



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

RAJAB 21, 1442 HUIJI

12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



**"They confirmed that everyone is fine. No one even noticed the earthquake as it was late at night and everyone was already sleeping."**  
BCB CEO NIZAMUDDIN CHOWDHURY ABOUT THE BANGLADESH CRICKET TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWING AN 8.1 MAGNITUDE QUAKE OFF THE COUNTRY'S COAST.



**"It is the height of national shame for the armed forces of any country to turn its arms against its own people."**  
SINGAPORE'S FOREIGN MINISTER VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN ON MYANMAR VIOLENCE



**"We will remain highly vigilant against and resolutely deter any separatist activity seeking Taiwan independence."**  
CHINESE PREMIER LI KEQIANG

## FIRST MONTH'S MASS INOCULATION PLAN

# 51pc of target achieved so far

Race against time to fulfil the target of giving first jab to 70 lakh people

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is racing against time to achieve the lofty target of inoculating 70 lakh people in the first month of its Covid vaccination campaign.

As of Thursday, 35.81 lakh people got their first jab of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. This means the government has so far achieved 51.15 percent of the target for the first month ending this week.

The low point of the inoculation campaign was lower participation of women compared to men. Of the vaccine recipients, 12,87,100 are women -- a little more than half the number of the men who got inoculated.

When it comes to registration for vaccination, a total of 47,70,953 people have signed up on surokha.gov.bd -- 65 percent of the government target for the first month.

In the global context, Bangladesh has fared well in terms of vaccination and management. It now holds the 18th position with 3.58 million people



Vaccination started	<b>FEBRUARY 7</b>
Vaccinated till March 4	<b>35,81,169 PEOPLE</b> (Male 22,94,069 Female-12,87,100)
Target in first month	<b>70 LAKH PEOPLE</b>

inoculated till Thursday.

The US tops the chart with 82.57 million people inoculated. The UK secured the second position (21.95 million) and India the third position (18.01 million).

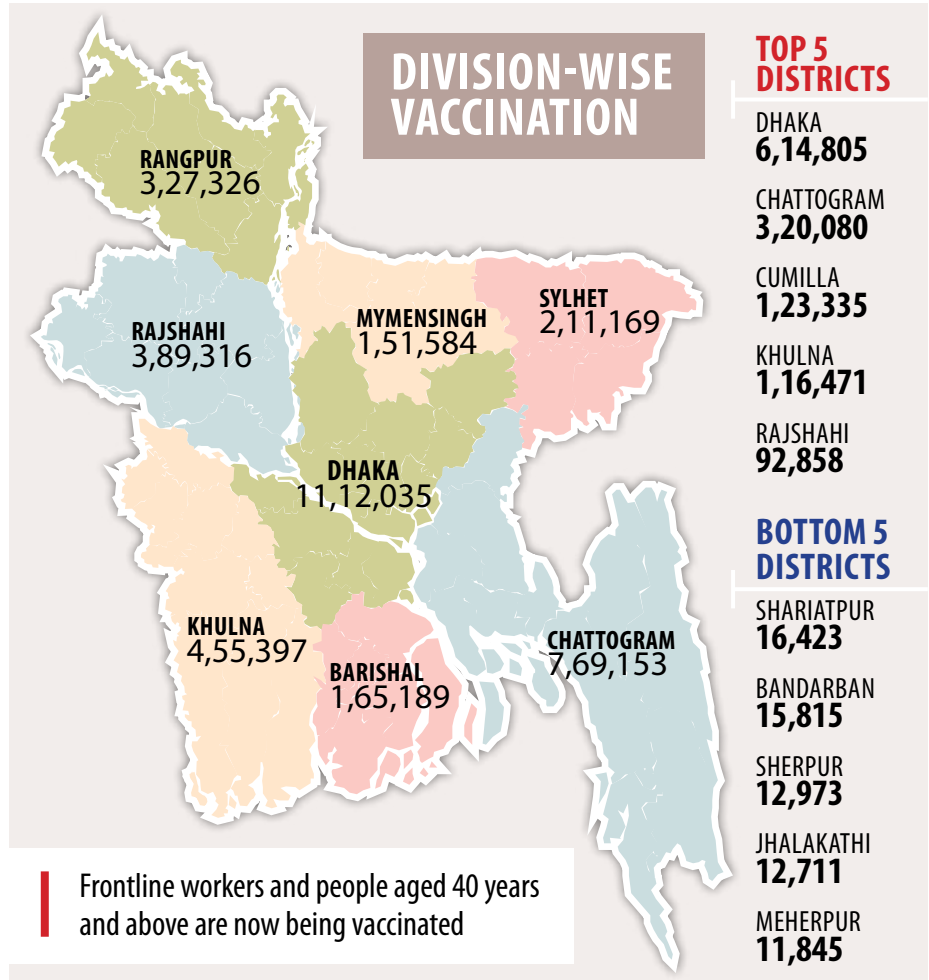
On the list of the number of vaccine doses administered per 100 people in a country, Bangladesh secured the 22th

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



People live in an unsafe three-storey building along the Buriganga in the capital's Lalbagh area. Many buildings in the area were knocked down partially during eviction drives by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority in the last few months. But those are still occupied by residents. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## MUSHTAQ'S DEATH

### Ensure justice, scrap DSA

7 victims of controversial laws urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven victims of the Digital Security Act and ICT Act yesterday demanded a judicial probe into the alleged brutal torture on writer Mushtaq Ahmed and cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore in custody and trial of law enforcers accused of torture.

Terming the DSA a "death trap", the seven, including a teacher, journalists and activists, in a statement also demanded scrapping of the controversial law and amendment to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act by incorporating in it human rights-centric principles.

Mushtaq died in prison custody on February 25.

The statement said, "We are deeply concerned following the recent death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in prison and are anxious about all those jailed under the law. At the same time, we learned through

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## PK HALDER'S FINANCIAL SCAM

### ACC to file 10 more cases

Investigators trace whereabouts of Tk 1,150cr out of Tk 2,500cr of ILFSL

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Investigators have so far been able to trace the whereabouts of Tk 1,150 crore out of about Tk 2,500 crore misappropriated allegedly by PK Halder and his accomplices from International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL).

In January, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed five cases against Halder and 32 others for laundering about Tk 350 crore of ILFSL.

In a recent development, the investigators have found involvement of Halder, a former managing director of now-defunct NRB Global Bank, and 39 others in laundering another Tk 800 crore taken as loan from the non-bank financial institution (NBF).

This finding has already been submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission, an ACC official, familiar with the development, told The Daily Star.

Once the commission gives approval, 10 cases will be filed against the suspects, who include a former chairman, members of board of directors, managing director, and deputy managing directors of ILFSL, said the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## HC: Juvenile offenders can be jailed for max 10 years

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A special High Court bench has observed that confessional statement of an accused child has no legal evidentiary value and such confessions cannot form the basis of finding him guilty.

The three-member bench has also ruled that the maximum term of imprisonment against a juvenile offender cannot be more than 10 years.

"Recording confession under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is a part of adversarial trial system and a formal part of the procedures of the mainstream courts/tribunals. Its use against a juvenile offender is, therefore, contrary to the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## ATTACK ON US ENVOY'S CONVOY

### Charge sheet names 9 AL, BCL men, excludes 'prime suspect'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives did not include a prime culprit in the charge sheet submitted to a Dhaka court in January in a case filed over the attack on former US ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat's convoy, the complainant alleged yesterday.

On January 20, after around two and a half years' investigation, Investigation Officer Md Abdur Rouf, inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of police, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka against nine local leaders and activists of Awami League and Chhatra League.

They are Firoz Mahmud, Naimul Hasan Rasel, Mir Amzad Hossain Akash, Sazu Islam, Razibul Islam Razu, Shahidul Alam Khan Kajol, Mozahid Azmi Tanna, Siam and Oli Ahmed Jony.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The Korotoa river in Bogura town is in a very bad state due to unabated pollution and grabbing of land. Sewage and liquid waste from households and factories is discharged into the water body, causing the pollution. The photo was taken in the town's Chalopara bridge area recently.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## TAQI MURDER IN NARAYANGANJ

### Eight yrs' probe yields nothing

Family still waits for charge sheet

SANAD SAHA and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Rownak Rehana routinely dusts the trophies her son had won in different competitions and the books he used to read.

Tanwir Muhammad Taqi will never return. But she has to go through the keepsakes at a showcase in Taqi's room to feel his presence.

"She touches the mementos almost every day," Rownak's husband and Taqi's father Rafiqur Rabbi told The Daily Star.

Eight years after Taqi's murder, the pain of the grieving parents is as palpable as their agonising wait for justice is. The investigation into the killing stalled for reasons unbeknownst to people.

Days before March 6, 2014, the first death anniversary of Taqi, a draft of the investigation report got leaked and Col Ziaul Ahsan, then additional director general of Rab, told reporters that officers found evidence suggesting that Ajmeri Osman and 10 of his associates were involved in the murder.

Col Ziaul said the charges would be pressed any day. That day has yet to come.

Seventeen-year-old Taqi went missing soon after he left home on Shaista Khan Road for Sudhijon Pathagar, a local library, around 4:00pm on March 6, 2013.

His A-level results were out the next day and he had the highest score in the world in physics obtaining 297 out of 300 marks.

In chemistry, he got 294, the highest in the country. He was a student of ABC International School.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

## What's in a (Scientific) Name?

In 1758, the Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus introduced a naming system for living organisms. It was standardized by scientists worldwide, giving us scientific names for species. The Linnaean system arose from the need to uniquely identify each species and categorize or classify living beings into groups. The common name of a bird may change from country to country, but its Linnaean name remains the same. Thus, a Black-necked Stork in Bangladesh is a Jabiru in Australia but a Jabiru in Brazil is an entirely different bird. There is no confusion over their Linnaean names, however. The Black-necked Stork is *Ephippiorhynchus asiatica* whereas the (Brazilian) Jabiru is *Jabiru mycteria* – and that holds true everywhere.

The Linnaean name is in two parts: the genus and the species. A genus groups together one or more similar species. For example, there are twenty-five species of sparrows, all of the genus *Passer*. Our ubiquitous House Sparrow is *Passer domesticus*, whereas the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, encountered less, is *Passer montanus*.

My interest in scientific names grew after reading the *Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh, Volume 26: Birds*, edited by Enam Ul Haque et. al. After a detailed description of each past or present bird of Bangladesh, the encyclopedia, like icing on cake, adds the meaning of its Linnaean name. I learned our national bird *Doel* is *Copsychus saularis*, meaning “a blackbird of the sun.”

Many species are named after the scientist who first described it. For example, the great ornithologist Thomas Jerdon is immortalized by *Aviceda jerdoni*, or Jerdon's Baza, magnificent raptor of our forests. Yet others honour a scientist posthumously: the Himalayan Forest Thrush discovered in 2016 was called *Zoothera salimali*. Living scientists are also honoured. In 2019 Hasan Al-Razi et. al. discovered a new frog in Lawacherra and named it *Reorchestes rezakhani* after our pioneering scientist Dr. Reza Khan.

Some species are named for their home region. Thus, we have



Rostratula benghalensis or Greater Painted Snipe, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

the species name “benghalensis” indicating a species found in Bengal. A well-known example is *Ficus benghalensis*, the Linnaean name of our banyan or *botgachh*. Literally, it means “a fig tree of Bengal”, since *Ficus* is the name of a large (800) group of trees related to figs.

Which of our 700-odd bird species were named after Bengal? In Bangladesh today we can find several such birds. They are *Rostratula benghalensis* (Greater Painted Snipe), *Centopus benghalensis* (Lesser Coucal), *Gyps benghalensis* (White-rumped Vulture), *Dinopium bengalense* (Black-rumped Flameback Woodpecker), *Ploceus bengalensis* (Black-breasted Weaver), *Coracias bengalensis* (Indian Roller), and *Sterna bengalensis* (Lesser-crested Tern.) Sadly the *Houbaropsis bengalensis* (Bengal Florican) – a type of bustard – has been extirpated from Bangladesh but found in small numbers in India and Cambodia. And the *Graminicola bengalensis* (Rufous-

rumped Grassbird) was last recorded here two decades ago.

Two birds from outside Bengal are mistakenly named for Bengal: *Bubo bengalensis* (Indian eagle-owl) of Assam, and *Uraeginthus bengalus*, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, of Africa.

Places inside Bangladesh have also given rise to Linnaean names. For example, *Cuscuta chittagongensis* is a plant and *Pangshura sylhetensis* is a turtle found in Chattogram and Sylhet, Bangladesh.

The discoverer of a new species can be creative in naming it. Thus, *Scaptia beyoncea*, the Beyonce horse fly discovered in 1989, was named so apparently because of the “fabulous patch of gold hair on its butt.” And in 2005, three newly discovered species of slime beetles were named after George Bush, Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow “ihtishamkabir” on Instagram.

# ‘This oppressive law must be abolished’

Protests rage on against DSA; speakers demand judicial probe into Mushtaq's death, release of students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from different walks of life including teachers, political leaders and activists yesterday demanded judicial probe into the death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in custody and abolition of the Digital Security Act.

They also demanded that those members of the law enforcement agencies accused of torturing Mushtaq and cartoonist Ahmed Kishore, be tried under law.

At a rally in Shahbagh, protesters under the banner of Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote demanded release of student leaders and a worker leader who were detained recently following protests over Mushtaq's death.

“These seven students are actually representing a generation and introducing Bangladesh in a new way. Previously, people in power formed Rab and enacted the ICT Act. Now it is Digital Security Act. This law is there to take away freedom of speech, but not everyone's -- it only

targets those who are critical of the government,” said Dhaka University International Relations Professor Tanzimuddin Khan.

They can oppress the political opposition but cannot stop creative people like Mushtaq and Kishore who speak for the people, he said, adding that those who are in power want to gag people's voice, he said.

“We live in a country where we see Haji Salim's son being cleared of charges in an arms case. We see a member of parliament -- MP Papul -- indicted as human trafficker. We see bank looters like PK Halder remain scot-free... This has become a mafia state,” said Tanzimuddin.

“We saw Kishore got out in bail and read the horrific description of torture on him and Mushtaq,” he said.

Terming DSA an “oppressive law”, speakers said reforming the existing and old laws can protect women and children in cyberspace and prevent

financial corruption. There is no need to have digital security laws for this. This black law, which violates human rights and oppresses free speech, must be repealed, they said.

Dr Harunur Rashid, coordinator of Doctors for People's Health, writer and researcher Maha Mirza and Ovinu Kibria Islam of Jashore University of Science and Technology, among others, spoke at the event.

At a separate rally in Shahbagh organised by Bangladesh Sramik Adhikar Parishad and led by former Ducus VP Nurul Haq Nur, protesters demanded abolition of DSA and release of all arrestees under it.

At another rally in front of Jatiya Press Club, Communist Party of Bangladesh demanded the same.

CPB president Mujahidul Islam Selim said the Awami League government does not tolerate criticism from the opposition and it's using the DSA to squash their voices.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, PRABIR DAS

People from all walks of life joined Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote's rally at Shahbagh, demanding justice for Mushtaq Ahmed, abolition of the DSA and release of all those detained under the law. Inset, Communist Party of Bangladesh made the same demands at a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.



## Law ministry to give opinion tomorrow

Says Anisul Huq on extension of Khaleda's sentence suspension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the ministry will give its opinion tomorrow on the application that sought a further extension of suspension of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's jail sentence.

“The law ministry will give its opinion on Sunday,” he told The Daily Star. The minister, however, did not elaborate further on the issue.

On March 4, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters at the secretariat that “Khaleda Zia's brother Shamim Iskandar filed the appeal on March 2 seeking extension on the stay of his sister's sentence where he also urged to waive her punishment.”

The application has been sent to the law ministry, and it will be sent back to the home ministry after getting opinion from the law ministry before it is forwarded to the prime minister, he said.

The government on September 15 last year extended for six months its earlier order that suspended the jail sentence of Khaleda Zia and released her from jail. The home ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on September 15.

The notification said Khaleda will receive treatment at her home and she cannot go abroad during this period.

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25 last year after the government had suspended her jail sentence for six months. She walked out of jail at a time when the world has been hit by Covid-19 pandemic. She reportedly did not visit any hospital for treatment. However, doctors visited her at home regularly and gave treatment.

## 2 officials for 11 districts

### Ctg explosives dept reeling from manpower crisis

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Department of Explosives in Chattogram division has been reeling from manpower crisis for a long time. At present, only two officials and seven office staffers are running administrative work of 11 districts under the division.

Though it is an important department, set up in 1973 under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, there is no sub-office in the 11 districts. As a result, officials from the Chattogram divisional office often have to go there for administrative work, said sources.

The department includes one explosives inspector, one assistant explosives inspector, one technical assistant, one upper division assistant, one office assistant/computer operator and one office assistant working at the Chattogram office in Agrabad.

According to officials, this department is the administrative authority for importing, storing and monitoring commercial explosives, and flammable and unfired pressure vessels.

Apart from that, the department gives approval for setting up gas pipelines, cylinders or plants; and monitoring gas cylinder plants, CNG-refuelling stations and filling stations.

It also provides licences to explosives importers and carriers as well as gives permission to dismantle scrap vessels after field visits.

The officials also investigate incidents involving explosives and file reports after monitoring and field visits. According to the office, there were eight incidents of explosions in Chattogram in 2019, which were probed by the department.

“From the Chattogram office, we are dealing with official work of 11 districts. At times, we even have to work on weekends to handle the workload,” Explosives Inspector Md Tofazzal Hossain told The Daily Star recently.

“We have digitised some issues, so that people don't have to travel from other districts. But we still have to go for field visits and other official purposes,” he added.

According to office sources, the assistant explosives inspector joined the Chattogram office a few years back. Before that, Tofazzal had to deal with the issues by himself. “The workload has increased manifold over the last 20 years but our manpower did not,” he added.

According to the department's annual report, a proposal for creating 1,115 posts countrywide and reshuffling existing official organogram is now on the table to address the manpower crisis.

Contacted, Md Anisur Rahman, senior secretary of Energy and Mineral Resources Division, told The Daily Star that they are facing a manpower shortage in all the departments. “We are trying to solve the issue. We will hire more manpower countrywide soon.”

He also mentioned the proposal to create 1,115 posts and said they are discussing it with authorities concerned. The department's head office is in Dhaka, and it has five branch offices in Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barishal. An inspector heads each branch office.

Apart from that, the department has a testing laboratory in the capital's Segunbagicha, which provides testing facilities for explosives and different materials coming under purview of acts and rules administered by the department.

বিমানমূল্যবাহিনী বাংলাদেশ

মোস্তফা-হাকিম গ্রুপের স্টীল ইউনিটের সর্ববৃহৎ প্রতিষ্ঠান এইচ.এম. স্টীল এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি লিমিটেড এর আনুষ্ঠানিক উৎপাদন কার্যক্রমের শুভ উদ্বোধন হতে যাচ্ছে।

উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে পঞ্চপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় ভূমি মন্ত্রী জনাব আলহাজ্ব সাইফুজ্জামান চৌধুরী জাবেদ, এম.পি মহোদয় প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত থাকবেন।

এছাড়াও অনুষ্ঠানে চট্টগ্রাম-৪ নং সীতাকুণ্ড আসনের মাননীয় সংসদ সদস্য আলহাজ্ব দিদারুল আলম, এম.পি.

ও

ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংকের মাননীয় ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব মোহাম্মদ শওকত জামিল বিশেষ অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত থাকবেন।

সভাপতিত্ব করবেন এইচ. এম স্টীল এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি লিমিটেডের সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান জনাব আলহাজ্ব মোহাম্মদ মনজুর আলম, সাবেক মেয়র, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন।

## শুভ উদ্বোধন

তারিখ: ০৬ মার্চ ২০২১      সন্ধ্যা ১১.০০ টা

**HM STEEL**  
দীর্ঘস্থায়ীতে নিশ্চিত, শক্তিতে নিরাপদ  
A modern unit of Golden Ispat Ltd.  
ডাঙ্গার চর, জুলখা, কর্ণফুলী, চট্টগ্রাম  
info@hmsteel.com.bd  
www.hmsteel.com.bd

২৯৮ ডি. টি. রোড, দেওয়ানহাট, চট্টগ্রাম-৪১০০  
০৩৯-৭৯০৬৯০, ৭২০২২৮

### Kaus Mia

FROM PAGE 12  
lowest tax-GDP ratio in South Asia.

The NBR has honoured Kaus with 14 awards over the years and his family got recognition as Kar Bahadur Paribar in fiscal 2016-17.

Born in August 1931 in Chandpur, Kaus began his journey as a businessman in his adolescence. He started as an agent of biscuits, soap and cigarettes of 18 brands. He is now involved in 40 types of businesses.

He was awarded as the highest taxpayer in businessmen category in fiscal 2019-20.

"I had never been so delighted like I am today in my 71-year career as a businessman," said Kaus after receiving a crest, a written felicitation and flowers from NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem at a ceremony at the NBR headquarters in the capital.

He said he never took loans from banks for his businesses.

Muneem said Kaus pays taxes out of his sense of responsibility and commitment.

**Triplex House Sale @ North Gulshan**

Exclusive triplex individual house (Around 6 katha land area & very close to Gulshan Society Park) with gas, parking facilities will be sold. Contact: +8801568-263754

## ACC to file 10 more cases

FROM PAGE 1  
official, wishing not to be named.

The official did not go into details.

"We're working hard to trace the rest of the money. More cases will be filed later," said the ACC official.

Apart from allegedly misappropriating about Tk 2,500 crore from ILFSL, Halder and his accomplices face allegations of laundering about Tk 2,200 crore from FAS Finance, Tk 3,000 crore from Peoples' Leasing and Tk 2,500 crore from Reliance Finance between 2009 and 2019.

Chairman of People's Leasing Uzzal Kumar Nandi has recently in a confessional statement described how Halder had played tricks and put his men at the helm of the four NBFs and misappropriated the funds.

Halder took loans from the financial institutions against at least two dozen non-existent companies created by him. In some cases, he used part of the funds to repay instalments of loans taken against his several fictitious firms.

In his statement before a metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka on February 15, Uzzal said Halder bought Radisson Blue Hotel in Cox's Bazar from one Abdul Alim Chowdhury at Tk 127 crore.

"... While he [Halder] was the managing director of Reliance Finance in 2014, he managed to get a loan through fake documents from the NBF. He bought a hotel with the money," said Uzzal.

Between 2009 and 2015, Halder brought out over

thousand crores of taka from Reliance.

"When pressure was mounted on him to return the money, Halder managed to get loan from International Leasing, Peoples Leasing and FAS Finance through fake documents," said Uzzal.

**ASSETS SEIZED**

Halder and his aides' moveable and immovable properties worth around Tk 2,600 crore have been frozen.

Of the amount, Tk 1,100 crore was at different bank accounts, said ACC sources.

Investigators have seized the land of an under-construction five-star hotel in Cox's Bazar, a 10-storey building in Uttara, one flat in Dhanmondi, 66-kantha plot in Farmgate and 57 acres of land in Narayanganj's Rupganj. The properties are worth about Tk 1,500 crore.

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

The anti-graft watchdog issued a travel ban on Halder on October 22, 2019, and sent the notice to immigration police by post. The officials received it at 4:30pm the next day.

Less than an hour before immigration police received his travel ban notice, Halder, however, fled the country through Jashore's Benapole land port.

Halder is believed to be in Canada.

## Covid-19 vaccine

FROM PAGE 12  
Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Spain and Sweden, reports Reuters.

The virus has killed at least 2,569,422 people since it emerged in China in December 2019, according to an AFP tally compiled from official sources yesterday.

The World Health Organization has scrapped plans for a team that visited Wuhan, China to probe the origins of the pandemic to issue an interim report, The Wall Street Journal reported late Thursday.

Wuhan is the city where the pandemic is believed to have originated in late 2019.

The WHO team returned recently from its visit there saying it had no clear finding on the genesis of the virus, amid tensions between the US and China on what caused the once-in-a-century global health crisis.

## Crackdown on, one more

FROM PAGE 12

"Scared, yeah I'm very scared to stay on the frontline. But we believe in our comrades and we promise to protect each other if someone is injured," protester Didi, 27, told AFP.

Meanwhile in the country's north, a number of people have crossed the border into India in a bid to escape the crackdown.

Indian police said nine people had crossed the 1,600-kilometre (1,000-mile) frontier -- three of whom were police officers who had refused to take part in putting down protests.

The junta has sought to stop news of the crackdown getting out, choking the internet and banning Facebook, the most popular social media platform in the country.

But live video feeds and recorded footage are leaking out daily, and yesterday the junta suffered its own internet ban as YouTube shut off a number of military-run channels.

## Yahya opts for tougher line

FROM PAGE 12

Yahya, according to American Consul General Archer K Blood then posted in Dhaka, gave a pretty unequivocal answer to the question of how would the army would react on the occasion of unilateral declaration of independence by Bangabandhu at the mass rally called for March 7.

Yahya's implied threat brought the following assessment from the US State Department: "While it seems clear to us here that the use of armed force in East Pakistan could not be effective in maintaining the unity of the country and could only result in bloodshed and turmoil, which the longer prolonged would be most adverse to our interests and thus should be discouraged, we do not feel that diplomatic approach on our part is likely to dissuade Yahya if he is determined on such a course. We are also concerned that such approach could later be used by Yahya, Bhutto and other West Pakistanis to blame us for breakup of country. It would thus inhibit our ability to maintain effective relationship with them in the future. We are discussing various contingencies with [the] British in Washington today to determine whether, in event of military action, British might be willing to take lead in interceding with Yahya." [Archer K Blood, The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh, UPL 2006, pg. 172]

Yahya also announced in the speech that the inaugural session of the National Assembly would take place on March 25, 1971.

Earlier in the day, a meeting of the members of the Awami League Working Committee had been called at the residence of Bangabandhu to decide the party's stance at the Racecourse meeting on March 7. On the conclusion of the radio broadcast, Bangabandhu adjourned the meeting till late that evening where Awami League would decide their response to Yahya's speech. The evening meeting was attended by Bangabandhu, Tajuddin Ahmad, Syed Nazrul Islam, Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed, Capt. Mansur Ali, AHM Kamruzzaman and Dr Kamal Hossain.

**TIKKA KHAN APPOINTED GOVERNOR**

The appointment of Tikka Khan as the governor of East Pakistan was officially announced on March 6, 1971. Referring to this appointment, Rehman Sobhan wrote in the March 6, 1971 issue of Forum, "Bangladesh's demands were now confronted with the language of weapons as one of the reputedly most hawkish elements in the power elite was pulled in as governor to replace Admiral Ahsan, who had refused to carry the responsibility for the consequences of the postponement any longer." [Rehman Sobhan, Forum, March 6, 1971]

**PEACEFUL STRIKE CONTINUES**

Into the fifth day of the non-cooperation movement, a peaceful strike was being observed in Dhaka. Processions were brought out in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

Around 11:00am, 321 prisoners broke out of the central jail in Dhaka to escape. Seven were shot dead and 30 injured.

A group of senior civil servants, led by Sanaul Haque, called on Bangabandhu and formally declared their allegiance to comply with the directives of the Awami League.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

**SME FOUNDATION**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Industries

**Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation (SME Foundation)**  
Parjatan Bhaban, E-5 C/1, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Mobile: 01725444492, 01820059314 Website: www.smef.gov.bd

**Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi)**

SME Foundation intends to conduct a study on 'Green SMEs for Sustainable Economic Development in Bangladesh'.

The Foundation is inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi) from the national reputed Research Organization/University/Institute. The Eoi must be submitted to the SME Foundation on or before 21 March 2021 by 02:00 p.m. The Terms of Reference (ToR) and other relevant information's are available on SME Foundation website (www.smef.gov.bd).

Managing Director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Principal  
Bhola Technical School & College, Bhola  
Ref No. 37.03..0918.001.07.001.21.097 Date: 05/03/2021

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender has been invited through the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) as follows:

Tender ID No.	Description of works	Invitation date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
552072	Supply of Other Stationery			
552096	Supply of Chemical Materials			
552098	Supply of Raw Materials & Spare Parts			
552099	Supply of Sport Materials			
552100	Supply of Educational & Learning Materials	08/03/2021 12:00	23/03/2021 11:30	23/03/2021 12:00
552103	Supply of Engineering & Other Accessories			
552105	Supply of Office Accessories			
552107	Supply of Furniture			
552110	Supply of Computer Accessories			

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

**Principal**  
Bhola Technical School & College, Bhola  
GD-449

**SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY**  
(A University established by SAARC Nations)  
Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE (No. 1/2021)**

South Asian University (SAU), an international University jointly established and funded by the eight SAARC Countries having focus on post-graduate teaching & research and located in New Delhi, invites applications from outstanding, highly qualified & experienced individuals for the following positions:

➤ <b>Regular Faculty Position – Professor (Economics) – 1</b>
➤ <b>Regular Non-Teaching Positions – Registrar – 1, Director (Admissions &amp; Examinations) – 1</b>

The application form, job description, eligibility criteria and other necessary information are available on the University website at <http://www.sau.int>

Application Deadline: 30-04-2021 (Friday).

**Sd/-**  
**Acting President**

**World's first**

FROM PAGE 12

shafts that make up a rotating wheel orbiting the Earth -- was scheduled to be fully operational by 2027.

Fast forward a couple years and the hotel has a new name -- Voyager Station -- and it's set to be built by Orbital Assembly Corporation, a new construction company run by former pilot John Blincow, who also heads up the Gateway Foundation.

In a recent interview with CNN Travel, Blincow explained there had been some Covid-related delays, but construction on the space hotel is expected to begin in 2026, and a sojourn in space could be a reality by 2027.

**Covid cases**

FROM PAGE 12

As many as 13,710 samples were tested across the country in those 24 hours, yielding a positivity rate of 4.63 percent.

The latest official figures put the recovery rate at 91.25 percent, while the mortality rate stands at 1.54 percent.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Land  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka  
www.minland.gov.bd

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

1.	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Land.
2.	Agency	: Ministry of Land.
3.	Procuring entity name	: Ministry of Land.
4.	Procuring entity code	: N/A.
5.	Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.
6.	EOI for selection of	: Individual Consultant (Lump Sum Based).
7.	Tender Package No.	:
8.	EOI Ref. No.	: 31.00.0000.043.68.011.21
9.	Date	: 07/03/2021

**KEY INFORMATION**

10.	Procurement method	: Individual Consultant.
-----	--------------------	--------------------------

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

11.	Budget and source of funds	: GOB.
-----	----------------------------	--------

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12.	EOI closing date	: 22.03.2021
-----	------------------	--------------

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

13.	Brief description of assignment	: Senior Consultant (Legal) (No. 1) Senior Consultant (Legal) will work under the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Land for such task as he/she may be assigned but will be responsible for the following: The Senior Consultant legal will - Contribute to framing and amending Acts, Rules, Regulations by-laws and any law required for the functioning of Ministry of Land. - Contribute to the drafting of bilateral and multilateral contracts/Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and other legal instruments required by Ministry of Land. - Contribute in Standardizing documents relating to procurement, Public Private Partnership, Loan Agreement and other legal documents required by Ministry of Land. - Similar other issues referred to Ministry of Land.
14.	Experiences and delivery capacity required	: Candidates meeting the following requirements are encouraged to apply minimum relevant working expertise. The applicant must have 15+ years of experience in drafting Acts, Rules for Government of Bangladesh. - Preferably at least a master's degree in law with bachelor's degree also in law. - Minimum 15 years of experience in the relevant field experience. - Strong background in drafting law, Acts, Rules, Regulations, By-laws and other legal documents on an integrated and uninterrupted/transportation system. - Familiarity with relevant local legal environments and framing of law. - Involvement in drafting laws like land law Acts. - Strong interpersonal skill and ability to write effectively in a team-based environment and under tight time contracts. - Ability to provide the full range of operational assistance with independent responsibility. - Demonstrated ability to supervise drafting of laws for Bangladesh Government. - Ability to build effective working relation with Client's and colleagues. - The applicant must have high level of intellectual and professional knowledge with working experience as Joint Secretary and above in the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
15.	Other details	: Interested applicants may obtain further information from the Ministry of Land website ( <a href="http://www.minland.gov.bd">www.minland.gov.bd</a> ) before the closing date. Application have to submit EOI with their CV and forwarding letter in sealed envelope labeled with individual Consultant for the abovementioned position under Ministry of Land to the address, mentioned in clause 20 and 21 (Alternatively applicants can also submit EOI) with their CV and forwarding letter to the email address <a href="mailto:law2@minland.gov.bd">law2@minland.gov.bd</a> . The Standard Request for Application for each position will be collected found.
16.	Association with foreign firms	: N/A.
17.	Ref No.	: Phasing of services
17.	1.	09 (nine) months can be extendable with successful negotiation
17.		Location: Ministry of Land, Dhaka-1000
17.		Indicative start date: -
17.		Indicative completion date: -

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

18.	Name of official inviting EOI	: -
19.	Designation of official inviting EOI	: -
20.	Address of official inviting EOI	: Ministry of Land.
21.	Contact details of official inviting EOI	: Ministry of Land.
22.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without any reason whatsoever.	

**Muhammad Salah Uddin**  
Additional Secretary  
Ministry of Land  
GD-448

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope, in Iraq, urges all to shun violence

Pope Francis, beginning the first trip by a pontiff to Iraq, made an impassioned call yesterday for an end to the militant violence and religious strife that has plagued the country for decades...

Study: AstraZeneca vaccine effective against Brazil variant

Preliminary data from a study conducted at the University of Oxford indicates that the Covid-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca PLC is effective against the P.1, or Brazilian, variant...

UN still waiting for proof Dubai's Sheikh Latifa alive

The UN yesterday said it was yet to see evidence from the United Arab Emirates that Dubai's Sheikh Latifa was still alive, a fortnight after seeking proof.

China moves to eliminate Hong Kong opposition

Grants itself veto powers over lawmakers' selection

China yesterday moved to grant itself veto powers over selecting Hong Kong's lawmakers, part of a campaign to eliminate dissent and ensure a "patriotic" government in the city following huge democracy rallies in 2019.



PHOTO: REUTERS

A pro-democracy activist embraces his wife as he leaves a court on bail in Hong Kong, yesterday.

Legislation to allow China's communist rulers to vet all election candidates in Hong Kong was tabled at the opening of the nation's rubber-stamp parliament in Beijing.

It came a day after dozens of democracy campaigners in the financial hub -- including former lawmakers -- were jailed under a security law that was passed during last year's parliamentary session.

The new legislation includes a "qualification vetting system" that will promote "orderly political participation", parliamentary spokesman Wang Chen told reporters.

China had committed to giving Hong Kong a degree of autonomy when it reverted from British colonial rule in 1997. But it began moving quickly to dismantle the financial hub's democratic pillars in response to huge and sometimes violent democracy rallies that paralysed the city throughout 2019.

The introduction of the vetting legislation -- expected to be approved next week -- was quickly interpreted as one of the final nails in the coffin of Hong Kong's democracy movement.

The European Union yesterday warned against the proposed reforms.

"The EU stands ready to take additional steps in response to any further serious deterioration of political freedoms and human rights in Hong Kong, which would be against China's domestic and international obligations," the EU said in a statement.

The Chinese congress session opened with an annual address by Premier Li Keqiang, who made

no mention of Hong Kong besides Communist Party boilerplate about the city continuing to enjoy a "high degree of autonomy."

However, Li said Beijing stands by the "one China" principle, which states that Taiwan is part of China.

"We will remain highly vigilant against and resolutely deter any separatist activity seeking Taiwan independence," Li added.

The annual week-long gathering of roughly 3,000 delegates, held in the cavernous Great Hall of the People in Beijing, is China's biggest political event of the year.

The highly choreographed display is held to drive home the unquestioned domestic power of the Communist Party while updating China and the world on its economic, political, environment and foreign policy priorities.

The event takes place with China outpacing other major economies after bringing the coronavirus pandemic, which first emerged on its soil, under control through draconian lockdowns and mass testing.

Li said the government was aiming for 2021 growth in the world's second-biggest economy of "above 6 percent."

China's finance ministry, meanwhile, revealed that the nation's military budget -- the world's second largest after the United States -- would increase 6.8 percent in 2021 to 1.36 trillion yuan (\$210 billion).

But China's official budget number is widely believed to be lower than true spending.

Nepal, Maoists sign peace deal

Kathmandu that killed one person, and it has also been accused of several attacks and extortion. The Nepali government yesterday agreed to lift a ban on the group, release jailed party members and drop charges against them...

Guna Raj Luitel, editor of Nagarik newspaper, said the agreement was likely an attempt by the prime minister to shore up his flagging political support. "It is definitely a positive event, but the timing puts a question on how sincere all the parties are."

Sunshine Park Apartments

at Free School Street Hatirpool, Kathalbagan, Dhaka

3 Bedroom Apartments with high-end amenities including Swimming Pool, Community Hall, Gymnasium, Rooftop Garden & Walkway etc.

Please Feel Free To Call 16687

01713018407, 01713331201, 01713367486



Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd 91 Gulshan Avenue

'National shame' for armed forces

Singapore FM slams Myanmar for using weapons against own people

REUTERS, Singapore

Singapore's foreign minister yesterday said it was a "national shame" for the armed forces of a country to use weapons against their own people as he called on Myanmar's military rulers to seek a peaceful solution to the unrest in the country.

"It is the height of national shame for the armed forces of any country to turn its arms against its own people," said Vivian Balakrishnan, repeating that Singapore was appalled by the violence against civilians in the country.

The United Nations has said at least 54 people have been killed since the Feb. 1 coup. More than 1,700 people had been arrested, including 29 journalists.

Balakrishnan and his counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) had held talks with a representative of the junta earlier this week.

Singapore along with a number of other Asean foreign ministers have called for the release of political detainees including civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Balakrishnan said on Friday the



foreign ministers were in daily contact with each another over Myanmar.

However, he said that while Asean should play a constructive role in facilitating a return to normalcy and stability, there would be a limited impact from any external pressure on the situation in Myanmar.

"If you look over the past 70 years, the military authorities in Myanmar, frankly, do not respond to economic sanctions, do

not respond to moral opprobrium," the Singapore minister said.

He said that while references to the Asean charter and human rights declaration were essential, they were not sufficient to change the junta's behaviour.

"The keys ultimately lie within Myanmar. And there's a limit to how far external pressure will be brought to bear," Balakrishnan said.

MIGRANT TRAGEDY 20 killed after thrown into sea off Djibouti

AFP, Nairobi

At least 20 people drowned after smugglers threw dozens of migrants overboard during a crossing between Djibouti and Yemen, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Thursday.

Survivors told the IOM that at least 200 migrants, including children, were packed aboard the vessel when it left Oulebi in Djibouti in the early hours of Wednesday for Yemen across the Gulf of Aden.

About thirty minutes into the voyage, the smugglers panicked about the number of people onboard and threw 80 into the sea before turning the vessel back toward land, said Yvonne Ndege, IOM regional spokesperson for the East and Horn of Africa.

There are fears the death toll could rise with survivors unable to locate family they say were aboard, Ndege said.

'Easiest' polls for TMC!

Says Mamata, releases Trinamool's list for state polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday termed the coming high-stakes assembly elections in the state as the "easiest" election her party has ever faced and announced she would contest from Nandigram constituency.

Trinamool Congress was thus off the block first by announcing the entire list of 291 candidates in one go ahead of political rivals Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress-Left alliance.

The elections in West Bengal would be held in eight phases over 33 days beginning on March 27. The results will be out on May 2.

Mamata, who is the chief minister for a decade since toppling the 34-year-old Left rule in Bengal, told a media conference in Kolkata that she would not contest this time from Bhowanipore constituency in south Kolkata, from where she was elected five years back.

Nandigram is the bastion of Suvendu Adhikari, one of the top Trinamool Congress leaders who quit the ruling party and joined BJP ahead of the election.

Mamata said her party would contest 291 out of West Bengal's total of 294 assembly seats. Three hill constituencies of Darjeeling, Kurseon and Kalimpong have been left for 'friendly parties'.

age of 80 would contest from Trinamool Congress, Mamata said 23-24 existing Trinamool Congress legislators have been dropped due to age and other reasons.

Announcing the list of candidates, Mamata said "this time we have stressed on more youths and women candidates."

Women constitute 49 per cent of West Bengal's electorate.

Exuding confidence of returning to power for the third consecutive time, Mamata termed it as the "easiest" election her party has ever faced.

Mamata dared Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to deploy as much federal force as it wants and said Trinamool Congress would still emerge victorious.

BJP PICKS NAMES FOR ASSAM POLLS Meanwhile, the BJP yesterday released a list of 70 candidates for two phases of the three-phase Assam election.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will contest the assembly election from Majauli seat, while Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, widely known as a key BJP strategist for the north-east, will contest from Jalukbari, a seat that he currently holds.

Of the 126 seats in Assam's legislative assembly, 47 will go to the polls on March 27 in the first phase, voting on 39 will be held on April 1 in the second phase and 40 seats will go to the polls in the third and final phase on April 6.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Office of the Executive Engineer, Health Engineering Department (HED), Barishal Division, Barishal. Invitation for e-Tender Limited Tendering Method (LTM) for various repair and maintenance works. Includes a table with 10 tender packages and contact information for Md. Moshir Rahaman and Md. Ishaque Miah.

## In loving memory of JAN-E-ALAM

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Jan-E-Alam was one of the frontrunners of pop music in Bangladesh. He, along with Azam Khan, Ferdous Wahid and Firoz Shah, played an integral role in popularising the genre, during the 70s. The noted singer passed away on March 2, 2021, while being treated at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. He was 65. His wife passed away amid the pandemic, and he is survived by his two daughters.

Born in Harirampur, Manikganj, Jan-E-Alam was also a prolific lyricist and music producer. A number of singers made their debuts under the banner of his company, Doyel Production House. Samina Chowdhury's first solo album was released under his company. Momotaz and S D Rubel among others also worked with Doyel Production House.

Besides lending his voice to 4,000 songs, Jan-E-Alam wrote and composed 3,000 songs. He earned accolades soon after his first album, "Bonmali" was released in the 70s, from Dhaka Records. He released more than 80 solo albums throughout his career. He was known for his individualistic approach of combining pop and folk music.

"Gondhomer Lagiya", "School

Khuilachhe Re Mowla", "Doyal Baba Khabla Kaba", "Kali Chhara Kolomer Mullyo Je Nai", "Tumi Piriti Shikhaiya", "Doyal Bhandari Line Chhara Chole Na Railgari" and "Phul Chhara Phagunre Naamtai Britha" are some of his notable songs.

"I will always cherish my memories with him," said noted musician Ferdous Wahid, a close colleague and friend of Jan-E-Alam. "Firoz Shah and I did a show together in 1972, arranged by Jan-E-Islam."

"He used to attend all of my family programmes," said Fakir Alamgir. "His contribution to the music industry is immense. He knew how to entertain the audience very well."

"He was a simple and down-to-earth man, who loved and respected people," added musician Hasan Motiur Rahman. "We have worked together in many projects from his production house," shared music composer Farid Ahmed. "In 1995, we did a remake of his popular song 'Gondhomer Lagiya'. I composed that version."

Jan-E-Alam was laid to rest at his familial graveyard in Harirampur, Manikganj.

Translated by Sharmin Joya



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## "The film 'Bangabandhu' is an emotion to us"

— Chanchal Chowdhury

Noted actor Chanchal Chowdhury has charmed audiences with his brilliance on the stage, television, and the silver screen, portraying a wide range of characters over the years. He is set to play Sheikh Lutfar Rahman in "Bangabandhu", Shyam Benegal's forthcoming film on the Father of the Nation. It is a joint venture from Bangladesh and India. The film's shooting kicked off on January 21 in Mumbai. Chanchal Chowdhury went to Mumbai on January 19, and came back on February 5. He is also preparing for Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's "Munshigiri", a web project for Chorki. He will also star in ZEE5 Global's "Contract". In a recent chat with The Daily Star, the actor talks about shooting for the film on Bangabandhu and more.



PHOTO: STAR

SHARMIN JOYA

How was your experience of shooting for the film on Bangabandhu in Mumbai?

It was great to work with such a professional and technically skilled team. I got to learn so much. I have wrapped up my Mumbai schedule, and I will be shooting again when the team comes to Bangladesh. Everyone in the team is really cooperative.

You will be playing the role of Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, Bangabandhu's father, between the ages of 40 and 60. What has been your biggest challenge in portraying him?

There are not enough documents available on Sheikh Lutfar Rahman. However, I was

fortunate enough to have long conversations with our Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and Sheikh Rehana. They shared many things about their family, which was helpful for all of us.

Before leaving for Mumbai, several actors from the film, including you, went to meet the Prime Minister. How was the experience?

It was the experience of a lifetime. Listening to stories about Bangabandhu directly from the Prime Minister was a privilege. This project is not just a film—it is an emotion to us.

How would you describe Shyam Benegal as a person?

He is a true professional, and a humble

gentleman. Although he is a senior filmmaker, he never depends on anyone for his own work. From the beginning of the day till the pack-up, he stays on the sets. He is a keen observer, who makes his actors rehearse every scene thoroughly.

Are there any memorable anecdotes from the Mumbai shoot that you would like to share with us?

Getting to work with Shyam Benegal is a special experience in itself, that too, on a biopic of Bangabandhu. But one memorable anecdote that comes to mind is that the entire unit wore matching t-shirts with "Bangabandhu" written on them during the shoot, which made me emotional.

## Galleri Kaya's 'Masters & Prodigies' explores contemporary graphic art in India



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

An exhibition, titled, "Masters & Prodigies" featuring the works of 34 eminent artists from India, is currently underway at Galleri Kaya, Uttara. Inaugurated on February 28, it focuses on contemporary graphic art and printmaking.

The featured artists in this exhibition are: M F Husain, Somnath Hore, S H Raza, Salil Sahani, Atul Dodiya, K G Subramanyan, Krishen Khanna, Amitabha Banerjee, Badri Narayan, Sakti Burman, Sanat Kar, Dipak Banerjee, Ganesh Haloi, Suhas Roy, Lalu Prasad Shaw, Jogen Chowdhury, Manu Parekh, Sunil Das, Niranjan Pradhan, Prabhakar Kolte, Sadhan Chakraborty, Aditya Basak, Monaj Mitra, Bimal Kundo, Manoj Dutta, Ajit Seal, Pradip Maitra, Chandra Bhattacharjee Pankaj Panwar, Ramendra Nath Kastha, Atin Basak, Partha Dasgupta, Swarup Basak and Jayanta Naskar.

"Throughout their lives, artists work with different mediums to portray their thoughts," shares Goutam Chakraborty, Director, Galleri Kaya. "This exhibition is an effort to feature such works, in an attempt to make art more participatory."

The exhibition features 67 artworks done on etching, lithograph, serigraph, silkscreen,



woodcut print, intaglio, and wood engraving, including some historically significant pieces.

"Masters & Prodigies" is dedicated to the birth centenary of renowned sculptor and printmaker Somnath Hore (1921-2006). Born on April 13, 1921, in Chattogram, Bangladesh, his sketches, sculptures and prints reflected on several major historical issues and events of 20th century Bengal.

"Somnath Hore has an intimate link with Bangladesh by birth. On the occasion of his birth centenary, we took the opportunity to dedicate this exhibition to him," shares Goutam Chakraborty. "Two of his lithographs from 1969 are exhibited at the event."

To make art affordable to the masses, different versions and editions of artworks need to be introduced at large— this is one of the central goals of Galleri Kaya.

"Art does not really play a large role in our economic strength. So, this industry needs to be more affordable and accessible to people," expresses Goutam Chakraborty. "If multiple editions or variations of an artwork can be purchased, art will be more affordable."

According to Goutam Chakraborty, Bangladeshi art has to be popularised in different parts of the Indian subcontinent. "Our artistic activities are mostly centered on West Bengal, specifically Kolkata and Shantiniketan," he shares. "We need to expand more in the northern and southern parts of India to introduce people from other regions to our artists. Galleri Kaya aims to popularise Bangladesh's art in different parts of the world."

The exhibition, organised in partnership with Artitude, and sponsored by ADN Group, will be open every day from 11 am to 7:30 pm till March 16.



## Entering the dawn of the critical woman (Yuck)

LUBNAN KHALEESI

Kim Kardashian, Priyanka Chopra and Kangana Ranaut. These are just some women critical thinkers who were not sent to jail. The list has been cherry-picked so we can all have a laugh and by all, you know exactly who we mean. Having failed to incarcerate these women, they have inundated the world with their feminine views. At the same time, their views have wreaked havoc across all boundaries.

Let's be honest guys: the men are pissed off.

Which brings us to the main point of

this important essay: Women being critical disrupting the existing hegemony of the society. Women, right? Can't live with us, can't live without us. Regardless, we can all say that women have been called out for too long for being too critical.

The criticism aimed at us actually boils down to two very good reasons: a) that time of the month or b) bad mood. When these aren't enough, another good reason can be how bad we are at communicating, or when we said something but the male ear chose not to register it as they were busy doing their man things.

Basically, any critical analysis by any

woman will eventually have to be dissected by the far superior male gaze. Only then can we make sense of what we were really thinking. Please do tell us what we meant by what we said.

The best thing to do then on International Women's Day is not to make criticism that will not amount to anything. We also should not make any promises that we cannot keep. The male gaze will follow us no matter where we go because we are always up for scrutiny. Doing our best just isn't good enough.

You can cook, but can you cook the dish that is expected of you even without all the ingredients present? You can work, but can

you also do a 9-5 at office and do the 5-12 at home? You can speak, but is your tone gentle enough? Are your words carefully thought out so as not to offend? You can wear clothes to look pleasant, but is it too pleasant?

These are all normal things to expect from the man, who runs your world and is even sweet enough to borrow money from you to buy you things. And by things, we mean that exact thing we sent them a picture of so they don't mess up with their very bad taste in all things they refuse to understand.

Much ado has been made about how men are not allowed to be critical. At this point, we must extend to them our sympathies, for we

have hardly ever been allowed to be critical of anything but ourselves.

This year, let's accept that the glass ceiling does not exist. That we are no longer diversity tokens. That we can actually pull ourselves up by our bootstraps. Only if we stop criticising everything. In the end, I hope my male editor agrees to run this piece and pays me less than what an experienced man would make.

Also, if I digressed, I ask for forgiveness in advance. I will smile more often in exchange.

Lubnan Khaleesi loves the month of March and has been rewarded with mulberries which she is willing to share.

## Government officially launches The Snitches Club

### Snitches get riches, Ministry of Misinformation declares

OSAMA RAHMAN

The Government of Chapasthan officially launched The Snitches Club earlier yesterday. An initiative of the Ministry of Misinformation, the club was inaugurated by the country's leader, who attended virtually from their official residence.

The Snitches Club comes with the motto "Snitches get riches" and promises bounty for its top-performing members. To join, one needs to sign up at the [www.snitchesclub.com](http://www.snitchesclub.com) website, which has the worst user-interface imaginable.

The primary duty of a Snitches club member is to monitor the Facebook status of everyone in the world and find those that they believe "tarnish the image of the country".

"Find those who are speaking inconvenient truths about the government and this regime and file cases against them under the newly passed Very Vague Law. This will prevent everyone from bad-mouthing everyone else, unless they wear a different colour," a spokesman for the ministry said.

The Very Vague Law is vague enough that cases filed under it do not have to be restricted to the digital sphere only. If anyone says the wrong thing at any rally and hurts the country's already very fragile ego, then action can be taken against them too.

"If anyone hurts your patriotic sentiment by saying anything against this beautiful, middle-income country of ours, then please sign up for our club and start filing the cases. Our law enforcers will help you at every step,"

Misinformation Minister Bakaya Saki said.

The head of Chapasthan's police, Junaid Alam, also welcomed the decision. "It usually takes us a decade to make any head way into murders. But with this, it is usually an open and shut case. If you are a government-leaning snowflake, then polish up your emotions because they are about to get really hurt."

For many government veterans, who have fallen out of the party's favours, or those who want to fast-track their career progression, the club offers ample opportunities. The website promises points per case filed successful. Those with maximum points get a presidential pardon, a coveted seat at the party and a piece of land forcefully grabbed from those less fortunate.



PHOTO: BAREFOOT COMMUNICATIONS ON UNSPLASH

## 'Only upload photos': Country's Facebook expert suggests

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Unpopular philosopher Choclates once said, "I have nothing to say lest it should fall under any act and thus my act of speaking gets deactivated forever."

Facebook keeps insisting you say what's on your mind and has so many reactions that sometimes users become frustrated and suffer from indecision.

Thankfully, now all your reactions can be curtailed. Bangladesh Haha/Hot Acts Impose Agency (BHAA) has imposed some new restrictions to help guide the country's social media users on how to exactly conduct themselves online, lest they be called names.

Actar/Actaruddin, Head of BHAA, says, "We want to make this platform neat and clean. Me, Actar and my team, are working under the sun and rain to produce new incredible restrictions. We also have a small team which works on inventing new acts and laws. For instance, boys, who text girls for nothing, will heavily be punished in case the girls don't reply to the sixteenth message and keep it unseen. We have invented this just hours ago."

This new move, however, has concerned

a veteran Facebook user, a great photo uploader, who holds the record for the weirdest expressions, poses and captions to go along with his pictures. Young boys and girls were texting him pleading to find a solution on how to circumvent any new restrictions. Contacted, the man said, "I knew it. That's why I have been uploading thousands of photos for years. Look, I am continuing my social media use without violating any acts or laws. So my suggestion to all of you is stop posting and sharing garbage. You better upload photos only."

About the latest restriction on messaging people, the expert said, "Modern problems require modern solution. So I have a solution to your problem. What you want to say to a girl, or whoever you want to text, write it in the caption of the photos instead of inbox. She will surely read it! I have been writing those 'almost love message' in the caption of my photos since the birth of my account and nothing really happens; rather the ladies love it. Look at my shares." Saying this, he started to pose to take some photos and googled some quotes to use in the caption.



# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2021, FALGUN 21, 1427 BS

## Should we worry about crystal meth?

Authorities must step up efforts to contain it before it takes off

ALTHOUGH there is no established market for crystal methamphetamine or meth in Bangladesh yet and so far meth-related arrests and seizures have remained minimal, recent developments suggest a growing trend with the powerful stimulant, popularly known as "ice", increasingly making inroads into the country. The Department of Narcotics Control on Wednesday seized two kilogrammes of crystal meth, estimated to be worth Tk 10 crore, in Teknaf. It was said to be the largest consignment of ice to be seized in Bangladesh. Investigators say that at least two to three consignments of the drug, each weighing around 0.5kg-1.5kg, have arrived every month over the last three years through various airports, mostly from Malaysia. Smugglers are also using land routes, as the latest consignment entered Teknaf border, an established gateway for yaba, via Myanmar from Thailand.

Our assessment of the situation says that if the drug hasn't yet become popular in the country, it is perhaps because of its high price—leading drug syndicates to target users in upscale neighbourhoods—and the fact that Bangladesh, and India, are often used rather as transit routes. That may change if growing use somehow pushes the price down and creates a fertile ground for a profitable market within Bangladesh. This is why the narcotics authorities must remain vigilant at all times so that any tipping point where crystal meth use takes off can be avoided. DNC officials have already collected enough intelligence about the techniques and methods followed by smugglers and local dealers. This knowledge should be translated into a comprehensive action plan, while ongoing efforts such as setting up scanners and dog squads at airports and land and river ports (to detect narcotics entering the country) should be expedited.

Bangladesh is already struggling with its narcotics problem. And the risks of failure in preventing the trade/use of crystal meth, a highly addictive and potentially deadly drug, cannot be overestimated. As well as strengthening existing detection and prevention measures, there should be awareness campaigns to make potential users aware of the dangerous side-effects of this drug. However, since Bangladesh is being used as a transit route, local control measures may fall short of having much impact if we cannot cut off the source. This calls for wider collaboration with the governments of countries affected by the operations of the transnational drug syndicates. We hope the authorities can fight off this burgeoning trend before it reaches worrying proportions.

## Cost overruns and delays cannot be the norm

Govt must monitor the execution of its projects

THE recent finding by a probe body of the University Grants Commission (UGC) about the mishandling of projects at Begum Rokeya University of Rangpur (BRUR) is a classic example of how government schemes experience delays in implementation due to anomalies and rules violations by the concerned authorities. The report shows that though the constructions of the Sheikh Hasina Female Student Dormitory and Dr Wazed Research and Training Institute were inaugurated on January 4, 2017 and were supposed to have ended in 2018, less than half of the construction of the two structures has been completed till now. The probe body has also found that the Vice Chancellor (VC) of the university and his close associates have violated both the Public Procurement Act 2006 and Public Procurement Rules 2008. The same thing recently happened in the case of the Kushtia Medical College and Hospital. Eight years after the government had approved the setting up of the institution, the project's implementing agency could not make much progress in completing it. Although the project started in 2012 and was to be done by December 2014, only 34 percent of the work had been finished till December 2019. Meanwhile, the cost of the project has more than doubled during the same period.

Not conducting feasibility studies before embarking on a project, changes in leadership and policy-making bodies during the continuation of the projects, bringing changes in the initial designs of the projects numerous times and also, appointment of companies and individuals personally attached to the head of an organisation are some of the common reasons behind this repetitive story of cost overruns and delays in the execution of government-funded projects. To find a solution to this problem, the government should establish certain rules and regulations that will prohibit the top brass of an institution from affiliating themselves with the economic activities related to a project. Besides, the government should also set up a committee or body that will supervise over all its initiatives centrally, without any interference from the local authorities. Also, holding accountable those responsible for these inefficiencies and delays and punishing those found guilty of graft no matter how influential he/she may be are essential steps to ensure that valuable funds and resources of the government are not wasted and projects are completed within the deadlines.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Where online businesses are going wrong

E-commerce flourished tremendously during lockdown. The growth that the sector witnessed during the peak of the pandemic may not have been possible otherwise maybe for a few years.

Now as things slowly to return to normal, it doesn't look like all of these ventures are going to survive. And the weakest part about these businesses is the delivery part of their service, which must be fixed.

Mirza Mohammad Asif Adnan,  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

# Issues that demand inclusion in the development debate

## THE OVERTON WINDOW



ERESH OMAR JAMAL

THE reason behind the creation of the concept of Least Developed Countries (LDC) by the UN in the 1960s was to identify a set of nations whose development struggles were not solely based on their own shortcomings, but due to other structural constraints. Therefore, it was decided that the global trading system had to be adjusted in a way that would grant LDC's preferential market access for them to catch-up in terms of development.

Bangladesh is now on the cusp of graduating from an LDC to a developing nation. What that essentially means, as explained by Debapriya Bhattacharya, a member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN-CDP)—which determines the conditions that a country needs to meet to graduate from LDC status—is that the country has acquired "a seal of global approval regarding its development achievements".

During the second triennial review by the UN-CDP between February 22-26, 2021, Bangladesh received the final endorsement to graduate. Its per capita income, which had to be above USD 1,220, stands at over USD 2,000 today. It also managed to satisfy the UN threshold levels for the human asset index and the economic vulnerability index. Thus, in terms of development, there is no denying that Bangladesh has made remarkable progress. But at the same time, the country very unfortunately seems to be regressing in other ways.

The rights to freedom of speech and expression are being routinely violated either directly or indirectly. Space for dissent has been shrinking. Laws like the Digital Security Act, which are largely unpopular with the people, civil society, media, etc. have become popular among politicians and top government officials, who ignore the people's call to scrap such laws and, instead, regularly defend

their repressive use. That itself is a clear indication of how government officials have forgotten the all-important fact that they are just public "servants", who have no legitimacy to act like rulers in a country that is supposed to have a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

The fact that public servants can carry on like this demonstrates another sad reality, which is that despite Bangladesh's progress over the years, it has not managed to develop effective democratic governance institutions, nor managed to establish, in reality, the concept of separation of powers between the different branches of government that are supposed to hold each other accountable. In the absence of effective institutions, no nation can function for a sustained time-period without sliding into despotism, that is one of the great lessons that history teaches us. So, is there any reason for us to believe that we would be an exception to that rule?

What also commonly happens in the absence of effective institutions is that



*Even though Bangladesh has moved forward in terms of development there are a number of areas where it has yet to develop to the extent that is necessary for this development to be meaningful, or even sustainable.*

corruption becomes widespread—like what we are currently witnessing—and political power gets out of control and becomes overbearing and, eventually, dictates the accrual of economic power. This obviously raises the stakes of coming to power, and competition for office becomes an existential necessity, as all parties are aware of the fact that the winner will take all, and the loser will have no institutional protection and will be at the absolute mercy of the winner—this, too, we have seen happening since the so-called restoration of democracy back in 1991.

Even if the current party in office is filled with benevolent leaders, the lack of effective institutions should terrify us all. After all, is there any guarantee that the next party to assume office will be just as beneficent? Even if the current government does not allow for the DSA to be misused—a law that lawyers and other experts themselves have repeatedly said is vague and can be easily abused—is there any guarantee that future governments will be just as merciful and upright? Finally, why should the people be dependent on

# Faceoff with Facebook: What have the regulators learned?

## MAN AND MACHINE



MOINUL ZABER

LAST week, the world media was flooded with the news of the faceoff between Facebook and the Australian parliament. Australia passed a landmark media law that compels Google and Facebook to pay news publishers and broadcasters for displaying their content. The media companies have long argued that Google and Facebook make money from news and analysis provided by them. According to them, the users mostly go to google to search for relevant news and link them on Facebook when they want to share it with others. The proponents of this law argue that due to this practice, users find the news sites less helpful if no news appears on their Google search results or Facebook feeds. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission after an 18-month long inquiry concluded that there is an imbalance in power between the platforms and the media companies.

However, this is only one side of the story. Folks who believe that the Internet is best left unregulated think that Australia has gone too far. Tim Berners-Lee, credited to be the founder of the World Wide Web (WWW), thinks this idea of making the tech giants pay for displaying news is tantamount to saying that the platforms will have to pay to host a "link". For him, the ability of web users to freely link to other sites is "fundamental to the web". The problem with upholding a pay-for-link regime is that it can distort the market. The big platforms will make deals with their preferred media outlets making lives difficult for the less connected media outlets just because there is "no deal" with them. Already, Google has launched products like "news showcase" and started to make deals with various media outlets. Facebook's first response came as a threat—they first threatened to boycott the Aussie news media, but then after "negotiations", they made a "deal" with the authorities. They have got what they wanted, no one is going to take away their right to make "deals". Now the competition commission in Australia is "expecting" that Google and Facebook will "strike a deal with small publishers".

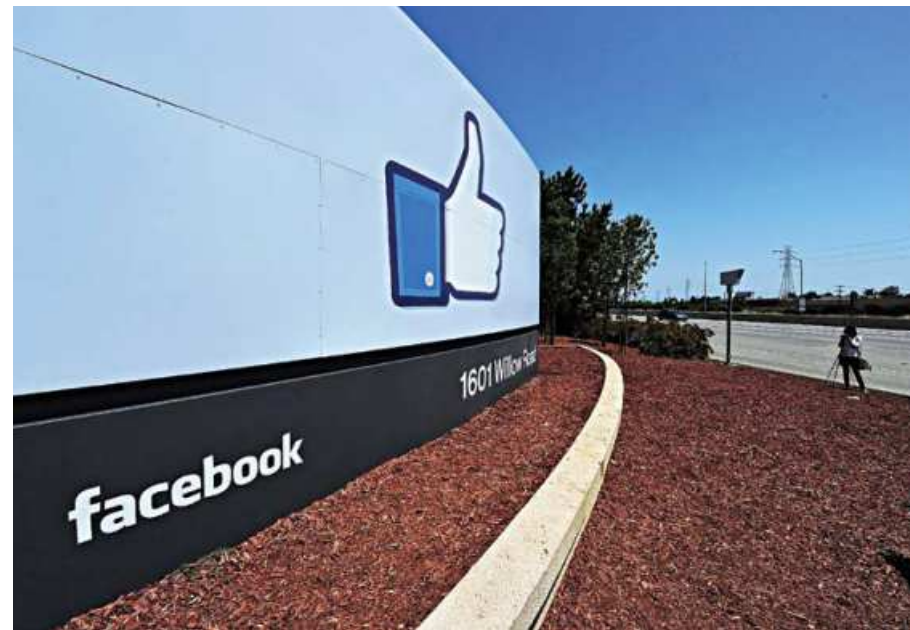
The connectivity marketplace started as a monopoly. For almost 100 years, late into the 20th century, most of the countries were served by a national or by a government-sanctioned private entity. Things changed as in the USA, the monopoly company AT&T, that once used to boast "One policy, one system, universal service (i.e. one company)",

was broken down into regional "Baby Bells". Soon after, other countries started to open up their marketplaces as well. The rise of mobile telephony changed the marketplace from a "natural monopoly" into an "oligopoly" where several companies rule the marketplace. Conceptually speaking, having healthy competition is the prerequisite to ensure a thriving market that protects both the producers and consumers. Regulatory organisations were set up in almost all the countries to ensure competition in the marketplace and to uphold the resident's right to connectivity. Over time, once access was ensured, regulators started to adopt regulations to ensure the quality of access.

With the advent of the WWW and the Internet, new technologies started to inundate the marketplace. This prompted a change in the way

gotten even more difficult.

The rise of platforms such as social networks has created the next most difficult regulatory challenge. It has become difficult to regulate the status quo with the age-old SMP (significant market power) regulations. The network owner may not be generating a lot of money as the various over the top (OTT) applications such as Facebook may have become the dominant reason behind the use of the network. In many countries, with zero rating deals with the network providers, the social media platforms are helping the service providers to attract new customers. Apparently, we may see that a particular carrier is getting more customers, not due to the network's better service delivery but because of the free access to the platform. Now the question is, whom or how should the regulators regulate? Or should they even regulate?



A woman shoots a video of the sign at the entrance of the Facebook main campus in Menlo Park, California, US.

PHOTO: AFP

the regulatory regimes handled the marketplaces. In many cases, the age-old telecommunications rules and regulations seemed obsolete. Mobile telephony, different data services, voice over IP (VoIP), etc., disrupted the peace of the slow-changing regulatory regimes. Regulations that were directed to the network owners now needed to be updated as service givers were no longer the network owners. People started to call using "WhatsApp" or other services which are not governed by the mobile phone operators or the Internet service providers (ISP). Who should be held responsible for the abusive use of the call—the network operator, or the service giver? This is a challenge that most regulators do not want to face. But things have

To us, it seems like Australia tried to force Facebook and Google but failed as the giants threatened to leave. Australia had to revise the law to Facebook's liking. Regulators around the world are being bullied and threatened as they make decisions against the big techs. On the other hand, this shows how we are misunderstanding the platforms and how our decisions concerning one platform may disrupt the whole web. Simply making someone pay for "linking" might mean that sometime soon, everybody will start charging everybody or make deals. People may move from the world wide web to the dark web where things are still free!

Access to the communication tools have become a right of the residents that

the charity of any government to begin with? The purpose of a constitution and of a parliamentary form of government is to ensure that even the most incompetent and immoral government cannot do harm to the nation and its people. But for that we need independent and effective governance institutions, that will safeguard the constitutional rights of its citizens, especially from the overreaches of the government itself.

This brings us to the absence of democratic ideals in government and in society in general. There is a reason why great minds and moral individuals throughout history have studied and promoted ideas on statecraft, that continues to be discussed all around the world today. There is a reason why they shared similar ideals on how a peaceful and prosperous state should function—at least at the core of it. Unfortunately, these ideals are inadequately understood, promoted and even valued in our nation today. But without these guiding principles being at the centre around which our nation functions, can we truly claim to have "developed" a nation full of independent individuals, who share a common belief in the rule of law and are guaranteed justice?

Most certainly not. And hence, even though Bangladesh has moved forward in terms of development—and in other spheres such as economic growth—there are a number of areas where it has yet to develop to the extent that is necessary for this development to be meaningful, or even sustainable. Today, as Bangladesh graduates from an LDC, the (external) structural constraints that once held it back can no longer be used as an excuse for us to justify our failures as we move forward. That is why, it is now more important than ever for these issues to be brought into our development debates. And for us to try and develop these basic frameworks that are necessary for any successful and sustainable nation, that we have so far ignored.

Eresh Omar Jamal is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.  
His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

*The connectivity marketplace started as a monopoly. For almost 100 years, late into the 20th century, most of the countries were served by a national or by a government-sanctioned private entity.*

the governments must ensure. In today's world, these tools are not only helping us to "keep in touch", but they also are now our "information source", "lifestyle guide", "transportation provider", "entertainment engine", what not! Imagine a day without your cellular phone—I doubt many would like to take up the challenge! The platforms are ruling our lives whether we like it or not. We must make them accountable. However, before making any decisions we must be clear about the consequences.

It is therefore time to ponder and to hold conversations to shape the decisions. We need to make sure that the fundamentals of the web are not compromised. We also need to make sure that the big techs or big media do not crush the small and new entrepreneurs and media. For a country like Bangladesh, there are temptations for following Australia's path. India is already making new rules for Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter. However, making rules and regulations before scrutinising the technologies and economics of these platforms may result in failure. Disruptive technologies will make things ever more difficult. To tackle it we need to be prepared. Our regulators need to learn, concentrate on capacity building, and take a light-touch approach while keeping a vigilant eye on the way these platforms and communications networks are playing in the marketplace. Before we engage in policy skirmishes, we need to build a strong fortress. Our regulators should start the process now.

Moinul Zaber, Ph.D. is a Senior Academic Fellow at Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV), United Nations University, Guimaraes, Portugal. His Twitter handle is: @zabermi  
The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints of the UNU.



# Off-shore campuses

Should we allow foreign universities to set up shop in Bangladesh?



**D**URING a trade dialogue held at the Ministry of Commerce on February 17, the UK envoy to Bangladesh announced that at least nine British universities are keen on coming to Bangladesh and opening their campuses. "They can provide world-class education, especially in technology and management, the areas that are most needed in the industries in Bangladesh," the High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson said. In all probability, the high commissioner is testing the water. He knows that the opening of international branches is a contested issue, and he has not heard anything from the University Grants Commission in this regard. Also, while as a diplomat he can mediate the process, he knows all too well that the opening of campuses needs to be institution-driven, not government driven. The universities concerned need to approach the Bangladesh government for any such venture.

Now, the question remains: is there a market in Bangladesh for so many for-profit institutions to come and run world-class services? If there is anything that we have learned from our colonial past, it is that if one foreign actor comes in, others will soon follow. How many countries and institutions can we accommodate in an already crowded system? The rationale for the introduction of such universities, as Dickson said, is to stop the "brain drain". He wants our "brains" to stay here while the "drain" is brought over. He, of course, doesn't mention a drain that will ensure billions of revenues being siphoned out of our local system.

Britain, according to UNESCO's 2019 data, is the sixth most popular international destination for outbound tertiary students from Bangladesh. The number of students who went to the top 10 destinations are: US (7,408), Malaysia (6,904), Australia (5,830), Germany (2,501), Canada (2,332), UK (2,329), India (2,075), Japan (1,910), Saudi Arabia (991) and Korea (930). UNESCO estimates that about 50,000 Bangladeshi students went abroad for studies in 2019.

These student mobility figures have caught the attention of those who control the supply side of education. World Education Services reports, "Bangladesh has recently become an increasingly dynamic source of international

students. Its outbound numbers have surged, nearly quadrupling enrolment in overseas degree programmes from 2005 to 2017". The WES country report mentions the opening of foreign universities in Bangladesh as a "debated" issue. Legislation developed in 2014 allowing international universities to open offshore branches was reversed by the Education Ministry in 2016. "The main resistance came from the private universities who were concerned about competition."

While there is some truth in the last statement, its implication is far-reaching. On February 25, UGC issued a circular allowing Monash College Australia to open a pathway study centre under the 2014 legislation. This is interesting because none of the local universities are allowed to open branches. Why then make special provisions for a foreign institution, especially going against the 2016 directive of the ministry?

On the surface, the presence of international universities in Bangladesh appears to be a logical outgrowth of globalisation. This transnationalisation of academic capitalism, however, challenges the very basis of national economic competitiveness on which our local universities currently exist. We should be cautious before we replace the nation-state paradigms with a global transnational system. The curriculum is a case in point.

The international agencies are coming in to tell us that you may have 53 public universities and 103 private universities, but you are not good enough. For a "few" (read, a deliberate understatement) bucks more, we can bring in world-class education to your doorsteps. You don't have to worry about visas or migrations. You just pay international fees and join the national workforce. In theory, this is a lucrative offer. The reality is something else. Take the case of Chinese students in the US, for instance.

BBC did a report on the plight of international students in the context of the strained diplomatic relationship between the US and China at the height of the Covid controversy. The US government decided to oust all Chinese foreign students; there are 3,60,000 Chinese students in America, and most of whom are self-funded. A poll at that time showed that 74 percent Americans hold an unfavourable attitude towards the Chinese; and the Chinese students suddenly felt abandoned by both their parent and host countries as China did not want them back. The US government later realised the financial implications of such a political decision and reverted it. But this goes on to show the ugly

face of market driven academic capital. For many of these Chinese students, studying abroad is a pathway to a better life. Education for them is an investment to settle in the first world. These students travelled to the US despite the fact that their native country has recently surpassed the US in terms of world-class universities. China has 204 world top-ranked universities while the US has 198. Still the brain drain has continued. Off-shore campuses are meant to stop this human migration.

university ranks in the 800 bracket according to world standards, while others do not even qualify, you will immediately feel the urgency to meet the global benchmarks. You will feel a need to bring in foreign experts.

It has been the constitutional duty of the government to provide education to all. Creating a skilled workforce is a national agenda. Now, suddenly we are being forced to play according to transnational logic. Decentralisation and co-funding are becoming the mantras. Knowledge must

to be devised that promotes new circuits of knowledge. A network that intermediates between the public and private sector needs to be established. Having been involved in both sectors, I am in a position to say how these two sectors can join hands to form an alliance that can negotiate with foreign actors from a position of strength.

Again, we will benefit from studying the Chinese example. Until the 1980s, influenced by the Russian model, China had a centralised model just like ours. China earned international recognition through establishing educational cooperation and exchanges with 188 countries and regions and 46 major international organisations, and signing agreements with 54 countries such as the US, Britain, Australia and Germany on mutual recognition of higher education qualifications and academic degrees. In short, it has built the capacity of its own universities. China has allowed certain foreign universities to operate, but it did not allow revenue generation to become the prime motive. The Nottingham Ningbo China and Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University have been in operation for the last 15 years and seen steady increase in their enrolments. More importantly, China has opened up from its initial centralised model to embrace the west while maintaining its distinctive local pedagogical features. Simply put, before allowing the universities to exist, it set a clear strategic goal to protect its own interests.

The UK envoy's remarks indicate that the foreign agencies have a long term plan for higher education in Bangladesh. So far, the British government has been selling English language through British Council, now they are seeing bigger business opportunities. They know that our economy is exponentially growing; the same goes for the number of students in the local market. The lack of seats in higher education has further encouraged them to try and tap into our local market.

Before the foreigners decide what is good for us, we need to decide what we want for ourselves. That is the least we can do to respect our freedom fighters whose ultimate sacrifices have made it possible for us to have an independent nation. A nation at 50 must have the maturity to engage with its foreign friends, and see through what is being offered. The benefits should be for the entire country, but not for the middlemen and agents seeking quick perks and benefits.

Shamsad Mortuza is Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), and a professor of English at Dhaka University (on leave).



On the flip side, there are the international universities in China that are failing to deliver what they promised. Recently, some Chinese students sued an Australian university after they failed to get jobs with their international degrees earned at a national setting. The return on investment, once we start seeing education from a commercial lens, becomes an issue. For instance, you are paying USD 50,000 as tuition fees in an overseas campus. You are then expected to compete with someone who spent USD 5,000 for the same degree and vie for a local job at a national rate. Now, how many years will you have to work to realise your investment given the salary you are expected to get in the local job market? You do the math.

Academic capitalism is indeed a complex and multifaceted issue. A wide-range of interconnected phenomena related to neoliberalism and new managerialism are fast becoming involved here. The calls for accountability, assessment and rankings are all connected. So when an international agency reminds you that your oldest

become a profitable market commodity, we are told. Academic capitalism is erasing the boundaries among markets, states and higher education. Foreign agencies are coming in with high technology and knowledge intensive products; unfortunately, our traditional system does not yet have an answer to it. That doesn't necessarily mean we slavishly accept what is being offered. Any proud nation should do some soul searching.

While it is important to collaborate with our foreign partners we need to be mindful of our national interests. We need to strengthen our local higher education system not by introducing a set of high-paid foreign players, but by making sure that our local players are good enough to play side-by-side with the allotted foreign players. An avid reader will trace the IPL analogy here.

So, what I am suggesting is that we need a new strategy to negotiate with the encroachment of foreign interested parties. This is a battle that cannot be won if our public and private universities work separately. A higher education strategy needs

# Women in leadership

Breaking glass ceilings and making new rules



**S**INCE the beginning of time, many distinctions have been made between men and women. The drawing of these dissimilarities has, more often than not, placed women at a lower station than men in terms of social and economic hierarchy.

This phenomenon is so pervasive that most ethnographic and archaeological accounts have distorted the past, and have instead chosen to enshrine men as the heroes and rulers of all ages, while narrating women as being subservient. After all, as the saying goes: history is indeed written by the winners, and the unfortunate truth of the matter is that sexism and gender disparity have allowed more men to hold power than women.

The constant erasure and containment of women and their strength has led to widespread misconceptions about gender and power. Men and women through history and into the present have used these biases and false impressions to construct glass ceilings and boundaries. In Bangladesh, even today, when most people see a woman breaking down socio-cultural barriers, be it leading a team, driving a car, or simply speaking up in a meeting room, an impulsive reflex leads to insecurity or unfair criticism. Many people still fail to acknowledge that gender is not as rigid as it seems.

In my first-ever fulltime job, I was sent to rural Sylhet for six months on a sales stint, where my first encounter with patriarchy was when my sales team introduced me to retail shopkeepers as "madam from head office" at the largest wholesale market there. I was looked at from head to toe, scrutinised to the extent I felt X-rayed, and then, abruptly, dismissed. Shopkeepers won't talk to a "madam"—there is no conversation unless you are a man.

My boss at the time admitted that he had expected a call from me within a week of my posting—that I would ask to be switched back to a cushioned Head Office role in Dhaka. Instead, I held my ground. I visited that shopkeeper every day until he was compelled to talk to me about growth plans for his business.

Years passed and my encounters with patriarchy continued. Every payday statement—like "what will you do with so much money, your dad pays for everything", or "how many new lipsticks will you buy this month"—was commonplace. My response was not verbal; I retaliated with hard work, and my performance spoke for itself. That, yes, I earn my keep.

Just recently, in a meeting with the top-level management of a renowned advertising firm, we were deciding on casting options for the role of a strong and powerful boss. My recommendation of casting the role as female was met with this statement from one of the directors of the firm: Does intellectualism and power go with women?

Ideas and notions of gender are fluid. No gender is better than the other, and gender is not a limitation when it comes to intelligence, talent or skill. In fact, time and time again, when provided with equal opportunities and afforded inclusive environments, women have proven that they are capable of reaching any target and achieving any goal. It is a proven fact that leadership only really requires vision, sound logic, courage, and good management skills—none of which are subject to one's gender identity.

Statistics show that in the Asia-Pacific region, only 17.1 percent of CEOs/Head of Businesses are women. India, with social and economic perspectives similar to ours, has the third-lowest global representation of women in managerial roles, ahead of only South Korea and Japan in the APAC region. The total percentage of women in senior management in the Asia-Pacific region currently stands at 27 percent. These statistics and figures are simply unacceptable in 2021.

Thankfully, the concept of gender parity and the desire to establish a bias-free professional sphere for women in Bangladesh have seen increased interest in recent years. According to World Bank, Bangladesh saw a leap in the female workforce from 23 percent in 1990 to 40 percent in 2019. The government's progressive and modern vision for the nation, as well as initiatives by various forward-thinking organisations, have managed to set in motion the process of changing age-old misconceptions regarding

women's capability and competency in the workforce.

In fact, one of the country's most promising fields is the Readymade Garments (RMG) sector where more than 60 percent of the workers are women, according to a survey of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Beyond the RMG industry, women across the country are being offered opportunities when it comes to both formal and informal sectors. Even though we have a long way to go in building an inclusive and equitable society and economy, changes have started to take place across industries.

In the business world and in other industries across Bangladesh, many women have also made their mark, and in so doing, inspired countless others to pursue their dreams and aspirations. Seeing the major progress Bangladesh has made as a result of these resolute and assertive women should make it evident to the masses that patriarchal notions of how the world should work are outdated, and best only when cast aside and rendered meaningless.

To sustain this trend of empowering women in all dimensions of life, we must remain vigilant and committed to the cause. Investments in education must be made to make sure the cycles of poverty are broken, and to create a workforce full of educated and confident women with new ideas and innovations. We must guarantee that more women are welcomed into positions of leadership in politics, the legal system, academia, and in business. In order to do

this, women must be offered the same opportunities as men, especially with regard to pay and benefits. A focus must be placed on succession, and industries across the nation must commit themselves to breaking down gendered career paths.

Lastly, the commitment to inclusion must be genuine and a concerted effort must be put in place so that we achieve inclusivity in the near future. It is of paramount importance that we take all decisions keeping inclusion and diversity as a priority, be it at home, social circles, or workplace. Only then will we be able to eliminate the gender gap and build an inclusive society.

As we celebrate the upcoming International Women's Day 2021, we should all commit ourselves to a more progressive future where gender no longer limits one's prospects or success. In order to celebrate the women in our lives and women around the world, we must constantly address any biases and prejudices we (or those around us) may have. To my ladies who have ever felt that they cannot do something just because of their gender, my two cents: take that sales job, ride your bike, get angry, laugh as loudly as you can, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Let us not only touch that glass ceiling, but also break it. Let us celebrate as women in Bangladesh and across the world redefine the rules to usher in a new era of equality and inclusivity.

Manisha Safiya Tarek is Head of Marketing, foodpanda Bangladesh.  
Email: manisha.tarek@foodpanda.com.bd

**গৱেন স্কুল**

## Masters in CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**2-YEAR PROGRAM**

---

**OPEN & DISTANCE  
LEARNING**

**ADMISSION OPEN**

Face-to-face tutorial class at Uttara Study Center  
(Online class during pandemic)

For online admission <http://osaps.bou.edu.bd>

**Eligibility**

- Those who have completed 3-year Degree (Pass) or 4-year programs (Bangladeshi & foreign nationals) in Arts, Business, Science and Social Science from recognized Universities/Colleges having minimum 2nd class or GPA 2.5 on a scale of 4 will be eligible for admission.
- Applicants having third class/division in any exam are not eligible.

**Preferred Students**

- Personnel of Police and Law enforcing agencies
- Justice Personnel
- Defense Personnel
- Human Rights Personnel
- Crime Reporters
- Lawyers

**HELPLINE**  
01914954727

Bangladesh Open University encourages any other professionals to study this program for a better understanding of the realities of crime and control, and with the practical skills that will allow them to participate and to, hopefully, make a difference in these areas.

**Necessary Documents**

All academic documents must be submitted through OSAPS (<https://osaps.bou.edu.bd>) by the deadlines for application.

**Admission Info**

Application date: 3 March to 18 April, 2021  
Application fee: Tk. 1,500  
Admission test: 30 April, 2021  
Publication of merit list: 02 May, 2021  
Admission date: 03 May to 16 June, 2021

Basic computer skills are required to use LMS and learners should have own computer to appear in Online Exam.

Orientation Class: 26 June, 2021  
Tutorial Class: from 2 July, 2021

For more info: [www.bou.edu.bd](http://www.bou.edu.bd)

**বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
**BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY**

“শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ  
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ”

# What Does It Mean to Write in an Everyday Life?

SHAKIL RABBI

There is a paradox to literacy in our contemporary societies. This generation – sometimes called digital natives – read and write more than any other in history; yet, they are also as adverse to writing activities as all others. So ahead, and ask any student on any college campus when was the last time

determine people's disinclination to reading and writing. With that said, one source worth pointing out – because it is unintentional – of people's resistance to it comes writers and teachers. People whom one would think should be champions of literacy. Most writers and teachers tend to

they interpret the question as asking whether they write creatively. The answer is usually no.

This is a problem for anyone who wants people to read and write more. Most people simply do not live as literary persons. This is not to say they are anti-intellectual. They are not invested in acts of expressing themselves. It can be embarrassing to bare oneself publicly. They might be shy. They might not think they are good enough. For when any idea of writing comes up, they begin to compare themselves to specters of great authors, Tagore, Shakespeare, Rushdie, etc. This comparison will always get people stuck.

There is a conceptualization of writing as an individual expression that is both a cultural commonplace as well as a pedagogical program. It is a way to both think about and teach about writing as creative writing, a way to make art. This view of writing is a historical development, one that emerged during the Romantic era, which also saw the rise of bourgeois society and a view of genius as a person in the throws-of-inspiration. The image of the writer was that of the tortured-artist, sentenced to paroxysms of letters on the blank page, trapped in the scene of isolation. It is terrifyingly symbolized by Franz Kafka in his short story "In the Penal Colony," where the narrator is killed by being strapped to a writing machine that tattoos him to death. This image holds even for the woman, as Virginia Woolf proposes, in her famous essay, the image of solitude as a prerequisite to writing: "A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction."

Given this image of writing, it is no wonder that most people do not want to write. Only masochists would be excited about writing when this is the understanding of the task. It filters out anyone not inclined towards solitude, a disposition to express themselves

in the written word, or simply in love with the sound of their voice. Most people tend to not think of themselves in such pathologies and therefore they freeze up whenever they start writing. They might chatter-on or message their friends about "a funny thing that happened to them on the way to the classroom," yet then draw a blank as soon as they are asked to write down the experience meaningfully. They develop, in other words, writer's block as soon as they are asked to think of themselves as writers.

Another way to think about writing, which everyone practices all the time, is articulated communication. It sees writing as a tool used to connect and transfer information. This is a more prosaic view of writing, but more accurately represents the vast majority of writings' functions. This view of writing can sometimes be charged with reducing language to simply a commodity. It also can be charged with reducing the person to a part of a larger system. The writer is someone who pours meaning into a container and sends it away to the person who will read it. It makes the writer disappear.

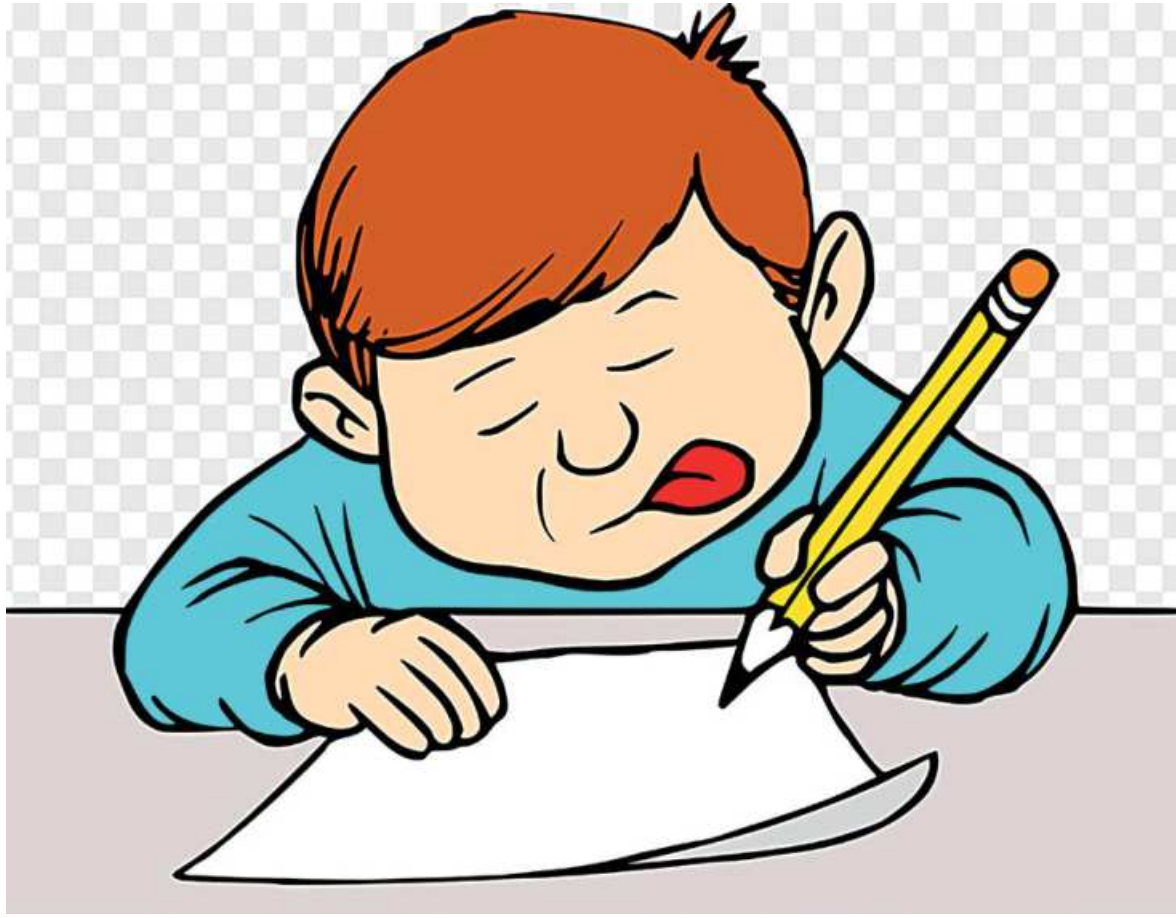
This is a wrong way to view communicative writing because it ignores the adjective "articulated" in the concept. It refers to not simply spoken communication, but a sense of conscious choice. Stuart Hall, a prominent cultural theorist, explained it in terms of links that connect trains of thought, like carriages are connected on a train, turning distinct units into one body. In this idea, the writer is someone who chooses ideas out there and mixes them into a new whole. They are cooks who mix ingredients into cuisine. The writer, at their most dramatic iconography, is not isolated at all, in such a view, but an interlocutor in the conversations of mankind. Modernists writers, writing in the early part of the twentieth century, made this axiomatic

in their writing. Most of their major works as explicit continuations of classical works. The epigraph in T.S. Eliot's *Prufrock* is taken from Dante Alergeri's *Inferno*; Joyce's *Ulysses* was a play on Homer's *Odyssey*.

This communicative function of writing and a framework to literacy in such terms, I have found in my research on everyday professional writers, tends to open people up to writing. Examining how scientists and social scientists write for their professions, I find that accomplished writers tend to frame the literacy work they do as textual transactions. They write to exchange information. This helps them get out of their way when writing because they focus on how they can add value to their readers or help them see the world otherwise. They do not find themselves concerned with what the reader might think about them because the writer does not matter in this scenario. They do not matter as much as what they have to communicate.

To think of writing in such terms is a way to demystify it. It is to think about it as an act of labor, a task based on reading and communicating new ideas by refashioning what one has learned. There is little room for inspiration in this process. It is "a breathing out" of the readings one has done as one breathes in, to paraphrase what Stephen King says in his memoir *On Writing*. It frames writing as an act of dialogue and interaction, which clears it up as what it is. A fundamentally social act. The only thing anyone needs to do to write in an everyday life is to live it, responding to the things in examined ways and as an everyday task or job.

Shakil Rabbi is an Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies, Bowie State University, Maryland, USA.



they wrote anything. They will stare at you askew and hesitate to answer (and not only because you just accosted them minding their own business with a random question.)

This dislike of literacy, I admit, is multifaceted. There are social, economic, and political reasons that over

still think of writing and reading in aesthetic terms, writing is novels, poetry, short stories. This view has become the only way the general public also can think of reading and writing. In South Asia, especially, this mindset is so dominant that it is almost invisible. When you ask someone if they write,

## REVIEWS

### A REVIEW OF FAKRUL ALAM'S

# Once More Into the Past: Essays, Personal, Public, and Literary

BY SOHANA MANZOOR

ISBN: 978-984-929-66-7-6. Daily Star Books, 2020

"How does Tagore intoxicate a growing young man . . . ? How has Dhaka transitioned through the Partition of Bengal and the birth of the University of Dhaka? . . . how does one remember—with nuance, with style—icons of history and culture . . . ?" I have this habit of stopping mid-stride while reading a book and looking at the last pages as well as the book jacket, tracing the cover design and reading the blurbs. The quoted sentences are from the jacket of Fakrul Alam's collection of essays, entitled *Once More Into the Past*, and it occurred to me that many others would be repeating these questions while reading the book.

When I first picked it up, I was thinking of many of the articles by my venerable professor that I have read over the years. I was indeed looking forward to re-reading at least some of them. But I had not anticipated their effect on me. A third of the way in, I realized with a jolt that the book goes on to include memoirs, travelogues, personal essays, tributes and reflections he wrote over the course of three decades—and that is exactly how long I have known Fakrul Sir, as a teacher, mentor and later, also as a colleague. In this collection, I was actually able to trace his thoughts on various subjects from childhood memories and university activities to public events and literary analyses. Little wonder that reviewing this book seemed both appealing and daunting.

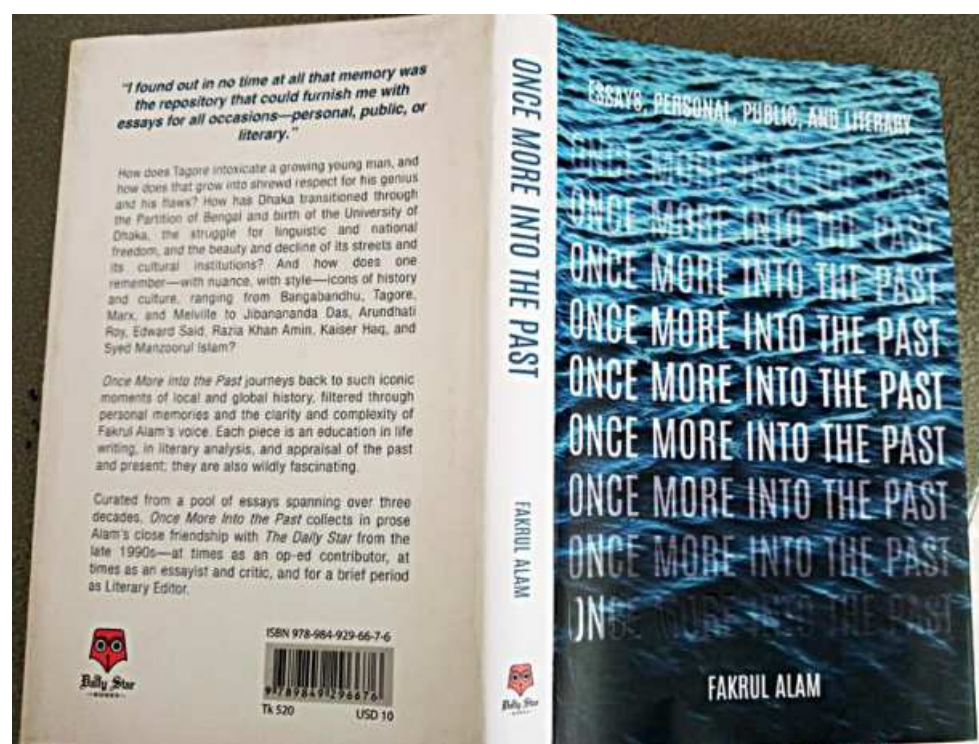
Published in February 2020 by Daily Star Books, *Once More Into the Past* is a collection of essays by an observant and introspective writer. The first two sections, titled "Personal" and "Public," comprise twenty essays. The third section called "Essays: Literary" showcases twenty-one more. Many of the personal essays are reminiscences of the past, for example, growing up with Rabindra sanget and the inspirations and aspirations brought about by a culture centred around Tagore and Nazrul. The public essays range from the history of Dhaka University and student politics to the colossal figure of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The first three pieces concern the author's early life, reflecting on his parents and his maternal grandparents' house. "Ah, Nana Bari!" is a title that endears in the first place because

any adult from our part of the world is bound to give a shout of rapturous pleasure recalling the childhood visits to one's *nana bari*. The excitement and longing, however, essentially ends with inevitable sadness when one compares the current state with the past: "Better not to come any more, I told myself, better to keep Nana Bari intact in memory than confront the diminution of the place where more than anywhere else we had once been totally happy" (15). "Memories of Durga Puja" falls in the same category of nostalgic essays and a reminder that the memories of bygone days are always golden: "Age ki shundor din kataitam!" It made me realize sadly that the dream of a secular Bangladesh is indeed gone with the wind.

One piece in the "Personal" section that made me nostalgic is "A Short, Winding and Legendary Dhaka Road," referring to the famous Fuller Road that bridges the University of Dhaka and BUET. Anybody who has lived around that area or walked the road on a daily basis will not forget the calm and quiet, and the large canopies of trees. Fakrul Alam's essay provides a historical background of many of the surrounding buildings and sculptures. Students who studied and lived in Shamsunnahar Hall around 2002 would appreciate "15 Days in the Life of a DU Professor," covering the events of the infamous police attack on the Ladies Hostel when students protested against the unauthorized stay of JCD leaders there. He also points out the moments when people actually go beyond political affiliation and raise their voices together. Quite a few of the essays throw light on incidents and events pertaining to the history of the University of Dhaka, where Prof. Alam had studied and still teaches as a UGC Professor.

"In the Land of No Worries" records the author's visit to Australia, a country which still remains widely unexplored in South Asian travelogues. The Aussies with their casual, easygoing habits seem inviting, and their games, flora and fauna quite different from most of the things we know about Australia. But as I finished reading the piece, I started looking for more travel pieces and discovered there this is the only travelogue in the book. And that came as one



disappointment. Speaking of disappointments, I should also mention that the volume seems to follow two different styles with punctuation. A little more editorial care could have solved the problem.

Among the "Public" essays, the ones focusing on the evolving of the British Council Library reflect on the purpose and function of a library. The prettily decorated place under high security that is known as the British Council Library today is nothing compared to what it was in the 1980s or early 1990s even. As the author notes, he has no problem with the British Council "cashing in on the O and A level exams" (93), but truly, what happened to the books? What is the point of keeping one or two shelves and calling it "library" when it fails to serve the purpose of a library?

Four essays at the core of this collection are about the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I can recall editing at least one of these pieces for the *Star Literature* page. I could see why these particular pieces were chosen for this volume, as they present Bangabandhu from varied angles. We encounter him as a folk hero and a tragic hero, a leader who spent much of his time behind bars for the people of his country, and a man who was deeply concerned about ethical issues: "Bangabandhu realised early that the real enemies of a country are those who exploit ordinary men and women" (124).

The third section of the book contains literary essays that connect the literary scenario in Bangladesh and abroad. Prof. Alam writes about his anxieties as a teacher when he first started to teach. I laughed because I could relate. "The Literary Club of 18th Century London" is a wonderful reconstruction of one of the most famous of *addas* of all time, eigh-

teenth-century London's "The Club," with good food, great coffee and drinks. Reading the essay on Melville was like travelling back in time to my undergraduate days when Fakrul Sir taught us the great prose epic *Moby Dick*. The essays on Shakespeare and Rabindranath, on Buddhadeva Bose and Edward Said, Günter Grass to Arundhati Roy, are informative and deep-delving, and yet not too scholarly for the lay reader.

The last three essays of the collection hold a special attraction for me as they are testaments to two towering literary figures who were also my revered teachers at Dhaka University, Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam (aka SMI) and Prof. Kaiser Haq. In the two essays on Kaiser Haq, Fakrul Alam comments on two of Kaiser Haq's books, namely, *Published in the Streets of Dhaka* and *The Triumph of the Snake Goddess*. The tribute to SMI was written on the occasion of his 70th birthday and reflects on SMI as a scholar and writer, as well as a literary friend and guide.

In the preface, Fakrul Alam mentions his fondness for the famous E.B. White essay, "Once More Into the Lake," which inspired the title of his book. In fact, the connection with E.B. White's "Once More to the Lake" goes beyond just the title. The well-known memoir is not just a recollection of past events, but reflects on the present when the author takes his own son to the very same lake to which his father used to take him. Memoirs turn more meaningful when one can connect them to the present and future. As Mahfuz Anam, the Editor and Publisher of *The Daily Star*, points out in the foreword, the essay collection "tries to bottle this journey, gathering the greater part of Fakrul Alam's pieces written for *The Daily Star* over the past three decades." This volume is a small token of the varied literary journey Dr. Alam has made over the years. *Once More into the Past* holds precious moments of the past as witnessed, assimilated and recorded by a scholar for the readers of today and the days to come.

Sohana Manzoor is Associate Professor, Department of English & Humanities, ULAB. She is also the Literary Editor of The Daily Star.

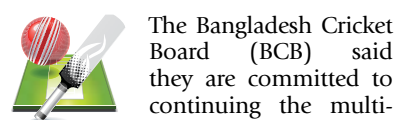


PHOTO: FACEBOOK

An earthquake hit the northern coast of New Zealand on Thursday night, triggering a tsunami warning. But to everyone's relief, the Bangladesh team were safe and sound in Christchurch, far from the epicentre of the tremor. The following morning, some of the players, including Mushfiqur Rahim and Hasan Maqshud, posted pictures of themselves on social media as they trained for the second day in succession following seven days' quarantine.

## BCB committed to continue Wolves series despite Covid scare

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said they are committed to continuing the multi-format series between the Bangladesh Emerging Team and the visiting Ireland Wolves after the first of five unofficial ODIs was cancelled yesterday due to a visiting player testing positive for coronavirus. The news broke during the 30th over of the Bangladesh Emerging Team innings when the hosts were 110 for four at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram. The on-field umpire stopped play and informed the cricketers that one of the Irish players had tested positive. BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star that two types of tests – a nasal swab and a throat swab – were done before the first match. One set of results showed everyone as having tested negative, but the other set of results which arrived yesterday

morning with the match already underway, revealed that pacer Ruhan Pretorius had tested positive. The 30-year-old pacer, who picked up a wicket in the game, was later isolated and players and officials of both teams underwent another round of tests.

"Look, we have zero tolerance in taking necessary steps to ensure the health safety of all," the BCB CEO said. "We are not going to take any chance and the player in question has already been isolated and was tested. We will get the results soon and will take the necessary steps with the other players and staff of both teams."

"I have spoken with the visiting Ireland Wolves officials and they have taken the matter very sportingly. We are committed to continue this series as per schedule."

The visiting Ireland Wolves lost the lone four-day game by 23 runs and are scheduled to play the second ODI tomorrow at ZACS. The one-day series will be followed by a two-match

unofficial T20I series.

"These incidents are part of the new normal in this pandemic and if the result of the test had come before the start of the game, it would have been taken care of smoothly and the match wouldn't have been cancelled. The player in question had no symptom, but we will go through testing of all the related people and expect to get the results by tomorrow [Saturday]," he added.

The incident took place a day after the Pakistan Super League was cancelled as the number of positive Covid-19 cases among players and support staff had reached seven, forcing organisers to halt the tournament after just 14 games.

This was the first time the BCB had to cancel a game due to coronavirus-related reasons. The board successfully hosted the 50-over domestic BCB President's Cup, which was followed by the Bangabandhu T20 Cup last year. It also hosted three ODIs and two Tests against the West Indies this year.

## Saif blank Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER



Saif Sporting Club ended the first phase of their Bangladesh Premier League campaign on a high note, inflicting a 4-0 defeat on Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

However, even though Saif, runners-up of the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup, had started the competition as one of the title contenders, they are now 12 points behind leaders Bashundhara Kings.

Saif failed to carry their Federation Cup momentum into the league as they suffered four defeats in 12 matches, drawing one and winning seven. Yesterday's win

Ahmed Fahim, who then put a through pass to Yeasin Arafat and the defender's shot found the back of the net following a deflection off defender Munna Mia.

Fahim again turned into provider when played a cut-back inside the box for Kenneth Ikechukwu, who doubled the lead with a side-footed volley in the 19th minute. Okoli made it 3-0 with a placing shot in the 72nd minute after receiving a long ball from defender Riyadul Islam Rafi.

Brothers Union then saw Chamir Ullah denied in the 81st minute by goalkeeper Pappu Hossain, who was lucky to not concede a goal the next minute as substitute Mezbah Uddin's header ricocheted off the crossbar.

Nigerian forward Okoli wrapped it



Saif SC striker John Okoli celebrates one of his two goals with teammates during their 4-0 win over Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

helped them climb to fourth position with 22 points, three behind second-placed Abahani.

Under the tutelage of Belgian coach Paul Put, Saif put up some spirited performances in the Federation Cup and the league but the 64-year-old coach was relieved off his duties after 10 matches. That prompted the club management to pass the baton to assistant coach Zulfiqar Mahmud Mintu and the local coach proved his worth by helping his charges put four past their opponents in the last two games.

Saif yesterday picked up from where they left against Bangladesh Police [4-1] as they took only 32 seconds to break the deadlock. From an attack through the right flank, John Okoli fed the ball to Faisal

up with another placing shot in the 83rd minute after being found free in Brothers' attacking third by Yeasin's long ball.

In the day's other match, Rahmatganj registered their third victory, coming from behind and thrashing hosts Arambagh KS 4-1 in Munshiganj.

Mehub Hasan Nayan scored a brace while Christ Remi and Beknazarov scored one apiece after Nihat Jaman Uchash had put Arambagh ahead early in the first half.

With their third win, Rahmatganj moved to eighth position with 13 points from 12 matches while Arambagh stayed at the bottom with a single point from 12 outings.

## Australia force T20 series decider

AFP, Wellington

Australia crushed New Zealand by 50 runs in a low-scoring fourth T20I in Wellington Friday to level the series at 2-2.

The result sets up a winner-takes-all blockbuster in the final match at the same venue on Sunday, with Australia in red-hot form after struggling early in the series.

The Australians scored 156 for six in their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

In reply, New Zealand were all out for 106 after 18.5 overs.

Captain Aaron Finch anchored the tourists' innings with a gritty 79, making him Australia's most prolific T20 international run scorer on 2,310, ahead of David Warner's 2,265.

Finch chiselled out his 14th T20 half-century off 55 balls before cutting loose with four sixes in the final over, in which Kyle Jamieson conceded 26 runs.

But he struggled for partners as the Black Caps pinned back Australia's batters with accurate bowling and a steady flow of wickets.

Despite his man-of-the-match batting performance, Finch singled out his bowling attack for praise, saying they were outstanding on a wicket that did not play as expected.

"I thought we adapted really well, it was a really polished performance with the ball," he said.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was frustrated at a passive display that he said needed to improve for Sunday's decider.



Rishabh Pant walks back to the pavilion after scoring a sparkling century against England on the second day of the fourth Test in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Pant puts India on top

REUTERS, Ahmedabad

Rishabh Pant launched a spectacular late assault in his flamboyant 101 to put India in charge of the fourth and final Test against England in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Ben Stokes led England's lion-hearted bowling effort in the first two sessions but Pant's century-plus partnership with Washington Sundar tilted the game in favour of the hosts who finished day two on 294-7.

Sundar was batting on 60 at stumps and Axar Patel was on 11 with India 89 ahead after being 121-5 at one stage.

"We were on the back foot after losing those wickets but the partnership between Pant and Washington was very important," India opener Rohit Sharma said. "It got us to where we wanted, put us in the driver's seat."

"Right now we have 90-odd lead, which is fantastic. I just hope Axar and Washington can carry the same intent tomorrow as well and put us in a good position."

Having posted a below-par 205, England could not afford to let India get off to a flying start and their bowlers

responded brilliantly after the hosts resumed the day on 24-1.

James Anderson bowled a tight line while Stokes, who battled an upset stomach on Thursday and still top-scored with 55, was relentlessly hostile.

Left-arm spinner Jack Leach earned the breakthrough trapping the obdurate Cheteshwar Pujara lbw for 17.

Stokes bent his back to generate awkward bounce and one such delivery fetched him the prize wicket of Virat Kohli. The India captain could merely nick the rising delivery behind to be dismissed for an eight-ball duck.

Rohit, who made 49, was smacked on his helmet by another such delivery from Stokes. The all-rounder returned after the lunch break to deny Rohit his fifty and Leach sent back Ravichandran Ashwin to peg back India.

Pant began cautiously but accelerated spectacularly, especially after England took the second new ball.

The left-hander nonchalantly reverse-swept Anderson to race into the 90s and slog-swept Joe Root for a six to bring up his third test century. The England duo combined to end his swashbuckling innings as he swatted an Anderson delivery to Root at short mid-wicket.

## 'Chelsea defeat a massive blow'

REUTERS, Liverpool

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp described Thursday's 1-0 home loss to Chelsea as a "massive blow" as his side set an unwanted club record of five successive home league losses.

A sixth Premier League defeat in their last nine games left the champions in seventh, facing the prospect of finishing outside the top four. The extent of Liverpool's frustration was there for all to see when top scorer Mohamed Salah was substituted just past the hour -- the Egyptian clearly baffled by the decision as he took his place on the bench shaking his head.

"Unfortunately, we cannot say it is only at home," Klopp said. "It is not about Anfield or whatever, it is in general, too often. In the decisive moments we have to improve."

"We have to show our quality in these moments and we don't do that often enough. It is a massive blow. It is not done yet. We have to win football games."



Liverpool's star striker Mohamed Salah was visibly unhappy at being substituted during their 1-0 defeat against Chelsea at Anfield on Thursday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**বাংলাদেশ মেরিন একাডেমি, চট্টগ্রাম সহ**  
**সরকারি/বেসরকারি মেরিটাইম শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে**  
**মেরিন ক্যাডেট প্রশিক্ষণ কোর্সে ভর্তির আবেদনের**  
**সময়সীমা বৃদ্ধিকরণ।**

২০২১-২২ সালের সরকারি ও বেসরকারি মেরিটাইম শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে মেরিন ক্যাডেট কোর্সে ভর্তি আবেদনের তারিখ ০৫ মার্চ ২০২১ এর পরিবর্তে আগামী **২২ মার্চ ২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ** **রোজ সোমবার** পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো। প্রার্থীগণ নৌপরিবহন অধিদপ্তর এর ওয়েবসাইট এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে পারবে।

কমডোর আবু জাফর মোহাম্মদ জালাল উদ্দিন  
(সি), পিসিজিএম, এনডিসি, পিএসসি, বিএন  
মহাপরিচালক  
নৌপরিবহন অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।

বিস্তারিত: [www.dos.gov.bd](http://www.dos.gov.bd)

**BSRM**  
Building a better world.

**BUILD YOUR HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH THE TOUGHEST STEEL**

**treme**  
**5500 DWR**  
the tough steel

**Aktaruzzaman Flyover Chittagong**

Principal Cement Brand

**SHAH CEMENT**

## ANTI-COUP PROTESTS IN MYANMAR

# Crackdown on, one more killed

Protests continue; UNSC set to meet on crisis

AFP, Yangon

A protester was shot dead in Myanmar yesterday in the latest round of bloodletting at anti-coup demonstrations, as the UN Security Council prepared to meet on the escalating crisis.

Despite an increasingly brutal crackdown by the military authorities that has seen more than 50 people killed, protesters took to the streets again in towns around the country to denounce the February 1 coup.

The violence has brought condemnation from around the world, with the UN rights chief demanding the junta "stop murdering and jailing protesters", and the Security Council is set to discuss the crisis later Friday.

But despite the mounting international pressure, the generals have shown no sign of heeding calls for restraint.

In Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, hundreds of engineers took to the streets crying "Free our leader" in reference to ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, detained by the military since the first night of the coup.

A 26-year-old man helping at barriers set up in the city to slow security forces died after being shot in the neck, medical officials told AFP.

The killing follows the deadliest day of the crackdown so far on Wednesday, when the UN said at least 38 people were killed as graphic images showed security forces firing into crowds and bloodied bodies dragged away.

In the southern city of Dawei police fired tear gas at demonstrators, while there was defiance despite the danger at protests in the commercial capital Yangon.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



In this still image taken from a video obtained by Reuters yesterday, demonstrators are seen behind makeshift barricades during a protest in Yangon, Myanmar, on Thursday. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the February 1 coup that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power, with soldiers and police escalating the use of force on the streets to quell nationwide protests.

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Kaus Mia named best taxpayer of Mujib Borsho

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

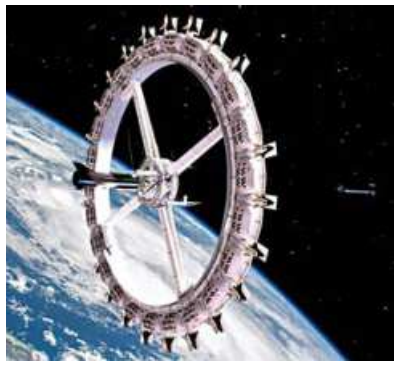
The National Board of Revenue yesterday honoured Kaus Mia as the best taxpayer of Mujib Borsho for his exemplary commitment to depositing the right amount of tax to the public coffers.

Kaus, a 90-year-old businessman from Old Dhaka, has been paying taxes since 1958.

He has been topping the list of highest taxpayers in the country since the tax authority introduced tax cards in fiscal 2010-11 in a bid to motivate people and create a culture of tax compliance in the country which still has one of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## World's first space hotel may open in 2027



CNN ONLINE

If you're daydreaming of future travels while stuck at home during the pandemic, why fantasise about the beaches of Bali or the canals of Venice when vacationing in space could be in your future?

Back in 2019, Californian company the Gateway Foundation released plans for a cruise ship-style hotel that could one day float above the Earth's atmosphere.

Then called the Von Braun Station, this futuristic concept -- comprised of 24 modules connected by elevator

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Covid-19 vaccine confidence grows

Shows 14-country survey; WHO scraps plan for interim report on Wuhan virus mission

AGENCIES

Confidence in Covid-19 vaccines is growing, with people's willingness to have the shots increasing as they are rolled out across the world and concerns about possible side effects are fading, a 14-country survey showed yesterday.

Co-led by Imperial College London's Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) and the polling firm YouGov, the survey found trust in Covid-19 vaccines had risen in nine out of 14 countries covered, including France, Japan and Singapore which had previously had low levels of confidence.

The latest update of the survey, which ran from February 8 to February 21, found that people in the UK are the most willing, with 77% saying they would take a vaccine designed to protect against Covid-19 if one was available that week.

This is up from 55% in November, shortly before the first Covid-19 vaccine - co-developed by Pfizer and BioNTech - gained regulatory approval for use in Britain.

People in France, Singapore and Japan remained among the least willing to have a Covid-19 vaccine, at 40%, 48% and 48%, respectively - but all three have seen confidence rising since November when only 25%, 36% and 39% of people were positive.

The survey also found that worries over vaccine side effects have faded in the majority of countries, with fewer than half (45%) of all respondents currently reporting concern.

Again, people in France, Singapore and Japan are currently most worried about side effects, with around 6 in 10 feeling concerned (56%, 59%, 61%), while the UK is the least concerned.

The latest survey involved more than 13,500 people in Australia, Britain,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Covid cases rising again

635 test positive in a day, six die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 635 new covid-19 cases were reported in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, indicating the rising trend of Covid-19 patients in the country.

The number of coronavirus deaths was six during the time which took the tally of death to 8,441, according to the data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of coronavirus infected persons is 549,184 till yesterday since the beginning of the fatal virus on March 8, last year, according to the DGHS.

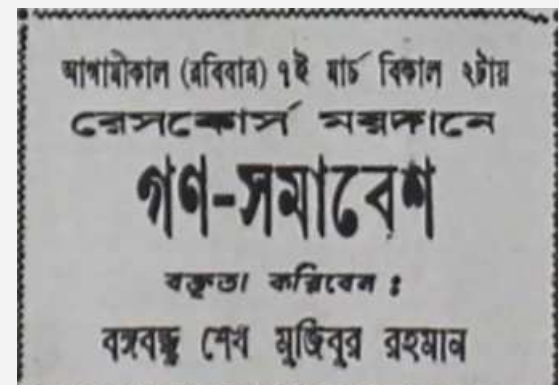
The number of coronavirus cases was 585 on March 1 while it was 619 on March 4.

Another 676 people recovered from Covid-19 through treatment at home and in hospital care in those 24 hours, bringing the tally of recoveries to 501,144.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Yahya opts for tougher line



A newspaper advertisement of the March 7 meeting at Racecourse Maidan, published on the front page of The Daily Ittefaq on March 6, 1971.

MARCH 6, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA'S RADIO SPEECH

Yahya Khan's speech was broadcast on Radio Pakistan on March 6, 1971. It was provocative and offensive. Yahya blamed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Awami League for the deteriorating situation in East Pakistan and attributed the non-cooperation movement to the act of a handful of people who were trying to "destroy the homeland of millions of innocent Pakistanis".

The threat underlying Yahya's speech was clear: "No matter what happens, as long as I am in command of the Pakistan armed forces and head of the state, I will ensure complete and absolute integrity of Pakistan... I will not allow a handful of people to destroy the homeland of millions of innocent Pakistanis. It is the duty of the Pakistan armed forces to ensure the integrity, solidarity and security of Pakistan, a duty in which they have never failed."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

SHIPBREAKING YARD

## Foreman killed as iron sheets fall on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A foreman died on the spot after a chunk of iron sheets fell on him at a shipbreaking yard in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila early yesterday.

The deceased, Ripon Mia, 37, was from Mymensingh.

The incident happened at Tasin Steel Shipbreaking Yard, owned by Didraul Alam, lawmaker from Chatogram-4.

Shuvankar Dutta, inspector of the Directorate of Factory Inspection, Chattogram, said they were looking into the matter and that they would inspect the yard today.

Contacted, the lawmaker confirmed the matter and said the worker died while on duty at the yard.



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 6

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Workers loading concrete blocks onto a vessel on the Kirtonkhola river in Barishal Sadar upazila's Charbaria area yesterday. As part of an initiative of the Water Development Board, such blocks are placed on the banks of the river to prevent erosion.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## 3 'Huji men' held in raid in capital

STAR REPORT

Police arrested three members of the banned militant group Harkatul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) including its operations branch head during a raid at Sayedabad in the capital.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police conducted the raid around 5:15pm on Thursday, according to a DMP press release issued yesterday.

The arrestees are Huji Operations Head Mohammad Mainul Islam alias Mahin alias Mithun alias Hasan, Sheikh Sohan Swad alias Boro Abdullah and Murad Hossain Kabir.

One private car, five mobile phones, one microphone, one sharp weapon, two daggers, 10 detonators, 160 bearing iron balls, one scotch tape, five litres of acid, three ID cards, and a book were seized from them.

During primary interrogation, they said they were active members of Huji, said the press release.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada / Canada

**CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE IS ILLEGAL**

You have the right to choose

**YOU NEED HELP? We can assist**

If you know of a Canadian citizen being forced into marriage, contact the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka.  
dhaka.consular@international.gc.ca,  
Tel: 5566-8444