

# The Bailt



Your Right to Know



"Even today, inequality between communities, between groups, and intolerance prevail. That is not what Bangabandhu had imagined. We need to reflect on it." PM'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISER GOWHER RIZVI



"I'm still in a lot of pain, but I feel the pain of my people even more." WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE TWEETS AHEAD OF BIG RALLY IN KOLKATA



"Our goal is to make sure... to offer a credible deterrence to China or anybody else who would want to take on the US. US DEFENSE SECRETARY LLOYD AUSTIN

## **CONTAINING FRESH COVID SURGE**

# Govt to ramp up measures

Enforce health safety guidelines strictly, introduce mobile court against violators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sudden surge in Covid-19 cases in the country has sparked fresh fears, forcing the authorities to issue official instructions and take up measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The government has asked officials at all administrative tiers to implement the health guidelines properly and re-launch mobile court drives to punish those not following the rules. It has also ordered the health authorities to maintain adequate oxygen flow at hospitals in case the situation worsens.

On Saturday in a meeting of the Awami League Local Government Nomination Board, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is the head of the party, instructed all to follow health safety rules strictly. She also said she was closely monitoring the Covid-19 situation.

"We're seeing a rise in coronavirus [infection]. It is alarming. We all will have to be alert and follow the health guidelines like we did previously. I'm personally

monitoring the situation," an Awami League presidium member quoted her as

During her speech, the prime minister hinted that the government may reconsider extending the closure of educational institutions.

"Educational institutions will be reopened if the situation becomes normal," said the presidium member, on condition of anonymity. As per the existing schedule, secondary

higher secondary educational institutions are scheduled to reopen on March 30, universities on May 24 and student dormitories on May 17.

Contacted, Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhoury told this paper that no dates, however, were final.

"Everything depends on the transmission [of the virus] and vaccination rate," he

The country has been witnessing a fresh surge in Covid-19 infections and deaths for the past several days. Yesterday, the health



Construction workers inspecting a collapsed pier cap of the Bus Rapid Transit project in front of the Polwel Carnation Shopping Centre in Uttara. The pier cap had collapsed early yesterday. In a separate incident hours later, a portion of a launching girder of the same project collapsed near Dhaka airport around 10:30am, leaving six workers, including three Chinese nationals, injured.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Shab-e-Barat on March 29

UNB, Dhaka

Muslims in Bangladesh will observe the Shab-e-Barat on the night of March 29 as the Shaban moon was not sighted in the country yesterday.

The decision was taken at the National Moon Sighting Committee

meeting the last evening. Ministry of Religious Affairs Secretary

Mohammad Nurul Islam presided over the meeting. The announcement

was made after analysing data collected from the district administrations, Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, and Space Research and Remote Sensing Institute.

Shab-e-Barat is observed on the 15th night of the SEE PAGE 2 COL 6 **UK Variant of Covid-19** 

## At least 10 cases detected so far

MOHAMMAD AL-MASIIM MOLLA

Health officials have detected over 10 people with the UK variant of the coronavirus.

"But the number may change tomorrow," said Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

The cases have been detected through genome sequencing, she told The Daily Star.

Tahmina added that she would not say the highly contagious UK variant has spread across the country and also would not attribute the recent surge in new cases to the UK variant.

Researchers are working to expand the number of genome sequencing to find out more cases, she said.

"Genome sequencing is a continuous process and we are doing it regularly to find out more cases," she added. The director did not say how much genome sequencing has already been done.

"The variant has slowly mutated from time to time. We

are also looking into the mutated ones." The UK variant of coronavirus, also known as N501Y.

V1, was detected in Bangladesh on January 5. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## TORTURE IN CUSTODY Court accepts case filed by Kishore

PBI asked to probe COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka vesterday directed the Police Bureau of Investigation

to launch a probe into a case filed over the torture of cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore while he was in custody.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after accepting the case, Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal told The Daily Star.

The court ordered PBI to conduct the investigation with a PBI official of superintendent of police ranking and submit the probe report by April 15.

The court also asked the director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital to form a three-member medical board to examine the torture that Kishore SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 BRT Project Site Near Airport

# Accidents expose lack of safety

Six injured as part of launching girder falls on them; a pier cap also collapses; probe body formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six workers, including three Chinese nationals, involved in construction of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Line-3 were injured as a part of a launching girder fell on them while they were working near Dhaka airport yesterday.

The accident took place around 10:30am, hours after a pier cap of an elevated section of the same BRT line collapsed, exposing serious weaknesses in safety measures.

A launching girder is a type of gantry crane used for lifting and installing girders of viaducts.

All the injured were admitted to Evercare Hospital in the capital. The condition of one of the Chinese workers was stated to be critical while another was discharged from the hospital, said officials.

The Tk 4,268.38-crore project, which witnessed several revisions of both cost and deadline, is being implemented by Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL), a government-owned company, to set up a 20.50km line for dedicated bus service from Dhaka airport to Gazipur. Though the latest deadline for completing the project is June next year,

it witnessed overall progress of about 52 percent till February this year, officials said. The project is funded by Asian Development Bank, French Development Agency and Global Environment Facility. Three government agencies --Roads and Highways Department (RHD), Bangladesh Bridge Authority

(BBA) and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) -- are

involved in the implementation of various segments of the project. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## No political or social gathering for 10 days

DMP urges all concerned as nation celebrates 50yrs of independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday urged city dwellers not to hold any political and social programme in the capital during the 10-day state celebrations, starting on March 17, marking the country's golden jubilee of independence and Mujib Borsho.

The DMP also warned of congestion on roads due to state events.

"We are discouraging political and social organisations from holding any programme during this period," acting commissioner Monirul Islam told reporters at the DMP headquarters yesterday.

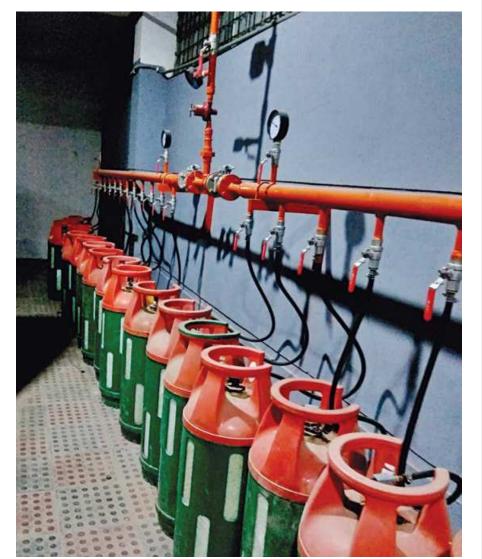
"If a programme is scheduled during the period [March 17-26], please postpone it,"

No one should hold what he said are "anti-national" programmes.

The independence golden jubilee and Mujib Borsho celebrations are linked to the country's reputation, he said.

Monirul added that state guests would participate in various programmes during the celebrations and suggested that people keep congestion in mind when they leave home during the 10-day period.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Gas cylinders lined up on the ground floor of a multi-storey apartment building in Ulon area of Rampura in the capital. The cylinders are kept there and connected to the kitchens upstairs using pipes as the apartment residents fear that the cylinders might explode. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN











# PM commissions two new aircraft

Asks Biman to improve passenger services

Bss, Dhaka

Minister Prime Hasina yesterday commissioned two new Dash 8-Q400 aircraft in the Biman Bangladesh fleet, three months after the state-run airlines

inducted one shorthaul craft of the same brand which now enhanced the fleet strength to 21. . . . the more we can improve the

passenger services [of Biman] people will be benefited and the country will be developed," the premier told the commissioning ceremony of the crafts.

She expected that these modern aircrafts would help Biman strengthen its domestic and regional connectivity. Sheikh Hasina urged Biman to

perform its duties with all sincerity as the national airlines since millions of people had to shed their blood for Bangladesh's independence. "We all have the responsibilities

to brighten the country's image," she said and simultaneously asked Biman to take good care of every aircraft and maintain better passenger services.

"The services to passengers will have to be much better.'

The premier reminded the staterun airline officials that 16 of its 21 aircrafts were brand new which were procured with public money that demanded extra attention to their proper maintenance.

With the Dash 8-Q400 planes, Biman would now be able to increase its communication with the neighbouring countries apart from developing it at the domestic level.

The ceremony took place at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport VIP Lounge while the premier joined the function through a virtual platform from her official residence the Gano

The premier said the government currently was constructing the third terminal at Shahjalal International Airport which would be ultramodern in type to handle wide-bodied planes in the country and improve passenger

She said the government is

Court accepts

The judge ordered the medical

tortured and injuried, and to submit

the report to the PBI officer who will

A specialist doctor from ENT

department will lead the board,

while two other specialists -- one

from the orthopaedics department

On March 10, Kishore filed the case

and Custodial Death (Prevention)

Act-2013, seeking redress. He did

not mention the names of any law-

enforcement agencies or officials,

Kishore, who was prosecuted

statements of Kishore that day.

May 4 last year.

investigate the case.

medical board.



airport to international one as this airport could play immense role on international air route and help Bangladesh prosper more economically. The premier said

Biman earlier used to rent aircraft to carry hajj pilgrims but now takes them by own aircrafts.

She said the government is pulling Bangladesh ahead and will materialise the "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohammad Mahbub Ali chaired the ceremony, conducted by Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus while Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Mohammad Mokammel Hossain delivered the welcome address.

A documentary on Dash 8-Q400 aircraft and Biman was also screened at

Biman procured three Dash 8-Q400 aircraft under the G2G (governmentto-government) agreement between Bangladesh and Canadian governments.

The fleet included four Boeing 777-300ER, four Boeing 787-8, two Boeing 787-9, six Boeing 737, and three Dash

The national flag carrier received the Dash 8-Q400 aircraft from Canada's prominent aircraft-maker De Havilland

The first Dash 8-Q400 aircraft arrived in Bangladesh on November 24 last year, the second one on February 24, and the third one on March 4.

Sheikh Hasina herself named these "Akash Tari", Shwetbalaka" and Dhrubotara".

The other brand new aircrafts included by the government have been named Palki, Arun Alo, Akash Pradip, Raanga Pravat, Meghdoot, Mayurpankhi, Akash Beena, Hongshobalaka, Gangchil, Achin Pakhi and Sonar Tori in accordance with country's nature.

Security Act (DSA), languished in jail suffered in custody from May 2 to for around 10 months. He got out

on bail on March 4. After his release, he revealed to the media how he board to make a report within 24 was brutally tortured before he was work hours, containing information shown as arrested on papers in the

on the time when Kishore was case. In the case statement, Kishore was picked up on May 2 last year by 16-17

> people in plainclothes. Kishore stated that he was kept in an unknown place between May 2 and 4 last year, and tortured.

"At one stage of the interrogation, and another from the medicine one of the men got up and slapped department -- will be members of the me on my ears so hard that I lost consciousness for a while," the statement quotes Kishore as saying, with the same court under the Torture adding that soon after he felt blood coming out of his ear.

They also repeatedly tortured Kishore with steel-plated sticks, according to the statement. He said

instead choosing to file charges he lost consciousness. against a group of unidentified Kishore said he was tortured like this several times till May 4 after The judge also took the case which he found himself in a Rapid into cognisance and recorded the

Action Battalion office. In the statement, he also said he was suffering from complications under the controversial Digital

## No political or social

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sri Lankan President Nandasena Rajapaksa, Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Nepali President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering will be visiting Dhaka.

"Security will be provided in accordance with the VVIP security protocol at all the events [and venues] where guests will be attending and

According to Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) officials, all flight operations will remain suspended for a short period when the state guests enter the air space of Bangladesh.

About those who are opposing the visit of Modi, Monirul said, "We are hopeful that their good sense will emerge.

SHOPS TO REMAIN CLOSED All shops and shopping malls across the country will remain closed on March 17 on the occasion of

Bangababandhu's birth centenary. Drug, grocery, and other daily essentials stores will remain out of the

purview of this decision. Bangladesh Shop Owners' Association took the decision in a meeting yesterday to show respect to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, according to Helal Uddin, president of the

## US orders emergency agency to help with child migrant surge

association.

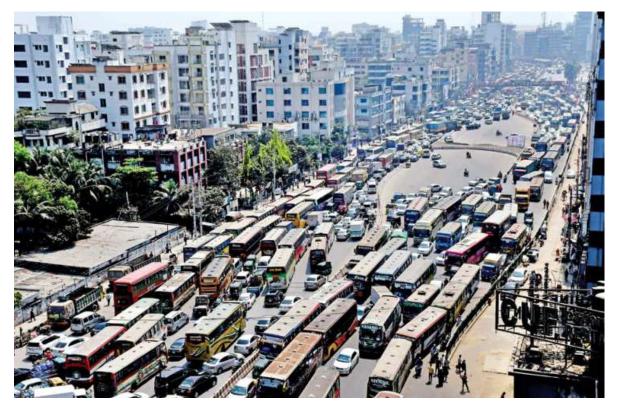
The Biden administration ordered the government's disaster emergency agency Saturday to help with a surge in migrant children crossing the southern border that has overwhelmed processing facilities.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas called upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support an effort to temporarily house thousands of children who crossed the US-Mexico children at the southern border.

border alone amid criticisms that authorities were holding them for long periods in overcrowded facilities.

The Health and Human Services (HHS) department is currently holding about 8,800 migrant children and the US Customs and Border Protection has hundreds more in their charge, with more arriving every day.

In February alone CBP detained 9,457 unaccompanied migrant



A view of the Airport Road in the capital's Uttara shows traffic at a standstill after portion of a launching girder of the Bus Rapid Transit project collapsed near the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The photo was taken yesterday around 12:30pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Govt to ramp up measures

from the virus, the highest for a single day in around three weeks.

The Covid-19 death toll in the country has reached 8,545.

Lately, the Covid-19-dedicated hospitals are witnessing a rise in the number of patients. The general hospitals are also getting an increased number of patients complaining of breathing difficulties, one of the symptoms of Covid-19.

Covid-19 transmission in the country started gradually slowing down in January, but deaths and transmission rates have been on the rise over the past few weeks.

The percentage of positive cases, known as positivity rate, rose to 7.15 percent yesterday, the highest in the last two months. It was 6.26 percent a day ago, and 6.62 percent on Friday. Between January 20 and March 4, the positivity rate stayed below five percent.

The number of new cases was 1,159 against a total of 16,206 tests done in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. The total number of confirmed cases now stands at 5,57,395.

Against this backdrop, the cabinet division in a circular instructed all the divisional commissioners, district commissioners, and the upazila nirbahi officers to enforce health safety rules strictly.

"Recently, the transmission and directorate reported 18 new deaths death rates have increased compared to that of the previous past few months. To check the infection rate, it is necessary to ensure that everyone wears masks and maintains health rules at every sphere," said the circular, signed by Deputy Secretary Shafayat Mahbub Chowdhury.

On the other hand, the health ministry held a meeting with the divisional medical college hospitals yesterday where instructions were given to keep the hospitals ready and ensure high flow oxygen and personal protective equipment there.

The ministry held another meeting with the country's civil surgeons

"Directives were given to introduce mobile courts against the health rules violators in all districts. We have asked to impose curbs on gatherings centring social, political, religious and cultural events," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star after the meetings.

He said people's reckless movement without following safety measures was mainly to blame for the surge in Covid-19 cases.

"People have to follow it. Otherwise, the situation will go out of hand," he warned.

He said, "From the discussions, above 10 percent in Narayanganj, other hospitals.

Dhaka, Cumilla and Mymensingh districts. These are the hotspots [of coronavirus infection] and the health officials were asked to find out the reasons."

The minister said they instructed the civil surgeons to enforce the "No Mask No Service" policy strictly.

YOUNG PEOPLE BEING INFECTED Prof ABM Khurshid Alam, director

general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), yesterday said most of the new Covid-19 patients were young while most patients needed ICU support.

"With the earlier variant, we have seen that mostly patients with comorbidity contracted Covid-19 but now we are witnessing that young and healthy people are being infected," he said at a programme at 250-bed TB Hospital at Shyamoli in

The health DG said he did not get any request for ICU beds in the last two months for Covid-19 patients but over the last few days, he received numerous calls and the callers alleged that there was a shortage of ICU beds at hospitals.

"Be ready... Prepare all the ICU beds that you have for Covid-19 patients," he asked the TB hospital we found that the positivity rate is authority, while also pointing to

## Accidents expose lack of safety

THE INCIDENTS

DBRTCL Managing Director Shafiqul Islam said the workers were on duty when a portion of a launching girder collapsed.

An investigation committee has been formed to find the reasons behind the accident, he mentioned.

Workers and engineers present at the spot said a part of the heavy equipment collapsed while it was being placed at a point between pier no 8 and 9 on the Dhaka-Gazipur

When this correspondent visited the spot around 1:00pm, he found that construction work on that part of the BRT-3 line was suspended and police put barricades around the spot, narrowing down the roads on both sides. This resulted in huge traffic jam on the busy roads, lasting several

Seeking anonymity, an engineer working as a consultant for the project said the contractor -- China Gezhouba Group Co Ltd -- was not supposed to do loading, unloading and lifting of viaducts in daytime for safety of traffic.

Shafiqul, however, said the contractor is working day and night as they are lagging behind the deadline. The contractor may not have informed the project authorities formally, but the authorities knew about the work in the daytime, he added.

ASM Elias Shah, project director for the segment being implemented by the RHD, echoed Shafiqul's opinion. Hours before the accident, an

under-construction pier cap of the project in Uttara collapsed early yesterday. The pier cap, casting of which was

done on Saturday night, collapsed as its support got displaced at some point, Shafiqul said. Asked how the support got displaced, Shafiqul said, "Some of them [workers] said a truck hit

the support while others said it got displaced on its own. The real cause will be known after investigation." Visiting the spot, this correspondent found several workers were clearing the derbies of the pier cap in front of the Polwel Carnation Shopping Centre in Uttara. Three to four workers were

PROBE COMMITTEE The seven-member committee, led by Highways Division Anisur Rahman, percent more than the original cost.

seen guarding the area and a bamboo

fence was put up around the site.

will probe the two incidents, Shafiqul

It was asked to submit a report within seven working days, he told this correspondent. LONG DELAY Committee

Executive the National Economic Council (Ecnec) approved the project in November 2012 for dedicated rapid bus service between Gazipur and Shahjalal International Airport. Once operational, it will be able to transport 20,000 passengers per hour.

The project was supposed to be completed at a cost of Tk 2,037.85 crore by December 2016.

But it got delayed due to various problems, including management of a massive quantity of industrial waste and huge traffic, said a report of the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division released in June last vear.

Waterlogging in the project areas between Tongi and Joydebpur is another major reason for the delay in implementation, it mentioned.

The project eventually went through four revisions, taking the total cost Joint Secretary of Road Transport and to Tk 4,268.32 crore -- around 107

## At least 10 cases detected so far

The person diagnosed with the strain had travelled to the country from the UK. Similar cases were found in Dhaka and Sylhet later.

But the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) did not reveal the matter until The Daily Star reported about it on March 10.

Experts fear that the UK variant could be one of the reasons behind the sudden rise in new cases and deaths in the country. of genome "The number

sequencing is very limited here because it's expensive. More genome sequencing is needed to know how far the UK variant has spread in the country," Prof Md Sayedur Rahman, chairman of pharmacology at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), told The Daily Star yesterday.

The government has to make special budget allocation and engage capable laboratories to make the process faster, he said.

People's reluctance to follow the health guidelines and a widespread misconception that vaccination means protection are also reasons why the virus has been spreading, he

"We are observing the rise in positivity rate, hospital admission and death rate. We have to expand the genome sequencing facilities and the antibody tests to see how the vaccine is working.

DGHS officials also said people dropping their guards after a steep decline in new cases are the reason behind the recent spike.

"We have not found any link between the UK variant and the sudden rise in infection. Rather, it is the carelessness of the people about maintaining health guidelines that contributed to the rise," Tahmina

According to the World Health Organization, 83 countries have reported cases of the UK variant.

Scientists say the UK variant may be up to 70 percent deadlier than the previous strains. Detected in September for the first time, it quickly became the dominant variant in the UK, said a UK government report in February.

India says it has found 242 cases of three variants -- mostly the UK one -- in the population, BBC reported earlier this month.

A New York Times report in late February said British scientists were increasingly finding the UK variant to be linked to a higher risk of death. It also said the UK variant is

linked to an increased need for hospitalisation. Scientists estimate that the variant was being transmitted 35 to 45 percent more easily than other

variants in the US, the report said.

## Rohingya man shot dead in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Rohingya criminals have shot a man dead from the same community, over establishing supremacy between groups, in a refugee camp at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, said police.

The dead is Mohammad Jubair, 21, an inhabitant of block C of Nayapara refugee camp.

Another Rohingya man --Mohammad Jalil Prokash Sunia -- was also stabbed over the same issue, the law enforcers added.

He is now receiving treatment at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Confirming the incident, Cox's Bazar Armed Police Battalion-16 Commander (superintendent of police) Mohammad Tariqul Islam said members of a criminal Rohingya group [Patia group] in Nayapara refugee camp picked up Jubair from his residence around 11:00pm on Saturday.

Later Jubair, a member of another criminal group [Salman group], was gunned down, the official said.

Following this, members of Salman group picked up Jalil, a member of Patia group, and stabbed him around 4:00am yesterday, leaving him critically injured.

Police later rescued Jalil and admitted him to the hospital.

The law enforcers are trying to

arrest the criminals in connection with the incident.

## It's a unique celebration of Bangabandhu's birth centenary

Says Razzak as he visits crops canvas in Bogura

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday said that the portrait of Bangabandhu painted for the first time using the huge canvas of green paddy field will be a unique celebration of

his birth centenary. The minister said this while inspecting the 'Bangabandhu in Crops Canvas' project being implemented at Bhabanipur union in Sherpur of

Bogura this morning. Just as Bangabandhu is in our nearts, we can hear the footsteps of Bangabandhu in the sky, air, green land, grain fields of Bengal," he said.

He said, "The way we are celebrating the birth centenary of Bangabandhu through various ceremonies will unite all the people of the country in his ideals. I think political stability is very important for the economic development of the country."

Through this picture, the greatest leader Bangabandhu will be represented to the whole world that how he was showed his tender to the land and farmers of this country, Razzak said. Later in the afternoon, the minister participated as the chief guest in the national seminar titled 'Agricultural Revolution in Bangladesh: Sheikh Mujib to Sheikh Hasina' organised by National Agricare at Bogura Rural Development Academy. The initiative of the project was taken by the national committee formed to mark the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and it was funded by a private company called National Agricare.

Faijul Siddikii, chief coordinator of the project, said they will send all documents of this project to the authorities of Guiness Book of World Record soon as per its requirements. If all goes well, they are hopeful that this mosaic will set a world record in the Guinness Book of World Records within next 17th march, he told our Bogura correspondent.

Earlier on March Bangladeshi representatives from the Guinness Book of World Records came to Bogura to inspect the crop. At the end of the visit, they expressed their satisfaction and said that it is only a matter of time to set a record in Guiness book as the largest crop field mosaic of a single person.

## Shab-e-Barat

FROM PAGE 1

Arabic month of Shaban. Muslims offer special prayers, recite the Quran, and take part in other religious rituals.

## Russian police detain dozens of opposition deputies at forum

AFP, Moscow

Russian police on Saturday arrested around 200 opposition politicians and municipal deputies at a Moscow conference as authorities tighten the screws on Kremlin critics ahead of parliamentary elections.

A police raid on an opposition conference dedicated to running for municipal office came after President Vladimir Putin's top critic Alexei Navalny was jailed for two and a half vears last month and more than 10,000 protesters detained across the country.

## 'What steps were taken to preserve Shaheed Minar?'

HC asks govt to report in 4 weeks STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what steps have been taken to implement its 2010 directives for preserving the dignity and sanctity of Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, which was set up to maintain the spirit of the 1952 Language Movement and show respect to the language heroes.

The 2010 HC directives include preparing a list of language heroes, publishing the list in a gazette notification, and constructing a library and Language Movement museum beside the Shaheed

Yesterday, the HC ordered authorities concerned of the government to submit a report on the steps taken to comply with the directives in four weeks and also fixed April 25 for passing further directives.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the order following a contempt petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) on March 4 against the authorities on charge of not implementing all the 2010 directives. SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A man carefully steps onto a rickshaw with his child in tow, mindful that one misstep might cause them to fall into ankle-deep sewage water. For the past two weeks, movement has been disrupted in this road front of Haji Abdur Rashid Lane in old Dhaka. Locals complain that the ward commissioner has taken no initiative to resolve the issue. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 'Some contents of Baksal should be brought back'

Gowher Rizvi says at webinar on Bangabandhu's Vision of Sonar Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some of the contents of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 1975 reform programme known as 'Baksal' should be brought back, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi said yesterday.

"We should look at it. We should carefully and critically analyse the contents of his 1975 reform programme," he said, "This is to bring back the dimension of social justice as well as to create an equitable, egalitarian

Dr Rizvi was addressing a webinar on the topic "Bangabandhu's Vision of Sonar Bangla: Bangladesh at 50" organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS)

Addressing as chief guest, Dr Rizvi said the ideas in Bangabandhu's 1975 reform programme are still very much a need of the time.

He said the reform scheme got discredited even before it was given a try, and Bangabandhu was assassinated before he could implement his ideas of Bangladesh Krishok Sromik Awami League (Baksal).

The scheme that was provided in 1975 was a detailed programmatic framework for how to restructure the society, he said, adding that unfortunately, Baksal got popularly condemned as a one-party system which is far from the truth.

He said, "Even today inequality and intolerance prevail, which was not Bangabandhu had imagined. We need to reflect on it. Yes, we are celebrating, we will be celebrating (success in 50 years), but we need to reflect on these issues.

Addressing the webinar, analysts said although Bangladesh has achieved SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# 'Violence against girls has | Monirul Islam new reached barbaric levels'

Says NHRC chairperson at webinar

Women's empowerment has progressed significantly, but violence against women has increased as well, said National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairperson Nasima Begum, ndc, yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against girls has reached a barbaric level. At the same time, the most noticeable injustice they are facing in current times is child marriage, which is increasing in number, she said at a webinar organised by National Girl Child Advocacy Forum to observe International Women's Dav.

"Due to Covid-19 induced income loss, many parents are marrying off their girls, considering the situation as one less mouth to feed. We must look into this," she added.

Praising the initiatives of women leaders, lawmaker Dr Shamil Uddin Ahmed Shimul, also member of the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, said although child marriage has emerged as a serious issue in the pandemic, women

leaders at union and district levels played an important role to prevent it.

Lawmaker Adiba Anjum Mita, also member of the caucus, said women are also not free from the patriarchal mindset. Women must unite in supporting each other to flourish.

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum Executive Member Wahida Banu, also executive director of Aporajeyo Bangladesh, focused on the necessity of socialisation and changing the mindset of people towards girls.

There must be more employment opportunities for women, she said.

"Although we have achievements, the ongoing violent incidents are forcing them to fade away," she added.

Two women leaders -- Birangana Kanan Gomez (72) and young journalist Rabeya Akter Shuborna from ATN Bangla -- were honoured with crests and provided Tk 10,000 each at the event.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, global

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# chief of police's special branch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Monirul Islam, the chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, to lead the Special Branch of

With the new assignment, Monirul, also the additional commissioner of DMP, has been made an additional inspector general of police (current charge), according to a

home ministry gadget notification issued yesterday. Monirul replaced the SB's additional IGP Mir Shahidul Islam, who went on retirement yesterday after leading the unit for more than two years.

According to insiders, though more then 10 additional IGP (full fledged) exist in the force now, Monirul was appointed additional IGP (current charge) for his competence.

Being an officer of the 15th batch of BCS, Monirul earlier was promoted to the post of deputy inspector general on February 15, 2016 and additional deputy inspector general on April 7 of 2015.

On leaving CTTC, Monirul said he started working for the unit in February 2016 and worked for five years SEE PAGE 4 COL 1 ABRAR MEMORIAL FOOTBRIDGE

A sign saying "Thank you for using the

Sarani in the capital, as work continues on

the structure. Inset, workers were recently

seen replacing the railings of the bridge.

footbridge" stands in irony on Pragati

# Half-baked structure now being 'retrofitted'

When private university student Abrar Ahmed Chowdhury died in a tragic road accident on March 19, 2019 in front of Jamuna Future Park on Dhaka's Pragati Sarani road, many students took to the street in protest, and in an instant move, the DNCC mayor announced to build a footbridge on that very spot to avoid further tragedies.

As per a decision, Dhaka North City Corporation let a business conglomerate build the bridge as part of the company's social corporate responsibility. No tender was floated for the work, but DNCC monitored the project, according to its officials.

In less than two years, the bridge is

having to undergo further work. The footbridge was completed in the end of August 2019. However, a week later, it had to be closed, apparently due to the sheer volume of users.

According to locals, the situation was so bad that people had to wait for 10-15 minutes to get on the 95-foot footbridge and get to the other side. Due to the overloading, the bridge literally shook, they said, adding that it also sparked complaints and criticisms on social

Asked about the situation, DNCC superintendent engineer Arifur Rahman had told The Daily Star a year back

some paint job and once escalators were installed on both sides of the footbridge by DNCC, the problem will be solved. He said there was no other reason for them to close the bridge. Meanwhile, the road median was kept open for people to cross

that they closed it as they needed to do

DNCC set up escalators on both sides of the bridge last year. However, the 'charitable' work done by the first contractor proved to be inadequate, as DNCC had to contract another company to fix up quite a few issues.

Maisha Construction (Pvt) Ltd started the task of retrofitting the bridge last year, after getting the work tender from DNCC,

A sign was also put up, which said the project -- "Retrofitting Works of Abrar Footover Bridge at Pragati Sarani Under DNCC" -- is ongoing, and the work duration was from 20-9-2020 to 9-3-2021. A week after the deadline, the work is still

But there is a new problem now. According to construction officials, when the escalator is turned on, the bridge starts

"It has been only one year and within this time, the bridge needed to go through renovation work again. This shows how the bridge was built in the first place!" SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

ABRAR MURDER CASE

## 22 accused claim innocence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two accused in Abrar Fahad murder case yesterday claimed innocence and demanded justice, after a Dhaka tribunal read out the charges from statements of 45 prosecution witnesses.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 recorded their self-defence statements for over two

After recording their statements, the judge fixed March 31 for the defence witnesses

During yesterday's hearing, 22 accused, who are now behind bars, were produced before the tribunal.

Earlier, the tribunal recorded 46

prosecution witnesses, including the complainant of the case. The same tribunal on September 15 last year framed charges against all 25 accused

in the case. On October 7, 2019, Abrar, a second-

year student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

SHEIKH RUSSEL ECO PARK, RANGUNIA

## 150 trees felled in a month

Around 150 trees have been felled at Sheikh Russel Aviary and Eco Park in Rangunia upazila of Chattogram, which remains abuzz with people and is guarded round the clock by dozens of forest

among other smaller trees in the area.

Inside sources say the loggers have been felling the trees for about a month.

lives in barrack no-6 in the park, told The Daily Star that the area from where the trees were felled is a "remote place", which makes it difficult for them to look after the area.

He alleged that Danu Mia, chairman of Hosnabad Union Parishad and his son Sekandar Islam had played the key role in felling the trees as they were trying to grab the teak for long.

Hasibur said that portion of the eco park is yet to be walled off, so loggers took the chance to fell

Yet, loggers managed to fell the trees and take the timber away right under the nose of forest staff, from an area situated about one kilometre from the park's entrance. The trees, most of them teak and acacia, were situated across 20 acres of land. The stumps of the felled trees now lie strewn

Hasibur Rahman, forest guard of the park who

Forest department sources said officials found 150 stumps on Saturday.

Md Shafikul Islam, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Chattogram South Forest Division told The Daily Star that they seized the logs and will file a case regarding the felling. "A section of people previously attempted to fell the trees, as far

as I remember," he said. "We assume those people got to the trees. No matter who was involved in this, they will be brought to book. We will investigate whether there is any negligence on the part our staff. If we find any, they will be punished," added Shafikul.

Sekandar Islam, who is being accused of felling the trees, told The Daily Star that those trees were planted by them with the forest department's permission over eight years ago. "It was part of a social forestation initiative. The land was later declared part of the eco park in 2013," he

We planted the trees years ago and sought permission to cut the trees from forest department. But they did not allow it. We are the people who informed the forest official of the tree felling. If they now accuse us, that is unfortunate for us,' said Sekandar.

# SC clears way to shut down illegal brick kilns in Chattogram

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court directive that asked the government authorities to shut down all brick kilns without valid licenses

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order rejecting a petition filed by the owners of 18 brick kilns, seeking a stay on the HC directive.

Newly-elected president of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and senior lawyer Abdul Matin Khasru, who appeared for the brick kiln owners, told the court that his clients have invested crores of taka for running the brick kilns where thousands of people are working.

If the brickfields shut down, they will face huge losses, the lawyer said. Lawyer Matin Khasru prayed to the Appellate Division to stay the HC order and allow his clients to operate for the next two months Writ petitioner's lawyer Manzil Murshid opposed the petition saying

that brick kilns, which have no valid license, cannot run as per the provisions of relevant laws. The owners of brick kilns have moved several petitions before this court earlier to stop shutting down their operations in Chattogram.

Manzil Murshid told The Daily Star that, following the apex court order, there is no bar to shut down the brick kilns running illegally. The local administration has started shutting down the illegal brick kilns following the HC's January 31 order, he added.

Following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC on January 31, directed authorities concerned of the government to immediately shut down all the illegal brick kilns in Chattogram and submit a report after complying with the directive to it.



A sign by a canal at the capital's Hazaribagh tells residents not to dump waste into the waterbody, as directed by Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, otherwise legal action would be taken. Incessant dumping of waste has blocked the many canals of the city, and now authorities are trying to bring the waterways back to life. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

KIDNAP OF MADRASA BOY

## Twin brothers arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two twin brothers for allegedly kidnapping a madrasa boy and realising ransom from his father in the port city's Bakalia area early yesterday.

The arrestees are Jisan Uddin Rokon and Jiam Uddin Arman (21).

They were arrested from Maijjartek, said Assistant Commissioner (AC) (Chawkbazar Zone) Raisul Islam of CMP to The Daily Star.

victim Iqbal Hasan (13) in the city," he said. Bakalia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ruhul Amin said, "Iqbal is a student of Madam Bibir Hat Hafizia Madrasa in Sitakunda. He came to Bakalia to board a bus to go to his Cox's Bazar residence.'

"Before their arrest, police rescued the

"The twins lured the boy with a job in Bakalia, and took him to a secure place. The duo later phoned victim's father and asked him to pay Tk 40,000," said the OC. "The boy's father gave them Tk 9,000

through Nagad but the accused did not release the boy. The father informed police, and we traced their location," he said.

Following police movement, the kidnappers freed the boy to avoid arrest. AC Raisul said. "The boy has identified the criminals," he added.

## Some contents

tremendous progress in economy and poverty alleviation, the country is lagging behind in reducing inequality, bringing in inclusive development and creating a secular society.

Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said one of the major features of Bangabandu's 1st five-year plan was to make Bangladesh self-sufficient.

At the beginning, many people thought that Bangladesh would be a perennial

"But, Bangabandhu thought that with the gradual implementation of five-year plans, he would be able to reduce our dependency on aid and also there would be less dependence on imports," he added.

He said even in 1990, our export and aid ratio was 1:1, and in the pre-pandemic year, our export was 40 billion dollars against 5 billion dollars of aid.

Following Bangabandhu's vision of a five-year plan, we were able to transform our economy from aid to trading nation.

Binayak Sen, research director at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said Bangladesh provides an inspiring story reducing poverty, with 25 million people lifted from poverty over 15 years. In 1973-74, national poverty was assessed at around 80 per cent, and it was around 60 percent in 1991-92. It reduced to 24 percent in 2016 and 20 percent in 2020 just prior to the pandemic.

Major General Emdad Ul Bari, director general of the BIISS, said building infrastructure rehabilitation after thousands of people lost everything in the war, reviving financial, industrial and business organisations, ensuring security and good governance and establishing diplomatic relations with countries across the world were among the other challenges faced by Bangabandhu.

Mahfuz Kabir, research director at the BIISS, and Oazi Kholiguzzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, also spoke at the event.

## What steps were

Petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the HC bench that few of the 2010 directives were implemented, but the complete list of language heroes was not prepared, and the Language Movement museum has not been established, even after 10 years.

Following a writ petition filed by HRPB, another HC bench on August 25, 2010 issued eight directives upon the government to protect the sanctity and dignity of the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

The bench had ordered to set up Shaheed Minars at premises of all universities and other educational institutions across the country, to show respect to the memories of the language heroes.

It directed the authorities to set up a museum and library at any side of the Central Shaheed Minar and take effective measures so that no unsocial activities can take place on its premises.

It asked the government to take effective measures, so that no function or meeting can be held at the original Bedi (main part) of Shaheed Minar. It, however, ruled that there would be no embargo in holding any function outside the original Bedi.

The HC ordered to form a committee for preparing a list of language heroes and publish it in a gazette notification by January 31, 2012.

The bench asked the cultural affairs ministry to appoint three security guards to protect the Shaheed Minar area.

It also directed the government to honour the language movement heroes, both dead and alive with posthumous and other awards for their contribution to the language movement.

The government was also asked to invite language movement heroes in all state programmes and ensure all governmental facilities to them.

## Violence

vice president and country director of The Hunger Project, presided over the programme.

Rabeya Begum, assistant secretary of National Girl Child Advocacy Forum; Nasima Akter Jolly, secretary of the forum; Bitheeka Hasan, gender expert at UNDP's human rights programme; and Prof Hosne Ara Begum, executive director of Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha, also spoke

# Road crashes kill 4

Four people were killed in road accidents in two districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Patuakhali, two boys were killed as a battery-run auto-rickshaw and a bus collided on Barguna-Barishal highway in Kashipur area on Saturday.

The deceased -- Noman (13) and Abu Hamza (9) -- were travelling in the autorickshaw, said police.

The driver fled with the vehicle after the accident, said Bamna Police Station Officerin-Charge Kamlesh Chandra Hawladar.

Meanwhile, Nadia Akhter, daughter of Rafiq Gazi from Hajikhali village in Sadar upazila, died as she was hit by a motorcycle in the area yesterday.

She was declared dead at Patuakhali General Hospital, said Patuakhali Police Station OC Akhter Morshed.

In Joypurhat, an elderly man was killed when two motorcycles collided on Joypurhat-Bogura road at Harail intersection in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Wahed (60) from Hitchmi (Mondalpara) village in Sadar upazila. Police said the deceased was returning

The deceased was identified as Abdul

home from the town on his motorcycle. He died on the way to a hospital.

Police arrested two persons with a locally-

made gun and 605 yaba pills in port city's

A car was also seized from Sayed Md

Tuhin is the listed muggers in Kotwali

Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge

and he has developed a drug peddling

syndicate across the city, said the law

Tuhin (34) and Towsif Ahmed (25), said

Patharghata area early yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

# future generations

Speakers tell Sylhet rally marking River Day

Our Correspondent, Sylhet

Participants at a rally urged the government to protect rivers to save the future generations, marking International Day of Action for Rivers yesterday.

They made the demand under the banner of "Nadipare Nadipremi Samabesh" at Chandni Ghat of the river Surma in Sylhet city in the morning. The rally was jointly organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Surma River Waterkeeper.

In the rally, speakers said rivers are a vital part of the nature and solely related to the existence of civilisation; but people are now detached from the natural entity

They urged demanded that all rivers be protected from pollution, destruction and grabbing in order to the save the nature.

During the rally, Prof Nazia Chowdhury, vice president of Bapa Sylhet chapter and a professor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, placed a 10-point demand to save the country's rivers.

Dr Ilias Uddin Biswas, vice-chancellor of North East University Bangladesh, was present as the chief guest.

Nezam Uddin said a police team signaled a

private car on Bundle Road in Patharghata.

When the vehicle did not comply with it,

The yaba and gun were found after

Sub-inspector Mominul Hasan said,

"We are trying to arrest two others who

The car was used in peddling yaba. They

carried the gun to save themselves rivals."

escaped arrest," added SI Momin.

checking their bodies, said the police

police intercepted the car, said the OC.

## Protect rivers to save | IUB holds conference on Bay of Bengal as connectivity hub

CITY DESK

To consider the feasibility of reviving this new interconnectedness and interlocution, the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBoBS) at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has organised a twoday regional conference on the university's Bashundhara campus.

the Embassy of Japan along with High Commission of India, BIMSTEC, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, said a press release. Its inaugural ceremony took place

The programme was supported by

yesterday where Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen was present as the chief guest.

Other invited guests were Ito Naoki, ambassador of Japan; Vikram Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India; Ambassador Tenzin Lekphell, secretary general of BIMSTEC, Dhaka; Mercy Tembon, country director, WB; Manmohan Parkash, country director, ADB; Trustee A Matin Chowdhury, chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB; and Prof Tanweer Hasan, vice chancellor of

Prof Milan Pagon, IUB pro-VC, delivered vote of thanks while Ambassador (Ret) Tariq Karim, director, Center for Bay of Bengal Studies at IUB, moderated the session.

recommendations reports will be formed through this twoday conference by the regional experts, researchers, scholars, diplomats and development partners that will eventually be submitted to the governments for effective implementation in securing prosperity of the region.

Trustees, diplomats, dignitaries, from the faculty and members administration, students and alumni took part in the event.

## Monirul Islam

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ২০২১/০১

প্রকিউরিং এন্টিটি

দরপত্রের বিবর

টেভার সিকিউরিটি

দরপত্র তফসিল প্রান্তির স্থান

দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান

দরপত্র খোলার স্থান

দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যত

দরপত্র বহালের সময়কাল

দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও যোগাযোগের

ASGAR ALI HOSPITAL We create hope

a concern of citygraup

সিকিউরিটি

**POSITIONS** 

Sr. Consultant/

Consultant/

Associate

Consultant

Sr. Staff Nurse/ Staff Nurse/

**Charge Nurse** 

Sr. Manager/ Manager

Manager

Executive

٥٥.

there. SB and CTTC both work on intel and they also have similarities in their work, he said while addressing reporters at DMP headquarters.

He thanked the government for the new appointment. In reply to a query whether CTTC will be affected from his transfer, Monirul said they mainly conduct intel-based operation after the Holey Artisan café attack.

"We have successes in combating militancy and destroying their networks," he said. "But these successes are not mine alone. It belongs to all my team members, who worked here and the officials of Bangladesh Police," said Monirul.

"I do not think work of CTTC will be hindered due to my departure," he said.

He said alongside successes and they also had some failures. "I am responsible for the unit's failures," he added.

বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় আই-ব্লকে ৪ কাঠা, জে-ব্লকে ৫

কাঠা, কে-ব্লকে ১০ কাঠা, এম-ব্লকে ১০, ৯, ৭.৫ ও ৫ কাঠা, এন-ব্লবে

১৫ কাঠা এবং পি-এক্সটেনশনে ৮ কাঠার প্লট বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগ

মোবাইল: ০১৭১১ ৫৪৬৬৮৭, ই-মেইল: mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com

বিএসসি মেরিন ওয়ার্কশপ

সল্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম

বিএসসি ভবনসহ অন্যান্য স্থাপনার জন্য রং ক্রয় এবং উক্ত ভবন ও

স্থাপনাসমূহ রংকরণ কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(অফেরতযোগ্য)।

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সল্টগোলা রোড

বিএসসি ভবনসহ অন্যান্য স্থাপনার জন্য রং ক্রয় এবং উক্ত ভব

ও স্থাপনাসমূহ রংকরণ কাজ। বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুক্লে পে-অর্ডার

আকারে ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার মাত্র) (ফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে

(অংশ্যেতবোণ্য) : হিসাব শাখা, বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, সল্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রায

সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান।

দরপত্র তফসিলের বর্ণনা মতে যথাসময়ে প্রয়োজনীয়

গ্যারান্টি/পারফরম্যান্স সিকিউরিটি জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

মোহাম্মদ আশরাফুল আমিন, মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সল্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম। ফোন

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন

বিএসসি ভবন, সল্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম

০১/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা

০১/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা। টাকা ১৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত

(৩১/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ বিকাল ১৬.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)। মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন), সল্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম এর অফিস কক্ষে

কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সল্টগোলা, চট্টগ্রাম

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৬০ (ঘাট) দিন

নিশার পুণোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সন্ট্রামান চুইয়ামান বিভাগ করেন করেন করেন করেন বা সকল দরপুর বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

We are looking for applications for the following vacancies:

**DEPARTMENTS** 

Medicine/Neuromedicine/Rheumatology/

Nephrology/Urology/Orthopaedics & Spine

Surgery/Gastroenterology/ENT/Diabetology & Endocrinology/Paediatric Surgery/

Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary & Gastrointestinal Surgery (HPB-Gl Surgery)

Medicine and Surgery Department including ICU/CCU/NICU/ Dialysis

Marketing & Business Development

**Quality Assurance** 

Infection Contro

সমূথে রক্ষিত বাব্রে ফেলতে হবে।
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন) এর অফিস কক্ষ্, বাংলাদেশ

## Half-baked

complained Tom Sangma, a local resident.

Many complained about the bridge's structure as a major portion of the footpath was occupied by its ramp. Some also said construction materials including bricks, tiles and sand remain piled up by roadside.

"They constructed the bridge, but they narrowed down the footpath. And now the bridge is closed again. What are they doing?" said a frustrated Farabi Rahman.

This time around, superintendent engineer Arifur Rahman had almost similar things to say.

"The company that built the bridge for us didn't provide any shades over the bridge. As we installed the escalators, we are now setting up those. Besides, we are also doing some footpath construction work as it got damaged," he told this correspondent recently.

"These were the reasons for which we primarily closed the bridge," he said. He also denied that the bridge shakes when the escalators are turned on.

About the complaints of footpath getting occupied by

the ramp, he said they had to do it this way as there was a space constraint. He also said by "retrofitting", they meant strengthening

the railings on the footbridge and fixing the damaged portions of the footpath. "We are not actually changing anything of the main

ructure," he said. "Once the footbridge opens by March

20, we'll close the crossing on the road and people will be able to use the footbridge again," he added. However, officials at Maisha Construction had different

Its engineer Md Mohiuddin, who is supervising the project, said, "We started working according to a design given to us by DNCC. It suggested that along with the overall structure of the bridge, the pillars needed to be strengthened.

"So, we added metal support to the pillars, strengthened those by digging at least five feet, and also added shades

When asked why the company couldn't finish the work on time, he replied, "We got the design for retrofitting on time but not the design for the shade... It delayed the work. However, we'll finish the work before March 20."

Contacted, DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam last night told this correspondent, "Father of a friend of Abrar had offered to build that bridge, and we agreed considering his emotional involvement.

"The escalator was not part of that design. After opening, when we saw the high foot traffic, we decided to add those and knew that the bridge would need reinforcement if the escalators were added and the bridge's capacity increases. That is why we decided to do the retrofitting work at the very start," the mayor added.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE** 

MBBS/FCPS/MS/MD/MRCP/FRCS

or equivalent Degree

Experience: Minimum 5 years in

Diploma/BSc. in Nursing (Certified by Nursing Council) Experience: Minimum 2 years in

elated department

elated department

Diploma/BSc. in Nursing

(Certified by Nursing Council)

Education: Minimum Graduation

Experience: Minimum 2 years

Experience: 8-10 years in related

Preferable: Experienced in Hospital

Clinic/Diagnostic/Pharmaceuticals

## 22 accused

was beaten to death by a reported group of Buet unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men in a dormitory.

Abrar's father Barkatullah filed a murder case on October 7 that year with Chawkbazar Police Station. The incident triggered a firestorm of protests across the country.

Two held with yaba, gun in Ctg

Amid protests on campus, Buet authorities on October 11 banned all political activities on the campus and suspended 19 students, mostly leaders of the university's BCL unit, who were made accused in the case.

Inspector Md Wahiduzaman of Detective Branch of police submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Dhaka against 25 Buet students on November 13 that year.

Of them, 22 accused were arrested and remanded several times. During the investigation, eight of the accused gave confessional statements to magistrates on different dates.



**Commercial Land Sale** Mirpur Road Shamoly Panthopath Green Road 1-Bighaa Also Available industria Land At Rupganj Narayanganj Also Purchase All Kind of Land. Contact: Rais-01912819378

# PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON

The Oasis of Luxurious Hospitality and Tranquility **RE-TENDER NOTICE FOR** 

IMPORTED FROZEN FOOD ITEMS Sealed Quotations are invited from the bona-fide Suppliers Importers for supply of Imported Frozen food for Pan Pacific

Sonargaon for the period of 1 (one) year. The detail specifications

terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender schedule. 01. Category: B- Imported Frozen Food items.

Interested bidders can obtain tender schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead addressed to purchase manager up to March 30, 2021 during office hours on payment of Tk.2,000 (non-refundable). The quotations will be received up to 02:30 pm. on March 31, 2021 and will be opened on the same day at 03:00 pm. in presence of the

Tender must be supported by an Earnest Money amounting to Tk.200,000 (fixed) (refundable) in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any schedule Bank in favor of Pan Pacific Sonargaon

Pan Pacific Sonargaon authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all the tenders without assigning any

( Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164



## Bangladesh Bank

Information Systems Development And Support Department

Invitation for Tenders

Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Proposal No. ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(85)/2021

Date: 14 March 2021



Ministry/Division

Procuring entity name

Procuring entity code

Agency

## Website: www.bb.org.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Not applicable Not applicable Bangladesh Bank Not used at present

5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6	Invitation for	The Procurement of Warranty, Main	tenance and Related Services of Virtualization Software for		
		Bangladesh Bank.			
7	Invitation Ref. No.	ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(85)/2021			
8	Date	14 March 2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.			
FUNDIN	IG INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	Own source.			
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
PARTIC	ULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)				
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)				
14	Tender package No.	ISDSD(SERVICES)-12(85)/2021			
15	Tender package name	Warranty, Maintenance and Related Services of Virtualization Software for Bangladesh Bank.			
		Date	Time		
16	Tender publication date	14 March 2021			
17	Tender last selling date	Not applicable			
		Date	Time		
18	Tender closing date and time	04 April 2021	03:00pm		
19	Tender opening date and time	04 April 2021	03:15pm		
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address			
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents					
	-Receiving tender document	BB eTender System (etender.bb.org.bd) and one hard copy document.			
l	-Opening tender document	Information Systems Development and Support Department (ISDSD), Bangladesh Bank, 28th			
		Floor, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.			
0.4	Dlace Idate Itima of	Mana			

Nine days of festivities

The buffet dinner is banks.

The offer is available at The Flair restaurant at the

The Daily Star is print media partner of the event. For reservations, one may reach the restaurant at +8801966662152.

GD-526

## **Doreen Hotels** & Resorts offers 'Signatures of Chef Kaique'

CITY DESK

Doreen Hotels & Resorts has arranged a new offering featuring signature dishes of Executive Chef Kaique Chericone from Sao Paulo, Brazil, said a press release.

started on March 12 and will continue till March 20, between 6:30pm and 10:30pm, with live cooking stations and more than 80 dishes of Chef Kaique.

priced at Tk 5,999 per person, with "Buy One Get Two Free" offer on debit and credit cards of select

capital's Doreen Tower.

Place/date/time of None Pre-tender meeting (optional) Date Not applicable INFORMATION FOR TENDERER Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as supplier in supply of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC)/Delivery of Goods with AMC of at least Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer ONE active or running contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of five (5) years. Evidence of Work Order, Support Continuing Certificate mentioning amount, item list, date etc. are required Warranty, Maintenance and Related Services of Virtualization Software for Bangladesh Bank Brief description of goods Brief description of related services Three years warranty service. Price of tender document (Tk) Not applicable. Lot Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/months No. Information Technology ISDSD 6.50.000.00 02 weeks for commencement of service with Maintenance items and Related Services upon contract up to 31 May 2024. PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS Name of official inviting tender Md. Amir Hossain Pathan Designation of official inviting tender Systems Manager Address of official inviting tender Information Systems Development and Support Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka. Contact details of official inviting tender 9530101 9530481 amir.pathan@bb.org.bd The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংব কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন। sd/-Md. Amir Hossain Pathan DCP: 48/2021-989 Systems Manager Date: 14-03-2021 Phone: 9530101, E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd

and CV in the following address or E-mail (hr@asgaralihospital.com) on before March 25, 2021. DAY-NIGHT 24 HOURS
FOR MEDICAL SERVICE
PLEASE CALL HODELINE

Salary and other benefits will be provided as per standard policy of the organization.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply along with their recent PP size colored photograph

## Man kills brother over family feud

Our Correspondent, Tangail

A young man was stabbed to death by his younger brother allegedly over a family feud in Basail upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Mazid Miah, 33, son of Sentu Miah of Bathuli Sadi village, was a cloth trader at a local market. Deceased's wife Mili Begum alleged that Mazid and his four brothers often quarrel with each other over handloom business and ancestral land.

As a sequel, Mazid's younger brother Shafiq Miah, 30, locked in an altercation with his father yesterday morning. At one stage, when Mazid and his another Lavlu went to stop Shafiq from quarrelling, angry Shafiq stabbed Mazid with a knife, leaving him seriously injured.

Neighbours took Mazid to Tangail General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Officer in Charge of Basail Police Station Harun-or-Rashid said they detained Shafiq for his alleged involvement in the murder.

## Man gets life term for rape in Joypurhat

Our Correspondent, Dinajpur

A Joypurhat court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment in connection with a case for raping a teenage girl after abduction in Khetlal upazila in 2005. The convict, Jahrul Islam, 40 of Banaich Alipur village

in the upazila, was tried in absentia. Joypurhat Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Rustam Ali also fined the convict Tk 1 lakh.

According to the prosecution, Jahrul abducted the 14-year-old victim when she went out of her house on April 12 in 2005. He then took her to an isolated place and forcibly raped her.

After returning home the girl, then a Class VII student, disclose the matter to her parents. Later, victim's father filed a case with Khetlal Police Station accusing Jahrul.

Police arrested Jahurul and produced him before a court

Meanwhile, Jahurul came out of jail after securing bail and remained absconding since then, Court Inspector Sunil Kumar Ghosh said.

## Expat's wife murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered the body of a housewife from her in-laws' house in Jashore's Chaugachha upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Hasu Khatun, 24, was wife of UAE expatriate Alauddin of Chakla village. Police, however, detained Alauddin for quizzing.

Victim's father Mohammad Ullah father alleged a couple of days ago Alauddin returned home and demanded TK 2 lakh from him, but he denied to pay the money, he alleged.

After hearing the news of Hasu's death, he went to Alauddin's house and found the tendons of his daughter's hand and leg cut-off.

# Batighar Adarsha Library: Spreading light in silence

Mirza Shakil

A library, set up at a remote rural area in Tangail by a university student (now a police officer), has been helping local people including youths and students gather knowledge and become enlightened citizen for the last one decade.

Md Kamruzzaman Sohag, former student of criminology and police science department at Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University in Santosh, set up the library "Batighar Adarsha Library (Lighthouse Ideal Library)" at his house at Chourakora village in Mogra union in Sadar upazila on February 21, 2010 with a slogan 'Let's read books, enlighten ourselves'.

Men and women of any age, including students, can come here and immerse themselves in the ocean of knowledge. If anyone wants, he or she can become a member of the library following certain rules. If any reader wishes, he can read the book in the library and if he wants, he can take it to home.

Meanwhile, after founder Sohag joined as an officer of Bangladesh Police in 2018, the library has been running under the supervision of a group of local young students studying in local colleges and universities. They help others become members of the library and borrow books from it and return them. Besides, they also organise different positive events at the



"The library is not only about reading books. We also organise different events including general knowledge competitions among primary and secondary students, providing scholarships, recitation of poems, songs and recitations of the



Students read books and newspapers at Batighar Adarsha Library at Chourakora village in Tangail Sadar upazila. Below, Md Kamruzzaman Sohag, founder of the library.

contemporary issues at the library," Sohag

Sohag, now serving as a sub-inspector at police headquarters, also said that he has established the library as there are many people who love to read books but cannot afford to buy books regularly. "Previously it was our small effort to make it easier for them to read books," he said.

The library currently has around 700 different types of books in its collection. Such as science, literature, history, biography, religion, books on job preparation, magazines, newspapers, magazines on current affairs, academic books and juvenile literature.

"I am really grateful to those who have contributed to the development of the library with books and advice at different times," Sohag said.

Aminul Islam, a third-year honours student and also a regular reader of the Quran, and holding discussion on various library, said, "Since there is no library

public library to read books, which is 12 kilometres away. So even if I wanted to, I didn't always get the chance.'

"Because of the inception of this library, we are getting immensely benefitted," he

Anwar Hossain, headmaster of local Chowdhury Malancha High School, said that the library is playing a positive role in building reading habits among the common people. "I believe that by reading different types of books in addition to the textbooks, students are enriching their knowledge which will enlighten their future," he said.

Abdullah Khodabox, a senior citizen and social worker, said, "Reading a book has brought positive change among the boys and girls of our village. Giving time to this library instead of gossiping is keeping them away from various addictions. We hope the 'Lighthouse Ideal Library' will

nearby, we had to go to the district move forward. The light of knowledge will spread all around."

> Azaharul Islam, chairman of Mogra Union Parishad, said, "I would like to thank all those involved in the library for taking such an excellent initiative. This library is making an important contribution in building a knowledge based society. I will always be there for the development of the

> Asked about the future plans, the founder of the library (SI Sohag) said that there are plans to further enrich the collection of books in the future, including the construction of a modern building for the library. "My father has already assured to donate a piece of land for the new library building," he said.

Apart from developing the habit of reading books among the people, initiatives will also be taken by this organisation to solve various problems of the society, Sohag said.



The dragon fruit orchard of Abu Taleb at Kumrihat village in Aditmari upazila

PHOTO: **S DILIP ROY** 

# Dragon fruit gleams prospect in Lalmonirhat

Lalmonirhat's first commercial dragon fruit grower Abu Taleb hopes to make around Tk 15 lakh in profit

Inspired by YouTube, Abu Taleb started his dragon fruit orchard in 2019, when he was working at a private firm. He invested Tk 5 lakh on the orchard, on 65 decimals of land that he owns at his home village of Kumrihat in Aditmari upazila.

The trees started to bear fruits in only eight months and now each tree produces 12 to 15 kilograms of the fruit. Out of the first harvest, he sold only Tk 10 thousand worth of dragon fruit and he gave away the rest, worth about Tk 70 thousand, to his relatives and neighbours.

"I hope to harvest Tk 14 to 15 lakh worth of dragon fruit from the orchard this year," said Abu Taleb.

When the demand is good, each kg of the fruit can be sold for Tk 200 to 250, he said. "Even if I sell dragon fruit from my garden for Tk 50 per kg, I can still make profit... Initially, due to my lack of experience, I spent extra now I have gained enough knowledge to cultivate the fruit properly."

Aside from growing fruits,

dragon fruit. So far, he grew 2,800 saplings and he is currently making preparations to produce over 10 thousand more. He has been selling each sapling for Tk 50.

farmer Mohammad Abdullah bought 100 dragon fruit

> Inspired by YouTube, Abu Taleb started his dragon fruit orchard in 2019, when he was working at a private firm. He invested Tk 5 lakh on the orchard, on 65 decimals of land.

saplings from Abu Taleb in January. Abdullah said Abu Taleb also explained him good techniques to cultivate the fruit.

If he finds success during trial, he will also start cultivating dragon fruit money to prepare my garden. But on a large scale like Abu Taleb, he also said.

Jobed Ali, an educated youth from the same village, said he became a huge amount of investment is

after seeing Abu Taleb's success.

He already bought 150 saplings of the fruit and he was getting prepared to plant more. "There's a huge demand for dragon fruit at the market. If the production of the fruit is as expected, it can bring expected profits," he said.

Abu Taleb said regular and proper care of dragon fruit can produce expected results and only organic fertiliser should be used in its production.

"I leased 100 decimals of land, next to my garden, where I will plant 5,000 dragon fruit saplings this year. Once the garden is ready, it will be possible for me to earn an income for the next 20 years."

I dream of standing by the and unemployed population in Lalmonirhat by getting them involved in dragon fruit farming," he added.

Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Lalmonirhat, said proper and timely care is essential for cultivation of dragon fruit that grows only on higher ground.

Although many farmers are interested in cultivating dragon fruit, they are unable to do so because Abu Taleb also grows saplings of interested in dragon fruit farming necessary in its cultivation, he added.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh **Local Government Engineering Department** Office of the Upazila Engineer Raiganj, Sirajganj www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No:46.02.8861.000.14.028.21.123

e-Tender Notice 06/2020-21

Date: 14-03-2021

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of Tender ID Package No. Name of Scheme Repair and renovation of Raigonj URC under Raiganj Tender/PEDP4/SRJ/RAI/2020upazilla, Sirajganj

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

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches up to 5:00pm on 30/03/2021.

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

> (Md. Atikur Rahman Talukder) Upazila Engineer, LGED Raiganj, Sirajganj e-mail: ue.raiganj@lged.gov.bd

GD- 523

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineering (RHD) Social and Environment Circle Alenbaria, Tejgaon, Dhaka E-mail: sese@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.0000.168.34.66.2021-48

Date: 14-03-2021

## **Corrigendum Notice**

This is to notify for all concerned that the amendment of Request for Expressions of Interest notice vide Reference No. 35.01.0000.168.34.63.2021-45, Dhaka: 4 March 2021 is as follows:

	,		
Project/programme	Required No. of Junior	Actually Required No.	Remarks
name	Engineer for	of Junior Engineer for	
	Resettlement Advisory	Resettlement Advisory	
	Team published in the	Team	
	newspaper		
Consultancy Services	1	2	All other terms and
for Technical Support to			conditions remain
the Social and			unchanged
Environment Circle,			
RHD			

Further information and guidelines are available in the website of Roads and Highways Department, CPTU and Road Transport and Highways Division.



**Mohammad Jahed Hossain** ID No. 601962

Superintending Engineer (C.C) RHD Social and Environment Circle Alenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka

GD-522

### BEHIND-THE-SCENES BIDEN ADMIN OUTREACH

# N Korea unresponsive

REUTERS, Washington

North Korea has not responded to behindthe-scenes diplomatic outreach since mid-February by President Joe Biden's administration, including to Pyongyang's mission to the United Nations, a senior Biden administration official told Reuters on Saturday.

The disclosure of the so-far unsuccessful US outreach, which has not been previously reported, raises questions about how Biden will address mounting tensions with Pyongyang over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

It also adds a new dimension to a visit America's top diplomat and defense secretary will make next week to South Korea and Japan, where concerns over North Korea's nuclear arsenal are expected to be high on the agenda.

The senior Biden administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, offered few details on the diplomatic push. But the official said there had been efforts to reach out to the North Korean government "through several channels starting in mid-February, including in New York.

"To date, we have not received any response from Pyongyang," the official said. North Korea's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Biden administration has so far been cautious in publicly describing its approach to North Korea, saying it cyber hacks.

review following former President Donald Trump's unprecedented engagement with

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump's efforts failed to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

The Biden administration official said it appeared there had been no active dialogue between the United States and North Korea for more than a year, including at the end of Trump's administration, "despite multiple attempts during that time by the United States to engage.

The US official declined to speculate about how the silence from Pyongyang would impact the Biden administration's North Korea policy review, which was expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

During his election campaign, Biden described Kim as a "thug" and said he would only meet him "on the condition that he would agree that he would be drawing down his nuclear capacity.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has held out the possibility of additional sanctions, in coordination with allies, to press North Korea to denuclearize.

Sanctions have so far failed to convince Kim to give up his nuclear weapons.

A confidential UN report found that North Korea maintained and developed its nuclear and ballistic missile programs throughout 2020 in violation of international sanctions, helping fund them with some \$300 million stolen through



Women mourn at a memorial site at the Clapham Common Bandstand, following the kidnap and murder of Sarah Everard, in London, Britain, yesterday. London's police force which dragged mourners from a vigil for a woman whose suspected killer is a police officer faced a backlash from the public and politicians yesterday, with the government demanding it account for its actions. The disappearance of Sarah Everard, 33, as she walked home on the evening of March 3 has provoked a huge outpouring of grief and dismay in Britain at the failure of police and wider society to tackle violence against women. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Pentagon chief sees Asia ties as deterrent against China

AFP, Honolulu

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Saturday he was traveling to Asia to boost military cooperation with American allies and foster "credible deterrence" against China.

Austin kicked off via Hawaii, seat of the American military command for the Indo-Pacific region, his first foreign visits as Pentagon chief.

"This is all about alliances and partnerships," that is to include meetings with key allies in Tokyo,

New Delhi and Seoul. "It's also about nhancing capabilit he added, recalling that while the United States was focused on the anti-jihadist struggle in the Middle East, China was modernizing its army at high speed.

"That competitive edge that we've had has eroded, he said. "We still maintain that edge. We are going to increase that edge going

forward.' "Our goal is to make sure that we have the capabilities and the operational plans... to be able to offer a credible deterrence to China or anybody else who would want to take on the US," he

Lloyd will be joined in Tokyo and Seoul by Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

added

This tour in Asia of the heads of diplomacy and defense of the United States follows an unprecedented summit of the "Quad", an informal alliance born in the 2000s to counterbalance a rising China.

## **GROWING US, CHINA RIVALRY**

# Choosing sides not an option

S'pore PM says his country, many others in tight spot as superpowers jostle for supremacy

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

It will not be possible for Singapore to choose between the United States and China, given the extensive ties the Republic has with both superpowers, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said yesterday.

Many other countries are in a similar situation, he added during an interview with the BBC, saying they would be hard pressed if forced to pick a side.

"I hope the time does not come," he said when asked which one Singapore will choose when the time comes.

The past few years have seen a significant deterioration in ties between the US and China, with their rivalry set to continue in spite of the change in administration in Washington.

With both sides exerting their influence on allies and partners, it has become harder for countries to stay in the middle. The administration of US President Joe Biden, for instance, has called for a review of how the country buys strategic goods, saying that it will work with like-minded countries.

Asked if it is realistic to sit on the fence in light of these developments, Lee said: "I do not he told reporters on the trip : think we are the only ones in this boat."





He cited the European Union, which had signed an investment agreement with China efore Biden took office.

Reiterating Singapore's position of assessing and making a judgment as to which course of ction is in its best interests, Lee said: "Generally, it is that we want to be friends with both, but we have to find our own way forward.'

He also noted that competition and tension between both superpowers is inevitable in the Asia-Pacific region. But he emphasised that they have to coexist.

Unlike the former Soviet Union which had an unsustainable economy and was pushed to the brink during the Cold War, China's economy has a lot of resilience, tremendous energy and creativity, and people who are on the move and

are making great progress, he added.

The US, too, may have serious political schisms and problems, but has got tremendous vitality and attraction for people around the world, he added.

"It has come back from many difficult spots before. In that situation, unless the two powers decide to coexist, they are both in for a hard time, and so are we," he said.

Asked whether the US had to accept that it is no longer number one, Lee said: "The US is still number one, but number two is not so far behind. That is what is difficult for the US to

On tensions escalating, he pointed out that a real military conflict between both countries "could happen before you expect it, if there is a

However, Lee added that the odds of a military clash are not yet high, but it is more likely now than five years ago, as domestic calculations have become paramount for both sides.

"It is understandable. China is in a new position now, and you have to set a different balance in your relationship with the world," he added.

"What the world was prepared to grant you in an earlier phase now has to be reworked, and that is quite difficult for a country to accept."

### **NEW 'PROPAGANDA' CHARGES**

## Zaghari-Ratcliffe back in Iran court

AFP, Tehran

British-Iranian dual national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe yesterday appeared in a Tehran court to face new charges of 'propaganda against the system", a week after she finished serving a five-year sentence, her lawyer said.

The hearing has dashed hopes of family and supporters for a swift release of the 42-year-old, in a case that has heightened diplomatic tensions between London and Tehran.

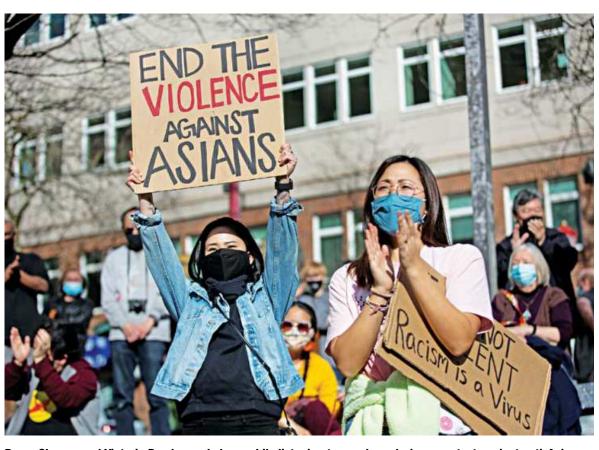
"The hearing took place in a very calm and good atmosphere, in the presence of my client," her lawyer Hojjat Kermani told AFP, adding that the judgement would be handed down at a later and unspecified date.

According to Kermani, she is now being prosecuted for propaganda against the system for having participated in a rally in front of the Iranian embassy in London" in 2009.

Given the evidence presented by the defence and the legal process, and the fact that my client has also served her previous sentence, I hope that she will be acquitted, the lawyer added.

In London, her Member of Parliament Tulip Siddiq said that "no verdict was given", but added that  $\hat{i}$ it shou $\hat{i}$ d be delivered within a week".

Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained while on holiday in 2016 and convicted of plotting to overthrow the regime in Tehran -- accusations she strenuously denied. The motherof-one was working at the time as a project manager for Thomson Reuters Foundation, the media organisation's philanthropic wing.



Dawn Cheung and Victoria Do clap and cheer while listening to speakers during a protest against anti-Asian hate crimes, organized by the Asian American Pacific Islanders Organizing Coalition Against Hate & Bias, at Hing Hay Park in the Chinatown-International District of Seattle, Washington, U.S, on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Japanese worshippers 'walks on fire' to pray for safety

Japanese worshippers yesterday prayed for the safety of themselves and their families by walking barefoot with Buddhist monks over smouldering coals at an annual festival near Mt Takaosan.

The fire-walking was more tense than usual because participants were required to wear masks and maintain social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic. The festival was also limited to 1,000 participants. Last year, it wasn't open to the public because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Passing your body through the flames cleanses your soul and delivers your prayers to Buddha," said Koshou Kamimura, a Buddhist monk from Takaosan Yakuouin

"Ĥistorically, Mt. Takaosan is an important place to pray for deliverance from plagues, so I felt we should hold the festival this year with certain precautions."

The festival, called hiwatari matsuri in Japanese, has a history of about 50 years at

The monks set fire to wood and Japanese cypress leaves, creating an intense bonfire. The monks then doused the flames with water, collected the embers and laid them



out in two strips, over which they walked barefoot while chanting.

Worshippers followed the monks, wearing masks due to the coronavirus. Some monks carried small children over the embers as dark smoke billowed into the air.

Tokyo is preparing to host the Summer Olympics this year, delayed from 2020 because of the coronavirus, with domestic opinion polls showing people favour limiting the number of spectators at the

"Coronavirus infections are spreading globally, so I prayed that it doesn't spread any further," said Eriko Nakamura, 46, as Buddhist monks chanted in the background.

# Pakistan couple expelled by univ after public proposal

AFP, Lahore

A university in deeply conservative Pakistan expelled two students who embraced after getting engaged on campus, after a video of the incident spread on social media this week.

In the clip, a female university student gets down on one knee and proposes to her boyfriend; the couple can then be seen hugging and holding bouquets of flowers as onlookers cheer them on and film the scene.

The University of Lahore said the pair had acted "in violation of university rules".

It added in a statement on Friday that they had failed to appear before a disciplinary hearing and were later expelled for "serious infraction of the code of

conduct". Public displays of affection between couples -- whether married or not -are viewed as culturally and religiously unacceptable.

Many women in patriarchal Pakistan find it hard to defy tradition, with much of the society still operating under a strict code of honour.

The couple has refused to apologise. "We did nothing wrong, and we are not sorry for this," Hadiqa Javaid tweeted.

'Can anyone explain to us what wrong we did by proposal in public in University of Lahore?", her fiance Shehryar Ahmed said, adding that couples had previously proposed to each other on campus.

They said they had received online threats for the show of affection.

Condemning the university's decision, the Progressive Students' Collective union on Saturday tweeted that "moral policing in universities has become a norm lately".

Some universities in Pakistan have barred female students from wearing jeans, tank-tops or makeup, while others regulate interactions between male and female students.

# It was an accident, not an attack

India's EC says on Nandigram incident; fiery WB CM, on wheel chair, stages rally

Our Correspondent, New Delhi

India's Election Commission yesterday ruled out that there was any attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram, saying it was an accident.

The EC, after reviewing the reports sent by two of EC's special poll observers deputed in West Bengal and the state government on the incident, concluded that Mamata sustained injuries while campaigning due to "lapse on the part of her security in charge," said the sources.

There were allegations that the door of her SUV was pushed while she was campaigning in Nandigram on Wednesday evening after filing her nomination from the constituency. Mamata fell down and sustained injuries on her left leg and waist.

Her leg in a bandage and ensconced in a wheelchair, Mamata yesterday returned to the assembly election campaign pitch and said nothing will keep her from protecting the

democratic rights of the people. The 66-year-old led a rally from Mayo Road



in central Kolkata to Hazra in the south, said "I am hurt and unwell, but my goal remains intact. . I will continue to roam around Bengal on this wheelchair. If I go on bed rest, who will reach out to the people of Bengal?" she said.

The ruling came after West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress raise its concerns EC over the Nandigram incident, which they termed as premeditated. On the other hand, the BJP too had moved the EC and demanded an impartial probe into the incident and that the video footage of the incident be made public.

Meanwhile, Suvendhu Adhikari, who has

switched over to the BJP from TMC recently, yesterday attacked his former party saying those who have given promotions to the police officers responsible for the 2007 Nandigram police firing, which left 14 people dead, have no right to seek votes from the people of the area. Mamata has left her Bhowanipore constituency

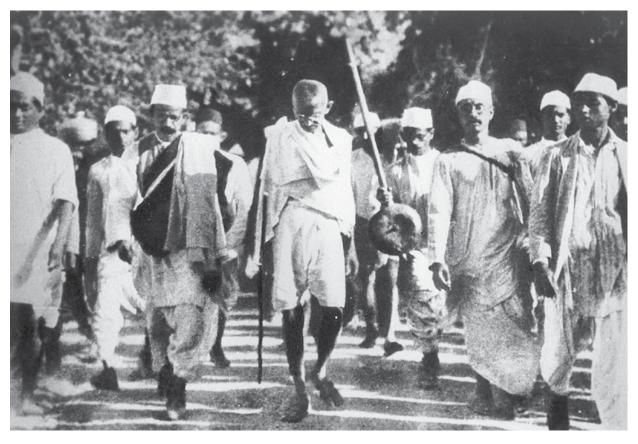
in Kolkata to fight Adhikari in Nandigram where an anti-land acquisition movement against the then leftist government catapulted her party to power in 2011.

YASHWANT SINHA JOINS TRINAMUL

On Saturday, former Union finance minister Yashwant Sinha joined the Trinamul Congress in the presence of Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandopadhyay, Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien and Bengal's minister for panchayat and rural affairs Subrata Mukherjee at Trinamul Bhavan.

"The democratic stature of our republic is in danger. Today, almost every institution of democracy has become weakened and unfortunately, the judiciary is also among them," he said as he explained why joined TMC.

# **≶tar**





Gandhi leading his followers on the famous salt march to break the British Salt Laws, March, 1930.

Women played key role during the movement by organising salt making at multiple locations.

## 91 YEARS OF SALT MARCH

# When Gandhi's Salt March Rattled British Colonial Rule

### **EVAN ANDREWS**

Since the late-1910s, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi had been at the forefront of India's quest to shake off the yoke of British colonial domination, otherwise known as the "Raj." The thin and abstemious former lawyer had led civil disobedience against colonial policies, encouraged Indians to boycott British goods, and had served two years in prison on charges of sedition.

Gandhi's philosophy of "satyagraha," which sought to reveal truth and confront injustice through nonviolence, had made him the most polarizing figure on the subcontinent. While the British regarded him with suspicion, Indians had begun calling him

"Mahatma," or "great-souled." When the Indian National Congress redoubled its efforts for independence in January 1930, many assumed Gandhi would stage his most ambitious satyagraha campaign to date. Yet rather than launching a frontal assault on more high profile injustices, Gandhi proposed to frame his protest around salt.

As with many other commodities, Britain had kept India's salt trade under its thumb since the 19th century, forbidding natives from manufacturing or selling the mineral and forcing them to buy it at high cost from British merchants. Since salt was a nutritional necessity in India's steamy climate, Gandhi saw the salt laws as an inexcusable evil.

Many of Gandhi's comrades were initially skeptical. "We were bewildered and could not fit in a national struggle with common salt," remembered Jawaharlal Nehru, later India's first prime minister. Another colleague compared the proposed protest to striking a

the salt monopoly was a stark example of the ways the Raj unfairly imposed Britain's will on even the most basic aspects of Indian life. Its effects cut across religious and class differences, harming both Hindus and Muslims, rich and poor.

On March 2, he penned a letter to British Viceroy Lord Irwin and made a series of requests, among them the repeal of the salt tax. If ignored, he promised to launch a satyagraha campaign. "My ambition," he wrote, "is no less than to convert the British people through nonviolence and thus make them see the wrong they have done to India.

Irwin offered no formal response, and at dawn on March 12, 1930, Gandhi put his plan into action. Clad in a homespun shawl and sandals and holding a wooden walking stick, he set off on foot from his ashram near Ahmedabad with several dozen companions and began an overland trek to the Arabian Sea town of Dandi. There, he planned to defy the salt tax by illegally harvesting the mineral from the beachside. The 60-year-old expected to be arrested or even beaten during the journey, but the British feared a public backlash and elected not to quash the march.

With Gandhi setting a brisk pace at its head, the column crossed the countryside at a rate of roughly 12 miles per day. Gandhi paused at dozens of villages along the route to address the masses and condemn both the Raj and the salt tax. He also encouraged government workers to embrace his philosophy of noncooperation by quitting their jobs. "What is government service worth, after all?" he asked during a stop at the city of Nadiad. "A government job gives you the power to tyrannize over others."

As Gandhi and his followers inched toward

the western coastline, thousands of Indians joined their ranks, transforming the small cadre of protestors into a miles-long procession. The New York Times and other media outlets began following the walk's progress, quoting Gandhi as he denounced the salt tax as "monstrous" and chided the British for "being ashamed to arrest me."

In addition to lambasting the Raj, Gandhi also used his speeches to lecture on the injustices of the Indian caste system, which labeled the lowest classes "untouchable" and deprived them of certain rights. Gandhi stunned onlookers by bathing at an "untouchable" well at the village of Dabhan, and during another stop in Gajera, he refused to begin his speech until the untouchables were allowed to sit with the rest of the audience.

Gandhi and his party finally arrived at Dandi on April 5, having walked 241 miles in the span of just 24 days. The following morning, thousands of journalists and supporters gathered to watch him commit his symbolic crime. After immersing himself in the sparkling waters of the Arabian Sea, he walked ashore where the beach's rich salt deposits rested. British officials had reportedly ground the salt into the sand in the hope of frustrating Gandhi's efforts, but he easily found a lump of salt-rich mud and held it aloft in triumph. "With this," he announced, "I am shaking the foundations of the British Empire."

Gandhi's transgression served as a signal for other Indians to join in what had become known as the "Salt Satyagraha." Over the next several weeks, supporters across the subcontinent flocked to the seaside to illegally harvest the mineral. Women took on a crucial role. Many boiled water to make salt, and others

sold illicit salt in city markets or led pickets in front of liquor and foreign cloth shops. "It seemed as though a spring had suddenly been released," Nehru later said. Some 80,000 people were arrested in the spree of civil disobedience, and many were beaten by police.

Gandhi was taken into custody on May 5, after he announced his intention to lead a peaceful raid on a government salt works at Dharasana. But even with their leader behind bars, his followers pressed on. On May 21, some 2,500 marchers ignored warnings from police and made an unarmed advance on the Dharasana depot.

American journalist Webb Miller was on the scene, and he later described what followed. "Suddenly," he wrote, "at a word of command, scores of native police rushed upon the advancing marchers and rained blows on their heads...Not one of the marchers even raised an arm to fend off the blows. They went down like ten-pins.

Miller's harrowing account of the beatings circulated widely in the international media, and was even read aloud in the U.S. Congress. Winston Churchill—no great fan of Gandhi would later admit that the protests and their aftermath had "inflicted such humiliation and defiance as has not been known since the British first trod the soil of India.

Gandhi remained in lockup until early 1931, but he emerged from prison more revered than ever before. Time magazine named him its 1930 "Man of the Year," and newspapers around the globe jumped at any opportunity to quote him or report on his exploits. British Viceroy Lord Irwin finally agreed to negotiate with him, and in March 1931, the two hammered out the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which ended the satyagraha in

ing the

aportant

of April,

the first

is now

capital-

Policy

In es-

of the

ge and

tion be-

sts and

th the

ısh.

exchange for several concessions including the release of thousands of political prisoners. While the agreement largely maintained the Raj's monopoly over salt, it gave Indians living on the coasts the right to produce the mineral from the sea.

Difficult days still lay ahead. Gandhi and his supporters would launch more protests in the 1930s and 40s and endure even more stints behind bars, and Indian independence would have to wait until 1947—only months before Gandhi was shot dead by a militant Hindu.

But while the immediate political results of the Salt March were relatively minor, Gandhi's satyagraha had nevertheless succeeded in his goal of "shaking the foundations of the British Empire." The trek to the sea had galvanized Indian resistance to the Raj, and its international coverage had introduced the world to Gandhi and his followers' astonish ing commitment to nonviolence.

Among others, Martin Luther King, Jr. would later cite the Salt March as a crucial influence on his own philosophy of civil disobedience. Gandhi had sent a simple message by grasping a handful of salt on the beach at Dandi, and millions had answered his call. Evan Andrews is a historian.

The article was originally published in www.history.com on October 2, 2019. **Guidelines for In Focus submissions:** 

The Daily Star In Focus welcomes your submissions on issues that are relevant, timely and of public interest. If you want to submit an article or pitch an idea for an article for the page please email us at tdsinfocus@ gmail.com



Gandhi at Dandi, South Gujarat, picking salt on the beach at the end of the Salt March, 5 April 1930. Behind him is his second son Manilal **Gandhi and Mithuben Petit.** 





Gandhi at a public rally during the Salt Satyagraha.

## rmined GANDHI MAKES SALT, **DEFYING INDIA'S LAW** political used by the col-

Situation Is Tense as Police Gather and Thousands Await Government Action.

w credit estab-MEN JOIN CAMPAIGN Social-

ing the Seven Thousand Plan to Lie on Tracks, Blocking Trains, in Disobedience Drive.

By The Associated Press. JALALPUR, India, Sunday, April 6. -Mahatma Gandhi manufactured salt from sea water at Dandi this morning, thereby breaking the bank British law establishing a monopoly must on salt manufacture.

Signal for Mass Action. with Copyright, 1930, by The New York Times Co. Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Any T

It Is Believ Put Off

By ED Special Cable LONDON, A of observers ald showed hi conciliatory a eign Minister morning, and left London political form mit to the F week-end an day to conti curity.

If the for Paris, the n French to in they will ma The feeling sible Premis gard the po great deal o At any 1 down in the conference l

8 | The Pailty Star



FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 15, 2021, CHAITRA 1, 1427 BS

# Are we ready for a third spike of the pandemic?

Govt must campaign for compliance with health guidelines

O sooner had the virus reached a trough than we see a spike in the number of infected cases in the country. Some countries have been so badly infected, like Italy, that they have gone into another countrywide lock down. To make matters worse, different variants have emerged that might be resistant to the vaccines developed so far, certainly they are considerably more resistant to treatment than the original Covid-19 virus, and more infectious.

Statistics show that in the last four weeks the number of infected persons has shot up in the country and hospital admission has spiked tremendously, particularly in the last one week, by almost 100 percent. According to virologists, there may be several reasons for this. The fall of infection rate to below two percentage in the previous 2-3 months gave us the feeling that the pandemic was all but gone, and the minimum precautionary measures of masking and social distancing were no longer required. Added to that was the false notion that with taking of the first doze of the vaccine we could go back to business as usual. And of course, there is the new UK variant which is, reportedly, much more infectious than the old variety. Virologists also fear that due to repeated mutations, one cannot dismiss the possibility of the growth of a new local variety of the virus.

The newly infected patients in the majority of cases not only need oxygen but intensive critical care also. Unfortunately, we have been again caught off guard. The available ICUs are full to capacity, and if the current trend continues, will fall short of the requirement. As it has been reported, many patients are being turned away from some hospitals. While we take comfort from the assurance of the DGHS, that our facilities can treat the rising number of patients on the existing ICU beds and that our oxygen supply is enough and that central oxygen supply systems have been set up in many medical college hospitals and the hospitals with 250 beds, we must cater for the new wave.

The virus is so highly infectious that no facility can ever be enough. Therefore, apart from enhancing the hospital facilities, we believe that the best way to combat the virus is to prevent its transmission and growth by adopting all the protective measures as individuals. That means masking up mandatorily, washing our hands at regular intervals, and maintaining social distance. We believe that the government must start another campaign to reinforce the observance of these health guidelines. We can go back to business as usual, but only at our own peril.

# Unplanned industrialisation killing the Sutang river

When will the authorities act to save our rivers?

HE rivers of Bangladesh are so crucial to its existence that they have been recognised as "living entities" or "legal persons" with their own set of rights by the High Court, and the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) has been appointed as the legal guardian of all rivers in the country. Despite this, despite the 17-point High Court judgment from July 2019 which clearly stated that "killing a river is virtually a collective suicide for all", and despite the prime minister herself giving several directives to the involved actors to protect rivers—the destruction of our rivers and other waterbodies continues unabated.

And the latest victim is the Sutang river. According to a report in this daily, the Shoiljura canal in Habiganj was re-excavated seven years ago for the crucial task of bringing fresh water from the Sutang to irrigate surrounding villages; but now, it has become a hazard affecting at least 30 villages, as well as the river itself. As is often the case, the culprits are a number of factories established on its banks that are dumping industrial waste into the canal and contaminating the water, to the extent that the Sutang river is now too toxic for aquatic life and for irrigation purposes. On top of that, locals have reported that the polluted water is causing skin diseases and damaging crops, but demands raised by environmentalists and local representatives have, so far, fallen on deaf ears. As the Sutang is connected with the Meghna, this wanton destruction is ultimately affecting one of the major rivers of Bangladesh.

March 14 was the International Day of Action for Rivers, and environmentalists and activists came together to give the government a number of recommendations on saving our rivers, which included dealing with the dumping of waste and making it mandatory for all factories to install waste treatment plants. Will the authorities take these recommendations on board, when they are failing to take even the simplest steps to stop river pollution due to unplanned and unregulated industrialisation?

In almost every report this daily has printed on the destruction of rivers, whether through industrial pollution, land-grabbing or faulty river management, there have been accusations of influential persons escaping any sort of accountability for the actions that are negatively impacting rivers. In this case too, local environmentalists allege that large companies have bought up cheap land and are now occupying and polluting the Sutang river with impunity. Even DoE officials have admitted that despite running effluent treatment plants, it is possible that untreated industrial waste is being discharged into the canal through less visible streams.

Our question is, what are the authorities going to do about it? Are they going to finally step into their role as the protector of our rivers, and take action? Or are they going to allow the unregulated industrialisation around the Sutang to destroy not just the river, but the wetlands and agriculture in surrounding areas, causing untold damage to the environment, as well as to the health and livelihoods of the local population?

# Bangladesh's achievements in 50 years and making it meaningful



S Fahmida Khatun

ARCH is a month that carries special significance for Bangladesh. In March 1971, the country got involved in the Liberation War, which continued

for nine long months. This war was the culmination of a prolonged movement for emancipation from economic, political and cultural suppression by the then West Pakistan. Thus, the Liberation War was influenced by the ethos to establish a country where the underlying philosophy of development policies were equity and justice. Independence was about achieving democratic rights, economic rights, social rights and cultural rights. The aspirations of the people of Bangladesh have been articulated eloquently in the constitution of the country.

However, Bangladesh's journey in the post-independence period has not been smooth. It has experienced turmoil in the form of assassinations, coups, counter-coups and military rule. These were coupled with corruption and bad governance. Within three years of Bangladesh's independence, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in August 1975, by a group of junior army officers, in an attempt to overthrow the incumbent government. Following this brutal killing, a sharp division in political ideology began to take root in the country. After a long period of instability and misrule, Bangladesh moved towards a democratic transition through parliamentary elections

This transition, however, could not continue uninterrupted as politics could not take a developed and institutional shape and instead became highly confrontational. So, after a few elections, the democratic process faced another blow in the midst of bitter hostility among the dominant political parties in 2006, when transition of power through an election became uncertain. This resulted in the assumption of power by a military-backed non-partisan caretaker government, which took over in January 2007 with the promise to hold a free and fair election. An election was held in December 2008 and Bangladesh Awami League came into power, winning an overwhelming majority. However, the parliament became dysfunctional after the election and political opposition has become weaker over time. Hence, 50 years on, Bangladesh's political journey is still a "work in progress".

In terms of the economic situation, in 1971, Bangladesh inherited a poor and undiversified economy. It was predominantly an agricultural economy with low productivity. It had underdeveloped industrial and services sectors, a rapidly growing population and an overall poor infrastructure. Due to

decades of British and Pakistani colonial exploitation, the economy was stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty. Low levels of income, savings and investment were resulting in a low growth. On top of this, the war had caused serious damage to the economy.

Despite such unfavourable circumstances and constraints on resources, Bangladesh has made spectacular economic and social progress over the last five decades. For one, the growth rate of its Gross Domestic Production (GDP) has been impressive. On average, the GDP of Bangladesh has risen from about 3 percent in the 1970s to 7 percent in the 2010s, and had crossed 8 percent just before the Covid-19 pandemic set in. Though the pandemic has slowed Bangladesh's growth, its GDP growth is projected to rise faster than

Economic progress has impacted the social lives of the population positively on many counts. By 2016, the share of population below the poverty line had declined from more than 80 percent in the early 1970s to 24.2 percent. Life expectancy has also increased by more than one and a half times since 1973. In a similar vein, maternal mortality has declined by almost four times and child mortality by about five times from what they were in the eighties. And there are many more visible progresses of which we are proud of.

The recognition of such progress has come from several organisations. In February 2021, Bangladesh fulfilled all three criteria to graduate from a least developed country (LDC) to a developing country, for the second time since 2018. The United Nations has recommended

increasing. With the pandemic hitting the economy hard, inequality may have widened in Bangladesh, as is apprehended in many other countries too.

Therefore, the macroeconomic numbers are only a part of the full story. GDP may continue to grow, and per capita income may also rise—but they mean nothing in the end, particularly for those who live on the edge of vulnerability. This is not only because the process of estimating GDP and per capita income are faulty and provides an incomplete picture, but also because, in the absence of major enablers of economic progress (such as participatory development process), growth will continue to suffer from disillusionment. Studies indicate that if political and economic institutions are inclusive and pluralistic, everyone will have incentives to invest and success will



that of other countries. High growth has pushed per capita income upwards by 23 times in 2020, from where it was in 1973.

The characteristics of a modern economy—that is, a graduation from being agriculturally-dependent to growing through the industry and services sector—is also being observed gradually. Currently, the share of agriculture in Bangladesh's GDP is about 13 percent, while that of industry and services sectors are about 35 percent and 52 percent, respectively. The economy has also been integrated with the global economy. Shares of exports, imports and remittances in GDP have increased over time. Moreover, high imports are possible with the help of impressive remittance flow. On the other hand, dependency on foreign aid to undertake development work has declined by almost half in terms of its share in GDP in 2020 (from that of 1973), indicating a more self-reliant

Bangladesh's graduation by 2026. Besides, in 2015, Bangladesh became a lower-middle income country from being a low-income country, according to the World Bank's classification of countries.

It should be noted, though, that the fruits of all this progress are yet to be distributed equally to each and every member of Bangladeshi society. So, while we rejoice at the achievements we have made since our independence, it is important to remember that we have also let many opportunities pass us by. Despite steady progress in several areas, the promise of an equitable and just society has remained unfulfilled. Income inequality persists as resources and wealth are concentrated amongst a few people in society, many of whom are politically connected. The nexus between politics and business is also strong. As the number of the ultra-rich people is increasing fast, the Gini coefficient that measures the country's income inequality is also

follow. However, nations find it difficult to succeed if institutions protect the political and economic interests of only a small group of powerful people.

On the occasion of Bangladesh's golden jubilee, we celebrate the achievements made by the country with pride. A lot of blood, sweat and tears have gone into Bangladesh's independence and victory. The sacrifice of our freedom fighters can only be meaningful if tangible change in the lives, particularly of the poorest of common citizens, happens. This requires an inclusive democratic and development process. Participation of the broader section of the population in the economic and political process can make the 50 years of economic progress even more meaningful.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of her organisation.

# It's time to incentivise sustainability



it was announced that one of the world's leading online fashion companies, Boohoo, is looking at financially incentivising its leadership team for achieving

sustainability targets. The business discussed this issue in a meeting with the UK government late last year and the government has now written to the company's chairman, urging him to link executive bonuses to progress on workers' rights and environmental sustainability.

We have seen talk of this kind of thing in the past but not so much in the textile and apparel industry. I believe this picture may change soon, not just because it is the only sure-fire way to ensure companies will do what they say they are going to on sustainability issues, but also because of compliance reasons.

The regulatory authorities in one of our key target markets—the EU—are more and more looking at supply chain due diligence. In other words, they are considering laws which would make companies within the EU accountable for transgressions in supply chains in Asia. So, for instance, if it was found that a brand was importing clothing that had been made using forced labour or in a factory that was polluting the environment, the brand would be held accountable and may face fines or other penalties.

I am digressing slightly, although these issues are interlinked. Let's go back to the issue of incentives. It's my belief that all actors in the apparel industry—brands, their suppliers, even workers—need to be incentivised to behave responsibly, ethically and with the environment in mind. The challenge is that this is rarely the case right now. In fact, in many instances there is absolutely no incentive to operate responsibly.

Let me use the example of my own factory. Like many other RMG operators in Bangladesh, I set out to meet the ultimate environmental and ethical standards. I have all the water and energy saving technology, I have the accreditations, I look after my staff well and strive to meet the highest sustainability standards. My factory is far from alone in that; my story is mirrored across many other, progressive factories

What is going to compel us all as an industry to do the right thing? How can we be incentivised as individuals and businesses to invest in sustainable practices?

Surely linking sustainable achievements with bonuses is a great start. There has been talk of this for years in supply chains, talk of purchasing managers being incentivised to purchase along green lines. The talk has never



in Bangladesh and, indeed, in other parts of Asia

As factory owners we have invested in some cases because we want to do the right thing but, in many cases, because we believe there will be a financial pay-off. In other words, many owners believe brands will be more likely to use our factories—and pay a premium where appropriate—if we do things the right way.

The problem comes when this does not work out; when factories which have done none of these things and basically done the bare minimum also continue to get business and thrive. Where is the incentive to invest in green business then?

All of this was brought to mind when I related the Boohoo story earlier around linking executive pay to sustainability progress. We are talking about a universal issue here and it is one of incentives.

materialised into action. When I deal with buyers it is almost always price, price, price. Sustainability teams and purchasing teams still appear to operate separately after all these years. They should be one and the same thing or, if not, at least singing off the same hymn sheet.

The ability to purchase sustainably, to identify the best factories in terms of green practices, to understand different materials and production methods, to reward good suppliers should be the number one attribute of a good purchasing manager. It should supersede all else if we genuinely want to turn the needle on sustainability.

I talked about the shifting legislative environment earlier and the growing importance of due diligence. Here, again, incentives are a crucial factor. Governments have a critical role to play

in ensuring that businesses which operate sustainably gain a clear commercial advantage. This can be a two-pronged approach: on the one hand, heavy fines or punishments for bad practice or serious transgressions; and rewards/incentive schemes for industry leaders. These rewards could include tax-breaks and other fiscal incentives. There must be a benefit to behaving responsibly, otherwise you create an unfair playing field whereby laggards get to cut corners and save costs with no punishment. In effect, they actually gain a commercial advantage here if all are treated the same.

I see examples of all these things playing out in the broader fashion industry. For years, we as manufacturers, have known who the best buyers are—the ones who treat suppliers the fairest, the ones who do not cut corners, who pay their bills and who can generally be trusted.

Likewise, we all know the brands which are always looking to make a saving, which drive unnecessarily hard on price and do not appear to understand sustainability issues (and that the sustainable way can sometimes be more expensive).

And yet, guess what? The public often do not know the difference. They are none-the-wiser and when I see things written about our industry, it often appears that all brands are tarred with the same brush. I come back to that word again: incentives. Where is the incentive to do right if all are treated the same?

This is the issue our industry must grapple with. There has to be a clear pathway for sustainability and a suitable reward structure for those doing good, whether that be individuals or businesses.

At the moment, there are far too many cases where people and businesses are rewarded very handsomely for practices which exploit people and the planet. As long as that remains the case, where is the real incentive to change?

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

# RTI: All three branches of government fall within its ambit

SHAMSUL BARI and RUHI NAZ

**¬**HE deleterious impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the operations of the Right to Information (RTI) Act has been much discussed in the last one year. We drew attention to it in several of our columns. We also highlighted the positive role it played in enhancing public awareness about the importance of the law during a crisis period. In today's column, we revert to its use in normal

Let's look at three examples from neighbouring India, Pakistan, and Sri Lankasome more recent than others.

The Sri Lankan example stemmed from an RTI request filed by a local journalist, Chamara Sampath, who sought from the secretary general of the Parliament the list of Members of Parliament (MP) who had submitted Declaration of Assets and Liabilities during the years 2010-2018. The secretary general declined to release them, arguing that they were submitted confidentially by the MPs to the speaker, and he had no access to them. He also felt that the request infringed on the privileges of the Parliament.

On appeal by the journalist to the Right to Information Commission (RTIC) of Sri Lanka, the latter set aside, in a decision last month, the refusal of the secretary general and directed him to release the desired information. It based its decision on the ground that the list of MPs did not amount to personal information or information that infringed parliamentary privilege provision of the RTI Act.

The commission further held that MPs, by taking on a public role, had accepted a higher level of public scrutiny and the requested information would provide the people with crucial insights into compliance of the law by MPs who held elected office and were financed by public funds. As such, there was an overriding public interest in the disclosure of the information.

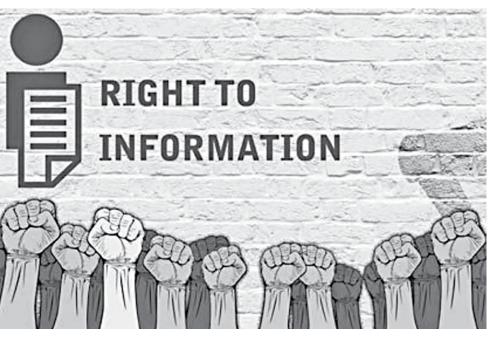
Equally significant was the RTIC ruling that

since the Parliament was a Public Authority under the RTI Act, it is of no consequence whether the requested information was in the hands of the speaker or the secretary general. The latter being the "administrative arm" of Parliament, had "institutional possession" of the information. It is remarkable that unlike many other commissions in the region, the RTIC took a constructive approach to advance the objectives of the law rather than looking for loopholes to deny it.

The example from Pakistan relates to a decision made by the Pakistan Information Commission in an RTI appeal submitted by a citizen, Mukhtar Ahmed Ali. The latter was aggrieved by the demand for proof of his citizenship by the Public Information Officer (PIO) of the National Assembly (NA) of Pakistan to whom the initial RTI request was submitted and which he considered ultra vires. In its June 2019 decision, the Commission allowed the appeal and directed all PIOs under the Right of Access to Information (RTAI) Act 2017 of Pakistan not to demand a certified copy of the national identity card, CNIC, of an RTI applicant, as it was not required by the law. It ordered the respondent to provide the requested information within a stipulated

It all began when the appellant submitted a RTI application to the PIO of the National Assembly of Pakistan, requesting information on the total sanctioned posts of the NA: the pay scale against different positions; total number of vacancies and dates since they lay vacant; number of staff members who were not regular but engaged on a daily-wage or short-term or long-term basis; total number of female staff members and persons with disabilities, etc. Though the information sought appeared innocuous, the PIO declined to disclose them and looked for a way out. Unfortunately, such a tendency is not too uncommon among PIOs in the region.

It is remarkable, however, that the



commission allowed the appeal and held that the RTAI Act 2017 did not require applicants to establish proof of citizenship for making information requests. It underlined that the elected representatives of the people who had adopted the law had not restricted the right of access to information only to CNICholding citizens of Pakistan because they did not want to deny its benefits to members of vulnerable groups who did not have access to CNIC. It further stated that the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental human right of access to information in matters of public importance should be interpreted by public bodies as a right of all citizens of Pakistan and not a privilege extended only to those who can first provide certified copies of their CNICs. A very positive approach indeed!

The Indian example relates to another arm of the government—the judiciary, and more

specifically, the Supreme Court of India (SCI). It has emerged as a landmark case in the annals of the RTI Act of India. It underwent a long battle for accountability and transparency waged by an Indian citizen, Mr Subhash Chandra Agarwal, against the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The latter had declined to disclose information sought by the applicant some 10 years ago, claiming that the office of CJI did not fall within the purview of the RTI Act. The request included information regarding assets and liabilities of judges.

In a remarkable judgement, delivered on November 13, 2019, the SCI held that the office of CJI was indeed a "public authority" within the ambit of RTI Act. A five-judge constitution bench, headed by the CJI himself, having considered three separate appeals filed by the CPIO, challenging the Delhi High

Court verdict of 2010 and that of the Central Information Commission of India (CIC) in the same year, upheld the verdict in three separate but concurring judgments.

"Nobody wants to remain in the state of darkness or keep anybody in the state of darkness," the judgement said, adding that: "The question is drawing a line. In the name of transparency, you can't destroy the institution. The judges also held that while public interest demands accountability, judicial independence was equally sacrosanct. They concluded, however, that bringing the CJI's office within the ambit of RTI Act would not undermine that independence.

The verdict was hailed by RTI activists of India, including former CIC of India, Wajahat Habibullah, who saw it as "the consummation of the implementation of the law and not the initiation of any new process." Former Information Commissioner, Shailesh Gandhi, well-known for his teleological interpretation of the law, lamented that "it took 10 years for the Supreme Court to take this decision". Others found it marking "an advancement of the key right of the people to seek information about public functionaries" and felt that "the judgment had once again reiterated a famous adage that "sunlight is the best disinfectant and therefore transparency in the functioning of all institutions, be it a legislature, executive or even judiciary, is indispensable in a modern

We hope that RTI users of Bangladesh will find the examples instructive and a source of knowledge and inspiration for public officials from all three branches of the government and for the Information Commission itself. They edify the immense possibilities of the RTI Act to advance good governance, benefitting everybody, and the role each can play to achieve its goals.

Shamsul Bari and Ruhi Naz are Chairman and RTI Coordinator respectively of Research Initiatives, Bangla RIB. Email: rib@citech-bd.com

# Why are we forgetting Lakingme?

SHOHEL CHANDRA HAIANG

ANGLADESH is experiencing an epidemic of violence against women and girls. Access to justice has long been a challenge in Bangladesh, particularly for this type of violence. On many occasions these cases were dismissed as unsolvable and were simply ignored. The Lakingme Chakma case is no different from these other examples of violence against women and girls. We are also forgetting this case like the previous cases without taking further action to bring justice for her. Lakingme case has been also ignored, mostly because she is from an indigenous marginalised group. Indigenous women and girls are one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the country's population. They are typically deprived of basic human rights, including lack of access to education

Bazar's hospital morgue awaiting a decision as to whom the dead body would be handed over. This issue took 25 days to resolve. Finally, the court decided that Lakingme was under 18 (legally still a child) and her dead body was handed over to her parents on January 4.

their daughter's dead body. But it was completely unjust and inhumane that the state machinery, the administration and everyone else concerned could not have been more responsive to her abduction on January 5, 2020, in spite of Lakingme's parents demanding her return from the beginning. It is impossible to know what kind of torture she had endured after the abduction—torture that lasted almost one year and resulted in her death. Such a heinous crime demands a fair and thorough investigation.

Chakma Para home in Cox's Bazar. It has been alleged that the abductors were led by a non-indigenous Allegedly, she was later forcibly Lakingme's parents finally got before she died.

> father claimed that his daughter had been abducted. If she was a minor, according to our national laws, those who had abducted her and forcibly converted her have committed a serious crime. It has also been claimed by her family that Lakingme was not only forcibly abducted and converted, but that she was raped and was either murdered or forced to commit suicide to escape from her horrible situation. Lakingme's family must get justice and the accused must be held accountable for their actions. After this story went viral on social media and various news channels, we were all able to see pictures of the victim as well as the tears of the victim's parents. Not surprisingly, we saw little of the faces of the alleged abductors and their family members. Moreover, to date, no-one has been held to account for the atrocities committed against Lakingme. We would not have been able to build a strong movement to get justice for her except for the actions taken

was abducted from her Shilkhali

Unfortunately, we have been unable to engage mainstream organisations and their members and to add their voices to this case. We have had this difficulty because Lakingme is from an indigenous group, is not a member of a mainstream religious community and is a poor girl from a remote area near Cox's Bazar. She was a human being and deserved the right to live! If this could be done to her, what progress in the

area of human rights are we seeing

independence?

in Bangladesh, even after 50 years of

by a few human rights, women and indigenous organisations.

The existing environment continues to foster violence against indigenous women and girls because the perpetrators of violence against Lakingme believe they are above the law and will not be punished. There are five crimes related to this case: abduction, forced conversion, child marriage, rape, and suicide instigation/murder. Moreover, Lakingme's family and the indigenous communities continue feeling insecure in Cox's Bazar after this incident. It is disrespectful, both to the women of Cox's Bazar and to the ideals of human rights in general, for the state to fail taking any effective action against these crimes.

We have come to expect improvement in women's rights because the government of Bangladesh ratified international treaties like the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). These mechanisms are supposed to ensure equal rights for men and women to enjoy civil and political rights and free them from discrimination. Moreover, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has provisions for security and protection of indigenous women, to free themselves from discriminat to empower them to assert their rights and preserve their culture. In addition, the Women and Children

section 376 of the Penal Code of Bangladesh provides that: "Whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine." Moreover, a Bangladeshi court issued the death penalty for the first time to five convicts in a rape case after the country amended the law to include a death provision, according to official sources. The Bangladesh government

should take immediate action against the perpetrators who were involved in Lakingme Chakma's abduction and death. The perpetrators must be given exemplary punishment, after an impartial investigation is conducted into her death. There should be a divisional enquiry

made into the Police Bureau of Investigation team and Cox's Bazar Public Prosecutor for the negligent handling of Lakingme's abduction case. Those involved in forging Lakingme's birth certificate, her forced conversion and the marriage of a minor, should all be punished. Furthermore, the government should take the initiative to ensure the safety and care of Lakingme's baby. And also ensure the security of Lakingme's family and their proper compensation and guarantee that indigenous women and girls in Bangladesh have proper access to

Rights Defender and a member of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum. He is working as a Human Rights Programme Officer with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in Thailand. Email: shohelchandra@gmail.com



A number of rights groups, indigenous student organisations and activists holding a candlelight vigil in front of the national parliament, seeking justice for Lakingme Chakma. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

at all levels and types, healthcare, economic and political participation and control over material and immaterial resources.

Indigenous women in Bangladesh often face triple discrimination due to their status as members of a religious minority, indigeneity or ethnicity and for their gendered position. Unfortunately, Lakingme has always had to live with this extreme level of discrimination. We have yet to see justice being served in the case of the Kalpona Chakma abduction (1996), Kritika Tripura's killing (2018), along with hundreds of assorted cases of rape and other violent actions that have happened against indigenous women and girls in Bangladesh over the years. Regrettably, such violence is also increasing every year. Indigenous peoples in Bangladesh account for less than two percent of the country's population, but experience a higher rate of violence against women and girls, according to the Kapaeeng Foundation.

However, most people have known of the case of Lakingme Chakma's tragedy from December 9, 2020, when she was found dead. At the time, the body was kept in Cox's daughter's abduction, Lakingme's father, Lala Aung Chakma, went to the nearby Teknaf Police Station to file a case, but the former Officer in Charge (OC), Pradeep Kumar Das, didn't record the case of his daughter's abduction. Instead, the OC suggested that the father file a general diary (GD). In either case, the police took no action. As the police did not take any action, Lakingme's father subsequently filed a case with Cox's Bazar Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal on January 27. There is evidence that the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) did not investigate the case thoroughly enough. Lakingme's family and the indigenous society, in general, again learned how careless the state administration's response was when investigating the abduction of an indigenous girl!

We have learned that after his

If the administration and OC Pradeep Kumar Das had recorded the case at that time and the PBI had taken the case seriously, the girl could have been rescued in time.

Lakingme was a seventh-grader. She was 14 years and 10 months old on January 5, 2020, when she

man, Ataullah (23) of Cox's Bazar. converted and married to Ataullah at a registrar's office after presenting a forged birth certificate showing her to be 18-years-old. Lakingme had just given birth to a baby girl 13 days It has now been ruled by the court that Lakingme was a child and her Repression Prevention Act 2000 and

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

তারিখ ঃ ১৪/০৩/২০২১ ইং

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জন্য স্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে নিমুবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা

পদের নাম, বেতনক্ষেল ও গ্রেড	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
(১) সেকশন অফিসার (এস্টেট শাখা) (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০) (গ্রেড-৯)	১টি	প্রার্থীকৈ কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কমপক্ষে স্নাতকসহ স্নাতকোন্তর/ সমমানের ভিমির অধিকারী হতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের সকল পর্যায়ে নৃন্যতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/ সমমানের প্রেড থাকতে হবে। স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোন্তর ভিমি পর্যায়ের উভয়টিতে ১ম শ্রেণি প্রাপ্তদের অথাধিকার দেয়া হবে। বয়স অনুর্ধ ৩০ বছর।  অথবা  অথবা  থার্থীকে কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক ভিমির অধিকারী হতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের সকল পর্যায়ে নৃন্যতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/ সমমানের প্রেড থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে কোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/ সরকারি/ আধা- সরকারি/ স্বায়ন্তৃশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে ২য় শ্রেণির কর্মকর্তা/সমমানের পদে কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের চাকুরির অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। বয়স অনুর্ধ ৩৫ বছর।

আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ০৪/০৪/২০২১ ইং। সকল আবেদনপত্র রেজিস্ট্রার, পাবনা বিক্রান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রাজাপুর, পাবনা, বরাবরে উক্ত তারিখের (০৪/০৪/২০২১ ইং) মধ্যে কার্যদিবসে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (৯:০০টা থেকে ৫:০০টা) কেবলমাত্র ভাকষোগে পৌছাতে হরে।

২) আবেদনের জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েব সাইট (www.pust.ac.bd)-এ প্রদত্ত ফরমেটে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্লোক্ত ডকুমেন্টগুলো অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে এবং প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রে স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে ঃ (ক) সদ্যতোলা পাসপোর্ট আকারের ০৩ কপি রঙিন ছবি (খ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সংশ্লিষ্টে সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/ জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (ঘ) অভিজ্ঞতা (বেতনক্রমসহ) সংখ্রিষ্টে সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (ঙ) প্রকাশনা ও প্রশিক্ষণ সংখ্রিষ্টে সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (চ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ভার।

(ক) সকল পদের প্রার্থীদের জন্য ০৭ (সাত) সেট আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে হবে। (খ) মূল আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিজ ঠিকানা সম্বলিত ১০/-(দশ) টাকার ডাকটিকিটসহ ফেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে স্বপদে/সমমানের পদে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তা প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে নির্ধারিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও বয়স এর যে কোন একটি শর্ত শিহিলযোগ্য হবে ।

কর্মকর্তা পদে আবেদনের বেলায় গ্রেডিং পদ্ধতির ক্ষেত্রে প্রথম শ্রেণির সমমান বলতে এস.এস.সি/সমমান ও এইচ.এস.সি/সমমান এর ক্ষেত্রে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৫.০০ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ৩.৫০ এবং স্লাতক ও স্লাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ৩.০০ বুঝাবে এবং দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির সমমান বলতে এস.এস.সি/সমমান ও এইচ.এস.সি/সমমান এর ক্ষেত্রে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৫.০০ এর জন্য ২.৫০ এবং স্লাতক ও স্লাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ে জিপিএ/ সিজিপিএ ৪.০০ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ২.২৫ বুঝাবে। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন পর্যায়ে তৃতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/ সমমানের গ্রেড (৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ২.৫০ এবং ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ২.২৫) এর নিচে গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না এবং বিদেশী ডিগ্রির ক্ষেত্রে ইউজিসি কর্তৃক সমতুল্য সনদ থাকতে হবে/ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সমত্ল্য সনদ (Equivalence committee) কর্তৃক সুপারিশকৃত হতে

চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটার ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান প্রার্থীদেরকে সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সনদপত্রসহ আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীর পিতা/মাতার অনুকূলে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্ব প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

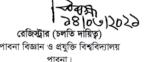
প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীর তাঁর প্রার্থিত পদের নাম এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটার ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য অংশটি খামের উপর স্পষ্ট করে লিখতে হবে। ১০) প্রাপ্ত দরখান্তসমূহ প্রাথমিক বাছাইয়ের পর কেবলমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে লিখিত পরীক্ষা/ মৌখিক পরীক্ষা/ জবটেস্ট এ ডাকা হবে। এর জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান

কর্তৃক পদের অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষে কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞাপিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস বা বৃদ্ধি করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন

১১) পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অনুকুলে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর যে কোন শাখা হতে প্রার্থীদের ৫০০/- টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার

আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নং, টাকার পরিমাণ ও তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ১২) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল কিংবা সংশোধন করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

অধিকতর যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন/ বিভাগীয় প্রার্থী/ পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে এতদসংখ্লিষ্ট অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে এবং বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন



LAND GRABBING IN PABNA

# District admin to probe allegation against MP's son

Our Correspondent, Pabna

Pabna-1 lawmaker Samsul Haque Tuku's son Nafis Sams has allegedly grabbed vast government land beside the Jamuna in the district's Bera upazila and forcibly removed landless people from the area.

The district administration recently kicked off an investigation after receiving complaints from locals.

Meanwhile, the accused, in a press conference held at the Pabna press club yesterday, claimed that he only took initiatives to "develop the area" by establishing a university, a college, and a power plant.

He also claimed that a group of criminals was operating drug businesses and sand lifting illegally in

"I have moved forward to remove the illegal sand lifters and drug traders aiming to launch educational institutions and an energy plant for the sake of the people," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Bera pouro unit Awami League President Abdul Mannan Manu said Nafis bought some land beside the river while grabbing huge khas land.

Nafis also hanged a signboard of "Soudia Agro Solar PV Power Plant" for grabbing the land, he said.

Nafis, along with his men on March, 12, went to the spot and forcibly removed the landless people who were living beside flood protection embankment in Bera municipality's Paina area.

They also damaged the croplands

working in jails, against posts of 141

doctors and 173 pharmacists and

sufficient medicine stocks and 15

ambulances were bought for 15 jails

to ensure treatment facilities [for

inmates]. The authorities will buy

TDS: How many foreign inmates are

currently in jail and to which countries

**IG Prisons:** There are around 534

foreign inmates now and they were

mainly found arrested in cases over

illegal entry in the country, narcotics,

human trafficking, cheque forgery,

Cameroon, Spain, Japan, the UK,

China, Ukraine, Guineau, Mali, South

Korea, Ghana, Kenya, Iran, Uganda,

Of these inmates, around 112 have

completed their sentences but they are still in jail as their home countries

have not verified their identities yet. Some of them are staying in jail

since 2003 even after the end of their

home ministry seeking steps to send

these inmates back to their countries.

Of these "released" inmates, the

largest number, 99, is from India --

but they are still passing their days in

TDS: What initiatives are being taken

for militants' de-radicalisation in jail?

**IG Prisons:** There are 631 militant

inmates and they are kept in separate

wards and cells under tougher

vigilance so that they do not get the

We are providing counselling

regularly to these inmates. The

Counter Terrorism and Transnational

Crime (CTTC) unit and Anti-

Terrorism Unit (ATU) of the police

have communicated with us regarding

de-radicalisation initiatives. We are

hopeful of starting the formal process

with psychologists and experts soon

with the cooperation of these two

**TDS**: What is being done to stop the

illegal use of cellphones in jail?

scope to meet others.

A proposal has been sent to the

South Africa, and Namibia.

some more ambulances gradually.

do they belong?

and fraudulence.

Jails are now equipped with

in the area only for grabbing the land, Manu alleged.

Locals, however, submitted a written complaint to the deputy commissioner of the district yesterday, protesting the land grabbing by the son of the lawmaker.

Kabir Mahamud, the deputy commissioner of Pabna, told The Daily Star that they received the written complaint and took initiatives to investigate the allegations.

"I have already ordered the Bera upazila nirbahi officer to investigate the matter." The DC said.

Refuting the allegation against him, Nafis, however, told the journalists that he had plans to establish a university primarily named Lutfunnesa University of Agriculture and Information Technology, a college named Bir Muktizuddha Samsul Haque Tuku Technical College, and Soudia Agro Solar Power Plant in the

He also alleged that Manu's men were demanding extortion from him and creating obstacles to disrupt the development work.

Refuting the allegation, Manu said he was never involved in the sand lifting business or extortion.

'When the son of the lawmaker and his men are grabbing government properties in the area, I protested them," Manu said.

Vising the spot a few days ago, journalists found the men of the lawmaker's son hanged signboard and started construction beside the

IG Prisons: Every inmate is checked

very carefully so that no one can enter

cellphones receiving signals] in every

jail and increasing its strength. We are

also installing some other modern

equipment so that no one can use

as some of the jail guards are taking

theirs inside although they are not

We are increasing monitoring,

checking CCTV regularly, and keeping

TDS: How do you deal with narcotics

have around 24,101 narcotics case

We check these inmates at the

jail gates when they return from

court after hearings as they try to bring narcotics with them. Besides,

two body scanners were installed at

Dhaka and Kashimpur jails as part of

TDS: What are the main challenges

in converting jails into correction

IG Prisons: A major challenge in

jails is to increase capacity and we

have taken on different projects for

challenge for us as we are not able to

oversee all inmate activities properly

for this. We are working with the

ministry [of home] to address the

training in different trades in only 28

out of 68 jails in the country.

Besides, we are now providing

Once we are able to introduce

training facilities in all jails then the

inmates will be able to rehabilitate

themselves after completing their

time, using the training. We are now

getting trainers from the social welfare

department, ATU, CTTC, and other

agencies like the social welfare

department, then we hope that we will

be able to turn jails into correction

If we get support from the narcotics

Manpower shortage is another

our efforts on to stop the practice.

But cellphones are still being used

We are also installing a jammer

the premises with a cellphone.

[instrument used to

cellphones

These nationals are from India, IG Prisons: The narcotics case inmates

Myanmar, Pakistan, Nigeria, Tanzania, are provided counselling, treatment,

authorised to do so.

case inmates in jail?

ensuring proper checks.

manpower shortage.

department.

inmates now.

centres?

Increasing capacity a big



Palestinian women take part in a protest against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the heritage site of ancient Susya as members of Israeli forces stand guard, in Susya village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

## Quader Mirza sued over violence, death

Companiganj Police Station to submit a report within 15 working days stating whether any compliant or case was lodged with the police station earlier in this connection.

On March 9, a clash broke out between two AL factions -- one led by Mirza and the other by Companiganj upazila unit AL Organising Secretary Mizanur Rahman Badal -- at Basurhat, leaving Alauddin dead. Besides, 30 people, including six policemen, were injured

Following the clash, the two factions blamed each-other for the death of the auto-rickshaw driver.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday,

Hossain Raju, said he tried to file a case with Companiganj Police Station on March 11 over his brother's death.

"But police did not record it as Quader Mirza was made the prime accused in it. They suggested that I drop Mirza's name from the list of accused," Raju claimed.

He then filed the case with the court yesterday. Asked, Mir Jahidul Haque Rony, OC of Companiganj Police Station, said there were some errors in the

complaint and police asked the deceased's brother to come to station after correcting those. But he didn't come to the station,

Contacted, Mirza claimed he was

the victim's younger brother, Emdad a victim of conspiracy hatched by his rival group.

The mayor also said he was passing days in insecurity as his rivals were conspiring to kill him.

On February 19, another deadly clash took place in the area between the two factions. A local journalist, Borhan Uddin Muzakkir, 30, who was shot during the clash, died from wounds a day later.

Over the last two months, Mirza has been making comments, bringing allegations of corruption and misdeeds against AL men in Noakhali and Feni. On multiple occasions, he came down heavily on government officials for their alleged links with corrupt politicians.

a post on social media calling for a symbolic "coffin rally" towards Dhaka protesting the death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in custody.

The following day, Ruhul was

petition will be fixed after filing of a new application, Ruku added.

The lawyer said the charges brought against Ruhul include spreading

propaganda to tarnish the image of the country and spoil the government's reputation, trying to destabalise law and order by spreading confusion and

animosity among people using social

Oikya Parishad in Khulna will form a human chain in front of

Khulna Press Club this afternoon

demanding the immediate release

of Ruhul and abolishment of the

Ruhul, coordinator of Sramik-

Parishad in Khulna, was picked up

by police from a home in Khulna

city on February 27 after he uploaded

Chhatra-Janata Oikya

"draconian" DSA.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of Sramik-Krishak, Chhatra-Janata

Writer Mushtaq died in custody recently after languishing in jail for over nine months in another case under the same act.

shown arrested under the DS.

A Khulna court placed Ruhul on two days' remand on February 27.

### No student

FROM PAGE 12

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 15, 2021, CHAITRA 1, 1427 BS

Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar placed the reports before the HC bench in line with a suo moto (voluntary) order from Thursday.

Bashar told The Daily Star that necessary steps have been taken to ensure security of the victim and his family members, as well as his health treatment.

The bench on Thursday wanted to know what legal action was taken against Yahya for beating up the The HC bench came up with the

suo moto (voluntary) order after DAG Bashar placed some newspaper reports on the incident before the bench.

Video footage of the child being beaten by Yahya went viral on social media and shocked many.

yesterday, organisation Ain O Salsih Kendra (ASK) expressed concerns about the incidents of torture on children at madrasas.

ASK said establishing a neutral monitoring system at madrasas and other child education institutions was necessary. And ensuring punishments of perpetrators will stop such incidents.

It is also necessary to train the teachers and employees of such institutions on the Children Act, International Child Rights Charter and relevant issues, ASK said in a statement

## BFIU seeks

FROM PAGE 12

official said.

4 from his duties at the central bank's Department of Financial Institutions and Markets and the Department of Banking Inspection-2.

SK Sur Chowdhury, a former deputy governor of the central bank, also assisted PK Halder, according to the confessional statement.

"This is a rare example of seeking account information of central bank officials for their alleged involvement in corruption," a BB

Despite repeated attempts, both Sur and Shah Alam could not be reached over phone.

The names of the two came to the fore after Rashedul Haque, a former managing director of International Leasing and Financial Services (ILFS), and Uzzal Kumar Nandi, chairman of People's Leasing and Financial Services PLFSL, recently gave confessional statements to lower courts regarding financial scams.

PK Halder, former NRB Global Bank managing director, has allegedly siphoned off around Tk 10,200 crore from some non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs).

In another move, the BFIU asked banks on March 11 to freeze the accounts of South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank Chairman SM Amjad Hossain, his spouse Begum Sufia Amjad and their daughter Tajri.

The BFIU asked to freeze their accounts for 30 days and provide the details of the accounts' information within today.

On January 7, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) imposed a ban on foreign travel of the three persons.

The anti-graft watchdog requested superintendent of police of Special Branch to impose the travel ban.

The ban was slapped as part of the commission's enquiry into loan irregularities perpetrated by Amjad.

He did not reply to a request from The Daily Star for comment. Approached by The Daily Star, Abu

Hena Mohammad Razee Hassan, head of the BFIU, said that the intelligence agency had been unable to disclose any information to this end given the sensitivity of the matter.

## President Yahya arrives

senior military officials for an on-thespot situation report. Siddiq Salik, then public relations officer in the Pakistan army at Dhaka, reports that the president was not presented with any in-depth study of the complex political situation. He also didn't ask

At the end of the briefing, Yahya said, "Don't worry. I will line up Mujib tomorrow... will give him a bit of my mind... shall cold shoulder him and won't even invite him for lunch. Then I will meet him the day after and see how he reacts. If he doesn't behave, I'll know the answer."

The meeting dispersed, and no recommendations were made. This was the last military conference Yahya Khan held in Dhaka, reports Assembly and would accept any Nepal, Peru, Algeria, Malaysia, and motivation regularly. The jails Siddiq Salik. [ Siddiq Salik, Witness to Surrender, UPL 1997, pg.59]

WHAT WILL BANGABANDHU **DEMAND?** 

Archer K Blood, then American

consul general in Dhaka, writes in his memoir that just minutes before Yahya's arrival Alamgir Rahman came by to tell him that Bangabandhu was going to urge Yahya to agree to an immediate handover of power to the Awami League in East Pakistan. Now that Bhutto had made similar proposal in his March 14 speech and Bangabandhu held the de facto control of the East Pakistan government the demand seemed more tenable, comments Blood. Bangabandhu would also demand that the strength of the military in East Pakistan be cut back to the level existing before March 1, 1971. Bangabandhu, according to Alamgir, would then agree to the convening of the National time limit for constitution-making set by Yahya. He further informed that any attempt by Yahya to exert force would be met by an instant and researcher. He can be contacted at declaration of independence.

[Archer K Blood, The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh, UPL, 2006, pg. 189] PEACEFUL AGITATION CONTINUES Third week into the non-cooperation movement, peaceful agitations continued and all offices and businesses remained shut except those permitted in the Awami League Protesting the killing of two students by the army, Justice Abu

Sayeed Chowdhury resigned as vice chancellor of Dhaka University.

Daylong meetings and rallies went on in the capital and black flags were hoisted on vehicles and buildings. Defying the marital law order no defence installation employees joined

Swadhin Bangla Sangram Parishad withdrew their earlier call to set up check posts at various points of the city to prevent flight of capital from Bangladesh to West Pakistan.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist sajen1986@gmail.com

# 14 more killed in Myanmar

advocacy group.

Security forces opened fire on protesters in Hlaing Tharyar, one of the largest townships in Yangon, and some protesters wielding sticks and knives fought back while others fled -- carrying away the injured and bundling them into cars.

At least 14 protesters were killed, the Myanmar Now news service said yesterday, while some other domestic media gave even higher death tolls.

Myanmar Now said the information came from a rescue worker and a hospital near to the industrial district.

A doctor at a private hospital treating the injured confirmed the use of both live rounds and rubber bullets.

Chinese state-owned broadcaster CGTN said two Chinese-funded clothes factories in the Hlaing Tharyar district were set ablaze by people who arrived on motorcycles, armed with iron rods, axes and gasoline.

China urged Myanmar to stop violence and protect Chinese companies and personnel after the attacks, reports Reuters.

Throughout the day, gunshots were heard continuously by residents hiding in their homes, while military trucks were sighted driving through Hlaing Tharvar's streets.

A police officer posted a TikTok video hours before the crackdown, saying in a voiceover that they will be bringing heavy weaponry.

"I will not have mercy on Hlaing Tharyar and they will fight back seriously too because there are all kinds of characters there," said the officer under the account @ aungthuraphyo40.

The video, which was seen and verified by AFP factcheckers, was removed hours later. State television MRTV said one

Myanmar police officer was killed and three were wounded during protests vesterday.

MRTV said the police were wounded in Bago, central Myanmar. It accused protesters of throwing rocks and using catapults and said it was also trying to verify whether they used guns. It said Lieutenant Kyaw Naing Oo died of a chest wound.

## 'I WILL FIGHT UNTIL THE END'

In the northern jade-producing city of Hpakant, a small protest was broken up before noon when security forces arrived and a man was shot dead, according to a doctor and a local news In Mandalay, Myanmar's second

largest city, protesters retrieved the injured from the street, running to safety after police opened fire on them, according to AFP reporters on the ground. "A 24-year old woman... died from

a gunshot to her face and she arrived dead," a doctor told AFP, adding that at least seven more were injured from gunshot wounds.

Despite the daily bloodshed, those in the anti-coup movement remain defiant, and have hardened in recent weeks.

"I've seen the fallen heroes give their lives," said 21-year-old Ma Khine Lay, admitting she was afraid ever as she helped with rebuilding barricades out of bricks and bamboo poles in a Yangon township.

"I will fight until the end."

## Russia deploys

specialised units.

iail here.

The floating observatory consists of strings with spherical glass and stainless steel modules attached to

On Saturday, scientists observed the modules being carefully lowered into the freezing waters through a rectangular hole in the ice.

"A neutrino telescope measuring half a cubic kilometre is situated right under our feet," Dmitry Naumov of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research told AFP while standing on the lake's frozen surface.

In several years the telescope will be expanded to measure one cubic

kilometre, Naumov said. The Baikal telescope will rival Ice Cube, a giant neutrino observatory buried under the Antarctic ice at a US

research station at the South Pole, he added.

Russian scientists say the telescope is the largest neutrino detector in the Northern Hemisphere and Lake Baikal -- the largest freshwater lake in the world -- is ideal for housing the floating observatory.

"Of course, Lake Baikal is the only lake where you can deploy a neutrino telescope because of its depth," Bair Shoibonov of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research told AFP.

"Fresh water is also important, water clarity too. And the fact that there is ice cover for two-two and a half months is also very important."

The telescope is the result of a collaboration between scientists from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Russia and Slovakia.

Fernandez sought to downplay the mining projects in Chubut province, violence, saying it was the work of a small number of people.

"I am sure that this violence was not taken part in by the people of Chubut nor by those who inhabit our beloved Argentina," he wrote, referring to the province the surrounds the town.

managed to halt the president's bus and other vehicles in his entourage for several minutes, with some protesters throwing themselves against the hood of Fernandez's vehicle. Once it was freed, several other

vehicles snaked their way through the crowd and sped away with the presidential bus. that Clarin

reported demonstrators were angry which is part of Patagonia, and with the provincial governor. The fires that have blazed through

Patagonia for days have claimed one life, while 11 other people are reported missing, officials said Friday. Dozens of people have been

evacuated from the path of the advancing flames, and around 200 houses have been destroyed. The government said some towns

were left without water or power.

The fires, which authorities suspect were started deliberately early this week, have reached several towns near the foothills of the Andes mountains, and have consumed about 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of forest, media reported Saturday.

# Protesters in Argentina attack bus carrying president

AFP, Buenos Aires

Dozens of protesters kicked and threw rocks at a minibus carrying Argentine President Alberto Fernandez on Saturday as he visited an area devastated by forest fires, TV footage

As he left a community center in the town of Lago Puelo in the southern Patagonia region, Fernandez had to take refuge behind a wall of people as a crowd of demonstrators pushed toward him and his delegation. The protesters later stopped the

bus carrying the president, punching and kicking it and throwing stones that broke windows in the vehicle, according to footage broadcast by the TN network and the newspaper Clarin.

With few police on hand, the crowd

**ROAD SAFETY WORLD SERIES** Bangladesh Legends vs South Africa Legends Live from 7:30 pm T SPORTS & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

**ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE** Wolves vs Liverpool Live from 2:00 am (Tuesday) **FACEBOOK LA LIGA** Barcelona vs Huesca Live from 2:00 am (Tuesday)



# **UNSTOPPABLE SPEED**

# forged by a basic desire

MINTU DESHWARA

12-year-old Sonia Akhter drew the applause of thousands as she finished top among 30 jockeys in one of Bengal's traditional events, the ancient competition of horse

The only female amongst the lot and driven by the need to bear the expenses for her education, she stormed to the five-mile finish line "at unstoppable speed, well ahead of the pack", according to chief guest Abdul Qadir Laskar, Chunarughat Upazila Parishad Chairman.

The competition was organized by the locals of Shailghat in Chunarughat upazila of the Habiganj district on Saturday. Competitors came from all over including from Satkhira, Bogura, Tangail and Habiganj and brought with them thousands of enthusiastic



Sonia said that continuing her education had been uncertain due to her family's financial situation, so she has been competing in behalf of others in exchange for compensation.

She added that she was now education and lending a helping the brink of extinction.

hand to her family.

Sonia's father Matiur Rahman said that he had traveled with the sixth-grader from Bakla village of Gomstapur in Chapainawabganj.

He added that his daughter began watching the events at the age of six and absorbed knowledge, assisted by a close relative.

Sonia raced on behalf of Abul Hashem from the village of Sakhipur in the district of Tangail. Hashem's patronage to others also frosted rewards as his other hickeys finished scooped second and third and for their efforts won a refrigerator and television.

Former Chunarughat Upazila chairman Abu Taher said that once there were lots of horses in the area and competition thrived. He bearing the cost of her own lamented that it now finds itself on

## Joy's century seals Wolves whitewash

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudul Hasan Joy's century helped the Bangladesh Emerging team get a six-run win in the fifth and final one-dayer at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and complete a 4-0 series whitewash against Ireland Wolves.

The first match was canceled due to Covid-19related issues.

Chasing a target of 261, Ireland came agonisingly close before eventually ending up on 254 for 9 in 50 overs.

Needing eleven runs off the last over, Ireland kept their hopes alive by a thread. Benjamin White needed to hit a six off the last ball off Rejaur Raja to tie the game but the righthander could only manage to score a single from a leg-bye.

Opener Stephen Doheny was the top scorer for Ireland with 81. Bangladesh skipper Saif bagged three wickets.

Irelan, who had played a four-day game and four unofficial ODIs, were supposed to play two T20 games but had to cut their tour short due to Covid-19 restrictions in their country.

They will return after playing just a sole T20 scheduled to take place tomorrow.

# Jamal wins hearts in Kolkata



SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national football team captain Jamal Bhuiyan will be in the hearts of Kolkata Mohammedan Sporting

Club, the club's coach said vesterday while lavishing praise on the midfielder ahead of his last match for the

Kolkata Mohammedan will play against I-League leaders Churchill Brothers and that match will be the Jamal's last appearance for Kolkata Mohammedan as he will leave Kolkata on March 18 to join the national team in Nepal.

Ahead of the match, the team's coach Sankarlal Chakraborty heaped lavish praise on Jamal, who was by his side at the official press briefing yesterday.

"We will miss him. He will be in our hearts forever," Chakraborty said after deliberating on Jamal's impact on the

"Jamal has been an integral part of the team. He was one of the key members of the leadership group. He always ensured that the dressing room atmosphere was good. I wish Jamal all the very best with the Bangladesh national team," said the Mohammedan coach.

Jamal joined the Kolkata outfit in January, on loan from Saif Sporting Club, and played in one all but one of their 10 matches, missing one match due to an injury. Even though the Bangladesh captain did not set the I-League on fire in his debut campaign, it has been an impressive one for the 30-year-old.

Initially, Jamal found it a bit difficult in Indian football, coming off a lengthy layoff due to testing positive for coronavirus. But with every passing game, his influence and impact on the team increased. The midfielder is satisfied with what he has done with Kolkata Mohammedan

"Overall, it has been a good experience for me," Jamal said. "When I came it was very hard for me because of my [being infected with] coronavirus and the team was new and we didn't practise much together. After some time, I found it's a good group and I'm proud to be here."

Playing in a deep-lying playmaker role instead of the conventional central defensive midfield, Jamal had little opportunity to score but was one of the central figures of the team as the Black Panthers tried to build up their game from the back.

Mohammedan, as a team, were erratic throughout the campaign, managing to squeeze into the super six stage following a string of victories but are currently languishing in sixth position.

But it was not due to any lack of effort from the Bangladesh skipper, as the club's designated set-piece specialist showed his class with his great control on the ball and wide range of passes. Instead, his performances got better and better as Chakraborty took over following the sacking of former coach Jose Hevia in the middle of the campaign.

Jamal may be leaving Kolkata with a bit of regret for not scoring a goal or earning an assist, which he might want to achieve if he gets another call from this team or any other team. He left the door open by saying, "I cannot say what the future holds, but if I get the opportunity, why not?"

But after today, Jamal will be shifting his focus to a different challenge and a different responsibility to lead Bangladesh in the tri-nation tournament in Nepal, a responsibility he wants to wear with pride.

"Always want to give my best for the national team. You have to be proud, give your best and you have to enjoy the moment because once your career is finished, you will miss those things. So always try to give your best," Jamal said.

## 9TH BD GAMES Eighteen stars to relay with torch SPORTS REPORTER

Eighteen former sports stars will carry the torch of the Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games from Tungipara in Gopalganj to the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka, a meeting of the media and publicity committee of the games decided yesterday.

The meeting decided that the torch will be lit by the Bangladesh Olympic Association president and Army chief General Aziz Ahmed on the morning of March 30 at the Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex in Tungipara and will be handed over to the association's secretary general Syed Shahed Reza. The torch will be received at the BNS by golfer Siddikur Rahman and swimmer Mahfuza Khatun





(L) Souray of Bangladesh Police tries to get the better of Mamun of Dhaka District in a match of the Independence Day Open Wrestling Competition in Paltan yesterday. Bangladesh Ansar emerged champions. Bangladesh Army became runners-up and Bangladesh Police finished third in both men's and women's competitions. (R) Players of Narail team celebrate one of their goals during a 4-0 win over Jashore in the opening match of the Walton Women's Development Independence Cup Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Namita Karmakar scored a hattrick for Narail. Later, Jhenaidah beat Thakurgaon 1-0 in the second match of the day, with Nadira scoring the decisive goal.

PHOTO:FIROZ AHMED

# Local cricketers breathe sigh of relief

Dhaka Premier League to begin on May 6 SPORTS REPORTER



Although things appear to be picture-perfect for the Bangladesh national cricket team on their tour of New Zealand, the scenario is at stark contrast with the circumstances of a majority of

domestic cricketers. Local cricketers have endured a long wait for the resumption of the Dhaka Premier

League, (DPL) which was suspended after the first round since the pandemic started back in

March last year. Although Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged domestic competitions on

limited scale as the sport re-emerge during the pandemic, the majority of local cricketers -- who

mainly rely on the DPL -- faced financially and mentally pressures. Finally they can breathe a sigh of relief as the DPL is set to begin from May 6 with

The club-based domestic competition will now be played in the T20 format, informed chairman of the Cricket

Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) Kazi Inam Ahmed after a meeting yesterday. "We have decided to start the Dhaka Premier League once more and we have decided to begin from May 6. It's a difficult situation since the schedule is very tight. It will be a T20 format. The matches [the league was halted after one round of matches] that were played last year, we decided to abandon then and start fresh,' said Inam.

Six days after the beginning the tournament on May 6, there will be a break for Eid and the Tigers' Sri Lanka series.

The ODI series against Sri Lanka is expected to begin on May 20 and the DPL is expected to resume after the three-match

ODI series. Local cricketers, who were getting desperate during the pandemic with no matches taking place, began to breathe a little easier.

"It is a huge relief," said Taibur Parvez, a

regular performer in the domestic leagues. He went on to add: "I think we were all waiting for the league to resume and finally the board took the initiative and made it happen. We should thank the BCB. We were having a tough time since the coronavirus started last year and although international cricket resumed and the leagues of the other cricketing nations also resumed, we were still waiting for cricket to return to Bangladesh," Parvez added.

# La Liga title race wide open as Atletico lose steam

AGENCIES



La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid drew 0-0 away to struggling Getafe on Saturday, despite playing the latter stages of the game with an extra man,

offering renewed hope to title rivals Real Madrid and Barcelona. Real Madrid's Karim Benzema rescued Real Madrid again by scoring two late goals to snatch a 2-1 win at home to Elche in La Liga on Saturday and revive his

side's hopes of catching leaders Atletico Madrid. The victory lifted Real into

"There are 11 games left, they said that Barcelona was bad but against Paris Saint-Germain, they could have won, they have a new president, enthusiasm and Madrid always manages to get the games won. We try step by step to continue our way, game by game, and we have two monsters behind us with the idea of being where we are."

> DIEGO SIMEONE ATLETICO MADRID COACH



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema celebrates his second goal with Rodrygo during his side's 2-1 win against Elche in La Liga on Saturday.

points, reducing the gap behind Atletico from eight points to six and are one point ahead of third-placed Barcelona, who host Huesca tonight.

The last-gasp victory also gave Real an emotional boost ahead of Tuesday's Champions League us who want to be where we last-16 second leg with Atalanta, which they go into holding a 1-0 advantage. "This win is very positive for us, it was vital we kept said Atletico Madrid coach Diego

second in the standings on 57 up picking points for our league campaign and also to prepare for Tuesday's game," he said. "We're a team with character, we're alive in two competitions and we're going to keep fighting hard and keep believing in ourselves. "We have two monsters behind

are and it's normal that they're putting the pressure on us, we have been leaders for a long time,"

"Madrid are winning games, Barcelona are full of hope and enthusiasm but we'll continue to take each game as it comes.'

Atletico had been denied all three points in last week's derby at home to Real by an 88th minute equaliser from Karim Benzema but earned a significant 2-1 victory over Athletic Bilbao in Wednesday's game in hand to cement their advantage at the top.

This felt like a step back and Simeone conceded his side had not played well in the first "We were excited about the prospect of winning and

**POINTS TABLE** W D L

26 17 5 4 +35 56

maintaining our advantage but

our first half was not good, we couldn't get the ball moving well, we couldn't counterattack and we were not direct enough," he added. "We improved in the second

half and had many chances to score and overall I feel we are playing well."







# No student can be tortured, intimidated

HC observes, asks edn institutions to follow rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that no student can be tortured, intimidated and pressurised physically or mentally as per an earlier directive of the court.

Madrasas and all the other educational institutions have to conduct academic activities in line with the constitution and relevant laws, it said

If the laws and constitution are violated by an institution, the education ministry, directorate of education, and boards of madrasa and education boards can take appropriate legal action, the HC said.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Shahed Nuruddin said this after going through compliance reports submitted by the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Chattogram over the legal steps taken after a madrasa student was recently tortured by a teacher in the district.

The HC said the eight-year-old student of Markazul Islami Academy Hafezia Madrasa, who was beaten up by his teacher Maulana Yahya, should be able to continue his academic activities.

The DC and SP of Chattogram submitted two separate reports to the HC stating that the madrasa authorities have been cautioned.

A case has been filed against Yahya under the Penal Code and Children Act and he has been arrested, taken to a lower court, and sent to jail, they mentioned.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Without maintaining physical distancing, people queue before a truck of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to buy sugar, oil and other commodities at cheaper prices. Most of them are not wearing masks either. The rate of Covid-19 infection is increasing in the country as most people are ignoring the health safety rules. The photo was taken yesterday.

## Quader Mirza sued over violence، death

Our Correspondent, Noakhali

Quader Mirza, Noakhali's Basurhat municipality and younger brother of Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, was sued yesterday over the death of an auto-rickshaw driver in an incident of violence in Companiganj upazila.

The victim's younger brother filed the case with Noakhali Cognisance Court-4 around 1:00pm, accusing 164 named and another 50-60 unnamed people.

Mirza was made the prime accused in the murder case. He was accused of instructing his followers to engage in violence that led to the death of auto-

rickshaw driver Alauddin, 22. The mayor's son Mirza Masrur Quader and younger brother Shahdat Hossain were also made accused, said Shawkat Hossain, police inspector at the court.

hearing, the judge directed the officer-in-charge (OC) of SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Russia deploys giant space telescope in Lake Baikal



AFP, Lake Baikal

Russian scientists on Saturday launched one of the world's biggest underwater space telescopes to peer deep into the universe from the pristine waters of Lake Baikal.

The deep underwater telescope, which has been under construction since 2015, is designed to observe neutrinos, the smallest particles currently known.

Dubbed Baikal-GVD, the telescope was submerged to a depth of 750-1,300 metres (2,500-4,300 feet), around four kilometres from the lake's shore.

Neutrinos are very hard to detect and water is an effective medium for doing so.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Increasing capacity a big challenge

The country's jails have long been grossly overcrowded, with inmates and rights activists alleging of rights violations and poor conditions, among others. Currently, 83,107 inmates are incarcerated in 68 prisons, against the maximum capacity of 42,450. Allegations of rights violations, poor hygiene, illegal privileges, narcotics in exchange of money, and access to mobile phones, are rife. In light of the situation, The Daily Star's Mohammad Jamil Khan and Shaheen Mollah recently spoke to Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Md Mominur Rahman Mamun.

TDS: Jails are always found to be overcrowded. What steps are being taken to improve these conditions? IG Prisons: Steps have already been taken to modernise the old jails to increase capacity. Work is already underway to re-build the Khulna, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Cumilla, and Jamalpur district jails to increase capacity.

As emergency steps, semi-pucca tin-shade barracks are also constructed to ease jail crowding. Besides, land is being acquired for the expansion of

TDS: What care do children living with their mothers in jail receive? IG Prisons: There are around 3,222 female inmates and 349 children (170 boys and 179 girls) staying with their mothers, as they are below six years

These children are getting necessary food and a diet as per doctors' suggestions. They are provided with books for education regularly, and there is a day care centre inside the jails so that they (the children) can spend time when their mothers are busy with work during the day. TDS: What is the current state of prison medical facilities? IG Prisons: Around 112 doctors and 86 pharmacists and nurses are now

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PK Halder's Scams
BFIU seeks bank info on ex-BB dy

governor, 7 more STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit asked banks to provide detailed information of accounts and transactions of eight persons, including former Bangladesh Bank deputy governor SK Sur Chowdhury, current Executive Director Md Shah Alam and their spouses.

The BFIU issued the notice on March 11, less than three weeks after the issuance of a similar notice by the National Board of Revenue on February 23 for Sur and Shah Alam.

The intelligence agency, dedicated to tackling money laundering and terrorist financing, asked the banks to provide information on them by today.

Earlier, two close associates of Proshanta Kumar Halder in confessional statements said Sur and Shah Alam had assisted them to conduct the financial scams.

Following the confessional statement, Bangladesh Bank withdrew Shah Alam from the responsibility of monitoring two departments for his alleged connection with PK Halder.

Shah Alam was relieved on February SEE PAGE 10 COL 6 ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## **President Yahya arrives**

**MARCH 15, 1971** 

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

A COLD WELCOME FOR YAHYA

President Yahya Khan arrived

in Dhaka today. No local political leader went to the airport to meet him. All the entries of the airport were heavily guarded. Siddiq Salik, then public relations officer in the Pakistan army in Dhaka, recounts, "It was a strange, eerie atmosphere charged with a deadly stillness. There were no officials, no rows of city elite, no hustling of journalists, and no clicking of cameras. Even the official photographer was not admitted." [Siddiq Salik, Witness to Surrender, UPL 1997, pg.59]

Yahya drove quickly to the president's house in a heavily armed convoy. He could not help seeing that virtually every house sported a black flag mandated by the Awami League. The Farmgate check point was removed by Awami League to

avoid embarrassment to the president whom Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman earlier declared publicly as a guest of

'Bangladesh". Yahya had requested Bhutto to go to Dhaka but he declined on the ground that after Bangabandh declaration of independence there was no point in making the journey. He seemed more interested in getting power than in the unity of Pakistan, commented GW Choudhury, a close confidante of Yahya. [GW Choudhury, The Last Days of United Pakistan, UPL, 2011, pg.

THE LAST MILITARY **CONFERENCE** In the evening of March 15, Yahya summoned the local SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

CASE UNDER DSA

## Leftist leader Ruhul denied bail again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court in Khulna yesterday rejected the bail petition of leftist leader Ruhul Amin in a case filed under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

Khulna Metropolitan Sessions Judge Shahidul Islam passed the order after Ruhul's lawyer advocate Begum Akhter Jahan Ruku filed the petition on behalf of her client, said the

Ón March 1, Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate Court-4 Judge Atiqus Samad had also rejected Ruhul's bail prayer.

The new date for the submission of another bail SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 15** Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-00 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45 JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-45 6-18 8-15 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People carry an injured protester during an anti-coup protest in Mandalay, Myanmar, yesterday. More than 80 people had been killed and over 2,100 arrested as yesterday in widespread protests against the military coup on Feb. 1, an advocacy group said.

рното:

ANTI-COUP PROTESTS

# 14 more killed in Myanmar

Ousted MPs call for unity as China urges junta to stop violence

AGENCIES

At least 14 anti-coup protesters were killed yesterday as demonstrators across Myanmar continued to defy military rule and a group of ousted MPs urged them to "defend themselves" during the nation's "darkest moment".

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power in a February 1 putsch, triggering a mass uprising that has seen hundreds of thousands protest daily for a return to democracy.

The junta has repeatedly justified its power grab by alleging widespread electoral fraud in November's elections, which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won by a landslide.

In response, a group of elected MPs, many of whom are in hiding, have formed a shadow "parliament" called the Committee for Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) -- the Burmese word for the country's governing bloc -- to denounce the military regime.

Yesterday, they issued a statement saying protesters had the "full right to defend themselves" under the country's penal code against security forces who are "harming and causing violence".

Soldiers and police have in recent weeks been staging near-daily crackdowns against demonstrators calling for a return to democracy, deploying tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds to quell anti-coup protests.

More than 80 have been killed in the unrest, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3