



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXXI No. 10 | MAGH 9, 1427 BS | **Your Right to Know** | JAMADIUS SANI 9, 1442 HIJRI | 12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



A view of a cluster of houses in Rugganj's Murapara area, built under the Ashrayan-2 project. The government is building such houses for landless and homeless families to mark Mujib Borsho. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the virtual handover ceremony today. The photo was taken on Thursday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Offering a new life to homeless

Govt to provide houses to 2.93 lakh families in phases on the occasion of Mujib Borsho

JAMIL MAHMUD

Asia Begum's beaming face reflected her cherished dream of living in her own house, which may become a reality as the government pledged to provide land and houses to homeless and landless people to mark Mujib Borsho.

Asia's husband died years ago and the octogenarian woman of Narayanganj's Rugganj has since had to struggle to find shelter.

She lived in her daughter's house and her son, a cattle trader, has his own family. "Now, they [will] give me a home," she



Asia Begum

said.

She added that she wants her son, daughter-in-law and grandson to live with her.

"How can I live alone [at this age], and without them?"

For Nitai Chandra Das, 55, and his wife Bina Rani, a piece of land and a house of their own signifies self-esteem.

"Having my own house is like having a magic wand," said Nitai, a rickshaw-puller who lived in a rented house in Rugganj for more than two decades.

Both Asia and Nitai's families are hoping to get houses as part of the government's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Dominant Tigers seal series



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's return to international cricket after over 10 months was a smooth one as Tamim Iqbal started his long-term ODI captaincy with a series win.

The Tigers registered a  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1  
PHOTO ON PAGE 12

## PREPARATIONS FOR VACCINE ROLLOUT Race against time

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is yet to finalise the list of healthcare professionals and volunteers to be part of the Covid-19 mass inoculation campaign, whose piloting is likely to begin later this week.

Government officials said the piloting will take place at several public hospitals and the authorities there have also not finished preparing the lists of volunteers for it.

Bangladesh on Thursday received 20 lakh doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine as gift from the India government. Besides, it has

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Get ready to reopen

Education directorate asks all secondary schools, colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education yesterday asked all secondary schools and colleges to complete preparations for reopening.

In a notice, the DSHE instructed the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## WE DEEPLY MOURN

Mahbub Alam Mridul (1997-2021)

**Director, Walton Group**

Mahbub Alam Mridul, Honorable Director of Walton Group and a young Entrepreneur, has breathed his last on Thursday, 21 January, 2021, following a cardiac arrest. Innaillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun. His father S M Shamsul Alam is the Vice Chairman of Walton Hi-Tech Industries Limited. Walton Family deeply mourns his sudden demise and seeks salvation of the departed soul.

**Walton Family**

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## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Muhuri, Feni.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## Grey-headed FISH EAGLE

The Grey-headed Fish Eagle, which lives all year in Bangladesh, is the most common of our four fish eagles and found all over the country. (Our other three fish-eating raptors are the Pallas's Fish Eagle, the Osprey and the White-bellied Sea Eagle; they arrive here during winter and are more localized.)

It is a distinctive bird, not easy to confuse with others and identified by three main features. Its legs are covered in white feathers, its body is brown and its head is a pale grey. About the size of our *cheels*, it reaches thirty inches and weighs up to three kilograms. In flight, you can see its white tail rounded out by a black band. Its beak is small for an eagle, but its talons make up for that.

I first saw the Grey-headed Fish Eagle years ago in Baikka Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, but after that first look, I had trouble finding it again. About a year ago, I was in Hail Haor when I spotted a largish bird sitting at the edge of a fishpond. At first I thought it was a Pallas's Fish Eagle but the white leg feathers puzzled me. As I looked it flew up and perched on a branch perhaps twenty feet above the water.

I observed it while it scanned the water. A few minutes later it made its move. It dived down and straightened out just above the water, legs stretched out in front, talons open. For a split second it flew horizontally like this. Then it effortlessly dipped its outstretched claws into the water, pulling out a Tilapia. Holding the fish with its talons, it flew off to a tree far

away, presumably to eat in privacy.

The entire operation took perhaps a second or two. If I had glanced away, I would have missed it.

Some weeks later I saw the same bird perched on the same tree but this time it did not dive. Instead, it stared at me and I noticed a curious behaviour. It lowered its head while retracting its neck, so it looked like the head was looking out from its upper chest, as if it was shrugging.

More recently I saw the several Grey-headed Fish Eagles in Muhuri Lake, Feni. Here, a dam built on the river Muhuri before it flows into the ocean has created a lake where birds congregate in winter. Several fish ponds dot the area. The eagles were perched on trees around one such pond, keeping a sharp eye on the water, often flying in to trees close to water's edge for a better look.

It was also here that I got a closer look at the four formidable talons which emerge from the thick skin of its toes. Three face forward and the largest one, called the hallux, faces the rear. They are curved with sharp points. The eagle uses all talons for catching prey. Once caught, the front talons hold the kill in place while the rear talon is used like a dagger to thrust into the prey, and, together with the beak, to dismember it.

Indeed, the Grey-headed Fish Eagle is a fine example of the avian treasures of Bangladesh.

[www.facebook.com/ikabirphotographs](https://www.facebook.com/ikabirphotographs) or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

MIRPUR-11

## DNCC eviction drive continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday conducted their drive against illegal structures to widen the road at Mirpur section-11. DNCC will construct a 2km long road there for better connectivity with the airport.

DNCC demolished around 150 shops on Thursday and resumed their drive at 10am yesterday. It continued till 5pm.

Though DNCC is demolishing shops and houses across 900 metres of the road, they did not demolish a few seven to nine-storied buildings. DNCC faced obstruction from locals on the first day of their drive on Thursday.

Md Sadaqat Khan Faku, acting president of Mirpur-11 New Society Market, complained that three bihari camps were demolished. He said they did not get any notice before the drive and it was conducted violating a Chamber Judge Court order.

Mohammad Rabin, salesman of a shop, mentioned he got married just six months ago. "I don't know how I will manage the costs of a new family now that I have lost my job due to the eviction," he said.

Akash Robi Das, who operated a shoe shop at a rented structure for the last 20 years, said he doesn't know how and where he will store his inventory. "I am a victim of this 'development', I did not know the shop was built illegally."

About the complaint of violating the injunction order, Executive Magistrate Tajwar Akram Sakapi Ibne Sazzad said they are not demolishing the structures or shops which are under the injunction.

## Election campaign peaks in port city

AL, BNP mayoral candidates to unveil manifestos today

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) polls knocking at the door, the election campaigns are reaching their peak.

As polls day is on January 27, candidates will have to end their campaigns by January 25 midnight, said Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, returning officer of CCC polls.

Both Awami League (AL) and BNP mayoral candidates are trying their best to win over voters. During campaigns, they were seen requesting voters to choose them, offering a bunch of pledges to develop the city.

Both candidates are going to announce their election manifestos today.

AL mayoral candidate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, in his manifesto, will focus on making a smart city, with all modern amenities, said AL sources.

Rezaul will keep CCC non-partisan and focus on flourishing the city's tourism potentials, they said.

Contacted, Rezaul said making a smart city will be his prime focus. "The remaining

pledges would be elaborated in the manifesto."

Meanwhile, BNP mayoral candidate Shahadat Hossain, in his manifesto, will focus on making the city picturesque, with all modern facilities for tourism, and address housing problems for marginal income groups, said BNP sources.

He will develop the city in a planned manner, consulting with eminent citizens and experts of respective fields, they said.

Contacted, Shahadat told The Daily Star that he will be loyal to his pledges, if elected mayor. "I am going to announce my election manifesto tomorrow [Saturday], where I will elaborate on my plans about the city and pledges for residents."

Both candidates pledged to address the city's longstanding problems, including waterlogging, keep CCC corruption-free and emphasise coordination between CCC and service organisations during development work, sources said.

Seven candidates are vying for the mayoral post in CCC. All other candidates were also seen busy, going to the doors of voters in different areas with their pledges.



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

**STRANDED...** Technology has passed the age of typewriters. As computers and smartphones have become popular, there's little reason left to pay a typist anymore. Sitting right beside printshop hubs, some of them pass their days uncertain. Some have already accepted that this is it. Too old to switch craft, they pass their days accepting a life of bare survival. This photo was taken from Chattogram's Agrabad area recently.

## Solution at a standstill

By-pass road planned to prevent accidents non-existent even after a decade

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Goods-laden trucks rushing to cross Sylhet city through the busy Amberkhana intersection continue to claim lives, with two persons being killed in two separate accidents last week.

"Although there is no formal data, as many incidents go unreported, five died and many were injured in road accidents at the intersection in the last three months. Such incidents are continuing. If trucks drive through the intersection, people will keep suffering," said Abdul Karim Kim, coordinator of Sankhubdha Nagorik Andolon.

Authorities were supposed to resolve this issue a decade ago by building a by-pass road for trucks. But after spending crores of taka, the project was suddenly halted. The trucks, however, continued their reckless practice.

The question locals ask after each death is "why do authorities not come up with a concrete solution for this severe problem?"

Barring trucks from entering the city was planned back in 2006. The solution was to construct the bypass road for them.

To reach the national highway via Amberkhana, truckers need to drive 11.2 kilometres from Sylhet Airport bypass point to Temukhi Bridge at Kumargaon.

Construction of the 12km bypass road from Airport to Kumargaon via Badaghat area started in August 4, 2010, with a budget of Tk 45 crore. But after spending 27.5 crore till 2014, the construction came to a halt for unknown reasons.

According to Roads and Highways Department in Sylhet, a proposal for a four-lane road was forwarded to the ministry in 2016.

To assess the proposal, a team led by Md Zakir Hossain, additional secretary (planning) of Roads and Highways Division of the ministry -- visited the road on August 8 last year and submitted a report on August 17, recommending a two-lane road.

As Sylhet residents criticised the

recommendation, the ministry is now planning a four-lane road, RHD officials confirmed.

SCC Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury said, "RHD has been playing with the issue since 2006. They couldn't even complete construction of the two-lane bypass and are now planning for a four-lane. There's a road, Dhopagul to Haripur via Sahebbazar, which can be used as an alternative by upgrading it. I will be sending the proposal to the ministry soon."

Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury -- president of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik, Sylhet chapter -- said, "Until the bypass road is ready, trucks should be allowed in the city after 11pm, and should remain within speed limit of 20 km per hour."

Ritesh Barua, executive engineer of RHD in Sylhet, said, "The ministry forwarded us the design of a four-lane bypass road, and we're working to prepare a Detailed Project Plan now. We will submit it soon. Once the DPP is approved,

we'll start constructing the bypass."

The Amberkhana intersection for decades has only provided narrow access for vehicles, due to four illegal auto-rickshaw stands, uncontrolled parking and hawkers occupying parts of road. In addition to the problem, hundreds of goods-laden trucks from two upazilas are bound to use this intersection to cross the city to reach the national highway.

These trucks are permitted only to enter the city area after 8pm. As they have to wait hours before crossing the city, they start rushing and cause accidents often.

In the last 14 years, Amberkhana intersection has been expanded by nearly double its original width, but traffic flow and other issues grew even more. To resolve the narrow access, SCC and Sylhet Metropolitan Police's traffic section are now looking for new solutions.

Faisal Mahmud, deputy commissioner (traffic) of SMP, said, "A new instruction of 'no drop and pick-up' within 100 metres of the

intersection will be imposed soon."

However, SMP was not sure what it can do about the auto-rickshaw stands.

The mayor added, "We are now planning for a designated parking zone and looking for a suitable solution for the illegal auto-rickshaw stands."

While citizens blame rushing trucks for accidents and deaths, they also included lack of awareness while driving motorcycles and crossing or walking by the road as a cause of death.

Faruque said, "Motorcycle riders are reckless nowadays. The number of unpermitted auto-rickshaws is quite large, and violation of traffic rules is going up. Stern implementation of road transport laws can help raise awareness."

Mayor Ariful also called for strict implementation of the new Road Transport Act 2018, and SMP Deputy Commissioner (traffic) Faisal Mahmud agreed with his position.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

**Trucks keep on driving recklessly through Sylhet city's Amberkhana intersection, while the incomplete Airport-Badaghat-Kumargaon bypass road remains incomplete for years, inset.** These photos were taken last week.



## Two new fruit varieties get registered

Rajshahi Fruit Research Centre scientists to expand cultivation of Aam-14 and Falsa-1

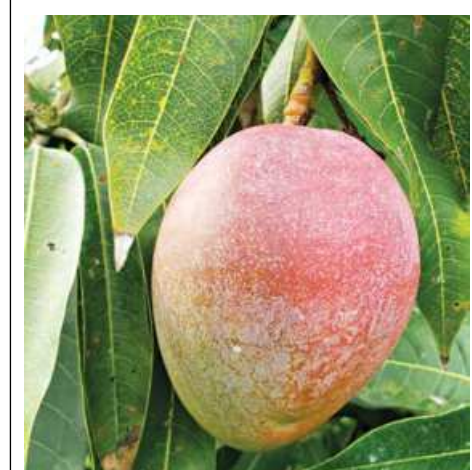


PHOTO: COLLECTED

**BARI Aam-14's deep red hue stands out against green leaves, while Falsa, the small fruit that resembles berries, is being recognised as a local fruit for the first time.**

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Fruit Research Centre, a wing of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), has added two new varieties to Bangladesh fruits.

One is a colourful mango variety -- BARI Aam-14. Originated in Saudi Arabia, the variety has been introduced in Bangladesh following required research processes.

The other is the local Falsa variety -- BARI Falsa-1. Scientifically known as *Grewia asiatica*, Falsa belongs to the berry family. Its small trees grow across the country and it has been recognised as a local fruit for the first time.

National Seed Board signed the certificates of the two fruit varieties. They were registered on December 31 last year and the certificates reached Rajshahi early this week, the research centre's Principal Scientific Officer Dr Alim Uddin said.

With these two, Fruit Research Centre has added a total of nine varieties of fruits in the country, he said, the country now boasts of 92 varieties of 36 kinds of fruits.

"We are proud and delighted. We believe these fruits will be popular among farmers and people for their taste, nutrient values and commercial potential," he said.

In 2010, Golam Mortuza, a BARI scientist,

took a branch of a mango tree to the research centre. He collected the branch from Saudi Arabia while working on mangoes there. From that branch, scientists of the centre grew ten plants through grafting. Only one of those plants survived. It helped the researchers grow a total five mother plants in ten years, Dr Alim was describing.

These five mother trees of BARI Aam-14 bear fruits at end of July every year. Fruits become a vibrant maroon colour at its ripe stage. Each of these oblong shaped mangoes weigh around 569 grammes. Of its mass, 75.35 percent are edible and it contains 22.83 percent sugar content. It has a potential of producing 14 tonnes of mangoes per hectars of land.

The Falsa variety was selected from a 20 year old tree of the centre.

"This fruit is grown almost everywhere in the country, but it was never recognised. But it has the potential," Alim says.

Falsa trees regularly bear fruits in May and June. This small round shaped fruits weigh around 0.66 grammes and become purple at the ripe stage.

This sweet and sour fruit has 24 percent sugar content and each of the trees bear 20kg of the fruit in a year.

"We will now work for extension of the fruits' cultivation," Dr Alim Uddin said.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran leader Twitter account posts warning to Trump

The Twitter account of Iran's Supreme Leader yesterday carried the image of a golfer resembling Donald Trump apparently being targeted by a drone, vowing revenge over the killing of a top Iranian general in a US drone attack.

TV audience for Biden inauguration tops Trump's

Roughly 40 million people watched live coverage of Joe Biden's inauguration as US president on six TV networks, according to Nielsen data released on Thursday, a 4% increase over the number that tuned in for Donald Trump's swearing-in four years ago.

At least five mine workers killed in blast in Karnataka

At least five mine workers were killed in southern India when their trucks carrying blasting material exploded, officials said yesterday. Local media said the toll could be higher.

Rapid virus test prices 'halved' for poorer nations

Poorer countries will have access to hundreds of millions more rapid Covid-19 tests following a deal to slash prices in half and boost production, Unitaid said yesterday.

NEW START TREATY WITH RUSSIA

Moscow hails Biden's extension proposal

AFP, Washington

Moscow yesterday welcomed US President Joe Biden's proposal to extend New START with Russia by 5 years, days before the expiration of the last nuclear reduction treaty between the two powers.

The announcement on the first full day of Biden's presidency is intended to prevent a nuclear arms race but makes clear he will not attempt a "reset" of relations as attempted in varying forms by every post-Cold War president.

The accord restricts the former Cold War rivals to a maximum of 1,550 deployed warheads each, a cut of about 30 percent from a limit set in 2002, and 800 launchers and bombers -- enough to blow up the world many times over.

The treaty expires on February 5. Talks last year stalled over Trump's insistence that China also become a party to the agreement, even though Beijing said it would not participate.

"The United States intends to seek a five-year extension of New START, as the treaty permits," White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters.

But she said that the new intelligence chief, Avril Haines, would also start an investigation into Russia's suspected poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny as well as on Russia's alleged election interference and on whether it was behind the massive SolarWinds hack that shook the US government and corporations.

"We can only welcome the political will to extend this document," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. He said Moscow needed more time to study the US administration's offer.



A colleague of the crew of Sriwijaya Air flight SJ 182, which crashed into the sea, throws flowers and petals from the deck of Indonesia's Naval ship KRI Semarang as they visit the site of the crash to pay their tribute, at the sea off the Jakarta coast, Indonesia, yesterday. The plane crash killed all 62 on board.

PHOTO: REUTERS

What will survive of US MidEast policy under Biden?

REUTERS

Trump Heights, Trump Square, Trump train terminal: Israel isn't shy about honouring Donald Trump, who is widely admired among Israelis for his staunch support of their country.

In four years, Trump overturned decades of US policy in the Middle East. Joe Biden will want to undo many of those changes during his presidency, but his freedom of manoeuvre will be limited.

Biden and his team have said they will restore ties with the Palestinians that were cut by Trump, resume aid and reject unilateral actions, such as construction of Israeli settlements on occupied territory.

At his Senate confirmation hearing on Tuesday, Biden's choice for secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said the US embassy in Israel would remain in Jerusalem, which Trump recognised as Israel's capital.

Four Trump-brokered diplomatic deals between Israel and Arab states are also likely to remain - they have bipartisan support in Washington.

So too is Trump's acceptance of Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in a 1967 war and annexed in a move not recognised internationally.

Blinken also signalled that countering Iran would be central to Biden's Middle East agenda.

By imposing crippling sanctions, Trump was able to cripple Iranian economy to such extent that, to some critics, it will be impossible for Biden to reverse the actions.

And Blinken said the United States was "a long way" from rejoining the 2015 pact with Iran - restraining Tehran's nuclear programme - which the United States quit under Trump.

Reflecting the uncertainty over new US administration's Iran policy, newspapers in Arab states of the Gulf gave a cautious welcome to Biden.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan voiced optimism that relations between Riyadh and Washington will be "excellent" under Biden. His comments comes despite Biden's pledge during his election campaign to treat the kingdom as a "pariah" over its human rights failings and to end US support to a Saudi-led military campaign in war-ravaged Yemen.

Despite Biden is expected to continue the path of his former boss president Barack Obama, his administration's actions in the coming months will set the course of US's Middle East policy.



SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS, CNN



Protesters affiliated with a faction of the ruling Nepal Communist Party take part in a rally against the dissolution of parliament, in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ROW OVER MEDIA LAW

Google threatens to block Australians

REUTERS, Sydney

Alphabet Inc's Google yesterday said it would block its search engine in Australia if the government proceeds with a new code that would force it and Facebook Inc to pay media companies for the right to use their content.

Google's threat escalates a battle with publishers such as News Corp that is being closely watched around the world. Australia is on course to pass laws that would make tech giants negotiate payments with local publishers and broadcasters for content included in search results or news feeds.

"Coupled with the unmanageable financial and operational risk if this version of the Code were to become law, it would give us no real choice but to stop making Google Search available in Australia," Mel Silva, managing director for Australia and New Zealand, told a senate committee.

Google's comments drew a sharp rebuke from Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison who said the country makes its rules for "things you can do in Australia."

"People who want to work with that in Australia, you're very welcome. But we don't respond to threats," Morrison told reporters.

Google has called the code overly broad and said that without revisions, offering even a limited search tool would be too risky. The United States government this week asked Australia to scrap the proposed laws and suggested Australia should pursue a voluntary code instead.

India's national security 'thoroughly compromised'

Says Sonia on TV anchor's chats on Balakot strikes

NDTV ONLINE

The government's silence over the leaked WhatsApp chats of TV anchor Arnab Goswami on the Balakot strikes is "deafening", Congress president Sonia Gandhi said yesterday, alleging that national security had been "thoroughly compromised".

In her opening remarks at a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), Sonia Gandhi also took on the government over the farmer protests, alleging "shocking insensitivity and arrogance" and what she called a charade of consultations between the centre and protesters.

"Very recently there have been very disturbing reports on how national security has been so thoroughly compromised. I think just a few days back, Antony-ji (former Defence Minister AK Antony) had said that leaking of official secrets of military operations is treason. Yet the silence from the Government's side on what has been revealed has been deafening," Sonia

Gandhi said in her virtual address.

"Those who give certificates of patriotism and nationalism to others now stand totally exposed."

In its investigations into a TV ratings scam, Mumbai Police has submitted to a court WhatsApp transcripts of chats between Republic TV's Arnab Goswami and Partho Dasgupta, the former CEO of ratings agency BARC, which reveal the TV anchor as saying three days before the Balakot strike that "something big will happen", that it would be "bigger than a normal strike" and "the government is confident of striking in a way that people will be elated."

The conversation is dated February 23, 2019, three days before India sent Air Force fighter jets to Balakot in Pakistan to destroy a Jaish-e-Mohammad terror base in retaliation for the terror attack in Pulwama, in which over 40 soldiers were killed.

The CWC meeting also decided that a new Congress president will be elected in June after five state elections.



'BEST' CARBON CAPTURE TECH Musk offers \$100m prize

REUTERS

Tesla Inc chief and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk on Thursday took to Twitter to promise a \$100 million prize for development of the "best" technology to capture carbon dioxide emissions.

Capturing planet-warming emissions is becoming a critical part of many plans to keep climate change in check, but very little progress has been made on the technology to date, with efforts focused on cutting emissions rather than taking carbon out of the air.

countries are to meet net-zero emissions targets.

"Am donating \$100M towards a prize for best carbon capture technology," Musk wrote in a tweet, followed by a second tweet that promised "Details next week."

Musk, who co-founded and sold Internet payments company PayPal Holdings Inc, now leads some of the most futuristic companies in the world.

Besides Tesla, he heads rocket company SpaceX and Neuralink, a startup that is developing ultra-high bandwidth brain-machine interfaces to connect the human brain to computers.

Advertisement for 3BED Apartments at the best locations of Uttara & Bashundhara Residential Areas. Includes contact info for Asset Developments.

Advertisement for Goprajatnii Bangladesh Government regarding customs duties and VAT. Includes a table with 11 items and their respective duties.

# In fond memory of Nayak Raj Razzak

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

National Film Award-winning actor **Abdur Razzak**, fondly known as **Nayak Raj Razzak**, was one of the most beloved actors of the Bangladeshi film industry. He ruled over the silver screen and many hearts with his memorable performances. Today is the legendary actor's 79th birth anniversary.



Razzak during his prime.

The actor used to spend this day at his Gulshan residence with his grandchildren. However, the celebrations were often graced by many, especially his peers, co-stars, and crew members, who came to wish him on the auspicious occasion.

Minutes would turn into hours as they would get together and commemorate his journey in films, starting from playing the lead in Zahir Raihan's "Behula". Razzak was part of blockbusters such as "Rongbaj" (1974), "Ki Je Kori" (1976), "Ashikkhito" (1978), "Boro Bhalo Lok Chhilo" (1982), "Chandranath" (1984) and "Jogajog" (1988), among many others.

The actor had once invited all his friends from the industry, and journalists to his house to celebrate his birthday. After the cake was cut, the star walked from table to table, serving his guests personally. He wished to live with the love of his fans by his side.

His birthday is still celebrated by his wife, children, and grandchildren at his residence. "We look back on our moments with him, and his grandchildren cut his birthday cake," shares Razzak's son Shomrat. "We miss him every minute. His absence will always be there, but he will live on through his work."

"We used to celebrate this day in a very grand way," shares noted actor and Member of Parliament Farooque. "Nayak Raj Razzak is a legend who cannot be forgotten. I cherish my friendship with him."

Razzak's onscreen chemistry with renowned actor Farida Akhtar Poppy, known by her stage name Babita, gifted their fans with timeless movies. "I have always considered him family, and I grieve his death even today," shares Babita. "I am especially emotional on his birthday, and miss him dearly."



Kabori and Razzak.



Razzak and Babita.



PHOTO: STAR

অনিতা শেখার পরিচালিত 'মহাশয়' চলচ্চিত্রের জন্য, অসহায়িতা, অসহায়িতা, অসহায়িতা এবং অসহায়িতা...  
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Suchanda's daughter Lisa Malik poses with her Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Suchanda's Lifetime Achievement Award: A day of elation and grief

SHARMIN JOVA  
 Eminent actor, director and producer Kohinoor Akhter Shuchanda was honoured with the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Film Awards for the fiscal year 2019-2020.  
 However, the actor could not be physically present at the event to receive the award, as she had recently undergone an open-heart surgery.  
 "I am honoured and overwhelmed with all the love that I have received throughout my career," shares the actor. "I feel humbled to be recognised for my contribution in the film industry."  
 Her daughter Lisa Malik received the Award on her behalf, while her son, Arafat Raihan Opu was supposed to read a speech on her behalf – which, according to Suchanda, the organisers did not allow during the ceremony.  
 "I wanted my son to convey my thoughts, and express how I felt at the moment to the honourable Prime Minister and the audience," shared the disappointed actor. "However, we felt disheartened that we were deprived from that. I believe that the organisers are responsible for this, and they should have treated the matter seriously."  
 According to Suchanda, even the reason behind her absence was not announced to the audience at the event. "It saddens me that the Prime Minister will never know why I could not be present at the ceremony," she says.



Suchanda's daughter Lisa Malik poses with her Lifetime Achievement Award.

Suchanda began her career with National Film Award and Ekushey Padak winning filmmaker Subhash Dutta's "Kagojer Nouka" in 1966.  
 She was featured in iconic films like "Behula", "Shuorani Duorani" and "Jibon Theke Ney" – all directed by Zahir Raihan.

The films are considered landmark projects in Bangladeshi cinema.  
 The actor has worked in more than one hundred films in her illustrious career. Some of her other notable works include "Dhirey Boho Meghna", "Chawa Pawa", "Noyontara", "Je Agune Puri", "Kacher Shwargo", and "Asru Diye Lekha".  
 Internationally acclaimed actor Babita and noted actor Champa are her younger siblings.  
 She produced films like "Taka Ana Pai" and "Protishodh", among others. Shuchanda made her directorial debut with "Shobuj Coat Kalo Choshma", while she received a National Film Award in 2005 for producing and directing the film "Hajar Bochhor Dhore", based on Zahir Raihan's novel of the same name.  
 Suchanda reminisced the struggles during the Liberation War and her career during the golden period of Bengali cinema. "When my husband, Zahir Raihan, went missing, I had no place to go, and my sons were too young," she said. "At the time, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave me support. I am indebted to him."  
 On being asked if she ever thought about making a biopic on her own life, the actor says, "It is not that I have never thought of it. However, I would be happy if a young and talented filmmaker in our country does it," smiles the actor, who says that she is considering writing an autobiography in the future.

PHOTO: STAR

## Anticipated film releases of 2021

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

The Bangladeshi film industry faced many obstacles, as movie theatres were closed for most of last year. Although cinema halls are open now, the audience turnout is still very low. As several new films are lining up for release in 2021, the anticipation might slowly bring the audience back to movie theatres. We take a look at some Bangladeshi films that are expected to release this year.

Directed by Gias Uddin Selim, "Paap Punno", featuring Siam Ahmed and Shahnaz Sumi in the lead roles, is expected to release this year. The film also features Chanchal Chowdhury, Afsana Mimi, Fazlur Rahman Babu, and Farzana Chumki among others.

"I believe that this project will be one of the most talked about films of the year," shares Gias Uddin Selim.

Directed by Raihan Rafi, the film, "Damal", is also expected to release this year. It features Siam Ahmed and Bidya Sinha Mim in the lead roles.

"Sfulingo", directed by Tauquir Ahmed, featuring Pori Moni, Mamo, Mamunur Rashid, and Rownak Hasan, is also expected to release this year.

Director Dipankar Dipon, acclaimed for his film, "Dhaka Attack", is gearing up for his much-anticipated film, "Operation Sundarban." Featuring Siam Ahmed, Riaz, Roshan and Nusrat Faria in the lead roles, this film is also on the line for release. "The film is the result of our hard work and honesty, and we are confident that the audience will love the outcome," expresses Dipankar Dipon.

"Shaan", directed by M A Rahim is expected to hit theatres this year. The film features Siam Ahmed, Puja Cherry, and Taskin Rahman among other actors.



Jinn

The much-anticipated Arifin Shuvoov starrer "Mission Extreme", a police action-thriller co-directed by Sunny Sanwar and Faisal Ahmed, was supposed to hit theatres during Eid-Ul-Fitr last year. However, the



Shaan

movie's release was pushed back. Featuring Chanchal Chowdhury, the upcoming film "Hawa", directed by Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, is a tale about fishermen whose lives are intertwined with the sea.

Directed by Ashraf Shishir, the film, "570", featuring Bappy Chowdhury will also be released this year. "I hope this film will introduce me in a different light to the audience. It will be one of the most highlighted films of the year," shares Bappy.

"Tungipara'r Miabhai", directed by Selim Khan, will feature Dighi in the lead role. Shamim Ahamed Roni has written the screenplay of the film, which will be released commemorating "Mujib Borsho".

"Casino", featuring Nirab and Bubby as an on-screen pair for the first time, is



Operation Sundarban

directed by Saikat Nasir and is expected to release this year.

Directed by Nader Chowdhury, "Jinn", was scheduled for release last year, but all was postponed due to the pandemic. Featuring Mahiya Mahi and Sajal together for the first time, the film is set to hit theatres this year.

Featuring Jaya Ahsan and Ferdous, the film, "Beauty Circus", directed by Mahmud Didar, is also set for release this year.

"Bhalobasha Zindabad", featuring Apu Biswas and Bappy Chowdhury, has been on the line for release for some time. The film is directed by Debashish Biswas.

With several forthcoming films, cinema theatres are hoping to see a change in audience participation.



Mission Extreme



Beauty Circus



## Bangladeshi comment warriors dream of getting higher degree on victim blaming

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Victim blaming has become 'almost an art' in Bangladesh. Whenever any news portal publishes news of any violence, comment warriors start their war of blaming the victim, especially when the victim is a girl.

According to the UN (Unidentified Notion), Bangladesh is the largest comment-warrior producing country in the world. The growth rate of this type of warrior is quite enviable for other countries and the number is rising by leaps and bounds.

Comment warriors, however, are running out of excuses and logic due to the lavish use of these on various comment sections. Statistics show that they have actually nothing new left to use when it comes to blaming victims. So, the warriors have come up with a new plan! They want to pursue a higher degree on victim blaming in a foreign country, either from the USA or any European country that will have them. Asked about this ambition, a comment

warrior, said, "Our stock is empty now. We have been blaming victims for decades with our limited homemade logic, words and excuses. We need to learn new ways and logic so that we can blame the victims more severely and ruthlessly. A higher degree on victim blaming from a foreign country can enrich our knowledge of blaming. We are dreaming of utilising this opportunity."

The bewildering behaviour of comment warriors has left millions of people astounded. Even the Hubble Telescope would fail to find a structured and relevant comment. Referring to this as an immense success, another warrior said, "People are talking about us because of jealousy. Victim blaming is an art and we deserve to be treated like artists. To flourish our knowledge and wisdom, we must acquire a higher degree on victim blaming from a developed country. We need the government's attention to fulfil our dream. We promise we will take this art to another level if we are given a chance."

## Corrupt officials come up with list of immoral activities to avoid

OSAMA RAHMAN

A section of corrupt officials, using their expertise in, well, corruption, have come up with a list of immoral activities that citizens are to avoid at all costs.

The awareness campaign titled "D.I.E" sets out a three-pronged attack against depraved activities which are apparently a bigger concern for the nation than anything else.

"We know all about corrupt activities. We have done it and have learned why others should not do it," Azfar Hussain, the upazila chairman of Bakhunia, said. "We put a lot of thought into this and then decided, as the bastions of morality, we are actually in prime position to tell citizens what to do

and what not to do.

"So, we made the list taking into consideration what we had done. First, many of our officials used to abuse drugs, like weed, which is the worst one among all the drugs in the world. Second, as we, I mean they, became addicted to drugs, they would seek out illegal gratification," he said.

He added that illegal gratification, a polite word for bribes apparently, would soon be followed up by EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIRS. "You can see how wickedness just continues to grow. And so these are all steps in the chain of wickedness and unless you stop, you can never stop," Azfar said.

Sufia Sonali, chairperson of the Corrupt Officials Cause Kurrupation,

said that Bangladesh repeatedly finds itself in the list of most corrupt countries in the world. "We usually rank in the top 20 in the list of the most corrupt countries in the world. Now, 20 doesn't sound bad, but when you take into account who the remaining 19 are, it's really bad," she said.

Sufia added that now things were changing. "We catch a lot of unaffiliated or wrongly-affiliated corrupt people. Specially cartoonists. We hope this awareness campaign can help people become less corrupt." When pointed out that corruption started at the very top, Sufia said that was an exercise in learning by example and not leading by it. "You cannot stop corruption, unless you fully understand what it is," she said.



## Empty government bank vaults to store Covid-19 vaccines

### Chapasthan grapples for storage space to store newly-gifted vaccines; turns to national banks as usual



SHOVON RAHMAN

Chapasthan's benevolent leaders yesterday came up with the decision to use the country's bank vaults to store the Covid-19 vaccines.

When the vaccines first arrived and after the leaders of the state were administered the first doses, worries rose about where the vaccines would be stored.

"That's when we realised that most of our nationalised banks have no money in their vaults. With a few minor tweaks, we can use those to store the vaccine," Chapasthan's money manager said.

The Unhealthy Minister of the country informed a press briefing that the vaccines needed to be stored in a certain temperature and would need a certain environment where it could be kept without spoiling. "Because of Covid, we were not able to give our regular MMR shots so most of those are already stored. Now, with this new vaccine gift, we are fast running out of space. In this situation, we decided once again to turn to banks," he said.

Under a new "Bank To Vaccine Hub" programme, vaults in national banks will go through a facelift, with many modifications being made to successfully store the vaccines. A Tk 500 crore project has been undertaken in this regard, with costs expected to rise to Tk 900 crore due to corruption and nothing else.

An opposition leader lambasted the government's initiative. "This is just another way for them to steal money from the banks. They have come up with this ridiculous proposal because they know the people are too idle to react. They want the vaccines immediately too, so of course they will agree to anything," the leader said.

Chapasthan's money manager, however, did not agree with this assessment. "We don't really need excuses to steal from banks. We can do it anytime we want. If we get bored with that, we can steal from the stock exchange. We are trying to do a good thing and a vested quarter is turning that positive into a negative. But those who cannot, only say," he said. The programme is set to begin from next week.

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 2021, MAGH 9, 1427 BS

## Reopening schools in phases would be a good decision

*But govt must strictly enforce and facilitate the health guidelines*

**W**E believe the government's discussion to reopen schools on a limited scale giving priority to the SSC and HSC students is a prudent move. The plan in consideration is to get this year's SSC and HSC examinees to the classroom first. According to a report quoting a high official of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, work has been completed on reducing the syllabus and this has been submitted to the education ministry. This too is a wise decision that will take into consideration the disruption in studies for students during the pandemic.

While it is crucial for students to get back to school the government is rightly concerned about the risks involved and according to an official of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19, decisions to reopen will take into account pandemic situation and directives.

Even if the reopening is done in phases with only Class 10 and 12 students coming to school in the first phase, the issues of safety must take priority. This means mandatory mask wearing and physical distancing as well as proper facilities for handwashing, clean bathrooms and regular sanitising of the classrooms and other areas of the schools. Given the state of most schools in both the cities and rural areas, this will be a challenging task. For this reason everyone must be sensitised from the teachers, administrators, students to the school staff to the parents regarding the importance of following these guidelines. Unfortunately we have seen how people disregard these rules in public places and many are not quite convinced of the seriousness of the spread of Covid-19 infections. Rigorous awareness campaigns have to be started through every kind of media and public platform. While we understand why the government is giving priority to SSC and HSC students we hope that students of other classes are also being considered in these discussions as most of them have suffered a huge gap in their education. This is because most students have not been able to avail the remote learning facilities introduced in these last eleven months, as they did not have access to devices such as TVs, computers, laptops or smart phones. Internet access was also not the same in all areas with some having no access at all. These are realities that the government must address as the pandemic is still here and it may be a while before all classes can be held in the classroom. To reopen without ensuring that the resources and facilities to allow for full compliance of health guidelines can be met may have grave consequences. Therefore while the government tries to implement these measures and reopen in phases it must also make remote learning a more viable option. This requires intense discussions with education experts, teachers, BTW and internet service providers so that learning does not stop while students wait for schools to reopen.

## VC coerced to prioritise jobs for BCL members?

*The culture of political appointments of teachers is debilitating*

**A**CCORDING to a recent report published in this paper, Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Professor M Abdus Sobhan has "assured" BCL men that they would get the "highest priorities" in getting jobs at the university while the leaders kept him, along with two pro-vice-chancellors and the proctor to the VC's residence, confined to the VC's residence on campus demanding jobs on January 11. The report also states that the demonstration took place as one administrative official was appointed to the university, defying the government's order that postponed all kinds of appointments to RU until further notice. How is it possible that a position as high as that of Vice Chancellor can be treated with such disrespect and belligerence? And how can a Vice Chancellor make statements that imply that a university's highest authority must bow under the pressure of political cadres?

Later, the VC stated that he did not assure anyone about getting jobs and added, "They [BCL activists] were waging a movement. We say many things so that they call off their movement." We can only imagine why the VC reacted that way. It reminds us of a similar situation from 2019, when activists of BCL dragged the principal of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute (RPI) by his neck and threw him into a pond as he did not give in to their whimsical demands. These are not isolated incidents but a dangerous trend in all public universities where the Chhatra League members wield inordinate power over the campuses, even in recruitment decisions. The implicit impunity that members of student wings of the ruling party enjoy is a known fact, leading to some of them committing all kinds of crimes. The reason behind their entitled and aggressive behaviour is that they have the blessing of some powerful quarters within the ruling party who, despite the PM's repeated calls to purge the BCL of these elements, have nurtured them.

It goes without saying that buckling under political pressure will not ensure that the best candidates are chosen for recruitment. Teachers of universities must be chosen purely on their merit without any bias or fear. Unfortunately this is not always the case and that must change. The administrative standards must be raised across all educational institutions. Moreover, if an impartial governing body could keep watch on the quality of the management of education institutions, including university recruitment, it will ensure that the best candidates are chosen which will benefit the students and as well as the institution. We hope the RU authorities will remain responsible in doing what is right and won't be obstructed by political pressure.

# E-learning: A boon or a bane?

BLOWN' IN THE WIND  
SHAMSAD MORTUZA

**I**N our Viber group, a departmental colleague shared an excerpt from a student's exam script. The student wrote down the title of Jhumpa Lahiri's book "The Interpreter of Maladies" as "The Translator of Disease". As English teachers, we are more prone to receiving funny and nonsensical use of the foreign language every now and then. Often, we have to re-track the thought process of our students to make sense of their garbled up expressions. The usual problems arise when students think in Bangla and try to translate their thoughts into English without the control over the target language. Typically, we notice problems with grammar and vocabulary, but the change in the title of the book was something new. The only explanation we could come up with was that the student had used a paraphrasing tool to avoid the online plagiarism checker of our online learning management system.

At ULAB we have a zero tolerance policy against plagiarism. All online assignments and submissions go through an originality checker allowing us to detect copied material. The attempt to bypass the artificial intelligence by the student raises some serious concerns about e-learning and assessment. It adds to a larger problem that goes beyond the simple assumption that our education is in crisis.

According to an article published in *Plagiarism Today*, "synonymised plagiarism" is a new threat for education. There is a scheming enterprise that is profiting simply from changing the contents of published materials and presenting them as something new. For instance, Shakespeare's oft quoted adage "To be or not to be that is the question" can be changed to "To exist or not to exist that is the query" to beat the plagiarism checker. There is another trend of academic cheating that is becoming rampant. Students (often researchers and scholars) use double translations to camouflage the original source. For instance, an article written in English can be first changed into Russian and then back to English. Then by fixing the usual errors, the same article/essay can be given a new look. The rush for publications and

ranking is often blamed for such deceitful attempts. However, a human examiner's discerning eyes can be more vigilant than the computer algorithm—something that our students (and colleagues) often do not realise.

While online teaching has its pros, we need to be alert to some of its cons. The normalisation of cheating is one of them. What worries me more is the mindset: we are raising a tech savvy generation that

finds it thrilling to beat the system. Moral scruples take a back seat as searching for cheat-codes in computer games or even hacking the system becomes normal. For many students, online learning is an extension of the games they play. As educators, we have tried to adjust to the new reality of online teaching in the last one year, but there is a growing concern over its impact on our students.

Given the lack of devices and internet data concerns, we cannot always insist on having live classes. Many students do not turn on their videos citing privacy or technical issues. There is no way of verifying whether these students are actually attending their classes, let alone sitting for their own examinations. The regular temptation to cheat has become a part of their behavioural essence. As someone who studied science up to the Higher Secondary, I often ask myself what good was it to dissect those frogs in my biology lab or to wait for the nitrate ring to appear in my chemistry lab classes! I now know that they have taught me patience and made me curious about

I am probably overstating the concerns. There are many students who have taken full advantage of technology to express themselves in many different multimodal creative ways. In a normal semester, we get to see performances of skits or wall papers as class presentations. This year many of our students have made short films, created animations using online apps, curated blogs, which you normally do not expect in a traditional English department classroom. Many of them signed up for online courses with overseas universities through Coursera to learn new things. Online teaching and learning has allowed them to find this type of freedom. Many others are bogged down.

Thankfully, there are talks of reopening of schools in February. The influence of the lockdown has been overwhelming for most of the students. According to a recent report more than "500,000 children under 18 in England, with no previous problems, will need mental health care due to the devastating economic, health and family pressures caused by the ongoing coronavirus crisis"

(RT.com). The long term closure of schools has given rise to depression with suicidal thoughts, self-harm and eating disorders. I do not know of any survey on Bangladeshi children involving the impact of coronavirus on their mental makeup. Before moving to online teaching, my institution's student affairs office did conduct a survey in April 2020. We asked questions about the students' confidence level on dealing with online courses, support structures at home, stress management, financial concerns, healthy lifestyles including food habit, spirituality, physical exercise, substance abuse and so on. The gathered information has allowed ULAB to migrate to online teaching quite successfully; more than 90 percent of students have re-registered in the last three semesters, proving that our students have confidence in our mode of delivery. We are all beginning to see the benefits of blended learning, and are optimistic of maintaining this hybrid model even after the lockdown is over. The move towards online teaching has tested our resolution. We have learnt to adopt and adapt, to outpace and outgrow the virus and its atrocities.

Nevertheless, in the last one year, we have also learnt how stressful online learning can be. The over reliance on non-human entities has grown in the absence of human interactions. Our behaviour has become automatic and mechanical. If someone dies, we do not shed tears; we write RIP or post an emoticon. In the hyperreal world of social media, we create avatars to curate some constructed images of our selves. We no longer see anything bad in such false representations. As Oscar Wilde once put it, "Illusion is the first of all pleasures". The student paper that I referred to at the beginning can boast of its ingenuity. Instead of trying to use the source with proper citations, the student concerned simply ran it through an app to defamiliarize it and present it as an original work. They probably had a self-gratifying feeling thinking that they could outwit the system. I will be worried if this feeling stays with her/him even after s/he graduates. That person will turn out to be a cheat without realising that the only person he/she is cheating is himself/herself. The problem is that they are not alone. The system is allowing many such individuals to thrive and flourish in full glory. It is about time we run a reality check on our virtual avatars.

Shamsad Mortuza is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of ULAB.

## Biden's balm of normalcy soothes US

*Nation in crisis seeks succour in joyous unity*



ASHFAQUE SWAPAN

**A**MERICA'S quadrennial celebration of peaceful transition of power is one of its more hallowed traditions. Having said that, I've never been a great fan of US presidential inaugurations. Like American party conventions, there is a slick, confected feel to it, awash as it is in platitudes and hyperbole that come across as overwrought.

However, at critical moments of crisis, a presidential inauguration can take on historic significance.

In 1933, Franklin D Roosevelt reassured a nation reeling from the Great Depression that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

In 1977, Jimmy Carter, an unassuming peanut farmer from Georgia, reassured a nation shaken by the political scandals of disgraced President Richard Nixon with his quintessential American decency.

The inauguration of President Joseph R Biden and Vice President Kamala D Harris on January 20 is another such inauguration.

A global pandemic has turned the world upside down, and the US, one of the worst affected nations, has paid a heartbreaking price with over 400,000 deaths from Covid-19. On January 6, lawmakers hid under desks as the US Capitol was overrun by thugs egged on by the sitting president. The last time the US Congress was attacked was by the British in 1814.

And what of outgoing President Donald J Trump? Attempting to list even a few of his transgressions is as futile as trying to drink from a fire hydrant. Suffice it to say that among his many, many egregious breaches of all norms of decency, he chose to sneak out of the capital, earning the dubious distinction of becoming the first US president in 150 years not to attend his successor's inauguration.

I'm sure I'm not the first person to wonder what it is about the new president that helped him achieve the remarkable feat of defeating Trump, who won more votes in a presidential election than any previous candidate, by a whopping seven million votes.

Biden's appeal has never been about just who he is. It's been more about who he represents and what he is against. It's hard to recall a time when governing styles and values in the federal government have been in greater contrast than a future Biden administration and the outgoing Trump administration.

Trump was all about riling up his supporters, off-the-cuff tweets, seat-of-the-pants governance, a callous disregard for science and policy, the fanning of flames for a fevered yearning for a lost past of racial dominance.

Biden, on the other hand, represents an America that looks much more like its future. More importantly, his campaign always seemed to me to be a communal project of Obama-era wicked-smart

appeal must go to Trump. Trump's awful conduct had resulted in such a wacky, scary, dystopian reality that Biden's decency, humanity, kindness, honesty—in ordinary circumstances unremarkable, even pedestrian traits—seem so utterly appealing.

It all came together in the inauguration ceremony and the later festivities. Credit is also due to Republican Party lawmakers—including

ensure that strapped states don't have to bear the cost. . . They want to launch a massive public education blitz, aimed at communities sceptical of the vaccine."

Going back to the inauguration, the most stirring moment for me was the performance of one of America's most popular folk songs, made famous by Woody Guthrie:

"This land is your land, this land is my land/From California to the New York



Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as Jill Biden holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the US Capitol, in Washington, US, January 20, 2021. PHOTO: REUTERS

experts and volunteers. Sure, Biden is the face of it, but once he clinched the nomination, from his campaign to the announcement of the members of his administration, all his steps give the impression that the entire effort is powered by a well-oiled machine eerily reminiscent of the quiet competence of the no-drama Obama era. Am I the only one to be amazed that Joe Biden, whose penchant for gaffes was regarded with affectionate indulgence, has not made a single misstep throughout this extraordinarily demanding campaign and transition?

The inauguration ceremony, along with the heartwarming celebrations later, had the hallmarks of the Obama administration. Biden's special sauce is his genuine warmth and humanity.

In one of the stranger ironies in recent times, some of the credit for Biden's

ferocious partisans like US Senators Mitch McConnell, Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley, Rep. Kevin McCarthy and outgoing Vice President Mike Pence. It is a tribute to the Republican Party that the institutional integrity of US democracy survived the onslaught of Trump and his enablers.

Thanks to the mess left by Trump, the next four years are not going to be a cakewalk for the Biden administration. However, the incoming administration's successful management of Covid-19 vaccination will make its path easier. The early signs are promising.

"Biden's team members intend to use the Federal Emergency Management Agency to set up thousands of vaccination sites in gyms, sports stadiums and community center," Ezra Klein wrote in *The New York Times*. "They want to mobilise the National Guard to . . .

Island/From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters/This land was made for you and me."

The words resonated with particular power because they were uttered by a performer of Puerto Rican descent and had the full endorsement of the president of the United States of America.

I am an ageing first-generation immigrant whose faith in his adopted country was shaken by vicious expressions of xenophobia in the last few years, also endorsed by the (then) US president.

I was close to tears as I heard Jennifer Lopez sing those beautiful words. I really felt, once more, that this wondrous land, America, is my home as well.

Thank you, President Biden and Vice President Harris. Thank you, America.

Ashfaque Swapan, an Atlanta-based writer and editor, is contributing editor for Siliconeer, an online South Asian publication.



# Kashinath Roy: A teacher, poet and mentor of extraordinary stature

AZFAZ HUSSAIN

MY teacher Professor Kashinath Roy (1947–2021)—poet, short story writer, essayist—died on January 17, at 74. Or did he die?

Professor Roy was my direct teacher in the Department of English, Dhaka University (DU), where I studied as an undergraduate. I recall the moment when I first saw him: he immediately stood out from the crowd because of his attire and appearance. Indeed, his immaculate white *pyjama* and *panjaabi* remained constant in his life—attire that also seemed organic to his body and his being—making the point that style itself is political.

Professor Roy taught us the English novelist and poet Thomas Hardy. He had a style of language and a cadence of his own, which stole into the heart with strange and remarkable power. He used to pace back and forth in our classroom, generating a spatial rhythm that we thought harmonised with the temporal movements of his beautifully textured sentences that also exemplified verbal economy. For him teaching was a work of art.

Kashinath Roy's lectures on Hardy's Egdon Heath and novelistic architectonics, on Greek and Shakespearean tragedies, and on Jane Austen's persistent preoccupations with money and manners and morals and marriage in her work have still remained with me. I am inclined to characterise his pedagogy as poetic and performative—a pedagogy that shows how teaching itself is love made visible.

We—his students—continued to marvel at the depth and range of his knowledge. He taught us the poetics and politics and philosophy of the novel, while also demonstrating that the novel is a world unto itself and yet imbricated in the world outside it. He was characteristically and critically

attentive to that very dialectic of the word and the world. While he passionately valorised the aesthetic dimensions of literary works, he never sealed them off from the historical, the social, and the political as such. For him "close readings" were never closed readings.

In short, Professor Roy was a committed, brilliant, articulate, engaged, and even a very popular teacher—one whose life seemed to depend on teaching. I was exceedingly fortunate that I quickly became close to Professor Roy. I even frequented his residence at one point. Thus, we had numerous informal conversations that ranged within a broad zodiac of our concerns while involving and intensifying my three abiding passions in life—poetry, politics, and philosophy.

Indeed, it was Professor Roy who got me interested in the great French symbolist poet Stéphane Mallarmé and the Austrian-British philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, while he did much to deepen my interest in Shakespeare. I was then bedazzled by his knowledge of Shakespeare. As the story has it, before he came to study English at DU, he had memorised Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in its entirety. I myself repeatedly saw how my teacher could quote Shakespeare at the drop of a hat while offering lucid interpretations of his plays and relating them to the dull prose of our daily living, thereby making Shakespeare come alive.

Our conversations also surrounded Marxian political economy at one point. I found Professor Roy decisively anti-capitalist and anti-colonial in his orientation and sensibility while I clearly sensed his strong predilection for socialism in the face of monstrous anti-socialist aestheticism, aggressively prevalent as it was in his milieu. It is not for nothing that he held his teacher (and my teacher) Serajul Islam Choudhury—the country's leading socialist intellectual—in



Professor Kashinath Roy (1947–2021).

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

high esteem. To many of us, indeed, Professor Roy was one of the best teachers of Bengali literature as well, and one of the best contemporary Bengali poets, one whose beautiful and powerful lines I tirelessly exchanged and discussed with my great peer and senior poet-friend Golam Faruque Khan. Although this is not the place to evaluate Kashinath Roy's prose and poetry—I've plans to do so in the future of course—I still intend to touch quickly on what he himself called his "transactions with words."

In 2009 Kaiser Haq—Kashinath Roy's longtime close friend and my teacher—provided a brief but useful note on his work: "Kashinath Roy began writing in his teens, and in the sixties published regularly in periodicals like *Kanhuaswar* [...]" After

that he published little, though he kept on writing—poems, short stories, at least one novella. [...] He was 60 when he published his first book, a verse play [called *Divine Comedy*] he had written in his teens. And, at 61, he published a substantial collection of [...] poems, *Jibanananda Dekhun* ("Take a Look, Jibanananda")." Haq added: "These poems are forthright, often bitterly satirical, eminently readable, and a most pertinent commentary on the state of our nation." Then, in 2012, his third and last book—again a collection of poems—called *Ami Jaha Dite Pari* came out. In other words, Kashinath Roy published a total of three books during his lifetime.

Kashinath Roy also wrote several short stories. His "Rupantar" (1964) and his "Memsahber Paa" (1977) in particular are both disruptive and innovative works that at once attest to his distinctive fictional imagination and matchless prose, although those works have not received critical attention at all. Further, he wrote a number of essays and articles in both English and Bengali. Owing to space-constraints, I will mention only two—his long epistolary piece written in English under the *nom de plume* of Irfan Pramanik for the first-rate magazine of the arts called *Form* (edited by my teacher Professor Shawkat Hussain) and his late autobiographical meditation in Bengali called "Nibhrito Shikkhokher Sandhane" that appeared in the journal *Natum Diganta* (edited by Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury). His autobiographical piece also fiercely mobilises a devastating critique of our market-driven academic culture, our colonial mindset, and our middle-class hypocrisies, among other things. But Kashinath Roy is a poet in the first place—a powerful and distinctive one at that (to say the least)—one who has hitherto been seriously neglected in Bangladesh.

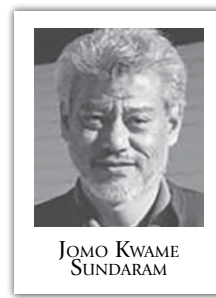
On more personal registers: When I was 19 and in my second year in the English department, out of my profound admiration for my teacher's work, I ended up translating one of his representative poems into English. And my teacher Professor Shawkat Hussain generously published it in his magazine *Form*. But when I saw my translation in print, it suddenly occurred to me that I could not do justice to Kashinath Roy's original poem. I made it a point not to face my teacher immediately. Yet I bumped into him while he immediately but ardently thanked me for that translation. Such was his magnanimity!

Indeed, what kind of a person was my teacher Kashinath Roy? In his autobiographical meditation, he declares: "There is no doubt that I'm an oddball in this society." Yes, my teacher was exemplarily "weird," remarkably "strange," exceptional. Never did he care about worldly success, nor did he "network" in an environment where networking is deemed both practical and profitable, nor did he ever seek any form of what the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu calls "cultural capital" or "symbolic capital." No prominent critic ever cared to write in a sustained manner about whatever "little" my teacher had produced. But his life itself—lived as it was—embodied "rage against the machine" on the one hand and radical quietude on the other.

Is my teacher Kashinath Roy dead? My answer is "no." He remains—and will continue to remain—alive in our stories and our memories, in his invaluable contributions to his students' lives, and in his own works and words.

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## Nothing to learn from East Asia?



JOMO KWAME SUNDARAM

COVID-19 infection and death rates in the Western world and many developing countries in Asia and Latin America have long overtaken East Asia since the second quarter of 2020. Perhaps unsurprisingly,

considering prevailing western accounts of the Asian financial crises, there have been no serious efforts to draw policy lessons from East Asian contagion containment.

### Lockdowns necessary?

Although most East Asian economies have successfully contained the pandemic without nationwide "stay in shelter lockdowns", many governments have seen such measures as necessary. But lockdowns are blunt measures, with inevitable adverse consequences, especially for businesses and employment.

Many countries have thus imposed lockdowns, citing China's response in Wuhan. But as the first WHO fact-finding mission to China noted, "The majority of the response in China, in 30 provinces, was about case finding, contact tracing, and suspension of public gatherings—all common measures used anywhere in the world to manage [infectious] diseases."

Lockdowns were limited to a few cities where contagion went "out of control in the beginning". The key lesson from China was "all about...speed. The faster you can find the cases, isolate the cases, and track their close contacts, the more successful you're going to be."

To be sure, lockdowns "flatten the curve" by temporarily preventing further contagion. But unless accompanied by appropriate complementary measures, undetected infectious individuals may cause silent community transmission that becomes evident only too late. Instead of lockdowns, it is far more prudent to find and isolate cases before numbers become unmanageable.

### South Korean lessons

The Republic of Korea was the first country to dramatically reduce the number of Covid-19

cases and related deaths without nationwide movement restrictions. It checked the spread of Covid-19 infections without imposing lockdowns, even in Daegu its most infected city.

Mass testing has been key to its response, doing the most by mid-March. By late March, Korea's newly confirmed cases had fallen from second to eighth place in the world. Meanwhile, Korean authorities urged physical distancing, personal hygiene and remote

work while discouraging mass gatherings. The government also had legal authority to collect phone, credit card and other data to expedite contact tracing, and initially only restricted incoming travellers from Hubei province, where Wuhan is, for precautionary reasons, and from Japan in political retaliation.

### Lessons from Vietnam

Three months ago, a Vietnamese official described how "Vietnam is fighting Covid without pitting economic growth against public health". Besides testing and contact-tracing, "the government has depoliticised the pandemic, treating it purely as a health crisis, allowing for effective governance". Hence, there is "no political motive for



Worshippers wearing face masks attend a prayer ceremony entitled 'overcoming and healing the Covid-19 coronavirus', while marking Buddha's birthday at the Jogye Buddhist Temple in Seoul.

PHOTO: AFP

expedite rapid responses to trace, test, treat and isolate those infected.

After China announced its first infections and deaths in January 2020, "Vietnam tightened its border and airport control of Chinese visitors. This wasn't an easy decision, given that cross-border trade with China accounts for a significant part of the Vietnamese economy".

Vietnam also "took precautionary measures above and beyond World Health Organization recommendations". Preparations started "a week before the outbreak was officially declared a public health emergency of international concern, and more than a month before WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic".

The communist-led government also ensured "freedom of information on Covid-related matters". "Lockdown and isolation are more selective" from the outset, without resorting to nationwide lockdowns, as has happened elsewhere without much benefit.

Vietnam is one of the few countries with "positive GDP growth" in 2020; "the supposed trade-off between the economy and public health... looks to be something of a false choice".

In their war, Vietnam is believed to have lost over three million people compared to 58,209 US lives. In fighting the virus, Vietnam, with 97 million people, has lost 35 lives so far, while the US, with a 332 million population, has lost almost four hundred thousand.

Mass testing crucial

After a year of living with Covid-19, all governments can learn a great deal from critical evaluation of their own country experiences, other experiences as well as accumulated, especially new knowledge relevant to feasible policy options.

Thus far, appropriate East Asian policy measures for rapid early detection, isolation and contact tracing, while protecting the most vulnerable and treating the infected, have succeeded in flattening the curve.

More reliable, cheaper methods (e.g., "lateral-flow" antigen tests) allow more frequent mass testing. As undetected cases are more likely to spread infection, such tests enable more frequent, faster and easier testing and quicker results, and facilitate faster, more efficacious actions.

This can help check contagion by identifying more of those infected earlier,

thus reducing transmission. Even though less accurate than supposed "gold standards", lower costs allow more widespread and frequent testing to identify many more of those infected.

Easier to administer and delivering results more rapidly, such cheaper, simpler and quicker tests more speedily detect the infected, especially among the asymptomatic, in time for appropriate and timely action.

As SARS-CoV-2 transmission peaks several days after infection, together with the viral load, more frequent testing is necessary to check contagion. More frequent mass testing is probably going to detect many more of those infected much earlier, while they are still infectious.

Look East

In the early 20th century, a young Cambridge-trained doctor, Wu Lien Teh returned to practice in the British colony of Penang where he mobilised thousands against the opium trade. The authorities arrested him, forcing him to seek employment outside the British empire.

He eventually found work with China's Ching emperor in Manchuria where a plague was raging, eventually claiming 60,000 lives. Recognising it as pneumonic, Wu recommended use of multi-layered masks he designed to protect users against airborne infection, now recognised as forerunner of the N95 mask.

His later analysis of the socio-behavioural determinants of zoonotic transmission of the epidemic was also pioneering. Sadly, a famous French doctor Gerald Mesny, who rejected Wu's mask advice as diagnostically wrong, died of the plague soon after arrival.

Over a century later, and over two decades after the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis exposed the systemic financial fragility creating conditions for the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, the reluctance to learn from the East continues, ignoring Prophet Muhammad's advice to "seek knowledge, even unto China".

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor, was United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, and received the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought in 2007.

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QUOTE Quote EZRA POUND (1885-1972) American poet and critic. A slave is one who waits for someone to come and free him.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 1 Least common country 7 Listending abbr. 11 Magic potion 12 Fancy party 13 Chest bone 15 Cleaner scent 16 "Memory" musical 18 Largest amount 21 Go by 22 Shallow inlet 24 French friend 25 Despondent 26 Opponent 27 Join forces 29 Shaker fill 30 Burden 31 Melodies 32 English country 34 Company that's failing 40 Buffalo's lake 41 Catch sight of 42 Cried 43 Flower part DOWN 1 Game official 2 Completely 3 Carnival spot 4 Glorifies 5 Places 6 Quick cut 7 Yuletide drink 8 Road goo 9 Boxing great 10 Chemist's place 14 Wanderer 16 Carved gem 17 Korean or Thai 19 Until now 20 Handyman's collection 21 Touch lightly 22 Pet perch 23 Pay stub line 25 Fish dish 28 Colonial gun 29 Midday break 31 Secret lingo 33 Taverns 34 Attach a patch 35 Hot blood 36 Tiny taste 37 That fellow 38 Water cooler 39 Stock holder

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS S P O C K O P I N E I O W A N M A N I A S E E M E I R O N S E L O N N E T D I S A L L O W A R A B D U E L E R M A G O O S N I D E E N S U R E T A I L P A W G R U B A R O M A N O O N E R E R U N T U N A S T A N G O S T O P S

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER MY GIRLFRIEND JUST BROKE UP WITH ME... IN A TEXT? EVEN COLDER. IT'S AN EMOJI. BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT HAMBOT REQUIRES FOUR COOKIES. YOU CAN HAVE ONE AFTER DINNER. HAMBOT JOBS NOT. FOLLOW RULES OF SILLY HUMAN WOMAN. HAMBOT'S IN TIMEOUT? AND... HOW!



MUSINGS

# On Mint Chocolate and the Meaning of Life: Joyce's *Ulysses*

S M MAHFUZUR RAHMAN

"Chotto Kaka, I'm not afraid of the bogey-bug (coronavirus) when I have a tummy full of ice cream." When my seven-year old nephew made this demand, I thought, he could really have taken a leaf out of *Ulysses* – a masterpiece by the great Irish maverick, James Joyce. "What's your favorite flavor?" I asked my nephew. "Mint Chocolate," he replied. Personally, I never understood the logic of mint chocolate. "You know what'd go great with chocolates?" Certainly not, "TOOTHPASTE!"

Though it accumulates a tremendous amount of human experience including hateful resentment, rampant bigotry, chronic depression, emotional paralysis, and outrageous injustice, the

symphony of *Ulysses* floats on human voices, laughter and tears, memory and desire, and the immutable flair for everything that makes life worth living. But, why does Joyce take a hero who is almost three thousand years old – Ulysses, the Latinized Version of Homer's Odysseus – as the subject for his modern monograph?

The answer lies in the adjective Homer uses to describe Odysseus: *polutropos* – of many turns – jack of all trades, master of some. After laying siege to the impregnable walls of Troy for ten grueling years, Ulysses masterminds the trap shaped as a wooden horse, left at the gates of Troy to fake a Greek retreat. Taking it as a peace offering to the gods, the Trojans push the bait right inside their fortified city. When darkness lulls the Trojans to sleep, Ulysses with and comrades-in-arms come out from the wooden horse and raze the glorious city to the ground.

The calm after the storm of destruction mires Ulysses, the mariner and his crew, in another decade of misery; they get stranded at sea. During the voyage home, Ulysses survives devastating shipwrecks, siren songs of enchantresses, entertains demigoddesses, escapes Hades – the underworld, outsmarts man-eating monsters, wriggles out of traps, and finally, slays the suitors of his wife to retake possession of Ithaca, his Kingdom. *Odyssey*, the Homeric epic is one of the earliest to claim the primacy of intelligence over brute force.

In conversation with his friend, Frank Budgen, Joyce calls Ulysses the "complete man in literature" because, apart from being a son, a father, a husband, a lover, a King, and a warrior, "[Ulysses] was an inventor too. The tank is his creation. Wooden horse or iron box, it doesn't matter. They are both shells containing armed warriors." *Ulysses*, published in 1922, was written against the backdrop of World War I (1914–1918) when the corpse-lit battlefields of Europe were, for the very first time, patrolled by the machines of mass murder; i.e. tanks, fighter planes, and chemical weapons.

Joyce's counterpart for the Homeric hero is Leopold Bloom, a 38-year old man of Hungarian Jewish extraction residing in a predominantly Catholic Dublin. Though his father converted to Christianity, the Dubliners see Bloom's Jewishness as a dis-ease written into his DNA. No matter how hard he tries to blend it, Bloom is forever the outsider.

Throughout the novel, Bloom is snubbed by his boss, cheated on by his wife, and ridiculed by friends and foes alike for his lack of "manliness" and closeted Jewishness. His sea-voyaging exploits are limited to a single afternoon in the Dublin Bay, paddling a boat and nearly swamping his wife and daughter. Above all, he is haunted by the suicide of his father and the untimely death of an infant son. In the late American lingo, Bloom is a "total loser." Yet, he resembles, in Joyce's

imagination, the great warrior king of ancient Greece. How?

One word unlocks this puzzle: reincarnation. Reincarnation is revival, resuscitation, regeneration, not replica. Just as the genes of an individual is a patchwork of her/his ancestors going back thousands of years, just like the cross-pollination of two plants breeds hybrid seeds, so do ancient experiences in novel contexts strike us with uncanny déjà vu. Birth and death, happiness and misery bind the first human to the last. "What is the age of the soul of man?" Joyce asks. Ulysses' soul wanders for 3,000 years to be reanimated in Bloom in an entirely different historical period and geographical location.

While Ulysses devises a state-of-the-art killing machine, Bloom harbors within himself an indomitable living machine. Though he has been the butt of many jokes and anti-Semitic slurs, though he undergoes countless setbacks and personal defeats, though none of his fellow Dubliners makes it easier for him to go on, Bloom cherishes everything passing him by – music poured out by the cooing of songbirds, the fragrance melting through blooming primroses, the warmth of cuddling the loved ones on a chilly night. Therefore he resolves not to give into distress and despair but to drink in the mirth and miseries of life with equanimity.

"Plenty to see and hear and feel yet. Feel live warm beings near you," Bloom muses while attending the fu-

neral of Paddy Dignam, a fellow Dubliner, "Let them sleep in their maggoty beds. They are not going to get me this innings. Warm beds: warm full-blooded life." Seeing a rat grown fat on the cold corpses squeeze out of the cemetery, Bloom reverses the clichéd phrase of funeral services; from "In the midst of life, we are in death," to "In the midst of death, we are in life!" Get up and fight, or lie down to die? Bloom has his work cut out, and so do we.

Ulysses and Bloom are woven together by their insatiable thirst for all life has to offer; if life is a work of art, death is its masterpiece. As darkness gives light its radiance and pain makes pleasure pleasant, the boredom of "stay at home" orders make us nostalgic for that which we took for granted – free movement. Only one thing could fashion the shackles of quarantine into a garland on the spirit of humanity: kindness – to neighbors, to strangers – kindness to oneself in relishing the simple delights. So, sit back, relax, enjoy a scoop of mint-chocolate ice cream (if you don't mind the tooth-pasty flavor), and occasionally, lend a helping hand to others, for shouldering the burdens of those in need makes humanity humane indeed. Perhaps, one day, we could share the joy of swimming in the sun again.

S M Mahfuzur Rahman is a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).



FICTION

# The Present and the Future of Rashid

FARUK KADER

(1) Turbulent, murky, and eccentrically wide at this time of the rainy seasons, the river Padma flows incessantly. Lashing with fury at its banks on both sides the river flows swallowing fertile lands, homesteads, settlements. It is a different story at Mawabazar though, where humans endeavour to tame the river. The river here stands as a barrier to the extension of Dhaka-Mawa highway through Shibchar on the other side. As the structure of the Padma bridge rises from the abyss of flood waters, the vestige of the barrier gradually slips away. Forty-six piers stand like petrified giants above the flood water level. Some piers have been joined by decks supported on steel truss girders.

The construction site of the Padma bridge at Mawabazar is abuzz with the activities of workers, technicians and engineers. With the droning of heavy-duty trucks, forklift and excavation machines, the site has come alive. The construction work of the bridge has sent down ripples across Mawabazar and the surrounding villages like Bhagyakul, Mandra, Kabutarkhola, Jashaldia, Medinimondol. About fifty years ago, they used to be quiet rural hamlets, where farmers, boatmen, fishermen lived their lives unperturbed by what was happening in the rest of the world. Now they have woken up to embrace the changing ways of life and the prospects promised by the Padma bridge.

Local people of Mawabazar and the surrounding villages dream about their villages being turned into small towns with amenities of urban life: streets, shopping malls, fast food restaurants, cinema halls. Life would be completely changed for better; lands would be surely valued at the price of gold! When the Padma bridge would be a reality! Village people cannot wait to see that happen.

Rashid alias *Raishya*, a fifteen-year-old destitute lad, limps and plods on the edge of the brick soled road from Bhagyakul to Mawabazar. Alone in this world, he had polio as a kid. How could his poor parents afford proper treatment for their son? And the polio left him crippled. *Raishya* spends his whole day-time in the bazar begging food from hotels and restaurants. Some-

times he spends time on the river bank watching construction activities.

On the Mawabazar bank, *Raishya* sometimes muses how he grew up by the river side. The Padma is such a wide river during the monsoon that the other side looks like a thin line. After a heavy monsoon rain the flood waters from the upstream would rush down in vortexes. His father often warned him: "Don't dive into the *Gholna*, nobody can save you from there."

Sometimes in his sleep, *Raishya* would hear the sound of chunks of the bank giving way to the marauding flood water. Then he saw his father waking up and sauntering to the river bank to assess how devastating the river pillage was! He would spend days worrying about the river erosion and the threat it posed to their riverside small homestead; and pondered on where to move when that happened. But it happened one night anyway, which made *Raishya* both orphan and destitute.

As the bridge decks are closing on from both banks, *Raishya* desperately hopes to see this mighty Padma river tamed.

(2) Mawabazar has five hotels and restaurants to meet its customers' culinary demands; that includes fried Hilsa fish harvested from the Padma. *Rahmania Hotel* is one of those. *Rahmania Hotel* comes to life early in the morning. Cacophony of the customers, sounds of frying *paratha*, the mouth-watering flavor of omelet, heightened by the tinkling sound of tea cups, plates and spoons almost reach a crescendo.

*Raishya* dreams about a full meal. He can't remember when last he had one. Because of his handicap, nobody in the bazar wants to hire him. The hunger consumes him, it burns in his eyes and gnarls his face, often drives him crazy. Sometimes he gets around the shops to sneak into the backside of the hotels. He would inhale the fiery smell of the spices and curries and would imagine a full plate of delicacies.

On a big table at the backside of hotels, the hoteliers dump the waste foods: stale rice and lentils, Hilsa fish heads and uneaten chicken legs; chicken wattles and necks, ribs -- not favoured by the diners. The hote-



liers often get rid of those foods by recycling them to destitute people like *Raishya*. He particularly loves the bony Hilsa fish heads and the chicken necks, because he can chew on them for a long time.

Mawabazar has only one bakery shop, *Sulemani Bread and Butter*. When the bakery shop opens in the morning, the bakery man organizes on the shelves' bread taken fresh out of the oven. The sweet smell of the freshly baked bread wafts out of the shop and pleases the sensory organs of the passers-by. *Raishya* takes a deep breath sniffing the air heavy with the sweet aroam. It titillates his nasal passage and then trickles down spreading warmth on his guts.

(3) This fishing season the river Padma has proved a boon for the fishermen community. The catch from the river has surpassed their expectations. Excited Hilsa fish lovers in Dhaka city crowd Mawabazar to taste the various Hilsa fish curry dishes put on display by the hoteliers. As the tour operators of Hilsa trip unload fish lover tourists at Mawabazar, *Raishya* reaches the operator's car. "Sir please come to *Rahamanyia Hotel*, if you want to savor Hilsa fish fresh from

the Padma river." *Raishya* greets the visitors. "They are big, tasty and fresh, Sir, cooked by expert hands. If you taste once, you would come back again and again to *Rahamanyia Hotel*. Don't ever be tempted by the vendors with unauthentic Hilsa fish curries."

The owner of *Rahamanyia Hotel* summons *Raishya* one day, and comes down heavily on him. "Mother \_\_\_\_\_, who told you to promote my Hilsa fish curry? My customers stand in que for tasting my Hilsa anyway! I don't need any publicity for my hotel. \_\_\_\_\_ off, you dirty piece of \_\_\_\_\_."

On a particular day, *Raishya* hardly has had anything to eat. He feels as if he could swallow all the waters of the river. Suddenly, the half-blind cook of *Rahamanyia Hotel* calls him over and hands him a half-eaten Hilsa *leja* (tail piece), some rice and masoor dal in a polythene bag.

*Raishya* goes to the homestead of a villager by the river bank side; tears a green leaf of a plantain, and then squats on the riverbank. He empties the contents of the packet on the banana leaf, taking care so that not a grain of rice, or a drop of dal and Hilsa curry spill off from the banana leaf. Then he mixes everything with dal and starts eating the mix slowly with relish. The

maroon coloured skin of the fish-tail tastes great to *Raishya*! He doesn't throw away the bones even; pounds each of them between his teeth and softens them with his saliva before gulping down. Then he licks up the banana leaf clean for the remaining broth.

Right at that moment, a steel girder between a pair of piers is in progress. A crane mounted on a barge carries the girder while the barge inches towards the span between the piers. On both the pier heads, engineers and technicians with yellow vests and helmets monitor the movement of the girder with level machines. They watch anxiously as the crane gradually positions the steel girder between the span of the two piers.

After savoring every morsel of his meal *Raishya* drinks water from the hand tube well at Mawabazar mosque premises to fill up his stomach. He lets out a burp filled with the smell of Hilsa fish but then presses his hands on his mouth so that it does not escape. Finally, he heads back to the riverbank, spreads out his *gamchha*, looks curiously at the bridge construction. Then he falls asleep.

"Oh Allah, when will this bridge be completed? When finished, would I be able to eat a full meal? This Padma has swallowed my home and my parents. Would this bridge help me to get my lost home back? Would I be lucky enough to build a thatched roof on my head in Padma's *char*!" All these questions churn in *Raishya's* head even as he is asleep.

All of a sudden, there is a commotion of engineers and technicians. They are celebrating the successful installation of the steel girder between the two piers. A group of people on the river bank, not far away from where *Raishya* was resting, clap their hands and yell, "Joy Bangla." The commotion snaps up the blissful siesta of *Raishya*. It takes only a few moments for him to realise what it is all about. He too wants to shout, "Joy Bangla." But the creeping pain of hunger pulls him back. Still he tries to form the words. A gale blowing across the river, however, completely drowns *Raishya's* voice. The river Padma, which flows unperturbed, too, does not bother to listen to him.

Faruk Kader writes from Sydney, Australia.

## T SPORTS BPL

Bashundhara Kings vs Brothers Union

Live from 3:00 pm

## TEN 1 SERIE A

Udinese vs Inter Milan

Live from 11:00 pm

## TEN 2

Sri Lanka vs England

Second Test (Day 2)

Live from 10:15 am

## FA CUP

Southampton vs Arsenal

Live from 6:15 pm

West Ham vs Doncaster

Live from 9:00 pm

Cheltenham vs Manchester City

Live from 11:30 pm

T SPORTS & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1  
PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa vs Newcastle United

Live from 2:00 am (Sunday)

## FACEBOOK LA LIGA

Alaves vs Real Madrid

Live from 2:00 am (Sunday)



Mushfiqur Rahim takes the bails off for the final wicket as Bangladesh bundle out West Indies for 148 before chasing the target comfortably in the second ODI in Mirpur yesterday. (Inset) Mehedy Hasan Miraz took four wickets.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Miraz turns up and turns it on

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehedy Hasan Miraz had to wait two years to register his second man-of-the-match performance and his career-best bowling figures of four for 25 from 9.4 overs helped Bangladesh seal the three-match ODI series against the West Indies with a game in hand yesterday.

Mehedy's first man-of-the-match award came against the same opposition in 2018, when he picked up four wickets for 29 runs. However, the two years since have not gone well for Miraz, especially in limited-overs cricket.

After initially bursting onto the international arena against England in a Test series in 2016, when he announced himself as the next big thing in the Tigers' spin department, there have been talks in the recent past about

dropping him from the limited-overs formats due to a lack of impact and variation.

The youngster has been under tremendous pressure and, after picking up one wicket in the first game, Miraz came out strong in the second ODI yesterday, consistently bowling in the right areas and often asking questions of the batsmen.

Despite there not being much turn in the surface, Miraz varied his line and length to good effect after being introduced into the attack in the 10th over, keeping things tight in his first two overs and targeting the footmarks.

"When I saw the footmarks on the pitch, I tried to bowl there. I tried to make some changes to what I did in the first game. Our spin-bowling coach, Sohail Islam, called me and gave me some tips and told me to bowl over spin balls frequently and maintain line and length and it was a result of the execution of that," Miraz said

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**WEST INDIES:** 148 all out in 43.4 overs (Powell 41, Ottley 24; Mehedy 4-25, Mustafizur 2-15, Shakib 2-30)  
**BANGLADESH:** 149 for 3 in 33.2 overs (Tamim 50, Shakib 43 not out; Reifer 1-18)  
**Result:** Bangladesh won by 7 wickets to lead 3-match series 2-0  
**Man-of-the-match:** Mehedy Hasan Miraz

after the game.

He hit the visitors with a double-blow, first removing debutant Kjorn Ottley with a rather straight delivery that the left-hander played straight to cover while trying to go over.

Two balls later Miraz undid Joshua Da Silva with another flighted delivery that held its line. The batsman waited for the turn, but the ball went on to hit the timber. He immediately picked up a wicket when he came on for his second spell, dismissing Windies skipper Jason Mohammed as the

ball skid through and trapped him leg before.

He then got the final wicket of Rovman Powell to wrap things up for Bangladesh and register his best ODI bowling figures.

The 23-year-old relieved after the game and credited seniors like Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah Riyad for helping him by providing valuable input.

"I was unable to bowl well in the first ODI against the left-handed batters then Shakib bhai advised me to bowl around the leg-middle area. All of a sudden I gained the confidence and even bowled a maiden over.

"It was same today (yesterday) when I did not get a wicket in my first three overs. Riyad bhai suggested that I change the fielding set-up and I got a wicket off the very next ball. It was really special for me because I might not have picked that wicket if Riyad bhai didn't advise me," he said.

## Jason bemoans lack of big partnerships

SPORTS REPORTER

West Indies' hopes of putting up some sort of resistance in the second ODI after having meekly surrendered in the first one, was once again foiled after another early batting slump in Mirpur yesterday. Captain Jason Mohammed spoke of his side's inexperience after the series loss.

The visitors were bowled out for 148 runs, giving the hosts a target which was comfortably chased down with seven wickets in hand and one-third of the overs to spare.

Asked why his team batted first after a dismal effort with the bat in the first ODI, Jason said: "I think the wicket looked a lot better today. I thought if we bat first and put some runs on the board then we could have defended and bowled them out."

Many of the newcomers in the team have not gone through the grind of playing a high number of matches in domestic tournaments and the international level found them lacking in conviction. The Windies skipper admitted that inexperience played a part but attributed the lack of partnerships as the chief reason of the debacle.

"Obviously we know there is a little bit of inexperience [in our side] with a lot of guys making their debut. Obviously the guys have a lot of potential and we just didn't put in a performance together. We didn't put together big partnerships so individuals didn't put up big scores," he said.

"We were not able to manage them and that's why we had those low totals," Jason said about the difficulties of facing the spin of Mehedy Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan.

## In a league of his own

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan became the first player to have scored more than 2500 runs and also to have picked 100 wickets at a single venue -- the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur -- during the Tigers' second ODI against the West Indies yesterday.

After his unbeaten 50-ball 43 and two for 30 in 10 overs with the ball yesterday, Shakib has now scored a total of 2534 runs with two hundreds and 21 fifties and scalped a total of 119 wickets in Mirpur. He is only after teammate Tamim Iqbal, who is top of the list of most runs scored at a single venue with 2713 runs in 80 matches, including five hundreds and 18 fifties, in Mirpur. Shakib is also second to Wasim Akram for most wickets at a single venue, the Pakistani legend took 122 wickets in 77 matches at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Playing in his 82nd ODI in Mirpur, Shakib achieved the feat when he struck West Indies medium-pace Raymon Reifer for a boundary towards the backward point in the 22nd over. This achievement of Shakib comes on the back of a lot of speculation that has been going around regarding his return to form since being reinstated in international arena following a one-year ban imposed by the ICC in October 2019.

Shakib had marked his return to with an astounding bowling display, taking four wickets for eight runs in 7.2 overs in the first ODI on Wednesday. But the 33-year-old, who had played a number of domestic games before returning to the international stage, had been struggling to get runs since his return.

He was part of a star-studded Gemcon Khulna team that won the Bangabandhu T20 Cup in December last year. Shakib was decent with his bowling in that tournament but the ace all-rounder struggled to get runs. He scored a total of 110 runs in nine games at an average of 12.22 in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup.

Bangladesh cricket fans have been waiting for Shakib to get back to groove with the willow and his unbeaten knock yesterday is sure to give them a massive sigh of relief.



## 'Massive punch in the face'

AFP, Liverpool

Jürgen Klopp admitted the end of Liverpool's 68-game unbeaten run at Anfield was a "massive punch in the face" as the Premier League champions crashed to a shock 1-0 defeat against Burnley on Thursday.

Klopp's side were beaten in a home league game for the first time since Crystal Palace won at Anfield in April 2017.

Ashley Barnes clinched Burnley's first win at Liverpool since 1974 when he converted an 83rd-minute penalty after being fouled by Reds goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

"It's a massive, massive



punch in the face," Klopp said. "We had the ball a lot, created some and didn't finish the situations off."

"That keeps the game open and then they get the penalty. Alisson told me he didn't touch him, but I didn't see it back.

"We lost a game which I think it's actually impossible to lose. But we did it."

Spluttering Liverpool have slipped to fourth place after a second defeat in their last three league games and trail leaders Manchester United by six points.

## Crowd abuse made Siraj 'mentally strong'

AFP, Hyderabad



India bowler Mohammed Siraj has given his first public account of the crowd abuse he suffered during the Australia Test series, saying it made him "mentally strong".

Siraj said India, who stunned Australia to win the series 2-1, declined an offer from the umpires to walk off the field as players were abused in the third Test in Sydney.

According to Indian media, shouts of "monkey" and other insults rang out when Siraj and fellow fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah were fielding near the boundary.

"The crowd in Australia began to abuse me but it made me mentally strong. I did not let it affect my game and that was important," said Siraj. "I told my captain Ajju bhai (Ajinkya Rahane) about the abuse and he spoke to the umpires who said you can leave the field. But Rahane said: 'We will play on.'"

He said Rahane told the umpires to take action over the abuse. Six fans were ejected and an investigation into the incident is underway.

India, despite being decimated injuries, battled to a draw in Sydney and then broke Australia's 32-year unbeaten streak at Brisbane's Gabba ground to claim one of the great series victories of all time.

Siraj, still grieving his father, who died just before the series, took 13 wickets including five in Australia's second innings at the Gabba, just his third Test.

He was speaking after receiving a hero's welcome in his home city of Hyderabad on Thursday, where he headed straight for his father's grave.

Siraj's father, an auto rickshaw driver, died as India were in quarantine in Australia, but the player decided to stay



with the team.

"First of all it was very difficult for me. Mentally I was upset and depressed," he said.

"I had a chat with them back home and they said that I should complete Dad's dream (of playing for India)."

Siraj has emerged as a national player after becoming a key man for Indian Premier League side Royal Challengers Bangalore, who are led by India's regular captain Virat Kohli.

"I had a bad season in 2018, but RCB backed me. Virat bhai has always backed me, saying 'You have the power and you can do it,'" he said.

"I will not let this performance go to my head. I cannot relax as there is the England series and the World Test Championship coming up."

## Men's Asian CT hockey postponed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Hockey Federation yesterday postponed the Men's Asian Champions Trophy, scheduled to be held in Dhaka, as well as the Women's Asian Champions Trophy to be held in Donghae, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Korea, Malaysia and Japan were scheduled to take part in the men's event at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium in Dhaka from March 11.

A statement on AHF's website, which also revealed a tentative date in October, read: "First and foremost, the Asian Hockey Federation puts on record and appreciates the efforts of both the Bangladesh Hockey Federation and the Korea Hockey Association for their extraordinary efforts to secure this event. Unfortunately, the circumstances and ongoing pandemic have forced an unfavorable outcome."

"The decision of the postponement has been a difficult one, and has been made in consultation with the host, the FIH and all participating National Associations. The concern for athletes' safety, health, and welfare is at the forefront of our minds while taking this decision," it stated.

BHF acting general secretary Mohammad Yousof said that they had not been officially informed about the postponement of the tournament and that the national team's training camp would be postponed after getting an official letter.

## Mature Mathews shows SL the way

REUTERS



Sri Lanka Cricket

ECB

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Sri Lanka Cricket

ECB

quickly under the hot sun and make chasing anything substantial in the fourth innings perilous for the tourists.

"We had to see through a few overs and get the ball slightly older to score some runs," Mathews told reporters at the close. "Credit must go to the England bowlers. It was hot and humid and they gave nothing away."

"They set a field that we could not score off easily. The fast bowlers had good line and length. We don't know what a good score is, just as many as we can get."

Mathews scored 71 in Sri Lanka's second innings in the first Test and says playing back-to-back games at the same venue has its advantages.

"I got into a rhythm in the second innings of the first test, so I thought if I can get a start I'm not going to give it away," he said. "I had to work extremely hard. They (England) gave us nothing, but we are 229 for four and we cannot give it away now."

Sri Lanka were much more cautious this time on a dry wicket that will crumble



Angelo Mathews scored a brilliant century as Sri Lanka put up a fight on the first day of the second and final Test against England in Galle yesterday. The former skipper was unbeaten on 107 as the hosts reached 229 for four at the end of the day.

PHOTO: TWITTER



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POWER GENERATION

# Overcapacity a new headache

*Rose to 60pc last year amid fall in electricity demand during pandemic; experts warn of financial risks for govt*

ASIFUR RAHMAN

As much as 60 percent of the country's power generation capacity remained unutilised in 2020 because of a lack of demand for electricity.

The growing overcapacity has significant financial implications for the government and might affect the costs of electricity, experts said.

The unused capacity was 57 percent in 2019, said a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) released on Wednesday.

The power generation against capacity was 45 percent in fiscal year 2017-18 and around 48 percent the year before, according to Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) data.

Power plants have the daily capacity of generating 20,383MW of electricity, but the maximum power generation in a day was 12,738MW, according to the BPDB.

Power generation growth was just 1.26 percent in 2019-20, barely keeping pace with population growth. The IEEFA report attributed it to the economic impacts of Covid-19.

If power generation doesn't increase by 10 percent over the next five years, the utilisation will fall below 40 percent, the report warned.

Meanwhile, power plants capable of generating 15,294MW are being constructed and around 21,000MW will be added to the national grid by the end of 2025. By the same time, about 5,501MW existing capacity will be reduced, said the BPDB annual report from 2020.

In accordance with the demand, between 8,000MW and 12,000MW of electricity is being generated every day.

Engineer Shamsul Alam, energy advisor for the Consumer's Association

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**Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan walking off the field after a job well done at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The duo guided Bangladesh to a seven-wicket win in the second ODI against West Indies, clinching the series for the hosts with one match left to play.**

PHOTO:  
FIROZ AHMED

## Dispel people's fear by taking vaccine first

Dr Zafrullah urges PM  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take the Covid-19 vaccine first and dispel people's fear regarding inoculation.

One-third of the Indian population are not willing to be vaccinated although there is no need to be afraid of vaccines, he told a press conference at Gonoshasthaya Hospital in the capital's Dhanmondi.

There are concerns over proper distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, he said, adding that working class people are more exposed to viral infections and should be inoculated.

"Only those doctors who have been treating Covid-19 patients should be given the vaccine. Similarly, only the traffic police should be vaccinated... It's frustrating that those who are supposed to get the vaccine are not getting it."

The government is  
SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Tricked, sold to a pimp for Tk 20,000

*20-yr-old victim narrates in case statement her ordeal at Daulatdia brothel; 14 rescued*

NILIMA JAHAN and SUZIT KUMAR DAS

After her father died, around two years ago, Rimu came to the capital from Jamalpur and started working at a readymade garment factory.

The woman, now 20, was then tricked into prostitution by an acquaintance.

As the coronavirus pandemic struck, Rimu became jobless and faced extreme financial hardship. Knowing about it, the female acquaintance offered her a job and took Rimu with her.

The woman then sold her to a pimp -- Nazma, 65, a former sex worker at Daulatdia brothel -- on April 23 last year in exchange for Tk 20,000, read a case statement recorded at Goalanda Police Station in Rajbari.

On Wednesday, Rimu called emergency helpline 999 from a customer's mobile phone and shared her experience.

On information, a police team, headed by Abdulla Al Tayebir, officer-in-charge of Goalanda Police Station, conducted an operation inside Daulatdia brothel and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Biden declares war on coronavirus

*Signs flurry of orders to contain crisis; more than a million vaccinated in India*

AGENCIES

New US president Joe Biden embarked on a "wartime undertaking" to battle the pandemic in the world's worst-hit country, while Germany's Covid-19 death toll passed 50,000 yesterday as it reeled from a second wave.

With infection rates spiralling, vaccine rollouts still in their infancy and the global death toll now past two million, the possibility of life returning to normal seems as far off as ever.

Germany survived the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic relatively unscathed compared to its European neighbours, but is now reeling as new, more contagious variants of the virus run rampant and authorities warn of a tighter lockdown on the continent's biggest economy.

On his first day in office Thursday, Biden signed a flurry of executive orders, including mask-wearing and quarantining requirements, and reversed predecessor Donald Trump's decision to quit the World Health Organization (WHO).

The new president is seeking to vaccinate 100 million people in 100 days, increase the use of masks and testing, expand the public health workforce and offer more emergency relief to those struggling with the restrictions.

On Thursday alone the US registered 4,045 new deaths and more than 192,000 new cases.

The death toll in the world's worst-hit nation has now passed 406,000 -- more than its total combat and non-combat losses in WWII.

Biden has also restored top infectious diseases doctor Anthony Fauci to a leading, visible advisory role in the White House, after Trump complained about the expert's warnings on Covid.

Fauci was back in the briefing room Thursday -- also pushing the message that public trust should be rebuilt.

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## Two children, balloon vendor killed in gas cylinder blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox's Bazar

Three people, including two children, were killed and nine others injured as a gas cylinder, used for inflating balloons, exploded at a school playground in Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali upazila yesterday morning.

The cylinder exploded suddenly when a vendor, named Mohammad Alamgir, was inflating balloons at Matarbari High School playground around 10:30am, said Mohammad Abdul Hi, officer-in-charge of Maheshkhali Police Station. Several makeshift stalls were being built on the playground marking an annual programme of Azizul Ullum Madrasa, Mohammad Ullah, chairman of Matarbari Union Parishad, told The Daily Star.

Two children died on the spot while vendor

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## Butterflies create jet propulsion with clap of wings



AFP, Paris

The whimsical, wafting flight of butterflies may not give the impression of top aerodynamic performance, but research published on Wednesday suggests their large flexible wings could be perfectly designed to give them a burst of jet propulsion.

Scientists at Lund University in Sweden set out to verify a decades-old theory that insects "clap" their wings together, squeezing out the air between with such force that it thrusts them forward.

In their aerodynamic analysis of free-flying butterflies published in the journal Interface, they showed that the clap function does generate a jet

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## 7-year-old raped in Bagerhat

Rapist yet to be held  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A seven-year-old girl has allegedly been raped by a man in Bagerhat Sadar upazila.

Her mother filed a case against Enam Sheikh, 22, of Mulghar village of the upazila, with Bagerhat Model Police Station on Thursday night.

Yesterday morning, the victim's mother said she and her younger child went to a doctor in Bagerhat town on January 5. Her husband went to work as he is a labourer. So, the victim was at home alone that day.

Taking the chance, Enam took her daughter to the back side of his father's shop and raped her, the mother said.

She said her daughter disclosed the incident and they informed Enam's elder brother Zakir Sheikh about it. He told them that he would look into the matter.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 'GUNFIGHT' WITH BGB Rohingya 'yaba dealer' killed in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Bandarban

A Rohingya man, suspected to be a yaba trader, was killed in a "gunfight" with the members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Naikhyangchhari upazila of Bandarban early yesterday.

The dead is Abdur Rahim, 25, of Kutupalong Rohingya camp, said Lt Col Ali Haider Azad Ahmed, commanding officer (CO) of 34th BGB battalion.

BGB men also recovered 50,000 pieces of yaba pills, one hand-made pipe gun,

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**Workers without any safety equipment knock down an old building in the capital's Farmgate area. Many workers die and suffer serious injuries because of such flagrant disregard for safety. The photo was taken on Thursday.**

PHOTO:  
PALASH KHAN

## Cold-related illness sees rise in North

*Children, elderly suffer the brunt; fog disrupts vehicular movement, ferry service on several routes*

STAR REPORT

Cold-related diseases are spreading in different northern districts due to the ongoing gloomy and foggy weather. Children and the elderly are the worst sufferers, said health workers.

Besides, vehicular movement and ferry operations on different routes remained suspended for several hours yesterday in different areas due to dense fog.

Yesterday's Met Office bulletin said, "Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country."

"Light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country from midnight to morning," it added.

"Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country."

The weather forecast for the next 24 hours was released at 9:00am yesterday.

Yesterday's lowest temperature was recorded at 9.6 degrees Celsius in Tentulia of Panchagarh.

In Thakurgaon, the number of patients with cold-related diseases is increasing in different hospitals.

"My child has been suffering from pneumonia. That is why I have been staying in the hospital with my child for several days," said Jarina Khatun while talking to The Daily Star at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital yesterday.

Most of the 145 children, who are being treated at the  
SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

**PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 23**

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:43	7:15
JAMAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:47	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION