

UN team

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facilities at Bhasan Char, appraise the needs of the Rohingya refugees relocated there, as well as discuss with the authorities and others currently working at Bhasan Char,” Sazzad said.

The UN delegation reached Bhasan Char around noon, said officials.
The development comes following an impasse, which lasted for more than a year, between the government and the UN regarding the global body’s technical assessment of the facility.

The government has already relocated some 13,000 Rohingyas to Bhasan Char, an island in Noakhali, from Cox’s Bazar in phases since December last year. Relocation of more Rohingyas is under process.

Bangladesh Navy implemented the Tk 3,100 crore housing project at Bhasan Char after some 750,000 Rohingyas had fled a military crackdown in Myanmar’s Rakhine state in 2017 and took shelter in Cox’s Bazar camps.

Apart from the risk of landslides in the hilly terrain, the government cited issues such as drug peddling, human trafficking, gender-based violence, conflicts between factions of the refugee communities in Cox’s Bazar, and environmental degradation as major reasons for the relocation.

The UN said it wanted to send a technical team to the island to assess the housing facilities. Asked by the government, the UN submitted the terms of reference for the visit in December 2019.

The move had got stalled after that. Project officials said separate buildings for the UN and other international aid agencies have also been constructed in Bhasan Char.

The government has urged the UN to begin its operations in Bhasan Char, but the UN as well as donor countries sought an independent technical assessment of the facility.

The government, however, maintained no such technical assessment was necessary as Bhasan Char has been equipped with a well-built facility developed by maintaining international standards and addressing all risks involved.

NGO officials said if there was any gap in communication between the UN and the government on the Bhasan Char issue, it must be solved.

Highest new

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maintaining health safety guidelines.
With yesterday’s count, the total number of confirmed cases rose to 5,62,752.

In the same 24 hours yesterday, 11 Covid-19 patients died, raising the total number of casualties caused by the lethal virus to 8,608.

Against 24,275 tests, the positivity rate was 7.68—lower than the previous day’s 8.29 percent, according to the Directorate general of health Services (DGHS).

In the last one month till march 9, the positivity rate, number of new cases and deaths were going down.

Meanwhile, the recovery count rose to 5,15,989 after another 1,510 patients were discharged from hospitals during the period.

Of all Covid-19 confirmed patients, more than 91 percent have recovered so far, while 1.53 percent died.

The first three Covid-19 positive cases were reported in the country on March 8.

Operation

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between March 2 and March 9”. According to Mujib, the fundamental issue was whether the deployment and use of force was in aid of ulterior political purposes. The commission was further shut out from enquiring into the actual atrocities, which had been reported from various parts of East Pakistan, involving hundreds of casualties, he added.

Bangabandhu further argued that the commission would be incapable of conducting an unbiased enquiry because no representation was provided for the aggrieved. It was yet another demonstration of West Pakistani insensitivity towards the concerns and rights of Bangalees. Yahya was also disillusioned by Mujib’s rejection of the commission. He was under immense pressure from army officers and the civil service, and defended the proposed composition of the commission. [Richard Sisson and Leo E Rose, War and Secession: Pakistan, India, and the Creation of Bangladesh, UCP, 1990, pg. 115]

The negotiation between Sheikh Mujib and Yahya, rolled into third day. *Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com*

WHO endorses

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The European Union’s medicines regulator on Tuesday insisted there was no evidence linking the jab to blood clots – termed thromboembolic events – after several nations suspended the shot over health fears.

The WHO said that in mass vaccination campaigns, it was routine for countries to flag up potential adverse events after people have been immunised.

“This does not necessarily mean that the events are linked to vaccination itself, but it is good practice to investigate them. It also shows that the surveillance system works and that effective controls are in place,” it said.

“Vaccination against Covid-19 will not reduce illness or deaths from other causes.

“Thromboembolic events are known to occur frequently. Venous thromboembolism is the third most common cardiovascular disease globally.”

Bangladesh most polluted

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pollution dropped around 80 percent only in April last year as there was countrywide lockdown, but the situation started getting worse again when the lockdown was withdrawn.

In 2020, all Indian cities that were monitored observed air quality improvements compared to 2018, while 63 percent saw improvements over 2019.

The report said with annual average PM 2.5 concentrations of 77.1 microgrammes per cubic metre, Dhaka ranked the second most polluted capital cities in the world, while Delhi with an average annual PM 2.5 concentrations of 84.1 microgrammes per cubic metre topped the list.

“The connection between Covid-19 and air pollution has shone new light on the latter,

especially as many locations have observed visibly cleaner air -- revealing that air quality improvements are possible with urgent, collective action,” the report said.

According to the report, only 24 out of 106 monitored countries met World Health Organisation (WHO) annual guidelines for PM 2.5 in 2020.

“The year 2020 brought an unexpected dip in air pollution. In 2021, we will likely see an increase in air pollution due to human activity again,” said Frank Hammes, CEO of IQAir.

“We hope this report will highlight that urgent action is both possible and necessary to combat air pollution, which remains the world’s greatest environmental health threat.”

Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst

Politics on reverse gear

FROM PAGE 2
in the country, Hamid said if this pace of development continues, Bangladesh will emerge in the world as a developed and prosperous country by 2041.

Stressing the preservation of the invaluable memories and mementoes of the Father of the Nation through the implementation of the action plan adopted on the occasion of his birth centenary,

the president said it would enable future generations to know about the glory of the Bangalee nation as well as the courage and patriotism of their predecessors.

Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih attended the inaugural function as guest of honour while Chinese President Xi Jinping and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivered welcome speeches virtually.

at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), who also contributed to the report, said many parts of the world experienced unprecedented, but short-lived, improvements in air quality in 2020, as restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic caused a steep drop in fossil fuel consumption.

An official of the Department of Environment told The Daily Star that due to the lockdown, air quality improved in April and that continued till August. “But from October when the dry season began, the situation is getting worse,” said the official, wishing not to be named.

The official said the government had taken various steps to contain the air pollution, including regular mobile drive against the polluters.

Welcoming the president of the Maldives, Hamid said the Maldives and Bangladesh share excellent ties of friendship and understanding, which have grown significantly during the recent years.

He also expressed heartfelt thanks to his Maldivian counterpart for his valuable speech.

The Maldivian president arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

World leaders hail Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 2
“Something we are able to celebrate [50 years of independence] today because of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s vision for independent and democratic country, one which built on his love for its people,” he said in the message marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu and 50th anniversary of Bangladesh’s independence.

The video message was screened during yesterday’s event, reports BSS.

The Canadian premier said Bangabandhu’s vision became a reality because Bangladesh’s founding father put his people first.

“My friends, today is a time for reflection and celebration. We reflect upon the legacy of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- 100 years after his birth -- and celebrate 50 years of independence,” he said.

Mentioning that Bangabandhu reminded of the power that individuals bring to creating lasting change, Trudeau said, “As we face some of the greatest challenges of our life time, we -- leaders and citizens -- must do the same”.

He thanked PM Hasina for the invitation to the programme. He

also congratulated everyone on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence.

JAPANESE PM

In his video message delivered on the same occasion, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga yesterday said Bangabandhu had made tremendous efforts to strengthen bilateral ties after the independence of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He said Bangabandhu had led Bangladesh to independence with his indomitable spirit 50 years ago.

Japan was one of the first countries that recognised Bangladesh as a nation state right after its independence, he recalled.

“We had a privilege of welcoming Bangabandhu to Japan. During his stay in Japan, Bangabandhu visited farming and fishing villages in rural areas where he interacted with many local Japanese citizens,” the premier said.

Bangabandhu said he considered the development of Japan as a model to follow, Yoshihide Suga added.

Bangabandhu later made tremendous efforts to strengthen bilateral ties, he continued.

Buddhist group condemns junta

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government-appointed organisation also said in a draft statement its members intended to halt activities, in an apparent protest.

The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee planned to release a final statement after consulting the religious affairs minister today, the Myanmar Now news portal

said, citing a monk who attended a meeting of the committee.

Monks have a long history of activism in Myanmar and were at the forefront of a 2007 “Saffron Revolution” against military rule, an uprising that, although suppressed, helped usher in democratic reforms.

Committee members could

not immediately be reached for comment, but their reported stance would signal a significant rift between authorities and a group that usually works closely with the government.

Pope Francis also appealed for an end to the bloodshed, saying: “Even I kneel on the streets of Myanmar and say ‘stop the violence.’”

Love for his people made

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celebrate [50 years of independence] today because of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s vision for independent and democratic country, one which built on his love for its people,” he said in a video message marking the

birth centenary of Bangabandhu and 50th anniversary of the Bangladesh’s independence.

The video message was run during the grand ceremony at the National Parade Square, reports BSS.

The Canadian premier said Bangabandhu’s vision became a

reality because the founding father of Bangladesh put his people first.

“My friends, today is a time for reflection and celebration. We reflect upon the legacy of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- 100 years after his birth -- and celebrate 50 years of independence,” he said.

UN sounds alarm on S Asia

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“The fall-off of these critical services has had a devastating impact on the health and nutrition of the poorest families,” said Unicef regional director George Laryea-Adjei.

“It is absolutely vital that these services are fully restored for children and mothers who are in desperate need of them, and that everything possible is done to ensure that people feel safe to use them,” Laryea-Adjei said.

The estimates were based on actual observed changes and modelling exercises using data from before the pandemic in South Asia, where in 2019 alone 1.4 million children under five died, 63 percent of them newborn babies.

Countries in the region, like elsewhere, imposed stringent lockdown measures to halt the spread of coronavirus. Many restrictions have since been eased

although many schools remain shut.

The report said that even where health services were not shut down, the number of people visiting them declined.

In Bangladesh and Nepal, for example, the number of young children being treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) fell by over 80 percent, while child vaccinations fell sharply in India and Pakistan.

Hefajat supporters attack Hindu homes

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agitated. Locals of Noagaon village caught Jhumon at a bazar on Tuesday night and handed him over to police.

“We took him [Jhumon] into custody. Local Hefajat leaders are preparing to file a case with the station over his post on social media.”

However, no case was filed in this connection till 10:00pm.

Following Jhumon’s Facebook post, members of the Hindu community in the village had been in fear of attacks.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Bibekananda Majumdar Bokul, chairman of Habibpur union and a resident of the village, said officials of police and the administration on Tuesday night

held a meeting with local Hefajat leaders who assured that there would be no trouble since Jhumon had already been arrested.

“Probably, this was the reason why the administration didn’t think it necessary to take security measures to protect the members of the Hindu community.

“The attack has left us speechless... I still cannot believe that this happened to us,” said Bibekananda whose house was also vandalised.

Contacted, Deepak Chandra Ghosh, president of Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad in Sunamganj, said, “Whatever the youth posted on Facebook is a matter of investigation by the authorities. He had already been detained. But the attack despite his

detention is heinous. We strongly condemn it.

“As the deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police assured the locals of justice, we demand that police identify the attackers and bring them to justice without delay.”

Hefajat Nayeab-e-Amir Maulana Abdul Basir, also former president of its Sunamganj unit, said he heard about the incident but was yet to get details.

The man who criticised Mamunul has already been detained, and he has to be brought to justice through due legal process, he mentioned.

“But the attack on the houses of innocent people is regrettable,” said Basir.

Bangladesh, the Maldives

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Fayyaz Ismail, has also joined him.

According to the foreign ministry, Bangladesh and Maldives have been working closely on bilateral and international issues since the establishment of the diplomatic relationship in 1978.

The Maldives, an island country and a major tourist destination of the world, is home to some 100,000 Bangladeshis. The two countries have a limited scale of trading too, but there are enormous scopes for boosting it, officials said.

Foreign ministry officials said Bangladesh and Maldives signed two MoUs during the visit of Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid in February this year.

One was on cooperation on training foreign services officials and the other on human resources recruitment from Bangladesh. Today’s meeting against that backdrop is likely to further cement the relations, said officials.

Mashfee Binte Shams, secretary (east) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Maldives largely depends on imports.

Given the expertise and availability of manufacturing and IT services base, Bangladesh can greatly boost exports to the Maldives, she said.

She also said, “We can extend products and services to the Maldives. We can also enhance cultural cooperation,

“The Maldives has a lot of experience in deep-sea fishing and Bangladesh can take technical expertise from it,” she told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Maldives Rear Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hassan said Bangladesh can export processed food, ceramics, leather goods, RMG, jute products, pharmaceutical products.

“Presently, transport cost is high because our products need to be exported via

Singapore or Colombo ports. So, we have proposed a direct shipping service between Bangladesh and Maldives. This can greatly reduce transport cost and help increase trade,” he told this correspondent on Tuesday.

Now only three Bangladeshi pharmaceutical companies have the approval to export medicines to the Maldives, and the number can be increased as there are a lot of world-class pharmaceutical companies in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh also proposed a Preferential Trade Agreement for the consideration of Maldives.

Given that the Maldives is the world’s leading tourist destination, tour operators from the two countries can have joint ventures to promote tourism, and Bangladesh can also learn from Maldivian expertise on tourism, he said.

Also, Maldives is a major exporter of tuna fish. Bangladesh has a vast area of the deep sea but does not have the skills of deep-sea fishing.

“We can establish a joint venture in this field,” he said.

As a good number of undocumented Bangladeshis are living in the Maldives, it may seek their repatriation as their economy is now not in a good shape due to the coronavirus pandemic, Nazmul Hassan said.

“We would request that those who volunteer to return can surely be repatriated. But those who want to continue should have a chance for regularization and continue to work,” Nazmul Hassan said.

The Maldives also seeks to recruit more doctors and nurses from Bangladesh. The foreign ministry has referred the issue to the health ministry for consideration, he said.

“We already have very friendly relations with the Maldives. We would like to take this to the next stage,” the Bangladesh envoy said.

First baby born with Covid

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world that was reported of a baby being born with antibodies after a vaccination.”

Gilbert and another Florida doctor, Dr Chad Rudnick, have written up the findings in an online journal, medRxiv, that has yet to be peer reviewed.

“This is one small case in what will be thousands and thousands of babies born to mothers who have been vaccinated over the next several months,” said Rudnick.

“Further studies have to determine how long this protection will last. They have to determine at what level of protection or how many antibodies does a baby need to have circulating in order to give them protection.”

He said that scientists were still learning about how the vaccine interacts with women who are pregnant.

Some pharmaceutical companies have started to include pregnant women in their studies of the vaccine.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ	
সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট	
☎ঃ ০৪৬৮-৬২৪৮৫	
☎ঃ ০৪৬৮-৬৩২২৪	
ই-মেইলঃ eebeg@rhd.gov.bd	
স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.০১০৮.৪০০.০৭.০০১.২১-৩০৫৯	তারিখঃ ১৬-০৩-২০২১খ্রিঃ
সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৮ম আহবান)	
সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং ইজারাদার/ইজারাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে স্ব-স্ব লাইসেন্স এর ক্ষমতা/অভিজ্ঞতা অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত খামে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১ তে কোটেশন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।	
০১। ইজারা কোটেশন নং-	ঃ ০১/বাসবি/২০২০-২০২১ (৮ম আহবান)
০২। ইজারার বিবরণ	ঃ ২০২১-২০২২, ২০২২-২০২৩ ও ২০২৩-২০২৪ আর্থিক বছর (০১-০৭-২০২১ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪ পর্যন্ত = ৩ বছর)-এর জন্য সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট-এর অধীন নওয়াপাড়া-বাগেরহাট-পিরোজপুর (আর-৭৭০) আঞ্চলিক মহাসড়কের ১৯তম কিঃমিঃ-এ অবস্থিত দড়িটানা সেতুর টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে ইজারাদার নিয়োগ।
০৩। ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	ঃ ৩ (তিন) বছর (১০৯৬ দিন)।
০৪। ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য	ঃ টাকা ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
০৫। বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ (নিরাপত্তা জামানত)	ঃ উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬। ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ৩০/০৩/২০২১ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।
০৭। মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ৩১/০৩/২০২১ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ পর্যন্ত।
০৮। ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	ঃ ভ্যাট ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার।
০৯। যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন জন্মের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে	ঃ বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, খুলনা বিভাগ, খুলনা/তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, খুলনা সড়ক সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, বায়রা, খুলনা/তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, খুলনা ফেরি সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, বয়রা, খুলনা/জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট/পুলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, খুলনা/সাতক্ষীরা/বাগেরহাট/ফেরি বিভাগ, শিরোমনি, খুলনা/গ্লানিং বিভাগ-১, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা/উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২/১ম সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট।
১০। যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	ঃ (ক) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, খুলনা সড়ক সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, বয়রা, খুলনা। (খ) জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট। (গ) পুলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট। (ঘ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট।
১১। ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট। তারিখঃ ৩১-০৩-২০২১খ্রিঃ। সময়ঃ বেলা ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২। ইজারা আহবানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
মোঃ ফরিদ উদ্দিন	
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২১৮	
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চ.দা), সওজ	
সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট	
জিডি-৫৫৫	