"Top Ten Mart Ltd" in the city's Sadar

multiple products. When the shop

employees asked for payment, the

youths replied that a BCL activist would

pay later. Then, the youths tried to flee.

When the shop staffers tried to resist them, a clash between them

and the youths broke out. The youths

then vandalised the store's windows.

ransacked and looted products, the

The clash left four staffers injured.

During the clash, most of the youths

managed to flee the scene. But the

The employees dialed 999 and

sought help from law enforcers. Police

Three of the detainees are Rakib

rushed to the spot and detained the five.

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,

Sheikh yesterday filed a case against 45

pro-Awami League student body.

youths with Kotwali Police Station.

named youths and the rest unnamed.

Locals said most of the attackers were

Police said store manager Imran

The accused include 5 detainees, 30

Police, however, said political

Most of the accused are students of

"We have taken the case seriously

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,"

dentities of the accused could not be

staffers could catch five of them.

They randomly started picking

Road area around 6:00pm Sunday.

45 'BCL men'

FROM PAGE 16

statement said.

they are children.

known immediately.

charge of the police station.

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 respected CJ and fearing that it may be interpreted in the lower courts in a manner perhaps not intended by the 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 for harassment of journalists.

Tribunal-1 of Sirajganj, jailer of the

district, and other officials concerned

Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam

issued the order and rule following a

writ petition filed by Hawlader's wife

the HC on March 2, challenging the

legality of her husband's arrest and

Sirajganj Special Tribunal-1

convicted and sentenced Manik Mia

She submitted the writ petition to

The HC bench of Justice JBM

are respondents to the rule.

Probe if he's the right one

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 to 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 such subjective issues outside the purview of the law. To the best of our knowledge, there are no laws in any democratic country that deal with protecting "the image" of the respective country However, if our respected chief justice feels that we have 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

In 2009, Manik Mia was arrested

in a case filed over possession of 600

bottles of Phensedyl, DAG Tushar

the HC and went absconding before

he was convicted in the case.

later

Hawlader, added Tushar.

Hawlader, he added.

The same year, he secured bail from

In the bail bond documents, Manik

Manik Hawlader is innocent, the

writ petitioner's lawyer Partha Sarathi

arrested Manik

Mia mentioned his name as Manik

case in February, 2019.

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 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

were shot in the head and died on the United Nations. spot. Three people were wounded.

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

two injured during a protest in the 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

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

yesterday five media companies have been stripped of their licences.

The five independent companies Now, 7-Day, DVB and Khit Thit Media.

the police officer told The Daily Star 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 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 agriculture ministry Md Moinuddin Abdullah and ex-chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Commission (BTRC) Regulatory 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

He said they tried to deliver a strong message that no corrupt person would be spared.

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

commission. suggested involving He

representatives from the civil society, government officials and retired journalists in a committee, responsible for looking after internal corruption, to ensure transparency and accountability of the commission.

No revealing

they should not be directed to take action against those who published the identity of the victims of rape and sexual offences in print, online and electronic media.

Secretaries to the ministries of information, law and home affairs and chairmen of Bangladesh Press Council and BTRC, director general of department of film and publications, principal information officer of press information department, secretary of Bangladesh Press Council, chairman of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha and inspector general of police have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC also set May 3 for further nearing on the issue, writ petitioners lawyer Mafuzur Rahman Milon told

The Daily Star. The bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice SM Maniruzzaman came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed seeking its directive

on the matter. Justice Watch Foundation submitted the petition on January 19 as a public interest litigation to the HC requesting it to order authorities concerned of the government to strictly enforce section 14 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, which bans publishing and broadcasting

names and photos of victims of rape and sexual assault. In the petition, the organisation requested the HC to issue a rule asking the respondents to show cause why their inaction and failure to strictly enforce section 14 of the act should not be declared illegal.

Executive Director of Justice Watch Foundation and its lawyer Mahfuzur Rahman Milon earlier told The Daily Star that different media platforms have been broadcasting and publishing names and photos of rape and sexual assault victims, including those of the O-level student who was killed after being raped, despite the ban under section 14.

taking part in a protest against the

At least one person was killed and

Police and military have killed

the February 1 coup, according to the

State television MRTV announced

were named as Mizzima, Myanmar All have been active in covering protests against the military coup.

Law ministry FROM PAGE 1

treatment inside the country." He said the law ministry sent the

relevant file containing the opinion to the home ministry that forwarded the application for extension of Khaleda's jail sentence to the law ministry recently for its opinion.

"Now, the home ministry will send the file to the Prime Minister's Office for approval. After getting the decision from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the home ministry will take necessary measures," the minister added.

The government on September 15 last year extended for six months its earlier order that suspended the jail sentence of Khaleda 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.

On March 4 this year, 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 waiver of her punishment."

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25 last year after the government suspended her jail sentence for six months. She walked out of jail at a time when the world rigorous imprisonment by the court.

She reportedly did not visit any hospital for treatment. However, doctors visited her at home regularly and gave treatment.

was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kĥaleda landed in jail on February 8, 2017, after being sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a special court in Dhaka in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case. On October 30 the following year, the High Court enhanced her punishment to 10 years after dismissing her appeal in the case.

The former prime minister was convicted by another special court in Dhaka in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case on October 29, 2018. She was sentenced to seven years'

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 Vahya 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 Bangabandhu, conversation with 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 Ayub 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

who opted for bullets to suppress Bangalees' victory in ballot. BLACK FLAGS HOISTED Black flags were hoisted atop private educational institutions, business establishments and many

echoes the mind of the hawks in

the Pakistan military establishment

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-Aricha road bridges by Vinnell-Zachary-Perini, an American-Canadian company, provided the company vehicles flew black flags. Archer K Blood, The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh, UPL, 2006, pg. 183]

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

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 cycloneaffected areas were also exempt from the non-cooperation ban. The secretariat, Supreme Court and High Commenting on this phase of non-

cooperation, Rehman Sobhan wrote: "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 more rapidly than within the Eden Buildings." [Forum, March 13, 1971] Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

600 miners march

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

Plant.

Salma Begum.

imprisonment.

Some of the miners returned to work yesterday, after the authorities filed a case over the incident. Chinese contractor CMC-XMC

consortium is responsible for coal production and development of the 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, 2020, due the pandemic. There were only 300 Chinese miners at the mine, who continued

nearby Barapukuria Coal Fired 525MW Power Plant used the produced coal to generate electricity until September, he added. In September, the authorities began

production in small volumes. The

to let the local miners inside the mine

if they tested negative for coronavirus. On September 12, about 400 local miners returned to the mine. Over 200 others joined later, he said, adding that the rest of the miners, however,

remained unemployed. He alleged that the miners were

helped scientists understand how

certain human personality traits

have developed independently of

traits that humans and dolphins have

in common involve curiosity and

evolved in a totally different

environment from primates and their

last common ancestor living around

the research, said: "Dolphins, like

many primates, have brains that

are considerably larger than what

their bodies require for basic bodily

Blake Morton, lead author of

The study identified personality

This is despite dolphins having

immediate environments.

sociability in particular.

95 million years ago.

Dolphins have personality

forced to stay in three small rooms and no one was allowed to see their family members in the last seven months, he added.

"In the last seven months, I lived in a bathroom," miner Abdur Rahim

Although they had suffered so much, they were not being paid regularly, said Shahinur Rahman, another miner.

The miners started demonstrating inside the project area on Friday evening while the sacked miners also demonstrated outside the premises. Khaled Mohammad Zaki, deputy

commissioner of Dinajpur, held a meeting with the coalmine authorities and the miners, but failed to stop the miners from leaving on Sunday night. Meanwhile, the mine authorities filed a case with Parbatipur Police

Station triggering a wave of panic among the miners. Rabiul said police have picked up

BCMCL Managing Contacted, Director Kamruzzaman admitted that the environment inside the mine was "tough". He added that the miners kept violating the health guidelines.

functions; this excess of brain matter

essentially powers their ability to be

intelligent, and intelligent species are

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

extraversion,

model of human personality was

defined by five traits: openness,

agreeableness and neuroticism. These

are replicated everywhere in humans,

Dr Morton, a psychology lecturer

often very curious.

conscientiousness,

regardless of environment.

'I appeal to all, no lip service please'

FROM PAGE 16

Nathalie Chuard, Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg von Linde, Maldives Commissioner Shiruzimath Sameer, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, foreign ministry officials and DCAB leaders attended it.

Momen said that while Myanmar has been committing gross human rights violations, some countries that advocate human rights are doing business with it 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 conditions conducive to the repatriation of the Rohingyas in Rakhine, he noted. The global community's focus must

refugees are sheltered in Kutupalong or Bhasan Char, mentioned Momen. "If they [the Rohingyas] stay here for long, there are possibilities for creation of pockets of radicalisation. I appeal to

be on Myanmar, not on whether the

-- no lip service please.. "We should be more sensitive to the Rohingya women.

Momen highlighted the progress made in women empowerment in Bangladesh. At present, about 30 percent of the foreign ministry officials are women. They include eight female Bangladeshi ambassadors posted in different countries.

Zahan Urmi's comment in her keynote speech that many of the Bangladeshi female workers abroad, especially in the Middle East, face physical, mental

government is working to reduce such

He further said some women rights groups demanded that women must not be sent to Saudi Arabia to work there as domestic workers. 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 those," Momen said. Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen

said torture of female domestic workers is a serious problem that must be addressed. The ministry has adopted a policy of sending more female envoys to the

Middle East countries so that they can

work better to protect the rights of female workers. He said men must change their mindset intreating women colleagues in workplaces, and that there must be a culture of respect for women

everywhere. UN 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

both men and women," she noted. DCAB honoured Mashfee Binte Shams, the first woman secretary at the foreign ministry, with a crest at the event.

and sexual abuses, Momen said the DCAB President Pantho Rahman and its General Secretary AKM Moinuddin, among others, spoke. WORK AT BHASAN CHAR

The foreign minister has urged the UN Refugee Agency to work at Bhasan Char, which has a housing facility capable of sheltering 100,000 Rohingyas.

Around 12,000 Rohingyas have

already been relocated there from refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Momen made the call yesterday when UNHCR's new representative

Johannes van der Klaauw presented his credentials to the minister at his office. "I told the representative that they are welcome to work at Bhasan Char,'

Momen told this correspondent. The UN has been asking for a technical assessment of the Bhasan Char project before deciding to work there. Presently, 44 NGOs are providing humanitarian assistance Rohingyas at Bhasan Char.

Daily deaths

FROM PAGE 16

first novel coronavirus cases on March 8 last year and the first death on March Meanwhile, the daily 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. The authorities have so far tested

4,163,163 samples, including 16,958 in the same 24-hour period.

speak with empathy. In response to DCAB member Israt "Gender equality is beneficial for