rights, might be compromised if the pollution could not be controlled right now.

The court ordered the authorities concerned of the government to implement its January 13 directives and submit a report to it in 30 days after complying with the directives.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali came up with the observation and order after clippings of some newspaper reports on air pollution in Dhaka were placed before it during the hearing on a writ petition.

On January 13, another HC bench issued some directives to the government to reduce air pollution in and around the capital and also ordered the Department of Environment to shut the rest of the illegal brick kilns in five districts, including Dhaka.

During hearing of the same writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the HC

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Rehana Akter, right, suffered critical injuries and lost four of her family members to the fire at Tazreen Fashions factory on November 24, 2012. She bursts into tears while sharing her horrifying memories of that fateful day with another survivor Bilkis, left.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Journo Kajol gets HC bail

Cannot be released as he is arrested in 2 more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

However, Kajol cannot be released from jail following the verdict as he is arrested in two other cases, his lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star.

Yesterday, the bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the judgement after Kajol submitted a petition seeking bail in the case filed with Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Following the same bail petition, the HC bench on October 19

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

MONEY LAUNDERED TO CANADA

PM wants ACC to probe allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed the Anti-Corruption Commission to probe into the allegations of money being laundered to Canada by some Bangladeshis, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader.

"Our foreign minister has already talked about laundering money to Canada. The prime minister has already directed the ACC to investigate it and take action against those involved," Quader told reporters at a press conference on contemporary issues at his secretariat office.

Replying to a question, he said action would be taken on whoever is involved, irrespective of their political identity or whether they are pro-government bureaucrats.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Honorary doctorate degree for Bangabandhu

November 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

4 LAKH WOMEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IN BANGLADESH

Nearly four lakh women have been sexually assaulted during the liberation struggle in Bangladesh. At least 20 percent of them are either social outcasts or have lost their property or their bread-earning male family members. There are another million economically destitute women who have either lost their husbands, earning male family members or their only source of income. The above facts are revealed today by Jahangeer Haider, director (admin), National Board of Bangladesh Women's Rehabilitation Programme.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY TO HONOUR BANGABANDHU Calcutta University has decided to confer Doctor of Law degree on Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Filling station worker set on fire by coworkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A filling station operator in the capital's Jurain was set on fire early yesterday allegedly by his co-workers, who police said had poured octane on the victim.

The injured, Riad Hossain, 20, also a college student, was being treated at the intensive care unit at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Quoting doctors, Inspector Bachchu Mia of DMCH Police Outpost said Riad sustained 40 percent burns on his body.

Police arrested three filling station employees -- Mahmudul Hasan Emon,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Pianist's velvety tones soothe hungry monkeys



REUTERS, Lopburi

While on tour in central Thailand, British musician Paul Barton has been mobbed by unruly audiences that tug his hair, steal his music and climb over his piano.

Barton is a rock star to hundreds of hungry wild monkeys that he hopes his music can calm,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Man held for throwing acid on ex-wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A woman fell victim to acid attack allegedly by her ex-husband in Natore's Baraigram upazila on Monday night.

Police arrested accused Abu Taleb right after the victim's father filed a case in this connection, said police.

The victim -- Nargis

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:05 12:45 3:45 5:21 7:00
JAMAAT 5:40 1:15 4:00 5:24 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A ship filled with scraps being unloaded at Chattogram port. Once the shipbreaking industry of Bangladesh used to meet the country's steel mills' demand of iron. Due to its high demand, iron now being imported from abroad in the form of scraps.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Vaccine hopes lift spirits across globe

World leaders see light at end of tunnel; Russia says Sputnik V vaccine 95pc effective

AGENCIES

Hopes over Covid-19 vaccines have given a boost to virus-weary citizens across the globe, but the disease remains rampant and world leaders are urging people to be patient.

France was expected to loosen its coronavirus restrictions yesterday as the boss of a major airline said proof of vaccination will likely become the only way people can fly in a post-pandemic world.

French President Emmanuel Macron will address the country -- currently under lockdown -- to announce a reworking of the rules following a drop in nationwide infections.

Macron's televised speech comes a day after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said thanks to a major vaccine breakthrough, "the escape route is in sight" from the coronavirus crisis.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

INSPIRING, INFLUENTIAL WOMEN 2 Bangladeshis on BBC's list of 100

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi women -- Rina Akhter, a former sex worker, and Rima Sultana Rimu, a teacher -- have been included in BBC's annual list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world.

This year, "100 Women" is highlighting those who are leading change and making a difference during these turbulent times, according to the BBC.

The list also includes Sanna Marin, who leads Finland's all-female coalition government, Michelle Yeoh, star of the new Avatar and Marvel films and Sarah Gilbert, who heads the Oxford University research into a coronavirus vaccine, the report said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

brac

BRAC partnered and signed an agreement with Handicap International-Humanity & Inclusion (HI) to launch a pilot Disability Inclusive Ultra-Poor Graduation programme in Bangladesh

BRAC has partnered with Handicap International-Humanity & Inclusion (HI) in Bangladesh to launch a pilot Disability Inclusive Ultra-Poor Graduation programme targeting the ultra-poor populations in four (4) districts of Bangladesh. This two-year partnership will cater to the needs of the participants and their households throughout the twenty-four months' programme cycle.

Termining the partnership between BRAC and HI as a "milestone" in BRAC's endeavour to make Graduation programme more inclusive to the most marginalised and vulnerable groups, Mr. Shameran Abed said that "the strategic partnership will strengthen our collective effort to lift persons with disabilities out of ultra-poverty. This will enhance BRAC's capacity to implement disability inclusive Graduation approach in scale in Bangladesh and globally and assist respective governments to adapt the approach based on the

country context'. Mr. Rajesh Chandra from HI also said "Aligned with its worldwide strategy to 'leave no one behind', Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion (HI) is delighted to extend in Bangladesh its global collaboration with BRAC. This technical partnership will support economic empowerment of people with disabilities in four (4) districts of Bangladesh. HI, along with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs), aspires to support the Government of Bangladesh to ensure inclusion of people with disabilities in development".

It should be noted that, in Bangladesh, since its beginning in 2002, BRAC's UPG programme, through its groundbreaking Graduation approach, has served almost 2.1 million ultra-poor households to achieve socio-economic resilience, in order to progress along a pathway out of extreme poverty.