DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2021



All set for Covid jab roll-out

First batch of vaccines from Serum arrives; PM to launch pilot inoculation tomorrow



MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The government has almost completed the groundwork for rolling out Covid-19 vaccine in the country early next month.

It gears up for the mass inoculation campaign as the first consignment of 50 lakh doses, purchased from Serum Institute of India (SII), arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

Officials said five public hospitals in the capital were all set to pilot the vaccination. They also said the hospital authorities had already trained 124 healthcare professionals and prepared designated places, where the shots would be administered.

"The prime minister will inaugurate the piloting at Kurmitola General Hospital on January 27 [tomorrow] at 3:30pm," Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general of DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Registration for the mass inoculation can be done through mobile and web-based applications and the prime minister will launch the apps the SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A woman wails as fire ravages her only source of income -- a makeshift factory producing aluminum bars --- in the capital's Demra area. In a drive yesterday, the Department of Environment knocked down six such illegal factories, which were harming the area's environment by releasing toxic chemicals into the air. At one point of the drive, a fire, believed to be originated from a stove, spread through this factory. Some of its workers managed to douse the flames quickly.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CHATTOGRAM CITY POLLS 2021

BNP finds it hard to get polling agents

Cites harassment: campaign ends RASHIDUL HASAN and ARUN BIKASH DEY, from Ctg

As Chattogram City Corporation holds election tomorrow, both the Awami League and BNP camps ended their 18-day campaign early today.

The camps are now busy training their prospective polling agents.

Several BNP leaders told The Daily Star that they find it difficult to find enough

Complaints pile up, EC sees little merit

Polls tomorrow yet half the complaints left unaddressed; Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukder worried over clashes in the run-up

RASHIDUL HASAN and DWAIPAYAN BARUA, from Chattogram

Almost half the complaints filed by mayor and councillor candidates in the Chattogram City Corporation elections, to be held tomorrow, are yet to be addressed.

Besides, police personnel engaged by the Election Commission did not find proof of any wrongdoing over most of the complaints already been dealt with.

CABINET

PM holds first in-person meet in 10 months STAR REPORTS

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the first time in 10 months attended a weekly cabinet meeting in person yesterday. Even though the

cabinet has 47 members, yesterday's meeting at Parliament complex was attended only by six ministers and six secretaries.

The last time Hasina attended a cabinet meeting in person was on April 8, 2020. She has been attending the cabinet and SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Kushtia SP apologises to HC

Admits he misbehaved with a magistrate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Superintendent of Kushtia police SM Tanvir Arafat yesterday apologised to the High Court for misbehaving with a senior judicial magistrate during Bheramara municipality elections on January 16. He also promised that

such a "mistake" would not occur again.

The SP apologised and gave an undertaking to the HC through swearing an affidavit.

In the affidavit, he admitted that he misbehaved with Judicial Magistrate Md Mohsin Hasan and regretted for the incident.

SP Arafat in the affidavit said he is highly remorseful for his "unintentional act" with the judicial magistrate and he would be more serious and cautious in discharging his duties and such types of mistake would not happen in future

During the hearing on a contempt of court rule, SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

eople willing to be the polling agents, fearing harassment and arrest. Often called the commercial capital of Bangladesh, Chattagram city has over

19.38 lakh voters.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

The candidates have been lodging complaints against each other with the EC over the last two weeks in the run-up to the CCC polls. Meanwhile, Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukder in a statement

yesterday expressed concerns over clashes centring the elections. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

বাড়ি নং-৭১, সড়ক নং ৭/এ, ধানমন্তি, ঢাকা-১২০৯ 02-0000080, 03959000222, 03938009066 03933886600, 03936836308, 03698000666 অফিস সময়: গুরুবার ব্যতিত প্রতিদিন সকাল ৮ টা থেকে বিকাল ৫ টা পর্যন্ত

ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেলারেল মোঃ আব্দুল হানান (অবঃ) অধ্যক্ষ, স্কলার্স স্কুল অ্যান্ড কলেজ সাবেক অধ্যক্ষ, ঢাকা রেসিডেনসিয়াল মডেল কলেজ



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2,141,209

Ex-MP finds home in shelter for poor

BANGLADESH
UPDATE602
New cases in 24hrs5,32,401
Total cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man who was an elected lawmaker not once but twice is now living like a pauper.

In a twist of fate, Md Enamul Haque Zoj has to seek shelter from the government for himself and his threemember family in Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila.

lawmaker from An elected

Mymensingh-10 (Gafargaon constituency) in 1986 and 1988, Zoj is one of 200 people who received a house as prime minister's gift at a programme in Gafargaon on January 23.

He used to own vast property in Gafargaon and Dhaka but he registered the land for his two wives 15 years ago and since then, none of them have taken care of him, said locals.

Speaking to this correspondent, Zoj said he studied at the Cadet College in Islamabad, completed his graduation in Lahore University and joined the Pakistan Army in 1968 as secretary of the Cumilla Armed Services Board. He resigned from the service in 1969.

Zoj's father late Abdus Salam did his post-graduation from Calcutta University in 1918 and later he studied law at Aligarh Muslim University. Salam served his teaching profession as headmaster at different schools including at Gafargaon Islamia Govt High School for 36 years, said Judge.

Zoj also said he fought for country's independence in 1971. When he and his co-fighter Mohammad Firoz were carrying a Light Machine Gun from Meghalaya in India to Dhaka, they were caught by the Pakistan Army in Gafargaon and taken to a camp and were tortured brutally for three days. They were able to flee one day due to heavy rain.

"After liberation, I tried to get the freedom fighter's certificate but could not manage it," he said.

He is now demanding his recognition as freedom fighter.

"I faced serious losses as I took part in four national elections including in 1986 and 1988 when I was elected lawmaker for two times from Mymensingh-10", said Zoj.

"When I was the lawmaker, I managed land for many poor and distressed people in Gafargaon

Complaints pile up

He then told The Daily Star that the lodged by the councillor candidates

EC could not avoid responsibility for general and reserved seats.

municipality. Now I have to depend on others' mercy because I never thought of making money illegally."

Iqbal Hossain Sumon, mayor of Gafargaon municipality, said he was informed four months ago about how much Zoj's family had to endure due to Covid-19 pandemic. He immediately managed Tk 50,000 for them

> Zoj also requested for a house as he lives in a rented room of the municipality's Shaltia area.

said, Sumon shared the matter with local lawmaker Fahmi Golandaz Babel and on an emergency basis, his name was enlisted for a house as part of the government's campaign

Zoj has 12-decimal of land in the municipality, which he had donated for a mosque some eight years ago.

Since then, he has been living in a rented room with his third wife Ruma Haque and eight-year-old son Noor Elahi.

Ruma said there is no furniture in the room and they have to sleep on the floor.

"We get financial support of Tk 10,000 from Jatiya Party leader Rawshan Ershad MP every month and the generous people also support us on different occasions."

Thanking the prime minister for the house gifted to them, she said it will be uneasy for them to live with so many families and would be better if they were given a separate lodge.

Contacted, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Tajul Islam said they are doing what they can to help Zoj maintain his social status.

"On an emergency basis, the house was allotted for him but following the direction of the local lawmaker, we are looking for a suitable piece of land in the municipality to construct a building where Zoj can live with dignity," said the UNO, adding that furniture will also be provided to them.

About the freedom fighter's certificate, he said said they have considered including him in the freedom fighters' list so that the helpless family could enjoy the state honour in all respects.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over a cabinet meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban after 10 long months. The last time she held a cabinet meeting in person was April 8 last year and she had refrained from it since then due to the Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: PID

GLOBAL

PM holds first in-person meet in 10 months

FROM PAGE 1

ECNEC meetings through video conferences from the Gono Bhaban. After yesterday's meeting, Cabinet

Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told reporters that the meeting gave final approval to the draft of "The Bangladesh Tour Operators and Tour Guides (Registration and Control Act), 2021", which aims to bring the tour operators under regulation for conducting tour operations in a wellplanned way. According to proposed law, he said a touring company would have to obtain a license.

4,76,979

Recoveries

"No company will be allowed to arrange tours without registration and the interest of the tourists will be protected once the act is passed," the cabinet secretary added, reports BSS.

Foreign companies can also operate tours under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the proposed the

law, said Anwarul.

The law recommended a maximum of six months in prison and Tk 2 lakh in fines for violating it.

The meeting also approved in principle "The Boilers Act-2021" after modifying the existing law from 1923, mainly to ensure industrial safety.

Owners of a boiler will be liable for a maximum of two years in jail or Taka 2 lakh in fines or for both for all the government corporations using unregistered boilers, the cabinet under a board.

secretary said.

The meeting approved Bangla and English versions of the Shipbuilding Industry Development Policy-2021.

99,875,898

Total cases

Anwarul said that the meeting approved a proposal to reform the committee formed on February 9, 2015, to formulate The Public Corporation (Management Coordination) Act aimed at operating

All set for Covid jab roll-out

FROM PAGE 1

same day, Nasima said, adding that the PM would join the inauguration virtually.

The mass vaccination across the country is scheduled to start on February 8. Bangladesh purchased three crore doses of Covishield, the coronavirus vaccine developed by University of Oxford and drug maker AstraZeneca, and manufactured by SII.

The procurement was done through a tripartite agreement signed between the government, Serum and its local partner Beximco Pharmaceuticals on November 5 last year.

The first batch of 50 lakh doses reached the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:15am by a special Air India flight, said Nazmul Hassan Papon, managing director of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

"Samples from every batch will be sent to the government's drug testing lab. It will take 48 hours to complete the testing. After getting the approval, we will send the vaccine to different districts," Papon said, adding that the doses were taken to Beximco warehouses in Tongi from the airport.

Health officials said with the arrival of the government-purchased 50 lakh doses, they now have 70 lakh shots in hand and are fully focused on starting the piloting and the mass inoculation.

booths, pre- and post-vaccination waiting spaces, and a CCU unit of eight beds in case there are any emergencies, officials said.

BSMMU Director Brig Gen Dr Zulfiquer Ahmed Amin said he, along with the university's vice-chancellor and pro-vice chancellor, would receive the jab on the first day.

'We have got a very good response. At least 350 doctors have expressed their willingness to be vaccinated and we've prepared a list of their names. But we have to pick 200 among our staffers," Zulfiquer said.

The BSMMU have more than 9,000 employees.

The director also said the vaccination would be voluntary and based on a few terms and condition regarding the recipients' physical condition

He said there would be two mobile teams, comprising specialist doctors and nurses, at the vaccination centre.

"Now our focus in on January 28 or the next day following the inauguration of the piloting. Then we will be the part of the national vaccination campaign," he said.

A total of 1,200 people -- 150 inoculated against the coronavirus at

Besides, there will be registration staffers at four booths there. Besides, we are preparing three other points at different places of the hospital for vaccination in the future," Col Nazmul Haque, director of DMCH,

told The Daily Star yesterday. Meanwhile, the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday trained 84 doctors and nurses of DMCH, BSMMU and Mugda Medical College Hospital for the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

The DSCC arranged the training session at the capital's Nagar Bhaban. Similarly, the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) also trained 40 doctors and nurses of Kurmitola General Hospital and the Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Hospital yesterday.

The DNCC organised the training session at Kurmitola General Hospital. Officials of both city corporations

told The Daily Star that there would be more vaccination centres at other healthcare-providing facilities.

HOW TO REGISTER

In order to register for the mass inoculation starting next month, people will have to fill out information through a mobile and web-based app called "Surokkha", developed in each of eight booths -- will be by the Department of Information and Communication Technology, the

FROM PAGE 1 the SP sought mercy of the HC and prayed to it to exonerate him from the contempt of court rule.

Kushtia SP

The SP also appeared before the HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khizir Hayat yesterday morning in compliance with its January 20 order.

Senior lawyer Md Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury appeared for the SP and prayed to the bench to accept the unconditional apology of his client and pardon him.

The bench adjourned the hearing on the rule and set February 17 for passing an order on the issue.

The court added that it would observe SP Arafat's activities till further order and exonerated him from appearing before it in person for the time being.

The bench also ordered the SP to provide security to local Jubo Unnayan officer Shahjahan Ali who witnessed policemen misbehaving with the judicial magistrate during the municipality polls.

Shahjahan, who was the presiding officer at Bheramara Pilot Model High School, on January 21 told another HC bench, led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim, that he and his family members were scared of police.

During the polling on January

Md Enamul Haque Zoj to bring all landless and homeless families under a housing facility."

case the election atmosphere deteriorated.

FROM PAGE 1

As of yesterday morning, the commission received as many as 60 complaints, said sources at the returning officer's office.

BNP-backed candidates alleged that the EC, in most cases, was oblivious to investigating and taking actions.

EC officials said in all cases it informs, requests or orders officersin-charge of respective police stations to take action, or sometimes requests respective candidates or persons against whom the complaints are filed to abide by the electoral rules.

According to the EC, 31 complaints out of a total of 60 have so far been disposed of as it received reports from police in regards to those complaints.

Of the 31 disposed complaints, police in their reports said they did not find proof of any wrongdoing over 20 complaints.

Among the remaining 11, cases and general diaries were filed in connection with five complaints, the accused in three complaints apologised, a councillor candidate's posters that violated rules were removed, and in case of two complaints police failed to investigate enough reason for concern about as the EC had engaged the wrong police stations.

Most complaints were lodged with regard to obstruction of electoral campaigns, according to EC documents.

The other complaints were over intimidation, death threats, assault, vandalising vehicles used for electoral campaigns, tearing down electoral posters, banners and leaflets and arrest and harassment by police, EC officials said.

For complaints about police harassment and arrests, the EC informed the Chattogram Metropolitan Police commissioner about the matters.

Of the complaints, 13 were lodged on behalf of BNP-backed mayoral candidate Shahadat Hossain and only four were disposed of by the EC.

EC found no evidence in three of these four complaints of Shahadat while a case was filed in connection with the other complaint.

Four complaints were lodged on behalf of AL-backed mayoral aspirant Rezaul Karim Chowdhury. One of them was disposed of by the EC.

Returning Officer Mohammad Hasanuzzaman said the EC was looking into the complaints with all seriousness and remained alert to avert any untoward incidents centring the polls.

The remaining 43 complaints were

Police said they have beefed up vigilance so that law and order does not deteriorate during the polls.

BNP mayoral candidate Dr Shahadat Hossain said the EC should dispose of the complaints lodged by the candidates for the sake of ensuring a free, fair and participatory election. But, he said the EC was not paying any heed to their complaints.

Advocate Akhter Kabir Chowdhury, president of Chattogram city unit of Sachetan Nagorik Committee (SANAK) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said the EC was failing to play its required neutral role and achieve confidence from all the parties.

He, however, said the EC alone could not be robust if there is a general lack of good governance in society, but it should continue its effort to be more effective. MAHBUB'S STATEMENT

In a statement issued yesterday the election commissioner said there was clashes during the CCC election, which is a very crucial one.

Contacted, he told The Daily Star that two persons had already been killed centring the election and that there was some chaos.

"So, there is concern. Life is more valuable than any election," he said.

Talukder stated that holding of a free, fair, legal and acceptable election was not possible if the environment was not made fair. In that case, the concept of a level playing field, the prerequisite of an election, becomes absurd.

Mentioning that it is a big challenge for the EC to create balance between the two parties in the CCC election, the commissioner in his statement said it is a must to keep this election under the control of the EC. Otherwise, the election would be a failed one.

Holding fair elections is the acid test for everyone irrespective of party and opinion, stated the election commissioner.

"We will have to ensure that true public representatives are elected through ballots."

Bangladesh received 20 lakh Covishield doses as a gift from the Indian government on January 21. HOSPITAL PREPARATIONS

A day after the piloting's inauguration, some 400-500 people would be given vaccine shots at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Kurmitola General Hospital, Mugda Medical College Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and Kuwait-Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital.

The Daily Star yesterday visited DMCH, BSMMU and the Mugda hospital for an assessment of the preparations.

The authorities of BSMMU were setting up eight vaccination booths at its convention centre, opposite Hotel Intercontinental at the capital's Shahbagh.

Inside the convention centre, which is awaiting inauguration, carpenters were seen building booths on the ground floor.

the BSMMU's vaccination centre every day from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

At the Mugda Medical College Hospital, there will be two vaccination teams in the pilot run. Besides, there will be three specialist doctors, including one cardiologist, one anaesthesiologist, and a medicine specialist, to supervise the campaign. The deputy director of the hospital will lead the campaign on site, said officials.

There will be pre- and postvaccination waiting rooms for the vaccine recipients. Vaccination will be done from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Dr Asim Kumar Nath, director of the hospital, told The Daily Star, We have a total of 1,247 doctors, nurses and other staffers. We plan to vaccinate one hundred of them on the day after the inauguration.'

DMCH authorities have selected the CBRN and Mass Casualty Management Centre at the underground of the emergency unit for the vaccination. "We will vaccinate some 100 of our



Buses, some of which bring ministry officials to work, parked illegally on a road near the FDC level crossing in the capital's Karwan Bazar. This creates needless traffic jams on the road already narrowed by the pillars of the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover. Inset, the view in the opposite direction shows pickup vans following the buses' example. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Dhaka DC office, and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

They have to download and use the app or visit the website (https://www. surokkha.gov.bd/), where they will have to choose the relevant type from around 19 categories of professions. After that, they will have to provide their NID card number and date of birth, said officials.

They also need to give details of their medical history -- whether they have diabetes, cancer, hypertension, or other diseases.

Besides, they need to input their present address and mobile phone number to which an OTP (One-Time Password) would be sent.

After entering the OTP, a "vaccine card" will be generated and it will mention where and when a person will receive the first and second doses of the vaccine.

Following the administration of both doses, a certificate would be handed to the recipient, added the officials.

16, when Judicial Magistrate Mohsin Hasan was talking to Shahjahan about allegations of voting fraud at the school, SP Arafat and several other police officers interrupted the conversation and asked Mohsin to leave, according to complaints the latter had made.

According to media reports, Mohsin went to the polling centre at Bheramara Pilot Model High School after receiving complaints of voting fraud and was talking to Presiding Officer Shahjahan when SP Arafat, ASP Mostafizur Rahman and several other police personnel went there and loudly called the presiding officer aside.

Mohsin then told the police personnel that he was a judicial magistrate and requested them to let him speak to the presiding officer, the reports said.

SP Arafat then called the magistrate impolite and asked him to leave the premises, according to the reports.

Mohsin later filed complaint with the Election Commission, Registrar General's Office of the Supreme Court, the law and home ministries, and the Office of Inspector General of Police, accusing the SP of serious misconduct, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

The SP's conduct during the polls was a blatant violation of the Local Government Election Rules, 2010, the complaint said.

On January 20, the HC bench of ustice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khizir Hayat issued a contempt of court rule against SP Arafat.

The bench also directed him to appear before the court in person yesterday and give his explanation about the incident.

It also observed that the SP had not only committed serious contempt of court but also tarnished the image of the judiciary as a whole.

"The action of the superintendent of police ... cannot be taken lightly, the HC said in a suo moto order. "The behaviour and the attitude ... of the police to an officer of the judiciary who is performing the judicial functions as per the provisions of law under the guidance of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh amount to serious contempt of court.

"Such a behaviour of the said superintendent of police, Kushtia, is a severe attack on the administration of justice and ultimately the entire judiciary," it added.

Indian national held at Dhaka airport with fake UK visa STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Indian national was arrested at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Sunday night while trying to board a UK-bound flight with a fake visa

He was identified as Shakthivel (26).

The man was trying to secure a boarding pass for a Biman flight when an official suspected his visa was fake, Alamgir Hossain, additional superintendent (ops and media) of Airport APBn, told The Daily Star.

Officials then contacted immigration liaison officer of the UK High Commission who arrived there and confirmed the visa of Shakthivel was fake. The liaison officer then

put a cross mark on the visa, he said. Shakthivel was later handed over to APBn.

According to APBn officials, Shakthivel got the fake UK visa from an agent in India's Chennai and entered Bangladesh on January 20 through Benapole border.



Medical representatives of various pharmaceuticals often park their motorbikes on the road next to BSMMU in the capital's Poribagh for hours as they go from doctor to doctor, making it difficult for traffic police to get a hold of them to slap a fine for the violations. This is the way around the problem some traffic cops have found: confiscating their helmets. The riders then have to come to the law enforcers to retrieve it, but not before paying their due. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

COUNCILLOR POSTS IN CCC POLLS The mad race for 'unwritten perks'

RASHIDUL HASAN and ARUN BIKASH DEY, from Ctg

By nature, a city councillor's job is not that attractive. On paper, elected councillors may enjoy some local repute but have little power to exercise. All they get to do is sign certificates and monitor civic services like waste management and street light maintenance in wards.

Despite that, 168 councillor candidates are competing to secure one of the 40 councillor posts in this year's Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) election. A total of 57 women councillor candidates are also battling for 14 reserved seats for women.

In this fierce competition, two supporters of Awami League (AL) died and several were injured during clashes between AL-supported and AL-rebel councillor candidates. After witnessing such violence, the question that arises

is why are candidates so zealous about getting such a minor position?

According to local government experts, a councillor has many unofficial benefits, including establishing dominance in their respective area and controlling tenders for development work to make money.

Under the law, councillors are empowered to issue 17 types of certificates, including those for birth, death, citizenship and inheritance. They get a gross monthly pay of Tk 37,500.

In addition, they attend general and standing committee meetings of city corporations, and can formulate development plans for their wards and submit them for inclusion in development programmes.

Asked why councillor posts are so attractive, Jannatul Ferdaus, a former councillor of reserved seat for women under CCC, said although a councillor's duty is limited to routine service-oriented work, those from big political SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Reopen schools in slums: speakers STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps for reopening schools in the capital's slum areas where a large number of children were enrolled

Besides, they urged the government to take steps for the overall improvement in the livelihood of the city's over 40 lakh slum-dwellers, saying they were greatly affected by the pandemic.

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba), Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (Barcik), and Coalition for the Urban Poor jointly organised the discussion on "Covid-19's Impact on Students among the City's Low-income Group Slum-dwellers and what needs to be done" at Poba auditorium in the capital.

Discussants said many privately-owned and NGO-run schools in slum areas were closed amid the pandemic. As a result, children were deprived of their right to accessing formal education while there are concerns that many of them might have dropped out.

They said steps have to be taken so that children can return to schools, maintaining health guidelines. Besides, awareness campaign has to be run among guardians and midday meals should be provided to children at schools once those reopen.

Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan said many slumdwellers' children dropped out from schools due to closure amid the pandemic.

"It will be tough to get them back to school again," he said, adding, everyone should come forward to make sure that such children have access to education again.

'But what about the rest of us?'

Ctg residents worried as no list prepared; vaccination training of health workers yet to start; frontliners to get priority

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The Covid-19 vaccination campaign is about to kick off in the country, however, training of health officials, workers and volunteers in this regard is yet to start in Chattogram.

Not just that, such programme at district level, which was supposed to start on January 23 has been delayed. Asked, Sheikh Fazle Rabbi, civil surgeon of Chattogram, said it would start in a day or two.

He said a total of 28 health workers and 56 volunteers would be trained up to conduct vaccination in 15 upazilas.

"We sent two health officials to Dhaka to attend training. They have already returned. They would train others at district and upazila levels. It would be completed y January 30," he said.

Although the civil surgeon said a list of frontliners who would receive the vaccine • CHATTOGRAM

frontliners would be given priority for vaccination," said Fazle Rabbi, adding, "We have written to all government, public and private hospitals to send us a list of doctors, nurses and health workers by January 18. We have already got such lists from most of them.'

This correspondent spoke to medical officers, health officials and workers in different upazila health complexes to know about their preparations for Covid-19 vaccination programme. Most of them said they are ready to conduct the campaign and the health complexes were

equipped to store vaccines. Moniur Morshed, resident medical officer of Satkania Upazila Health Complex,

said their health complex can store around 10,000 vaccines. "We have sent a list of health workers who would Fraudster arrested by CTTC in capital

His group swindled people out of money by convincing them to fund in fake aid project

Mohammad Jamil Khan

This is how the plot unfolded:

First, they organised a cultural event. Then they handed over gifts and books to children.

They told people that they are organising the shows with funding from an aid organisation called "CCIC --Canadian Council for International Co-operation", which has a project to build schools, dams and tubewells and also sanctioned a grant of Tk 17.33 crore in this regard.

In order to withdraw that one has to deposit Tk 43 lakh. The person, who will deposit the money, will become a shareholder of the project.

With this fraud proposal, a group of miscreants has embezzled crores of taka from many in Kushtia and Magura.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC) unit yesterday claimed to have arrested an "IT expert" of this group.

During a drive around 6pm, the CTTC team arrested Tanjim Ahmed (28) near Jamuna Future Park in the city, Towhidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of CITC, told this newspaper. Tanjim used to make fake documents and application forms under the name of CCIC, he said.

Once a person deposited the money, Tanjim used to send them fake confirmation messages, said ADC Towhid, who is coordinating investigation into the case. Earlier on January 17, a CTTC team arrested one Md Rubel Ahmed, who used to introduce himself as the CEO of CCIC, from the capital's Uttara.

'Take vaccine to dispel public apprehension'

urges president, PM

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujibul Haque yesterday proposed that the president, prime minister, members of cabinet and members of parliament should take the Covid-19 vaccine to dispel

He made the proposal while taking part in the discussion on thanksgiving motion on the president's speech in the parliament.

"The president and the prime minister, members of cabinet and members of parliament should take the Covid-19 vaccine on similar day to dispel apprehension and misconception over vaccination," said the opposition lawmaker.

He made the comments as the first consignment of Covid-19 vaccines -containing 50 lakh doses of Covishield -- purchased by

Lawmaker Chunnu STAFF CORRESPONDENT

public apprehension.

Delivering the closing remarks, Naser said there on priority basis was ready, should be a change in the existing living condition of he failed to mention the urban slum-dwellers in the next 10 years to improve their number immediately. "I can tell you the urban slum-dwellers in the next 10 years to improve their livelihood.

Abdus Sobhan, general secretary of Poba, said absence from school for about a year might have created psychological changes in children's minds.

He suggested that the government creates a proper database on the situation of students and schools during the pandemic. Besides, he urged the government to declare separate stimulus package for the education sector.

Drop-out from schools might cause rise in child labour and child marriage in slum areas, said Zahangir Alam, coordinator of Barcik. There should be effort that each child resumes study once the schools are reopened, he said.

Khandaker Rebecca Saniat, executive director of Coalition for the Urban Poor, among others, addressed the discussion.

number after seeing the file," he said. According to sources at the civil surgeon's office, Chattogram district will get around

eight lakh vaccines in different stages. A central storage has been set up at the civil surgeon's office in port city, which has

a capacity to store around one lakh vaccines, maintaining the temperature between 2 and 8 degree Celsius. Apart from that, there are seven feeder storages in the city with a

capacity to store 10,000 vaccines. Besides, each of the 14 upazila health complexes can store 10,000 vaccines. One of the upazilas does not have a health complex. "As per the government guideline, the

receive the vaccine to the civil surgeon's office as per

their letter," he said, adding, "However, we are yet to receive any update on training of health officials and workers who would conduct the vaccination programme."

"We believe, it would not be a difficult task as we have trained manpower who are experienced in Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) campaigns," he said.

Asked about training the health workers, Dr Selim Akter Chowdhury, chief health officer of Chattogram City Corporation, said the two health officials of the city corporation who attended the vaccination training programme in Dhaka would start training others soon.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

CTTC arrested Rubel after Babul Akhtar, chairman of the Kushtia Betbaria Union Parishad, filed a case against him. One Mujahidul Islam Babul filed another case against Rubel with Khoksa Police Station in Kushtia.

Rubel popularly known as "Helicopter Rubel" used to travel to Kushtia and Magura in a helicopter, posing as an NGO high-up.

He then convinced people to invest in projects of the council and allegedly swindled them out of crores of taka, said officials.

On January 21, Rubel gave a confessional statement before a Dhaka court, said court sources. He said he met SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

the government landed in Dhaka yesterday morning.

Bangladesh previously received 20 lakh doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine as a gift from India.

The country has so far purchased three crore doses from India's Serum Institute through Beximco Pharmaceuticals.

bench MP Treasury Momtaz Begom proposed that artistes should get priority while administering Covid-19 vaccine across the country, arguing that artistes need to work with people.

HC clears way for trial of ex-DIG prisons STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the lower court concerned to continue the trial proceedings against Partha Gopal Banik, a suspended deputy inspector general (prisons) of Sylhet division, in a case filed over recovery of Tk 80 lakh from his residence in Dhaka.

The court rejected a petition filed by Banik seeking cancellation of the charges brought against him and bail.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim passed the rejection order considering that the petition was not presented properly before

Following the order, there is no legal bar for the lower court concerned to continue the trial proceedings of the corruption case against the accused, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

Lawyer Abdul Matin Khasru appeared for Banik while lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan argued for Anti-Corruption Commission.

Two school students among five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two school students from Faridpur were among five dead in road accidents across the country yesterday.

In a tragic accident at Hamirdi area under Bhanga upazila on Dhaka-Barishal highway, 15-year-old Sakib Fakir and 16-year-old Shahin Mutabbar were killed. They were both students of eighth grade at Brahmankanda AS Academy, confirmed the school's principal MA Salam Mia. Quoting locals, Omar Faruk, officer in-charge of Bhanga Highway Police Station, said, "Sakib and Shahin were going to Bhanga bazaar on a motorbike from Pukhuria bazar. On the way, a speeding truck ran them over when they attempted to overtake it. The two were injured seriously and they were taken to Bhanga Upazila Health Complex. There an on-duty doctor declared them death.

In another bike accident in Dinajpur yesterday, two people died on the spot when their motorcycle collided with a pickup van at Hakimpur upazila. The deceased are Nazrul Islam (50) and Sakhwat Hossain (24).

Mostafizur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Hakimpur Police Station, said the victims were returning to Badarganj from Hakimpur. When they arrived at Nawpara village of Hakimpur-Nawabganj road, their bike collided head-on with a pickup van, leaving them dead on the spot. Police handed over the bodies to family members.

In Manikganj Sadar upazila, an elderly woman was killed while crossing the road at Tara bridge area on Dhaka-Aricha highway. An unidentified vehicle ran over her.

The deceased was identified as Sonia Begum (65). Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Golra Highway Police Station, Monirul Islam, said the woman was seriously injured when she was hit by the unidentified vehicle.

She was rescued by locals and taken to Manikganj District Hospital where the doctors declared her dead. The body of the deceased was handed over to her relatives with the permission of the district administration.



Medical and non-medical waste lie strewn around a dumpster at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, with conservancy workers working shirtless amid hazardous substances while crows and canines dig through it. In late 2019, The Daily Star ran a series of stories about medical waste management in cities across the country and had found that there was no incinerator in the port city to safely destroy medical waste. Over a year later, Chattogram still does not have one. This photo was taken last week.

Sexual harassment in guise of begging!

Police arrest elderly man in Rajshahi from online video STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An elderly man was arrested by Rajshahi police yesterday on charges of sexual assault.

On the previous day, a video of the man sexually harassing women and girls while begging for alms in the crowd at Rajshahi's busy RDA market had gained traction on social media.

Noticing the video, police began an investigation into the matter.

The man was identified as Enamul Haque Bulu (62), a father of two daughters and a son, said Nibaran Chandra Burman, OC of Boalia police station.

Hailing from Naogaon, he lived in a rented house in Rajshahi city's Shekher Chalk area, he said.

Police thoroughly investigated into the matter, they talked to his family members, eye witnesses and scrutinised available video footages, the OC said.

"We found that Bulu was deliberately harassing women in the streets under the guise of begging," said the OC.

One of his victims is a 16-year-old schoolgirl. She had attempted to help him when he saw him shivering in the cold winter morning of last December 28 near Baroda Kalimata temple in the city's Kumarpara area. "Can you help me? I can't walk," Bulu had told her. The

girl tried to give him a hand to help him get up, and then she was sexually harassed.

She immediately ran and then returned to the spot with her relatives, but Bulu had fled by then.

Yesterday morning, the girl learnt from social media that the man was found and arrested by the police.

Accompanied by her relatives, she went to Boalia police station and filed a case against him for sexually harassing her, confirmed OC Nibaran.

Holy Cross school, college to open in Rajshahi city STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Holy Cross Brothers, a society of Catholic Church in Bangladesh, are setting up a school and college in Rajshahi city. The 'Holy Cross School and

College, Rajshahi' will be built on 14-bigha land in Boro Bongram area within three years, said sources.

Rajshahi city mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton laid down its foundation stone

at a function vesterday. Dr Subal Lawrence Rozario, Provincial of

school plans to introduce

nursery to university level

Among others, Rajshahi

education board chairman

Prof M Moqbul Hossain

Fraudster

one Zakaria Hossain alias

at projects of the local

With him, Rubel

and built structures

their activities, said

people that CCIC is

investigators.

so that people trusted

They also informed

building houses, schools,

selected barren land in

rural areas of the districts

Liton recently who worked

government in Kushtia and

attended the function.

in the future

FROM PAGE 3

Magura.

the Congregation of the Police yesterday exhumed the body of 13-year-old Brothers of the Holy Cross in Bangladesh, chaired the Nodi Akter, six months after her death at Saudi Arabia, and three months after the burial at the function. "The school will capital's Khilgaon graveyard. maintain a high standard of Sub-inspector Jakir Hossain of Kalabagan Police education to help students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Station sent the body to Dhaka Medical College compete in the changing Hospital (DMCH) for inquest report and autopsy. global scenario," he said. The exhumation started around 12pm, with Bishop Gervas Rozario executive magistrate Mosharraf Hossain overseeing of Rajshahi Diocese said the

the work. Nodi's mother Beauty Begum and father Dulal Sheikh were present during the exhumation. education from the institute According to DMCH sources, they have received

the corpse and will perform the autopsy today, once they receive necessary papers.

ভাকসিন নিয়ে সকল

ধরনের বাণিজ্য

Nodi's body exhumed for autopsy

বন্ধ কর

কর

^{বিনামূল্যে স}কলের জন্য করোনা ভ্যাকসিনের ব্যবস্থা

নাম গণতান্ত্রিক জোট

Nodi was sent to Saudi Arabia in March 2019. with a passport falsely listing her age as 27. According to Nodi's mother, after failing to contact Nodi for more than a week, she contacted Dhaka Export—the recruiting agency that sent her to KSA. The agency then informed her that Nodi

committed suicide August 14 last year. On October 30, her body arrived at Dhaka airport, and according to Beauty, police hurriedly buried her, despite their request for an autopsy.

"My daughter was murdered. She was facing trouble since she left for Saudi Arabia, and she told me several times to request Lalon [owner of the recruiting agency] to take her back. Although I repeatedly informed the agency about this, they didn't take any action," Beauty said.

"I'm happy that they have exhumed my daughter's corpse. But along with the inquest report and autopsy, I want them to perform DNA test too," she demanded.

Nodi's family filed a case with Kalabagan Police Station on October 14 last year.

Univ student arrested for rape and blackmail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a private university student from Dhaka on charge of raping a student of another university in October last year and blackmailing her for months afterwards.

A team of police arrested Rafid Sadman (25), a student of South East University, from his Banani DOHS residence after the victim's father filed a case with Cantonment Police Station early yesterday, said Sub-inspector Shyamol Ahmed, who his investigating the case.

According to case statement, the girl got acquainted with Sadman a couple of months ago and met each other on a few occasions.

On October 31, she met the accused at a friend's house in Uttara where she was given a drink with sedatives. As she was unconscious, Sadman took her home, disrobed her and filmed her. He then raped the girl.

He blackmailed the girl using the video clips, the complainant mentioned in the case statement

The accused let her go that day but used to force her to go to his house, threatening to leak the video clip on social media. He raped her several times, the case statement added.

"As Sadman continued his threats, my daughter at one stage disclosed everything to her mother. Then, we decided to file the case," the father told The Daily Star.

He demanded security for his family.

Car for sale

An office car 'Mitsubishi Lancer' Reg. No. Dhaka Metro GA 31-3642' to be sold out. Interested parties are requested to contact following address: Nippon Kaiji Kyokai, Chittagong Office, Amin Future Park (4th Floor), Strand Road, Chittagong-4100, Phone: +8802-333310847



Vacancy Announcement

SAARC Agriculture Centre is pleased to invite applications from the citizens of Bangladesh for the post of Project Finance Officer for the Project on Consortium for Scalingup Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS). The applicants fulfilling the requirements of the post may apply to Director, SAC latest by 25 February 2021. Terms of reference and application form can be downloaded from the website: http//:www.sac.org.bd

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GD-163

BRAC

Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain Director. SAC

and dams to help people affected by climate change. They then asked the

> victims to invest in the projects, said ADC Towhid. He said they are trying to find out other members

of the group.

The mad race

FROM PAGE 3

parties use their position for self-interest.

They can be seen overseeing development work in respective wards, although that is not under their jurisdiction. Many of them were accused of embezzling

funds allocated for their wards, she said. As most of them are involved in a brand of politics that misuses power, it is easier for them to control an area, if they are councillors, said Jannatul, adding that they even

vie in polls, defying decisions of their respective parties. Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, a social scientist and former vice chancellor of Chittagong University, pointed out some other reasons. He told The Daily Star that all councillors are members of general meetings of

city corporations, where all sorts of policies, budgets and projects are passed. Every councillor has the right to vote in the meetings to

pass an agenda, and so they are powerful in that sense, he said. Moreover, councillors conduct arbitrations in wards. Therefore, they have unofficial scope to exercise power. Considering all this, a section of candidates is crazy for the post.

Talking to this newspaper, Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder, also a local government expert, said the councillor post is a part time job, and councillors virtually have no power, as per the city corporation law.

[#]But the main reasons behind the large number of councillor contestants is nothing but their desire to establish authority in their respective areas and make a fortune by getting illegal benefits using that power," he said

Badiul also said if a councillor belongs to the party in power, they have much more scope to exert influence and gain benefits. But it is not possible if they are from opposition parties.



Naziruddin Ahmed passes away

CITY DESK

Former managing director of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) Naziruddin Ahmed has passed away on January 17, 2021. He was 79 at the time. A banker by profession, Naziruddin was born on July 18, 1941 in Barishal. He was the second son of Late Azizuddin Ahmad, former State Minister of the Pakistan Central Government.

Late Naziruddin Ahmed held many important positions in Agrani Bank throughout his career, including general manager.

DIU celebrates 19th anniversary CITY DESK

Daffodil International University (DIU) celebrated its 19th founding anniversary by hosting virtual events over the last two days, a press release said.

The celebration was inaugurated on Sunday through a discussion session titled 'Our University in Our Feelings'. Another programme, titled 'Our University', was held in the afternoon, participated by all the clubs of the university.

Two more discussion sessions, titled 'World Wide Daffodilian' and 'Daffodil Alumni -- Then and Now' were hosted yesterday. The first one was hosted primarily with the participation of international students, while the latter featured members of its alumni, the press release said.

Among others, the sessions were attended by Dr Md Sabur Khan, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Professor M Lutfar Rahman, Vice Chancellor of DIU; Dr SM Mahbub-Ul-Haque Majumder, Pro Vice Chancellor and more.

While addressing yesterday's programme, Sabur Khan said "The university has achieved a lot since its founding. The green campus, the huge infrastructure, the halls, the cafeteria, the library, the innovation lab, and placement in international rankings have all been made possible due to the team work of teachers, students and dedicated staff."

Vice-Chancellor Dr Lutfar Rahman said, "Daffodil International University started its journey in a rented building 18 years ago. The university now has its own campus covering more than 150 acres. All this has been possible due to the combined effort of all."

DIU had started its journey on 24 January, 2002 with only 67 students, which now stands at more than 20,000. The university has agreements with 300 universities across the world and boasts the highest number of foreign students among all the universities in the country. It has also received awards such as the World Quality Commitment Award, Global Amity Award, Best Business serving as the MD of HBFC. | School Award in Asia and more, the press release said.

The Left Democratic

Alliance, a coalition

of eight left-leaning

political parties,

staged a rally and

procession in the

capital yesterday,

demanding an end to

commercialisation of

Covid-19 vaccines.

They also called for

free vaccines for all

citizens. The photo

Gulistan Zero Point.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

was taken near

Competitive Salary and Benefits

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The nation's flagship university is working hard to become a proud global institution from Bangladesh. To support this aim we are seeking a dynamic and experienced individual who will focus on excellence and growth in BracU's national and international profile as an increasingly research-intensive University. If you relish to enable thematic research concentrations to provide an ecosystem that includes research, students, corporations and entrepreneurs you will thrive in this role.

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You will ideally have an outstanding academic qualification with a PhD degree. Distinguished research record, and an understanding of the higher education sector and opportunities and issues faced, especially in relation to research, innovation and research training.

Application Procedure

To apply please send your application to: hrd@bracu.ac.bd

Application deadline: 3 February 2021

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Ministry of Education Bhola Govt. College Bhola Sadar, Bhola www.bholagovtcollege.edu.bd

Memo No. CEDP/BGCDP/2020/G-09/76

Date: 24.01.2021

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ

শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

e-Tender Notice 02/2020-2021 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the

procure	ement of following	пд раскаде:		
SI.	Tender ID	Name of supply	Last date and	Tender closing
No.	No.		time of tender	date & time
			security	
			submission	
1.	540531	Procurement of Furniture &	15-February-	15-February-
		Fixtures for Classroom of Bhola	2021	2021
		Govt. College	01.00pm	02:00pm

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

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 14 February, 2021. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP held desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-164	Professor Md. Golam Zakaria Principal Bhola Govt. College, Bhola Phone: 0491-61822 E-mail: <u>bholagovtcollege@yahoo.com</u>	As of a total have bee positive them, 36 recovered
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Sources said councillors' main source of income is development activities in their localities, as none can usually carry out development projects without their consent. To make them happy, contractors have to pay them money.

He started his career in 1962 as an officer in the then Habib Bank Limited He retired in 1999 while

But what

FROM PAGE 3 Contacted, Dr Hasan Shahriar Kabir, director division) (Chattogram of Directorate General of Health Services, said the Covid-19 vaccination programme would be conducted by the city

corporation, district and upazila administrations. "As far as I know, all the districts in the division are almost ready," he said.

Meanwhile, residents are worried when they will get the vaccine. "I have heard that vaccines would be given to health officials and workers first," said 70-yearold Babul Dutta, a resident of Jamal Khan area.

"We understand it's necessary to vaccinate frontliners but what about the rest of us? When will we be vaccinated? The government should clarify

Abdur Rahman (65) said, "Earlier, we heard that the elderly and people with comorbidity would get the vaccine first... but we are not sure as there is no clear announcement in this regard."

"Due to the pandemic, we are afraid of going out... We have been eagerly waiting for the vaccination to start," said the resident of Panchlaiah area.

Asked, the civil surgeon said it would take a while to start vaccination for general people as they will prioritise the frontliners first.

yesterday, he said of 32,578 people en tested Covid-19 in Chattogram. Of 67 died and 30,465 d.



BANGLADESH KRIRA SHIKKHA PROTISTHAN (BKSP) ZIRANI, SAVAR, DHAKA



Tel: 02-7789215-6, Fax No: 7789513 E-mail:bksp1983@yahoo.com

admin@bksp.gov.bd

Memo No: 34.04.0000.002.07.200.20-1133

Date: 24 January, 2021

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method) (NCT)

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have published through e-GP portal.

ID & Package No	Name of Works	Publishing & last selling Date	Closing Date
Tender ID No-539265	Supplying ECG machine, Ultrasonogram machine, UPS, Printer and other devices at BKSP	21-Jan-2021 17:00:00, 10-Feb-2021 17:00:00	11-Feb-2021 14:00:00
Tender ID No-539494	Supplying of Gym equipment for BKSP and Medical equipment for RTC Khulna, Barishal, Dinajpur, Sylhet, Chittagong and Ramu (Cox's Bazar)	21-Jan-2021 17:00:00, 10-Feb-2021 17:00:00	11-Feb-2021 14:00:00
Tender ID No-539694	Installation of Digital Multimedia Language Laboratory System at BKSP	21-Jan-2021 17:00:00, 10-Feb-2021 17:00:00	11-Feb-2021 14:00:00
Tender ID No-539707	Supplying various electronic equipment at BKSP	21-Jan-2021 17:00:00, 10-Feb-2021 17:00:00	11-Feb-2021 14:00:00

The interested Firms/Persons may visit the web site:www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the Tender. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

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

(Shah Ashraf Ali) **Executive Engineer** BKSP Zirani, Savar, Dhaka.



Monisha Begum at her Thai lemon orchard, at Arazi Deshibai village in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Lemon grower succeeds amid pandemic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The saying "every crisis brings opportunities" turned out to be true for Monisha Begum, a resident of Arazi Deshibai village in Jaldhaka upazila.

When people all over the world have been losing their jobs and livelihoods due to lockdowns enforced to curb the novel coronavirus pandemic, Monisha saw sales of lemon, grown in her orchard, soar during the same period.

The demand for lemon and other vitamin-C enriched produce rose considerably during the covid-19 situation, as vitamin-C is essential in enhancing immunity to fight viruses.

After getting married to transport worker Shahabuddin Hossain Sabuj five years ago, the their son was born, the plants orchard had always been steady,

The demand for lemon and other vitamin-C enriched produce rose considerably during the covid-19 situation, as vitamin-C is essential in enhancing immunity to fight viruses.

couple realised that they needed a way to earn extra income in order to survive.

After some persuasion, her father-in-law helped her lease two bighas of land where she started planting lemon saplings of Thai variety.

About two years later, when

did not stop tending the plants despite her responsibilities and chores grew in the household.

"The Thai variety lemon got popular as it's really juicy and aromatic. With profits made in the last three years, I leased more land and expanded the orchard, which is now on five bighas of land," said Monisha.

The orchard now has 1,500 plants and each plant produces nearly 70 to 80 lemons annually. But since the pandemic struck last year, the demand for lemons skyrocketed and wholesalers from near and far have been lining up at her orchard for lemons, she added.

Lemon trader Abdul Malek, from the same upazila, said, "Supply of lemons from Monisha's

started to yield fruits, as Monisha even during the off season. I've been making good profits during the pandemic as I've been buying it for Tk 3 to 4 a piece and selling each for Tk 10 at the retail market.

Monisha said lemon sales last year reached Tk 3.5 lakh against a production cost of Tk 70 thousand. With the profit, she and her husband have leased one more bigha of land for the orchard and purchased a used power tiller that they started renting to farmers in the area.

Three female workers, on daily wage, now help her at the orchard, she also said.

Majedul Islam, from Khutamara village, said, "Seeing Monisha's success, many unemployed youths like me stopped running after jobs and started making orchards to grow Thai lemon.

Youths on a mission to clean road

A group of youths voluntarily cleaned one kilometer on both sides of Kathaltoli-Terakuri road.

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Someone was sweeping. Someone was picking up garbage. Someone was burning the waste at a certain place. The scene was spotted in Saiding Bazar area of Barlekha upazila in Moulvibazar district on Friday afternoon. To make their surroundings spotless, a few youths from Kathaltali Dakkhin village voluntarily have cleaned about one kilometer on both sides of Kathaltoli-Terakuri road.

Sayeeb Ahmed Yaser, organiser of the event, said Kathaltoli Bazar is widely known as Saiding Bazar. There was once a big market in Saiding Bazar. There are three educational institutions in the area. There are several grocery stores on both sides of the road.

From the shops, different types of garbage, including polythene, are dumped on both sides of the road, polluting the surrounding area.

"I have taken the initiative to clean it out of social responsibility. Later, I shared the matter with some youths in the area. They responded. As per the plan, 10-12 youths from the area started cleaning up . Kathaltoli-Terakuri road," he said.

Shahidul Islam, another organiser of the

event, said, "We cleaned one kilometer of the road. We also sprayed disinfectant in the area. We will continue these activities."

Rafiq Uddin, a local grocer, said many people used to clean the shop and throw dirt along with polythene beside the road. Some young people from the area have cleaned up both sides of the road.

"They have also made us aware of this. From now on, we will burn the waste," he said.

Gauch Uddin, a member of the management committee of Kathaltali Government Primary School, said "It now looks very beautiful to see the both sides of the road after removing the waste from the area.

He added that no one has cleaned up like this before. Everyone like them should come forward to protect the environment of the area.

Enam Uddin, chairman of Dakshinbhag Uttar Union Parishad, said the local youths are really doing wonderful job.

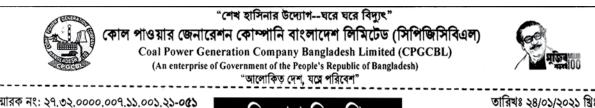
Barlekha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamim Al Imran said any feat can be achieved if all hands are on the deck and the youths in the area have proved it by cleaning the road.



A youth picks up garbage in Saiding Bazar area of Barlekha upazila in Moulvibazar on Friday.

PHOTO STAR

Villagers suffer for want of permanent bridge



People of 200 families use the shaky bamboo bridge amid risk every day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridbur

People of nearly 200 families living in five villages under Char Jhaukanda union in Charbhadrasan upazila have been suffering immensely for years for want of a concrete bridge over a local canal.

At present, inhabitant of of Munshi Dangi, Laskar Dangi, Alimirar village, Charkalanpur and Char Gopalgpur villages use the 50-foot temporary bamboo bridge over the canal to go to their destinations including the upazila headquarters.

The condition of the bamboo bridge, that connects Hasan Fakir Boat Ghat, is so shabby that it might broke down anytime, locals said.

They have no alternative but to cross the shabby bridge risking their lives as it the only shortcut way to reach the important places in the upazila as well as several other neighbouring villages.

During the rainy season locals cross the canal on small boats, but they suffers lot during the dry season and students, elderly patients and local farmers, who had to carry their goods to different markets, are the words sufferer.

Villagers said they make the bamboo bridge at their own initiatives spending Tk 15000 every year to facilitate thousands of commuters.

Mahabubur Rahman, head teacher



Locals use the temporary bamboo bridge on a canal in Char Jhaukanda union in Faridpur's Charbhadrasan upazila amid risk of accident.

of Charkalanpur Government Primary shabby bridge. School, said at least 70 students of his institution cross the bamboo bridge (UP) Chairman Farad Hossain daily to attend their school.

of Char Gopalpur village, said many Government Engineering Department farmers, who carries their different to build a concrete bridge in place of agro-products, face troubles every the existing bamboo bridge several time they cross the canal using the times but to no heed.

Char Jhaukanda Union Parishad Mridah said they have appealed Farmer Halim Chowdhury, 59, to Charbhadrasan Upazila Local



After nearly two weeks of suspension road communication through Rangamati-Khagrachhari Link Road resumes yesterday. The Roads and **Highways Department** and Bangladesh Army 20 ECB jointly constructed a 140-feet-long temporary Bailey bridge next to the collapsed one. On January 12, the bridge collapsed when a stoneladen truck was crossing Boro Mohapurom Chhara, leaving three peoples killed. PHOTO: STAR 1186 41: 51.05.0000.001.22.002.52**-00**2



কোল পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের শতভাগ মালিকানাধীন একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান) এর অধীনে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ব্ৰুঃ নং	পদের নাম এবং মুল বেতন	সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিন্সতা	বয়স সীমা
०४।	সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (এইচআরএম/এডমিন) মূল বেতন: ৫২,০০০/-	০১ (এক)	সরকার এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরি কমিশন কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে HR/ Management or any other relevant subject এ ০৪(চার) বছরের য়াতক ডিগ্রী অথবা ০৩(তিন) বছরের সম্মানসহ ০১(এক) বছরের য়াতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী। এমবিএ/য়াতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীর সাথে পিন্ধিডিএইচআরএম ডিগ্রীধারীরা অগ্রাধিকার পাবে।	১) সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর; ২) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধীদের জন্য ও২ বছর (১২/০১/২০২১ খ্রিঃ এ)
०२।	সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (হিসাব/অর্থ/নিরীক্ষা) মূল বেতন: ৫২,০০০/-	০২ (দুই)	সরকার এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরি কমিশন কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে Commerce/Finance/Accounting/MBA (০৪ বছরের স্নাতক ডিগ্রী অথবা ০৩(তিন) বছরের সম্মানসহ ০১(এক) বছরের স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী)। সিএমএ বা সিএ ডিগ্রীধারীরা অগ্রাধিকার পাবে।	

ডাতা ও অন্যান্য সুবিধাঃ

ক) সিপিজিসিবিএল এর পে-স্কেল-২০১৬ অনুযায়ী বাড়ী ভাড়া, প্রতি বছর ০২টি উৎসব ভাতা, নববর্ষ ডাতা, যৌথ ডবিষ্য তহবিল, গ্রুপ ইন্সুরেন্স, অর্জিত ছুটি নগদায়ন, গ্রাচ্যুইটি, চিকিৎসা ডাতা প্রাপ্য হবেন;

কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী কর্তৃক আয়কর প্রদান করতে হবে।

চাকুরির ধরণঃ

প্রাথমিকভাবে ০৩(তিন) বছরের জন্য চুক্তি ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগযোগ্য এবং সন্তোষজনক কর্মমূল্যায়ন (Performance Appraisal) এর ডিত্তিতে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, সিপিজিসিবিএল এর অনুমোদনক্রমে চাকুরির মেয়াদ ৬০(ষাট) বছর বয়স পর্যন্ত নবায়নযোগ্য।

সাধারণ শর্তাবলীঃ

- সরকারি-আধাসরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত অথবা সরকারি মালিকানাধীন কোম্পানি/প্রতিষ্ঠান এ কর্মরতদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে; 2)
- শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন পরীক্ষায় ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী প্রাপ্তদের আবেদন গ্রহনযোগ্য হবে না। গ্রেডিং পদ্ধতিতে পাসের ক্ষেত্রে জিপিএ-৫ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম-৪.০০ এবং সিজিপিএ-৪ স্কেলে ર) ন্যনতম-২.৭৫ প্রাণ্ড হতে হবে; বিদেশ থেকে অর্জিত ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত ইকুইড্যালেন্স সনদের কপি জমা প্রদান করতে হবে;
- ৩) কোন প্রকার তদবির/সুপারিশ প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা প্রমাণ করবে এবং বয়স প্রমাণের জন্য কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়;
- আবেদনপত্র বাছাইয়ের পর শুধু উপযুক্ত বিবেচিত প্রার্থীদের লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় ডাকা হবে। নির্বাচনী লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদের কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না;
- ৫) 🛛 কোন তথ্য গোপন করে বা ভুল তথ্য প্রদান করে চাকরিতে নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর নিয়োগাদেশ বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে আইনানৃগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে;
- প্রার্থীর অংশগ্রহণমূলক নেতৃত্বের গুণাবলি থাকতে হবে এবং বাংলা ও ইংরেজিতে যোগাযোগ দক্ষতাসহ কম্পিউটার চালনায় পারদর্শী হতে হবে;
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যাতিরেকে সিপিজিসিবিএল কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরখান্ত/সকল দরখান্ত বা নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখে;
- বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উদ্নিখিত পদের হাস/বৃদ্ধি করার অধিকার সিপিন্ধিসিবিএল কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে এবং আবেদনপত্র বাছাই ও নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সিপিন্ধিসিবিএল কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;

আবেদন প্রক্রিয়াঃ

- আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে (<u>http://cpgcbl.teletalk.com.bd</u>) হতে নির্ধারিত '<u>আবেদন ফরম</u>' পূরণপূর্বক আবেদন করতে হবে এবং **আবেদন ফরম ও অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পুরণ** 2) সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী ও শর্তাবলী নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া চলমান অবস্থায় ৩০/০১/২০২১ হতে ২৮/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ (রাত:-১১.০০ ঘটিকা) পর্যন্ত বর্ণিত ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যবে;
- আবেদন ফি বাবদ ১,০০০/-(এক হাজার) টাকা আবেদন ফরম পুরণের অনধিক ৭২ (বাহান্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। এখানে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, "Online আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না;
- আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণের সময়সীমা শেষ হওয়ার পর প্রার্থী লিখিত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করতে পারবেন। একই প্রবেশপত্র দিয়ে লিখিত এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত ৩) হৰে:
- 8) প্রবেশপত্র প্রান্তির বিষয়টি (<u>http://cpgcbl.teletalk.com.bd</u>) ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধু যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদন্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিক অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্চনীয়;
- ৫) SMS এ প্রেরিড User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি সম্বলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক রঙিন Print করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন:
- আবেদনপত্রে কোন ভুল তথ্য পরিবেশন করলে অথবা চাহিদাকৃত কাগজপত্র সঠিক ও সম্পূর্ণরূপে সংযোজন করা না হলে এবং নির্ধান্তিত সময়ের পর পাওয়া গেলে আবেদনপত্রটি সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। কোনক্রমেই পরবর্তীতে কোন কাগজপত্র/প্রত্যয়নপত্র গ্রহনযোগ্য হবে না।

(মোহাম্মদ মতিউর রহমান) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (এইচআরএম এন্ড এডমিন) (ভারপ্রাপ্ত) সিপিজিসিবিএল, ঢাকা।

PHOTO: STAR



Farmers are being stopped by police during a rally in support of the ongoing farmers protest against the central government's recent agricultural reforms in Mumbai, India yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Smi

CONTESTED BORDER AREA IN SIKKIM Troops had 'minor face-off' with China last week: India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian and Chinese troops were involved in a "minor face-off" last week in a disputed stretch of their shared border in the eastern Himalayas, the Indian army said yesterday, underlining the fraught situation at the border.

China said the two sides must refrain from escalatory actions.

Nuclear-armed India and China have been in a tense standoff since April in the western Himalayas and since then have bolstered forces all along the 3,800-km (2,350-mile) border.

"It is clarified that there was a minor face-off at Nakula area of North Sikkim on 20 January 2021 and the same was resolved by local commanders as per established protocols," the Indian army said in a statement. It gave no details.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said he didn't have anything to offer on the incident but urged India to exercise restraint.

"I would like to stress though that China's border troops are committed to upholding peace and tranquillity along the border with India. We urge the Indian side to work in the same direction as us and



refrain from actions that might escalate or complicate the situation along the border, he told a regular news briefing.

"We hope both sides will take proper actions to manage their differences and take concrete actions to safeguard peace and stability along the border."

Sikkim is in the eastern Himalayas, thousands of miles away from Ladakh where the military crisis began last year and erupted into a hand-to-hand combat that left 20 Indian soldiers dead and an unspecified number of Chinese casualties.

Indian media reports said the latest row in Sikkim had resulted in injuries on both sides. "Media is requested to refrain from overplaying or exaggerating reports which are factually incorrect," it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel opens embassy in UAE

Israel opened an embassy in the United Arab Emirates Sunday, its foreign ministry said, in a historic move four months after the Jewish state and the Gulf country normalised ties. The embassy is the latest in Israel's diplomatic outreach to the Arab world, with a flurry of normalisation agreements and new deals with four countries over recent months. "Today the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi has officially been opened, with the arrival of the mission head Eitan Naeh," the ministry said in a statement. "The Israeli embassy in the United Arab Emirates will advance relations between the countries on all levels." The UAE, along with Bahrain, signed a US-brokered deal in September to normalise relations with the Jewish state. The agreements, known as the "Abraham Accords", shattered a longstanding Arab consensus that there should be no normalisation with Israel until it reaches a comprehensive peace deal with the Palestinians.

Taiwan expelled Chinese dredgers from its waters

Taiwan expelled nearly 4,000 Chinese vessels illegally dredging sand from its waters in 2020, authorities said yesterday, a more than six-fold increase on the year before as Beijing seeks to heap pressure on the democratic island. China has taken an increasingly belligerent tone towards Taiwan under President Xi Jinping -- especially over the last twelve months with Beijing's jets and bombers buzzing the island at a record rate. But the waters surrounding Taiwan have become another hot zone. Taiwan's coastguard yesterday told AFP it recorded a huge spike in Chinese sand dredgers illegally

US rejoins global fight

Analysis says half a million people died by extreme weather this century **REUTERS**, Amsterdam

The United States marked its return to the global fight against climate change yesterday by joining high level talks on ways to better protect people and economies from the effects of global warming already taking place.

Less than a week after President Joe Biden announced the return of the United States to the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, his Special Climate Envoy John Kerry joined China's Deputy Prime Minister Han Zheng, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and other leaders at the Climate Adaptation Summit.

Britain said it plans to team up with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, Saint Lucia and the Netherlands in an initiative that could include early warning systems for storms and investments in flood drainage and in drought-resistant crops.

Netherlands, aims to set out practical solutions and plans for dealing with climate change in the period until 2030.

Ahead of the summit, more than 3,000 scientists from across the globe pressed

CLIMATE ADAPTATION SUMMIT



leaders to better protect people from the fall out of global warming.

"Our fast-warming world is already experiencing major disruptions from more intense droughts, fires, heat waves, floods, destructive tropical cyclones and other extreme events", the scientists, including five Nobel laureates, said in a statement.

"Unless we step up and adapt now, the shortages, agricultural losses and soaring levels of migration with an enormous toll on human life."

Climate change could depress global technical assistance."

food production by up to 30%, while rising seas and greater storms could force hundreds of millions in coastal cities out of their homes, summit organiser the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) said.

According to a new assessment of the direct threat posed to humanity by climate change, almost half a million people have died in natural disasters linked to extreme weather events in the last 20 years.

The mortality burden of climate-related catastrophes such as storms, flooding and heatwaves is overwhelmingly borne by developing countries.

Germanwatch's Global Climate Index examined the impact of two decades of extreme weather events, particularly the 2019 storm season, which produced hurricanes and cyclones that devastated parts of the Caribbean, east Africa and south Asia.

"This shows that poor vulnerable countries face particularly great challenges results will be increasing poverty, water in dealing with the consequences of extreme weather events," said co-author David Eckstein.

"They urgently need financial and

DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM Xi Jinping warns leaders against 'new Cold War' AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday warned global leaders at an all-virtual Davos forum against starting a "new Cold War", and urged global unity in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

Having largely curbed the spread of the pandemic within its borders, Xi wants to position China as a key player in a new multilateral world order as the US remains crippled by the pandemic.

"To build small cliques or start a new Cold War, to reject, threaten or intimidate others ... will only push the world into division," said Xi in a likely veiled attack on US President Joe Biden's plans to revitalise global alliances to counter China's growing influence.

In a swipe at moves targeting China launched by the previous US administration under President Donald Trump, Xi said confrontation "will always end up harming every nation's interests and sacrificing people's welfare".

The Chinese leader also reaffirmed Beijing's ambitious climate pledges to slash carbon emissions by 65 percent by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

"Meeting these targets will require tremendous hard work from China. But we believe that when the interests of the entire humanity are at stake, China must step forward, take action and get the job done," he said.

BJP should be rechristened 'Bharat Jalao Party'

This online event, hosted by the

entering its waters. Up to November last year, it expelled 3,969 vessels, compared to 600 in 2019 and 71 in 2018.

Nine trapped Chinese miners confirmed dead



Chinese rescue workers have found the bodies of nine more miners after an explosion a fortnight ago, local officials said yesterday, raising the death toll to 10. It comes a day after 11 miners were pulled out alive from the mine in eastern Shandong province where the blast struck. One miner remains unaccounted for. A group of 22 were trapped hundreds of metres underground by the explosion on January 10, with some relying on food and medicine delivered through long shafts drilled by rescue teams. "From Sunday afternoon to this afternoon, rescue workers have not stopped searching, and found a further nine trapped miners who unfortunately all died," the mayor of Yantai city, Chen Fei, said at a briefing yesterday.

OURCE: AFP, REUTER

Mamata tells rally in Hooghly

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

Days after being "insulted" by the supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at an event organised on the occasion of Netaji SB's birth anniversary in Kolkata, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said yesterday that the BJP should be rechristened "Bharat Jalao Party".

Addressing a public rally in Hooghly's Pursura months ahead of state legislative assembly election, the chief minister said she was insulted and had to face taunts in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Victoria Memorial event on Saturday. She had refused to speak at the event after she was interrupted with chants of "Jai Shri Ram".

"Would you invite anyone to your house and then insult the person? Is this the culture of Bengal or our country? I would have had no problem if slogans hailing Netaji were raised. But they didn't do that. To taunt me, they shouted slogans which had no relation to the programme. I was insulted in front of the prime minister of the country. This is their (BJP) culture," the Trinamool Congress boss said.

Targeting potential defectors, the CM said that those planning to leave the TMC should do it as soon as possible as the party didn't need them.

"Those who are lining up to leave the Trinamool Congress should leave as early as possible. Bengal and TMC don't need you. The party would not have given them a ticket anyway, so they are leaving in fear," Banerjee said.

TMC heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari and MP Sunil Kumar Mandal were among the several party legislators who defected to the BJP earlier last month.

A day after the heckling on Saturday, it emerged that BJP leaders had cornered a big share of invitation cards to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs event and given them to party activists who were present in the crowd in disproportionate numbers, say sources.



Palestinians take part in a protest against what they say are food aid cuts by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City yesterday. PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: REUTERS

Hospital staff work while Robot Franziska cleans the floor as a replacement for the missing cleaning personnel due to the coronavirus disease pandemic during a three-week test phase at the Neuperlach hospital in Munich, Germany yesterday.

Republicans signal deep resistance

Pelosi to send Senators single article of impeachment passed in House

AFP, Washington

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was set to send the Senate a single article of impeachment yesterday accusing Donald Trump of inciting the Capitol riot, formally triggering the firstever impeachment trial of a former president.

Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, vowed last week that the trial -- already scheduled to open in the second week of February -- should proceed, saying, "I don't think it will be long, but we must do it."

But Republican lawmakers signaled over the weekend that Democrats may struggle to secure Trump's conviction over the storming of US legislative buildings earlier this month, which left five people dead.

Senior figures in Trump's party have pushed back with both political and constitutional arguments, raising doubts that Democrats -- who control 50 seats in the 100-seat chamber --

TRUMP SENATE TRIAL



can secure the 17 Republican votes to reach the two-thirds majority needed to convict.

"I think the trial is stupid. I think it's counterproductive. We already have a flaming fire in this country and it's like taking a bunch of gasoline and pouring it on top," Marco Rubio, the top Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told Fox News Sunday.

He acknowledged that Trump -- who had urged thousands of his supporters to flock to Washington and protest the congressional certification of Joe Biden's victory -"bears some responsibility for what happened."

But to "stir it up again" could only hurt the country, said Rubio, a presidential candidate beaten by Trump in the 2016 primary.

Other Republicans argued that the Senate has no authority to put a private citizen -- as Trump now is -on trial.

Senator Mike Rounds told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the constitution does not allow for the impeachment of a former president.

But Senator Mitt Romney, the Republicans' 2012 presidential candidate and a frequent Trump critic, told CNN that "the preponderance of legal opinion is that an impeachment trial after a president has left office is constitutional. I believe that's the case.'

Nepal's PM ejected from ruling party REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's caretaker Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was thrown out of the country's ruling Communist party yesterday, his opponents said, in protest at his abrupt decision in December to dissolve parliament and call for an early general election. Oli remains in office

despite the expulsion. Yesterday, dozens of

protesters who marched near Oli's residence to oppose the parliament's dissolution clashed with police who used water cannons and caned some with rattan sticks to break up the anti-Oli rally. Witnesses said some protesters were injured in the clash.

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LAW OPINION

Justice to rape victims: Still a far cry

MD. ABDUL HALIM

The inhumanity and savagery by rape and sexual offences are on the peak now. Almost every day newspapers are pouring with the horrifying news of rape, gang rape of children and women. Recently, a disabled girl was gangraped by six persons in Chandpur. Are we not shocked with the plight of the 6-year-old little girl who went to play with her playmates at the rooftop of a house in old Dhaka and was later raped and murdered by a man and her parents had to discover the dead body soaked with her own blood? Can we last 6 years? Do our hearts bleed with the news that the 13-year-old girl from Ullahpara, Sirajganj was gang-raped? Do we remember her portrait that was published in almost all newspapers, where she was hiding her face in her hands in 2001?

Tougher punishment has been enacted very recently for rape cases and cases are being recorded by police on a daily basis. But is there any sign of reduction of incidents of rape? Victims, particularly girl children are left behind to undergo an unending struggle to survive in the society with stigma and blame at very cost of their lives and dignity. When a girl is raped



forget the ordeal of four women who were confined and gang-raped in Feni, over a long period of six months? Have we forgotten that 8-year-old was gang-raped and killed in Bagura on 26 December, 2020? Do our eyes turn blind when we hear that Puja a little girl from Parbotipur who was raped and brutally injured and she is still not out of danger and dragging on with her ordeal of rape trial with her parents for or seduced, there is no immediate civil remedy available to her. She faces complete holocaust and devastation. Many sensitive women or girl often commits suicide after rape.

The carriage of justice is often misconceived to the ambit of attainment of conviction of the accused only. A non-government report suggests that the existing system of rape trial results with The state cannot shrug off its responsibility to pay interim compensation in cases where the condition of the victim is critical and/or where victims are dead as a result of brutal rape and torture.

a meager number of 3-4% of convictions leaving 97% in acquittal. How can the State and justice system be content with 3-4% convictions in cases of violence against women? Does it mean that 97% allegations were false and if that be so, what should be the reasons for giving charge sheets in such a staggering number of cases and burdening the justice system for no practical reason?

Here lies the importance of phasing out compensation as well other rehabilitative schemes so that victims of rape and sexual abuses do not feel that they are alienated and neglected by the state and justice system. Without their active participation in the process of justice, it is unlikely that the punishment of criminals can be ensured by the state. Their faith and reliance on justice system must be given the most priority Further, ending the trial process with acquittal on technical grounds and victims carrying around the stigma, marks and medical proof of treatment and hospitalisation substantiate a huge vacuum or sheer negligence on the part of the prosecution to investigate and lead all evidences properly. Therefore, the state cannot shrug off its responsibility to pay interim compensation in cases where the condition of the victim is critical and/ or where victims are dead as a result of

brutal rape and torture. At this point of horrific peak of inhumanity, what should victims

of rape do deserve from the state and what role can our apex court, as third pillar of the Constitution, play? "Law should not sit limply, while those who defy it go free and those who seek its protection lose hope". This is what Frank Futer, J opined in Jennison v Baker back in 1972. The true destination lies at the lap of the victims. The jurisprudence of victimology has set its strong hold today that the responsibility of the State does not end merely by registering a case, conducting investigation, initiating prosecution and sentencing an accused. The turning point here was the case of Delhi Domestic Working Women's Forum in which the Indian Supreme Court relying on the Oxford Handbook of Criminology (1994 Edn.) opined that "....Should justice to the victims depend only on the punishment? Should the victims have to wait to get justice till such time that the handicaps in the system which result in large scale acquittals of guilty, are removed?

....How can the tears of the victim be wiped off when the system itself is helpless to punish the guilty for want of collection of evidence or for want of creating an environment in which witnesses can fearlessly present the truth before the Court? Justice to the victim has to be ensured irrespective of whether or not the criminal is punished."

The conventional theory of retribution has undergone a notable sea change, as societies have increasingly felt that victims were being neglected by legislatures and courts alike. Legislations have, therefore, been introduced in many countries providing for restitution/reparation. In the USA, a victim gets compensation from the Federal Crime Victims Fund. It covers lost wages, medical costs, and mental health counseling. In the UK, compensation is provided to victims by

the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) where victims can apply for compensation ranging from $\pounds1,000$ to $\pounds500,000$.

The nest important case was Railway Board v. Chandrima Das, in which the Supreme Court of India held that rape is not a mere matter of violation of an ordinary right of a person but the violation of the victims most cherished right, namely, right to life which includes right to live with human dignity contained in Article 21. In this case the Supreme Court, while the rape case was pending, directed Indian Railway Board to give compensation of Rs. 10 lacs to a Bangladeshi victim who was gang-raped by Indian Railway employees. The Supreme Court further held in *Suresh* that the responsibility of the State does not end merely by initiating prosecution and even after acquittal the responsibility of rehabilitation of the victim remains. The Indian Supreme Court has taken robust activism by phasing out interim compensation scheme in Nirbahya case and finally in Nipun Saxena (2018) case in which it held that the Gang Rape victims will be compensated from Rs.5 Lacs to Rs.10 Lacs, the rape victim's from Rs.4 Lacs to Rs.7 Lacs, unnatural sex assault victims from Rs.4 Lacs to Rs.7 Lacs depending upon cases and this amount of compensation is to be paid irrespective of conviction or acquittal.

In most developed and developing systems, the judiciary has come forward to fulfill the gap between fast changing society and rigid laws. This is because of the long and time consuming procedure of enactments of laws by legislature. The changes that we have seen in India, both legislative and judicial, are yet to be received and adopted by our judiciary and legislature not only for the best interest of the victims but also for the interest of the justice system and revenue expenditure.

> THE WRITER IS AN ADVOCATE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND HONORARY CHAIRMAN, CCB FOUNDATION.

GLOBAL LAW UPDATES Promoting biodiversityfriendly trade

NCTAD has launched its updated BioTrade Principles and Criteria, a Proven benefits to governments, companies and workers

Laws regulating guardianship of a minor in Bangladesh

set of guidelines for governments and companies to conduct biodiversityfriendly trade, to address new challenges and priorities now and in the future.

The term "BioTrade" refers to the supply and commercialisation of goods and services derived from a country's biodiversity. The illegal wildlife trade is a global, multibilliondollar enterprise accelerating biodiversity loss, with an estimated one million plant and animal species now at risk of extinction, according to a United Nations report. The threat is not only ecosystem collapse but also a heightened risk of new pandemics such as COVID-19.

The guidelines, first created in 2007, set out how the Earth's precious natural resources can be traded in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable manner. "Biodiversity is a global concern and priority. Learning from practices, experiences, legal and policy frameworks is key, as reflected in these updated principles and criteria, which guide practitioners in this field," said UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Isabelle Durant.

The seven principles address issues such as conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, equitable sharing of the benefits of BioTrade between different actors, and respect for the rights of indigenous people and local communities. The updated principles and criteria take into account experiences, best practices and lessons learned by partners and practitioners since the first edition, adding new elements such as climate resilience, marine biodiversity and sustainable tourism. They also update elements such as workers' rights, health and safety, and access and benefit sharing under the Nagoya Protocol. The principles and criteria seek to encourage trade and investment in developing countries' unique natural resources, including various species of flora and fauna, genetic resources and ecosystems, while ensuring their long-term conservation and enhancement. They have been implemented in more than 65 countries to date, with several examples of successful adoption by governments, companies and communities.

BioTrade: Sustainable now and in the future The principles and criteria were updated as part of the global BioTrade programme launched by UNCTAD in 2018, with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. They are more closely aligned with key multilateral environmental agreements, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). They are also in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris climate agreement and the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources.

Partners of UNCTAD's BioTrade programme have called for the updated principles and criteria to be reflected in the new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will provide the biodiversity roadmap for the next decade. The framework is expected to be adopted during the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, slated for the second half of 2021. The partners have also encouraged more countries and stakeholders to use the principles and criteria to build resilient sectors, businesses and communities.

COMPILED BY LAW DESK (SOURCE: UN.ORG).



Mazharul Islam

LAW ANALYSIS

The fundamental law to regulate guardianship in Bangladesh is the Guardians and Wards Act (G&W Act) which was enacted in 1890 with the purpose of consolidating and amending all laws relating to a minor for whose person or property or both there is a guardian in the country. This Act extends to the whole of Bangladesh and is applicable for all people irrespective of their religion and status.

However, there are few other laws in place which regulate the matter of guardianship for specific group of people. For example, if the parties to any proceeding are Muslims, all questions regarding guardianship shall be determined by the Muslim personal law (Shariat), notwithstanding any custom or usage to the contrary, as per section 2 of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937.

Again in 1985, the Family Courts Ordinance (FCO) was enacted for the establishment of Family Courts having exclusive jurisdiction to entertain suit relating to 'guardianship and custody of children' among other special matters. Though the FCO has provided the Family Courts exclusive jurisdiction to entertain suit relating to guardianship, it has not expressly invalided the application of the G&W Act to questions of guardianship before the Family Courts. Rather according to section 24 of the FCO, the Family Court is required to follow the procedure specified in the G&W Act in dealing with matters of guardianship of a minor.

It is pertinent to mention here that, a non-Muslim can also seek remedy as to the matter of guardianship of a minor in the Family Court because the FCO has not made it clear whether the FCO is applicable to the citizens having any specific religious faith. In the case of *Nirmal Kanti Das vs Sreemati Biva Rani*, [47 DLR 514] the High Court Division held that, "a person professing any faith has got every right to bring suit for the purpose as contained in section 5 of the FCO."

In addition, there is another speedy remedy for any person interested to take guardianship or custody of a minor by filing an application under section 100 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 to a Metropolitan Magistrate or Magistrate of the first class or an Executive Magistrate seeking immediate action issuing search warrant though this section does not purport to deal with guardianship.



It appears that there are sets of laws to deal with guardianship and although the G&W Act was enacted with the purpose of consolidating and amending all laws relating to guardian and ward, the G&W Act has failed to consolidate all applicable laws on guardianship. There is no express provision in the G&W Act which makes it an overriding law nor makes invalid to appoint or declare a guardian under any other laws in force. Therefore, if a guardian is validly appointed for a child under Muslim personal law, that guardianship will not be cancelled by exercising powers under the G&W Act.

Besides, in some cases, the G&W Act has also created anomalies and confusion and it has some conflicting effect with Muslim Law. Firstly, while a guardian is charged with the 'custody of the ward' according to section 24 of the G&W Act, the Sharia law, on the other hand, has clearly distinguished between 'custodial care' and 'guardianship of person'. According to the Sharia law, a mother enjoys the right to 'custodial care' only while the father may enjoy the right of both 'guardianship and custodial care' at the same time. Apart from that, according to section 361 of the Penal Code, 1860 the term 'lawful guardian' refers only 'care or custody' of such minor or other person. As per Sharia law, mother can never enjoy the right of 'guardianship of a minor.

Secondly, according to Sharia law, there is no scope of considering the welfare of minor in appointing guardian while there is a chronology to follow which are— (a) the right of guardianship of person belongs to father first, then to grandfather and other male agnates. (b) right of guardianship of property belongs to father first, then to grandfather and anyone according to their will or anyone appointed by the Court. (c) in case of guardianship of both person and property, no one else other than father and grandfather would be able to enjoy this guardianship. On the contrary, according to section 17 of the G&W Act, in appointing or declaring the guardian of a minor, the Family Court shall have to consider the welfare of the minor. If the minor is old enough to form an intelligent preference, the Court may consider that preference. The Court shall not appoint or declare any person to be a guardian against his will.

In addition, according to section 8 of the G&W Act, any person – desirous of being, or claiming to be, the guardian of the minor, or any relative or friend of the minor, or the Collector of the district – are entitled to apply for guardianship of a minor.

It is now in practice that the Family Court takes cognisance of the suit regarding guardianship of a minor as per FCO and in appointing or declaring guardians, the Court follows the procedure mentioned in the G&W Act along with the FCO, as applicable, instead of following the chronology required for appointing guardians as per Sharia law. In appointing or declaring a guardian of a Muslim, considering any other matter rather than the order prescribed by Sharia law and charging a mother with guardianship of person overrides the provision of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937.

THE WRITER IS A CORPORATE LEGAL PRACTITIONER.

EDITORIAL



FOUNDER EDITOR LATE S. M. ALI DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2021, MAGH 12, 1427 BS

Covid-19 is not the Great Equalizer

Why are we enabling this inequality to flourish?

N a world already riddled by extreme economic and racial inequality, the coronavirus has exacerbated entrenched systems of inequity and oppression and created new pockets of precarity for already vulnerable populations. A recent report by Oxfam International confirms this appalling reality-while the richest in the world have recouped their losses already, it may take at least a decade for billions of poor people to recover from the coronavirus-induced economic impacts. The pandemic has forced people of colour, women and other historically disadvantaged groups into poverty, homelessness and death, but wealthy individuals and corporations have continued to reap the benefits of neoliberal economic policies for their individual gains. In fact, the report finds that the profit garnered by the 10 richest billionaires since the onset of the pandemic is "more than enough not only to prevent anyone in the world from falling into poverty but also to pay for Covid-19 vaccines for all".

Governments across the world are allowing, albeit enabling, this inequality to flourish. They are undertaxing corporations and wealthy individuals on the one hand, and underfunding essential public services and social safety net programmes on the other. For far too long, we have been told to accept the inequalities which are products of a flawed and exploitative neoliberal economic system as inevitable-it is time we realise that these inequalities are man-made and that, if we want, we can and must dream of and demand a fairer and just world. In other words, we need to re-envision what kind of a world we want to inhabit and take concrete policies and steps to rectify existing inequities and hierarchies.

We wholeheartedly concur with Oxfam that governments, including our own, need to move away from a narrow focus on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and put inequality at the centre of their plans for economic recovery. Rather than provide bailout packages to those who are already profiting from the existing capitalist order, we need to ensure, among other things, universal healthcare, dignified wages, food security, education and environmental justice for all.

A nationwide survey carried out by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) between November and December last year found that of Bangladeshi households surveyed, 42 percent were below the poverty line. As we congratulate ourselves for maintaining our economic growth rate and export earnings, what we cannot do is lose sight of those who are falling through the cracks of this neoliberal economic system. The bottom 99 percent must set the agenda for a fairer future.

Kohelia being killed to build a highway Why did DoE give clearance?



We must work together for adaptation and resilience to climate change

A fairer, greener and more inclusive world depends on it

S the world works to recover from the devastating impacts of Covid-19, we must look at how we build back sustainably. Efforts to cope with climate shocks

should be at the heart of this, because even if we stopped global warming tomorrow, countries around the world, including Bangladesh, will continue to feel the impacts. Without urgent action, 100 million people are at risk of being pushed into poverty by 2030 due to the impacts of climate change, primarily in South Asia as well as Sub-Saharan África.

That is why we're putting adaptation and resilience at the top of the agenda. Alongside efforts to reduce our emissions, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the impacts of climate change is a priority for the UK in our presidency ahead of the UN Climate Change conference, COP26, in November this year.

At the Climate Ámbition Summit in December last year, we welcomed 20 new commitments on adaptation. This included ambitious targets from Bangladesh on mitigation and adaptation, as well as the UK's own Adaptation Communication, setting out our commitments to prepare for the impacts of climate change, both in the UK and supporting others to do so across the world.

In my role as the UK's International Champion for Adaptation and Resilience, I am determined to build on this momentum and drive real change.

In my former role as UK International Development Secretary, I learned how valuable it is to listen to the knowledge and experiences of those on the frontline of some of our world's most pressing challenges. For COP26, this means listening to the voices of those most impacted by climate change and learning from their experiences.

Bangladesh itself is firmly on the frontline, having long experienced the worsening impacts of extreme weather events, including the most prolonged monsoon flooding in decades last summer. Bangladesh is all too aware that climate change is a very real threat, and that it is already having very real impacts.

And that is why Bangladeshi experience and expertise has been so significant in guiding an effective and targeted global response to the issue. The UK is proud to have worked

in partnership with Bangladesh and a host of other countries to deliver the

adaptation and resilience workstream of the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in 2019. I look forward to what else our partnership can deliver. Last week, I was honoured to participate in the Gobeshona Global Conference on Locally Led Adaptation, virtually hosted by the Bangladesh-led International Centre for Climate Change and Development. I heard from experts around the world about how we can

week, hosted by the Dutch government, was a further opportunity to shine a light on adaptation and resilience. I participated in an event on locallyled action and was fascinated to hear about the challenges, best practices and opportunities for adaptation and resilience, as well as to share the UK's ongoing work to drive global action. The Prime Minister launched the Adaptation Action Coalition in

President-Designate Alok Sharma highlighted at the Climate Ambition Summit in December, is that more action is needed by the international community to improve the way we deliver climate finance. Through our G7 and COP26 Presidencies, we will work with other donors and multilateral development banks to put more emphasis on adaptation funding and expedite its delivery.



Bangladesh is among countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change. The picture was taken in June 2009 in Satkhira, when cyclone Aila hit the coastal region.

work together to urgently shift the dial on adaptation action, in order to build global resilience. Conversations like these, with those already bearing the brunt of the impacts, are invaluable to ensure action is targeted, practical and effective.

At Gobeshona, I introduced the UK's joint commitment to co-develop the Adaptation Research Alliance, with the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and other global partners. This bold, ambitious new initiative aims to create the systemic change needed to generate knowledge on adaptation that delivers real results on the ground.

We believe this new Alliance has the potential to transform how research is conducted, building a closer link between knowledge and action.

The Climate Adaptation Summit this

partnership with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, the Netherlands, St Lucia and the United Nations Development Programme. The Coalition will bring together countries across the world to drive forward ambitious, government-led action to adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

This will work together with other global initiatives to prioritise adaptation to climate change and build a vital foundation for the work to come. As we count down the weeks to COP26, we must use this time to drive real and impactful change.

While we work to reduce emissions and limit global warming, it is imperative we also implement finance systems, make commitments and take action that will protect communities against climate change for decades to come. A vital part of this, as COP26

PHOTO: REUTERS/ANDREW BIRAJ

In March, we will host an event to bring together climate vulnerable and donor countries to address the connected challenges of climate change and development. I am excited to continue our collaboration, at this event and beyond, to transform political commitments into action on the ground.

We must all work together to take coordinated and targeted, effective and practical action to adapt and build resilience as we recover from Covid-19. A fairer, greener and more inclusive world depends on it.

I look forward to working closely with our partners in Bangladesh to drive forward global ambition to protect those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Anne-Marie Trevelyan is the UK's International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience

E are disheartened to learn from a recent report in this newspaper that a portion of the Kohelia in Moheshkhali's Matarbari union is in dire straits after an under-construction four-lane highway began encroaching upon the once mighty river five years ago. The road is being built so that the authorities can easily move with their vehicles to and from the 1.2-gigawatt coal-fired power plant being constructed by Coal Power Generation Company (CPGC). Dozens of dump trucks, excavators and cranes are engaged in filling up the river under the supervision of CPGC engineers. Large geotextile bags filled with dredged sand from the river's east point are being carried by trucks to be dumped at the west side of the river for the road construction. As a result, nearly 2km of the river have been engulfed completely. The mangrove forest along the river bank has also been destroyed due to the illegal activity.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has categorically instructed her administration to save our rivers from grabbers regardless of their affiliation. Then, does this not contradict the government policy? While the government is on a campaign to reclaim river land, a river is being filled up with the clearance of the Department of Environment (DoE). However, it is not only the DoE that is complicit in this environmental destruction; according to a member of the National River Conservation Committee (NRCC), even after the project was cleared by the DoE, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) changed the design and did not bother to get clearance from the DoE on the changes. As such, both the RHD and the DoE are complicit in breaking the environmental laws of Bangladesh, which calls for immediate legal action and government intervention.

No fishing boats or vessels are able to navigate the river now, which once facilitated easy communications and trade with other parts of Cox's Bazar and Chattogram. Not only is the construction destroying the river, but it is also snatching away the livelihoods from many who used to earn a living off the river and are now forced to take up other low-income jobs, usually as daily labourers.

It is most unfortunate that despite the High Court's declaration that rivers are "legal persons", with the NRCC being appointed as the legal guardian of all rivers, such "killings" are openly taking place. The fact that the Project Director and additional chief engineer of RHD can dismiss this by saying it is "minimum encroachment" and that the Kohelia is not a "full-fledged river" is outrageous, to say the least. We are shocked at such blatant disregard towards our rivers, which are our life-lines. The government must be strict with its own departments when they go against the country's laws and official government policy. That the DoE should be involved in this encroachment is all the more shocking, and the officials responsible must be held to account.

Financial success must be accompanied by environmental stewardship and social justice



ANY of the

have presented the threat of locking the country into an unsustainable development path. The tangible ramifications of such environmentally irresponsible investments are evident in air, water and land pollution that is damaging natural ecosystems, eroding biodiversity and widening social inequity. Green finance, which means channeling investment to projects that benefit the environment, is put forward as a tool to internalise environmental externalities and adjust climate change-related risk perceptions to boost green and sustainable economic development. In Bangladesh, even though some policy alignments are evident towards achieving sustainable development goals, there are opportunities for creating an enabling environment for financial institutions, both formal and non-formal, to play a catalytic role in promoting green growth in the present and foreseeable future.

On the domestic front, Bangladesh Bank is leading with initiatives to introduce green finance in the local market, with a clear vision to internalise green banking in the financial sector. It has introduced a host of policy decisions for environmental and social safeguards to be followed by banks and non-bank financial institutions while diversifying refinance among commercial enterprises. Some programmatic efforts with external finance support have also been introduced by the central bank for undertaking interventions that have co-benefits for green growth. Bangladesh Bank mandated the financial institutions under its jurisdiction to set up Sustainable Finance Units (SFU) to achieve more effective green portfolio management.

However, there are a host of challenges that are holding back the initiatives

taken by Bangladesh Bank to popularise green debt finance from taking off. These include lack of proper knowledge or attention among the bankers and respective stakeholders, low or insufficient investment demand for green projects, lack of skills in assessing financial implications of environmental risks, high risks associated with funding new green technologies and other untested green ventures refinance to small scale entrepreneurs with no or poor prior credit records.

The concept of sustainable development formed the basis of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. There,



sustainable development was identified as development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society. Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is conceived

to be anchored on three pillars, which are to evolve concomitantly on sustainable factors-namely, economic, social and environmental; and are to be centred on the human being, implying that the process of sustainable development is necessarily inclusive and should promote unity in cultural and other forms of diversity. But it is essential, in the context of establishing this unity, that diverse cultures, interests and wishes, particularly of the downtrodden and disadvantaged groups, are facilitated to flourish and find proper expressions in appropriate forms. Sustainable development also invokes intra- and intergenerational equity, ie equity among and within nations at present and the management of natural

and other resources such that while the present generation meets its needs, the future generations can meet theirs too. The conventional way to measure the

success of a business is the bottom line. But the concept of a Triple Bottom Line, where social and environmental factors are considered along with economic ones, is also getting a lot of attention.

The Triple Bottom Line is a way to think about yourself, your career and your company. The essential challenge it poses to business leaders is to find a way to simultaneously please your investors and think of your grandchildren. Triple Bottom Line thinking holds that a

Quantifiable

environmental impacts include consumption of finite resources, water quality and availability, and pollution emitted. Social impacts include *community health,* worker safety, education quality and diversity.

company should combine standard metrics of financial success with those that measure environmental stewardship and social justice. It is sometimes called the 3P approach—people, planet and profits. In each case, it requires thinking in three dimensions, not one.

The Triple Bottom Line isn't new. When John Elkington first mentioned it in the mid 1990s, he also laid the groundwork for defining environmental and social impacts of a company's activities.

Today, quantifiable environmental impacts include consumption of finite resources, water quality and availability, and pollution emitted. Social impacts include community health, worker safety, education quality and diversity.

Bangladesh has achieved significant progress in respect of all three pillars of sustainable development, especially the social front. We are fully committed to pursuing sustainable development, seeking to establish and maintain economic vibrancy, social equity and inclusiveness, human dignity for all, and a healthy environment and a sound natural resource base. However, given its resource limitations, the country needs finance and technology transfer as well as capacity enhancement support, consistent with the properly defined actions that it will take to move steadfastly towards the goal of sustainable development.

Ananta Ahmed is an international green building expert and managing director at 360 Total Solution Limited.

OPINION

PROJECT SYNDICATE The fight for women's rights beyond #MeToo



■ OR most #MeToo movement has become synonymous with campaigns against sexual harassment. The movementwhich went

viral in October 2017-undoubtedly mobilised women and spurred positive change. But its prominence in media coverage and political discussions of sexual harassment has also been problematic, overshadowing activism for women's rights in other parts of the world that predates the emergence of

#MeToo In many countries, social movements had already been taking on sexual harassment and abuse for decades. Many of them, including campaigns like #MeshBasita in Lebanon, HarassMap in Egypt, and the "Shefarers" in the Philippines, emerged long before the rise of #MeToo, or were overshadowed by it.

A new publication by the Institute of Development Studies brings together reports on women's rights activism in countries including Benin, Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines and Uganda. The authors cover a wide spectrum of experiences, from well-defined and visible collective action to activism that happens behind the scenes in order to safeguard women's lives.

There is evidence that focusing on the #MeToo movement has in some

ways impeded the worldwide struggle for women's rights, particularly in the Global South. Some activists report that #MeToo has exacerbated existing prejudices with ultra-nationalists and religious extremists vilifying the movement as a malign Western import. They claim either that local women are not interested in such causes, or that sexual harassment has been fabricated by the West to destroy family values.

Consider Lebanon. In August 2017, reports Menaal Munshey, when #MeshBasita ("It's not OK") was launched on Lebanese social media, the government, private businesses and NGOs engaged with the campaign.

> Shame and embarrassment frequently stop women and girls from reporting crimes against them, even when they are protected by existing laws. Women in all countries share these feelings, but the situation is particularly severe for women marginalised by extreme inequality.



Then #MeToo happened. Subsequently, organisers experienced a backlash, including reactions like, "Why are you guys talking about it?" and, "This is an American thing, a European thing."

Laws against sexual harassment do exist in many of these places. But much of the legislation is dysfunctional, with women still not getting the accountability and justice they deserve. In Pakistan, for example, every workplace is now required to establish sexual-harassment inquiry procedures, including a committee to hear complaints. But research among female Pakistani politicians reveals that despite the legislation and the existence of Pakistan's own #MeToo movement, #MainBhi, these requirements have yet to be implemented in their own workplaces (including national and provincial assemblies, local government and political parties).

capture the story of how women and men in diverse contexts mobilise against sexual harassment. Yes, collective action against sexual harassment did coalesce around the #MeToo campaign, and in some places it has undoubtedly energised existing movements. But if it hadn't happened in the West, earlier campaigns in other countries-whether Egypt, India, or South Africa—might have been the spark that inspired solidarity. It is important to recognise diverse

Clearly, #MeToo doesn't begin to

global movements and campaigns for women's rights and to see them as sources of knowledge and inspiration. Learning from the hard-won successes of women's rights activists worldwide can aid us in understanding and overcoming the obstacles women and men everywhere face in their struggle to address sexual harassment.

It would of course be counterproductive to pit voices and perspectives from the Global South against those from the West. Instead, the goal should be to amplify voices. experiences, and insights from around the world to create learning opportunities and, ultimately, to establish the conditions for greater cooperation. Sexual harassment and abuse problems are universal problems. Only through global solidarity can we hope to overcome them.

Mariz Tadros is Professor of Politics and Development at the Institute of Development Studies and co-editor of Collective Action for Accountability on Sexual Harassment: Global Perspectives.

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And the struggle for women's rights

Can tertiary colleges in Bangladesh be rescued?



administration contemplating

reported

ceasing operations of around 300 private colleges for higher studies across the country. The decision comes at a time

country. As a result, the expansion of universities and colleges has been faster than the needs of the country. The demographic composition and economic conditions of those opting for higher studies are rarely taken into account.

Before the Covid-19 crisis, data showed that tertiary colleges of higher education ended up with a lot of empty seats, meaning that demand for Honours and Masters degrees in colleges was not as intense as demand for higher education in universities.

education; hence, demand for higher education in public universities is high. High demand for university degrees, coupled with the limited number of seats, create very intense competition for a place in a public university. In contrast, studying in colleges is not deemed as prestigious, and the prospects of jobs for college graduates in the labour market are relatively low. As a result, enrolment in colleges can be very low. In some colleges, it is so low that they cannot generate sufficient operating revenue

The given failure of some private colleges of higher study is, in a large part, a failure in leadership of its governing body, which is led by a president and member-secretary.

decisions are made quickly, avoiding time-consuming due diligence and the related accountability that would come with such a process.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

is not confined to physical spaces.

In the past few years, online abuse

has increased rapidly. This can take

their permission, for blackmail or

alter, and put these types of images

Shame and embarrassment

frequently stop women and girls

even when they are protected by

is particularly severe for women

from reporting crimes against them,

existing laws. Women in all countries

share these feelings, but the situation

marginalised by extreme inequality and

subject to norms and values that hold

them responsible for anything that can

tarnish their reputation. Many never

speak up, terrified of being blamed by

others and ostracised by their families.

online in minutes.

many forms, including "revenge porn"

(sharing real or photoshopped nude

or intimate images of women without

shaming purposes). People worldwide

now own smartphones and can capture,

How can this situation be turned around? In a 2010 journal article titled "Prescription for Small College Turnaround", researcher Ruth Cowan suggests that a willing president with some leadership capacities may lead the changes, but may not make the changes happen if collaboration amongst the faculty members and other members of the governing body does not exist. Restoring financial stability is the first stage to begin with. Solvency must be restored before an institution can begin to address deeper, strategic issues. However, since the majority of higher study private colleges are very small in size in terms of student enrolment, it is not easy to achieve financial solvency. Alternatively, small colleges that are located in close vicinity to each other may adopt the strategy of resource sharing amongst themselves, meaning that one college can share things like library facilities, laboratories and even academics with each other. This could be a simple solution to the resource constraints that they face. However, overcoming the resource problem may not result in turnaround unless the new leadership can ensure operational effectiveness in terms of efficient use of resources. Most importantly, a high level of commitment is required at the college level, so that everyone feels that their college can do something worthwhile for the community where the institution is located.

when in-person education across the country has come to a halt for many months now due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is clear that some private colleges are in crisis, while others are not. The main accusation about these specific colleges that are facing closure is insufficient endowment to run Honours and Masters degree programmes. However, the crisis has not occurred abruptly, it has been the result of long-felt problems of tertiary colleges across the country that has never been acknowledged. This "problem blindness" has resulted in a crisis that is a warning bell for education policymakers as well as higher education administrators. Could this crisis have been avoided?

The expansion of higher education opportunities has been a key policy initiative of the current administration. In line with this policy objective, the government has been setting up public universities in districts where there are no universities, and nationalising private colleges for higher studies. On the other hand, philanthropists, political leaders and businessmen have been founding new private tertiary colleges and private universities across the



Academically average and less than average student performance in HSC examinations, which led to failure to secure positions in public universities, created the demand for higher education in colleges. A general observation is that studying in public universities is a matter of prestige, leading to good job prospects as well as relatively less expenditure on the

to pay salaries and benefits to its faculty and staff, even though before commissioning the private college, its promoter commits to the affiliating university that it shall pay its teaching and non-teaching staff fully from its own resources.

The given failure of some private colleges of higher study is, in a large part, a failure in leadership of its

governing body, which is led by a president and member-secretary. An ineffective governing body structure and membership selection process is largely to blame for the resultant problem blindness". The members of the governing body are often selected based on their political loyalty, wealth, and perceived influence in the local community where a private college is located. They are not selected for their expertise in relation to the operations of the college. Moreover, a governing body is relatively large in size, often consisting of 15 members. Because a large portion of the work is voluntary, many members are not aware of what is going on at the college and updates are provided only at governing body meetings. Unfortunately, such scheduled meetings rarely take place. In the majority of cases, the president and the member-secretary take the decisions and the outcomes are simply communicated later to the other members of the governing body. This asymmetry of information between the college administration and the governing body is extremely harmful and often intentional. Information may be withheld or kept at a superficial level so that

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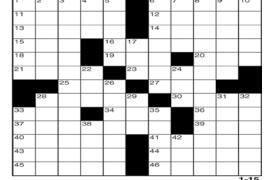
QUOTABLE Quote



HELEN KELLER (1880 - 1968)American author and educator who was blind and deaf.

The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH							
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7 Brynner of "The	author	table					
(ing and I"	3 Party hangers-on	38 Secluded spot					
28 Darkness	4 Band blaster	42 Clock numeral					
WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.							



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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NEWS

2 opposition MPs lambast govt over graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two opposition lawmakers came down heavily on the government yesterday in parliament for its failure to curb corruption.

Bangladesh has set a textbook example of plundering, BNP lawmaker Rumeen Farhana said while taking part in the discussion on thanksgiving motion on the president's speech.

"It has become normal that a pillow is being purchased at Tk 6,000, a vegetable cutter widely known as boti at Tk 10,000, a fork at Tk 1,000... a waste bin costs Tk 2.50 lakh, a medical book Tk 85,000, curtains Tk 37 lakh, and a telephone Tk 15 lakh," she said.

The president in parliament spoke about infrastructural development in details, "but I say this [infrastructure development] is a big source of looting", she told the House.

The lawmaker claimed the construction of one kilometre of a four-lane highway costs Tk 28 crore in Europe, Tk 10 crore in India, and Tk 13 crore in China on an average.

But in Bangladesh, the construction cost per kilometre of a four-lane highway is Tk 60 crore, she said, adding that even the per kilometre cost of the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga highway is Tk 200 crore.

Rumeen claimed that the cost of per kilometre bridge is Tk 500 to Tk 700 crore in India, Malaysia and Brunei but expenditure on per kilometre of the Padma bridge was Tk 5,000 crore. She blasted the government

the workshop after they were unloaded

at the Chattogram port in September

committee said the technical

specifications of three capital

components -- alternators, compressors

and traction motors -- of the supplied

locomotives did not match the

specifications mentioned in the

agreement, showed railway documents

Under such circumstances, the

project authorities halted payment for

The railways minister, at a meeting on

October 13 over the project, asked to

form a committee. But the ministry

issued a circular about forming the

obtained by The Daily Star.

the locomotives.

PROBE SAGA

Later in its report, a commissioning

FROM PAGE 12

reply.

last year.

for what she said was "failure to tackle the Covid-19 situation" and alleged that its corruption related to testing facilities, mask, PPE, oxygen distribution and others had made things complicated.

City

where Covid-19 certificates were put on sale.'

Bangladesh is paying about 47 percent higher to buy Covid vaccines as the government did not sign any contract with the Serum Institute of India directly.

'FAILURE OF BANGLADESH BANK'

huge corruption due to the "failure of Bangladesh Bank" and lack of proper monitoring from the authorities.

"PK Halder is an example. He embezzled Tk 3500 crore, Hallmark siphoned off hundreds of crores of money while total defaulted loan stands between Tk 1 to 1.15 lakh crore. What is Bangladesh Bank doing? Does anyone see what Bangladesh Bank is doing?

He also said, "Hundreds of crores of taka of different banks and financial institutions is being looted due to the failure of Bangladesh Bank. Nobody is checking these. We need to curb all these and if we fail to do so, the

While taking part in discussion on the thanksgiving motion, he also said bureaucrats are the most corrupt in the country although people always point the finger at politicians.

"Bangladesh is the only country The BNP lawmaker claimed

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujibul Haque said the banking sector is witnessing

economy will be destroyed."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson meets staff and patients at Barnet FC's ground, The Hive, which is being used as a coronavirus vaccination centre, in north London, Britain yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Borders tightened around the world

FROM PAGE 12 from official figures.

On Sunday, France started demanding a negative PCR test for arrivals by sea and air from European Union neighbors.

Sweden said it would prohibit entry from neighbouring Norway for three weeks, after cases of the more infectious British strain were detected in Oslo.

And in Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the country was "closing the skies hermetically, except for rare exceptions" to both arrivals and departures for a week. FURY IN THE NETHERLANDS

But government action to curtail the virus' spread still faces stiff opposition from some citizens.

Protests against a coronavirus curfew in the Netherlands degenerated into clashes with police and looting in cities across the country Sunday night, a day after a Covid-19 testing centre was set on fire in the northern village

in Amsterdam, public television NOS reported, after hundreds gathered to

At least 30 people were arrested

then I think we are heading for civil war'

And in Thailand, the country's largest seafood market, forced to shut after a coronavirus outbreak late last year, got a deep clean yesterday as authorities mulled when to reopen it. VACCINATION CHALLENGES

Scientists say the only way out of the pandemic is large-scale vaccinations, but the roll-out has stuttered in many places.

Egypt began its programme, with doctor and a nurse getting the Chinese-made Sinopharm jab.

Health Minister Hala Zayed said Cairo had inked deals for vaccine shipments from British, Chinese and Russian firms, for a total of around 100 million doses -- enough for about half of Egypt's population. Australia's medical regulator

formally approved the Pfizer vaccine, with the first doses expected to be administered in late February, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said.

The European Union urged AstraZeneca yesterday to find ways to swiftly deliver vaccines after the company announced a large cut in supplies of its Covid-19 shot to the bloc, as news emerged the drugmaker

residence and intimidating them,

asking them to leave the area and

telling them to return to their homes

Shahadat at a press conference

demanded immediate release of 69

leaders and activists arrested in a week.

councilor candidates will stage a sit-in

programme in front of the returning

officer Hasanuzaman's office," he

arrested in 10 false and fabricated

cases against over 1,000 BNP activists.

at least 20 BNP men on Sunday night

withdrawal of officer-in-charge of

Kotwali Police Station Nizam Uddin

for acting in favour of the AL camp. He added that he submitted 40

complaints to the returning officer

about incidents of irregularities

He claimed that the BNP men were

Shahadat also said police arrested

He also demanded immediate

Before the last day's campaign,

after the election," added Shahadat.

Jorritsma told reporters that if the country continued "down this path, In a sign of the EU's frustration after Pfizer also announced supply delays earlier in January - a senior EU official told Reuters the bloc would in the coming days require pharmaceutical companies to register Covid-19 vaccine exports.

AstraZeneca, which developed its shot with Oxford University, told the EU yesterday it could not meet agreed supply targets up to the end of March, with an EU official involved in the talks telling Reuters that meant a 60%

cut to 31 million doses. Australia's Health Minister Greg Hunt told reporters AstraZeneca had advised the country it had experienced "a significant supply shock", which would cut supplies in March below what was agreed.

Meanwhile, US biotechnology firm Moderna yesterday said lab studies showed its vaccine would remain protective against variants of the coronavirus first identified in the United Kingdom and South Africa.

But out of caution, the company will test adding a second booster of its vaccine -- to make three shots in total -- and has begun preclinical studies on a booster specifically for the South African variant.

BNP finds it hard to get polling agents

dispose of any of the complaints." After the briefing, Shahadat went to the returning officer's office to submit a list of arrested BNP men and to request him for their release.

A BNP leader said there are 4,886 polling booths in 735 polling stations, meaning that they will have "Otherwise, all BNP supported to find more than 5,000 people to act as polling agents.

In case there is a need for having

The BNP has kept names of its

The picture in the AL camp is

A good number of AL central

AL nominee Rezaul is facing

obstruction from his own party as

supporters of former mayor AJM

Masir and AL rebel councillors are

allegedly not working in favour of the

backups, the number will reach upto

polling agents a secret, party insiders

different as they face no harassment

leaders are in Chattogram now.

AL nominee, insiders said.

8,000.

said.

or risk.

Robot 'jellyfish'

The experts decided to exploit the aspects of organisms like squid, jellyfish and octopus for a new tool in underwater exploration, said Francesco Giorgio-Serchi of the University of Edinburgh.

"They are quite unique in that their lack of supportive skeletal structure does not prevent them from outstanding feats of swimming," he said.

The robot, which constitutes a rubber head and eight tentacles, was created by a 3D printer and uses small but powerful water jets to propel itself based on a system of resonance.

The robot is the "first submersible to demonstrate the benefits of using resonance", the researchers said.

Its self-propulsion system centres on a piston which strikes at the junction of the head and the tentacles.

When the piston hits at the ideal frequency -- one which sets off the natural resonance of the components - the robot is able to generate large jets of water with very little energy.

Because of this technology, the jellyfish robot can propel itself in a way that is "ten to 50 times more efficient than typical small underwater vehicles powered by propellers".

increased "This efficiency, combined with the additional benefits of the robot's soft, flexible exterior would make it ideal for operating near sensitive environments such as coral reefs, archaeological sites or even in waters crowded with swimmers," the statement said.

Because of these qualities the obot could replace divers in tasks too delicate for underwater vehicles such as the application of restorative substances to damaged corals.

While the new technology has been ested in tanks it yet to be used in real conditions in the ocean.

The University of Southampton wants to use the concept to assemble "a fully manoeuvrable and autonomous underwater vehicle capable of sensing and navigating its environment".

3rd batch goes FROM PAGE 12

Rohingyas was relocated to Bhasan Char on December 4. Over 1,800 others were relocated on December 29.

Most of the relocated refugees told reporters that living quarters on the island were way better than the congested makeshift shanties in Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

They also said they chose to move there.

Bangladesh Navy has undertaken a Tk 3,100 crore project titled the Ashrayan-3 Project on Bhasan Char for the refugees

"More Rohingyas are becoming interested in moving to Bhasan Char for a better future. Those who arrived earlier communicated with the people in Cox's Bazar camps and maybe they are convincing others to move to Bhasan Char," Project Director Commodore Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

He added that preparations have been taken for the arrival of Rohingyas.

Probe lingers, locomotives coordinator but also controlling officer. due to the company's delay in giving a Besides, he and BR's Director General Md Shamsuzzaman have been The metre-gauge diesel electric making moves to clear 65 percent of the remaining payment of the HRC locomotives -- bought under a project worth around Tk 300 crore -- arrived at

> probe, reads the letter. Md Shamsuzzaman earlier refuted the allegation. This correspondent could not reach Monjur over phone even after several attempts.

In this given situation, the ministry on January 19 reconstituted the committee excluding two members --Faizur Rahman Faruqui and Monjur - of the previous committee.

Farukuzzaman, additional Md secretary (law and land), will lead the committee now, while joint director general (mechanical) of the BR was added to the committee. Buet teacher Muhammed Mahbubur Razzaque will remain its member, according to the

circular. But, JDC (mechanical), as director (mechanical) of the BR, was the

of Urk. even before the completion of the

Police used water cannon and dogs

protest the 9:00 pm-4:30 am curfew, set to last until February 10.

in Eindhoven, where mayor John

AL mayor nominee Rezaul Karim

Chowdhury and his BNP counterpart

Shahadat Hossain spent the days of

the campaign going from one area to

the AL nominee emphasised that

an AL man should continue to hold

the office and complete unfinished

On the last day of the campaign,

committee with its Joint Secretary Faizur Rahman Faruqui on November 24 last year.

The committee could not start work till mid-December as it was yet to get one independent member from Buet's mechanical engineering department.

The work of the committee could not progress much as it did not get reply from the Hyundai Rotem Company even after writing several times, citing Christmas and New Year leaves, a probe committee member said.

In the meantime, Project Director Nur Ahmed Hossain wrote to railways Secretary Salim Reza ministry's asking to reconstitute the committee, excluding Additional Director General (Rolling Stock) Monjur-Ul-Alam Chowdhury as its member.

In the January 12 letter, the PD said Monjur is not only the project

convener of a technical sub-committee, which recommended hiring CCIC Singapore Pvt Ltd as the pre-shipment inspector for BR's foreign purchases, sources said.

The CCIC allegedly violated the contract with the BR by not doing a proper pre-shipment inspection for the 10 locomotives. Project Director Nur Ahmed Hossain in November wrote the authorities concerned to take action against it.

Mahbubur Contacted, Prof Razzaque said they have made some progress and came to know that the HRC has sent their reply.

"But no meeting was held after committee was reconstituted," he told The Daily Star yesterday. He, however, said it is possible to complete probe within 15 working days.

development wo

another with their supporters.

Shahadat Hossain said voting for him was necessary to restore democracy and people's right to vote and ensure a corruption free Chattagram City Corporation.

BNP leaders last night said AL cadres were intimidating their activists.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury, chief election coordinator for the polls, told The Daily Star that law enforcers were arresting their activists and leaders en masse.

BNP nominee Shahadat said many BNP leaders and activists were staying away from home fearing harassment. "Police and the ruling party men

FROM PAGE 12

secretary added

October 14, 2015.

of the FIR of one of the cases.

ACC files five more cases

Poor suffer in widening

FROM PAGE 12

of people living in poverty back to pre-crisis levels, Oxfam said.

Meanwhile, the collective wealth of the world's billionaires rose \$3.9 trillion between March and December 2020 to reach \$11.95 trillion, the report calculated.

The 10 richest men - a list led by Bezos and Musk which also includes LVMH luxury group's CEO Bernard Arnault, Microsoft's Bill Gates and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg saw their net worth increase by \$540 billion in the same period, Oxfam said.

That sum would be enough to prevent anyone from falling into poverty as a result of the pandemic and pay for a vaccine for everyone on earth, researchers calculated.

The pandemic marks a "pivotal" point which has exposed economic disparities and built support for "transformative" policies, Oxfam said, calling for higher taxes on wealth

and corporations alongside stronger protections for workers.

A temporary tax on excess profits made by the 32 global corporations that have profited the most during the pandemic could have raised \$104 billion in 2020, Oxfam said.

International cooperation would be key to implementing many changes, said Jayati Ghosh, an economics professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who was among the economists polled by Oxfam for the report.

The administration of new US President Joe Biden will spur "more willingness" for joint action on issues including a crackdown on tax havens and a bailout for developing nations, she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

"There are some very, very big hurdles, but there are many things that can be done very quickly," she added.

examined the proposal and its to Anan Chemical, Tk 69.80 crore to assistant vice president Al Mamun Sohel forwarded it.

vowed

at their homes.

Nahida Runai recommended These organisations produced fake documents and the officials of ILFSL nod, reads the FIR.

commited by AL men.

was sanctioned as per the approval of ILFSL directors Nasim Anowar, Basudev Banarjee, MA Hashem and

2, 2016. The loan was sanctioned at that year.

Another Tk 5 crore was sanctioned on March 30, 2017 and Tk 36.81 crore on December 24, 2018.

Of the sanctioned amount of Tk 101 crore, about Tk 70.82 crore was disbursed, the ACC enquiry found.

According to the FIR, Halder helped Anan Chemicals avail the loans.

Halder, now staying in Toronto, is the director of P&L Hal Holding Inc, a Canadian corporation, according to Canadian media reports.

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

The graft watchdog on January 8 last year filed a case against Halder over amassing wealth worth Tk 275 crore illegally.

Several enquiries into embezzlement of crores of taka of four NBFIs by Halder are pending with the ACC.

Besides congested living conditions frequent fights between rival gangs had made the lives of refugees even more difficult in Cox's Bazar.

After the arrival of the first and second batch of Rohingyas, many of the Rohingyas started believing that they could live a better life with greater access to healthcare, education and work.

In the Cox's Bazar camps, a family of 6-8 people live together within a 400-square foot space.

On Bhasan Char the buildings have electricity, solar panels, biogas plants, and mobile networks.

The houses have been built four feet above the ground with concrete blocks. Each building will house 16 families of four in its 16 rooms, providing more than the UN stipulated 37 square feet per person, project officials said.

The United Nations and other development partners, however expressed concerns and demanded independent assessments of the project before the relocation.

The UN and rights groups have been questioning the relocation plan, saying the island was prone to floods and could be submerged during high tides.

Curtailed SSC

FROM PAGE 12 Speaking virtually at a programme,

organised at National Academy for Educational Management, she also said candidates of this year's SSC and HSC exams would not get an "auto pass"

The minister on Sunday told parliament that the 10th and 12th graders would have to attend classes in person every day while other secondary school and college students might have to visit their classrooms once a week when their educational institutions would reopen.

She said the government would bring 10th and 12th graders back to schools and colleges for the sake of their studies ahead of the SSC and HSC exams.

On December 29 last year, Dipu Moni told a press conference that classes for SSC candidates would be held from February to April and for HSC students from February to May.

She said the government was planning to hold the SSC exams in une and the HSC exams in July or August if there was no surge in new Covid-19 cases.

Usually, the SSC exams start on February 1 and the HSC on April 1 every year.

Ekushey book fair to begin

FROM PAGE 12

A Bangla Academy official yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina agreed on the inauguration date.

Bangla Academy Meanwhile, Literary Award 2020 was announced yesterday at a press conference in the Bangla Academy.

DG Habibullah announced the names of 10 award winners.

The awardees are: Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad a crest, said the DG.

Samad in poetry, Imtiar Shamim in fiction, Begum Akhtar Kamal in essay/ research, Suresh Ranjan Basak in translation, Rabiul Alam in drama, Anjir Liton in children's literature, Sahida Begum in Liberation War research, Ferdousi Majumdar in memoirs/ travelogues, Aparesh Bandhopaddhaya in science fiction and Muhammad Habibullah Pathan in folklore,

Each awardee will get Tk 3 lakh and

in both Bangladesh and India such as Deshikottoma title in 2012 from Visva-Bharati University and Rabindra Award in 2010, Bangla Academy Literary Award in 1998, Ekushey Padak in 1991 and Kabi Jasimuddin Award.

Islam had prepared the loan proposal

without scrutiny. Senior manager

Rafsan Riad Chowhdury of the non-

banking financial institution (NBFI)

Col Quazi Sajjadi Ali was in the artillery corps of the Pakistan army posted in Sialkot when he declared his allegiance to Bangladesh and joined the Liberation War after escaping from Pakistan in August 1971.

Zahir, 70, organised the second

artillery force in Sector 4 in Sylhet region.

The Indian government had given six 105mm artillery to the Mukti Bahini and with that a field artillery battery group was formed for the freedom fighters. Zahir was the cocaptain of the group, which assisted the Mukti Bahini's Z Force in greater Sylhet region with artillery fire support in various battles.

In 2013, Zahir was awarded the Bangladesh Independence Day Award -- the highest civilian award -- for his contribution to the Liberation War.

He is considered instrumental in

persuading the Bangladesh government to recognise the Indian soldiers killed in the Bangladesh Liberation War. He also founded Shuddhoi Muktijoddho to provide recognition to indigenous war veterans of the Bangladesh Liberation war.

The Padma Shri awards are presented in different categories to winners by India's president in March or April every year.

These awards are always announced on the night before India's Republic Day every year.

Sanjida Khatun, Col Zahir picked

FROM PAGE 12 She has won many prestigious awards

Sudakha Properties, Tk 66.98 crore to Borno, Tk 54.55 crore to Rahman The comany's Head of Business Chemicals and Tk 83.84 crore to Moon Enterprise.

sanctioning the loan. To put up the loan proposal before the board meeting, approval of then ILFSL MD

was needed and Rashedul gave the On October 25, 2015, the loan

Mizanur Rahman.

for a working capital and business expansion loan of Tk 31 crore on June the 191th board meeting on June 11

in connivance with others granted the loans misusing their power, the ACC The Daily Star has obtained a copy

According to the case statement,

ILFSL assistant manager Rafikul

managing director of Anan Chemical, Amitav Adhikari, and its four directors Similarly, Amitav applied to ILFSL applied to then ILFSL MD Rashedul for a term loan of Tk 29 crore on

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2021, *MAGH 12, 1427 BS*



PTV SPORTS Pakistan vs South Africa First Test (Day 1) Live from 11:00 am **STAR SPORTS SELECT 1** English Premier League Newcastle vs Leeds United Live from 12:00 am (Wednesday)

West Brom vs Manchester City Live from 2:15 am (Wednesday) **STAR SPORTS SELECT 2** English Premier League Crystal Palace vs West Ham Live from 12:00 am (Wednesday) Southampton vs Arsenal Live from 2:15 am (Wednesday)







Mushfiqur Rahim.....64 (55)



Tamim lgbal.....64 (80)

Clinical Tigers romp to whitewash

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram



A change in venue could not bring a change in the struggling West side's Indies fortunes as а clinical Bangladesh

registered their second whitewash over the Caribbean outfit. The Tigers clinched a comprehensive 120run win in the third and final ODI at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

The series win, sealed in Friday's second match in Mirpur, marked Bangladesh's third consecutive bilateral series win against the West Indies. Sealing the whitewash yesterday also ensured that Tamim Iqbal's long-term captaincy career has gotten off to a spotless start.

The Tigers also equalled their second-longest winning streak against an opposition in ODIs -eight matches against Zimbabwe. Bangladesh's longest winning streak is of 16 matches, also against Zimbabwe.

Shakib Al Hasan made a big splash on his comeback to international cricket after a one-

There was a time when we had to look for fast bowlers, and we couldn't find any. Now we have so many fast bowlers, and some waiting in the wings. We had a great debut from Hasan Mahmud. That's what we have been looking for.

TAMIM IQBAL **BANGLADESH CAPTAIN**

year ban as he was adjudged the player of the series. He however had to leave the field while bowling his fifth over after suffering a groin injury

The four big guns in skipper Tamim, Shakib, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad all scored fifties to post their highest ODI total of 297 for six at the ZACS.

In reply, the West Indies batting once again hurt the visitors, as it had throughout the series, and they were bundled out for 177.

Mustafizur Rahman continued his fine rhythm and provided the early breakthroughs by dismissing both the openers Kjorn Ottley and Sunil Ambris with balls shaping into the right-hander.

It was a bit challenging for us, the spinners were really challenging for us, especially in the first two games. I think that's where we faltered a lot. It's something that can be rectified, with our full-strength team, it's a pretty good batting lineup.

JASON MOHAMMED WEST INDIES CAPTAIN

Mohammad Saifuddin, making a comeback to the side, bagged three and Mehedi Hasan Miraz also bowled well and picked up a couple of wickets as West Indies could not put up a fight. Rovman Powell was again the only significant batsman for the visitors, top-scoring with 47. Earlier, Bangladesh batted first for the first time in the series but Liton Das struggled was squared up by an Alzarri Joseph delivery that held its line to be trapped legbefore for a duck in the first over of the innings.

Nazmul Hossain Shanto too failed to cash in on his promotion to number three and was dismissed for 20 as Bangladesh were 38 for two inside nine overs.

Since then, Shakib and Tamim started cautiously while keeping the scoreboard ticking with singles as the pair added 93 runs for the third wicket. But Tamim, after reaching his 49th ODI fifty, departed after scoring 64 off 80 balls, which included three fours and a six off the bowling of Joseph.

The departure of the skipper did not hamper Bangladesh much as Mushfigur joined Shakib, who reached his 47th ODI fifty. In the process, Shakib became the only player to score 6000 international runs and take 300-plus wickets for a country

Shakib was bowled by Raymon Reifer soon after reaching his fifty. It was then Mushfiqur's turn to reach his 39th fifty before departing for 64, becoming Reifer's second victim.

Since then, it was Mahmudullah who once again showed why he is labelled as the finisher. He realised the urgency of scoring quick runs as Bangladesh added 100 runs in the last 10 overs. Mahmudullah remained unbeaten on 64 off just 43 balls, striking three sixes and as many boundaries and ensuring that Bangladesh post a big total.

Lots of positives in lopsided series

NABID YEASIN from Chattogram

Bangladesh were clear favourites to win the threematch ODI series against a depleted West Indies side. And so they did. The Tigers swept the series 3-0, winning all the matches convincingly.

And even though a series sweep was expected and anything otherwise would have been a shock against a side that had 10 of their first-team players opt out due to Covid concerns, there were still a number of positives to take away for Bangladesh.

Tamim Iqbal hardly put a foot wrong in his start as a long-term ODI skipper for the country. And regardless of the opposition's strength -- or the lack of it -- Tamim ensured a smooth start to the Tigers' journey in the ODI Super League -- qualification pathway to the 2023 World Cup -- by bagging all 30 points on offer. And he did it while portraying an aggressive version of captaincy.

Tamim kept constant pressure on the opposition by having a slip in place for the likes of Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed when there was even the slightest hint of swing, impressing many. The left-hander, however, drew most plaudits for the way he batted at the top, especially when there were speculations regarding him performing with the burden of captaincy. The 31-yearold finished as the top scorer of the series with 158 runs in three innings including two fifties.

Shakib Al Hasan's return to form was another auspicious aspect for Bangladesh. The premier all-rounder made his return to the national colours with a man-of-thematch performance in the first game with astounding figures of four for eight from 7.2 overs. His return to form with the bat following poor returns in the domestic matches was also a big relief for everyone involved.

The 33-year-old followed up his unbeaten 43 in the second ODI with an 81-ball 51 in the final game of the series yesterday in Chattogram, and was adjudged the player-of-the series for his all-round performance.

Rahman also returned Mustafizur to the groove as the left-arm paceman continuously troubled the Windies batsmen, especially bringing the new ball

into the right-handers as well as taking it away, which gave the Tigers breakthrough in each of the three ODIs.

Another pacer Hasan Mahmud, whose exclusion from the starting XI in the final ODI could only have meant giving other pacers an opportunity, made a flying debut by bagging a three-for in the first ODI in Mirpur. The young right-armer certainly lived up to the hype of being the next big thing in the pace department as he troubled the Windies batsmen constantly with his pace and bounce.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz, the first-choice off-spinner, looked like getting back to his



After the first game, I got the confidence that I needed. As the series went on, I grew more in confidence. I think

fast bowlers complement the spinners well. At this point, we have a very good ODI setup, and everybody takes it as a challenge. There's a healthy competition and everybody wants to improve. At this moment, my groin doesn't feel alright (he suffered a groin injury when he came in to bowl the fifth delivery of the 30th over and was unable to take the field following injury), but I have to see how I feel tomorrow morning on waking up.

SHAKIB AL HASAN

rhythm after a long time. The 23-year-old was the most successful bowler of the series with seven wickets at an average of 10.28 including a four-wicket haul, which earned him the man-of-the-match award in the second game.

Perhaps the few things that could worry Bangladesh in the upcoming tours and series is the failure of Najmul Hossain Shanto in the new role as the number three batsman and the fact that Soumya Sarkar is yet to adapt to his new position as the left-hander could only bat once at his new position -- at seven and that too in the final ODI yesterday.



Pak-SA Test series gets Ban bouncers in Junior cricket, underway today

REUTERS

Pakistan captain Babar Azam is aware that his side have a poor a record PCB CRICKET against South Africa in

Tests but he is confident that the past will count for nothing when the two teams meet in the opening

test in Karachi from Today.

South Africa, led by Quinton de Kock, will play their first test in Pakistan since 2007 and have lost only four out of 26 matches against their opponents. "We should not

think about past, we

should focus on what's ahead of us," Babar told reporters. "We have nothing to do with what happened on previous matches.

"It's a fact that we don't have a good record against them, but we have prepared well this time and we hope to give our best against them."

Pakistan named nine uncapped players

in their squad for the two Tests while the visiting side also introduced a number of new faces during a 2-0 home victory over Sri Lanka in their previous series.

Babar, Pakistan's batting mainstay, missed his team's 2-0 blanking in New Zealand and will instead make his test captaincy debut at home although in front

of empty stands. South Africa have had a rethink about their plans for the first Test, coach Mark Boucher has said.

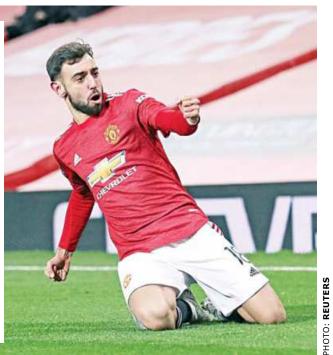
South Africa are playing their first Test in Pakistan since 2007, and it is also the first time they have toured in the cooler month of January and Boucher

believes the weather will make for slower wickets taking more turn.

"The conditions aren't as we thought they would be. Before we arrived we believed reverse swing would be a major factor, but now we are not sure how much of a weapon that will be," Boucher told reporters on Monday.

'CAVANI TOLD ME WHERE TO AIM'

Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes celebrates after his pinpoint free kick, which earned his side a 3-2 win in a blockbuster FA Cup fourth-round clash at Old Trafford on Sunday. The Portuguese, who came off the bench after 66 minutes, stepped up to bend a right-footed strike beyond Liverpool keeper Alisson in the 78th minute to book a last-16 tie for his side against West Ham United. Fernandes later revealed that his teammate Edinson Cavani told him where to aim his winning free-kick. "Edi before the free-kick told me: 'try a hard one on the side of the keeper'. I tried it and it went in well," Fernandes said.



says a specialist

REUTERS

Cricket authorities should consider banning bouncers in the junior game to limit the risk of concussion, Michael Turner, a head injury specialist, told The Telegraph.

Cricket's lawmakers, the MCC, have begun a consultation process to discuss whether changes are needed for the short ball or bouncer, which rears up from the pitch towards the batsman's head.

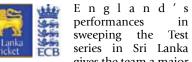
"You want to avoid concussing the adolescent brain while it's still evolving," Turner, medical director of the International Concussion and Head Injury Research Foundation, told the newspaper.

"If stopping concussion means changing the rules to ensure that there are no short deliveries in junior cricket, this should be a serious consideration.

'Success in Sri Lanka a boost for India next'

in

Agencies



gives the team a major lift for their four test series in India, said victorious captain Joe Root after Monday's second Test win.

England won by six wickets at the Galle International Stadium to add to last week's seven wicket success over Sri Lanka but face a much more daunting task in India, where the first test in Chennai begins early next month.

"We've got a huge amount of confidence coming out of these games. We've had to manage different situations and all of that will stand us in good stead," Root told a virtual news conference.

"The challenge now is to look to replicate this over and over as a team. We can look at this as a platform, as a starting position."

England overcame some nervy moments to reach their 164-run target to win the final test, getting the better of a difficult and deteriorating wicket with Dom Sibley and Joss Buttler putting together an unbeaten 75-run partnership.

"Those two guys saw us home in impressive style," the captain added. "These wins are most important for us day of the first Test."

and the most pleasing thing for me is that for large portions, we were chasing the game.

'But for us to dig in and not allow them to get away from us was very impressive. But more anything the way we dealt with the pressure, both in the field and with the bat.

'We lost the toss in both games but managed to find a way to win in very difficult conditions, with very little lead up to the series as well. In the past, we've been guilty of being slow starters, be it home or away, so for us to start as well as this is really pleasing.'

Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal said they must learn to bat like Joe Root if they are to return to winning ways on home soil.

England captain Root was the man of the series after scoring 228 in the first Test and 186 in the second.

"We were outplayed today," admitted Chandimal, who was stand-in captain after Dimuth Karunaratne broke his thumb earlier this month in the 2-0 series loss in South Africa.

"We have to learn how to bat like Root. He was outstanding and we have to also learn to play with patience. That's the key when it comes to batting. We did all the hard work over the last three days but as a batting unit we then made the same mistakes as we did on the opening

Chelsea dismissed manager Frank Lampard after 18 months in charge on Monday after the man at the heart of much of their greatest success as a player failed to deliver as coach despite spending over 200 million pounds in the summer transfer window.

Former Paris St Germain manager Thomas Tuchel is the favourite to replace Lampard, British media reported.

Lampard, who led the club to a top-four finish and the FA Cup final in managerial debut his 2019-20 campaign, leaves with Chelsea ninth in the Premier League after a run of five defeats in eight league games.



When club great Frank Lampard returned to Stamford Bridge to replace the unpopular Maurizio Sarri in the summer of 2019 it felt like the perfect fit for a club seemingly moving in a refreshingly new direction.

It proved nothing more than illusion, however, with Lampard on Monday being jettisoned in the same ruthless fashion as 11 other managers in the reign of Russian owner Roman Abramovich.

"This was a very difficult decision for the Club, not least because I have excellent personal an relationship with Frank and I have the utmost respect for him," Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich said in a statement on the club's website.







'BREACH OF CONTRACT' Probe lingers, locomotives remain idle

Railway ministry now recasts probe committee

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The railways ministry has reconstituted a committee investigating a South Korean company for violating some clauses of the contract under which 10 locomotives have been supplied to the Bangladesh Railway.

The changes in the probe committee came more than three months after Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan ordered the formation of the committee, which was supposed to complete the work within 15 working days.

In the meantime, the locomotives have been lying idle at a railways workshop in Chattogram's Pahartoli for around five months, at a time when the BR is struggling to run its operation with a big number of outdated engines. Moreover, the locomotives are unlikely to be added to

the railway fleets until the probe is complete, officials said. The reconstituted committee was asked to complete the probe within another 15 workings days.

Hyundai Rotem Company (HRC), the company in question, has sent their written reply to the probe committee on January 20. It said it was ready to send officials to clarify its stance, sources said.

At least two members of the previous committee earlier told this correspondent that their probe is being delayed SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



TIGERS RETURN WITH WHITEWASH... Bangladesh players are in jubilant mood as they pose behind the champions' banner following a 120run victory over the West Indies in the third ODI at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. Having won all three matches of the series, the Tigers completed a spotless return to international cricket after a gap of more than 10 months.

PK HALDER, HIS AIDES ACC files five more cases for Tk 350cr graft STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed five cases against 33 people, including former NRB Global Bank managing director PK Halder, for allegedly laundering over Tk 350 crore of

International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL). ACC Deputy Director

Gulshan Anowar Prodhan filed the cases in the last two days.

Briefing reporters at the ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters yesterday, its Secretary Md Anwar Hossain Howlader said they have already arrested the former chairman of People's Leasing and Financial Services Limited (PLFSL), Uzzal Nandi, and former ILFSL MD Rashedul Haque in connection with the cases

He said Tk 70.82 crore loan was sanctioned

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Curtailed SSC syllabus now on website STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has published the shortened syllabuses for the examinees of this year's SSC and equivalent

examinations The syllabuses were uploaded on the website of Dhaka education board

yesterday. The curtailed syllabuses were forwarded to all head teachers of secondary educational institutions under the education board, according to a letter Robot 'jellyfish' to protect coral reefs



Ekushey book fair to begin on March 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not virtually, Amar Ekushey Boi Mela-2021 will be held as usual from March 18 after a long delay due to the coronavirus pandemic

Habibullah Sirajee, director general of Bangla Academy, confirmed the date yesterday.

He said, "The book fair will start on March 18. I can't say more at this moment.'

"We will give details on e duration of the book fair. Many people were in

confusion, so I am just

"Our designers will

the stalls, considering the

coronavirus situation," he

Usually, the book fair

begins on February 1 each

the date was not confirmed.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

make design of locations of

confirming the date.

UNRELENTING COVID THREAT Borders tightened around the world

EU urges AstraZeneca to speed up vaccine deliveries amid 'supply shock'; Australia approves Pfizer vaccine

Agencies

Border restrictions were being tightened around the world yesterday in the face of an unrelenting coronavirus threat, after a weekend in which anger at social distancing rules bubbled over into fiery clashes in the Netherlands.

The United States was set to join France, Israel and Sweden in pulling up the drawbridge to certain arrivals, with special concern about new strains of the pathogen that originated in Britain and South Africa. "It's up to us to show that we are civic-minded," Spaniard Claudio Barraza told AFP upon arrival at Paris's main international airport, after



Sanjida Khatun, Col Zahir picked for Padma Shri

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Two Bangladeshis have been chosen by the Indian government for the prestigious Padma Shri award on the eve of India's Republic Day.

City

signed by its controller of examinations, Prof SM Amirul Islam.

The notice asked the teachers to take necessary steps in this regard.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said the shortened syllabuses were prepared keeping in mind that students can get three to four months for preparing for the SSC and HSC exams

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

AFP, London

A robot inspired by the shape and delicate underwater movements of a jellyfish, allowing it to safely explore endangered coral reefs, was unveiled by British scientists.

According to research by teams at the universities of Southampton and Edinburgh and published in the journal Science Robotics, the small robot mimics "nature's most efficient swimmer -- the Aurelia aurita jellyfish", more often referred to as the common jellyfish.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

year The decision of holding the book fair at the usual venue was made earlier, but

added.

new rules on tests for EU arrivals came into force. The stipulations came as Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador became the latest public figure to test positive for the disease, and New Zealand reported its first community case for more than two months.

In Washington, President Joe Biden was set to reimpose a ban yesterday on most non-US citizens who have been in Britain, Brazil, Ireland and much of Europe, as well as adding South Africa to the list, a senior White House official said.

Biden last week tightened mask-wearing rules and ordered quarantine for people flying into the country, which on Sunday topped 25 million cases.

Since it emerged in late 2019, Covid-19 has killed more than 2.1 million people, with almost 99 million cases registered, according to an AFP tally SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

The two are Sanjida Khatun, Bangladesh's renowned musicologist and founder of Chhayanaut Institute, and Liberation War veteran Col Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir.

While Sanjida was chosen in the category of Art, Col Zahir was selected for the award in the category of "public affairs," a home ministry statement said last night.

Sanjida Khatun, 88, was one of the founders of Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha during the Liberation War in 1971 and of Chhayanaut in the early 1960s. Having obtained her bachelor's degree in Bengali literature from Dhaka University in 1955, she did her master's in Bangla

from Visva Bharati University in 1957. SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

ROHINGYA RELOCATION 3rd batch goes to Bhasan Char on Jan 29-30 MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Almost 3,000 Rohingyas will be relocated to Bhasan Char by the end of this month, a top official said.

This would be the 3rd batch of the refugees to be relocated to the island.

"The relocation will take place on January 29 and 30," said the top official of Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), wishing not to be named.

The RRRC is undertaking the relocation process amid concerns from the international community that the island is a risky place to live.

The first batch of 1,642 SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 26 Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-35 12-45 4-15 5-46 7-15 JAMAAT 6-10 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Teachers and authorities of Brojmohun Biddyalaya (Barishal Zilla) school on Barishal's Kalibari road are dusting off tables in their institution. After a long closure since March last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, schools are finally set to open next month.

PHOTO: **TITU DAS**

Poor suffer in widening Covid divide

Says Oxfam, demands steps to tackle inequality

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, London

Billionaires including Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Tesla founder Elon Musk have seen their wealth soar during the Covid-19 pandemic while the world's poor face years of hardship, charity Oxfam said yesterday as it demanded steps to tackle inequality.

Nations have a "shrinking window of opportunity" to build a fair, green recovery, according to "The Inequality Virus" report, published as global leaders tune in for the World Economic Forum's virtual "Davos Dialogue" meeting.

"We stand to witness the greatest rise in inequality since records began," Gabriela Bucher, executive director of Oxfam International, said in a statement as the charity called for higher wealth taxes and stronger protections for workers.

"Rigged economies are funnelling wealth to a rich elite who are riding out the pandemic in luxury, while those on the frontline of the pandemic - shop assistants, healthcare workers, and market vendors - are struggling to pay the bills."

Covid-19 has unleashed an economic storm that hit the poor and vulnerable hardest, with women and marginalised workers facing the worst of job losses and the World Bank warning more than 100 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty.

It could take more than a decade to reduce the number SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

EDITOR & PUBLISHER : MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 9117796, Fax: 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, for Advertisement: 01711623910, e-mail: editor@thedailvstar.net, reportino@thedailvstar.net, advertisement@thedailvstar.net