45 'BCL men'

showroom of Top Ten Mart Ltd in the

city's Sadar Road area around 6:00pm

They randomly started picking multiple products. When the

showroom employees asked them to

pay for the products, the youths replied

that a BCL activist would pay later.

Then, the youths tried to flee the scene.

resist them, a clash between them and

the youths broke out. The youths then

vandalised the showroom's window

glasses, ransacked and looted products,

The clash left four staffers injured, it

During the clash, most of the youths

managed to flee the scene. But the

showroom staffers could catch five of

The showroom employees dialed

national helpline 999 and sought help

from law enforcers. Police rushed to

Three of the detainees are Rakib

Hossain, 22, Shakil Ahmed, 22, and

Md Uzzal, 19. This newspaper is not

disclosing the names of two others as

activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League,

student body of ruling Awami League.

Imran Sheikh yesterday filed a case against 45 youths with Kotwali Model

Locals said most of the attackers are

Police said showroom manager

The accused include five detainees,

30 named youths and the rest

Police, however, said political

identities of the accused could not be known immediately.

Most of the accused are students of different educational institutions in

Barishal, said Nurul Islam, officer-in-

and are trying to identify the looters scrutinising CCIV footage. We hope

that we can arrest the criminals shortly," the police officer told The

Shahabuddin

commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan

Police, said they would take strict

We could not fulfil

his activities in the last five years without

any pressure from the government. He

also said he refrained from making any

"We have taken the case seriously

harge of the police station.

Daily Star yesterday.

FROM PAGE 16

action against the accused.

the spot and detained the five.

When the showroom staffers tried to

FROM PAGE 16

the statement said.

they are children.

Police Station.

unnamed ones.

Sunday.

An appeal to the chief justice

The Appellate Division's chamber judge stayed the bail for eight weeks in the same month. Sunday's rule was on the state's petition to stay the bail. Sarwar's bail was upheld, and now no legal bar exists to prevent Sarwar from coming out of jail, according to his

Meanwhile, he has been in jail for year without being charged while the DSA gives a maximum time limit of 105 days to investigation officers to complete probe and file charges against an accused.

In Sarwar's case, we are in full agreement with the CJ that no derogatory words can be used in social media posts that are vulgar, insulting and hurt any person's reputation, stature and dignity. His cautionary words were well taken and we support

However, while ruling on the case, the CJ commented, "We are cautioning that we will not consider granting bail to those who tarnish the country's image in any manner. It has to be kept in mind that the image of the country is the first priority."

Considering the deep and widespread impact of any comments by our CJ and fearing that it may be interpreted in the lower courts in a manner perhaps not intended by our respected CJ, we feel the need to raise a few questions:

1. Isn't the concept of "tarnishing the image" of the country subjective and can mean different things to different people?

2. Isn't it possible that a simple critical view of a situation may be construed by some as "tarnishing the image" when it was never intended to

3. Isn't it possible that without a clear definition of what constitutes "tarnishing the image", we run the risk of the CJ's valuable comments being used as a blanket cover by lower court judges to refuse bail whenever such claims are made against an accused?

4. Will it not make it more difficult to get bail under the DSA, making an already difficult situation more so for the victim? We can easily imagine the CJ's comments being misused to refuse bail in a culture when bail refusal under the DSA is the norm.

5. Isn't "tarnishing the image of the country" more a matter of perception rather than of fact? The CJ in his comments referred to words that should not be used in social media posts. But "image" is a different thing altogether.

Let us take a concrete example. We are now building our country's "image" as an economic role model full of potential and opportunity and hope to become a developed country by 2040. This is one image based on

Tribunal-1 of Sirajganj, jailer of the

district, and other officials concerned

Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam

writ petition filed by Hawlader's wife

the HC on March 2, challenging the

legality of her husband's arrest and

She submitted the writ petition to

Sirajganj Special Tribunal-1

Some of the miners returned to

Chinese contractor CMC-XMC

Rabiul Islam, president of the

Miners' Union at Barapukuria Coal

Mining Company Limited (BCMCL),

said around 1,100 local miners

became unemployed after March 26,

There were only 300 Chinese

miners at the mine, who continued

production in small volumes. The

nearby Barapukuria Coal Fired

525MW Power Plant used the

produced coal to generate electricity

In September, the authorities began

On September 12, about 400 local

to let the local miners inside the mine

if they tested negative for coronavirus.

miners returned to the mine. Over 200

others joined later, he said, adding

that the rest of the miners, however,

He alleged that the miners were

consortium is responsible for coal

production and development of the

work yesterday, after the authorities

filed a case over the incident.

2020, due the pandemic.

until September, he added.

remained unemployed.

convicted and sentenced Manik Mia

The HC bench of Justice JBM

are respondents to the rule.

Salma Begum.

imprisonment.

Plant.

Probe if he's the right one

issued the order and rule following a the HC and went absconding before

to four years in prison in a drug related Ray told The Daily Star.

600 miners march

facts. But suppose an opposite view is circulated that Bangladesh faces severe challenges from climate change and that, according to many UN and other studies, we run the risk of losing 10% to 15% of our land area to the rising sea level with the possibilities of severe social and economic disruptions. This is also a fact-based image. These are two very contrasting images -- one positive, another predictive.

Suppose someone feels that by publishing the "climate change" article, a newspaper and its author have tarnished the image of the country' and lodges a case under the DSA? When we write fact-based stories about corruption, food shortage, money laundering, violence in the society, rape, child abuse, violence against women, etc are we "tarnishing" the image of the country? We are certain that our CJ is not referring such reports and fully supports the free media, but what if somebody feels different and lodges a case under the DSA, and a local judge in some remote area feels that such reports "tarnish the country's image"? We, in the media, live in that ever-present reality.

The point we are making is that if a concept like "tarnishing the image" is made an "offence" and punishable, we run into a very serious risk of abuse of the law. We are afraid that this concept will be used against investigative reporting and will ultimately become an instrument of gagging the media.

The answer lies in keeping in such subjective issues outside the purview of the law. To the best of our knowledge, there are no laws in any democratic country that deals with protecting "the image" of the respective country. However, if our respected chief justice feels that we had to deal with it, then "defining" what constitutes "tarnishing the image of the country" is a must. It is necessary also from the perspective of clarity. For a law to be effective, it must be clear and specific so that citizens are fully aware of what their duties and obligations are. It must be very clear what constitutes violating a law, otherwise it will inevitably lead to misinterpretations and consequent misuse of the law.

We conclude by appealing to the honourable chief justice, with all due respect for him personally and for his office institutionally, to help us better understand and properly appreciate his valuable comments by defining what constitutes "tarnishing the image" and how it can be used to serve the country better without harming democratic dissent, freedom of expression, critical review of government's performance, artistic freedom, personal freedom and fundamental rights given to us by our constitution. Otherwise, "tarnishing image" will be a catch-all for harassment of journalists.

In 2009, Manik Mia was arrested

in a case filed over possession of 600

bottles of Phensedyl, DAG Tushar

The same year, he secured bail from

In the bail bond documents, Manik

Manik Hawlader is innocent, the

writ petitioner's lawyer Partha Sarathi

forced to stay in three small rooms

and no one was allowed to see their

family members in the last seven

in a bathroom," miner Abdur Rahim

"In the last seven months, I lived

Although they had suffered so

The miners started demonstrating

Khaled Mohammad Zaki, deputy

much, they were not being paid

regularly, said Shahinur Rahman,

inside the project area on Friday

evening while the sacked miners also

demonstrated outside the premises.

commissioner of Dinajpur, held a

meeting with the coalmine authorities

and the miners, but failed to stop the

miners from leaving on Sunday night.

filed a case with Parbatipur Police

Station triggering a wave of panic

Director Kamruzzaman admitted that

the environment inside the mine was

"tough". He added that the miners

kept violating the health guidelines.

Meanwhile, the mine authorities

Rabiul said police have picked up

BCMCL Managing

arrested Manik

Mia mentioned his name as Manik

case in February, 2019.

he was convicted in the case.

later

Hawlader, added Tushar.

Hawlader, he added.

months, he added.

another miner.

among the miners.

Contacted,

five miners.

Kanti Roy said.

Police



Tear gas and fire extinguisher gas float around demonstrators during a protest against the military coup in Naypyitaw, Myanmar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Crackdown on, 3 more killed

of Myitkyina, the witnesses said. It was not immediately clear who fired on the protesters although both police and the military were at the scene.

Photos posted on Facebook showed the bodies of two men lying on the street. Witnesses said they were taking part in a protest against the coup when police fired stun grenades and tear gas. Several people were then hit by gunfire from nearby buildings.

One witness, who said he helped move the bodies, told Reuters two people ere shot in the head and died on the spot. Three people were wounded.

civilians," said the witness, a 20-yearold man. "We must have our right to protest peacefully."

town of Phyar Pon in the Irrawaddy Delta, a political activist and local media said.

more than 50 people to quell the daily demonstrations and strikes against the February 1 coup, according to the United Nations.

respond to calls asking for comment on the latest incidents. Police in Myitkyina and Phyar Pon also did not respond to calls.

State television MRTV announced yesterday five media companies have been stripped of their licences.

The five independent companies were named as Mizzima, Myanmar Now, 7-Day, DVB and Khit Thit Media. All have been active in covering protests against the military coup.

Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing said yesterday that the detention of an Australian financial adviser to Aung San Suu Kyi had led to the discovery

Australia has called for the release of Sean Turnell, who was detained on February 6, five days after the coup

by the former government's foreign economic adviser, Sean Turnell, was stopped in time and secret state financial information was found through him. Union-level ministers are taking legal actions in relation to that issue," MRTV quoted the junta leader as saying.

SARONG FLAGS

Demonstrators yesterday gathered in Yangon and in the second-biggest city Mandalay and several other towns, according to videos.

war with the military.

fashioned from htamain (women's sarongs) or hung them up on lines across the street to mark International Women's Day while denouncing the junta. Walking beneath women's sarongs is traditionally considered bad luck for men.

Witnesses reported sounds of gunfire or stun grenades in many districts of Yangon on Sunday night as soldiers set up camp in hospitals and university compounds. It was not

cannot go out."

office and so on. The police were asked

to carry out duties of maintenance of

law and order assisted, if necessary, by

Awami League volunteers. The relief

and rehabilitation work in cyclone-

affected areas were also exempt

from the non-cooperation ban. The

secretariat, Supreme Court and High

Commenting on this phase of non-

"This [closure of government offices]

however did not mean that all civil

servants were sitting idle. They were

carrying the struggle from its phase of

non-cooperation to active cooperation

with the Awami League. Groups of

officials accepted the task of identifying

problems and presenting them to

Sheikh Mujib for decision. A sort of

improvised secretariat was in operation

where streams of businessmen and

civil servants were visiting in search of

solutions to problems, consultation

and reassurance. The conditions of

works were difficult, but decisions

were being made and in many cases

Buildings." [Forum, March 13, 1971]

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist

and researcher. He can be contacted at

Court remain closed.

decision when he thought that it might tarnish the image of the country. Replying to a question, the ACC chairman said the graft watchdog is more powerful now. "It is not a toothless tiger anymore."

Mentioning that many works were needed to be done to make the ACC more powerful, Iqbal said it was not

possible for one commission aloneto do so much work. Iqbal and Commissioner AFM

Aminul Islam had joined the ACC on March 10, 2016.

Former senior secretary of the ngriculture ministry Md Moinuddin Abdullah and ex-chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Jahurul Haque have been appointed as chairman and commissioner of the ACC respectively.

Iqbal yesterday said he was leaving office taking responsibility for all

failures of the commission. "As the chief officer of the office, I am taking responsibility for all failures and crediting all successes to ACC officials.

He said they tried to deliver a strong nessage that no corrupt person would oe spared

Replying to another question, Iqbal said reform to ACC rules was needed to curb internal corruption within the

commission. suggested involving representatives from the civil society, retired government officials and journalists in a committee, responsible

for looking after internal corruption, to ensure transparency and accountability of the commission. Later, Reporters Against Corruption,

a platform of journalists who cover ACC news, handed crests to the outgoing chairman and commissioner.

'I appeal to all, no lip service please' keynote speech that many of the

UN Resident Coordinator Mia Swiss Ambassador Bangladesh Nathalie Chuard, Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg von Linde, Maldives High Commissioner Shiruzimath Sameer, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, foreign ministry officials and DCAB leaders were present.

Momen said that while Myanmar has been committing gross violations of human rights, some countries that advocate human rights are doing business with Myanmar and the volume of their trade is increasing.

"Imposing sanctions on some generals will not work... the international community should go to Rakhine and ask Myanmar to create conducive conditions in Rakhine."

be on Myanmar, not on whether the Rohingyas are sheltered in Kutupalong or Bhasan Char. "If they [Rohingyas] stay here

The global community's focus must

for long, there are possibilities of development of pockets of radicalisation. I appeal to all -- no lip service please... We should be more sensitive to Rohingya women," he

Momen highlighted the progress made in women empowerment in Bangladesh. About 30 percent of the foreign ministry officials are now female. Presently, there are eight female Bangladeshi ambassadors in different countries.

In response to DCAB member Israt Zahan Urmi's comment in her

Bangladeshi female migrants working abroad, especially in the Middle East, face physical, mental and sexual abuses, Momen said the government was working for reducing such cases.

He said some women rights groups had demanded stopping migration of women as domestic workers to Saudi Arabia. The demand is contrary to the principle of gender equality. "All have the right to mobility. Our

constitution does not discriminate. However, if there are abuses, it is our responsibility to address it," Momen Foreign Secretary Masud Bin

Momen said torture of female domestic workers is a serious problem that must be addressed. The ministry now has a policy

to send more female envoys to the Middle East countries so that they can work better to protect the rights of female migrant workers. Masud suggested changing the

mindset of men intreating women colleagues in workplaces. There must be a culture of respect for women everywhere, he added. ÚN Resident Coordinator Mia

Seppo said women have special capabilities in peace-making. When they are involved in signing deals or negotiations, they have better chance of making peace due to their natural capacity to listen and speak with empathy.

Gender equality is beneficial for both men and women," she noted. DCAB honoured Mashfee Binte AKM Moinuddin, among others, WORK AT BHASAN CHAR

Momen yesterday urged the UN Refugee Agency to work at Bhasan Char, which has a housing facility capable of sheltering Rohingyas.

Around 12,000 Rohingyas have already been relocated there from

when UNHCR's new representative Johannes van der Klaauw presented his credentials to the minister at his office.

Momen told this correspondent.

assessment of the Bhasan Char project before deciding to start working there. Presently, 44 NGOs are providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas at Bhasan Char.

infection rate jumped to 4.98 percent yesterday, up from 4.3 percent on Sunday.

But the mortality rate remained unchanged at 1.54 percent for the past few weeks, the DGHS said in a handout.

4,163,163 samples, including 16,958

more rapidly than within the Eden

4 EC officials

FROM PAGE 16 Bangladesh Voter List Act, 2019, Section

17 of National Identity Registration Act, 2010, sections 420, 468 and 109 of Penal Code, 1860, and sections 24, 33 and 35 of Digital Security Act, 2018. The accused in the case are:

Deputy Secretary of Dhaka Election Commission Secretariat (former senior district election officer) Nawabul Islam, Additional Regional Election Officer of Faridpur (former Kushtia Sadar upazila election officer) Ziaur Rahman, Úpazila Election Officer of Magura Sadar (former Kushtia Sadar upazila election officer) Amit Kumar Das, and Kushtia Sadar Upazila Election Office Assistant cum Computer Typist GM Sadiq.

Kushtia Sadar Upazila Election Officer (former Kumarkhali upazila election officer) Samiul Alam was sued in the other case, which was filed under Section 18 of Voter List Act, 2019, Section 17 of the National Identity Registration Act, 2010 and sections 420, 468 and 109 of the Penal Code, and sections 24 and 35 of Digital Security Act, 2018.

The plaintiff said the accused are currently barred from discharging their official duties.

Besides, six accused in a case filed by MMA Wadud over the attempted misappropriation of his property are in jail. They were arrested at different times after the incident came to light.

Ashrafuzzaman Sujan, convener of Kushtia Jubo League, are among the six.

Dolphins have personality functions; this excess of brain matter helped scientists understand how certain human personality traits have developed independently of often very curious.

immediate environments. The study identified personality traits that humans and dolphins have in common involve curiosity and sociability in particular.

This is despite dolphins having evolved in a totally different environment from primates and their last common ancestor living around 95 million years ago.

Blake Morton, lead author of the research, said: "Dolphins, like many primates, have brains that are considerably larger than what their bodies require for basic bodily essentially powers their ability to be intelligent, and intelligent species are

Dr Morton, a psychology lecturer at the University of Hull, told PA news agency the team chose dolphins because, like primates, they are intelligent animals who live in social groups but are very different in many

He said the most widely accepted model of human personality was defined by five traits: openness, extraversion, conscientiousness, agreeableness and neuroticism. These are replicated everywhere in humans, regardless of environment.

"How inhumane to kill unarmed

At least one person was killed and two injured during a protest in the

Police and military have killed

A military spokesman did not

of secret financial information, according to MRTV television.

that led to the arrest of Suu Kyi herself. "An attempt to flee the country

Protesters in Dawei, a coastal town in the south, were protected by the Karen National Union, an ethnic armed group engaged a long-running In some places, they waved flags

clear whether anyone was hurt.

"The army just started shooting," a businessman who lives near a Yangon hospital told Reuters. He said he was staying at home with his family. "We cannot go out, we cannot go to work, or even leave. We are not safe, but we

Bhashani's support for non-cooperation state can and must provide." [Craig supply, food supply, post and telegraph

Reciting the Quranic verse La-kum dee-nu-koom wa lee-ya deen (For you is your religion, and for me is my religion)Bhashani demanded that Yahya Khan accept the independence of East Bengal and thus, maintain a friendly relationship between the two wings of Pakistan. The Maulana accused Yahya of violating the basic norms of democracy by postponement of the National Assembly without consulting the majority party leader

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Earlier, after arriving in Dhaka from Santosh, Bhashani had a telephone conversation with Bangabandhu, and the two leaders discussed various aspects of the ongoing movement.

AYUB KHAN'S MYOPIA Referring to the ongoing crisis in East Pakistan the former Pakistani military dictator Avub Khan wrote in his diary (March 8, 1971), "In a confused situation like this, it is difficult to say what is the correct solution. The choice lies between so many evils. Some shooting might well be a lesson and more effective answer. This may sound hard hearted and callous, but a large majority of people who are law abiding are entitled to protection from the goondas which only the

Baxter (ed.), Diaries of Field Marshal Mohammad Ayub Khan (1966-1972), UPL, 2007, pg. 462] The retired dictator's assessment

the Pakistan military establishment who opted for bullets to suppress Bangalees' victory in ballot. **BLACK FLAGS HOISTED** Black flags were hoisted atop private houses, educational institutions, cooperation, Rehman Sobhan wrote:

echoes the mind of the hawks in

establishments and many offices in East Pakistan in protest of the firing during the ongoing movement. All means of transport also flew miniature black flags. People of all ages wore black ribbons. Archer K Blood, the then consul

general of the US Consulate in Dhaka, says Bangabandhu okayed the resumption of work on the Dhaka-Aricĥa road bridges Vinnell-Zachary-Perini, an American-Canadian company, provided the company vehicles flew black flags. [Archer K Blood, The Cruel Birth of

directives on behalf of Bangabandhu which permitted a selective revival of government services -- banks (9:00am to 12:30pm), EPWAPDA, EPADC, coal

Tajuddin Ahmed issued new

Bangladesh, UPL, 2006, pg. 183]

the foreign ministry, with a crest at the event. DCAB President Pantho Rahman and its General Secretary

spoke.

refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. The foreign minister made the urge

"I told the representative that they are welcome to work at Bhasan Char.

UN has been asking for a technical

Daily deaths FROM PAGE 16

The authorities have so far tested

Shams, the first woman secretary at in the same 24-hour period.