

Uhe Bai



Poush 27, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

Jamadiul Awal 26, 1442 Hijri

"History says they [Myanmar] took back over 2 lakh Rohingyas who came here in 1992. So, we are hopeful that this time also they will take back them. FOREIGN MINISTER AK ABDUL MOMEN



"The United States government took these actions unilaterally... I am lifting all of these self-imposed restrictions. US SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO ON LIFTING CURBS ON OFFICIAL AMERICAN CONTACTS WITH TAIWAN



"I believe that ethically everyone should take the vaccine. POPE FRANCIS URGES EVERYONE TO **GET COVID SHOTS**



PFIZER'S COVID-19 VACCINE

Govt may go for it despite challenges

Worries remain over lack of facilities needed to store vaccine at -70C, special syringe availability

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government decided to take the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from COVAX despite challenges of maintaining the cold chain and ensuring the supply of the particular syringes required.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) will soon inform COVAX about the decision along with a detailed deployment plan.

Distribution of this vaccine can be complicated because it needs to be stored at very low temperatures of about minus 70 degrees Celsius, far below the normal refrigerator levels.

Many have pointed out that Bangladesh lacks the system required to store the doses.

But DGHS Director General ABM Khurshid Alam said, "We have interest in taking the vaccine and there is no reason to shun this opportunity. We are working to submit a complete plan... on its supply, distribution and storage.



Officials are trying to overcome the challenges, he told The Daily yesterday.

official of Expanded government's Programme Immunization (EPI) said officials were evaluating the

existing cold chain equipment.

The COVAX programme, led by the World Health Organisation and global alliance GAVI, has offered Bangladesh around four lakh doses of the vaccine developed by US drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech.

COVAX has promised to deliver a total of 2 billion doses of vaccines to at least 172 countries by the end of this year.

Industry insiders said some organisations in Bangladesh have the equipment to store the doses. But not all of them can be made available for this vaccine

Others pointed out that the 0.3 ml syringe needed to administer the vaccine



Scores of vessels moored haphazardly along the banks of the Shitalakkhya river. Traders have anchored their ships here without permission and built bamboo walkways extending more than 100 feet into the river to offload bricks, sand and cement to be sold locally. This practice has also contributed to the pollution of the river. The picture was taken from the northern side of Kanchpur bridge in Narayanganj yesterday.

Uttara Finance & Investments Ltd

BB probe reveals Tk 5,100cr scam

Irregularities done by board, management in loan disbursement and mobilisation of deposits

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

When one applies for a loan from any financial institution, the lender has to make sure that the loan application goes through at least five layers of scrutiny.

But Uttara Finance and Investment Ltd (UFIL), a non-bank financial institution, has not followed any of the procedures in disbursing a huge amount of loans.

For instance, it gave Tk 336 crore loans to Uttara Motors and other concerns of Uttara Group without any credit proposals, breaching the banking rules.

The loans were not shown in the UFIL's annual report and the financial balance sheet to dodge both its stakeholders and Bangladesh Bank, a central bank probe has

The BB also detected that the UFIL management created two sections in SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 Tk **521** cr siphoned off in the name of buying shares

Tk **1,224**cr embezzled in the form of fake loans

Tk **725**cr not shown as term deposit in financial statement despite taking from depositors

Tk **1,998**cr loan given but not included in financial statement

Tk **381** cr embezzled through call money market

Tk **236**cr fake term deposits issued in favour of a director

Uttara Finance MD apologises for

Bangabandhu killer Mosleh Uddin stripped of FF status

51 others get same treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled the freedom fighter certificate of former army officer Risaldar Mosleh Uddin, a convicted killer of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs issued a gazette notification on January 5 cancelling the certificate of Risaldar Moslem Uddin, a selfconfessed killer of Bangabandhu in August

1975. Mosleh Uddin is also facing the death penalty for his involvement in the killing of four national leaders at Dhaka Central

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

COVID VACCINATION

Registration likely to begin Jan 21

An app developed to help people register for the jabs

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The country's Covid-19 vaccination drive will soon begin, with an app for online registration set to be operational from January 21. People will have to fill out information

through a mobile and web-based app called "Surokkha", developed by the Department of Information and Communication Technology, the Dhaka DC office, and the Directorate General of Health Services.

Health officials said they are planning to vaccinate 25 lakh people in the first phase and for this, people have to register through the Surokkha app.

"We are trying heart and soul to open the app for registration by January 21. Tomorrow [Monday] there will be a press briefing where every details of the app will be disclosed," ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of DGHS, told The Daily

HOW IT WILL WORK

People to **REGISTER** with web portal Surokkha (NID required)

Surokkha to issue **VACCINE CARD** (with vaccination date, time)

TEXT MESSAGES to alert vaccination date, time

Surokkha to issue

Homecoming speech had guidelines to run country

PM says about Bangabandhu's

address Bss, Dhaka Prime



Hasina yesterday said Bangabandhu's January 10, 1972 speech has all the guidelines required to run an independent state.

"The January 10, 1972 speech of Bangabandhu at the Racecourse Maidan on his return to the country from Pakistani captivity has all the required guidelines to run an independent state. There was no written speech in his (Bangabandu's) hand.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Unworthy of a response

Mayor Taposh says about criticism made by his predecessor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said a person of his stature should not reply to comments made by his predecessor

Sayeed Khokon. The mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) was referring to Khokon's comment that Taposh lost the eligibility to remain in office by transferring hundreds of crores of taka from the corporation to a bank he owns.

Taposh said Khokon's comment was of little importance. "If someone says something out of personal grievance, it is improper to reply while holding a responsible post," he said after placing wreaths before a portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the capital's Dhanmondi.

At a human chain in front of the High Court on Saturday, Khokon said SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Athletes from various nations, including Bangladesh, taking part in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Dhaka Marathon-2021 in the capital's Hatirjheel yesterday. The marathon is part of the celebrations surrounding the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation.

FIRST DOSE administered on specified date, time

SECOND DOSE administered on specified date, time

VACCINE CERTIFICATE

STABILISING RICE MARKET

Experts call for effective policy

Govt should form a commission for agriculture goods pricing, they say

STAR REPORT

RASHED SHUMON

An efficient government policy to collect, reserve and import rice is crucial to maintaining a balanced price in the market, said the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

At the virtual dialogue titled "Why price of rice is soaring? Who's gaining, who's losing?" the speakers also emphasised on prioritising marginalised farmers in the policy and increasing accuracy in estimates of food grain

The dialogue, moderated by Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, convener of the platform, also advised the government to form a commission for the pricing of agriculture goods.

Dr M Asaduzzaman, former research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) said, "Marginalised farmers are being neglected in the present marketing system, just like they were in the colonial period.

"As the price of rice started soaring, there are many unanswered questions. Why has the government failed to collect the targeted rice; why the delay to start importing and how is the government planning to pressurise hoarders?" he queried.

Shykh Seraj, director and head of news at Channel I, said, "Farmers are not benefiting from the price hike as they sell right after harvest. Many farmers are moving away from paddy to cultivating exotic crops... that may be











FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Media's role very important

HC says; asks Ekattor TV to place its arguments for allowing PK Halder on air

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that media and journalists have a very important role in eradicating all kinds of corruption.

The court and judges alone cannot do it, said the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel.

The bench came up with the observation during hearing a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption seeking necessary Commission directives against the authorities of Ekattor TV for allowing Proshanta Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, to participate in a live talk show and broadcasting his interview.

PK Halder, former managing director of NRB Global Bank, is a fugitive accused in a money laundering case.

Yesterday, the HC also asked the authorities of Ekattor TV to place their statements explaining their role in broadcasting the interview of PK Halder, who fled the country after allegedly siphoning off around Tk 10,200 crore from some non-banking financial institutions, and in allowing him to participate in the live talk show on December 28 last year.

The authorities of the private TV channel have been ordered to place their explanations by themselves or through engaging lawyer before the HC bench on January 17.

The bench also fixed 12 noon on January 17 for further hearing on the

Earlier in the day, the HC judges and lawyers watched the recorded report and talk show broadcast by Ekattor TV on PK Halder on the display screen as the authorities of the TV channel produced the video clips before the bench through its register office in line with its December 30 order.

During yesterday's hearing, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan prayed to the HC to issue a contempt of court

fugitive accused PK Halder to take part in the live talk show.

By doing so, the Ekattor TV authorities have presented themselves parallel to the court, which is very much contemptuous, he argued.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told the HC that the court needs to hear the explanations from the Ekattor TV authorities.

Mosharraf Hossain, lawyer for Uzzal Kumar Nandi, an accomplice of PK Halder, told the HC bench that the Ekattor TV's report and talk show have not maligned the court.

Following the ACC's petition, the HC bench on December 30 directed the private television channel to submit video clips of the interview and conversations PK Halder had with the channel on December 28 to this court vesterday.

The court has observed that no accused or convicted of non-bailable and cognisable offences is entitled to make any comment or give interview before media.

"Our concrete and considered view is that the accused, the convict, the fugitive and convicted accused of non-bailable and cognisable offences who are wanted by the court are not entitled to make any comments or give interviews before TV channels, electronic media, print media, social media or any other media in respect to the case during its pendency for trial and investigation because it may create confusion, affect the merit of the case and also lower the image and sanctity of the judiciary and the investigating agency," the bench said.

In the full text of the order, the HC also restrained by an order of injunction the authorities of all media from participating, publishing, broadcasting any statement, comment, interview and conversation of anyone accused and convicted of non-bailable and cognisable offences in TV news rule against the authorities of Ekattor and talk shows with regard to the TV, saying that they had the audacity cases pending before the court or and high-handedness by permitting investigating agency till further order.



Equipped with sticks, supporters of Awami League mayoral candidate chase followers of the BNP-backed one at Sreepur Bazar in Gazipur yesterday. The incident took place when the two candidates were campaigning for Sreepur municipality polls. Several people, including the BNP mayoral candidate, were injured.

BB probe reveals Tk 5,100cr scam

its electronic ledger -- "short-term loan repayment" and "long-term loan" without proper authorisation to

disburse the loans to Uttara Group. This is just one of the examples of its

violation of the banking rules.

Irregularities involving Tk 5,100 crore were committed by the board and management of UFIL in disbursement of loans and mobilisation of deposits, the BB found in its probe carried out between October 7 and November 25 last year.

Most of the amount was not even shown in the UFIL's financial statement made public in 2019.

"The central bank is yet to find out the actual amount of money embezzled from the non-bank financial institution as its management did not cooperate with the probe teams, ignoring the banking rules," the BB report said.

The lender even shut down its servers to prevent the investigators from gathering information, according to the report.

On December 1 last year, the central bank asked UFIL to give explanations for the irregularities.

In response, UFIL sent two letters to the BB -- one on December 15 last year and the other on January 5 this year, admitting that irregularities took place at the financial institution.

In the first letter, UFIL Managing Director SM Shamsul Arefin sought 30 working days to give the BB explanations for the irregularities.

Around three weeks later, he again wrote to the BB, and said, "No explanation is sufficient in response to the queries about the irregularities found by the central bank investigation and audit. We are offering you apology with folded hands and state that such types of mistakes will not happen in

"We want your cooperation so that we can run our institution efficiently and smoothly.

The bulk of the loans was given to different concerns of Uttara Group. The majority of directors of the Group also hold directorship at UFIL.

The BB found that Mujibur Rahman, a director of UFIL and deputy managing director of different concerns of Uttara Group, is the key person behind the financial scam. UFIL Chairman Rashidul Hasan and its MD Shamsul Arefin have largely been involved in the scam, according to the report.

The lender also gave Tk 248.68 crore in the form of margin loan to its subsidiary company Uttara Finance and Capital Management.

The fund was supposed to be disbursed to clients to help them buy shares from the capital market, but UFIL failed to provide the BB with any document, raising questions whether the loans were used to do so.

LOAN DISBURSED SANS CREDIT **APPLICATION** UFIL disbursed Tk 521 crore to a

number of its directors to purchase shares from the stock market.

But the loans were without credit applications and any discussions at UFIL board meetings, which "jeopardised the interests of the depositors to a great extent", mentioned the report.

Typically, upon receipt of a credit proposal from an individual or a company, the branch manager of a lender has to verify whether the potential borrower has the capacity to repay the loan. The branch then submits the proposal to the credit committee.

If the fund is larger than the manager's approval limit set by the board, the proposal must be placed before the board of directors or the managing director.

But UFIL did not follow any of the procedures while giving money to

the borrowers who happen to be its directors, said the BB report. Both the board and the UFIL

management collectively committed the irregularities consistently since 2013, it added. QUESTION OVER TK 890CR UFIL, which has been operating since

1995, gave Tk 1,201 crore to different companies of its directors, but the management did it without UFIL board's approval. The UFIL management created

two sections in its ledger -- advance and prepayment, and investment in shares -- without proper authorisation to show the loan disbursements in its The BB found that UFIL showed

only Tk 311 crore in its 2019 financial statement without explaining the whereabouts of the remaining Tk 890 Sources said some UFIL directors,

who hold directorships of both UFIL and Uttara Motors, were found involved in the unethical practice. Though the banking rules don't

allow a non-bank financial institution like UFIL to make cash transactions, a large amount of funds was given to Rashidul in cash under the two unauthorised sections in the ledger, the BB report said.

"UFIL also did not show in its financial statement the funds disbursed to Rashidul," it said.

Contacted, Rashidul said he has been unwell for the last 10 months and has not attended office during the period.

"I am unaware of the central bank report on UFIL... I am not in a position to comment," he said.

FAKE TERM DEPOSITS

In August last year, the lender provided vouchers of term-deposit receipts (TDRs) of Tk 236 crore to Bluechip Securities Ltd. UFIL Director Mujibur is the managing director of Bluechip.

But the vouchers of TDRs were In reality, the firm did not deposit any money with UFIL, said the

The BB inspection teams were unable to find out how many fake TDRs have so far been provided as the UFIL management declined to provide information.

Besides, the teams are yet to know whether BlueChip took loans from other non-bank financial institutions or any banks through such forged

UFIL will find itself in a precarious situation if BlueChip fails to repay the loan, the report pointed out. EMBEZZLEMENT

MONEY MARKET UFIL also misused the funds it borrowed from the call money market.

Though UFIL borrowed a total of Tk 397.59 crore from the market till December 2019, it mentioned in its financial statement that the loan amount was Tk 16 crore.

The interbank call money market is a short-term money market, which allows banks and non-bank financial institutions, to borrow and lend money at interbank rates.

Such loans are provided for a verv short period, usually lasting no longer than a week, and are often used to help banks and non-bank financial institutions meet reserve requirement.

"Mujibur used the funds for personal purposes in gross violation of the banking rules," the report said. UFIL MD'S INVOLVEMENT

UFIL Managing Director Shamsul Arefin has been involved in siphoning off funds, eroding the interest of depositors and other stakeholders of the financial institution, according to the BB report.

He took Tk 24.22 crore from UFIL without approval from the management or the board. The amount was not even mentioned in the UFIL's financial statement, and he does not have any loan account with the lender, it mentioned. He informed a BB inspection team

that he had taken the funds from UFIL for his son's treatment and returned a good amount from time to time. In its document, UFIL showed that

Shamsul took Tk 6.24 crore from it as of December 2019.

Contacted, Shamsul told The Daily Star that UFIL failed to provide information to the BB audit team in time as he was diagnosed with Covid-19 in September, and Uttam Kumar Saha, the then chief financial officer of UFIL, died from the virus the same month.

"I have adjusted almost all the funds I had taken between 2004 and 2019 from UFIL."

The outstanding amount is now a maximum of Tk 58 lakh, he claimed.

He, however, declined to comment on the forged TDRs and other relevant

CONCEALMENT OF CREDIT, **DEPOSIT**

UFIL also concealed the actual amount of term deposits mobilised from its

Its financial statement mentioned that the total amount of term deposits was Tk 1,877 crore as of December 2019. But the BB discovered that the actual amount was Tk 2,603.20 crore.

The undisclosed funds of the term deposits to the tune of Tk 726 crore was diverted to other sectors as part of its effort to help scamsters plunder the money, said the probe report.

The lender also employed the same tactic in the calculation of the disbursed loans in its financial statement.

For instance, the total loan or lease given by UFIL was Tk 1,877 crore till December 2019 as per its financial balance sheet. But the BB found that the actual amount was Tk 3,802 crore.

The inspection teams failed to detect the destination of the undisclosed loans of Tk 1,998 crore as the UFIL management refused to provide information.

Md Serajul Islam, spokesperson and an executive director of the BB, said the central bank is still carrying out

investigation. If proof of involvement of any UFIL official or board member in the scam is found, punitive measures will be taken, he said.

Asked what measures would be taken against the scamsters, Md Shah Alam, another BB executive director responsible for monitoring and making policies for non-bank financial institutions, declined to comment.

WHAT UFIL, UTTARA SAY Contacted, Matiur Rahman, vice president of UFIL and also MD

of Uttara Group, claimed that the irregularities detected by the BB are one-sided information". "Irregularities of such magnitude

can never happen in a financial institution. My younger brother Mujibur has already paid back Tk 308 crore to adjust his previous loans in compliance with the central bank's instructions," he told The Daily Star. Matiur also claimed that Uttara

Group had not taken Tk 336 crore loans from UFIL as mentioned by the BB in its report. "This is not a loan. Uttara Motors

received the amount from UFIL upon the maturity of its term deposits with the financial institution.' The BB should crosscheck its

findings once again, and UFIL will certainly follow all the instructions from the banking regulator, he said. Asked why UFIL offered apology to

the BB, he said the lender would run into further trouble if it did not do so. The Daily Star contacted Uttara

Group several times to communicate with Mujibur, but he did not respond.

Bangladeshi human trafficker sentenced in US

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi national was sentenced to 46 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for his role in a scheme to smuggle Bangladeshis from Mexico into the

The convict, Moktar Hossain, admitted that from March 2017 to August 2018, he trafficked Bangladeshi nationals to the US at the Texas border in exchange for payments.

Moktar operated out of Monterrey, Mexico, where he maintained a hotel that housed migrantson their way to the US. He paid drivers to transport them to the US border, and gave the migrants instructions on how to cross the Rio Grande River, said the US Embassy in a statement yesterday referring to US Department of Justice.

"The defendant was a key player in an organised smuggling network that operated for profit and preyed on Bangladeshi nationals who wanted to enter the United States illegally," said Acting Assistant Attorney General David P Burns of the US justice department's criminal division.

This sentence serves as a clear deterrent to participants of such transnational criminal organisations who seek to undermine the security of our borders by illegally facilitating the travel of foreigners into the United States for financial gain."

"Border security and national security are one and the same," said Ryan K Patrick, US attorney for the Southern District of Texas.

"We must know who is coming into the country, and we cannot allow unfiltered access. My office continues to work with all our partners in executing this mission." The investigation was conducted

under the Extraterritorial Criminal Travel Strike Force (ECT) programme, a joint partnership between the justice department's criminal division and HSI.

This case was prosecuted by Trial Attorneys James Hepburn and Erin Cox of the criminal division's human rights and special prosecutions section with assistance from the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 1 Jail in November 1975.

The ministry issued the notification to cancel the gazette as per the recommendation of the 70th meeting of the Jatiya Muktijoddha Council

On November 19 last year, the council recommended to cancel the freedom fighter certificate of Mosleh Uddin at the meeting.

Earlier, a gazette of Mosleh Uddin as freedom fighter was issued in 2004, during the tenure of the BNP-Jamaat led four party alliance government.

On January 5, the ministry cancelled 52 freedom fighter certificates in total, in line with the National Freedom Fighters Council Act 2002.

The notification of cancellation of these gazettes is available on the ministry's website.

On June 7 last year, the government ssued a notification cancelling the gazettes of 1,181 freedom fighters following the recommendation of the 66th meeting of the Jamuka.

Unworthy

FROM PAGE 1

Taposh's handling of DSCC funds was a violation of the local government act.Taposh told reporters at the Nagar Bhaban later in the day that Modhumoti Bank, which he owns, is like any other private bank receiving deposits from government institutions as per rules and regulations.

There is corruption when someone takes bribes, gets commission and... embezzles government money. The allegation being brought is not an objective opinion," he said. Khokon's claim that the DSCC has

not been paying some of its employees for months is also baseless, he added. Former mayor Khokon on Saturday

said Taposh was receiving crores in profit from the DSCC money by investing in different organisations while different development projects stalled amid fund shortage.

US, other Western nations express 'concern' at HK

arrests AFP, Washington

The US, Britain, Australia and Canada released a statement Saturday underscoring "serious concern over the mass arrest of Hong Kong democracy figures under a new security law, part of a mounting crackdown by Beijing.

More than 1,000 police officers detained 53 prominent figures -including a US citizen -- in dawn raids Wednesday on charges of "subversion," a new national security crime that carries up to life in prison.

Experts call for effective

4 sent to jail for rape of

mentally challenged

woman

disastrous if not monitored."

Our Correspondent, Cumilla

district's Homna upazila.

Asadpur in the upazila.

A Cumilla court yesterday sent four

men to jail on charge of gang-raping

a mentally challenged woman in the

The accused are Hasan, 27, Rassel

Abul Kayes Akand, officer-in-charge

,20, Yousuf alias Badsha ,25, and

Sohag, 16, all from Charkuria of

of Homna Police Station, said all four

of them were on Saturday, after the

victim's family filed a complaint.

He said the government should revive the food grain storage loan project to help farmers hold their produce till they get a good price.

Dr Quazi Shahabuddin, former director general of BIDS, said, "We see a major gap in available information. Also, we don't know how the government is planning to keep adequate reserves in the future and what their plans are against hoarders

speculating the market? Farmers from Gaibandha, Pirojpur, Meherpur, Satkhira, Sunamganj, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Nilphamari and Kurigram joined the dialogue.

They said marginalised farmers

are compelled to sell their produce immediately after harvest to repay their debts. They urged the government to extend support so that they can store

paddy for a couple of months to sell at

a good price. Dr Md Shahjahan Kabir, director general of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), said, "Considering reduced Aman harvest and high consumption, we estimated a 30-lakh tonne surplus by June 30 this year. There will be no food crisis as farmers

will produce more Boro this season." Dr Nazirul Islam, director general of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), said, "We estimate a shortage of 14 lakh tonnes of rice by 2030. As agriculture now contributes only 15 percent to the GDP, it must be mechanised for greater production and rational use of labour in other

Dr Mirza Mofazzal Islam, director general of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), said, as most medium-priced rice varieties

in the market are manufactured from coarse rice. To meet the demand, we should focus on more producing varieties.

According to local sources, the alleged

rapists went to a village arbitration to

conceal the incident. On information,

police intervened and conducted drives

superintendent of Cumilla police,

said the victim and her husband

both were mentally challenged. Their

family did not even know how to file

to the police station, accepted a case,

and then took further steps, he added.

Knowing about it, police called them

Fazlul Karim, senior assistant

to arrest the miscreants.

a complaint.

AKM Khorshed Alam Khan, president of Auto Rice Mill Owners' Association, said, "The government said high yield, but we saw lesser produce available to purchase last vear. We don't have any stock left and

that's affecting the market price.' He also talked about an automatic syndicate that has emerged without planning as large corporations are

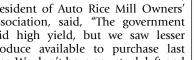
Shah Alam, president of Bangladesh Rice Exporters' Association, said, "The decision to import rice should have been taken days ago and the scope of importing should be open for all by reducing

. Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandan, general secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Samity, said, "To boost up reserves, government must build storage in all major paddy-harvesting unions.

Emaz Mohammad of Pramanik, member

in the market.' to the Trading According Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), the retail price of coarse rice is around 46 percent higher compared to the corresponding price on last year, while the price of fine and medium rice also

The total reserve of rice is only 5.32 lakh tonnes as of January 6, just over "Coarse rice's demand is increasing half the reserve at the same time last



purchasing and hoarding rice.

import duty to 20 percent.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture, said, "The hoarders are responsible for the price hike of rice and the consumers are suffering. As the government is low on rice reserve, we're trying our best to regain enough stock soon to intervene

rose between seven and 20 percent.

might not be available in the country. "We are looking for potential sources of the syringe because it has

Govt may go for it despite

to be certified by the World Health Organisation," a top officer said, wishing not to be named. Director General Khurshid also admitted that injecting from a 0.3 ml syringe required considerable skills.

COVAX sent a letter to Bangladesh

on January 6 asking whether the

country would join the COVAX

programme. It sent similar letters to

192 countries. Countries that showed interest will get the doses by the end of January or February The COVAX in its letter said that the

must be given to the frontline health workers and Bangladesh has agreed to The deadline for replying to the COVAX is on January 18. COVAX will

review the responses and will inform its decision on January 19. Officials here said if everything goes

right, the vaccine is likely to arrive by

Qatar, Bahrain and Mexico.

including the United States, Canada,

The vaccine has already been administered in several countries,

The World Health Organisation has free doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine listed the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for emergency use only. It said the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine

available outside the capital.

March. But it will mostly be used in

Dhaka city because the storage is not

met its safety requirements and its benefits outweighed any potential

Bangabandhu's homecoming day observed

The historic Homecoming Day of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed yesterday across the country in a befitting manner.

Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the nation and supreme commander of the country's Liberation War, returned to the sacred soil of independent Bangladesh via London and New Delhi on January 10 in 1972, after 290 days of confinement in Pakistan jail.

The Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu this year came with an extra significance as it coincided with Father of the Nation's birth centenary celebrations, just three months ahead of the golden jubilee of the country's independence.

All programmes marking the day this year were observed maintaining health guidelines in face of the global pandemic coronavirus.

To commemorate this historic day, the Department of Posts issued commemorative stamps. Besides, the day was also observed in a befitting manner in missions abroad

On the night of March 25, 1971,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



The launching event of "Sobar Dhaka" took place in the capital's Krishibid Institute auditorium. Along with filing complaints, the smartphone application also allows users to access national emergency hotline numbers, has a children's feature, and an events section to help citizens keep up with going-ons in the city.

'Sobar Dhaka'

DNCC launches app to ensure citizen services

To make access to citizen services easier, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday introduced an app -- "Sobar Dhaka".

"Residents of DNCC will be able to enjoy the civic facilities through the app easily," said Mayor Atiqul Islam at a launch event.

The app was inaugurated at the capital's Krishibid Institute auditorium at a programme to commemorate Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day.

The mayor said the app will help improve the accountability of government services. "As a mayor I, along with councillors, have to be accountable to citizens," he said

The main objective of the app is to improve the living standard of DNCC residents by ensuring that services are delivered and accurate information The app lets residents make complaints to DNCC directly on eight

issues -- mosquito, road, street lights, garbage, waterlogging, public toilets, drainage and illegal structures.

Users will also be able advise the city corporation through the app to help build a healthy, moveable and modern city, the mayor said.

The process involves a user posting a comment with a relevant picture. This will in turn reach the relevant authorities of DNCC wards and zones,

The app will allow residents of DNCC to be able to identify the area of their problems through GPS tracking. It also includes an emergency service where people will get national emergency helpline numbers like 999 and 333. There will be a special feature for children named "Emergency Alert", and emergency numbers of different government agencies.

A section of the app, "Ajker Dhaka", will let citizens get information about the day's events like exhibitions, training and different social

Rohingya repatriation top priority: foreign minister

Myanmar will take back the Rohingya refugees and the issue will be resolved through discussion, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday.

"History shows they [Myanmar] took back over 2 lakh Rohingyas who fled here in 1992. So, we are hopeful that this time also they will take them back. But it is difficult to say when it will happen", he said.

Informing that the government has taken all the necessary steps to send back Rohingyas to Myanmar, Momen said, "We are continuously in discussion with Myanmar. We are doing bilateral negotiations with them as well as have taken multilateral arrangements and talked to the regional powers like India, China and other countries to solve the issue."

The minister was addressing unveiling ceremony of a book named "Rohingya: Nisongo Nipirito Jatigosthi" by Maj (retd) Mohammad Emdadul Islam at Chattogram

"All the countries that we have approached acknowledged that it was Myanmar who created the problem and the solution depends on them," said Momen, the chief guest at the event. They all said repatriation of Rohingyas is the only durable solution.

Mentioning that 132 countries have voted for Bangladesh in a resolution, cotabled by the OIC and European Union, and adopted by the United Nations recently, the foreign minister said, "Some countries including our neighbour abstained from

But they (the neighbouring country) had earlier told us that they would prefer to be neutral, which would help them negotiate with Myanmar.

"We believe those countries who did not give the 'yes' vote did so for strategic reasons, which is fine. Our main priority is to send back the Rohingyas," he said.

He also informed that Japan is interested in a tri-party arrangement to negotiate with Myanmar. In the last tri-party meeting in presence

of China held on January 20 last year, Myanmar seemed positive as they made some promises, he mentioned.

Informing that the government has so far tried to repatriate Rohingyas twice, but they did not go as Rohingyas do not believe in their government.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

PK HALDER'S TK 3,500CR SCAM

ACC summons four high-ups of People's Leasing

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has summoned four high-ups of Peoples Leasing and Financial Services Limited to quiz over misappropriation of Tk 3,500 crore allegedly by Prashanta Kumar Halder, known better as PK

In separate letters, ACC's Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhan asked Peoples Leasing's chief executive officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) Sami Huda, executive vice president Kazi Ahmed Jamal, chief financial officer Manik Lal Samaddar and head of credit Mahmuda Kaisar to appear before the ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters on January 14.

Sources said while PK Halder was managing director of Reliance Finance, he made some of his relatives and cohorts directors of some other leasing companies and got hold of these companies, People's Leasing being one of them.

They dragged the company [People's Leasing] down to the street. They not only sold immovable properties of these companies but also shared portfolio of depositors," said an ACC official, preferring to be unnamed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Wrongful Imprisonment of Md Arman

IGP seeks stay on HC order for compensation to victim not hold hearing on the petition yesterday,

The inspector general of police (IGP) has filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking stay on the High Court verdict that directed him (IGP) to give Tk 20 lakh as compensation to Md Arman, a technician at a Benarasi Palli in Mirpur, as police personnel have wrongly arrested him and kept him in jail for around five years instead of the original accused in a drug case.

The stay petition was submitted recently to the office concerned of the Appellate Division saying that the HC has ordered the IGP to give Tk 20 lakh to Arman without assessing the damage.

Besides, departmental action has been taken against the police officers who are responsible for wrongly arresting and keeping Arman in jail and therefore, the IGP is not liable for giving any compensation, Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta told The Daily Star citing the IGP's petition.

He said the stay petition was placed before Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Nuruzzaman for hearing yesterday. The apex court judge, however, did

saying that the matter will be heard later on, DAG Amit Das Gupta added. Meanwhile yesterday, the same court

refused to stay the part of the HC directive that asked the IGP and DMP commissioner to withdraw four police officers from duty, who were working under Pallabi Police Station during the incident, from their present workplaces.

The four police officers are then OC Dadan Fakir, now inspector under DMP; then SI Md Nazrul Islam, now court inspector under DMP; SI Md Sirajul Islam Khan, now inspector at the Sports and Culture department under Police Headquarters, and Md Russell, now SI of Mirpur Model Police station, court sources said.

The Appellate Division judge passed "no order" on the petitions filed by the four police officers seeking stay on the HC verdict on them.

The apex court also asked them to file separate leave-to-appeal petitions with this court against the HC verdict after receiving its full text. Senior lawyer Munsurul Hoque

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Kakrail Double Murder

Verdict on Jan 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set January 17 for the judgment over the murders of Shamsun Nahar and her 17-year-old son Sajjadul Karim Shaon in Dhaka's Kakrail Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Third

Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka set the date after conclusion of arguments, Assistant Public Prosecutor Mohammad Salauddin Howladar told The Daily Star.

During yesterday's hearing, the three accused -- Abdul Karim, Nahar's husband; Sharmin Akter Mukta, his third wife; and Al-Amin Johny, Mukta's brother -- were produced before the court.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 17 out of 22 prosecution witnesses including the complainant.

On November 1 of 2017, 46-year-old Shamsun Nahar and her son Shaon, an A-level student, were murdered inside their six-storey building in Kakrail.

Police found Nahar's body in her bedroom on the fourth floor while Shaon's on the staircases of the third floor.

AKHAURA-LAKSHAM RAIL PROJECT

Ministry removes project director, three months after PMO directive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The railways ministry has changed the project director of the Akhaura-Laksham Dual Gauge Double Line Project. Signed by a deputy secretary on Thursday, the ministry released a

circular in this regard yesterday. The move came more than over three months after the Prime Minister's Office directed the railways ministry to remove existing director Ramzan

Ali after a corruption case was filed against him. Ramzan Ali denied the allegations. Shahidul Islam, joint director general (engineering), will now take charge of the important project of Bangladesh Railway (BR), according to

the circular. The circular, however, did not mention any specific reason behind the change, rather said the order would come into action immediately for public interest. It did not mention what would be the new post of Ramzan Ali either.

In August, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed two separate cases against Ramzan Ali and his wife Dilruba Parvin Elora for allegedly amassing around Tk 4.28 crore beyond their known sources of income.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PALASH KHAN

Protecting reserve forests from de-reservation

LAW DESK

At a time of increasing need to protect reserve forests, a local lawmaker has put forward a proposal to change the status of nearly 600 acres of reserve forests and wildlife sanctuary in Cox's Bazar into khas land for leasing them out to people living there.

Jafar Alam, elected from Chakaria-Pekua (Cox's Bazar-1) constituency, sent a DO (demi official) letter to the Cox's Bazar district administration this month to proceed with the proposal to the secretaries of the land ministry and environment, forest, and climate change ministry.

It is of note that Jafar himself is a member of the parliamentary standing committee, on the environment, forest, and climate

The proposal of de-reservation goes against the spirit of the constitutional provisions on environmental protection, environmental laws in place and an array of observations made by the High Court Division on many occasions regarding the protection of reserved forests.

De-reservation of forests has the potential to pave the way for use of forestland for non-forest purposes and make them vulnerable to land grabbing and commercial exploitation.

The lawmaker's proposition has surprisingly coincided with an observation made by the High Court Division. On January 2, the HC directed the government to take necessary steps to protect the reserve forestland for any use other than

The court observed that any notified forestland, reserved or otherwise, cannot be allocated or leased out for any purposes that damage the country's forests. The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandakar Diliruzzaman came up with the verdict following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh **Environmental Lawyers**

With the said observation, the court had declared a lease agreement illegal. Under the agreement, the deputy commissioner of Chattogram issued the lease of 7.1 acres of notified forest area at Uttar Salimpur in Sitakunda to BBC Steel.

It will not be out of place to SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A van full of used polythene cruises through an empty Kakrail road yesterday. The seller is on his way to Kamrangirchar, hoping for some profit on the discarded materials he has collected.

GRAFT CASE

Samrat not produced at court for illness

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday could not take cognisance of charges against expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat in a case filed for siphoning off around Tk 222 crore, as he was not produced before it due to illness.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka set March 31 for the next hearing after jail authorities informed the court that Samrat was earlier admitted to BSMMU for treatment and he was not in a position to move.

The court also directed jail authorities to produce Samrat before it on March 31.

The case was filed against him for siphoning off the money and channeling it to casinos in Singapore and Malaysia between 2011 and 2018.

On December 7 last year, Anti-Corruption Commission's Deputy Director Jahangir Alam, also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet against Samrat, a "kingpin" of illegal casino businesses in Dhaka, to the Senior Special Judge's Court.

'Stop Myanmar military from using FB for gains'

Rohingya advocacy group urges

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Burma Campaign UK, a Rohingya advocacy group, has called for Facebook to stop the Myanmar military from using the social media platform to recruit members and promote its businesses -- profits from which help fund genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The call comes after Facebook suspended US President Donald Trump's account, on the ground of inciting violence.

"Donald Trump has been suspended for inciting violence, but the Burmese military commit violence against civilians every day and are free to use Facebook to recruit soldiers to commit that violence," said Mark Farmaner, director of Burma Campaign UK, in a statement released

As a result of continuing violence, some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a brutal military crackdown against them and took shelter in Bangladesh in 2017, while nearly 24,000 Rohingyas have been killed, according to the Ontario International Development Agency. During the period, thousands of Rohingyas were tortured, women raped and their homes burned and vandalised.

Mark Farmaner said military-owned companies are allowed to use Facebook to promote products, the profits from which fund the military and help fund violations of international law, including genocide of the

Facebook has faced severe criticism of its failure to tackle hate speech against Rohingyas and other minorities in Myanmar, and has taken down some military pages, including that of Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the military. Numerous official military Facebook pages still exist, including some with the official Facebook blue tick, Burma Campaign UK said.

DoE demolishes two illegal brick kilns

The Department of Environment yesterday demolished two illegal brick kilns set up on the banks of Turag river in Savar and fined one of them Tk 20

DoE Executive Magistrate Tamzid Ahmed conducted the eviction drive at 12pm near Ashulia Bazar.

The fine was imposed on Raju Bricks, said Tamzid, adding that 5 owner of another kiln -- AAB Bricks -- Ö managed to flee during the drive. A case will be filed against the AAB

owner, he said. The brick kilns of both the

companies were fully demolished, Rajib, assistant director (Dhaka



said the executive magistrate. Mossabber Hossen Mohammed

district) of DoE, fire service officials, police and Rab members were also present during the daylong drive.

Rohingya

Bangladesh gave several proposals to Myanmar for building trust among the Rohingyas in this regard, including visit of Myanmar officials and leaders to the refugee camps, the

"They came once, and faced so many questions from the refugees that they did not come again," he informed.

The minister said, "We asked them for arranging visit of Rohingya leaders in Myanmar to monitor the current situation but the Myanmar side didn't reply."

Bangladesh also proposed Myanmar for arranging stay of non-military civilian observers from their friendly countries like Asean in Rakhine state so that the refugees are ensured

of security but they are yet to take that step, he added. The minister expressed hope that Bangladesh can solve

the problem through discussion. He also criticised big powers like the US, the UK, South Korea for increasing trade with Myanmar. "They say they stand for human rights. But they keep doing business with a country where human rights have been violated and a genocide was committed," he said.

Among others, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Noufel, local bangla daily Suprobhat Bangladesh Editor Rusho Mahmud spoke at the programme, chaired by Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University Dr Shireen Akhter.

ACC summons

Besides, they misappropriated Tk 60 crore loan sanctioned to two companies, he said.

Last week, ACC summoned seven persons including former chairman and a director of People's Leasing to appear before it today and tomorrow, to face questioning over embezzlement of over Tk 3,500 crore from the

Halder came to limelight during anti-casino drives in 2019. ACC launched an investigation into the involvement of 43 people, including him, in the illegal

ACC on January 8 last year filed a case against Halder on charges of illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 275 crore. In connection with the graft case, ACC arrested Shankha

Bepari, an associate of Halder on January 4. The following day, the High Court (HC) issued a travel ban against 25 accomplices of Halder, including his

mother Lilaboti Halder. In the last week of December, ACC seized Halder's two flats and six acres of immovable property, following a court

Halder allegedly laundered over Tk 10,000 crore of four non-banking financial institutions. Several enquiries against him are now pending with the ACC.

Four arrested for duping job seekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab claimed to have arrested four members of a fraud gang from Ashulia area on charge of deceiving job seekers with promise of employment in their name-only company.

On information, a team of Rab carried out a raid at Tanha Associates Limited around 3:30pm on Saturday and arrested the four, said Mozammel Haque, commanding officer of Rab-4.

The arrestees are: Sabuz Kazi (33), Shaon Moholder (20), Mahbub Alam (45), and Amirul Islam (24)

The Rab team also found 15 cheated job seekers in the office and recovered 200 registration forms, 100 job advertisements and 30 appointment letters.

Mozammel said the gang used to rent offices in different areas of Dhaka and published job circulars in newspapers to attract unemployed persons with the prospect of high salary.

They used to demand money from job seekers as a prerequisite to join the company. After getting the money, they used to issue appointment letters, but they would disappear -- closing their office after some days.

Ministry removes

Ramzan was project director of the Khulna-Mongla Rail Link Project before he was given charge of the "Construction of Dual Gauge Double Line and Conversion of Existing Rail Line into Dual Gauge Between Akhaura-Laksham", a few

Earlier, he served as chief engineer (west) of BR.

In the corruption case filed by ACC's Deputy Director Abu Bakar Siddiqui on August 16, Ramzan was mentioned as project director of the Khulna-Mongla Rail Link Project. Railway sources said the PMO asked the railways ministry to remove him from the project in the last week of September.

Following the directives, the railways ministry in mid-October sent a letter to the Director General of BR asking him to submit a proposal for appointing a new project director for the Akĥaura-Laksham project.

BR is implementing the Akhaura-Laksham Project at a cost of Tk 6,504.54 crore under an Asian Development Bank loan while the Tk 3,801.61 crore Khulna-Mongla Rail Link Project is being implemented under Indian Lines of

When The Daily Star ran a report on October 20 over the railways ministry's directive to change the project director, Ramzan Ali had sent a rejoinder claiming that some people were conspiring against him and he was not involved with any corruption.

IP leader Tito no more

STAR REPORT

Khaledur Rahman Tito, a veteran politician and former state minister of Jatiya Party, died at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Jashore yesterday. He was 75.

Maj Gen (retd) Dr Nasir Uddin, lawmaker of Jashore-2 constituency, confirmed the matter.

Tito was admitted to the CMH with lung infection three days ago, said his son

Khalid Hasan Jius. his condition As deteriorated, he was put on

life support, he added Tito was born on March

1, 1945 in Kolkata.

He will be buried at Karbala graveyard after a janaza at Jashore Eidgah

after Zohr prayers today.

IGP seeks stay

Chowdhury appeared for the four police

Following a writ petition filed by Law and Life Foundation, a rights organisation, the HC on December 31 last year, declared the arrest and detention of Arman illegal and contradictory to his fundamental and human rights, and asked the authorities concerned of the government to immediately release him from Dhaka central jail.

The HC also directed the IGP to give Tk 20 lakh as compensation to Md Arman in 30 days after receiving the copy of the verdict and ordered the IGP and DMP commissioner to withdraw the four police

The IGP and DMP commissioner have been asked to submit separate reports to the HC by February 14, 2021.

The HC also ordered Police Bureau of Investigation to conduct an inquiry into the incident and submit a probe report by April 11, 2021.

Writ petitioner's lawyer Humayun Kabir Pallab said police reportedly arrested Arman in a drug case in January 2016 instead of the original accused named Shahabuddin Bihari.

Both their fathers' names are Md Yeasin. The detention of Arman is like that of jute mill worker Jaha Alam, who was released from jail following a HC directive, lawyer Pallab added.

Protecting

FROM PAGE 3

In light of Section 5 of the Act, no right shall be acquired in or over reserved forestland, except by succession or under a grant or contract in writing made or entered into by or on behalf of the government or some person in whom such a right was vested.

The section also provides that no fresh clearings for cultivation or any other purpose shall be made in such land except in accordance with such rules as may be made by the government in this regard.

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Bangabandhu's homecoming

शिया शिया

Airport, Chattogram, Bangladesh on turnkey basis.

Ministry/Division

Procuring entity name

Procuring entity district

10 Budget and source of funds
11 Development partner (if app

Tender package No.

Tender package name

Invitation for tender Ref. No

Tender publication date

Tender closing date and tin

Tender opening date and time

-Selling tender document (principa

Selling tender document (others)

Opening tender document

Brief description of works

Lot No

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

12 Project/programme code (if applicable)

ner (if applicabl

Procuring entity code

Invitation Ref No

Invitation fo

KEY INFORMATION

FUNDING INFORMATION

11 Development partner
PARTICULAR INFORMATION

Pakistan army arrested Bangabandhu from his Dhanmondi residence and sent him to a West Pakistani jail the following day.

Bangabandhu was subjected to inhuman torture in the Pakistan jail where he had been counting moments for the execution of his death sentence that was pronounced in a farcical trial.

"I was a prisoner in the condemned cell awaiting hanging. From the day I went into jail, I didn't know whether I was to live or not. I was mentally ready to die. But I knew Bangladesh would be liberated," Bangabandhu spoke emotionally about his ordeal in Pakistani prison at a news

conference in London. On the Pakistani army's slaughter of Bengalis, Mujib declared, "If Hitler could have been alive today, he would be ashamed."

Earlier on March 26 in 1971, Bangabandhu proclaimed independence of Bangladesh and urged people from all walks of life to participate wholeheartedly in the nation's War of Liberation.

website

and

Immediately after the proclamation of independence, Bangabandhu was arrested by Pakistani military junta and then flown to West Pakistan to keep him in prison there.

Though the final victory in the ninemonth-long Liberation War was achieved defeating Pakistani occupation forces on December 16 in 1971, the nation's expectations were fulfilled and the people got the real taste of victory with the homecoming of Bangabandhu on January

On reaching the capital's Tejgaon airport in the afternoon on January 10, Bangabandhu was greeted by tens of thousands of jubilant people who had been eagerly waiting to see their beloved leader since the final victory on December 16 in 1971.

From airport, Bangabandhu was moved to the Racecourse Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) where he addressed a spontaneous reception accorded to him by the cheerful countrymen believed to be one million.

He recalled with respect the contribution of all during the war and urged the people to rebuild the war-ravaged country.

Padma Oil Company Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

Installation of Jet A-1 Underground Pipeline from Main Installation of Padma Oil Company Limited, Guptakhal, Chattogram to Shah Amanat Internationa

Not used at present.

Own source of company.

Chattogram.

Energy and Mineral Resources Division Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)

Padma Oil Company Limited.

PD/Capex (DPP)/F-857/P-100/20-

Chattogram, Bangladesh on turnkey basis.

28.22.0000.857.06.012.17/25

23/02/2021 up to 1400 hrs

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

24/02/2021

Jet A-1 Pipeline from MI to Shah Amanat International Airport, Chattogram

a) Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram.

Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

Online meeting on ZOOM, (ZOOM meeting ID and

passcode will be intimated to the bidders who will

design which will be certified by an accredited inspector

Installation of Jet A-1 Underground Pipeline from Main Installation of Padma Oil

Company Limited, Guptakhal, Chattogram to Shah Amanat International Airport,

02:30pm 03:00pm

b) DGM (Dhaka)'s Office, BTMC Bhaban (10th Floor), 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

(a) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 10 years of overall experience in the role of contractor are as furnished below:

) The tenderer must have been involved in liquid hydrocarbon cross country

underground pipeline construction.
ii) The tenderer must have an in-house multi-disciplinary Engineering Team to do the

iii) The tenderer must declare that it is familiar with all the standards of ASME and all the relevant standards of EI and API which will be strictly applied in design,

construction and commissioning.

(b) The minimum specific experience as a Contractor in similar to the work shall be at least 01 (one) contract of installation of minimum 5.0 km long of minimum 8" dia

underground liquid hydrocarbon cross country/ Jet A-1 pipeline including pipeline

operating PLC, SCADA control system on turnkey basis successfully completed within the last 10 years with a value of at least Tk 235 million or equivalent USD 2.76 million.

(c) The required average annual turnover shall be greater than BDT 450 million or equivalent USD 5.20 million within the best three (3) years in the last five (5) years.

Supply, installation, testing, pre-commissioning and commissioning of underground Jet A-1 Pipeline from Main Installation of POCL to Shah Amanat International Airport including Cathodic protection, Leak detection, SCADA & PLC, HDD, Pump-motor set

with MCC. Construction of two (02) Nos. 100kl Petroleum Storage Tank with Auto

Tender security amount in

Taka

BDT 9 (nine) million or

equivalent 10,5000.00 USD

(d) The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facili tenderer shall be BDT 240 million or equivalent USD 2.82 million.

পুরাতন গাড়ী বিক্রির নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকের নিম্নেবর্ণিত পুরাতন গাড়ীসমূহ "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে বিক্রির উদ্দেশ্যে আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে আগামী ২৪.০১.২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে বা তার পূর্বে ২৬, দিলকুশা, বা/এ, ঢাকায় অবস্থিত অত্র ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে সংস্থাপন বিভাগে (১৩তম তলা) রক্ষিত টেভার বাব্সে দরপত্র দাখিলের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্রম	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর	গাড়ীর বিবরণ	তৈরীর সাল	সিসি
2	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-ঘ-১৩-৩৯৯০	মিটসুবিশি আউটল্যান্ডার জীপ (CW4W5402985)	২০১০	४ ८८८
২	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-চ-৫৩-৮১৭৭	টয়োটা মাইক্রোবাস (S402M-0002332)	২০০৮	\$600
9	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-চ-৫৪-১০৩৫	টয়োটা মাইক্রোবাস (KR42)	বর্তন	2200
8	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-গ-৩২-১৩৮৭	টয়োটা এ্যাক্সিও জি কার (NZE161)	२०১८	\$600

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ক্রমিক জেলার নাম

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তারিখঃ ০৫/০১/২০২১খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র দাখিলের

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৩/২০২০-২১ (প্রথমবার) বিভিন্ন উৎসের বনজদ্রব্য বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিভিন্ন বিভাগ/দপ্তর/সংস্থার উন্নয়নমূলক কাজের স্বার্থে অপসারণ কল্পে এবং বাগানের আবর্তকাল পর্ণ হওয়ায় এ বন বিভাগ এর আওতায় বিভিন্ন রেঞ্জ/এসএফএনটিসির অধীনে বিভিন্ন সনে সঞ্জিত উডলট, কমিবন ও স্ট্রীপ বাগানের দভায়মান মার্কাকৃত খাড়াগাছ/আহরিত/অবিক্রিত লট সমূহের বনজ্দ্রব্য বিক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্রের শর্ত মোতাবেক প্রকৃত কাঠ/বাঁশ ব্যবসায়ী/বৈধ 'স' মিলের মালিক/বৈধ ফার্নিচার মার্ট মালিক/উপকারভোগী গ্রুপ এর নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকত বন্ধ খামে নির্ধারিত সিডিউল ফরমে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাছে;। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয় অফিস চলাকালীন (সরকারি ও সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় এবং এ বন বিভাগের আওতাধীন সকল রেঞ্চ/এসএফএনটিসির কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।

বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, রংপুর বিভাগ, রংপুর/বন সংরক্ষক, সামাজিক বন অঞ্চল, বগুড়া/জেলা প্রশাসক, রংপুর/নীলফামারী/লালমনিরহাট/ কুড়িগ্রাম/গাইবান্ধা এর কার্যালয়ে এবং নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্কে ধার্যকৃত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। তবে দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান পরিবর্তন, সময় কমানো বা বাড়ানোর এখতিয়ার নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর থাকবে। করোনা ভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) প্রাদুর্ভাব প্রতিরোধে সরকারি নির্দেশাবলী প্রতিপালন করে দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত কার্যক্রম চলমান রাখার স্বার্থে নিম্নোক্ত উল্লেখিত জেলার পার্থে লিখিত রেঞ্জ/এসএফএনটিসির বনজ্দ্রব্য বিক্রয়ের জন্য ছকে উল্লেখিত তারিখে দরপত্রের সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও দরপত্র সমূহ গ্রহণ করা হবে।

দরপত্র সিডিউল

	নং		এসএফএনটিসির অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন বনজ্রদ্রব্য বিক্রয় করা হবে	বিক্রয়ের স্থান, তারিখ ও সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র বাক্স স্থাপন করে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে	তারিখ ও সময়	স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়
1	۵	২	9	8	Œ	৬	٩
	0)	রংপুর/ গাইবাদ্ধা/ নীলফামারী	রঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, সদর রঞ্জ রংপুর/ মিঠাপুকুর/ ভোমার রেঞ্জ ও ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, আলমনগর/ নীলফামারী/ সৈয়দপুর/ গাইবান্ধা সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র।	রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, সদর রেঞ্জ রংপুর/ মিঠাপুকুর/ভোমার রেঞ্জ ও ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, আলমনগর/ নীলফামারী/ সেয়দপুর/গাইবাদ্ধা সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র। দরপত্র সিউউল ২৬/০১/২০২১খিঃ (সরকারি ও সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যস্ত ক্রয় বাবে। প্রতিটি সিউউলের বিক্রয় মূল্য ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা মাত্র	বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, রংপুর/বন সংরক্ষক, সামাজিক বন অঞ্চল, বগুড়া/ জেলা প্রশাসক, রংপুর/গাইবাদ্ধ/ নীলফামারী এবং নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়।	ও ২৭/০১/২০২১খ্রিঃ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ।	বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, রংপুর এর কার্যালয়, তাং- ২৭/০১/২০২১খিঃ। সময়ঃ বিকেল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
	०२	কুড়িগ্রাম/ু	ভারপ্রাপ্ত	(অফেরতযোগ্য)। রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা,	বিভাগীয়	০২/০২/২০২১খ্রিঃ	বিভাগীয় বন
		লালমনিরহাট	কর্মকর্তা, লালমনিরহাট/ কুড়িগ্রাম/ চিলমারী সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র।	সদর রেঞ্জ রংপুর/ ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, লালমনিরহাট/ কৃড়িগ্রাম/চিলমারী সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র। দরপত্র সিডিউল ০১/০২/২০২১খ্রিঃ (সরকারি ও সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যস্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে। প্রতিটি সিডিউলের বিক্রয় মূল্য ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।	কমিশনার, রংপুর/বন সংরক্ষক, সামাজিক বন অঞ্চল, বগুড়া/ জেলা প্রশাসক, লালমনিরহাট/ কুড়িগ্রাম এবং নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়।	স্কাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	কর্মকর্তা, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, রংপুর এর কার্যালয়, তাং- ০২/০২/২০২১খিঃ। সময়ঃ বিকেল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।

মোঃ মতলুবুর রহমান পরিচিতি নং-১৩২৪৩ বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা ফোন নং-০৫২১-৬২০৯৭ e-mail: dforangpur@gmail.com

Join The Leaders

Position Vacancy Announcement

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi

nationals for the position of Project Management Assistant

(Health) in the Office of Population, Health, Nutrition & Education

Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application

For a complete job description, required qualifications and

detailed information on how to apply please visit

http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers

Position: Project Management Assistant (Health), FSN-09

Bangladesh and a concern of Kazi Farms Group. Currently, we are operating with three brands - Bellissimo Premium Ice Cream, Za `n Zee Ice Cream and Kazi Farms Kitchen frozen food. To support our winning team, we ar seeking applications for the following posi

: Deputy General Manager – Sales (Bakery Products, Flour & Spices)

Job Location Dhaka MBA/Masters in Marketing/Management from reputed university Minimum 10 – 12 years in which at least 3 years in AGM position

preferably at companies selling bakery products, flour and spices **Key Responsibilities:** · Accomplish national sales objectives by recruiting and training sales representa-

tives (SRs) and assigning them to appropriate territories Meet national sales financial objectives by forecasting requirements; preparin an annual budget; scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances and initiating

· Identify emerging markets and market shifts while being fully aware of new products and competition status

• Appoint new distributors, develop retail sales channel and manage them efficiently to ensure expected sales volume

· Make a sales plan with targets and rewards for salesmen and distributors to maximize sales and minimize credit · Ensure stock placement in all outlets and monitor efficient delivery-collection • Team up with the product development departments in creating product

conducting trend analysis, and ensuring that these are aligned to support and drive sales and conversion.

The post holder will be expected to: Have effective written and oral communication skills, and display initiatives

· Form large team from scratch and lead from front · Work under pressure and to travel extensively to different parts of Bangladesh

Emolument: Depending upon the qualification, experience and profile of the candidate, remuneration will be competitive. Candidates meeting above mentioned criteria are requested to send complete CV with recent photgraph within January 21, 2021 to jobs@kazifarms.com.

Position applied for must be mentioned in the subject-line of the email kazifarms sysnova (Rezi Farms













Identification of lot

N/A

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS 31 Name of official inviting tender 32 Designation of official inviting tender Project Director. Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
Telephone: +88 031 617318, Fax: 88031618312, e-mail: sobhanpocl@gmail.com Address of official inviting tender Contact details of official inviting tender 35 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without showing any reason

Location

Chattogram, Bangladesh

Gauging System.

"সবাই মিলে গড়বো দেশ, দুর্নীতিমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ।" (৯˝×৩)

Sifat Murder 4 accused sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Panchagarh yesterday sent four people to jail in connection with a case for killing a college boy in Panchagarh's Atwary upazila for ransom a week

Earlier on Saturday, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-13) recovered the body of Fahid Hasan Sifat, 18, son of Safiqul Islam of Chotodap village, from a cropland near his house, four days after he went missing on Monday, Sub Inspector (SI) of Atwary Station Dipen Police Chandra Roy said.

Later in the same night, a team of Rab-13 raided the village and arrested Motiur Rahman, 19, his father Mokhlesar Rahman, mother Moyna Begum, and cousin Limon, Sifat's father filed a case with Atwary Police Station accusing the four.

According to the case neighbour statement, Motiur, a first year student of Management Department at Panchagarh Makbular Rahman Government College, called Sifat, a second-year student at Dinajpur Adarsha College, out of his house on Monday night and took him to a cropland, about 250 yards from their houses.

Motiur later strangled Sifat to death and buried the body there.

After the murder, Motiur called Shafiqul and demanded Tk 1.5 lakh ransom for his son's release, the SI said, adding that Shafiqul instantly paid him Tk 8,000 through a bkash



Braving extreme cold temperatures, an elderly farm worker clears weeds in a crop field in Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Kurigram, Lalmonirhat shivering in cold

Our Correspondent, Lalmonirhat

Extreme cold in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat over the past several days has been forcing farmers and agricultural workers to stay inside their homes.

The cold has brought day-to-day activities to an almost standstill in the region, especially in villages along the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers as well as in river islands or chars.

Unable to work out in the cold, low-income daily wage earners including agricultural workers, who cannot afford to buy warm clothes, have been suffering the

After almost a week of near-freezing temperatures, the lowest temperature was 8.8 degrees

Many of them have been trying to keep warm around fires made by burning dry straws or leaves.

Celsius yesterday.

Farmer Mansur Uddin, from Durakuti village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said last Saturday morning, when he and others went in the crop field to work, it was so

home without doing any work. The cold started to numb his

hands and legs after he stayed outside for a little while, he added. However, farm labourer Nabir

Hossain, from Shimulbari village in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila, had continued to work in the fields despite the cold.

Since it is not possible to work outside every day in such cold, many of them have started to work on contract, rather than on daily wage, he said, adding that hot or cold, many workers like him have no other option but to work in the field to make ends meet.

After almost a week of near-

cold that they had to rush back freezing temperatures, the lowest temperature rose to 8.8 degrees Celsius yesterday, according to meteorological office in Rajarhat of Kurigram.

Another day labourer, Mokhlesa Bewa, also from Shimulbari village, said she has been spending most of her days near fires built with dry leaves these days, as she does not have any winter clothes to fight the biting cold.

Farmers might suffer losses and crops might get damaged if workers are unable to work in the crop fields due to the extreme cold, said Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Lalmonirhat.

Missing schoolgirl's body recovered Our Correspondent, Faridpur

Madaripur Detective Branch (DB) of Police on Saturday night recovered the decomposed body of a schoolgirl from a septic tank in Kalkini upazila, after nearly 11 months of her missing in February last year.

The victim, Murshida Akhter, 17, was daughter of Chan Mia Hawladar of Purba Boltla village in the upazila.

Sub Inspector of Madaripur DB police Torikul Islam said, based on confessional statement given by one Shahabuddin Akon, 25, son of Majid Akon of the village, they recovered Murshida's body from the septic tank at Shahabuddin's house around 11:00 pm on Saturday.

According to the case statement, following a love affair the marriage of Shahabuddin and Murshida was fixed last year. Murshida left home to visit a doctor on February 17, 2020, and remained missing since then.

Failing to trace Murshida's whereabouts for long, her mother Mahinur Begum first filed a general dairy (GD) with Dasar Police Station on February 19 and later filed an abduction case against five people including Shahabuddin on March 4 the same year.

Meanwhile, due to slow progress Madaripur police transferred the case to DB police on December 16.

On December 31, Shahabuddin surrendered before a court that sent him to jail.

Later, the court granted a two-day remand for Shahabuddin after DB police applied for the remand.

During interrogation, Shahabuddin confessed that he killed Murshida and dumped her body in the septic tank of

After two hours of frantic effort DB police recovered Murshida's decomposed body around 9:00pm on Saturday, police said, adding that also recovered a burga and a vanity bag from the tank.

College boy stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Unidentified criminals stabbed a college student to death in

Habiganj's Baniachong upazila on Saturday night. The deceased, Tanvir Ahmed, 20, was son of Majid Mia of

Boroiuri village in the upazila. Being informed by the villagers, police recovered the body and sent it to Habiganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy, Officer in Charge of Baniachong Police Station Emran Hossain said, adding that his body bore several marks of injury.

Quoting the victim's father, police said an identified gang waylaid Tanvir while he was returning home from a local bazar around 10:00pm and hacked him indiscriminately

with sharp weapon, leaving him dead on the spot. Majid also alleged that there had been a longstanding feud between his family and one of his neighbours.

His son might have been killed over the feud, he added.

Registration likely to begin Jan 21 PROM PAGE 1 The user

Star yesterdav.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will hold a press conference at the Secretariat at 2:00pm to reveal the vaccine deployment plan and details of the Surokkha app.
Contacted, Prof Meerjady Sabrina

Flora, additional director general of DGHS, said the app is in the final stage of development.

"We may allow people to register in phases. If more people start registering on the app, it may create a huge load

it will be kept open for registration in other diseases.

How will the app work?

Applicants have to download and use the app or visit the website, where they will have to choose the relevant category from around 19 categories of professions, according to ICT department sources.

After that, the user has to input their NID number and date of birth.

The app will then automatically fill in other details, collecting information from the NID database.

The applicant has to give details of their medical history -- whether they have diabetes, cancer, hypertension, or

The user also has to input their present address and mobile phone number and they will then get an OTP (One-Time Password) sent to their phone.

After entering the OTP, a vaccine card will be generated, which will mention where and when the person will be vaccinated with the first and second dose.

After both doses, a certificate will be given that the person has received the vid-19 vaccine.

Immigration and various embassies will also be able to verify through a web portal whether a person has been

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Bogura www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No.: 46.02.1000.000.14.044.21.25

e-Tender Notice No:13/2020-21

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works

SI. No	Tender Proposal ID & Upazila	Name of the Scheme with Package No	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	534089 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a)Improvement of Madla - Nondhogram road Ch. 180-920m b) Construction of 2-Nos culvert 0.625x0.600m at Ch. 343 & 390m. Road ld 110964012 under Shajahanpur Upazila District: Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-11)	26/01/2021 Up to 17.00 PM	27/01/2021 Up to 13.00 PM
2	534090 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a. Improvement of Bogura-Dhaka NHW-Naimile Tenga magure road Ch. 00-500m.b. Construction of 3-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 249m 350m 450m & 1-Nos culvert at 0.300mx0.300m at Ch. 160m. Road Id.110964049 (SalvageValue BDT:79287.00) under Shajahanpur Upazila District: Bogura.(Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-12)		
3	534091 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a)Improvement of Dhakkin Domonpukur village road Ch. 00-500m Road ID 110965025 .b. Construction of 1-Nos culvert 0.450mx0.450m at Ch. 270m.Road ID 110965025 (Salvage Value BDT: 179073.00) under Shajahanpur Upazila District : Bogura . (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-13)		
4	534092 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a). Improvement of Aria UP-Ramnagar Hat (Shajahanpur Portion) road Ch. 8400-9400m b). Construction of 5-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 8745m, 8930m, 9002m, 9050m & 9240m.Road Id 110963002(Salvage Value BDT: 3975.00) under Shajahanpur Upazila, District: Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-14)		
5	534093 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a) Improvement of Rupihar-Kapasuri road Ch. 00-1000m Road b) Construction of 8-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 260m, 520m, 630m, 690m, 792m, 860m, 970m & 984m. Road Id 110964009 (Salvage Value BDT : 7,56,772.00) under Shajahanpur Upazila, District: Bogura.(Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-15)		
6	534094 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a)Improvement of Jalsuka Police Box-Chandai road Ch. 00-500m Road Id 110965100 under Shajahanpur Upazila District Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-16)		
7	534095 (LTM) Shajahnpur	a)Improvement of Kharna Hat-Fakirpara Nazipur High School road Ch. 1000-1500m b) Construction of 3-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 1250m, 1495m & 1400m.Road Id 110964096 (Salvage Value BDT: 97,303.00) under Shajahanpur Upazila, District: Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-17)		
8	534096 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a). Improvement of Bogura Dhaka NHW-Naimile Tenga magure road Ch. 500-3000m Road Id 110964049 b). Construction of 6-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 650m, 1020m, 1312m, 2775m, 2930m & 3000m. c). Construction of 4-Nos culvert 0.300mx0.450m at Ch. 1000m, 2240m, 2520m & 2865m.Road Id 110964049 (SalvageValue BDT: 4,32,976.00) under Shajahanpur Upazila, District: Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-18)		
9	534097 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a). Improvement of Aria U.P (Katabari)- Omardighi Hat road Ch. 3700-4700m Road b). Construction of 2-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 3753m & 4000m. c). Construction of 3-Nos culvert 0.300mx0.450m at Ch. 4070m, 4299m & 4397m.Road Id 110963009 (Salvage Value BDT: 59,960.00.) under Shajahanpur Upazila, District: Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-19)		
10	534098 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a)Improvement of Aria U.P (Katabari)- Omardighi Hat road Ch. 4700-5700m Road b). Construction of 4-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 5178m, 5447m, 5545m & 5660m. Road ld 110963009 under Shajahanpur Upazila, District: Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-20)		
11	534099 (LTM) Shajahanpur	a)Improvement of Lakkhikola-Narillah road Ch. 1450-1950m b) Construction of 2-Nos culvert 0.625mx0.600m at Ch. 1685m & 1800m.Road Id 110964013 (Salvage Value BDT: 30,397.00) under Shajahanpur Upazila, District: Bogura. (Package No: IRIDP-3/BOG/DW-21)		
12	533463 (LTM) Dhunot	Rehabilitation of Anarpur-Par Dhunat Road from Ch:00-1400m Road [ID# 110274011] Under Dhunat Upazila, District: Bogura. (Package No: LGED/Bog/VRRP/Re-hab/20-21/W-1513)		
13	529072 (LTM) Shibganj	Emergency Maintenance of 01 No. 3mx3m RCC Box Culvert at Ch. 341m on Tapagori-Achilay Road [Road ID # 110945040] Under Shibganj Upazila District Bogura. (Package No: E-Tender/LGED/Bogu/GOBM/20-21/W-93)		
14	529071 (OSTETM) Shibganj	a)Construction of 18.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Deauli UP to Boriahat via Gangnagor road at Ch.6920.00m. b) Bridge Approch road [Road ID # 110943008]. Under Shibgonj Upazila District Bogura. (Package No: RDRIDP/Bog/Shibgonj-Bridge-03/20-21)	09/02/2021 Up to 17.00 PM	10/02/2021 Up to 13.00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline / hard copies Will be accepted.To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 17.00 PM on 26/01/2021 Tender ID 534089-99, 533463, 529072 and 17.00 PM on 09/02/2021 Tender ID

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) and also for e-mail: xen.bogra@lged.gov.bd or call to: 051-60096. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

> (Md. Golam Morshed) Executive Engineer LGED, Bogura e-mail: xen.bogura@lged.gov.bd

Homecoming speech had guidelines

Whatever he said he uttered from his

heart," she said. She said this while presiding over a discussion meeting virtually from her official residence the Gono Bhaban marking the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu

The Awami League (AL) organised the meeting from the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On this day (January 10) in 1972, Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the nation and supreme commander of the country's Liberation War, returned to the sacred soil of independent Bangladesh from London en via New Delhi after 290 days of captivity in Pakistan jail.

The prime minister called upon all her party leaders and activists, particularly the new generation, to rehear the speech of January 10 alongside the Historic March 7, 1971 address of Father of the Nation intake Vitamin C and D and other occasion.

In this connection, she said, "You will get everything by rehearing the speeches such as getting inspiration in

doing politics.' The prime minister simultaneously urged all the people to follow the health guidelines, including wearing masks and sanitising hands, to protect themselves and thus others from the

coronavirus. She also reminded all that Bangladesh was badly affected by the virus in March last year and this may repeat as the month of March is approaching.

Noting that her government has taken all the measures to bring coronavirus vaccines, she said, "The vaccine will come Insha'Allah. Despite the fact, we have to properly follow the health guidelines as we have been able to control the Covid-19 by maintaining the guidelines."

The premier also suggested all to

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur necessary foods to boost the immune

system to fight coronavirus. AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, gave a welcome address while its Publicity and Publication Secretary Abdus Sobhan Golap, moderated the meeting from

the Gono Bhaban end. AL Presidium Members Agriculture Minister Muhammad Razzaque, Ramesh Chandra Sen and Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, its Joint General Secretary Mahbu-bul Alam Hanif, Organising Secretaries Ahmed Hossain, BM Mozammel Haque and SM Kamal Hossain, Science and Technology Affairs Secretary Engineer Abdus Sabur and Health and Population Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana took part in the discussion.

Dhaka North and South City AL presidents and general secretaries Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, Abu Ahmed Mannafi, SM Mannan Kochi and Humayun Kabir also spoke on the

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

ভূমি ও ইমারত শাখা

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute Joydebpur, Gazipur-1701

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি Fax: 49270201 Tel: 94270077 PABX: 49270041-48

E-mail: se.building@bari.gov.bd Date: 10.01.2021

GD- 51

Memo no. 12.21.0000.010.41.468.20.462

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited Through National e-GP System Portal (http://:www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of following works

Sl	Tender	Tendering	Description of works	Online (e-GP	Online (e-GP
no	ID No.	Method		system) tender	system) tender
				publication date &	closing date &
				time	time
1.	531794	OTM	Repairing of Bituminous Road from Bithika Play	07-Jan-2021	25-Jan-2021
			Ground to FMPE at BARI Campus Gazipur	16:50	15:00
2.	531793	OTM	Repairing of Bituminous Road from Guest House	07-Jan-2021	25-Jan-2021
			to Graveyard Gate at BARI Campus Gazipur	16:50	14:30
3.	528010	OTM	Supplying Sanitary and Hardware goods for Repair	07-Jan-2021	25-Jan-2021
			& Maintenance of office and Residential area at	16:15	15:30
			BARI Joydebpur Gazipur		
4.	533754	LTM	Repairing & Renovation of Boundary wall	07-Jan-2021	24-Jan-2021
			attached to 53/Kha at BARI Gazipur.	16:00	14:30
5.	533774	LTM	Repairing of Submersible Pump Motor Set	07-Jan-2021	24-Jan-2021
			Vegetable Research Field Pump No. 03 at BARI	18:50	15:00
			Joydebpur Gazipur		

This is online tender, only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

Registration is essential to submit e-Tender.

Fees have to be deposited for downloading the tender documents from e-GP Portal through any registered bank. For further information please contact e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Ferozur Rahman Superintending Engineer (In-charge)

Pakistan hit by nationwide power blackout

NEWS IN BRIEF

Power was gradually being restored to major cities across Pakistan yesterday after it was hit by a massive electricity blackout, officials said. The electricity distribution system in the nation of more than 210 million people is a complex and delicate web, and a problem in one section of the grid can lead to cascading breakdowns countrywide. The latest blackout was caused by "an engineering fault" in southern Pakistan at 11:41 pm local time on Saturday, which tripped the system and caused power plants to shut down, power minister Omar Ayub Khan told a press conference in Islamabad. This was Pakistan's second major power breakdown in

SNP demands billions in 'Brexit compensation'

less than three years.

The pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) demanded on Sunday that Prime Minister Boris Johnson pay billions of pounds in compensation to Scotland for the mounting costs and disruption of Brexit. Brexit has strained the bonds that tie together the United Kingdom: England and Wales voted to leave but London, Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to stay. The SNP, which wants independence for Scotland and is pushing for a second referendum, said Scottish fishermen faced grave disruption due to Brexit. Johnson's Conservatives "must apologise to Scottish businesses and pay compensation to Scotland for the long-term damage they are doing to our economy - costing us billions in lost trade and growth," said lan Blackford, the SNP's leader in the British parliament.

Blast kills three in Kabul



An Afghan journalist-turned spokesman for the country's public protection force was killed along with two colleagues yesterday by a bomb targeting their vehicle, officials said. The murder of Zia Wadan, who previously worked for several media networks, appeared to be the latest in a series of targeted killings that have rocked Afghanistan, especially Kabul. Wadan and his colleagues were killed in morning rushhour traffic in an eastern part of the capital, interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian told reporters. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but President Ashraf Ghani blamed it on the Taliban.

Iran may expel UN nuclear inspectors: lawmaker

Iran will expel United Nations nuclear watchdog inspectors unless US sanctions are lifted by a Feb 21 deadline set by the hardline-dominated parliament, a lawmaker said on Saturday. Parliament passed a law in November that obliges the government to halt inspections of its nuclear sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency and step up uranium enrichment beyond the limit set under Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal if sanctions are not eased. Iran's Guardian Council watchdog

body approved the law on Dec. 2 and the government has said it will implement it. Iran said on Monday it had resumed 20% uranium enrichment at an underground nuclear facility, breaching the nuclear pact with major powers and possibly complicating efforts by US President-elect Joe Biden to rejoin the deal.



Counter-protesters spray pepper spray as they clash with people during a "Patriot March" demonstration in support of President Trump on January 9, 2021 in the Pacific Beach neighborhood of San Diego, California. As most Americans recoiled in horror at scenes of rioting and chaos in the US Capitol on Wednesday, which killed 5 people, some right-wing and antigovernment extremists saw the violence as the fulfillment of a patriotic duty or opportunity to advance their agenda. The mob's strike at the symbolic heart of the US government suggests that Trump's baseless claims of election fraud may have unified a broader coalition of extremists who could pose a threat again when Biden takes office on Jan 20 and into his fouryear term in office, experts said.

WARMING TIES WITH TAIWAN

US lifts curbs on communications

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he was lifting restrictions on contacts between US officials and their Taiwanese counterparts, a move likely to anger China and increase tensions between Beijing and Washington in the waning days of President Donald Trump's presidency.

China claims democratic and separately ruled Taiwan as its own territory, and regularly describes Taiwan as the most sensitive issue in its ties with the United States.

While the United States, like most countries, has no official relations with Taiwan, the Trump administration has ramped up backing for the island country, with arms sales and laws to help Taiwan deal with pressure from China. In a statement, Pompeo said that for several decades the

State Department had created complex internal restrictions on interactions with Taiwanese counterparts by American diplomats, service members and other officials. "The United States government took these actions

unilaterally, in an attempt to appease the Communist regime in Beijing," Pompeo said in a statement.

"Today I am announcing that I am lifting all of these selfimposed restrictions," he added.

The move appeared to be another part of an effort by Pompeo and Trump's Republican administration to lock in a tough approach to China before Democratic Presidentelect Joe Biden takes office on Jan 20.

Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, said examples of the restrictions included Taiwanese officials not being able to enter the State Department, but instead having to meet at hotels.

"The Biden administration will rightly be unhappy that a policy decision like this was made in the final days of the Trump administration," Glaser said.

An official with Biden's transition said that once Biden was in office he would continue to support "a peaceful resolution of cross-strait issues consistent with the wishes and best interests of the people of Taiwan."

Pence to attend Biden inauguration: reports

Mike Pence will attend the upcoming inauguration of Joe Biden, multiple media reports said Saturday, the vice president becoming the latest longtime loyalist to abandon an increasingly isolated President Donald Trump.

Relations between Trump and Pence -- previously one of the mercurial president's staunchest defenders -- have nosedived since Wednesday, when the vice president formally announced Biden's victory in November's election.

A mob of far-right demonstrators stormed the US Capitol the same day in a failed bid to stop Congress from certifying Biden's win, in a riot blamed on Trump that left five dead.

Multiple media reports on Saturday cited senior administration officials as saying that Pence -- who was forced to take shelter from the intruders during the riot -- had decided to attend Biden's inauguration on January 20. The president-elect earlier in the week said Pence would be welcome at his formal swearing-in, due to take place in a scaled-down format due to

the coronavirus. In his final tweet before being removed from Twitter on Friday, Trump said he would not attend the inauguration. The outgoing president has been accused of provoking Wednesday's violence, and now faces an

unprecedented second impeachment, expected to begin today House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned that Democrats would launch the process unless Trump resigned or Pence invoked the 25th Amendment, in which the cabinet removes the president from office.

While Pence has not spoken publicly on the subject, the New York Times reported Thursday he was against invoking the mechanism, never used before in US history. However CNN yesterday reported, citing a source close to the vice president, he hasn't ruled out the idea.

Invoking the 25th Amendment would require Pence and a majority of the Cabinet to vote to remove Trump from office due to his inability to Chinese city of Wuhan where wildlife "discharge the powers and duties of his office" -- an unprecedented step.

Trump could dispute their move with a letter to Congress. Pence and the Cabinet would then have four days to dispute him and Congress would then vote -- it requires a two-thirds supermajority, usually 67 senators and 290 House members to permanently remove him.

ONE YEAR SINCE FIRST REPORTED DEATH IN CHINA

Coronavirus source still a puzzle

It is the world's most pressing scientific puzzle, but experts warn there may never be conclusive answers over the source of the coronavirus, after an investigative effort marked from the start by disarray, Chinese secrecy and international rancour.

January 11 marks the anniversary of China confirming its first death from Covid-19, a 61-year-old man who was a regular at the now-notorious Wuhan wet market.

Nearly two million deaths later, the pandemic is out of control across much of the world, leaving tens of millions ill, a pulverised global economy and recriminations flying between nations.

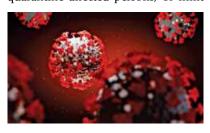
Yet China, which has broadly controlled the pandemic on its soil, is still frustrating independent attempts to trace the virus' origins and the central question of how it jumped from animals to humans.

There is little dispute that the virus which brought the world to its knees sparked its first known outbreak in late 2019 at a wet market in the central was sold as food, and the pathogen is believed to have originated in an undetermined bat species.

But the trail ends there, clouded by a mishmash of subsequent clues that

well as conspiracy theories -- amplified by US President Donald Trump -- that it leaked from a Wuhan lab.

Establishing the source is vital for extinguishing future outbreaks early, leading virologists say, providing clues that can guide policy decisions on whether to cull animal populations, quarantine affected persons, or limit



wildlife hunting and other humananimal interactions.

China won early kudos for reporting the virus and releasing its gene sequence in a timely manner, compared with its cover-up of the 2002-03 SARS outbreak.

But there has also been secrecy and shifting stories on Covid-19.

Daniel Lucey, a Georgetown University epidemiologist who closely trade that fosters a "combustible mix" tracks global outbreaks, said the Wuhan market might not even be the issue. He notes that the virus was

suggest its origins may predate Wuhan as by December 2019, indicating that it was in circulation much earlier.

> That's because it may take months or even years for a virus to develop the necessary mutations to become highly contagious among humans.

> Findings that the virus may have existed in Europe and Brazil before Wuhan's outbreak, added to the And it has kept foreign experts at

> arm's length, with a planned mission by World Health Organization virus sleuths now in limbo after China denied them entry. On Saturday, China reversed the decision.

> What the scientists will be allowed to see or may expect to find a year on is also in doubt.

Some researchers remain hopeful that the origin may still be found. But others are skeptical.

Diana Bell, a wildlife disease expert at the University of East Anglia who has studied the SARS virus, Ebola and other pathogens, said focusing on a particular origin species is misguided.

She says the overarching threat has already been exposed: a global wildlife of trafficked species, a known breeding ground for disease outbreaks.

"We need to stop the wildlife trade already spreading rapidly in Wuhan for human consumption."

Indonesian rescuers carry a body bag during the search for victims buried by landslides in Sumedang, West Java Province, Indonesia, yesterday. At least 11 people were killed and scores more were missing after torrential rains hit the region Saturday evening.

VACCINE FOR DEVELOPING, POOR COUNTRIES

UK helps to raise \$1 billion

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK has helped to raise \$1 billion for the coronavirus COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) through matchfunding other donors, which will help distribute one billion doses of coronavirus vaccines to 92 developing countries, including Bangladesh, this year.

UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) made the announcement yesterday, which coincides with a three-day virtual visit to London by the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, as part of the UK's commemoration of the UN's 75th anniversary.

In September, the UK had announced at the UN General Assembly that it would match every \$4 pledged to the COVAX AMC by other donors with £1 in UK funding, up to £250 million. Since then, other countries including Canada, Japan and Germany have committed funding to the scheme, reaching the landmark target. In total the UK has now contributed £548

million to the AMC.

In a statement yesterday, FCDO said this vital investment will help stop the spread of the disease and prevent future waves, helping to build back better from coronavirus globally.

"The UK is using our aid budget, scientific expertise and diplomatic leverage to strengthen global health," UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said.

He said over the last 75 years, the UK has played a leading role in supporting the UN and is working together to strengthen international collaboration to tackle today's biggest global challenges, from coronavirus to climate change.

Dominic Raab said: "It is fitting that, on the 75th anniversary of the UN, the UK has led with our allies to make one billion doses of coronavirus vaccine available to vulnerable countries.

'We'll only be safe from this virus, when we're all safe - which is why we're focused on a global solution to a global problem."

US agencies have 6 months to reveal UFO

secrets CNN ONLINE

When President Donald Trump signed the \$2.3 trillion coronavirus relief and government funding bill into law in December, so began the 180-day countdown for US intelligence agencies to tell Congress what they know about UFOs.

The director of National Intelligence and the secretary of defense have a little less than six months now to provide the congressional intelligence and armed services committees with an unclassified report about "unidentified aerial phenomena."

It's a stipulation that was tucked into the "committee comment" section of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, which was contained in the massive spending bill.

That report must contain detailed analyses of UFO data and intelligence collected by the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force and the FBI, according to the Senate intelligence committee's directive.

The Pentagon released three short videos in April of last year showing "unidentified aerial phenomena" -- clips that the US Navy had previously confirmed were real. It's still unclear what the objects are, and there's no consensus on their origin.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

College Education Development Project (CEDP) Shahid Smriti Govt. College, Muktagacha, Mymensingh www.gsscollege.gov.bd

E-mail: gsscollege_mukta@yahoo.com, shahidsmritigovtcollegecedp@gmail.com
Phone No. 09028-75216, Mobile: 01711221193

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.						
2	Agency	University Grants Commis						
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Shahid Smriti Govt. College, Muktagacha, Mymensingh.						
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.						
5	Procuring entity district	Mymensingh.						
6	Invitation for	Server Room & Washroon & Electrical Earthing & Wi	ms (Tiles, Sanitary, Angle A ring to support sub-station,	Almirah, Thais, Grill, Collapsible	sroom, Principal's Office, Vice Principal's Office, Gate, Thai, Paintings & Renovation of Bathrooms PABX, Internet Connecting lines etc.).			
7	Invitation Ref. No.	শসক/মু/সিইডিপি/২০২১/W-2/	/o\$					
8	Date	11-01-2021						
	FORMATION							
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method (N	Vational).					
	NG INFORMATION							
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Go						
11	Development partners	International Developmen	t Association (IDA), World	Bank.				
	CULAR INFORMATION							
12	Project code	224017200						
13	Project name	College Education Develo	pment Project (CEDP).					
14	Tender package No.	W-2.						
15	Tender package name	Server Room & Washroon & Electrical Earthing & Wi	ms (Tiles, Sanitary, Angle A	Almirah, Thais, Grill, Collapsible	sroom, Principal's Office, Vice Principal's Office, Gate, Thai, Paintings & Renovation of Bathrooms PABX, Internet Connecting lines etc.).			
16	Tender publication date	11-01-2021						
17	Tender last selling date	27/01/2021 Time 04.00pm						
18	Tender closing date and time	28/01/2021 Time 02.00pm						
19	Tender opening date and time	28/01/2021 Time 02.30pm						
	Name & address of the office		ge, Muktagacha, Mymensir					
20	Selling tender document		ge, Muktagacha, Mymensir					
	Receiving tender document	Shahid Smriti Govt. College, Muktagacha, Mymensingh.						
	Opening tender document	Shahid Smriti Govt. Colleg	ge, Muktagacha, Mymensir	igh.				
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Will not be held.						
INFOR	MATION FOR TENDERER							
22	Eligibility of tenderer	1. The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor shall be 03 (three) years. 2. The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of construction/extension/refurbishment of building work of minimum BDT 35,00,000.00 (thirty-five lac) only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. 3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 70,00,000.00 (seventy lac) only over the last 03 years. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be BDT 36,00,000.00 (thirty-six lac) only.						
23	Brief description of goods or works			le Gate, Thai, Paintings & Renov er, PABX, Internet Connecting lir	ration of Bathrooms & Electrical Earthing & Wiring nes etc.			
24	Brief description of related services		n accordance with Section of the tender docu		act, Section 6: Schedule of Requirements and			
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousa	and five hundred).					
	Tender name	Loca		Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months			
26	Renovation and Refurbishment of Conference Room, Department, Library, Classroom, Principal's Office, Vice Principal's Office, Server Room & Washrooms	nent, Library, Mymensingh Office, Vice		1,20,000.00	2 (two) months			
27	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Md. Idris Ali, IDG Manager & Principal, Shahid Smriti Govt. College, Muktagacha, Mymensingh.						
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal, Shahid Smriti Govt. College, Muktagacha, Mymensingh.						
29	Address of official inviting tender	Principal, Shahid Smriti Govt. College, Muktagacha, Mymensingh.						
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 09028 75216	Mob: 01711-221193	E-mail: gsscollege_mukta(

Professor Md. Idris Ali

IDG Manager & Principal Shahid Smriti Govt. College

Muktagacha, Mymensing

Star infocus@thedailystar.net

History of the Greek community in Dhaka

Glimpses of the Greek community from the Dhaka University gravestones

HELEN ABADZI

The Monument

A small yellow building that looks a little like a Greek temple faces the campus wall near the Teacher-Student Center of Dhaka University. It looks old and was in very bad state until the 1960s, when university authorities renovated it. A mysterious inscription is written on the frieze above the entrance to the building.

Many students and professors over the years have passed by this small building and wondered what the strange letters said. Those who peeped inside the usually locked gates and behind the furniture that is often stashed there, saw several plaques with inscriptions and wondered what they were. This article solves the mystery. It provides translations of the inscriptions and makes some inferences about the people commemorated there and their families.

The Inscriptions and Translations

On the frieze of the front entrance, facing the Nazrul Islam avenue, it is written in capital Greek letters:

"Happy are those whom you chose and took with you."

Without seeing the inscriptions inside, a reader of ancient Greek might think that the happy ones are the students admitted to the university! However, the inscription was carved long before students starting strolling casually by the little building. It refers to the nine gravestones which are embedded in the walls. Four are written in Greek, four in English, and one is in both languages. They belong to Greek families who lived in Dhaka 150-200 years ago.

Counterclockwise, the nine gravestones have the following inscriptions in Greek, English, or sometimes in both.

Gravestone 1 (bilingual inscription)

Here lies Sultana, wife of Alexander [son of] Kyriakos Philippou Politou (or Philippou from Istanbul); 1800; January 25 [by the Julian calendar]. Paid the common debt in Dacca. [Greek language]

Under this stone are deposited the mortal

hurgeze_ cumnu honga will never [emphatic] become less churcha ahe ruhaga there will be talk of sighs [my pain] ufsose humnu honga it is sad [emphatic] that I will not be there

Erected by his sincere friend, Basil Demetrius, in 1859

Gravestone 5: (Greek, ornate stone centrally

located)

Here lies the late Jacob Essai Iakoboglous, from Caesarea; died 1819, June 22 and was 48 years old. The one who sees this stone from above, God, may he forgive him.

Gravestone 6 (English)

Sacred to the memory of Basil Demetrius, Clerk, St. Thomas Church. Born 5th Sept. 1800. He faithfully served as Commissariat Assistant IX [9] Years, Writing Master & Teacher in the Dacca College X [10] Years, Clerk in St. Thomas Church Dacca XL [40] Years.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God

Matthew V.8 MDCCCLX [1860] Gravestone 7 (Greek)

This is the grave of Father Nathaniel; holy and saintly, preaching about Jesus through word and life. Second appeared Thomas priest in the inimitable happy Dhaka. And at the same time, his fatherland was Sifnos [an Aegean island], where he saw the light in 1736. The [date in] which he died was 1810, March 12. Happy is the one who by paying homage

Gravestone 8: (Greek)

respects.

The husband-loving woman who has not forgotten her husband's affection has erected this sign as an indication of her everlasting passion to her husband, Constantine [son of] George Mavrodoglou, whose home town was Istanbul and who spent his life as a merchant and was relieved [of his life] on July 24 1806. Dhaka.

Gravestone 9 (English)

Sacred to the memory of John Demetrius Ellias, second son of Demetrius Ellias Esquire, who was killed by a tiger whilst out shooting at Mirzapore 25 milles N.W. of Dacca on Sunday the 31st of January 1836. Aged 35 years.

ay the 31st of January 1836. Aged 35 years. Three noble brothers lie mouldering here a life of sports. The most prominent Greeks at the time Dr. Taylor wrote his book were the Ralli brothers, who had a jute factory at Narayanganj.

According to Dr. Taylor, the Greek church was built in 1821. Its name, St. Thomas, (one of the 12 disciples of Jesus who is presumed to have lived in India) refers to a saint commemorated much more by South Indians than by Greeks and may indicate a tribute to Indian Christians. Since the church was built in 1821, most university gravestones predated it. This means that maybe a smaller church existed previously or another church had been used for community events, such as a South Indian, Russian, or Armenian church. The priest attached to the church came from the ancient monastery of Mount Sinai in Egypt. A community center and a cemetery with about two bighas of land also existed in Maulvi bazaar, at and around Gulbadan house. The gravestones were dug up in recent years, and

what they were writing, but some plaques (such as that of Iakoboglou) contain errors in letter design that suggest the opposite. Probably these gravestones were made elsewhere, such as Calcutta.

The inscriptions do not permit us to see what language these people spoke. Most were from Asia Minor, Istanbul and Caesarea (now called Kayseri, a city of 600,000 in the central Anatolia of Turkey), and one priest was from Sifnos, an Aegean island. Asia Minor Greeks spoke an archaic dialect, which has become nearly extinct after the removal of Greeks from Asia Minor in about 1927. Persons from Istanbul spoke a dialect that linguistically resembled Urdu, that is it contained many Turkish and Arabic nouns. Greeks from certain parts of Asia Minor had lost Greek altogether and spoke Turkish. In much of the Ottoman empire, teaching of Greek letters was forbidden and was done secretly by priests, who were the keepers of the written language.

indicating a man of some means who came to Dhaka and died middle-aged at 48. Aside from the priests, he is the only person with no relatives or connections mentioned.

Why did Greeks come to Dhaka?

Greeks have always been people of diaspora, and large numbers have lived throughout history outside the traditional Greek lands (which include Asia Minor). In this case, they were perhaps attracted by the relative freedom and human rights they enjoyed under the British in comparison with the Ottomans who conquered the Byzantine empire in 1453. One guesses a tendency to identify and merge with the British or other Europeans.

As mentioned earlier, most persons mentioned in the inscriptions anglicized their last names or used the easier fathers' names as last names. Therefore, we really do not know their exact last names. This makes it difficult to trace subsequent generations in Bangladesh or elsewhere and leaves them unaccounted



The Greek monument in Dhaka before the repair

for in history. What happened to the second generation of Greeks? Did they mainly merge with the locals and other foreigners or did they leave? There certainly was intermarriage with other foreigner communities, such as the Armenians and the British. Some until recently knew of Greek ancestors, such as the Lucas family (whose name may have also been a father's name turned to a family name). At any rate, the community did not live to see

Greece became independent in 1827 and eventually became a homeland for Asia Minor Greeks who were expelled from Turkey around 1927. Political disturbances in the last 50 years encouraged even long-time resident families to migrate, leaving behind them property which local keepers later expropriated. Five Armenian families were still left in 1994, but no Greek family now lives in Bangladesh.

the independence of Bangladesh.

Faced with names and data of people who lived two hundred years ago, one wonders how those people viewed their past and present. Greece had not yet regained its independence; the mainland and Asia Minor had been under the Ottoman empire since 1453, and the Greek population lived with memories of the Byzantine past. (The two-headed eagle, the emblem of the Byzantine empire, appears on the central J.E. gravestone.) The 1757 British occupation of Bengal had only taken place 50 years before most of the Greeks died. In their lifetimes they must have watched the British consolidate their domination over Bengal, which still had a figurehead Nawab. What did they know about Bengali literature and culture? One expects that at least the second generation (such as the Elias family) spoke Bangla, but the only Indic linguistic reference is in Urdu. Greeks occasionally became literary figures in countries where they lived, but at the end of the 18th century Bengali literature was heavily Sanskritized and mainly comprehensible to people with Brahmanical education, which Greeks clearly did not seek. Most of the gravestone people lived and died before Rabindranath Tagore and Vidyasagar made Bangla accessible to the more common people, comprehensible, and

The stories of these people are fading fast, though documents may still be found in Calcutta, Dhaka, or Greece regarding their acts. If more were known, their lives would be better understood. Perhaps someday a doctoral student will research the archives and write a dissertation on the Greek community. But whether or not any more is ever known, the university has in its grounds an interesting memorial of people who came, learned, and apparently found Dhaka a good place to live.

Helen Abadzi is a Greek psychologist.
This is an abridged version of the article titled
"Glimpses of the Greek Community from the
Dhaka University Gravestones" which was
published in www.elinepa.org on December

31, 2005.



MAKAPIOI OYS ESENEED KAI TIPOSENABOY

a high-rise building was built on the site in 1990, apparently illegally. It is reputed that some more gravestones are still to be found in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery.

The St. Thomas church was demolished in the severe 1897 earthquake. By then the area had become valuable property, and the colonial government took it over to build the Mitford medical school (now Salimullah Medical College). Taking over a church site vas unusual and an indication that the Greek community had limited membership or wealth at the end of the 19th century. Interviews with knowledgeable people suggest that land was given elsewhere as compensation, at a site at or near the current fine arts building of the university. In the beginning of the century, Ramna had a garden and a cemetery, so taking the gravestones there may have been seen as appropriate. At about 1905, the British took over the Ramna land to build buildings for the East Bengal and Assam province. After several buildings were built, the province plan was annulled in 1911. The land given to the Greeks, therefore, was at a new city location rising in value as a result of British administrative activities. Reportedly, the Greek community owned other buildings in that area in the 20th century.

The little monument must have been built to house gravestones that were left exposed after the church was demolished. It is a rough imitation of a Greek temple (which the British would associate with Greeks) rather than a miniature byzantine church, which one would expect given the gravestones in it. It is not a family crypt, because most people listed on the stones appear unrelated to each other. One wonders why the gravestones and the bones that must have been underneath them were not interred in the cemetery that continued to exist until recent years. Perhaps those were the earliest burials or the gravestones were removed from the ground even before the church was destroyed. The good condition of the stones suggests that they were not exposed to the elements for long. They may have even been dug up to make room for the church in 1821 and some may have been stored in or around that church. Some examples of old embedded gravestones on walls of buildings do exist, as in the 9th century church of St. Lazarus in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Typical to the style of other foreigner burials (such as the Armenians) two English-language inscriptions say "Sacred to the memory of.." The Greek inscriptions are written with Byzantine letters that are ornate and rather difficult to read. The language of the gravestones is ancient (like classical Sanskrit) and similar to the language spoken 2000 years ago. It is likely that only the priests knew how to compose the inscriptions. (The inscription on the frieze, in particular, is part of a hymn known mainly by priests.) There are a few spelling and syntactical mistakes, but the complexity of the sentences shows that the writers were well versed in ancient Greek.

The quality of most letters suggests that there were engraved by persons who knew

Ancient Greek inscriptions, therefore, served as a marker of Greek nationality for persons who could hardly understand them.

The People and Their Stories What family relationships and stories do these gravestones tell? Below is what can be deduced without further research.

1) Philippou (possibly Philippou Politou). The names mentioned on the gravestones are: (a) Sultana, wife of Alexander, son of Kyriakos Philippou (nickname Alexandris) who was born in 1766 and died in 1800 at 34; (b) Theodosia, wife of Theodore son of George Philippou, who died in 1805. Since the two men do not have a common father's name, they sound like cousins, or perhaps an uncle and nephew. The word Politou may imply either that they were from Istanbul or possibly from Philippoupolis, a city now in Bulgaria.

2) Jordan (from Caesarea). Joseph Jordan was the husband of Magdalene and later Sophia. He was born in 1759 and died in 1819 when he was 60. Children from both wives are mentioned but not named.

3) Ellias (correct spelling should be Elias). The father, Demetrius, had at least three sons and one nephew: a) Nicholas, the eldest (born in 1797), who died at 43 in 1846; b) John, the second (born in 1801), who was killed by a tiger at 35 in 1836; c) Constantine, with no dates mentioned. The nephew was Manuel Ellias Mitchoo, godson and cousin of the three sons (dedicator).

The focal point of the three brothers' gravestone ("three brothers lie mouldering here..") is John Elias, who was killed by a tiger in 1836. However, the plaque includes Nicholas and Constantine, who appear to have died earlier. Manuel, John's godson, financed the plaque for his godfather's tragic death and seems to have reburied previously exhumed bones for the two other brothers.

4) Basil Demetrius. He was born in 1799 and died at 61 in 1860. The stone mentions no family.

Basil Demetrius was educated but apparently not rich. He was a commissariat assistant for nine years before he became an English teacher at Dhaka College for 10 years. If the engraving dates are correct, he was also a clerk at the St. Thomas church for 40 years.

5) Nathaniel and Thomas were two priests. Nathaniel seems like the assumed name of a celibate priest, and the fact that last names are not mentioned reinforces the impression that they were priest-monks. (Orthodox Christian priests may be married or single.) Perhaps Thomas was the priest from the Mount Sinai monastery mentioned in Dr. Taylor's book, and the Dhaka church may have been named at his honor.

6) Constantine Mavrodoglou had a wife (unnamed) but was not local; he was a merchant from Istanbul, who may not have had other relatives in the area. The affectionate dedication and lack of mention of children suggest that perhaps they had not been married for very long.

7) Jacob Essai Iakoboglou has the most ornamented, centrally located gravestone,

The Greek monument near the Teacher-Student Center of Dhaka University.

remains of Mrs. Sultana Alexander, who departed this life on Tuesday the 6th of February 1800; Aged 34 years. [English language]

*Gravestone 2 (Greek)

Here lies the late Theodosia, wife of Theodore [son of] George Philippou Politou (or Philippou from Istanbul). 1805; April 10. Paid common debt in Dacca. May her memory be everlasting.

Gravestone 3 (English)

To the memory: Mrs. Magdalene and Sophia Jordan; also, to that of their husband, Mr. Joseph Jordan of Cesareah, Merchant at Narayangange. The latter departed this life the 10 of February 1819; Aged about 60 years. This monument is erected as a tribute of affection to their memory by their afflicted orphan

Gravestone 4 (English; the Urdu poem is in Latin characters, translation by the author)

To the memory of Nicholas Demetrius Elias, elder son of Demetrius Elias Esq. Died 5th March 1843; aged 46 years. His desired verse:

Dune_ka jomuza hain
The enjoyments of the world [after I die]

named Nicholas, John and Constantinefamed as brave Hunters and to kindred dearwho erst to sport did their merry lives confine. Erected by his cousin and godson, Manuel

MURDOCH

Greek community in D

Ellias Mitchoo.

Greek community in Dhaka
The existence of Greeks and Armenians

in Dhaka is known from Dr. James Taylor who wrote in a book called "Topography of Dhaka" and referred to the immigrant communities. Greeks were late-comers to the Bangladesh area, after the Portuguese, Dutch, and Armenians. Alexis Argyris, the founder of the Greek community in Calcutta, died in Dhaka in 1777 and left considerable property, which was divided among his sons who took up their abode in Dhaka and Bakerganj. The Greek community apparently was small. According to Dr. Taylor, there were 40 Armenian and 12 Greek families in 1838. Like the Armenians, the Greeks were chiefly engaged in the inland trade, and there were a few who dealt extensively in salt at Narayanganj. Apparently, some achieved wealth, like the Elias family whose sons could afford to live

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LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 11, 2021, POUSH 27, 1427 BS

Bangladesh should explore more potential sources of vaccines

Work for a sustainable vaccine deployment policy

UITE a few suggestions have been made by the health experts about sourcing and managing the Covid-19 vaccines in a recent discussion on the issue. They have suggested that the government should explore more potential sources of Covid-19 vaccines apart from the ones that are being currently considered. It has also been suggested that Bangladesh should participate in vaccine trials which will broaden our scope to get more vaccines for future needs

Although the government has made arrangements to bring three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines from Serum Institute India (SII) and also announced that it will procure 68 million shots of vaccine under a global arrangement called COVAX, these are not enough for our population. And we still do not know how long these vaccines will give us immunity against the virus. Therefore, we need to procure more vaccines as soon as possible, and from sustainable sources.

Reportedly, six Covid-19 vaccines are already in the market and another 14 are in the pipeline. So, the government should decide which of the vaccines will be good for Bangladesh and make political and diplomatic efforts to buy them after consulting with health experts. And while selecting a particular vaccine, three basic parameters should be considered—safety, efficacy and standard of the vaccines. Needless to say, preference should be given to single-dose vaccines because it will reduce the government's vaccination cost.

Unfortunately, there is still confusion among people as to who will get priority in getting vaccinated and whether the majority of people will get the vaccines they need. In order to remove any such confusion, the government must make their vaccine deployment plan public and work with transparency. Moreover, campaigns should be held for raising awareness among people about the need for getting vaccinated against Covid-19. The government should make all-out efforts to make the vaccination process a success.

Housing project's defiant incursions into Savar wetland

Authorities must comply with SC directives instead of abetting violators

TE'RE shocked by the defiant and seemingly coordinated manner in which all parties involved with the Modhumoti Model Town have been flouting a Supreme Court verdict to dismantle the 550-acre housing project. According to an investigative report by The Daily Star, the developers continue operations despite a ban in August 2012 by the highest court that upheld a July 2005 directive by the High Court declaring the project "illegal" and "unauthorised". The project sits on land belonging to wetlands in Bilamalia and Baliarpur mouzas of Savar that serve as flood-control reservoirs vital to the capital's water management. In its full verdict released in 2013, the Appellate Division directed Metro Makers & Developers Ltd., the project owner, to restore the wetland within six months. Far from complying with the order, the project continues to operate to date, under a new name, while the higher authorities including Rajuk and the housing ministry continue to entertain them.

The ministry recently took it a step further by sending a letter to Rajuk asking it to take steps to include the project land as an "urban area" in the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), following an application by the plot owners. This, we must say, constitutes executive overreach in a clear disregard for the Supreme Court verdict, one that, if carried through by Rajuk, would set a bad precedent for how to approach future court orders and also have grave consequences for the wetlands and those who depend on them. Wetlands and such water bodies play an important role in our life by holding deluge, and when we lose a wetland from our landscape, we lose this very important service. Protecting wetlands is also critical for biodiversity. Alarmingly, disappearing wetlands are increasingly being viewed as collateral damage in our mindless upward movement to development. The land in question is identified as floodplain in the 1997 Dhaka City Master Plan, and it is crucial that it remains so regardless of any attempt to change its status by the government and real estate

We understand the importance of protecting the interests of the ordinary plot buyers. In fact, in its verdict, the apex court had ordered the project owners to double-refund all plot buyers including their registration fees. They didn't. The court also asked Rajuk to reclaim the wetlands in case the owners failed to complete the restoration within the six-month period—a task it abjectly failed to do. No structure or building has been reportedly demolished or removed from the project site since the verdict. This is not just unacceptable; it's a mockery of the state of law and order in our country. The authorities including all relevant departments of the government as well as the project owners must immediately comply with the order and settle the issue once and for all. Any breach of the court order or dereliction to that effect must not be tolerated at all.

TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Democracy must be cherished

The interpretation of democracy by Abraham Lincoln, that it is a government of the people, by the people, for the people, was terribly mistreated during the recent storming of the US Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump. What the world witnessed that day was an attack on democracy.

We hope that the people of America and the world will stand up for democracy and strive hard to live up to its principles.

Biplob Biswas, Dhaka

Counting planetary pressures for sustainable human development

MACRO



civilisation progressed steadily over the years. Several countries have advanced immensely. Not only have they progressed in terms of economic growth, but they improved

their human development indicators too. However, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has destroyed the global economy at an unprecedented scale. As recovery measures from this devastating pandemic are being implemented by countries, suggestions have been made to design these in a manner that combine economic, social and environmental aspects together.

The pandemic broke out at a time when the world was already suffering from the negative impact of climate change, which is the outcome of the economic activities of humanity. Such activities have created wealth only for the few. Thus, inequality increased as the global economy progressed. Such pattern of economic growth is neither environmentally, nor socially sustainable. The long-term objective of making development sustainable has been sacrificed for the short-term objective of growth at any cost. Human fixation on growth has therefore been largely

> The top 1 percent wealthiest individuals in 2019 are responsible for more than 20 percent of the global carbon emissions as they consume more and emit more through their investments.

The Human Development Report (HDR) 2020 of the United Nations looks into these aspects closely. The world has entered the "age of humans"—the Anthropocene which is a new geologic epoch. Hence, human development from now on should be accomplished in a way that takes nature into consideration. The 30th anniversary edition of the HDR titled, "The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene", highlights the issue of balancing between people and planet. It highlights two types of vulnerabilities—planetary vulnerability and people's vulnerability. By doing so, the report has broadened the

understanding of human progress. It has looked into the impact of individual on the climate.

When launched in 1990, the HDI itself was an advancement from the conventional measure for economic growth that looks at only the gross domestic product (GDP). This index included indicators of well-being such as life expectancy at birth, expected years of schooling, and gross national income per capita. Over time, the concept has been

in the PHDI ranking. Each of these countries dropped by over 70 positions— Luxemburg by as high as 131 places. On the other hand, Costa Rica, Belarus and Panama see their ranks increase in the

In cases of the "high human development", "medium human development" and "low human development" countries, the drop in the ranking is much less. Hence, in the "high human development" category, only

cannot afford to save themselves from the impact of carbon emissions while the rich can pay for cleaner air. Therefore, the vulnerability of the poor is much more than the wealthy.

Till today, no country could achieve higher HDI without affecting the climate. HDI and high resource use have gone hand in hand. Therefore, having a high HDI is not good enough for a country. Rather, the trend is such that when HDI improves, PHDI decreases. This



Development should be pursued in a way that ensures the wellbeing of both people and the planet.

expanded to capture a comprehensive measure of human development. Hence, estimates such as inequality-adjusted HDI, the Multidimensional Poverty Index, the Gender Inequality Index and the Gender Development Index have evolved.

Now the HDI has included two new indicators such as carbon dioxide emissions per capita and its material footprint per capita of a country. Material footprint is the amount of raw materials extracted from the environment to meet the demand of people and to achieve economic growth. This latest index, which is called the Planetary pressuresadjusted HDI (PHDI), reveals the current development patterns of countries. It also suggests that development should be pursued in a way that ensures the wellbeing of both people and the planet.

Indeed, PHDI is an eye opener to our traditional thought on progress which gives the wrong signal on our actual standing. When countries are assessed in the context of PHDI, their HDI rankings change dramatically. Countries which have been achieving development by burning fossil fuels and through material footprints, fall behind in PHDI rankings compared to their HDI rankings. Therefore, it is not surprising to see that PHDI rankings of almost half of the 66 countries in the "very high human development" category decline compared to their HDI rankings. Luxemburg, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait experience highest drops

about 17 percent of the countries saw a decline in their rankings. Sri Lanka's ranking went up by 34 places. Bangladesh, which is in the "medium human development" category, saw its rank rise by 9 positions. Bangladesh secured 133rd position in the HDI out of 189 countries and territories. Its HDI value was 0.632 and PHDI value was 0.625 in 2019. In the "medium human development" category, among the 37 countries, only Lao PDR lost two places. The increase in PHDI rankings of countries implies that these countries emit smaller amount of carbons and have low material footprint.

Besides introducing the PHDI, the report also brings out the inequality issue in the share of emissions by various sections of people in the society. The richer the individuals are, the higher their emissions. The top 1 percent wealthiest individuals in 2019 are responsible for more than 20 percent of the global carbon emissions as they consume more and emit more through their investments. Their emission is 100 times more than the poorest 50 percent. These poorest 50 percent emit just 9 percent of global

In addition to national share of emissions by various countries, the individual level comparison is very important for policymaking. The poor use energy for basic services such as cooking and transportation. The rich emit not only through their lifestyles but through the investments they make. The poor

will have to be changed so that both improve simultaneously. Shutting down the economy is not the answer. Because investments have to be made and jobs should be created.

Besides, even if emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) is stopped now the average temperature may not decline significantly because of the past emission pattern. The experience during Covid-19 has shown that despite economic shut downs the reduction of carbon emission was not enough to meet the global targets. A recent research in the UK shows that global GHG emissions dropped by 7 percent in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the pandemic. However, according to the UN Environment Programme, global GHG emissions should be reduced by 7.6 percent every year from 2020 till 2030 in order to bring down the temperature by 1.5 degrees Celsius—a goal set under the Paris Climate Agreement.

Therefore, in order to achieve higher PHDI and HDI, countries must adopt appropriate policies. Reduction of subsidies on fossil fuels, implementation of polluters pay principle, incentives for green infrastructure and renewable energy, and huge investment on human resources are some of the requirements for us to move forward.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the

Views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the organisation she works for.

Distant climate actions are dooming global apparel industry



of businesses and brands make pledges about the climate at present. Along with pledges to cut climate emissions, there is talk of cutting water use, chemical use, and

addressing a range of other supply chain issues. The overall goal is to improve sustainability.

But are we doing enough? We've been talking about the climate issue for many years. We are all aware of the risks that the earth is facing and we keep being told that "business as usual" is no longer an option.

In the meantime, businesses set distant, often vaguely worded, targets. Sometimes these targets are two to three years away, but in many cases, businesses are setting targets for 2030, 2035, 2040, and beyond. This is way, way too late. We lost the luxury of setting these faroff targets a long time ago. High-level climate talk is one thing, but more than anything, we now need meaningful, concrete actions on the ground. Not in the future, but now.

"Climate change will impact the way we will do business moving forwards," we hear people say at high level meetings. Well, climate change is already impacting business in the global textile industry, and on quite a significant scale if one begins to connect the dots.

In Australia, the cotton production in 2019-2020 was almost a quarter of the size it was two years ago, due to the impacts of drought and reduced water allocations. Australia might only account for about 4 percent of the global market for cotton but, nonetheless, in an average year, the country produces enough cotton

to clothe 500 million people around the world. Australia is no stranger to drought conditions, but last year has been dreadfully difficult for sheep farmers, even by historical standards. Many local observers believe climate impacts are at

There is more. Back in June last year, it was announced that India's cotton imports are likely to rise by 80 percent this crop year due to a short supply of quality material for textile mills. Data

US, many cotton growers have been hit by hurricanes for three years running. Has there ever been a time where the impact of climate on business has been so clear and obvious? It is hard to think of one. This comes back to the point made earlier about this no longer being an issue which we can be discussing in a future tense. Climate impact is happening right here, right now.

What's more, with the above we have only looked at examples where extreme

impact—around 5.5 kg CO2 according to some studies

We know the impact that cotton products have, with their huge use of water use right though the supply chain, during cotton growing, processing and the transformation of cotton into garments. The message, then, is that not only are climate impacts here, but textile supply chains continue to make them worse—and at an accelerating rate as clothing output increases in line with population expansion and the growth of the middle classes.

Climate impacts are happening and textile supply chains are making them worse. So, long-distant target setting, even medium-distant targets, are becoming irrelevant. We need answers, and we need them to be implemented, not in 10 years' time but today.

The technology and know-how is ready and waiting, so our whole industry, our complete value chain, should be using it. Technology is available that allows us to dramatically reduce the amount of water used in textile processing. There is CO2 dyeing technology which uses no water at all. It has been around for years.

Why is it not being used? There are safer textile chemicals which have less or no impact on the environment, yet parts of the industry still go with the cheapest available from un-reputable suppliers, which are often harmful. Why? Recycled polyester is vastly available. Why is virgin polyester still used in such abundance? I could name many more examples, but hopefully readers get the point.

Each and every one of us in the value chain should be looking within and recognising that, where climate is concerned, if we are not part of the solution, we are part of the problem.

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE). Email:



compiled by Cotton Association of India (CAI), forecasts raw cotton import at 2.7 million bales for the season, compared to 1.5 million the previous year. The CAI said the major reason for a forecast rise in imports was drought in the major growing states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, while the quality of late picked crop was poor due to the lack of moisture in the field.

This really is a global issue. In the

climate conditions have potentially impacted textile supply chains.

What about the other way round? What about how textile supply chains impact climate? We all know there are major issues to address here. We know polyester, the most commonly used fibre in textiles, has seen a doubling in production since 2000. We also know a polyester shirt produced from virgin polyester has a significant carbon

Schools must teach more than academic syllabus

A schoolgirl's rape and murder highlights the inadequacies of conventional education



rape and consequent death of a school-going, 17-year-old girl fills one with rage and helplessness. Initially

there were conflicting reports in the media and it was uncertain if she was raped by one or multiple boys—her alleged boyfriend, Iftekhar Fardin Dihan (who has confessed to the crime) and three of his friends who were later released by police. The head of the forensic department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she was taken has confirmed that the student was raped and died of haemorrhagic shock and excessive bleeding due to injuries to the private parts. The accused, according to

reports, has passed his A levels recently. What does this tell us about the education that such boys from relatively privileged backgrounds receive? Is there something missing in it that has caused this young man to commit such a horrible crime? The education system, in my opinion, is a failure. What is the point of educating our sons in the sciences, mathematics, social studies,

languages, and arts if they cannot develop a conscience and if they cannot develop a sense of empathy?

My thoughts are inspired by the following words of Abdu'l-Baha, son of Baha'u'llah (founder of the Baha'i Faith): "Training in morals and good conduct is far more important than book learning. A child that is cleanly, agreeable, of good character, well-behaved—even though he be ignorant—is preferable to a child that is rude, unwashed, ill-natured, and yet becoming deeply versed in all the sciences and arts. The reason for this is that the child who conducts himself well, even though he be ignorant, is of benefit to others, while an ill-natured, ill-behaved child is corrupted and harmful to others, even though he be learned. If, however, the child be trained to be both learned and good, the result is light upon light" (Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, pg. 135).

Some may argue that schools are supposed to teach academic subjects while morals are supposed to be taught at home. Well, of course. However, let us take the following points into consideration: i) Children spend about one-third of their time at school. ii) Some children are raised by maids/ nannies because both their parents are career-driven or need to work for being able to bring food to the table. iii) Some children come from broken families and



may be raised by a single working parent who may not have the time or the energy for the proper upbringing of a child.

Doesn't it make sense then, to have moral education classes at school, even if it is for a small part of each day? I am not referring to religious studies here. Secular moral education is for all, irrespective of which religion one belongs to. And such moral education classes should include carefully planned lessons on how to develop empathy, which is what rapists are devoid of. While discussing the subject with my partner, I was

asked: How do you teach a child to be empathetic? I did not and do not have a solid answer to that. But maybe the educator could share stories with them, ask them to do artwork, teach them songs, do a little skit with them, play a cooperative game with them, get involved in a community service project together—all on the subject of empathy?

The course materials of such classes should be developed and taught by highly trained educators (not the religious clergy) and this should not be seen as just another job that pays,

but rather, as a job that helps to build upright characters, a job that helps teach humans to be just that—humans and a job that helps instil compassion, kindness, honesty, trustworthiness, love, tolerance, justice and other such noble characteristics.

I am not implying that moral education classes will completely obliterate the existence of rapists. Another simultaneous plan of action would be to introduce special courses at every school, in every hamlet, village, town, and city across the nation that will teach children the difference between "the right touch" and "the wrong touch", how to say no to the latter, the concept of consent, etc.

Rapists will thrive and will continue to rape even if convicted rapists are hanged. After all, don't we have new cases of murder every day, despite the capital punishment for murderers? Capital punishment will never be a permanent solution even if it may provide justice to some victims. Legal loopholes and influence, moreover, may allow rapists to go scot free. The rapist mentality will remain in the minds of potential rapists unless children are nurtured to be like strong, upright trees, and not crooked ones.

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Impeach Trump or Invoke the 25th Amendment?

BAHZAD JOARDER

NSPIRED by Mussolini's march to Rome, on November 9, 1923, ■ Hitler and his SA goons attempted the "Munich *Putsch*"—what Hitler thought would be a triumphant march to seize power from the Weimer Republic reeling from economic crisis. The attempt was foiled, and Hitler was prosecuted for "high treason", yet, given a lenient sentence of five years imprisonment. He spent his time in prison writing the "Mein Kampf" and setting out his political beliefs. What will remain one of history's great unknowns is, what if he was given a harsher sentence or prevented from ever holding public office?

The clamour to remove President Trump is increasing after his incitement led to unprecedented "insurrectionist" scenes at the Capitol aimed to upend a democratic transfer of power. This has received bi-partisan condemnation, with several members of the cabinet resigning and senior figures of the GOP complicit in the president's peddling of misinformation, belatedly, distancing themselves. The administration is in its death throes, with Trump, finally, changing his rhetoric from "you are special" and "we love you" to a straightforward condemnation after a day. The election winners have been certified and on January 20, Trump will leave the White House. Yet, the danger he presents remains.

Democratic leaders have called on Vice President Pence to invoke section 4 of the 25th Amendment of the US Constitution. This will only work, if the VP and majority of the cabinet declares in writing that the president is unable to discharge his powers and duties, thus removing him from office temporarily, with the vice president assuming the role of actingPresident. Trump may declare himself "able", in which case the VP must issue another declaration of incapacity within four days (he remains acting president for four days and if a declaration is not issued, Trump resumes presidential role). If a second declaration is issued, then the matter goes to Congress and both houses have 21 days to make a decision. Since Trump's presidency is

numbered, the clock will run out. Thus far, there is no appetite to do so, despite the clear evidence of Trump's unhinged behaviour, fomenting his base and a detachment from reality that he lost the

Failing the invocation of the 25th Amendment, Democrats have threatened impeachment—a second time. This is the right course of action. Impeachment does not only entail removal from office but can also disqualify Trump from holding future public office. Article 1 Section 3 clause 7 of the US constitution allows the Senate to impose a penalty preventing

judgment and one which has been decided by simple majority rules in the Humphreys trial and again in 1913, in the trial of federal judge Robert Archibald for enriching himself. The Senate used the Humphreys trial as a precedent in the trial of Judge Ritter for attempted embezzlement, filing false income tax returns amongst other allegations of impropriety in 1936 and found guilty of "bringing the judiciary into disrepute". The Senate held that a simple majority requirement would be sufficient for disqualification from holding future office but decided not to impose the penalty.



Supporters of US President Donald Trump march through the streets of the city as they make their way to the Capitol Building in Washington, on January 6, 2021.

Trump from ever holding public office. Conviction in the Senate requires a twothird majority but there are precedents of impeachment of federal judges where disqualification from holding future office has only required a simple

West Hughes Humphreys, a federal judge impeached in 1862, for supporting the secession of the southern states was convicted and removed from his post by the senate. One of the articles of impeachment against Humphreys was "inciting revolt and rebellion". Unlike conviction, disqualification is a discretionary

No US president ever had to face the ignominy of disqualification being imposed upon them as a penalty. But Trump is no ordinary president. He spoke of "American carnage" on his inauguration and during the tenure of his office have repeatedly eschewed customary norms expected of the office he holds. He is a narcissistic demagogue, a proven liar who would much rather lay waste to democratic practices than accept his failure. In the four years of his presidency, he has lost his re-election, the Congress and following the Georgia run off the Senate is now evenly divided with

Vice President-elect Harris holding the tiebreaker vote. However, it would be a fallacy to think that he is defeated. He has fractured and debased Lincoln's party to a point where Republicans are afraid of his base and their electoral chances, keeping silent and adopting a policy of appeasement. Just days before the Capitol riots, Trump has asked elected Republican Secretary of State of Georgia to "find" him 11,780 votes. He has incited a violent riot against the most important tenet of a democracy that of a peaceful transfer of power. This is a "high crime". If federal judges can be disqualified upon conviction and in Humphrey's case, for inciting revolt, then why not a US president?

There are different theories amongst scholars if a president can be impeached when he leaves office. Congress should not wait. It has a duty to protect the Republic from insurrection, even one directed from the White House. Trump should be held accountable and rightly impeached and if convicted on a twothird majority, should be disqualified on a simple majority from ever holding office. Invoking, the 25th Amendment will remove him temporarily, leaving open the possibility of a return.

An errant Trump action in the last days of his presidency has global implications. Since the killing of Qassem Suleimani and Abu Muhandis by drone strike, an Iraqi court has issued an arrest warrant for Trump. Iran has already asked Interpol to issue a 'red notice' for US officials including Trump. Recently, Trump sought military options against Iran and had to be dissuaded from ordering a full attack but he may already have allowed covert forms of actions. The assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh-Mahabadi, Iran's leading nuclear scientist is unlikely to have taken place without US knowledge. Iran blames Israel for the assassination. The timing of the assassination is eerily similar to the events of 2009. In the last days of the Bush presidency, Israel requested air strikes against Iranian nuclear installations—a request which was refused. The incoming Biden administration is inclined to re-join the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—a move that is being anticipated and thwarted by Trump loyalists. Netanyahu,

already indicted on corruption charges, is facing the fourth national elections in two years in March. It is a volatile situation in the region even without considering the wars in Yemen and Syria. Daniel Ellsberg, the former military analyst who leaked the Pentagon Papers showing US lies in the Vietnam war, fears Trump may provoke a war with Iran. House Speaker Pelosi spoke to chairman of joint chief of staff to ensure that Trump cannot launch a nuclear strike in the dying days of his presidency. In an unprecedented move, all living former US defence secretaries have written an op-ed to not involve the military in election dispute. Those who served in the upper echelons of the power structure fear the erratic behaviour of a desperate Trump which may have severe geo-political consequences.

Trump loyalists will not fade away. His rhetoric and dog whistle racism has unleashed the basest instincts in the form of xenophobia. Mainstream social media ban on Trump will incubate those sentiments in another eco-system that he promises to create. Already, droves of his followers have moved to sites like Parler, which has been asked to moderate its content or risk censure. Trump's war chest has been replenished in the aftermath of his election defeat, by peddling lies of election fraud and seeking donations for legal fights which were funnelled to his PACs. Post presidency, he is equally dangerous, plotting his return.

Hitler's 5-year imprisonment was a hiatus used to nurture and weaponize xenophobic and anti-Semitic sentiments in the body politic. While the Munich march failed in 1923, by 1933 the Nazis were in power, having won electoral mandate. 70 million Americans voted for Trump. More than 70 percent Republicans believe Trump's lies that the elections were fraudulent. Democracy will wither without citizen trust. If he is not impeached for his crimes and disqualified from ever holding office, he may well return with vengeance. Can the USA afford to take this chance? Can the world?

Bahzad Joarder is an Associate Tutor at the

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



January 11, 1935 Amelia Earhart's Hawaii-to-California flight

On this day in 1935, Amelia Earhart, one of the world's most celebrated aviators, made the first successful solo flight from Hawaii to California, a distance longer than that from the United States to Europe.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 1 Bring close to boiling 6 Irritate 11 Track horse 12 To – (perfectly) 13 Sports setting 14 Iron output 15 Pigeon sound 16 Guest's bed 18 Hydrocarbon suffix 19 Pole worker 20 Arles article 21 Greek consonants 22 Irish brew

24 Kid

25 Helping

27 Pesky insect

29 "Yes indeedy!"

32 Farm butter 33 Zeus or Apollo 34 Go astray 35 Before today 36 Music's Yoko 37 Vacuum lack 38 Passionate dance

40 Enthusiasm 42 Stopped 43 Diner patron 44 Medicine amounts 45 Out of practice

DOWN 1 Keyboard bar 2 King of music 3 It might be half of 21 in blackjack 4 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"

5 Blood count? 6 Edit menu choice 7 "Addams Family" cousin 8 It might be half of 21 in blackjack 9 Oberon orbits it 10 Tangle 17 Golfer's cleek

24 Steady run 26 Remade 27 Like Parmesan 28 1998 Winter Games site 30 Hot dish holder 31 Solar system

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model 33 Merchandise 39 "My word!" 41 Seine water

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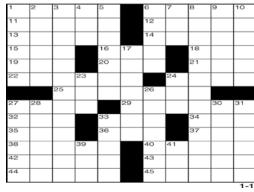


PHOTO: **AFP**

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BEETLE BAILEY



WE'RE TELLING SCARY STORIES



BY MORT WALKER

MOMENT?

BABY BLUES

HOW'S THE SLEEPOVER

GOING?



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Juvenile murdered in Ukhia

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

Police vesterday recovered the body of a juvenile from a shop at Court Bazar in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The dead is Mohammad Forkan Prokash Kalu, 14, of the upazila's Rantanpalang union, said police. He was employed by a local decorator at the market.

Gazi Salauddin, inspector (investigation) of Ukhia Police Station, said they were suspecting a Rohingya juvenile named Mohammad Aiaz was involved in the murder.

Aiaz was also employed by the same decorator and went into hiding after the incident came to limelight, he

Meanwhile, Shah Alam, the owner of the shop where Forkan's body was found, was detained by police for quizzing, the police official said.

The victim's father Bashir Ahmed said he did not know who killed his son but he demanded justice.

Covid deaths

FROM PAGE 12 number of confirmed cases rose to

Against a total of 12,920 tests in 181 labs across the country, the positivity rate was 8.29 percent.

In the same 24 hours, meanwhile, a total of 737 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illnesses, raising the number of recoveries to 4,66,801

The total number of recoveries is equal to more than 89 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of the deceased yesterday, 17 were males and eight were females.

Two of them were aged between 41 and 50 years, six between 51 and 60, and 17 were above 60 years, added the release.

Some AL men

the truth.'

Mirza, who has stirred up a debate in the country's political circles with some of his recent remarks, is also contesting the municipality polls, slated for January 16, on an AL ticket.

"Obaidul Quader is not with me. Some leaders of Noakhali and Feni district AL have sent firearms to use against me. Companiganj upazila AL and Basurhat municipal AL are not with me," claimed Mirza.

"Even the DC [deputy commissioner] and superintendent of police are not with me," claimed

Addressing the crowd, he asked, "Are you with me? If you are with me, that is enough... I will continue telling

He also alleged that Obaidul Quader acted as the major barrier in Mirza's emergence as a national leader.

"In my student life, I wanted to study in Dhaka. But he [Obaidul Quader advised me to study in Chattogram because he feared that I would emerge as a bigger leader than him. Obidul Quader did not let us move ahead," he alleged

"Before the national elections, Obaidul Quader promised to arrange jobs for eligible people of every asked Mirza.

"When I speak against corruption and misdeeds of Awami League men, they call me insane," he added.

"A woman identifying herself as a Jubo Mohila League leader has hurled abusive words at me. I have informed administration about this matter. But they did not take any action. So, it can be assumed that the woman is too powerful," he said.

Criticising the administration, Mirza said some overenthusiastic officials are bypassing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directives.

In the last few days, Mirza on several occasions cláimed that if elections were held in a free and fair manner, all AL MPs in greater Noakhali, except for the ones in three or four constituencies, "would not have found ways to escape".

While unveiling his election manifesto on December 31 last year, he brought allegations of corruption, tender manipulation and recruitment scams against some local lawmakers and AL leaders.



Indonesian Navy divers hold wreckage from Sriwijaya Air flight SJY182 during a search and rescue operation at sea near Lancang island yesterday, after the Boeing 737-500 crashed shortly after taking off from Jakarta airport on Saturday.

Black boxes located

One twisted piece of metal was painted in Sriwijaya Air's blue and red colours. Authorities said they came from a depth of 23 metres (75 feet) near a group of islands off the Jakarta

Indonesian authorities said they had also retrieved body parts and clothing.

Police asked families to provide information such as dental records and DNA samples to help identify

The plane had 12 crew and 50 passengers on board, all Indonesians and including 10 children.

President Joko Widodo, speaking at the palace in Bogor, expressed "deep condolences" over the disaster and urged the public to pray the missing people could be found.

'WE FEEL POWERLESS'

Distraught relatives waited in Pontianak about 740 km (460 miles) from Jakarta for news of their loved ones. At Jakarta's main airport a crisis centre was set up for families.

"We feel powerless, we can only wait and hope to get any information soon," Irfansyah Riyanto, who had five relatives on the flight, told reporters.

Tracking service Flightradar24 said the aircraft took off at 2:36 pm local time (0736 GMT) and climbed to reach 10,900 feet within four minutes. It then began a steep descent and stopped transmitting data 21 seconds

There were no immediate clues on what caused the sudden descent. Most air accidents are caused by a cocktail

of factors that can take months to establish, safety experts say.

A transport ministry spokeswoman said air traffic control had asked the pilot why the plane was heading northwest instead of on its expected flight path seconds before disappeared.

The pilots had decades of experience between them with the flight captain reported to be a former air force pilot and his co-pilot at Sriwijaya Air since 2013, according to his Linkedin profile.

The Sriwijaya Air plane was a nearly 27-year-old Boeing 737-500, much older than Boeing's problem-plagued 737 MAX model. Older 737 models are widely flown and do not have the stall-prevention system implicated in the MAX safety crisis.

"We are in contact with our airline customer and stand ready to support them during this difficult time," Boeing said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with the crew, passengers, and their families.'

Founded in 2003, Jakarta-based Sriwijaya Air group flies largely within Indonesia's sprawling archipelago. The budget airline has had a solid safety record, with no onboard casualties in four incidents recorded on the Aviation Safety Network database.

In 2007, the European Union banned all Indonesian airlines following a series of crashes and reports of deteriorating oversight and maintenance since deregulation in the late 1990s. The restrictions were fully

New Covid cases in China

that a ride-hailing driver in Beijing was an asymptomatic carrier of the new coronavirus, city health official Pang Xinghuo told media.

ride-hailing app Didi have been fined figures to join the global vaccination a total of 1 million vuan (\$154,440) improperly implementing coronavirus prevention measures, such as wearing a mask, Rong Jun, a Beijing city transport official, said.

Over the course of the pandemic, mainland China has reported a total of 87,433 confirmed coronavirus cases, with 4,634 deaths.

In its daily bulletin, the National Health Commission said 21 of the new cases were imported.

Most of the locally-transmitted cases, 46 out of 48, were in Hebei, the province surrounding Beijing that entered a "wartime mode" this week as it seeks to contain rising infections.

China reported 27 asymptomatic cases on Saturday, down from 38 a day earlier. China does not classify these patients, who have been infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the disease, but are not showing any Covid-19 symptoms, as confirmed

Hebei has finished testing all 13 million people in the major cities of Shijiazhuang and Xingtai, a provincial

officer said in a briefing yesterday. GERMAN DEATHS TOP 40,000 Germany yesterday reported 40,000 fatalities since the pandemic began a year ago as the Pope and Britain's Queen Since January 1, 96 drivers on a Elizabeth became the latest high-profile campaign against the coronavirus

And German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that the worst was still

More than 1.9 million people worldwide have now died from the virus, with new variants adding to soaring cases and prompting the re-introduction of restrictions on movement across the globe -- even as with mass inoculation drives underway.

Pope Francis urged people to get the vaccination saying he would be inoculated against the virus himself next week when the Vatican begins its campaign and denouncing opposition to the jab.

"There is a suicidal denial which cannot explain, but today we have to get vaccinated," the pontiff tells Canale 5 in an interview broadcast yesterday. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and her

husband Prince Philip received their Covid-19 vaccinations on Saturday, said Buckingham Palace.

Shifting sands





Reference: 09.2/37/Vol(IV)/

BDBL

GD-61

Dated: 10/01/2021

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP Portal for the procurement of following goods &

services:		
e-Tender ID	Name of goods & related services	Closing & opening date & time
526536	Dedicated 100 Mbps Internet connectivity for BDBL Head Office.	26/01/2021; 12:00pm
526654	 (A) Dedicated 100 Mbps Data Connectivity from DC (Head Office, Motijheel) to DR (BDBL Karwan Bazar Bhaban) for the purpose of Storage to Storage Backup and other services. (B) Dedicated 2 Mbps each Data Connectivity for all Branches (Nationwide, existing 47 Branches and Upcoming Branches/Sub-Branches) 	- 26/01/2021; 12:30pm

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to banking hours.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

> Md. Nazrul Islam Deputy General Manager Tel: 02-57160451

FROM PAGE 12 Wadi al-Murr's inhabitants, who mostly relied on pastoral activities, had to give up their village, swelling the ranks of those migrating to towns and

Located at the bottom of a valley nearly 400 kilometres (250 miles) southwest of the capital Muscat, Wadi al-Murr is cut off from main roads and only reachable via a long, rough track.

Its isolation, including from the electricity and water grids, contributed to its slide into obscurity.

But that has not prevented erstwhile residents from returning to visit, along with trekking enthusiasts who take desert hikes in the region.

Mohammed al-Ghanbousi, a former inhabitant, said the moving dunes had re-exposed some dwellings after they were covered by sand.

GOP support

him during his first trial over allegations that he threatened US national security.

Two previous presidents were impeached but were also acquitted in the Senate. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 over the Watergate scandal when it became clear he would be removed.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has also asked members to draft legislation aimed at invoking the Constitution's 25th Amendment, which allows for stripping the powers from a president unable to fulfill the duties of the office.

The intensifying effort to oust Trump has drawn scattered support from Republicans, whose party has been divided by the president's actions. Democrats have pressed Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment, but he has opposed the idea, an adviser said. SUPPORT FOR REMOVAL A small but growing number of Republican lawmakers have joined calls for Trump to step down, and several high-ranking administration

officials have resigned in protest. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said Friday that Trump should resign immediately and suggested she would consider leaving the party if Republicans cannot part from him.

Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania told Fox News on Saturday that Trump had "committed impeachable offenses" but declined to commit to voting to remove him.

Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska, a frequent Trump critic, told CBS News he would "definitely consider' impeachment because the president disregarded his oath of office."

But other key Trump allies, including Senator Lindsey Graham and House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, have urged Democrats to shelve any impeachment effort in the name of unity. "Impeaching President Donald Trump with 12 days remaining in his presidency would only serve to further divide the country," said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate majority leader, has suggested any trial would likely occur after Trump's term ends, when Democrats will take control of the Senate thanks to victories in two Georgia runoff elections last week.

Man killed

FROM PAGE 12

Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The injured were admitted to different clinics, the APBn official

Police are conducting drives to arrest the criminals, he added.

Ministry / Division

Level crossings to be 'safer'

142 train-related accidents last year, according to Accident Research Institute of Buet.

Of the casualties, 42 were killed and 31 others injured in 25 incidents at level crossings, says an ARI report, which was prepared on the basis of newspaper reports.

The issue of unsafe level crossings came to the fore again after an intercity train hit a bus at a level crossing in Joypurhat last month, leaving 12 passengers of the bus dead and several others injured.

A railway probe committee found that although the Puranpoil level crossing was an authorised one, the gateman failed to lower the gate on time as he was either sleeping or drowsy, causing the accident.

The committee also held the Roads and Highway Department responsible for the accident as the department, without informing the railway authorities, demolished the speed breakers near the level crossing while reconstructing the road.

In a stakeholder meeting on December 21 last year, participants blamed the absence of speed bumps at level crossings and unauthorised level crossings for the accidents and called for constructing speed bumps

In a meeting on October 29 that year, the Local Government Division decided to take a project to install gates and relevant structures for the level crossings they erected.

Besides, it also decided to take prior permission from the railways ministry to construct roads for crossing rail tracks, documents show.

YESTERDAY'S DECISIONS Sardar Sahadat Ali, additional director general (operations) of BR, said as per the decision of the meeting, authorities who erected the unauthorised level crossings would construct speed breakers there.

For now, as per the decision of the meeting, the authorities concerned the number of trains and rail lines is would not install gates at level increasing, he added.

crossings while constructing roads that cross rail tracks. Rather, they would build overpasses or underpasses there, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

AKM Abdullah Al Baki, another additional director general of BR, said they would authorise some illegal level crossings after necessary scrutiny while some other unauthorised level crossing would be knocked down.

Besides, the authorities concerned agreed to tear down illegal structures beside the rail tracks, he told this newspaper.

Mahbuber Rahman, a joint secretary of road transport and bridges ministry, who took part in yesterday's meeting, said they would erect speed breakers after necessary scrutiny.

The scrutiny is needed because speed breakers in some cases intensifies accident risks, he told this correspondent.

MUCH MORE TO DO

Hearing yesterday's decisions, Prof Md Hadiuzzaman, director of ARI, said the authorities have to do more to ensure safety at level crossings.

He said the authorities should construct an array of speed breakers three speed breakers on both sides of a level crossing at 50-metre intervals --where vehicular movement is relatively high.

There should be level crossing signs and blinking lights on both sides of level crossings, he said.

The authorities should install additional lights on the locomotives, and drivers should switch on those while approaching level crossings, he said. The initiatives can reduce 30 percent accidents, he said citing a research.

The BR should carry out a safety survey at level crossings immediately and on the basis of its findings, necessary steps should be taken, he

Besides, the authorities should consider introducing an automated barrier system at level crossings as

Invisible power protecting

other men not be accused, stating that their names could be added later if their involvement is found, she said.

"I heard about the medical report that said my daughter was severely abused. Such abuse and torture is not possible for one person," she said, adding she saw injury marks on her waist and back.

They might have made her unconscious with drugs, she said. Shozzodur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Ramna) of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police, said, "Police

are neither saving nor victimising

anyone... We are investigating impartially."

He also refuted the allegation that police were trying to save the accused by inflating the age of the victim on papers and reducing the age of the accused.

The age of the victim will be

ascertained with proper tests, he said. Dihan and the girl got introduced on social media In November last year, the DC said.

Police said the car in which the girl was taken to the hospital has been seized. People who know Dihan said he had often driven the car despite having no driver's licence.

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

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Individual Senior Consultant

Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

2.	Agency Health Economics Unit (HEU)				
3.	Name of The Procuring Entity	Director General, HEU			
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
5.	Type of Organization	Research Organization			
6.	Expression of Interest for selection of	Individual Senior consultant (National-Short term)			
7.	EOI Ref No	45.05.0000.006.11.001.19.47			
8.	Date	10 January, 2021			
Key	Information				
9.	Procurement Method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)			
_	ing Information				
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	Funds of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) under 4 th Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HPNSP)			
	cular Information				
11.	Project / Program Name (If Applicable)	Health Economics and Financing, 4 th Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HPNSP)			
		Date Time			
12.	EOI closing date and time	06 February, 2021 12:00			
13.	Brief Description of the Assignment	National Senior Consultant (UHC)			
14.	Experience, Resource and Delivery	To be selected, the organization must have the following:			
	Capacity Required	A master's degree in Health Economics/Economics.			
15	Other details (if and leable)	 At least 10 years working experience with GO/INGO/NGO preferably in data collection, management, analysis, monitoring & evaluation related to health care expenditure Familiar with System of Health Accounts 2011 Familiar with ICPC-2 (International Classification of Primary Care) 2nd version Classification Familiar with ICD-10 [International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)] 10th version Classification Familiar with Anatomical, Therapeutical and Chemical Classification Experience of organizing & conducting training sessions and carry out research activities Experience in making practical, policy-oriented, and evidence-based recommendations Ability to provide the full range of operational assistance with independent responsibility Demonstrated ability to and analytical tasks and to contribute to resolution of sector and country issues Health Expenditure Tracking background will be treated as extra advantages. 			
15.	Other details (if applicable)	EOI should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked "Request for EOI for National Senior Consultant" to the undersigned within 06 February, 2021 at 12 hrs.			
16	Association with external firm	Not Applicable			
17.	Indicative start date (month/year)	March, 2021			
18.	Indicative completion date (month/year)	June, 2023			
	uring Entity Details	D. Makal Ohahada Hassais Makanad			
	Interest (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahadt Hossain Mahmud			
20.	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director General (Additional Secretary), Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)			
21.	Address of Official Inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3 rd Floor), Dhaka 1000.			
22.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone-9586822, Fax: 9582207 e-mail: dg@heu.gov.bd			
22.	Detail information available in the website	www.hsd.gov.bd; www.heu.portal.gov.bd; www.cptu.gov.bd			
The	procuring entity reserves the right to accept	t or reject all EOIs.			
		Director General (Additional Secretary)			

Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division,

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)

Live from 12:00 am (Tues-Huesca vs Real Betis Live from 2:00 am (Tuesday) Serie A Spezia vs Sampdoria Live from 1:45 am (Tuesday)

FA Cup Third Round Stockport vs West Ham Live from 2:00 am (Tuesday)







(Clockwise) Bashundhara Kings players and officials celebrate with the Walton Federation Cup trophy following their 1-0 win against Saif SC in an entertaining final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Coach Oscar Bruzon was lifted in the air by the players following the win, which came courtesy of a solitary goal from Argentine striker Raul Becerra.

Kings win 2nd title on the trot

Anisur Rahman



The Toyota accelerated at top speed but fell short of the Ferrari in the final of the Walton Federation Cup final yesterday as Bashundhara Kings beat Saif Sporting Club

1-0 at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to lift the season's curtain-raising tournament. Argentinian striker Rahul Oscar Becerra

separated the sides with a 52nd-minute strike that delivered back-to-back Federation Cup titles for Bashundhara. Saif SC, meanwhile, were denied the chance to write their name in history alongside Muktijoddha Sangsad and Sheikh Russel as the teams to win the tournament on their maiden appearance in the final since its introduction in 1980. Saif SC, the 13th team to play the Federation Cup final, had no such luck.

Before the final, Belgian coach Paul Joseph Put compared his Saif SC side and Bashundhara Kings to a Toyota and a Ferrari respectively. to tip over a dipping shot from Rahmat Mia in

the superior force, Bashundhara faced a tough challenge from Saif SC, who delivered a brilliant performance in the second half and got within touching distance of the defending champions.

Buoyed by the vibrant presence of their supporters in the gallery, the final got off to a decent start with both sides attacking with intent. It did not appear that Saif SC were playing in their maiden final, that too against the starstudded Kings, who also lost their maiden Federation Cup final on debut but have not lost any of their three finals (2x Federation Cup, 1x Independence Cup) since.

Left-back Bishwanath Gosh and Becerra came close to giving Bashundhara Kings the lead within the first 20 minutes but opposing goalkeeper Pappu Hossain and defender Riyadul Islam Rafi kept Saif SC in the hunt by thwarting both efforts. National goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico was also solid under the Bashundhara sticks and made a brilliant save

But although the latter eventually emerged as the 19th minute before again denying him in stoppage time of the first half.

> After resumption, Saif began to exert tremendous pressure as they sought to break the deadlock, with right-back Rahmat watching another dipping shot from 30 yards brilliantly tipped over by Zico three minutes into the second half before Bashundhara took the lead against the run of play in the 52nd minute.

> Breaking on the counter, Brazil's Robson Da Silva played a long ball behind the Saif SC backline and Becerra controlled nicely before driving the ball to the far post from the righthand side to give Bashundara an expected lead.

Becerra came close to doubling the lead but Saif SC but the ball was stunningly snatched from his feet by the Pappu before Saif SC's Nigerian striker Kenneth Ngwoke sent shivers down Bashundhara's spine by mustering three driving efforts which either went narrowly wide or were forced out for corners by Zico, who ensured that Kings would have yet another occasion to cheer.

'I felt confident about who would be champions'

SPORTS REPORTER



As the replacement for countryman Barcos, who sensationally bagged four goals in his Bashundhara Kings debut AFC Cup match, Argentine striker Rahul

Oscar Becerra initially failed to convince for the defending Federation Cup champions.

But, with all said and done, the 33-yearold hogged the spotlight after scoring the decisive goal in a 1-0 win in the final against Saif SC yesterday. He also finished as the tournament's joint-top scorer alongside Saif SC's Nigerian striker Kenneth Ngwoke, with the latter adjudged the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Becerra scored five goals in as many matches as Bashundhara Kings retained the Federation Cup and the Argentine expressed happiness that he was able to

"I worked for goals. I worked hard for the team after joining as the coach decided whether I would stay in the eleven. Whatever the team needed, I gave it to the team. My colleagues helped me score because I came here to help Bashundhara. also became the highest scorer in America, but it was my first experience in the sub-continent and I am happy to have scored the highest number of goals in the tournament," Becerra, his body draped in an Argentine flag, told The Daily Star after the match.

"We were confident of winning the title because we have been a champion team. It is a strong side with many national players and the experience of playing in finals before," Becerra said. "The message from our coach was to play, enjoy the final and

However, Becerra opined that their semifinal against Abahani was tougher than yesterday's tie against Saif SC.

"I think the semifinal was very tough because there were big players, Brazilian players. The long ball was difficult to defend and it took extra time to win the match but today I felt confident about who would be champions," said Becerra, whose focus now turns to the Bangladesh Premier League and Independence Cup.

Bashundhara Kings captain Tapu Barman was also excited to have claimed the title after coming into action following the lengthy layoff due to Covid-19.

"We performed well from the beginning of the tournament and our confidence grew match-by-match on the back of four months of pre-season preparations. We were also excited to play football after a long gap due to the coronavirus. That's why every player was very serious and active to show themselves on the ground," national defender Tapu said.

Tapu's Saif SC counterpart, Riyadul Hasan Rafi, was disappointed by the result but wanted to look forward to performing well in the coming days and drawing inspiration from this Federation Cup performance.

"It was bad luck that we could not avail the opportunities while the opponents cashed in on one chance to win the match. I think we could have taken the match away from Bashundhara Kings had Fahim availed a one-on-one chance in the first half," Rafi said. "But becoming runners-up is also big achievement for Saif SC and we will try to play better in the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League and Independence Cup."

Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfigur Rahim, the two stalwarts of the Bangladesh cricket team, were in jovial mood during the first day of training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday ahead of the West Indies series.

A subdued yet auspicious return

Mazhar Uddin



The scenes at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday unusual

because there were no supporters such as Shoaib Ali Bukhari, better known as "Tiger Shoaib" for his body paint, screaming their support during the national team's practice session.

The stands were empty and the home of cricket was quiet due to the obvious reason of maintaining health protocols set by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), but the intensity among the cricketers was high and for good reason.

After over 10 months, the Tigers are all set to return to international cricket with the upcoming home series against the West Indies. The first practice session of the preliminary squad for both the ODI and Test squads took place under head coach Russell Domingo yesterday.

The Tigers' coaching staff -- including head coach Domingo, fielding coach Ryan Cook and interim spin bowling coach Sohel Islam -- were busy conducting the training sessions of cricketers divided into several groups.

"Obviously, we are all excited as we joined the national camp after a long time and we had a good practice session," Nazmul Hossain Shanto told the media after the training session in Mirpur vesterday. "Although we were together during the Bangabandhu T20 Cup, it's a different feeling to share the national

dressing room together. "We will be playing international cricket after over ten months and we are discussing areas to work on during the check in to the hotel soon.

training sessions. Hopefully we will be able to do well in the upcoming series."

Domingo was seen observing his charges in the outer nets and gave some batting tips to Shakib Al Hasan, who will be making a comeback to international cricket after completing a one-year ban from international cricket in October last

A festive mood prevailed among the cricketers who were finally returning to their natural state and looking forward to getting into the groove since last playing nternational cricket in March 2020.

However, Bangladesh's pace bowling coach Ottis Gibson and the newly appointed batting consultant Jon Lewis were quarantining at the hotel following their arrival to the country on Saturday.

Both coaches are awaiting clearance from the health ministry to join the camp as they are UK passport holders, who have to go on a mandatory 14-day quarantine protocol set by the government.

The BCB however had already requested the authorities to relax the quarantine protocols for the national coaching staff and the visiting West Indies side, who also had a stopover in the UK before arriving in Dhaka yesterday.

West Indies side reached Bangladesh yesterday morning and went straight to the team hotel where they will be isolated in their room for the next three days.

The 24-member Bangladesh preliminary squad had also checked into the hotel after the training session and they will be kept inside a bio-secure bubble during the series. The members of the Test squad, who are staying at the Academy complex, are also expected to

'Sad to see it happen in Australia'



India were battling to avoid defeat against Australia after losing two wickets before the close of play Sunday in a third Test marred by allegations of racist abuse from

Cricket Australia apologised to the India team on Sunday and launched a probe into allegations visiting players were subjected to racial abuse by

part of the crowd. The Indian team lodged an official complaint after play on Saturday after bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj complained of hearing racist slurs while fielding near the boundary rope. On Sunday, Siraj approached the umpire pointing towards the stands and the

the ground. CA launched a parallel investigation with New South Wales Police, promising to take the "strongest measures" against anyone found

action was paused as police ejected six fans from

guilty of vilification. Australia coach Justin Langer joined the condemnation. "It's upsetting and it's disappointing," he said. "It's one of my greatest pet hates in life that people think they can come

to a sporting event and abuse or say whatever they like. I hated it as a player and I hate it as a coach. It's really sad to see it happen in

The International Cricket Council said the Indian team had informed match referee David and the governing body was "incredibly disappointed" with the incidents at the SCG.

Under the ICC's anti-discrimination policy,



it falls to CA to investigate the incident and submit a report to the Dubai-headquartered body within two weeks.

"We will provide Cricket Australia and the relevant authorities with our full support in any ensuing investigation as we will not tolerate any

racism in our sport," ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney said in a statement. India's Ravichandran Ashwin said the team

had been insulted by Sydney spectators in the past but the racial abuse had crossed a line during the ongoing match, which is being Boon of the alleged racial abuse on Saturday played in front of a reduced crowd of less than 10,000.

> "It is definitely not acceptable in this day and age. This must definitely be dealt with ironfist and we must make sure it doesn't happen again," the bowler said.

> India's regular captain Virat Kohli was fined half of his match fee in 2012 for responding to barracking from the SCG crowd by gesturing at them with his middle finger.

Kohli, who returned home after playing in the first test to attend the birth of his first child, said racial abuse was completely unacceptable.

"Having gone through many incidents of really pathetic things said on the boundary lines, this is the absolute peak of rowdy behaviour,' Kohli said on Twitter. "It's sad to see this happen on the field.

"The incident needs to be looked at with absolute urgency and seriousness and strict action against the offenders should set things straight for once."

'We're not puppets'



REUTERS, PAMPLONA

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said his side's match Osasuna should have been postponed due to the snowy conditions after the La Liga Laliga champions could only draw 0-0 on Saturday with the second-from-bottom side.

The snowstorm that blitzed northern Spain and the Spanish capital forced Real to make the journey to Pamplona a day earlier than originally planned, while they were made to wait on the icy runway at Barajas airport for over four hours.

Zidane's side struggled on the icy pitch as snow continued to fall throughout the game. They failed to have a shot on target in the first half.

"That was not a football match, it should have been called off," an angry Zidane told reporters. Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois joined coach Zidane in criticising organisers La Liga for not postponing his side's game at Osasuna. "We do what we are asked. We knew that if we didn't

come here we could lose the points but all you need to do is take a look and the roads. "We also have families and we're not puppets who have to play all the time," Courtois said.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Erling Braut

Haaland scored

twice to give

Dortmund a

valuable 3-1

win away to

Saturday.

RB Leipzig on

Borussia







শাবাশ বাংলাদেশ!







Level crossings to be 'safer'

Ministries decide speed bumps ahead of them; overpasses or underpasses under future road projects

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Amid growing concerns over the casualties at unauthorised and unmanned railway level crossings, the authorities yesterday decided to take several measures to ensure safety.

The steps include constructing speed breakers on each side of level crossings, reducing the number of illegal level crossings and erecting overpasses or underpasses in future projects, officials said.

The decisions were made in an inter-ministerial meeting over the issue at Rail Bhaban yesterday.

Representatives of LGRD, road transport and bridges, railways ministries and Bangladesh Railway (BR) were present at the meeting with Railways Ministry Secretary Salim Reza in the chair.

The meeting was held at a time when around 70 percent authorised level crossings do not have dedicated manpower. Besides, there are 1,149 unauthorised level crossings which have no gateman.

UNMANNED, ILLEGAL LEVEL CROSSINGS

Out of 1,412 authorised level crossings, 964 are unmanned, according to the latest document of BR.

At least nine government bodies were involved in constructing unauthorised level crossings, with the Local Government Engineering Department having constructed the highest 516 level crossings, the document shows.

Between 2008 and 2018, 263 people were killed in 297 rail-related accidents between, it said. But the actual number would be much higher.

At least 158 people were killed and 39 others injured in SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A motorcycle being pulled out of a manhole on KDA Avenue in Khulna city after a biker fell into it yesterday. The accident happened as the authorities concerned removed the cover for work in sewerage lines on both sides of the road.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

'Some AL men brought in arms for use against me'

Quader Mirza claims OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader's younger brother Abdul Quader yesterday claimed that some AL leaders from Feni and Noakhali had sent arms to

be used against him. Mirza, the incumbent Basurhat municipality in Noakhali, said his brother is not supporting him. He also said the local Awami League or administrations are not by his side and everyone left him as he was telling the truth about them.

Only local people are supporting him, he said.

You will need us to win in the national election. You will have to be careful to win in future. It is not very easy. You will have to collect information on those who walk with you," Mirza said, addressing his elder brother while speaking at

Invisible power protecting rapist

Claims mother of murder, rape victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mother of the 17-year-old girl who was raped before her death said an invisible power must be trying to protect the man accused of raping her.

"Considering everything, it seems to us that they have been getting special privileges since the beginning," the grieving mother told The Daily Star.

Even though the body of the O-level student was sent to a morgue Thursday evening, the autopsy was not done until

the next day, she said. Besides, police mentioned in the

when she was 17. Fardin Iftekhar Dihan, the accused, was taken to a court and then to jail within a

short time, she added. "When we wanted to know what the boy said in his confession, the police told us that they would let us know. But they had not done that in the last two days.

The family wanted to accuse three other men besides Dihan, because when Dihan called the girl, he said there would be four of them at his flat, the mother said, adding that she saw the four of them at the

But police recommended that the three SEE PAGE 10 COL 5 Indonesia Plane Crash

Black boxes located

No hope for survivors as rescuers find body parts, debris in sea

Nurcahyo Utomo said.

Indonesian authorities yesterday located the black boxes of the Sriwijaya Air jet that crashed into the sea soon after taking off from the capital Jakarta, as human body parts and pieces of the plane were retrieved.

The Boeing 737-500 with 62 passengers and crew was headed on a domestic flight to Pontianak in West Kalimantan on Saturday before it disappeared from radar screens four minutes after take-off.

Indonesia National Transport Safety Committee (KNKT) chief Soerjanto Tjahjono said the locations of Flight SJ 182's two black boxes had been

"Hopefully, we can retrieve them soon," said military chief Hadi Tjahjanto, without giving an estimated timeframe.

Search will continue into the night, a search and rescue official said, but efforts will be limited to sonar scans by boats. There were no clues yet as to what caused the crash, the first major aircrash in Indonesia since 189 passengers and crew were killed in 2018

soon after take-off from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport. Even before the latest crash, more people had died in air cashes in Indonesia than in any other country over the past decade, according to

when a Lion Air Boeing 737 Max in 2018 also plunged into the Java Sea

Aviation Safety Network's database. Pieces of wreckage were brought to Jakarta port by rescuers, including the plane's altimeter radar, emergency chute and a piece that was suspected to have come off of the bottom part of the plane's tail, KNKT official

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Man killed in 'gunfight' between Rohingyas

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a "gunfight" between two groups of Rohingyas at a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead Noor Hakim, 27, was a resident of Chakmarkul Rohingya Camp no. 21 in Teknaf upazila.

Commanding Officer Armed Police Battalion (APBn)-16 Torikul Islam said the "gunfight" took place between two groups of Rohingyas over establishing supremacy in Chakmarkul area around 3:00am.

The criminals fled when APBn members rushed to the spot, the commanding

officer said. Later, the law enforcers recovered the bullet-hit body of Hakim and sent

it to the morgue of Cox's SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Shifting sands reveal lost Oman village



AFP, Wadi Al-Mur

Encroaching sands have left little evidence that the former inhabitants and curious visitors are coming to rediscover the hamlet engulfed by the desert. Salem al-Arimi, originally from the area, looked

out nostalgically over the expanse. According to local elders, "all the houses in the village were invaded by the sand that assailed them

30 years ago, forcing the inhabitants to leave their homes," he said. Building tops and sections of stone wall emerge here and there, bearing witness to those who once

Deserts are expanding all over the world, pushed on by climate change, and affected populations have few weapons to fight back.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

an electoral rally at ward 9 of Basurhat municipality. SEE PAGE 10 COL 1 Covid deaths,

jump after dip STAFF CORRESPONDENT

infections

The number of Covid-19 deaths and new cases have increased in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday after a dip in the previous three

days.
Yesterday, a total of 25 people died due to Covid-19, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In the previous day (Saturday), 22 Covid-19 patients died.

the total number of deaths due to Covid-19 rose to 7,781. This was around 1.49 percent of all confirmed cases in the country.

At least 1,072 people tested positive for the viral infection in those 24 hours yesterday. The number of newly infected was 692 the day before.

On Friday, 785 people tested positive, according to the DGHS data.

With this, the total

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

New Covid cases in China double

German deaths top 40,000 AGENCIES

The daily number of new coronavirus cases has doubled in China, prompting tougher movement restrictions and in the capital, passengers must scan a health code before boarding a cab or ride-hailing car, officials said yesterday.

Mainland China reported 69 cases on Saturday, compared with 33 reported a day earlier, the country's national health authority said.

The new rule on cab

journeys follows the discovery on Saturday SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 11 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-00 JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



WINDIES' ARRIVAL SIGNALS CRICKET'S RETURN... Players of the West Indies cricket team boarding a bus at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport after arriving in the country yesterday morning. Bangladesh will play the West Indies in three ODIs and two Tests, which will mark the return of international cricket in the country after more than 10 months' absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT BID

GOP support uncertain

More Capitol rioters in viral posts arrested; senator urges social media providers to keep data

Democratic-led efforts to impeach US President Donald Trump for a historic second time gained momentum over the weekend, although it looked far from certain whether enough Republicans would back the move with just days

Democratic members of the House of Representatives will introduce articles of impeachment today after Trump encouraged his supporters to storm the US Capitol on Wednesday, Representative Ted Lieu said on Twitter.

The California Democrat, who helped draft the charges, said the articles had drawn 190 co-sponsors by Saturday night. As of Saturday afternoon, no Republicans had signed on, Lieu's spokeswoman said.

We have videos of the speech where (Trump) incites the mob. We have videos of the mob violently attacking the Capitol. This isn't a close call," Lieu tweeted Saturday

Trump initially praised his supporters at the Capitol but later condemned their violence in a video. The decision to call for calm came at the urging of senior aides, some arguing he could face removal from office or legal liability, sources told Reuters.

Impeachment by the Democratic-led House, equivalent to an indictment, would trigger an unprecedented second trial in the Republican-controlled Senate, which cleared

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4