



## UKHIYA ROHINGYA CAMP

# Massive fire razes homes

'Four refugees including two kids die'



STAR REPORT

Four Rohingyas, including two children and a woman, were reportedly killed and hundreds of others were injured in deadly fires that burned several thousand shanties at Balukhali refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, yesterday.

The fire started around 4:00pm and firefighters almost doused it an hour later. But another wave of fire broke out shortly after 11:00pm and was still burning down shanties at the densely populated camp as of 12:30am, locals said.

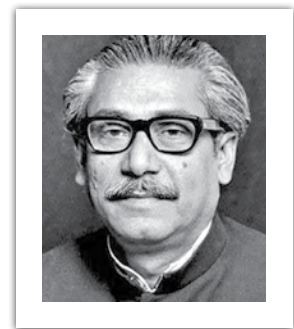
Rohingya community leaders and officials told The Daily Star about the casualties but the authorities have yet to officially confirm the numbers.

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Refugees try to save whatever belongings they can as a fire rages through the Balukhali Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya yesterday afternoon turning the entire sky orange. Many refugees in the tightly packed camp got injured trying to save their belongings and trying to get to safety.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RO YASSIN ABDUMONAB



## Gandhi Peace Prize for Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian government has decided to honour Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Prize-2020 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods, an official statement said yesterday.

The jury for Gandhi Peace Prize is chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprises of two ex-officio

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## 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

# Better use of resources can be a game changer

Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina say during twin celebrations



From left ... Guest of honour of yesterday's twin celebrations Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Rehana stand while the national anthem is being played at the National Parade Square.

PHOTO: PID

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday shared her vision of fostering friendship in South Asia to optimise utilisation of natural resources, alleviate poverty and work together to tackle the challenges of climate change.

The PM said a large number of people in South Asia is still living below the poverty line and many are still going to bed every night with hunger.

"Many are deprived of the minimum necessities of life," she said.

It is possible to alleviate poverty in South Asia by ensuring optimum utilisation of natural resources, the prime minister said while addressing the twin celebrations of Mujib Borsho and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence at the National Parade Square on the sixth day of the 10-day state programme yesterday.

Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari spoke at the event as the guest of honour, while President Abdul Hamid as the chief guest. Education Minister Dipu Moni

delivered the welcome speech, while noted litterateur Selina Hossain presented the keynote on "Banglar Mati Amar Mati" at the event moderated by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam.

Bhandari is the third world leader to join the event after the Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 26.

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## Covid cases, deaths climb

Daily new cases 7-month high, another 30 die

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

As deaths from Covid-19 and the number of new cases continue rising, experts fear the transmission rate may rise further in the coming weeks.

They suggested boosting Covid-19 transmission control activities by increasing daily tests and isolating the positive cases.

Yesterday, the health directorate reported 28 coronavirus-related deaths - the highest number of daily deaths recorded in more than 10 weeks.

On January 7, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 31 deaths. Since then, both deaths and new cases declined till mid to late February, after which the trend reversed and new infections crossed the 1,000 mark on March 10.

From March 9, the numbers have started spiking and shown a steady

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## Vaccine drive loses steam

Many in rural areas know little about the campaign; experts say registration process complex, full of hassles

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Jahur Ali, a 44-year-old worker at a stone quarry in Tetulia, was utterly clueless about the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

"I didn't know that the vaccination campaign is going on. I've come to know about it from you just now," Jahur, who collects stones from the Mahananda River near Bangladesh-India border, told this correspondent in the second week of this month.

He, along with several others, was busy picking up stones from the riverbed and putting those in baskets.

Joining the conversation, one of his co-workers, Md Shahidul, 30, said, "I have heard about it [the vaccination campaign]."

He, however, didn't know that the Covid vaccine was being administered at Tetulia Upazila Health Complex, only half a kilometre away from there.

This correspondent then talked to a group of women at nearby Eidgah Basti Guchchagram. A brief conversation with them made it clear that they had very little knowledge about the countrywide vaccination campaign.

"I have heard about the vaccination campaign. But I do not know where I can get it. None [of the health workers] contacted us," said Jahana Begum, 40, a domestic worker.

Asked whether they would take the vaccine, they answered in the affirmative.

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## Atiqullah Khan Masud no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent journalist and Editor and Publisher of the daily Janakantha Mohammad Atiqullah Khan Masud passed away yesterday morning.

He was 71. Atiqullah, also a valiant freedom fighter, left behind his wife, two sons, grandchildren and relatives to mourn his death.

The chairman of Globe Janakantha Shilpa Paribar was declared dead after being rushed to a private hospital in the capital around 5:30am, said Tapan Biswas, special correspondent of the newspaper.

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## মুজিব চিরন্তন

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের  
জন্মশতবার্ষিকী ও স্বাধীনতার সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী  
উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে অনুষ্ঠানমালা  
স্থান: জাতীয় প্যারেড স্কয়ার  
২৩শে মার্চ ২০২১, মঙ্গলবার

থিম (Theme): নারী মুক্তি, সাম্য ও স্বাধীনতা

সময়	কর্মসূচি
বিকাল ৫.১৫	জাতীয় সংগীত পরিবেশনা মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও আবহ সংগীত (থিম সং ভিডিও প্রদর্শন) স্বাগত সম্বাষণ ও সম্বালনা: ব্যারিস্টার মহিবুল হাসান চৌধুরী এম.পি, মাননীয় উপমন্ত্রী, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় থিমভিত্তিক ভিডিও প্রদর্শনী থিমভিত্তিক আলোচনা: ড. শিরীন শারমিন চৌধুরী, এম.পি, মাননীয় পিপিকার, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সম্মানিত অতিথির বক্তব্য: মি. অরুণ আজুলে, মহাপরিচালক, ইউনেসকো
সন্ধ্যা ৬.০০	আলোচনা পর্ব সমাপ্তি

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সময়	কর্মসূচি
সন্ধ্যা ৬.৩০	বঙ্গবন্ধুকে উৎসর্গ করে বন্ধু রাষ্ট্রের সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানের ধারণকৃত ভিডিও পরিবেশনা (সুইজারল্যান্ড) মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও থিমভিত্তিক সিজি এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও সম্বালনা- ১ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি মা, নারী ও স্বদেশ/ জননী ও জন্মভূমি (নারী ও বাংলাদেশ নিয়ে কালজয়ী কিছু গান) সম্বালনা- ২ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি অনন্যা অপরাঞ্জিতা (থিম্যাটিক কোরিওগ্রাফি) সম্বালনা- ৩ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি গাহি সাম্যের গান সম্বালনা- ৪ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি আনন্দধারা ক্ষুদ্র নৃগোষ্ঠীদের গান ও কোরিওগ্রাফি পরিবেশনা সম্বালনা- ৫ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি বঙ্গবন্ধুর গান সমাপ্তি

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী উদযাপন জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি

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## Water tariff in Dhaka set to rise again

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka Wasa has again proposed hiking water prices by five percent for residential and commercial uses from July 1.

According to the proposal, to be placed before a meeting of Dhaka Wasa Board today, the prices of each unit (1,000 litres) of water will be Tk 15.18 for residential use and Tk 42 for commercial use, up from the current prices of Tk 14.46 and Tk 40 respectively.

The company also wants to raise sewerage charges at the same rate, Wasa sources said.

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**2,809**  
New cases in 24hrs



**5,73,687**  
Total cases



**8,720**  
Deaths



**5,24,159**  
Recoveries



**2,732,066**  
Deaths



**124,161,483**  
Total cases

## Dhaka, Kathmandu sign four MoUs

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka and Kathmandu yesterday signed four Memorandum of Understandings to enhance cooperation between the two countries in different areas, including tourism, sanitation, cultural exchange and railways link.

President Abdul Hamid and his Nepalese counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari, who is in Dhaka on a two-day visit, witnessed the MoUs signing ceremony.

The MoUs were inked after the bilateral talks between Bangladesh and Nepal at the Credential Hall of Bangabhaban in the evening.

These are: MoU on Tourism Cooperation jointly signed by Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Mokammel Hossain from Bangladesh side and Nepalese Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Secretary Yadav Prasad Koirala.

MoU on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation signed by Bangladesh's Agriculture Ministry's Senior Secretary Mesbaul Islam and Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Supplies Ministry of Nepal Dinesh Bhattarai.

MoU on Cultural Exchange Programme for the year of 2022-2025 signed by Bangladesh's Cultural Affairs Secretary Badrul Arefin and Nepalese Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Secretary Yadav Prasad Koirala.

And Bangladesh's Commerce Ministry Secretary Jafar Uddin and Nepal's Industry, Commerce and Supplies Ministry Secretary Dinesh Bhattarai signed the MoU on Letter of Exchange on Rohanpur-Sighbad Railway Route amendment to Nepal-



Abdul Hamid



Bidya Devi

Bangladesh Transit Agreement on behalf of their respective countries.

From Bangladesh side, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Health Minister Zahid Maleque, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razaque, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali were present.

From Nepal side, daughter of Nepalese president Usha Kiran Bhandari, Foreign Affairs Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Expert of the President's Office Tika Prasad Dhakal, Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal, among others, were present on the occasion.

Earlier, on arrival of the Nepalese president at the Bangabhaban, she was received by President Hamid and his wife Rashida Khanam.

The MoU signing ceremony was followed by a cultural programme and dinner.

President Hamid hosted the dinner at the State-Dining Hall in honour of his Nepalese counterpart, who is in Dhaka to attend the twin historic celebrations -- Bangladesh's independence golden jubilee and birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



People queue up at the Mugda Medical College Hospital around 6:00 in the morning to get tested for Covid-19 yesterday. Many of them had failed to give sample the day before and decided to make sure they get tested by queuing early in the morning.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Vaccine drive loses steam

FROM PAGE 1

This correspondent interviewed more than 50 people from different occupations in and around Tetulia bazar in the second week of this month.

Most of them said they were yet to get the jabs, while only a few said they or elderly members of their families got vaccinated.

According to upazila health officials, 3,550 doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines had been supplied to Tetulia upazila, and around 3,000 of those were administered till yesterday.

Launching the campaign on February 7, the government planned to inoculate 70 lakh people across the country in the first month. But it missed the target as a total of 49,11,902 people have so far been vaccinated.

Yesterday, the daily count of people who took jabs dropped to 70,933, which was around two lakh in the third week of February.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Md Abul Kashem, upazila health and family planning officer in Tetulia, said, "I make phone calls to those who got registered. We make public announcements in the bazar area twice a week. However, the response remains very poor. Only 34 people came to get jabs yesterday [Sunday]."

Between March 6 and 12, this correspondent interviewed around

a hundred people in different parts of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

The level of awareness about vaccination was found to be low among most of them especially the day labourers.

Nasima Begum, a health assistant at Rangpur Sadar Hospital, said, "I visit the households in my area regularly and encourage people to take vaccines. Most of the time, I doubt whether they will actually take jabs."

"REGISTRATION A BIG DEAL"

The government started the vaccine registration process on www.surokkha.gov.bd on January 27.

To take vaccine, one has to sign up with necessary information, including national identification number and mobile phone number. Upon completion of registration, the recipient has to carry a printed copy of the registration document to the vaccination centre.

Amid poor response, the government lowered the minimum age for getting the vaccine to 40 years. Despite this, the response has not increased notably.

As of yesterday afternoon, a total of 62,82,884 people got registered.

Experts say the entire registration process is a "big deal" for the majority of people as it is quite complex and full of hassles.

In a recent visit to Moghbazar, Shantinagar and several other neighbourhoods in the capital, scores of small shops were seen displaying advertisements offering help for Covid-19 registration in exchange for Tk 50.

Dr Shafiq Shimul, associate professor of health economics at Dhaka University, pointed out three reasons behind the low response to the vaccination campaign.

"Firstly, many people do not know well about the vaccination campaign. Secondly, the registration is a big deal, and lastly, there is reluctance among people to get jabs," said Shafiq, who is leading a Covid-19 vaccine response study.

Echoing his view, Dr Zakir Hussain, member of the working group of Bangladesh Health Watch, said, "The government could not sensitise people to the fact that everybody is at risk of Covid-19. The government's current method of communication is not appropriate for the masses."

He is also of the opinion that there should be no age limit for getting vaccinated.

"People aged below 40 go outside every day. They are the super-spreaders. But we have excluded them from the priority list. It should be revised," he noted.

50YRS OF INDEPENDENCE

## Queen Elizabeth sends felicitations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom has sent a message of felicitation to President M Abdul Hamid on the occasion of Bangladesh's 50 years of independence.

In the message sent on Sunday, the Queen conveyed her warmest congratulations to the president and best wishes for the people of Bangladesh.

She also hoped for further progress and prosperity of the country, according to a statement issued by the Bangladesh High Commission in London yesterday.

"On the special occasion of your 50th Independence Day, I am delighted to convey to Your Excellency my



congratulations, together with my best wishes to the people of Bangladesh," the Queen said.

She said the UK and Bangladesh share ties of friendship and affection, which remain the foundation of the partnership and are as important today as 50 years ago.

"After what has been a difficult year, I hope we may look forward to overcoming global health challenges and to better times in the future."

Bangladesh is now holding 10-day celebrations on the occasion of Mujib Borsho and the golden jubilee of independence. The celebrations began on March 17 at the capital's National Parade Square.

## Atiqullah Khan Masud no more

FROM PAGE 1

He was suffering from breathing problems, he added.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at the mosque inside the cantonment.

The body will be kept in the mortuary of a hospital in Shahbagh. He will be laid to rest after his elder son arrives home from abroad.

Soon after news of Atiqullah's death spread, a pall of gloom descended on the people of the media community and other spheres.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of the veteran journalist.

In a message of condolence, President Hamid prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family.

The prime minister also prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and offered sympathy to the family.

Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council) President Mahfuz Anam and Secretary General Naem Nizam in a condolence message expressed deep shock at the demise of Atiqullah and also prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the family.

"With the death of Atiqullah, the country lost a renowned editor and non-communal voice. The freedom fighter made Janakantha a strong pro-Liberation force," the Sampadak Parishad said.

Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) President AK Azad condoled the demise of Atiqullah.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury also expressed shock.

A host of ministers and state ministers expressed shock at the loss.

They include Road Transport and Bridges Minister and ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razaque, Education Minister Dipu Moni, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud, Health Minister Zahid Maleque, State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufan and State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Choudhury.

Jatiya Party, Dhaka University, National University and other socio-economic organisations also condoled the death.

When the body was taken to Janakantha Bhaban, which houses the newspaper and Globe Janakantha

Shilpa Paribar Limited offices, his long-time colleagues and others paid their last respects.

Atiqullah, who was born on August 29 in 1951 in Munshiganj, was also a former vice-president of Brothers Union Club and general secretary of Shishu Shasthya Foundation.

He founded Janakantha in 1993. At the beginning, the paper was the only daily in Bangladesh that was printed and published from different regions of the country simultaneously through its microwave system with its own set-up of local press and offices and distributed early in the morning all over the country. But currently Janakantha is being printed, published and circulated throughout Bangladesh from its Dhaka office.

Atiqullah was arrested by law enforcers in March 2007 and faced a number of false cases on different charges, including patronising criminal activity, corruption, and "carrying out propaganda against the government".

He was even sentenced to jail for over 40 years. Atiqullah was relieved from all cases after the Awami League government came to power in 2009.

Atiqullah established the Globe Janakantha Shilpa Paribar in early 1969 when he was 17 and a college student. He started the business by borrowing Rs 1,200 from his brother and brother's friend on a commitment to give them 50 percent of the profit that he would earn from the business.

In the meantime, he got a golden opportunity in the month of March 1971 when the price of betel leaf (pan) jumped to Rs 175 a kg in West Pakistan. The leaf cost only Rs 3 a kg in then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Atiqullah joined the Liberation War and fought at sector-2. After the war, he completed his graduation and engaged himself in full time business with the money he earned before independence.

He founded Globe Insecticides Ltd in 1978, the pioneer and the largest manufacturer of domestic insecticides -- mosquito coils, smokeless MAT with electric mosquito destroyer and aerosol insecticides -- with the technical cooperation of Earth Chemical Company Ltd, Japan.

In 1990, with a technical assistance from China, Atiqullah established a heavy industry called Globe Metal Complex Ltd.

He also founded Globe Khamar Prokalpa Ltd in 1997 and Globe Construction Ltd, a real estate company, in 1998.

## Better use of resources can be a game changer

FROM PAGE 1

Bhandari arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:30am. She paid tribute to the memory of martyred freedom fighters at the National Memorial in Savar. She also planted a flower sapling named "Uday Padma" on the memorial premises and signed the visitors' book. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen called on Bhandari at Hotel InterContinental.

Bhandari held a meeting with Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban and attended a banquet hosted by the president.

Sheikh Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had always fought for freedom of the people from exploitation and deprivation.

"He was on a mission to ensure basic rights like food, clothing, shelter, medicine, and education for all. It was very unfortunate that the progress of Bangladesh came to a halt after the assassination of Bangabandhu... on August 15, 1975," she said.

In the last 12 years, treading the path set out by Bangabandhu, Bangladesh has achieved successes beyond imagination in all socio-economic indicators and last month received a final recommendation to shift from least developed country to developing country status. She congratulated Nepal, which has also achieved the same.

However, noting the huge number of people still living in poverty, she said, "We will continue our efforts to transform the region into a poverty-free and developed one by maintaining friendly relations with each other."

The PM said South Asia is a region prone to natural disasters. Countries in the basin of the Himalayas are prone to earthquakes, cloudbursts, avalanches, landslides, flash floods, while coastal regions like Bangladesh are under threat of frequent floods, tidal surges, earthquakes, heavy rains, or droughts.

"Global warming, climate change has made the countries of our subcontinent the most vulnerable. We are the worst sufferers of the consequence of climate change, though we are not contributing to this change. We can temporarily protect ourselves through adaptation, but the adaptation process will fail to provide sustainable protection unless the current trend of climate change is restricted."

The premier said as the current president of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, Bangladesh has been urging world leaders to take immediate steps to tackle climate change. The Dhaka office of the Global Climate Adaptation started working on tackling the effects of climate change in South Asia.

"In this auspicious moment of celebrating the birth centenary of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of independence, I call

upon the world to ensure sustainable development."

Hasina expressed gratitude to Nepal and its people for their support, including weaponry for the freedom fighters. In January 1972, Nepal formally recognised Bangladesh and since then developed an excellent relationship. Both the countries hold a similar position on various regional and international issues.

Cooperation between Bangladesh and Nepal in affairs of trade, road-rail-air communications, power-energy (particularly hydropower), tourism and water management is increasing day by day. Nepal also signed the BBIN agreement. Bangladesh has also given Nepal access to use Saidpur Regional Airport as well as Mongla and Chattogram sea ports.

"As a result, mutual cooperation between the countries of the region will be revamped," the PM said.

At the event at the National Parade Square, the Nepali president congratulated Bangladesh on the occasion and for the socio-economic progress made by the country, while also calling for stronger connectivity in air, water and road as well as trade relations for improving the lives of people.

She said Nepal and Bangladesh are rich in terms of natural and human resources, and proper utilisation of these resources will be catalytic in transforming the development landscape, creating prosperity and happiness for the country's people.

She said the two countries are actively engaged in promoting common interest at multilateral forums through mutual support and cooperation, but both countries need to advance the partnership.

Elimination of trade barriers, development of infrastructure and easy market access could significantly boost the trade relationship, she said.

Bhandari said energy is an important area of cooperation. The two countries have already signed an MoU in cooperation in power.

"Nepal's hydropower and Bangladesh's natural gas can be the game changers for our development needs. For our energy trade, it is imperative to strengthen trilateral cooperation among Nepal, Bangladesh and India."

She suggested adding more flights to the existing Kathmandu-Dhaka route and connect by air major regional cities like Saidpur of Bangladesh and Biratnagar of Nepal.

Bhandari said linkage of Nepal's rivers with that of India and Bangladesh will help develop waterways, which can reduce the cost of transport and trade. She also suggested upgrading roadways and railways and expansion of mutual cooperation in the tourism sector.

Stating that both Nepal and Bangladesh have been adversely affected by the impacts of climate change without being a cause for it, she said, "In

order to address this problem, we need to strengthen bilateral cooperation, including mobilising international support."

Bhandari said Bangabandhu pioneered the independence movement of Bangladesh ever since his youth and his incessant struggle gave birth to Bangladesh. He had showed unswerving leadership and unremitting action for it.

She said Bangabandhu had deep love and esteem for the Bangla language. He was the person who championed the cause for the protection and promotion of Bangla with the support of Bangladeshi people.

Bhandari said Bangabandhu had great compassion for the weak, downtrodden, poor and other citizens in difficulty. He is a widely revered leader of this region.

She also said that in her country, the government of Nepal has dedicated all its efforts towards realising the common national aspiration of "Prosperous Nepal, happy Nepali".

"Our efforts are focused on turning Nepal into a prosperous nation. I believe that the development efforts of Nepal and Bangladesh will contribute to socio-economic progress of the whole of South Asia."

UNB adds: President Abdul Hamid urged the government and political parties to stay beside people irrespective of political mindset.

"When the government and political party work for people with honesty and sincerity, the nation achieves progress and well-being," he said.

"If we can stay beside people irrespective of political mindset in order to fulfil their basic needs, it will bring about a new chapter in the politics of Bangladesh. This will be the best achievement of Mujib Borsho."

Mentioning the celebration of Mujib Borsho as an appropriate attempt to disseminate the life, thoughts and political philosophies of Bangabandhu to all, the president said there is no scope to separate Bangabandhu and Bangladesh.

"Let Bangladesh move ahead towards a hunger- and poverty-free status, with the ideals of the Father of the Nation and the spirit of the War of Liberation," he said.

"As long as there will be Bangladesh, there will be Bangalee people, Bangabandhu will remain as the source of inspiration till that day as he has enlightened the whole world as a guiding star for the emancipation of the oppressed and exploited people."

He also asked the concerned to take steps so that future generations grow up imbued with the principles and ideals of Bangabandhu and the spirit of the Liberation War.

President Hamid recalled Nepal's moral and material support extended to Bangladesh during the Liberation War and recognition of Bangladesh in January, 1972.

## Massive fire

FROM PAGE 1

"The administration will hold a briefing in the morning," an official said last night, requesting not to be named.

The fire reported around 4:00pm was the third in Balukhali camp in the last four days, locals said.

"At least one child has been admitted at a medical centre with 25 percent burns. There are some other injured too. Most of the people got injured while fleeing the scene," Health Coordinator Sarowar Jahan of the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's office, told this newspaper.

Mohammad Shamsudoza, additional refugee, relief and repatriation commissioner, said 1,500-2,000 houses were completely burnt down while 5,000-6,000 other houses were damaged.

"Two children got killed and many others injured," Rohingya community leader Jamal Hossain Lahu of Camp no-9/A-2 told our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

The camp-in-charge, police and fire service officials made no comments in this regard.

Reuters reported that a video shot by a resident showed a blaze ripping through the camp, with people scrambling to recover their possessions amid burning shanties and tents.

"Fire services, rescue and response teams and volunteers are at the scene to try to control the fire and prevent it from spreading further," said Louise Donovan, spokesperson for UN refugee agency UNHCR in Cox's Bazar, where refugees live in ramshackle huts.

Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters Divisional Director Md Azizul Islam said, "Two burnt bodies were recovered as per the report from Cox's Bazar fire service officials as of 11:30pm."

"Due to poor cell phone signal in the camp area, the details of casualties or any update of the fire is not being reported over the phone," he said.

The official also said firefighters with fire engines from Cox's Bazar, Ramu, Chakaria, Ukhiya, Satkania, and Teknaf stations are trying to control the blaze.

APBn and police sources said the fires were raging at Camp-8 East, 8-, 9-, and 10-West.

Contacted, Mamunur Rashid, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, told The Daily Star that he had yet to receive any report of casualties.

Offices of IOM PHC Balukhali, Turkish Hospital, and MSF were completely burned.

Over a million Rohingyas live in the camps in southern Bangladesh. The vast majority of them fled Myanmar in 2017 amid a military-led crackdown that UN investigators said was executed with "genocidal intent".

"The fire spread so fast that it caught our house before we understood what was happening. People were screaming and running. Children were also running," said Tayeba Begum, a volunteer of Save the Children.

The risk of fire in the densely populated camps is high, and yesterday's blaze was the largest yet, said Onno Van Manen, country director of Save the Children, Bangladesh.

"Just a couple of days ago, we lost one of our health facilities in another fire," he said.

The UNHCR said humanitarian partners had mobilised hundreds of volunteers from nearby camps for the support operation, as well as fire safety vehicles and equipment.

"So far the fire has affected shelters, health centres, distribution points and other facilities," Donovan said.

## Gandhi Peace

FROM PAGE 1

members, the Chief Justice of India and Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha.

Two eminent members are also part of the jury. They are: Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International Social Service Organisation.

The past awardees include luminaries like Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania; Gerhard Fischer, Federal Republic of Germany; Ramakrishna Mission; Baba Amte (Shri Murlidhar Devidas Amte); Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa; Grameen Bank of Bangladesh; Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa; Shri Chandni Prasad Bhatt & Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Recent awardees include Vivekananda Kendra, India (2015); Akshaya Patra Foundation, India, and Sulabh International (Jointly, for 2016); Ekal Abhiyan Trust, India (2017); and Shri Yohei Sasakawa, Japan (2018).

The award carries an amount of Rs 1 crore, a citation, a plaque, and an exquisite traditional handicraft or handloom item.

PM Modi has said that Bangabandhu was a champion of human rights and freedom and is a hero to Indians as well.

He also said the legacy and inspiration of Bangabandhu has made the heritage of both countries more comprehensive and deep-rooted, and that the path shown by Bangabandhu has laid a strong foundation for the partnership, progress and prosperity of both countries.

Bangladesh government has acknowledged with deep gratitude the decision of India to confer the Gandhi Peace Prize-2020 to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, posthumously for the first time.

"It is an honour for Bangladesh and its people for the Father of the Nation to be bestowed with this prestigious award," said the foreign ministry in a statement.

The honour assumes special significance on the 50th year of Bangladesh's independence when the country is on the verge of becoming a developing country, through political, economic and social transformation, the foundations of which were laid by Bangabandhu, it said.

## 'Mitali Express' to be announced on Saturday

Fares for new train from Dhaka to India's New Jalpaiguri fixed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India are going to announce launching of the new passenger train, which will run between the two neighbouring countries, on Saturday, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon said yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to be in Bangladesh on March 26 and 27, will jointly give the announcement, he said.

"This is going to be a historic moment. This will be a big achievement for communication between the two countries," the minister said at a press briefing inside Rail Bhavan.

However, the train's operation between Dhaka and West Bengal's New Jalpaiguri (NJP) will start after the Covid-19 situation reaches normalcy, he added.

The railways ministry in October last year announced that Bangladesh and India were planning to introduce a passenger train service on Dhaka-Siliguri route from this March to mark 50 years

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



**THE IRONY...** Doves of outgoing international passengers gather at Chattogram General Hospital premises, at a spot where there isn't even enough room to stand properly, to get tested for Covid-19 around 9am yesterday. Just a day earlier, the district administration released a circular, instructing establishments like community centres and restaurants to disallow gatherings of more than 100 people.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

NEW MEDICAL CENTRE ON CAMPUS

## DU syndicate divided over naming building

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The Dhaka University (DU) administration has become divided over naming a to-be-constructed building of University Medical Centre.

The building is supposed to be named after a top industrialist of the country, as per the decision of university engineering office.

University Vice Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman and a syndicate member, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star that the decision on naming the building was taken in the last syndicate meeting.

Meanwhile, Pro-VC Muhammad Samad and two other syndicate members said no concrete decisions were taken, rather it was only discussed at the meeting.

On February 28, a proposal was placed at the syndicate meeting to decide on whether a newly constructed building of the University Medical Centre will be named after the industrialist or not.

This correspondent spoke to six syndicate members including the VC. Of them, three members said the agenda was "only discussed and yet to be finalised" while two others said the decision was finalised, and one declined to comment.

The VC said, "The proposal was finalised as the majority of members supported it."

Eleven days after the meeting, chief engineer of the university Abul Kalam Sikder issued a letter to the businessman to take further steps in this regard.

The letter also stated that the engineering office gave permission to construct the building and name it after the businessman, who is also an alumnus of DU.

Pro-VC of administration, Prof Samad on March 14 wrote to the VC opposing the decision and opined that the names of martyred teachers of the University should be prioritised.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Young activists find creative solutions to gender inequality

Care Bangladesh's Tipping Point initiative battles social stigma in remote villages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of a remote village in Sunamganj were stunned to see teenage girls competing alongside boys at a cricket tournament, considering they do not even allow girls and boys to take a walk together.

But the 50 young boys and girls from that village in Jamalganj upazila did not pay heed to any obstacles, and remained focused on their goal.

Under an initiative titled "Tipping Point" by Care Bangladesh, youth clubs called Fun Centres were established in multiple villages across the country. Each centre has 25 boys and 25 girls as members who engage in promoting equality in all spheres of life.

During a roundtable discussion titled "Boli Kotha Okopote" organised by Care Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, young women activists spoke about overcoming social stigmas to ensure gender equality in their communities.

Sadia Akhter from Jamalganj Upazila said, "When we decided to organise a

cricket tournament with participation of boys and girls, villagers began discouraging us, saying such initiatives are unheard of and girls should only do household duties. They began complaining about us to our parents."

"So we decided to include parents' teams in the tournament as well. We had fathers' teams and mothers' teams," Sadia explained.

"With great difficulty, we were able to make people understand that if a boy can play in the field, then a girl has the same right to play. When the tournament started, we had bigger crowds than boys-only tournaments. We realised, the bigger the challenge, the bigger the success," said Sadia.

Speakers at the roundtable spoke on the many kinds of social obstacles they had to face, including child marriage, violence, hindrance in education, not being allowed to do cultural activities, and not being allowed to even walk on their own.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 4 more cases filed against PK Halder

His associate held at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed four more cases over the laundering of about Tk 248.5 crore from International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL), accusing 30 people.

Former managing director of now-defunct NRB Global Bank PK Halder is made prime accused in the cases.

So far, the anti-graft watchdog has filed 25 cases for laundering of about Tk 1,871 crore from ILFSL. Sixty-seven people are made accused in the cases.

According to the case statements, Halder took loans from financial institutions against at least two dozen non-existent companies created by him. In some cases, he used part of the funds to repay loan instalments taken against his several fictitious firms. The investigation officer did not find the existence of these organisations.

Kolasin took loan of about Tk 60 crore, Drinan Apparels Tk 60 crore, Wintel International Tk 68.5 crore and Neutraceutical Limited Tk 60 crore from ILFSL.

Managing director of Drinan Mohammad Abu Rajib Maruf, Director of Wintel Sukumar Saha, chairman of Kolasin Atoshi Mridha and proprietor of Neutraceutical Swapan Kumar Mistri are among the accused in the four cases.

Meanwhile, an accused - Shubhra Rani Ghosh, a director of Ookayama international, was arrested at Dhaka airport yesterday in connection with a laundering case.



Ayman Sadiq and Munzereen Shahid drew a large number of visitors to a stall yesterday. They had to repeatedly ask the crowd to maintain distancing, between clicking selfies and signing autographs with fans.

PHOTO: STAR

EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

## Young readers thrilled to meet favourite writer

MATHEWS CHIRAN

On the fifth day of the book fair, the crowd was a little relaxed at the Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

But there was an exception. Tamralipi was thronging with visitors.

The visitors were mostly young students, they were there to meet and cheer for their favourite author, as Ayman Sadiq was present at the stall yesterday. Awaiting his presence all day, the youth in attendance started to take autographs from him and selfies with him once he arrived.

On his first visit to this year's Boimela, Sadiq met them with equal enthusiasm, but cautioned everyone to maintain safe distance due to the ongoing spike in coronavirus cases across the country.

Kefayet Ullah, a student of Sarkari Soheed Suhrawardy Collegee, was excited to get his autograph. "I never thought I will see him in person. I'm a huge fan, I always follow his videos. This is amazing for me," he was oozing with excitement.

Sisters, Maisha and Mou Akther, from Bir Sreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College, made their way through a thick crowd just for Sadiq's autograph.

"If we didn't get it, we would've felt guilty all day. He's like our favourite person," Maisha said, holding her copy of Never Stop Learning by Ayman Sadiq.

Along with autographs, Ayman Sadiq was busy answering his followers' questions, mostly advising them on queries related

to life and education. He also asked those in attendance to read more and do the best they can with life.

"This year's fair is different because of the need to maintain health guidelines. Despite the necessary, I miss the Boimela of old, when I'd get to walk around amid so many young readers," he told this correspondent.

"This year, my brother (Sadman) and I co-wrote a book named Digital Marketing Hacks, though it's yet to hit the shelves," he informed. "This year, I have taken a backseat from writing. Instead, I've transitioned into more of a behind-the-scenes guy for books published by 10 Minute School affiliates."

Popular 10 Minute School instructor Munzereen Shahid also came to the stall, to promote her own books and interact with the crowd. She came back to Dhaka from London recently, just to attend the fair. The crowd was ecstatic to meet one of their most beloved internet personalities.

"I'm so glad to be here. I hope my two books on English will help ward off the fear of English language and make learning it easier easily," she said, while signing autographs.

Both 'Sobar Jonno Vocabulary' and Ghorebose Spoken English' by Munzereen Shahid are available at Tamralipi.

Apart from Never Stop Learning, 'Student Hacks' and 'Communication Hacks', Sadiq's older publications, are selling like hot cake at Tamralipi.

BARAPUKURIA GRAFT CASE

## Hearing on charge framing against Khaleda May 20

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set May 20 for hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and six others in Barapukuria coalmine graft case.

Judge ASM Ruhul Imran of the Special Judge's Court-2 of Dhaka passed the order after a petition was filed with the court on behalf of Khaleda, seeking an adjournment of the hearing. Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder, one of her lawyers, told The Daily Star.

In the petition, Masud said Khaleda, who is now out of jail after an executive order of the government, is unwell and cannot leave her residence due to Covid-19 pandemic. So, the hearing should be adjourned, he said.

During the hearing, two other accused including BNP leader Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, now on bail, were present at the court while three others, including Mozammel Hossain, were absent.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## 'Yaba dealers using expats as carriers'

Man held with 10,000 pills in pickle jars at Dhaka airport; directives issued for steps to avoid impact on labour market

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With an aim to stop narcotics smuggling from Bangladesh to abroad through expatriates, the airlines have to ensure that their passengers packed their own luggage.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen came up with the suggestion after the director general (DG) of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) said that a tendency of getting involved with narcotics smuggling was found among Bangladeshi workers going or staying abroad.

DNC DG Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar said this at the first virtual meeting of the National Narcotics Control Advisory Committee on December 28 last year.

DG Jabbar also said such illegal practices could have a negative impact on the labour market. In response to that, the home ministry's security service division's secretary has asked all officials concerned to take necessary action in this regard.

"People were sent back due to their involvement with narcotics smuggling," said the secretary.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who presided over the meeting, said anti-narcotics awareness among those going abroad has to be increased.

Muhammad Abdur Rauf Miah, deputy secretary of the home ministry, issued the written directives regarding the virtual meeting on February 14.

The issues came to the fore after transnational narcotics smuggling syndicates were found using expatriates travelling abroad or coming back home as carriers.

Bangladeshi citizens got arrested in different countries in the last couple of years with yaba inside their luggage, according to law enforcers.

Even in a meeting with Chattogram district police on January 5, 2019, expatriate representatives said drug dealers were tricking "innocent" migrants into carrying the pills.

Meanwhile, a Saudi Arabia-bound passenger was arrested from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) early yesterday while attempting to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BASURHAT POLITICAL CLASH

## 72 get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to another 72 Awami League leaders and activists from Basurhat area under Companiganj upazila of Noakhali for four weeks in two separate violence and arson cases.

The HC also ordered the accused ruling party men to surrender to the trial court concerned in four weeks in connection with the cases.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman came up with the orders following eight separate petitions filed by the accused seeking bail in the cases filed against them.

Earlier in the day, the accused petitioners appeared before the HC bench for anticipatory bail in the cases.

Companiganj's former upazila chairman Mizanur Rahman Badal and Sub-Inspector of police Mahfuzur Rahman filed the two cases with Basurhat police station on February 19 and 22 respectively, following a clash between two groups of local AL men over a political dispute on February 19, said SS Arefin Junnun, petitioners' lawyer.

He said the HC granted them bail as there is no specific allegation against them and no casualty took place in the incident.

Lawyer Farhad Ahmed appeared for the accused AL leaders and activists during hearing of the bail petitions.

Earlier on March 18, the same HC bench had granted anticipatory bail to 107 local AL men of the same area in four similar cases.

During hearing their bail petitions on that day, the HC bench expressed dissatisfaction at the recent incidents of violence between two groups of ruling AL men at Basurhat area, questioning what is happening in the area to lead to such incidents.

Mentionable, Abdul Quader Mirza, younger brother of Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, has stirred up a debate in the country's political arena with some of his remarks at Noakhali's Companiganj upazila.



As the city gets hotter by the days, watermelons, and their ability to quell the heat, get more and more appealing for those who have to stand under the scorching sun. A street vendor at the capital's Green Road area readies a plate of the juicy fruit for his customers. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

EMBARGO ON LEAVING COUNTRY

## ACC petition seeks stay on HC verdict to formulate law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday moved a petition before the Supreme Court, seeking stay on the High Court verdict over formulating a specific law or rule regarding imposition of embargo on corruption suspects or accused from leaving the country.

After a brief hearing, Chamber judge of the SC's Appellate Division Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned hearing till March 28.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan submitted the petition.

In the petition, the commission said if ACC is to take permission from the special judge's court for imposing embargo on any corruption suspect or accused leaving the country, the inquiry or investigation against him or her will face obstacles.

Delivering verdict on a petition, the HC on March 16 observed that a specific law or rule is needed soon regarding imposition of embargo on corruption suspects or accused leaving the country.

There is no specific law or rule to ban people, against whom inquiries or

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

**DU syndicate**

FROM PAGE 3  
"It was a table agenda which was suddenly placed in the meeting. I opposed the decision and some other syndicate members supported me. The meeting ended without any final decision and we expected that an unanimous and final decision will be taken in the following meeting," reads the letter.

Referring to the letter issued by the chief engineer, Prof Samad said that the permission was given without following due regulations.

Two other members of the syndicate, Professor Hasanuzzaman and Professor M Humayun Kabir, echoed Professor Samad. Sources inside the administration said, through a letter to the university, the businessman had expressed his desire to have a building named after him on the campus.

In the letter, he said he would bear the expenses of constructing a four-storey building under the condition of having the entire medical centre named after him.

However, authorities asked him to sponsor a six-storey building in the university and only have that named after him.



**Mahfuza Begum no more**

CITY DESK

Mahfuza Begum, mother of former Anti-Corruption Commission Chairperson Iqbal Mahmood, passed away yesterday. She was 95.

Mahfuza left behind four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Family members are requested to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

**ACC petition**

FROM PAGE 3  
investigations are underway in connection with corruption allegations or cases, from leaving the country, the court said.

The bench came up with the judgment after it heard a petition filed by one Ataur Rahman from Narsingdi challenging the ACC's action to restrain him from going abroad as a graft allegation against him was being inquired.

The court declared the ACC action illegal and allowed Ataur to go to Sweden where he lives with his family.

ACC issued a notice on August 24, 2020, asking Ataur, known as Sweden Ataur, to submit his wealth statement to the commission.

After he submitted the statement, the anti-graft body started an inquiry into his wealth and on December 20 that year, and issued a letter to the immigration police to refrain Ataur from going to Sweden.

Ataur then filed the petition with the HC.

Yesterday, Ataur's lawyer told the apex court that he will not leave the country until March 28, the date for hearing the ACC petition.

**Young**

FROM PAGE 3  
Jagannath University student Mousumi Yeasmin said, "All of my cousins were married off before they could sit for SSC exams. I was also threatened with child marriage."

"Luckily I was able to resist these pressures, and even passed my HSC exam. After that, I left for Dhaka without telling anyone in my village. I attended the university admission test and I did well," she said.

"I rebelled against the pressures. My brother stopped talking to me after that. But today I am receiving higher education and that is what matters," Mousumi said.

Rawnak Jahan, team leader of Tipping Point initiative of Care Bangladesh moderated the roundtable.

**Mitali Express**

FROM PAGE 3  
of Bangladesh's independence, as the restoration work of Chilahati-Haldibari rail link was nearly complete.

After 55 years, rail communication between the countries via Chilahati-Haldibari route resumed in December. Freight trains were supposed to be regular since then, but that did not happen yet.

The minister said there was uncertainty, even on Sunday, on whether the announcement of the launch would be given, considering West Bengal assembly election and some other issues. But it was resolved yesterday.

He said Sheikh Hasina selected "Mitali Express" as the train's name, and it was approved by the Indian side.

**FARE AND OTHER ISSUES**

The train will run from Dhaka's Cantonment Station on Mondays and Thursdays, and from New Jalpaiguri on Sundays and Wednesdays. Customs and immigration facilities will be provided at NJP, Dhaka Cantonment and Chilahati stations.

The minister said more than two coaches would be added with the train from Chilahati to benefit people of the northern district, and they would get customs and immigration facilities at Chilahati station in Nilphamari.

The fare for the 595km Dhaka-NJP route would be Tk 2,705 for chair, Tk 3,805 for seat and TK 4,905 for berth. All prices

include vat and travel tax, and ticket holders will get air-conditioning facility, he said.

The fare for Chilahati-NJP would be Tk 1,235 for a chair, he added. The 10-coach train would have 864 seats.

**COX'S BAZAR UNDER RAIL NETWORK WITHIN DECEMBER 2022**

The minister yesterday said Cox's Bazar will come under rail network within December next year.

Despite project of the first track witnessing 51 percent physical progress till February, the minister expressed hope while talking to journalists at Rail Bhaban.

The deadline for building a dual gauge single rail line from Chattogram to Cox's Bazar is June next year. "Works [of the project] is ongoing to meet the target, and progress is satisfactory," he said.

"We have kept six more months as grace period, and if we cannot complete the project within June, then we will be able to complete it within the grace period. We will be able to connect Cox's Bazar with rest of the country through rail by December 2022," he said.

Contacted, project director Mofizur Rahman yesterday said, "We are hopeful about completing the project works within December next year, if no major obstacle arises."

In the case of having to revise project deadline, he said, "We will take decision in this regard three months before the deadline's expiry."

**খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
খুলনা-৯২০৩  
তারিখঃ ২২/০৩/২০২১

**'অফিস সহায়ক' পদে নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ পুনঃ নির্ধারণ সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অনিবার্য কারণে অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের 'অফিস সহায়ক' পদের ৩০/০৩/২০২১ তারিখের অন্তিম লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৫/০৪/২০২১ তারিখে এবং ৩১/০৩/২০২১ তারিখের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৬/০৪/২০২১ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তনীয় থাকবে।

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আনিছুর রহমান ভূঞা  
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)  
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

**Yaba dealers**

FROM PAGE 3  
smuggle nearly 10,000 pieces of yaba pills inside pickle jars. The arrestee was identified as Rakib Hossain (31) of Ramganj upazila in Lakshmipur.

Rakib was supposed to board a flight of Gulf Airlines around 5:45am for Saudi Arabia, said Alamgir Hossain, additional superintendent (operations) of Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

When he arrived at the departure terminal around 3:30am, a team of APBn challenged him and seized 9,885 pieces of yaba pills hidden inside two pickle jars, said Alamgir.

In primary interrogation, the arrestee claimed that one Nazmul from a travel agency gave him the jars and he was just a carrier.

A case was filed against Rakib, Nazmul and some unnamed persons under the Narcotics Control Act with Airport Police Station, Alamgir added.

Mosiu Alam, sub-inspector of Airport Police Station, said Rakib was supposed to go to KSA in March last year, but could not due to the pandemic.

Later, he arranged visa and ticket again through a travel agency in Cumilla.

A relative of Nazmul was supposed to pick up the pickle jars from Rakib after he reached Saudi Arabia, said Mosiu, also the case's investigation officer.

"We would take him in remand for questioning," he added.

Investigators claimed that syndicate members often convince expatriates that they want to send gifts to their relatives abroad and then put the drug inside the gift items such as packets of tea, chocolate boxes or pickles.

Kusum Dewan, director (operation) of DNC, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have already proposed to set up modern scanners and form canine squads in all the country's airports to detect narcotics smuggling under supervision of DNC officials.

"Steps have already been taken in this regard. Once implemented, we are hopeful that we would be able to stop the smuggling," Dewan added.

**Hearing on**

FROM PAGE 3  
Another accused Md Sirajul Islam has been absconding since the case was filed against him.

On February 26, 2008, Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station, accusing 16 people, including Khaleda and 10 of her former cabinet colleagues, of taking Tk 159 crore in kickbacks on Barapukuria coalmine deal.

ACC pressed charges against Khaleda and 15 others in the case on October 5, 2008.

**ERRATUM**

In a news published yesterday on this page headlined "Sultana Sarawatara Zaman's 1st death anniversary today", it was mistakenly printed that Prof Zaman left behind two daughters and a son -- Quazi Nadeem Omar. In fact, Quazi Nadeem Omar predeceased his mother. We regret the error.

**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**  
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**Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI)**  
(Selection of Consulting Firm: National)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development and employment generation organisation, invites Expression of Interest from competent consulting firms/institutions for "Digital Training Module Development (Web and mobile based apps)" under the SEP project of PKSF. The project is being jointly funded by the World Bank and PKSF.

Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) documents can be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours (9:00 am to 4:30 pm) from Sunday to Thursday. The documents are also available on the PKSF website (www.pksf-bd.org). The EoI must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the office of the undersigned by 2:30 pm on or before 12-04-2021. Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued only to the short-listed firms/institutions.

PKSF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all expressions of interest without assigning any reasons.

Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin  
Deputy Managing Director

**Padma Oil Company Limited**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram  
Ref: 28.22.0000.857.06.034.17/218 Date: 21/03/2021

**2nd Corrigendum Notice FOR**

**"Installation of Jet A-1 Underground Pipeline from Main Installation of Padma Oil Company Limited, Guptakhal, Chattogram to Shah Amanat International Airport, Chattogram, Bangladesh on Turnkey Basis."**  
Ref. No. PD/Capex(DPP)/F-857/P-100/20-21. Date: 31/12/2020

This is for information of all concerned that following amendments of Tender Notice have been made:

Sl No.	Existing	Amended
18	Tender last selling date 22/03/2021 up to 1400 Hrs	Tender last selling date 19/04/2021 up to 1400 Hrs
19	Tender closing date 23/03/2021 at 02.30pm	Tender closing date 20/04/2021 at 1430 Hrs
20	Tender opening date 23/03/2021 at 03:00pm	Tender opening date 20/04/2021 at 1500 Hrs

All other terms and conditions of the tender document shall remain unchanged.

Md. Abdus Sobhan  
Project Director  
For Managing Director

সবাই মিলে গড়বো দেশ, দুর্নীতিমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ।

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
BDBL Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd  
Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000  
IT System Department

Reference: 11.3/ Dated: 22/03/2021

**Re-Tender Notice**

Re-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the procurement of following goods & services:

Tender ID	Name of goods & related services	Closing & opening date & time
554713	Supply, installation and turnkey basis Commissioning of E-KYC Software Solution including Operating System.	April 04, 2021 Time: 12:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP 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 online through any branch of BDBL or any other registered bank's branches up to banking hours.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

-Sd-  
Md. Nazrul Islam  
Deputy General Manager  
Tel: 02-57160451

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Quality Control & Training Division  
Bangladesh Road Research Laboratory  
Mirpur, Dhaka.  
☎: 02-44804210, E-mail: [eeqc@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eeqc@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.0000.391.19.008.21-92 Date: 22-03-2021

**Corrigendum Notice**

This is to notify for all concerned that the amendment of Request for Expressions of Interest notice vide Reference No. 35.01.0000.391.19.008.21-76, Date: 07 March 2021 is as follows:

Subject	Previous Timeline	Revised Timeline	Remarks
EOI Closing Date and Time	24 March 2021, 12:00PM Local Time	11 April 2021, 12:00PM Local Time	All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Further information and guidelines are available in the website of Roads and Highways Department & CPTU.

(Shamima Yasmin)  
ID No. 602179  
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Quality Control & Training Division  
Bangladesh Road Research Laboratory  
Mirpur, Dhaka.

**Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC)**  
Ministry of Industries  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Administration Building, 116/kha, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.  
Phone: 02-8870194, Fax: 8870728  
E-mail: [purchasedhaka@bitac.gov.bd](mailto:purchasedhaka@bitac.gov.bd), Website: <http://www.bitac.gov.bd>

**FACULTY SEARCH: SUMMER 2021**

**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Center of Excellence in Higher Education  
The First Private University in Bangladesh

**Faculty Positions**

Applications are invited for faculty member positions in the following areas:

- English (Linguistics, TESOL), (Ph.D. only)
- Law (Ph.D. only)
- History (Bangladesh History and World Civilization)
- Psychology (Ph.D. only)
- Philosophy (Ph.D. only)
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Mathematics
- Media and Cultural Studies (Ph.D. only)
- Management Information Systems (Ph.D. only)
- Supply Chain Management (Ph.D. only)
- Business Statistics (Ph.D. only)
- Operations Management (Ph.D. only)
- Marketing and Analytics (Ph.D. only)
- Accounting (Ph.D. only)
- Finance (Ph.D. only)
- Microbiology
- Environmental Modeling and its policy application pollutant-health interaction (Ph.D. only)
- Public Health (Global Health/Nutrition)

Attractive salary and benefits (50% house rent of basic salary, medical allowance, two festival bonuses, gratuity, provident fund, group insurance). Salary is negotiable in case of outstanding candidates.

**Qualifications:**  
Ph.D. for Assistant Professor and above and Master's degree for lecturers from a globally reputed university.

**Application Guidelines:**  
Please apply by 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 with a cover letter, CV, two copies of recent photos and copies of SSC, HSC or equivalent, graduate (Master's or Ph.D.) certificates, transcripts/mark-sheets. Please indicate the discipline on the top of the envelope or in the subject line of the e-mail and send to:

Vice-Chancellor  
North South University  
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229  
E-mail: [vicechancellor@northsouth.edu](mailto:vicechancellor@northsouth.edu)  
[www.northsouth.edu](http://www.northsouth.edu)

Ref No: 36.06.2692.026.07.009.21 Date : 23 March, 2021

**e-Tender Notice**

Following tenders are invited in the National e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Tender ID No	Package No.	Description of Goods	Last Selling & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
560029	BITAC.PUR.2020-2021.GR-76	Procurement of Foundry Goods	06-4-2021 04:00 pm	07-4-2021 02:00 pm	07-4-2021 02:00 pm

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 e-GP system portal (<https://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 online through any registered Bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP-helpdesk ([helpdesk:https://www.eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk:https://www.eprocure.gov.bd))

(Md. Mostafizur Rahman Pabel)  
Purchase officer  
BITAC, Dhaka  
for Director General

## Water tariff in Dhaka set to rise again

FROM PAGE 1  
The Wasa MD has already given his consent to increase the price, said officials.  
The move comes at a time when the people's income has been hit hard by the pandemic. The country is seeing a sharp spike in the Covid-19 infection rate for the last few weeks.

Wasa last year had increased the price of water by 25 percent. Before that hike, the prices of water were Tk 11.57 and Tk 37.04 per unit for residential and commercial uses respectively.

Last month, a study by South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), a research organisation, found that the poverty rate in the country has doubled in two years.

The organisation interviewed 5,577 households across the country last year, and found that 42 percent of them were below the poverty line. The rate was 21.6 percent when the same group was interviewed in 2018.

There are allegations that residents of many city areas, including Jurain, are supplied with poor quality of tap water. Besides, many face acute shortage of drinking water and don't have access to sewerage network.

A group of residents of Jurain had staged a demonstration in front of the Wasa's Karwan Bazar headquarters on April 23, 2019, demanding supply of pure water.

The image of Mizanur Rahman, a resident carrying a jug full of dirty water as a sarcastic gift of "sherbet" for Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan for saying "water supplied by Wasa was 100 percent safe" is still fresh in the minds of Dhaka residents.

**'WASA PROPOSAL ILLOGICAL'**  
Terming the price hike proposal illogical, Chairman of Institute of Water and Environment M Inamul Haque said Dhaka Wasa increases the price of water and sewerage charges but the city dwellers are not getting better service.

He said the quality of tap water in many city areas did not improve, and many residents depend on private deep tube-wells for water.

Inamul said many areas of the capital still remain out of the coverage of Wasa's sewerage network.

Wasa Chairman Golam Mostafa said the company increases water price by five percent every year to adjust with inflation.

The board meeting would be held today and if it endorses the price hike proposal, the new price would be effective from July 1, he said.

About the coronavirus situation, Mostafa said they were not hiking the price much considering the pandemic although there was still a huge gap between the production cost and price of water.

"We only earn half of the production cost of water and we have to increase the price gradually to have a sustainable future for the company," he said.

Asked whether they would send the proposal to the LGRD ministry for approval, he said the Wasa board can approve proposals for hiking the price by up to five percent every year.

The Dhaka Wasa can increase the water tariff by five percent in consultation with the government as per section 22 of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996.

Wasa MD Taqsem said they want to hike the tariff by only five percent to adjust with inflation.

About increasing sewerage charges, he said they realise the charges only from clients in the city's 18 to 20 percent areas which are under coverage of sewerage network.

"We have a master plan to bring 100 percent of areas under the sewerage network. Once the plan is implemented, we will realise sewerage charges from clients across the city," he added.

# She paddles rickshaw-van breaking free from decade of torture

KONGKON KARMAKER

Like any other women, Saptomi Rani Mungli, in her early life, used to dream of having a family filled with love and happiness. However, her dream was shattered as she had to undergo inhuman torture by her in-laws and her husband.

She finally parted with the torturous relationship eleven years of her tying the knot. Leaving her husband's home, she took shelter at her emaciated parental home in Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila.

But things became more complicated there as she did not have any means to feed her family members, including her elderly mother. She never wanted to be a burden to her widowed mother.

Initially, she started selling betel leaves to generate income after returning to her parental home. However, the earnings were not enough to feed her family. With such low earnings, it was not possible to continue the studies of her three kids as well.

"I had become so distraught then", she said. She had no savings to start any business in the area. Finally, Mungli had decided to grab the handle of a rickshaw in 2015 as profession. "The earning was relatively low for the first few months. Things started improving gradually.

"Now, I earn around Tk 500 per day", she said. Besides, other rickshaw pullers of the area are so helpful to her, said Mungli.

Mungli, the daughter of Bodha Mali, of Bishnupur village under Akkelpur Upazila of Joypurhat was born in an ultra-poor family. Her parents married her off to Bital Mali, son of Kashinath Mali, at Baman village under Kalai Upazila in 2002.

She was just 16 then. A bicycle, half tola gold and Tk 20,000 were given to Bital as dowry.

"I was taking time to adjust with everything at my new home", she said adding her in-laws and husband did not take time to start inflicting inhuman torture on her.

All the family members used to torture her almost every, she said while shedding drops of tears.

"They often beat me up with sticks. If I



Saptomi Rani Mungli pulling rickshaw-van on a road in in Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila to manage food for her only daughter.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

protested, they would gag me," Mungli said.

"My husband even seared my skin with burning mosquito coil and cigarette. As the torture was unbearable, I would often come back to my parental home to get relief. But, they [her parents] forcibly sent her back to her in-law's house due their chronic poverty."

"They used to torture me more after my return", said Mungli.

She bore the traumatic relation for 11 years. In the meantime, she also became mother of three children.

Finally, Mungli left her husband forever in 2013, with her three children, to start a new life.

"I allowed her to stay here as I could not see her distress anymore", said Shepali Mali, the mother of Mungli.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mungli said

pulling a rickshaw-van is a pretty laborious job. Although her body ached much, she never quit.

These days, she is plying a battery-run rickshaw, which is a bit comfortable. "I ply it from morning to evening every day", she said adding "the money I get plying the rickshaw is enough to manage my family."

All her three children are studying now, she said. "It is my only dream to help my children grow with proper education," she said.

Selim Mahmud, chairman of Tilakpur UP, said that Mungli stays at a shabby house with her mother and children.

The UP administration is trying to allocate a house for them from the prime minister's special fund.

"She earns money through honesty that is an example to others", he said.

## Covid cases, deaths climb

FROM PAGE 1  
rise roughly every day, with experts speculating that a new variant -- probably the UK one, the South African or a locally mutated one -- is contributing to the rise.

Meanwhile, the health ministry yesterday issued a notice to five public hospitals in Dhaka to stay prepared to tackle the rising number of Covid-19 patients.

The hospitals are Lalkuthi Hospital in Mirpur, Dhaka Mohanagar Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, DNCC Corona Isolation Centre, and Sarkari Kormochari Hospital.

Yesterday, a total of 2,809 people tested positive for the highly transmissible virus in 24 hours till 8:00am. That number is also the highest in the last seven months.

On August 20, a total of 2,868 people tested positive.

The daily positivity rate also went up to 11.19 percent against a total of 25,111 tests. This rate is the highest in last two months.

The previous day, the positivity rate was 10.29 percent.

"The transmission trend is a steeply rising one. The transmission pattern suggests the

new variants -- locally mutated or imported ones -- may be contributing to it. I think we will see higher transmissions in the coming days," Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease and medicine specialist, told The Daily Star yesterday.

With the latest count, the total number of novel coronavirus cases rose to 5,73,687 since the first three patients were detected in the country on March 8 last year.

Besides, the total number of deaths rose to 8,720.

"The number of tests is too few considering the level of transmission. The activities to curb the transmission is also not adequate, while people are also not maintaining health safety guidelines," Dr Mushtuq Hussain, consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told this newspaper yesterday.

There is no alternative to increasing tests and isolating the detected cases, he opined.

Prof Ridwanur said, "Unless we go for rigorous activity to control the spread of the virus, the transmission will continue until 70 or 80 percent of the population become infected."

## Policeman hurt in attack during half-day hartal in Shariatpur

STAR REPORT

A policeman was injured in an attack allegedly by a group of Awami League (AL) activists yesterday while the latter were observing a half-day hartal, expressing dissatisfaction over Sunday's judgement of a case filed for killing Public Prosecutor Habibur Rahman and his brother in Shariatpur in 2001.

Injured Bulbul Ahmed, a police constable, took treatment at Shariatpur Sadar Hospital.

"Some 25 to 30 protesters waylaid my motorcycle in front of Shariatpur Court around 9:30am while I was going to the court for official purpose," Bulbul told The Daily Star.

Although he introduced himself as a policeman, the protesters beat him up for defying the hartal, he added.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Palong Police Station Aslam Uddin said they detained Forhad Hossain Dhali and Sohail Rana Joy for their alleged involvement in the attack.

Shariatpur municipality Mayor Parvej Rahman John and his followers called a half-day hartal yesterday, said ANL Kumar Dey, general secretary of Shariatpur district unit AL. Meanwhile, John, son of slain Habibur Rahman, during a protest rally yesterday claimed that some key accused in the case were acquitted from the charges.

On Sunday, Shariatpur Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shawkat Hossain sentence six people to death, four others to life term imprisonment and another three to two-year imprisonment in the double murder case. Meanwhile, 39 other accused in the case were acquitted from as charges brought against them could not be proved, according to the verdict.

On October 5 in 2001, Public Prosecutor (PP) Habibur Rahman, also joint general secretary of district unit AL, and his brother Monir Hossain were shot to death at their residence in Shariatpur Sadar upazila.

The following day, slain Habibur's wife Jinnat Rahman filed a case with Palong Police Station in this connection.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Department  
District: Pabna  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.7600.000.07.076.2020/758 Date: 21.03.21

**e-Tender Notice: 26/2020-21 (OTM) [Works]**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of undermentioned work:

Sl No.	Name of work	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion
1	Rehabilitation of Satbaria-Khairan-Chinakhorra road (ID-176832003) (Ch. 0+000 - 12+175 Km.), Upazila: Sujanagar, District Pabna. [Salvage cost BDT 18,98,959.00]	PAB/AF-135	558902	27,50,000.00	547 days
2	Rehabilitation of Dashuria GCM - Atghoria Upazila H/Q (Ishwardi Part) road (ID-176392002) (Ch. 0+000 - 6+518 Km.), Upazila: Ishwardi, District Pabna.	PAB/AF-136	560399	20,00,000.00	450 days

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 online through any registered banks branches **17:00pm date: 21/05/2021 [OTM of e-PW3(D)]**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Mokheasur Rahman**  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Pabna  
Tel: 0731-66133, Fax: 0731-66088  
E-mail: [xen.pabna@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.pabna@lged.gov.bd)

GD-575

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়  
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১  
আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ  
**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

০৭ চৈত্র ১৪২৭  
২১ মার্চ ২০২১

"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে র‍্যাব-১১, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ব্যাটালিয়ন সদরের সাব-স্টেশন বিভিন্ন মেরামত/পরিবর্তনকরণ কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশের ঠিকাদার/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। সংস্থা	ঃ	র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (র‍্যাব)।
৩। সংগ্রহ সস্তার নাম	ঃ	পরিচালক, র‍্যাব-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৪। সংগ্রাহক সস্তার জেলা	ঃ	নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৫। দরপত্রের বিষয়	ঃ	মেরামত/পরিবর্তনকরণ।
৬। দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর	ঃ	স্মারক নং র‍্যাব ফেঃ কোঃ ৫৯৬/উন্নয়ন/কন্ট্রোল/৪২০ তারিখ ১৪ মার্চ ২০২১।
৭। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)।
৮। বাজেট ও বরাদ্দের উৎস	ঃ	রাজস্ব বাজেটের আওতায় র‍্যাবের অনুকূলে বরাদ্দ।
৯। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ	উন্নয়ন ০২/২০২০-২০২১।
১০। দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রান্তির তারিখ	ঃ	০৫ মার্চ ২০২১ত্রিঃ সময় ১২৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৮ মার্চ ২০২১ত্রিঃ সময়ঃ ১২০০ ঘটিকা।
১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৮ মার্চ ২০২১ত্রিঃ সময়ঃ ১২৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
১৪। দরপত্রের বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ঃ	র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
১৫। দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হইবে	ঃ	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, দরপত্র জামানতের পে-অর্ডার এবং কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র।

সিডি-নং	কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
ক।	র‍্যাব-১১, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ব্যাটালিয়ন সদরের সাব-স্টেশন বিভিন্ন মেরামত/পরিবর্তনকরণ	৫০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	কার্যদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ১০ দিন

১৭। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম  
১৮। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী  
১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা  
২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম  
২১। বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ

ক। ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক পরিচালক, র‍্যাব-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।  
খ। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে।  
গ। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হইতে দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র ৩০ দিন পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকিবে।  
ঘ। অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আদৌকার্যে প্রদান করা হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।  
ঙ। দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করিতে হইবে।  
চ। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অর্থবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।  
ছ। কোন প্রকার কাটা ছেঁড়া, ঘষামাজা বা কারেকটিং ফ্রুইড ব্যবহার করা যাবে না।  
জ। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আনতে হবে।

খন্দকার সাইমুল আলম, পিবিজিএম, পিবিজিএমএস  
লেঃ কর্ণেল  
পরিচালক  
র‍্যাব-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ  
ফোনঃ ৭৬৯৪৯৩৩

জিডি-৫৭৩

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## India, Pakistan set for water-sharing talks

India and Pakistan will hold the first meeting in three years of a commission that deals with water rights on the Indus River today, the two sides said yesterday, illustrating a broader resumption of diplomatic ties. The Permanent Indus Commission, set up under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, is set to meet in New Delhi on March 23 to 24, said two Indian officials that deal in bilateral water issues. Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri confirmed the talks will take place. He noted that the Commission is supposed to meet at least once a year under the treaty that governs water usage on the Indus and its tributaries that flow through the two countries.

## Biden aides had ties to large tech companies

Top Biden administration officials had previously undisclosed ties to large corporations including tech giants Microsoft Corp, Alphabet's Google and Facebook Inc, financial disclosures by the White House show. According to the filings with the Office of Government Ethics, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan served on an advisory council for Microsoft from 2017 through May of last year. He was paid \$45,000 last year, according to his disclosure, a copy of which was seen by Reuters. Sullivan, who oversees an interagency response to January's cyberattack on Microsoft's Exchange email software, holds between \$50,000 and \$100,000 of stock in both Microsoft and Alphabet and owns between \$15,000 and \$50,000 of Facebook stock, the disclosure shows.

## Trump to launch own social media platform: ex-aide



Donald Trump plans to return to social media soon, using "his own platform" after being banned from Twitter and other outlets, a former advisor said Sunday. "I do think that we're going to see president Trump returning to social media in probably about two or three months," Jason Miller told Fox News. "It's going to completely redefine the game, and everybody is going to be waiting and watching to see what exactly president Trump does, but it will be his own platform," said Miller, who held senior posts in both of Trump's presidential campaigns. Trump's provocative use of social media was a defining feature of his presidency, as he drew 88 million followers to Twitter and often used tweets to slam his critics or to announce personnel changes or significant policy shifts.

## China detains three tourists for vandalising Great Wall

Three tourists who vandalised China's Great Wall -- one of the country's most popular historic landmarks -- have been detained and fined, officials said yesterday. Two men and a woman were detained Sunday after scrawling their names on the wall with a key, wire and other sharp objects, administrators of the Badaling special tourism zone said in a statement. Around 70 kilometres from Beijing, Badaling is the most popular section of the wall for tourists. The statement did not offer details on the amount they were fined or the length of their detention. Under China's law for protecting cultural relics the fine for carving or scrawling on a historic building is less than 200 yuan (\$31).

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



State Emergency Service personnel load a dentist onto a boat to transport him from the suburb of Windsor to North Richmond across floodwaters, so he can attend to patients unreachable by car, as the state of New South Wales experiences widespread flooding and severe weather, in Sydney, Australia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN XINJIANG

## EU imposes China sanctions

Beijing responds by blacklisting EU individuals, entities

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Union yesterday imposed sanctions on four Chinese officials, including a top security director, for human rights abuses in Xinjiang, the first sanctions against Beijing since an arms embargo in 1989 following the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Accused of mass detentions of Muslim Uighurs in northwestern China, those targeted with sanctions included Chen Mingguo, the director of the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau. The EU said Chen was responsible for "serious human rights violations."

Beijing also announced sanctions on 10 Europeans including parliamentarians and scholars, as well as four entities, in retaliation against the EU's approval of sanctions over Beijing's crackdown on the Uighur minority.

"This move, based on nothing but lies and disinformation, disregards and distorts facts," said China's foreign ministry in a statement, adding that it was a gross interference in its internal affairs.

In its Official Journal, the EU accused Chen of "arbitrary detentions and degrading treatment inflicted upon Uighurs and people from other Muslim ethnic minorities, as well as systematic violations of their freedom of religion or belief."

Others hit with travel bans and asset freezes were: senior Chinese officials Wang Mingshan and Wang Junzheng, the former head of China's Xinjiang region, Zhu Hailun, and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps Public Security Bureau.

China denies any human rights abuses in Xinjiang and says its camps provide vocational training and are needed to fight extremism, reports Reuters.

While mainly symbolic, the sanctions mark a significant hardening in the EU's policy towards China, which Brussels long regarded as a benign trading partner but now views as a systematic abuser of basic rights and freedoms.

They are also likely to inflame tensions between Brussels and Beijing. The EU had not sanctioned China since it imposed an arms embargo in 1989



following the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy crackdown. The arms embargo is still in place.

All 27 EU governments agreed to the punitive measures, but Hungary's foreign minister, Peter Szijjarto, called them "harmful" and "pointless", reflecting the bloc's divisions on how to deal with China's rise and to protect business interests.

China is the EU's second-largest trading partner after the United States and Beijing is both a big market and a major investor which has courted poorer and central European states.

But the EU, which sees itself as a champion of human rights, is deeply worried about the fate of the Uighurs. Britain, Canada and the United States have also expressed serious concerns.

## 26.5m Nigerian children lack access to water: Unicef

AFP, Abuja

Nearly one-third of Nigerian children lack access to enough water, the UN children's agency Unicef said yesterday, calling for urgent measures to address the problem.

In a statement marking World Water Day, Unicef said more than 1.42 billion people -- including 450 million children -- are living in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability in the world.

"This means that 1 in 5 children worldwide do not have enough water to meet their everyday needs," it said.

"The figures in Nigeria are particularly worrying, with 26.5 million Nigerian children experiencing high or extremely high water vulnerability -- or 29 percent of Nigerian children," the UN body said.

About 100,000 Nigerian children are said to die annually of water-related diseases.

"The world's water crisis is not coming -- it is here, and children are its biggest

victims," said Peter Hawkins, Unicef's representative in Nigeria.

"When wells dry up, children are the ones missing school to fetch water. When droughts diminish food supplies, children suffer from malnutrition and stunting.

"When floods hit, children fall ill from waterborne illnesses. And when water is not available in Nigerian communities, children cannot wash their hands to fight off diseases," he added.

According to Unicef, over 86 percent of Nigerians lack access to a safely managed drinking water source.

"The problem is compounded by poor drinking water quality and lack of equity in access," it said.

Unicef said despite "some progress" by Nigeria, "there is still much more work to be done in the country to ensure that all Nigerians have access to adequate and quality water and hygiene services."



A man carries a sandbag to erect a makeshift barricade, as security forces staged a crackdown on demonstrations by protesters against the military coup, in Mandalay, Myanmar yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## ESPIONAGE TRIAL FOR SECOND CANADIAN

## Beijing-Ottawa relations go into free-fall

AFP, Beijing

The trial for Michael Kovrig, the Canadian detained more than two years ago in China on espionage charges, started yesterday, with relations between Ottawa and Beijing in free-fall.

The hearing comes days after the closed-door trial of another Canadian man, with both detained in apparent retaliation for Canada's arrest on a US extradition warrant of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou.

Yesterday police cordoned off an area outside the Beijing court as Canadian diplomats were denied entry and turned away.

Kovrig, a former diplomat, was detained in 2018 and formally charged last June with spying at the same time as his compatriot, businessman Michael Spavor.

Jim Nickel, the charge d'affaires of the Canadian embassy in Beijing, told reporters that the hearing had started and that access for diplomats "has been denied."

"We're very troubled by the lack of access and lack of transparency in the legal process," he said.

A court official told reporters no entry was allowed because the trial is a national security case.

Representatives of 26 countries had gathered outside the building yesterday, Nickel said, and were "lending their voice" for Kovrig's immediate release.

The US is "deeply concerned at the lack of minimum procedural protections granted the two Canadian citizens", William Klein, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Beijing, told media outside the court.

**বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ**  
 প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস প্রতিষ্ঠা  
 ১৩/০৩, ৪-এ, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬  
 ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৫৮০৭০৪৫৭, ই-মেইলঃ [pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com](mailto:pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com)  
 বিগত ১৯ মার্চ ২০২১ তারিখে দরপত্র নং BSMRMU Permanent Campus/Establishment/1034/OTM/02 এর মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি কারিগরি ত্রুটির কারণে বাতিলকরতঃ নিম্নবর্ণিত দরপত্রটি পুনরায় উপস্থাপন করা হলো।  
 GD-580

**বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ**  
 প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস প্রতিষ্ঠা  
 ১৩/০৩, ৪-এ (৪র্থ তলা) পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬  
 ফোনঃ ০১৭৬৪-১৭৮০৫৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৫৮০৭০৪৫৭, ই-মেইলঃ [pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com](mailto:pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com)

### Invitation for Tenders

Tender No. BSMRMU Permanent Campus/Establishment-1034/OTM/02 Date: 23 March 2021

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.					
2. Agency	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University.					
3. Procuring entity name	Vice Chancellor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus Project.					
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.					
5. Invitation for tender	Works (Sub-Soil Investigation in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus at Hamidchar Chattogram).					
6. Invitation Ref. No. date	BSMRMU Minute No. 70, 17 March 2021					
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>						
7. Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).					
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>						
8. Budget and source of funds	Development Budget, GOB.					
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>						
9. Project/programme code	224267					
10. Project/programme name	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus.					
11. Tender pack No.	PW-01					
12. Tender pack name	Sub-Soil Investigation in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus at Chattogram.					
13. Tender publication date	23-03-2021					
14. Tender last selling date	(13-04-2021) (during office).					
15. Tender closing date & time	(13-04-2021)					
16. Tender open date & time	(14-04-2021) 1100 hours.					
17. Name & address of the office	Office of the Project Director, BSMRMU, Plot No. 13/3, Sagufta, De Akbar Pallabi, Mirpur-12, Dhaka-1216.					
Selling tender document	Accounts Section, Project Office, BSMRMU.					
Receiving tender document	Project Director's Office, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus Project.					
Opening tender document	Project Director's Office, BSMRMU.					
18. Place/date/time of pre tender meeting	Not applicable.					
<b>INVITATION FOR TENDERS</b>						
19. Eligibility of tenderer	Pack No.	General experience	Experience of similar works	Average annual turnover	Liquid assets working capital	Other
	01	At least 10 years in the sub-soil investigation works	At least 10 contract of sub soil investigation work up to 40-50m using hydraulic rotary drilling method successfully completed within the last 5 years each with a value of at least Tk 20 lac BDT or No. of boring minimum 400.	Shall be greater than Tk 200 lac BDT over the last 5 years.	Minimum BDT 100 lac or credit facilities.	As mentioned in the tender document
20. Brief description of works and location Sub-Soil Investigation in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University (BSMRMU) Permanent Campus at Chattogram.						
21. Description of the works, price of tender document (Tender security and completion time of works)						
	Pack No.	Description of work	Price of tender document	Tender security	Completion time in days	
	PW-01	Sub-Soil Investigation in BSMRMU Permanent Campus at Chattogram	2,000.00 (cash payment)	Tk 6 lac BDT Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee/Pay Order A/C No. 4420601025167 Account name: BSMRMU) Permanent Campus Establishment	60 days	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>						
22. Name of official inviting tender	Captain M Nayeem Golam Muktadir, (H) ndc. psc, BN, Project Director.					
23. Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, BSMRMU, Permanent Campus.					
24. Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, BSMRMU, Plot No. 13/3, Sagufta, De Akbar Pallabi, Mirpur-12, Dhaka-1216.					
25. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 09666776888, Mob: 01769721033 Email: <a href="mailto:pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com">pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com</a>					
26. Special instruction	i) VAT & tax will be applicable on the basis of total package value as per SRO No. 213- law/income tax 2019, date: 23 June 2019 (Section 52). ii) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.					
<b>M N G Muktadir</b> Project Director BSMRMU Permanent Campus						

GD-579

## LAW OPINION

# Prosecuting Pakistani Perpetrators in absentia

TAPOS KUMAR DAS

The establishment of the International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh (ICTBD) in 2010 created high hopes that justice for the 1971 genocide might finally eventuate. Keeping pace with the public expectation as of March 2021, the ICTBD has resolved 42 cases involving the 1971 atrocities, and more than five hundred cases await investigation; yet, none of these implicates any of the Pakistani perpetrators who planned, commanded, and executed the genocidal acts throughout the liberation war.

There is a mistaken assumption which Pakistan takes for granted that the 1973 Delhi Agreement and 1974 Tripartite Agreement relieved the Pakistani prisoners of war (POWs) from all sorts of accountability for the 1971 genocide. Speaking truly, while signing the Tripartite Agreement, Pakistan "condemned and deeply regretted" the 1971 atrocities and appealed to the Bangalees to "forgive and forget the mistakes of the past" in order to promote reconciliation. In response, Bangladesh agreed not to proceed with the trial "as an act of clemency" to achieve "reconciliation, peace, and friendship in the sub-continent."

Paradoxically, the hostility between Bangladesh and Pakistan has gradually intensified due to the denial of the atrocities by the latter which also brings back the accountability and recognition of genocide cards to the table. In November 2015, in an unprecedented

violation of the Tripartite Agreement.

For long, Pakistan has been denying the widespread and systematic nature of its genocidal acts to the utter disregard of the victimisation of the Bangalees. This trend of denial and falsehood has reinforced the claim for accountability and recognition of the 1971 genocide. Of the international law scholars, Robertson suggests that "there can, in any case, be no amnesty for an international crime like genocide. The deal in Delhi was not a bar to prosecutions, however many years later". As the limitation is not a bar against the prosecution of

the 1971 atrocities might symbolize minimal justice against the denial of the liability by Pakistan. Yet, despite available evidence on hand, bringing Pakistani perpetrators to justice would be a critical challenge. Presumably, they would not be appearing before the ICTBD voluntarily; neither Pakistan would cooperate to ensure their appearance, nor any intervention either by Bangladesh or any international community compelling their attendance is likely to happen. In this backdrop of impunity, prosecuting them in absentia might be a practical approach for imposition

the killing of Lebanese Premier Rafik Hariri and many more. Article 22(1) of the Statute of the STL permits trial in absentia if the accused expressly and in writing waives his or her right to be present; or, has not been handed over to the Tribunal by the State authorities concerned; or, has absconded or otherwise cannot be found and all reasonable steps have been taken to secure his or her appearance before the Tribunal and to inform him or her of the charges. While conducting a trial in absentia article 22(2) requires the STL to ensure that the accused has due notice of the charges via all possible

International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 permits the ICTBD to prosecute in absentia, when on account of the failure of the summons or warrant, the Tribunal has reason to believe that the accused person has absconded or concealed himself from the trial. Moreover, section 44 of the Rules of Procedure allows the ICTBD to admit a wide range of evidence unconnected to human testimony. Like the STL, the ICTBD may, to represent the interest of the absconding offender, appoint a state sponsored defence counsel. Besides, if the offender is convicted, a right to appeal in the Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court is guaranteed under section 21. Seemingly, in case of trial in absentia the ICTBD is equipped to offer same level of fair trial standard as is prescribed by the Security Council resolution.

Curiously, the provision of in absentia trial remained absent in the original scheme of the ICTBD statute; so, its inclusion in 2012 led to the assumption that the Prosecution office perhaps at that point of time actively considered establishing accountability of the perpetrators whose appearance might not be secured even after due diligence. To our disappointment, the Prosecution Office however failed to capitalise the avenue allowing Pakistan much leverage to outrightly deny the 1971 genocide.

A judicial pronouncement, even though from a domestic forum and in absentia in nature, carries no less value than the political campaign to substantiate state responsibility and individual criminality for the past atrocities. Against Pakistan's repeated denial of liability, our political vulnerability to draw international support for the international investigative or prosecutorial justice necessitated a quest for alternative avenues for genocide justice. Hence, in absentia trial of Pakistani perpetrators might be a timely response against the culture of denial. From the perspective of retribution, in absentia trial might be of little significance; yet, its impact in restoring historical truth might be instrumental. Nevertheless, the Government must conceive of the political advantages likely to gain by establishing individual and state responsibility for the 1971 genocide and support the Prosecution Office to investigate and prosecute the charges against surviving Pakistani perpetrators. Their prosecution in absentia would end the impunity that has been haunting Bangladesh for the last fifty years and be a step towards availing international recognition of the 1971 genocide.

THE WRITER IS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW, JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY.



*A judicial pronouncement, even though from a domestic forum and in absentia in nature, carries no less value than the political campaign to substantiate state responsibility and individual criminality for the past atrocities.*

move, Pakistan officially denied any "complicity in committing crimes or war atrocities" in 1971. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly of Pakistan passed a resolution in 2013 urging Bangladesh not to "revive the issues of 1971" and "terminate all cases registered". While the prosecution progressed in Bangladesh, the National Assembly of Pakistan often adopted resolutions expressing concern and condemnation for the execution of leading perpetrators pursuant to the ICTBD's verdicts. In September 2016, the Pakistani Parliament also asked Islamabad "to seriously raise at all the international forums" that the proceedings of the ICTBD were

genocide, even today the perpetrators of the 1971 genocide could lawfully be prosecuted under national or international jurisdiction.

Ideally, the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission may be engaged as per the Geneva Conventions, or a Fact-Finding Commission may be constituted under the UN mandate to inquire about the international humanitarian and human rights breaches during the 1971- armed conflict. An international prosecution either under the UN mandate or bilateral agreement between Bangladesh and Pakistan can also settle the issue of state responsibility and individual accountability for the 1971 genocide. In the present international political setting, arranging an international prosecution seems impossible; also, there is valid concern regarding our foreign missions' capacity to bag international support for any International Fact-Finding Mission to examine the 1971 atrocities.

Hence, prosecuting the Pakistani perpetrators at least the surviving top commanders in the ICTBD for

of historical liability. Internationally, there are instances of trial in absentia on account of atrocious crimes; encouragingly, Bangladesh's national jurisdiction, particularly Statute of the ICTBD also allows prosecuting a perpetrator in his/her absence.

During the emergence of international criminal law, article 12 of the 1945 Nuremberg Charter empowered the Tribunal to take proceedings against a perpetrator in his absence, if he was not found or if the Tribunal in the interests of justice found it necessary to conduct the hearing in his absence. Pursuant to this mandate, the Nuremberg Tribunal prosecuted Martin Bormann, the Chief of Nazi Party Chancellery and Secretary of Hitler, in his absence, for his involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity, and sentenced him to death. In the recent past, in absentia proceedings received much legitimacy due to the UN Security Council's approval. Under its resolution no. 1757 [30 May 2007], the Security Council established the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), to investigate and prosecute the terrorist attack that led to

means including publication in the media or communication to the State of residence or nationality; and, he has an opportunity to defend himself through a defence counsel of his choice either paid by him or by the Tribunal. Moreover, if refused by the accused, his representation by counsel should be ensured by the Defence Office of the STL. The Statute further provides that in case of conviction in absentia, the accused, if he or she had not designated a defence counsel of his or her choosing, shall have the right to be retried in person before the Tribunal, unless he or she accepts the judgment.

In prosecuting perpetrators in absentia, the resolution no. 1757 is of practical importance mainly for the reasons that due to the Security Council's primacy in international political setting, its resolution enjoys status of the highest law in the international legal order; and, the criteria it prescribes, if imitated by any national or international tribunal, could effectively encounter the concerns regarding legality and legitimacy of the in absentia trial.

In Bangladesh, section 10A of the

## LAW WATCH

## Refund of advance VAT or turnover tax from Government treasury

BARRISTER KHANDOKER M. S. KAWSAR

Bangladesh has proudly graduated from the LDC and now SDG or Ease of Doing Businesses are the beacons or lighthouses Bangladesh is proceeding towards. To make Bangladesh a manufacturing hub, imports are still an integral part of the journey towards this development. An importer is required to pay Advance Tax (AT) at import stage at the rate of 5% on the taxable value of imported goods, which seems to be an obstacle for Bangladesh to overcome in the Ease of Doing Business indicator of World Bank. This requirement of payment of AT is the introduction of one of the unique features of the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012 (VAT & SD Act) and the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Rules, 2016 (VAT & SD Rules) both of which came into force on July 1, 2019.

Initially, the business communities and the associations opposed this inception strongly as they articulated that most of the importers' import of goods lie with having credit facilities from the banks, therefore cost of doing business will increase manifold if some amount is paid in advance and kept in the custody of the government for some time. Though the Revenue authority said that this introduction of AT will widen their expansion of network as well as will help them to obstruct money laundering through mis-invoicing, the entrepreneurs and manufacturers had been demanding withdrawal as the payment of AT will increase their cost of production. They will be in trouble to repay to their banks and the paid AT which is unadjusted will be stuck in the government treasury for quite some time. Worthy to mention that, this payment of Advance Tax is refundable and the concerned importer can adjust such advance tax as a decreasing adjustment in that tax period

or subsequent 4 (Four) tax periods. If not adjusted, the businesses will have to apply to the relevant Commissionerate. But when the importers are seeking refund to the Commissionerate, in practice, the Commissioners are becoming unable to refund suo moto and then the importers do not have any other option but to go for writ for the refunds. This necessity of taking resort to litigation is putting burden on the importers.

Once the processes of application have been followed by the importers properly, the Commissioner is bound to refund the amount within three months after the application for refund has been made to the Commissioner. Not refunding the same by the



Commissioner within this stipulated time is violative of the fundamental rights of the importer.

According to one provision, any person who has paid an AT but is neither registered nor enlisted may, in the prescribed manner, make an application to the Commissioner for a refund of such advance tax and the Commissioner shall, after receiving such an application, dispose it in the prescribed manner. The language of these subsections imply that the Commissioner is bound to refund the AT if any application for refund is made by neither a registered nor an enlisted person. Would a Commissioner be bound if application is made by a registered or an enlisted person? It is legally presumable that a

Commissioner should be bound. But in reality, this is not happening and the business concerns are not getting refunded easily.

Some unnecessary burdens have been imposed on the importers for seeking refund of the AT. Concerns like House building, Land Development, or Property Development get facilities of adjusting in the Returns indefinitely and can apply for refund any time, but for all other business concerns, the excess amount of money after adjustment in the monthly Returns (*Mushak-9.1*) shall be carried forward and may be deducted over the following 6 (six) tax periods, after which any remaining excess money shall be refunded in accordance with the provisions of this Act. It is recommended that, all concerns should get similar facility of adjusting in the Returns indefinitely and should be given chance to apply for refund anytime. Or the Commissioner will refund the amount to the importers suo moto after 6 (six) tax periods has been adjusted in Return.

AT is like guarantee of a due and the guarantor should get redemption once the due is paid. Once the due is paid, process of redemption should be a smooth one. Therefore, refund in relation to paid AT should also be a simple process. In the above circumstances, some more Recommendations are: Manufacturers should be exempted from paying AT; only Commercial importers or traders may be burdened with such imposition; the commissioners should have the sole discretion to recommend for refund of the AT and the recommendations of the Commissioners should be given priority by the VAT Enforcement Department of NBR.

THE WRITER IS AN ADVOCATE OF BANGLADESH SUPREME COURT HAVING EXPERTISE IN REVENUE LAWS AND A REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE (NORTH ASIA) OF ICC YAF.



## RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## Compensating victims of fire

LAW DESK

On Wednesday, March 17, a fire incident took place in the ICU of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Three of the ICU patients died after being relocated. This is one of at least three recent incidents of fire outbreak in Dhaka Medical College Hospital including a fire in the general ICU of the Hospital in early January. A five-member committee on behalf of the health ministry, a nine-member committee on behalf of the Hospital and a four-member committee on behalf of the fire service have been formed to investigate the fire incident.

Similarly, last year, fire broke out in the coronavirus isolation unit of the United Hospital, the victims of which filed writ petitions before the High Court Division for compensation. Although the High Court Division ordered the Hospital to pay Taka 30 lakh to each victim's family, the decision was later stayed by the Appellate Division. The Constitution of Bangladesh provides protection from arbitrary deprivation of life under Article 32 and the court has, in the past, held that compensation may be awarded in cases of established unconstitutional deprivation of the fundamental right to personal life or liberty of the person concerned, while exercising writ jurisdiction. The duty of care is more

strongly established when the concerned party is a public authority.

In cases of death or injuries occurring as a result of wrongful or negligent acts, the injured person or the family member of the deceased person can institute a suit under the Fatal Accidents Act, 1855. While disposing of the said case the court has discretion to award such compensation. However, the suits instituted under this law often take many years to be disposed and has shown little effectiveness.

Furthermore, the *CCB Foundation v Bangladesh* case, the court relied on an Indian judgment and observed that "in instances where public functionaries are involved and the matter relates to the violation of Fundamental Rights or the enforcement of public duties, the remedy would still be available under the public law notwithstanding that a suit could be filed for damages under private law".

Therefore, there is growing acceptance of awarding compensation under public law for negligence, inaction or wrongful acts of public bodies resulting in deprivation of fundamental rights of the people. Although the judiciary has taken a progressive approach in this regard, there still remain concerns as to the speedy and effective implementation of these orders.

## Sharp rise in Covid-19 infections worrisome

Govt must respond in a manner befitting the gravity of the crisis

WE'RE deeply concerned about the manner in which the Covid-19 positivity rate in Bangladesh has started climbing again. The daily rate reportedly went up to 10.29 percent in the 24 hours preceding March 21 morning, in a nearly one-point jump from the previous day's rate. Meanwhile, the infection and death figures have been hovering over 2,000 and 20, respectively, over the last several days. Also, more people are turning up to get tested at the centres this month compared to February. The rise in our Covid-19 figures are apparently consistent with the global situation, with the Deutsche Welle reporting on March 19 that some 97 countries had reported more cases in the past two weeks compared to the previous 14 days. If the current trend holds, we may soon have a situation where the government may have to consider imposing a lockdown or other forms of restrictions on movements again to contain the virus.

Clearly, with only 48,40,969 individuals vaccinated as of March 21 in a country of over 167 million, we're far from a situation where the mass vaccination campaign would start to affect growth charts. Countries where there is a robust vaccination campaign in place are expecting to be able to soon bring down the numbers (the EU even claimed to have a target of achieving herd immunity by mid-July). In our case, however, not only have we failed to inoculate the targeted population in the first month of our nationwide vaccination drive by a wide margin, we have also failed to come up with a plan to boost recipient numbers by ironing out problems in widening the coverage. The government has to keep in mind that to contain Covid-19, the speed and coverage of vaccine rollout are key.

One possible reason linked to the recent rise in infections is the UK variant of the virus. Researchers tied with the Monash University have also stressed the need to investigate if any of the 34 unique mutations of the virus found in Bangladesh are responsible for the rise, and to find out whether our Covid-19 vaccines are effective against them. The virus apparently mutated a total of 4,604 times in Bangladesh from April to the first week of December last year, and the absence of our own research and even vaccines means we're ill-prepared to respond properly to the threat of the local mutations, if it indeed comes to that.

These problems and threats call for a more robust, targeted and coordinated Covid-19 response from the authorities. Since a successful anti-virus campaign requires giving equal attention to tracing, testing, treating and vaccinating, the government has to ensure it does so without exception. Besides rigorously enforcing the health safety guidelines, it must trace all potential Covid-19 carriers, especially those traveling from outside, reinvigorate the existing testing and treatment regimes, and of course bolster the vaccination drive in a manner that matches the gravity of the crisis. There is no room for dillydallying.

## Salinity getting worse in coastal areas

Govt must take urgent steps to reduce it

A recent survey, titled "Gender-responsive Coastal Adaptation" and carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has brought to light the hardships faced by people of the coastal areas. According to the survey, 73 percent of the people living in five coastal upazilas of Satkhira have to drink saline water on a daily basis. Among these people, another 63 percent face difficulties even in getting this brackish form of water due to not having access to any other source of drinking water.

UNDP has run the survey on a total of 66,234 households comprising of 271,464 people, and found that the salinity levels of 52 percent of the ponds and 77 percent of tube-wells in the coastal regions were higher than the ponds and tube-wells situated in any other parts of the country. Although the permissible salinity level in drinking water is 1000mg per litre, on average, people of the coastal areas consume water with a salinity level between 1,427mg and 2,406 mg per litre, which has serious health effects. The situation gets even worse during the dry season, when the salinity level of tube-well water in some parts of Satkhira goes up to 6,600mg per litre.

A report published by *The Daily Star* on March 22, 2021 shows that in coastal areas, most people spend more than two hours per day in fetching water, as they have to commute more than a kilometre for this purpose. The UNDP survey has converted this time into monetary value on the basis of the government-run programme "Kajer Binimoye Khaddo (Food for Work)" and discovered that people of the coastal regions are losing around Tk 2,463 on a monthly basis due to spending productive hours in collecting drinking water.

Experts have given important suggestions to solve the problem. Rainwater harvesting, for instance, can ensure supply of safe drinking water during dry seasons. Also, the destruction of coastal ponds by saltwater shrimp farming has to be prevented. Another way of mitigating the problem is by setting up water desalination plants, where water collected from the Bay of Bengal or salinated rivers will be stored in giant tanks and later purified, although the environmental costs of such an enterprise must be taken into consideration as well. The government must sit with the experts and find sustainable solutions to this serious situation and alleviate the sufferings of the people in these areas.

# A cancelled 1971 conference in Pakistan sends a message

BLACK, WHITE AND GREY



ALI RIAZ

AN institution of higher learning in Pakistan had to cancel an academic conference about 1971. The virtual conference, scheduled for five days beginning on March 23, was organised jointly by the School of Humanities and Social Science of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and the Institute of Pakistan Studies of Quaid-i-Azam University. The conference was expected to be attended by several academics from South Asia, particularly from Bangladesh and India. The conference, titled "Commemorating 50 years of the 1971 War: War, Violence and Memory", was supposed to feature presentations on the 1971 war, the genocide in Bangladesh and related issues. Although the conference was planned for quite some time, the organisers made the announcement on March 19 of holding the conference. But within 24 hours, the organisers faced such immense pressure that they could not take the risk of holding the event. Although there has not been any reference to any pressure by the LUMS, those who follow social media, such as Twitter, know the extent of belligerent attacks on the organisers. The vitriol was incessant.

This incident is another example of the magnitude of intolerance and insidiousness in South Asia. Unfortunately, there are too many examples of such pugnacious acts. Yet, it should not be considered as another incident in Pakistan that shows the lack of forbearance. Instead, two aspects of the incident warrant attention of those who follow Pakistan, whether from Bangladesh or elsewhere. They have implications and messages for the entire region. Firstly, questioning the official narrative has been considered unacceptable. Secondly, the act of silencing or censoring those individuals or organisations who are trying to offer a different narrative has been franchised; it has now been handed over to individuals loyal to the dominant or official narrative.

Who are the actors of the incidents in Pakistan? Whether there was any pressure from the government is yet to be known, but we can safely assume that the government will not be unhappy with the results. It is well known that the Pakistani establishment, particularly the Army, intends either to avoid the question of the 1971 war, especially the genocide in Bangladesh, or regurgitate their own version of history. The "conspiracy theory"

seen as a tool to mold a nation's youth, interpretations of historical events are often manipulated in response to current events, as heroes become villains across the borders of neighbouring countries, and opposing political parties within nations vie to control the grand narrative of the nation state." In the case of Pakistan, it is not only the 1971 war, but the history of Kashmir and Baluchistan, that hold the same issue. That is why LUMS had to cancel a conference in 2015 on Baluchistan.

Notwithstanding the direct censorship imposed by the state, incumbents often encourage its supporters to get the job done for it. It happens in Pakistan as well as in India. Since the BJP came to power in 2014, the frequency has grown exponentially. Denying visas to invited speakers of conferences, and physically assaulting speakers at public events by BJP supporters have happened in the past. This January, an undersecretary of the Education Ministry issued an apparently innocuous memorandum about some guidelines regarding organising webinars by state-supported educational institutions. The memo states that these

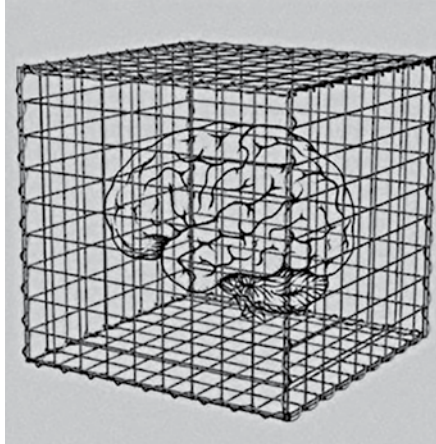


PHOTO: STAR

for 1971 involving India, Russia, even the USA, is so deeply ingrained in the psyche of the establishment that it is reproduced in school texts. In 2010, I had the opportunity to scrutinise some of the texts of Grades 9 and 10. Although it was of no surprise that reference to genocide was missing, the unfounded narratives were a revelation to me. This was being done by the Pakistani state, deliberately, even after four decades of 1971.

Khurshid Kamal Aziz, in his superb study titled "The Murder of History" published in 1986, showed how "history" is being murdered every day in Pakistan. Yvette Claire Rosser's study of school texts in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh highlights how history is manipulated by nation states and politicians to forge a national identity. Her PhD dissertation at the University of Texas at Austin in 2003, titled "Curriculum as Destiny: Forging National Identity in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh" examines the social studies text and argues that "When history is

*These incidents in Pakistan and India are not only interventions on academic freedom; they have become a regular matter. These are efforts to make the official narrative of history the only history. Such an effort is also discernible in Bangladesh in various manners.*

institutions must secure prior approval from the ministry of external affairs for organising any international online conferences/webinars. A list of topics is included for which the permission will be required; it reads: "security of State, Border, Northeast states, UT of J&K, Ladakh or any other issues which are clearly/purely related to India's internal matters".

These incidents in Pakistan and India are not only interventions on academic freedom; they have become a regular matter. These are efforts to make the official narrative of history the only history. Such an effort is also discernible in Bangladesh in various manners. Among the legal measures, the most obvious is the Digital Security Act 2018, particularly Article 21. However, the shrinking of space for dissent and freedom of expression is not a result of a single law, although a law can be highly injurious—the supporters of the incumbent can create a climate of fear through direct and indirect pressure. Intimidation, threat and potential violence can and does silence contrarian voices. Those who have been subjected to such harassment in Bangladesh would be able to understand the gravity of it, how frightful the experience can be. Others adopt silence, in fear.

In India, for quite some time, intellectuals, writers, researchers and academics have been fighting the battle against the saffronisation of history. It is not an easy task, neither was it meant to be, yet they have remained steadfast. In Pakistan, in recent years, progressive intellectuals have questioned the official narrative of 1971. The cancellation of the conference and the vicious attacks on the organisers only show the difficulty of the task ahead of them. Their efforts, like those in India and elsewhere in South Asia, have a message—concerned and conscientious persons cannot have the luxury of avoiding this struggle. It is obligatory for intellectuals to speak truth to power.

The conference at LUMS has been cancelled; however, the message it sent is loud and clear.

Ali Riaz is a Distinguished Professor of political science at the Illinois State University, a non-resident Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council and the President of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS).

# Regional integration in the Bay of Bengal: In search of a new agenda



SELIM RAIHAN

ACADEMICS, policymakers and other stakeholders in the Bay of Bengal region and beyond agree on the need for greater integration in this region.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), founded in 1997, offers a platform to carry the regional integration agenda forward. However, the progress in the integration process in the Bay of Bengal region has remained slow. Also, achievements, in terms of trade, connectivity and cooperation, have been little and segmented.

In the context of an interdependent and interconnected world, the national economic and security priorities of the countries in the Bay of Bengal region are strongly connected to collaboration across boundaries. Yet, the question remains, given the record of slow progress, whether there is any prospect of deeper integration in the Bay of Bengal region.

While the importance of trade and investment integration—through trade in goods and services, removal of tariff and non-tariff restrictions and promotion of a regional investment and trade nexus—is critical, deeper regional integration in the Bay of Bengal needs favourable political economy factors.

The political economy perspective shows how various actors influence

national and regional decision-making contexts, as well as the impacts their actions (or lack of actions) have on the integration process. The interplays of different actors shape the political economy perspective. In this context, the role of official institutions (at the regional level and in respective countries) entrusted to carry out the regional integration process is vital.

As a result, the functioning of the BIMSTEC Secretariat and relevant ministries in member countries is critical. Furthermore, the integration process is influenced by the roles of the private sector, private sector associations, civil society organisations and media. The status of regional connectivity and regional trade facilitation in BIMSTEC

can go up by a few times if proper trade liberalisation and facilitation measures are undertaken. At the same time, intra-regional investment can be enhanced through effective operationalisation of the special economic zones in the countries of this region to attract intra- and extra-regional investments. The prospects of larger integration with the regional value chain (RVC) and the global value chain (GVC) can be enhanced if countries can use the regional integration mechanism effectively.

To enhance the trade and investment nexus in the BIMSTEC region, the Free Trade Area (FTA) negotiation needs to be finalised and efforts should be made for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement. There are 14

the China factor in the Bay of Bengal integration process.

Despite the fact that there are diverse interests among the BIMSTEC countries, to make the BIMSTEC process effective, as the largest country in this region, India has a compelling justification to put greater focus on regional connectivity and relations with Southeast Asia. Also, small BIMSTEC countries should see this cooperation as an opportunity in raising their capabilities to enjoy the benefits of integrating with large markets in India and Southeast Asia. There is a need for a range of operational and substantive reforms to enhance the regional movements of goods, services and people, through prioritising seamless physical connectivity and high-quality infrastructure.

Efforts to overhaul the integration process in the Bay of Bengal region requires normative dialogues about the desirable and substantive form of regional architecture. For BIMSTEC to thrive, India, as the most influential country in the region, would have to take the lead, spend resources and take proactive measures to make the BIMSTEC Secretariat the leading institution of the Bay of Bengal. All members of BIMSTEC have to provide the Secretariat with sufficient resources and undertake reforms to improve its capabilities.

Finally, while we talk about the political commitment for regional integration, we should keep in mind that political commitment is not strongly exogenous. It is also dependent on certain factors like domestic politics, bilateral political relations between countries, the country's overall development strategy, and external factors beyond this region, primarily geo-political ones. We often blame bureaucrats for the slow progress in regional integration. However, it is the political elite that finally decides. Unless clear messages and signals are there from the political elite, bureaucrats can hardly make any progress. The lack of effort for integration in the BIMSTEC region is not primarily an economic or bureaucratic problem; it is primarily a political economy problem. There is a need for agreement among the elite—both political and economic—at the regional level. While the economic elite feel the necessity of integration, the political elite are divided. Regular consultations, people-to-people connectivity, interactions among political and economic elites, and promotion of political liberalism can help to reach a "regional political agreement" for a successful Bay of Bengal integration.

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The inaugural session of the 4th BIMSTEC summit in Kathmandu on August 30, 2018.

PHOTO: THE KATHMANDU POST/ ANN

countries affects trade and investment integration.

Finally, the success of the regional integration initiative in the BIMSTEC region will largely depend on how the political elites in BIMSTEC countries see this integration process, and whether there is a general agreement among them to carry the integration agenda forward. The experiences so far, however, suggest that there has not been any strong momentum of the aforementioned political economy factors in the BIMSTEC region to deepen the integration process.

Now the question is, given the lacklustre progress, do we need any major overhauling in the integration initiatives in the Bay of Bengal region, and therefore, do we need any new architecture of regional integration? In my view, the answer is yes.

The prospects of trade and investment integration among the BIMSTEC countries are well documented in various empirical literature. Intra-regional trade

areas of cooperation in the BIMSTEC agreement and they need to be consolidated, focused, interconnected, pragmatic and operationalised. The BIMSTEC comprehensive economic partnership has to take into account the contexts and developments in the ASEAN integration process and also the Regional Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (RCEP). BIMSTEC integration should go beyond the seven-member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand) and include other economically advanced countries like Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The China factor is critical in the Bay of Bengal integration process. This has both economic and political dimensions. While India has reservations about China due to its bilateral political relations, all BIMSTEC countries, in reality, have China as a major trading partner and a source of foreign direct investment (FDI). Therefore, there is a need for reconciliation of

*The prospects of trade and investment integration among the BIMSTEC countries are well documented in various empirical literature. Intra-regional trade can go up by a few times if proper trade liberalisation and facilitation measures are undertaken.*



50 YEARS OF BANGLADESH

# A role model in the humanitarian and development sector



MUHAMMAD MUSA

In the last 50 years, Bangladesh has emerged as a role model for developing countries around the world. From incredible economic growth to vast strides in education and public health, to major contributions in culture and sports, Bangladesh has transformed into not just a leader amongst countries in the global South, but a truly global player. Since its independence, leaders from several different sectors have come together to create collective value for the country. During this time of celebration on the occasion of the anniversary of Bangladesh, all these sectors will receive well-deserved praise. However, today, I want to focus on a less visible area where Bangladesh is emerging as a global leader—the humanitarian and development sector.

There are several humanitarian and development actors who helped Bangladesh grow to where it is today, including the Grameen Bank and others. However, one visionary leader, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, was among the first to turn outwards and help bring Bangladeshi innovation to the world. BRAC, the development organisation Sir Abed founded just after independence, is now not only a leader in Bangladesh, where it continues to support and uplift the poorest and most vulnerable, but is also a global leader in the humanitarian and development sector. BRAC now works in 10 countries across Asia and Africa, bringing the same proven innovations it developed

in Bangladesh to people in need around the world.

BRAC built a name for itself by developing new innovations in health, microfinance, education and several other fields, and developing systems to bring those innovations to scale. Through collaboration with local communities, continued testing and measurement, and partnership with resource and knowledge partners in the global North, BRAC was able to develop and implement some of the most radically transformative poverty alleviation programmes in the world. These same programmes are still running today, changing lives wherever they are implemented.

One such innovation has been the Ultra-Poor Graduation Approach. Developed with the leadership of local communities in Bangladesh and then proven impactful through intensive measurements around the world, this has been heralded as one of the first scalable solutions proven to break the poverty trap. BRAC and its partners/peers are now bringing the Graduation approach to the world, helping other governments and organisations implement Graduation



PHOTO: TED, BRAC

*There is no doubt that Bangladesh's early investment in its youth and education has helped it progress to the nation it is today.*

programmes in over 40 countries.

There is no doubt that Bangladesh's early investment in its youth and education has helped it progress to the nation it is today. Similarly, BRAC's low-cost non-formal primary education model, which helped expand education access across rural Bangladesh, has also proven very effective at reaching out-of-school children, especially girls, in other countries. Currently, BRAC is running schools in Afghanistan, the Philippines and Uganda, which are all

proving to be low cost, locally compatible and very effective. Right now, the Mindanao regional government in the Philippines is taking up this model on its own, utilising BRAC as the main technical advisor.

BRAC's play-based Early Childhood Development model has proven remarkably effective, even in the most challenging contexts as well as in stable communities. In the Rohingya refugee camps, BRAC Play-Labs have captured the local games, language, toys and culture, with the philosophy of

promoting healing, learning needs and growth to support children in very difficult circumstances. These learnings have helped expand Play Labs to children in Tanzania, Uganda, and others. Even through the Covid-19 pandemic, new technologies and approaches, like utilising local radio stations, have allowed us to continue to reach children in their homes and ensure they don't miss out on this critical developmental period. Additionally, in six countries where BRAC has been running its microfinance programme, it is now adding products like agriculture extension loans and loans focused on youth and adolescents.

Historically, NGO development programmes have been run the world over by Western and Northern actors. With the growing influence of Bangladesh, we have now established a Southern model for development, where Southern innovation and values are promoted. Currently, 160 Bangladeshis are working and playing leadership roles in their own areas of disciplines in 10 countries around the world for BRAC, supporting those countries to grow in their own right.

This Southern approach to uplifting the poorest and most marginalised among us is a radical transformation in the humanitarian and development sector, and impacts the lives of not only Bangladeshis, but people all over the world. Bangladesh should be just as proud of its accomplishments in the development sector and celebrate its role as a leader in Southern innovation as much as it celebrates its cricket team.

Dr Muhammad Musa is the Executive Director at BRAC International.

## The business of being a female online entrepreneur



AFIA JAHIN

THINK of something you want. Anything. No, really. Be it a set of frosted cupcakes, a piece of jewellery, or homemade sushi rolls. Or, perhaps, a very specific outfit that only exists in your mind—until a photo of it appears on your Facebook newsfeed in the form of an ad (better known as a “sponsored post”). All you need to do after that is message the Page that posted the ad, enquire about the product's price (a process formally referred to as “inbox for price”), quality, quantity, delivery timeline, etc, and give them all the details they will need in order to make sure the product reaches your hands within—usually—one to five working days.

It's that easy, and a bit scary for being so easy. Let's leave worrying about robots taking over for a different day, though. Instead, let us wonder: is every transaction made online as simple for the seller as it is for customers?

When the Covid-19 pandemic set in around last March in Bangladesh, it wasn't long until we all got desperately bored of being stuck in our homes, worrying (often panicking) about The Future, and turning to quirky distractions. Luckily, we had the internet and soon realised that we weren't the only ones whipping coffee or suddenly turning into pros at cooking, baking, painting, etc—the rest of the world was going through the same. In fact, some of us got so good that we felt confident enough to earn some cash from our newly-found hobbies.

A year later, while many have returned to their pre-pandemic lives, the fad of pastimes dusted off, for quite a few people, those hobbies actually turned out to be serious business—literally.

While Zarrin Tasnim (owner of Cravory, an online food shop where she sells her homemade sushi rolls and desserts) has always had a knack for cooking and finding joy in feeding others, it wasn't until the pandemic hit that she felt her products could fill a gap in the market for delicious and affordable food that is also different from

what's usually on the market. “Soon after I started offering them through Facebook groups, my customers started appreciating my food and they would further encourage their peers to try them,” Zarrin tells me, “I got a surreal amount of appreciation and love from some very amazing people.”

Of course, it was a challenge to find many ingredients during the lockdown, but especially ones which Zarrin needed because they belonged to a foreign cuisine

But given how delicate some of her cakes are, and how new the business of delivering food still is in our country, the young baker had been in for a rocky beginning. “For some time, I struggled to find a good delivery service,” says Naseeha, mentioning that some of the cakes did suffer mishaps because of unsuitable delivery services. “But thankfully, my customers were very understanding and supportive about it. I do use a reliable service now, but it took me some trial and error to

*Though some have the tendency to not take online businesses seriously, most of the population is by now well aware of how accessible almost every kind of service and product has become, thanks to social media platforms and the internet at large.*



PHOTO: COLLECTED

and were not always available even before the pandemic. A second challenge was delivering the food to customers properly, and this was felt greatly by home baker Naseeha Nuzhat Rahman as well.

Naseeha has been baking for years, conjuring up unique and decorative cakes for her friends' birthdays and other occasions. But seeing all the hard work and carefully-selected ingredients she put into her baking, her friends insisted on paying her for her craft, and also encouraged (nay, nagged) her to turn it into a business like she had always wanted to. That is how Bucklebury Ferry, Naseeha's online bakery, came to be in September last year.

reach this point.”

Although the average time taken for a delivery to be completed has shortened significantly over the past few years (from at least two days to orders now being delivered the next day after placing them, or even on the same day in cases of urgency), both sellers and customers still face age-old issues such as delays in delivery, and products being displaced or damaged. However, it is usually the seller who has to refund the customer for a lost product. And if a customer is unable to receive a product one day, the delivery company has to hold the product for another day and the seller will often have to pay the company a fine for said delay.

Another prevalent issue is when sellers make or order a product (from international websites) for individual customers, but the customers often “disappear” when the product is ready or cancel the order once the product arrives to the seller. This certainly incurs a loss given that the customised product may not be sellable to other customers of the business. While some sellers do require their customers to make a partial advance payment in order to avoid such situations, this is not possible for newer businesses as they need to gain credibility with their first few batches of orders.

But beyond all of these hurdles, some young entrepreneurs have to deal with personal issues which trickle into business matters, threatening to majorly hinder their aspirations.

Azmary Khan, a business student who had always wanted to run a business of her own, was finally prepared to pursue that dream when the pandemic hit. As such, the first few months of her business, Aurora (which mainly stocks imported jewellery and clothing items), were uneventful until she was gradually able to sell some of her initial stock. Now, her business' group and page on Facebook both have over 3,000 members and likes, respectively. However, when asked what the biggest challenge she faced in conducting her business has been, she spoke of two major ones. “Firstly, my father doesn't know that I have a business of my own,” Azmary stated, “And, secondly, I started my business with zero [outside] investment. I am still struggling, but at the end of the day it's worth it.”

The same kind of familial opposition is mirrored in Naseeha's experience. “Growing up, I often talked about being a chef and I

would be discouraged, as my family preferred more academic fields. Even when I was brainstorming for Bucklebury Ferry, their disapproval and worries about how it would affect my education delayed me [starting my business] for quite some time. And I can't help but think I'd be in a better position now, if I had started sooner.”

Though some have the tendency to not take online businesses seriously, most of the population is by now well aware of how accessible almost every kind of service and product has become, thanks to social media platforms and the internet at large.

It is not news that a greater number of barriers exist for women entrepreneurs than what are in place for men. However, despite all of this, it is undeniable how much more convenient it is now for women to own and operate their own businesses, utilising their skills and crafts remotely and still finding immense success. And the three stories presented above are surrounded by thousands of similar (almost identical) ones, given how all such entrepreneurs have one bittersweet experience in common: that of being a Bangladeshi woman.

So while Naseeha hopes—with caution—to someday be completely reliant on her online bakery, Zarrin and Azmary are ever-optimistic about the future of their respective businesses, given the upward trajectory of the popularity of online shopping in Bangladesh.

Regardless, until the robots assume all duties, it is a welcome sight to see women (young and old) breaking down the societal walls of convention, without ever having to leave the house.

Afia Jahin is a member of the Editorial Team at The Daily Star.

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**  
Founding Father of the United States (1706—1790)

*By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Impair
- 5 Huey, to Donald
- 11 Baseball's Matty
- 12 Soar
- 13 Stocking stuffers
- 14 Israel's intelligence service
- 15 Rider's protection
- 17 Stellar cat
- 18 Crucial
- 22 Personal log
- 24 Tickle pink
- 25 Mess up
- 26 Good, to Georges
- 27 Rooster features
- 30 Hand parts
- 32 Beginning
- 33 Frothy brew
- 34 Knight's glove
- 38 Small porches
- 41 On this spot
- 42 Conditional release
- 43 Big heads
- 44 Homes
- 45 Helper: Abbr.

**DOWN**

- 1 Millinery wares
- 2 Lotion additive
- 3 Feature of some British pound coins
- 4 Bring together
- 5 Newborn's need
- 6 Change over time
- 7 flower part
- 8 Possesses
- 9 Greek vowel
- 10 Join together
- 16 Yong fellow
- 19 They may hold up dinner
- 20 Bond component
- 21 Camera part
- 22 Style of the 1920s
- 23 Magnetic metal
- 28 “Don't misbehave!”
- 29 Basic need
- 30 Skillet
- 31 Tennis great
- 35 Wiolds
- 36 Amorous archer
- 37 Try out
- 38 Relaxing resort
- 39 Bar bill
- 40 Spanish gold

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**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

B	E	D	S	S	A	M	P	A	N
A	X	E	S	Q	U	E	E	N	S
J	A	D	E	U	G	A	N	D	A
A	M	I	F	A	U	N			
			C	L	B	S	M	A	G
A	G	A	I	N	T	H	E	M	E
V	E	T	O			S	O	D	O
O	N	E	N	D	S	P	I	K	E
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			T	R	E	Y	A	L	I
O	R	G	A	N	S	P	T	E	R
N	O	E	X	I	T	S	T	E	E
E	N	M	I	T		A	D	D	S

**BEETLE BAILEY** BY MORT WALKER

**BABY BLUES** BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

# Govt raises allocation

FROM PAGE 12  
Of the additional amount, Tk 1.07 crore will be allocated to each lawmaker under the Money for Work programme and Tk 74.36 lakh under the TR programme, according to a press statement from the ministry.

Each lawmaker of the reserved seats for women will be allocated Tk 34.24 lakh under the Money for Work and Tk 25 lakh under the TR programme. Each upazila parishad will get an additional Tk 52.20 lakh under the Money for Work and Tk 29.66 lakh under the TR programme.

The government every year takes up rural infrastructure development schemes meant for creating temporary employment for the poor people.

It allocates three to four lakh tonnes of rice and wheat against payment of

the workers under the programmes. The government's failure to replenish food reserve and achieve its rice and paddy procurement targets during the last Boro and current Aman seasons prompted it to bring changes to the payment method.

The country's food reserve dwindled to 6.47 lakh tonnes last month. In July last year, the government had a rice stock of 11.88 lakh tonnes.

Welcoming the government's decision on changing the payment method, Mustafizur Raman, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), earlier told The Daily Star that a good sum is spent and a significant amount of time is wasted on storage and logistics for providing foodgrains under these programmes.

# Bids opened despite leak

FROM PAGE 12  
Acting Chief Engineer of the university Munshi Saeed, also a member of the committee assigned to open the bids, claimed that names of the companies leaked before the bids were opened but it did not harm the fairness of competition.

He told The Daily Star over phone that they had received the names of the 10 companies a few days ago via text messages and those matched with the bids opened yesterday.

"The disclosure of names did not harm the tender process because the bids made was not leaked," he said yesterday.

The IU vice-chancellor Sheikh Abdus Salam said they did not get any written complaint from any bidders and added that they would have forwarded the complaint to authorities concerned if they had received any.

"The university has no control over the e-tender process. It is regulated by the Central Procurement Unit (CPTU) under the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Ministry of Planning," said Salam.

Munshi, Salam, and Hasan said they received the text messages from an unknown phone number.

Preferring anonymity, representatives of a few bidders told The Daily Star that any information leaked from EGP was a violation and it hampered fairness.

Prior knowledge of participants opens the door to exploitation and manipulation, they said.

Asked why they had not filed a complaint, they said the process was complicated and finding evidence would be difficult.

The Daily Star tried to connect the number from which the messages were sent but found it to be switched off.

This paper also tried to contact the DG of Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) Mohammed Shohel Rahman for his comments last night. But he did not respond.

A CPTU official, preferring anonymity, told The Daily Star that information leaking from the EGP was a serious allegation. But at the same time disclosure of only names could be a coincidence as people in this business know each other.

There is little chance of information leakage from the EGP which is a secured server, the official claimed, adding that inputs made to the server get encrypted and those get decrypted only when the bids are opened.

# India reports worst day

FROM PAGE 12  
India's total has surpassed 11.65 million, the highest in the world after the United States and Brazil. The increase in deaths was the largest since early January, and took the total to 159,967.

In some parts of India, most people still go out without masks and flout advice on social distancing, including politicians campaigning in four states where elections will begin later this month.

The health ministry has also warned that a huge gathering of devotees to a Hindu festival could lead to a spike in cases as people from all over the country flock to the banks of the Ganges river in the holy northern town of Haridwar.

Local authorities have said they expect 150 million visitors at the weeks-long Mahakumbh that began this month and peaks in April. The festival is held only once every 12

years, and many Hindus believe bathing in the river during this period absolves people of sins.

The surge in cases has also brought into focus India's low rate of immunisation relative to population, despite being the world's biggest maker of vaccines.

India has administered more than 44 million doses since starting its vaccination campaign in mid-January, but wants to cover 300 million of its 1.35 billion people by August.

As vaccine demand rises at home, top vaccine manufacturer the Serum Institute of India (SII) has delayed further shipments of the AstraZeneca shot to the United Kingdom, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

India has accepted experts' recommendation to widen the interval between two doses of the AstraZeneca shot - 4-8 weeks, from 4-6 weeks currently.

# Tarique

FROM PAGE 12  
Tarique claimed that his father Ziaur Rahman was the first president of the country and the first to declare its independence, it mentioned.

Hearing Tarique's statement, the plaintiff felt aggrieved and filed the case, the lawyer said.

# Student hung

FROM PAGE 12  
The police official added that they came to know that Osman beat up the student by hanging him from the ceiling fan with a rope Sunday morning for not studying properly.

Shukur is now fine and at home.

# Europe can

FROM PAGE 12  
Most have since resumed using the vaccine after the European Medicines Agency found it "safe and effective".

AstraZeneca PLC said yesterday its Covid-19 vaccine developed with Oxford University was 79% effective in preventing symptomatic illness in a large trial in Chile, Peru and the United States, paving the way for it to apply for US approval.

The vaccine was also 100% effective against severe or critical disease and hospitalisation, and was safe, the partners said, releasing results of the late-stage human trial study of more than 32,000 volunteers across all age groups.

The data will give credence to the British shot after results from earlier, separate late-stage studies raised questions about the robustness of the data.

AstraZeneca said an independent safety committee conducted a specific review of the blood clots in the US trial, as well as cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), which is an extremely rare blood clot in the brain, with the help of an independent neurologist.

The London-listed company said the panel found "no increased risk of thrombosis or events characterised by thrombosis among the 21,583 participants receiving at least one dose of the vaccine. The specific search for CVST found no events in this trial."

"These results are great news as they show the remarkable efficacy of the vaccine in a new population and are consistent with the results from Oxford-led trials," Andrew Pollard, who runs the Oxford Vaccine Group, said.

AstraZeneca said it was preparing to submit the data to the US Food and Drug Administration and for a launch in the United States should it win Emergency Use Authorization, reports Reuters.

University of Oxford professor Sarah Gilbert told BBC radio that work to prepare the submission will take a few weeks.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday he was "reassured" EU leaders do not want blockades on vaccine exports, while Ireland's leader warned a threatened ban would be "very retrograde".

Britain has urged the European Union not to halt exports of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine in response to a shortfall in deliveries to the bloc from the Anglo-Swedish firm.

# Fear, despair grip them

FROM PAGE 12  
People of 89 other families in the area have also been living in fear since a mob of Hefajat-e-Islam supporters wreaked havoc in the village, saying that someone from the community criticised their leader Mamunul Haque on Facebook.

Shahidul Islam Swadhin, the main accused, and 32 others have been arrested in two cases.

Police have set up two outposts in the village to ensure safety of the community, said Najmul Huq, officer-in-charge of Shalla Police Station.

Hefajat-e-Islam held a rally in Derai, Sunamganj, on March 15, where its Amir Junayed Babunagari and Joint Secretary General Mamunul Haque spoke.

Word spread the next day that a young man named Jhumon Das Apon had criticised Mamunul in a Facebook post.

That evening, hundreds of people from Kashipur, Chondipur, Nachni and several other villages in Derai gathered at Dharain Bazar. Some of the people in the crowd were openly talking about attacking Hindu people's houses at Noagaon, witnesses told The Daily Star.

Locals, who were against a wholesale attack, detained Jhumon from Shakhai Bazar and handed him to police.

"People gathered in Dharain Bazar after someone used the microphone in a mosque and announced, 'Gather for a rally to save Islam.' The next morning, someone from the mosque announced there will be demonstrations in Shalla," Monful

Begum, a resident of Nachni, told this correspondent.

Liton Chandra Das, a resident of Noagaon, said, "When they gathered in the morning, we thought they were going to the government offices as they had announced before. We didn't think they would attack us."

Al-Muktadir Hossain, upazila nirbahi officer of Shalla, also said the crowds of people were supposed to hold a rally on March 17. "In the morning, when they gathered at Dharain, we went there to talk to them."

On the night before the attack, Shalla Upazila Chairman Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mahmud went to Kashipur village, which is not far from the hindu houses, and tried to calm the mob.

"I talked to locals and Union Parishad members. They said there would be no further agitation," he told this correspondent.

Freedom Fighter Jagat Chandra Das, 73, said, "The upazila chairman told us nothing will happen. But we got attacked."

The upazila nirbahi officer said, "The attack on the village by a part of the mob was completely sudden, unplanned and uncontrollable."

The mob that gathered in Dharain, first attacked a Kali temple in the village around 7:00am, said Adhir Chakraborty, who looks after the temple. "They attacked the temple hours before they attacked the houses. This proves that they gathered to attack the Hindu people."

There are houses of six freedom fighters in Noagaon. All of their houses were attacked.

Freedom fighter Anil Chandra Das said, "I told them I'm a freedom fighter, but they didn't listen and they were furious."

Freedom fighter Jagat Chandra Das said, "They've humiliated us, I wish I were dead."

His son Liton Das, said, "I heard them say 'it's a freedom fighter's house', and then they attacked our house."

Jhumon's wife Sweetie Chandra Das was beaten up by the mob.

"I, my six-month-old child, and sister-in-law went under the bed when they attacked. They found me... they tried to hit my head, but missed and cracked my arm. Then they held a knife to my throat and took away my jewellery and savings," she said.

Seven temples along with the idols at people's homes were destroyed.

Ashim Chakraborty, the village priest, said they stole a stone idol of Bishnu believed to be aged almost 1,000 years.

PREEXISTING ENMITY  
Main accused Shahidul Islam Swadhin had been draining water out of Kucakhai Beel, a fresh water source near Noagaon.

After Haripada Das lodged a complaint, officers fined him on January 8 and seized the engine he was using to drain the water for fish.

"I don't think the waterbody was an issue. After I filed the complaint, he came to me and the matter was settled."

"Swadhin did not attack my house, he attacked other houses. It was definitely a communal attack," Haripada said.

# 'Let's hope for the best and prepare

FROM PAGE 12  
staff officer to Yahya Khan, proposed further meetings on several issues. In hindsight it can be said that the military junta was prolonging the discussion only to consume time and to provide a cover for the preparation of the "military solution".

Meanwhile, Yahya Khan spent the day not at the President's House but in the cantonment instead, where formal preparations for a military strike against the rebellious province were being given its final shape.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto spent almost the whole day in his hotel room examining with his party men the terms of the broad agreement and understanding reached between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and President Yahya Khan.

BANGABANDHU MEETS WEST WING LEADERS  
Five West Wing leaders representing smaller parties met the Awami League Chief, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, jointly and later called on the President at the

President's House. The five leaders are: Mian Mumtaz Daultana, President, Council Muslim League; Khan Abdul Wali Khan, President, NAP; Maulana Mufi Mahmood, General Secretary, Jamiatul Ulema-e-Pakistan; Maulana Siyah Ahmed Noorani and Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan.

After their meeting with Bangabandhu, Mian Mumtaz Daultana said they did not discuss any particular proposal. Asked how long the dialogue would continue, Mian Saheb said, "We like that everything should be over in matter of minutes for the betterment of the country."

He was hopeful about the talks. Interjecting at this stage, Bangabandhu said: "Let us hope for the best and remain prepared for the worst."

RESISTANCE DAY OBSERVED  
Today was Pakistan's Republic Day. But the situation was totally different in East Pakistan. The day was observed as Protriod Dibs (Resistance day). The whole city of Dhaka was covered with the Bangladesh flag. The Pakistan flag could be seen only at two places -

the President's House and Martial Law Headquarters. Members of Awami League's Shwechshabek Bahini began the day early in the morning, singing in chorus the tunes of "Joy Bangla", while hoisting Bangladesh's flag at Bangabandhu's residence. A crowd of Bangalees thronged in front of the house to hear orders for the next course of action from Bangabandhu himself.

Awami League activists went to consular establishments, requesting, and sometimes demanding, that the Bangladesh flag be flown. The Soviets and British had hoisted the Bangladesh flag while the Iranian, Indonesian and Nepalese had flown the Pakistani flag. The Chinese had initially hoisted the Pakistani flag but had been forced by students to replace it with a Bangladesh flag. The Americans did not fly either flag. [Archer K Blood, The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh, UPL, 2006, pp. 192]

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

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী সওজ এর কার্যালয়  
চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম।  
ফোন : ২৮৬৩২৩২, E-mail: [eechi@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eechi@rhd.gov.bd)

**নিলাম দরপত্র নং-০১/নিলাম/নির্দেশ/সওজ/চসবি/২০২০-২০২১ (৫ম আহ্বান)**  
**নিলাম দরপত্র নং-০২/নিলাম/নির্দেশ/সওজ/চসবি/২০২০-২০২১ (৫ম আহ্বান)**

এতদ্বারা "পূর্বত্বপূর্ণ আঞ্চলিক মহাসড়ক যথাযথ মান ও প্রশস্ততায় উন্নীতকরণ প্রকল্প (চট্টগ্রাম জোন) শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বায়োরাইট-হ্রোয়াকো-ফটিকছড়ি (আর-১৫১) সড়ক সম্প্রদায় (১ম প্রস্তাব) এর জন্য সুজিত জেলা প্রশাসক, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়ের এল.এ. মামলা নং-২৪/২০১৭-২০১৮ মূলে হাইড্রক্লিয়া, হিলনীয়া, দক্ষিণ পাইনদং, পশ্চিম ভূজপুর, ফকিরচাঁচা মৌজায় সওজ এর অধিগ্রহণকৃত ভূমিতে অবস্থিত স্থাপনাসমূহ ভাঙ্গন পূর্বক অপসারণের জন্য নিলাম।

পূর্বত্বপূর্ণ আঞ্চলিক মহাসড়ক যথাযথ মান ও প্রশস্ততায় উন্নীতকরণ প্রকল্প (চট্টগ্রাম জোন) শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বায়োরাইট-হ্রোয়াকো-ফটিকছড়ি (আর-১৫১) সড়ক সম্প্রদায় (১ম প্রস্তাব) এর জন্য সুজিত জেলা প্রশাসক, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়ের এল.এ. মামলা নং-২৪/২০১৭-২০১৮ মূলে পূর্বভূজপুর মৌজায় সওজ এর অধিগ্রহণকৃত ভূমিতে অবস্থিত স্থাপনাসমূহ ভাঙ্গন পূর্বক অপসারণের জন্য নিলাম।

উক্ত দরের মোট মূল্যের উপর ২০% (শতকরা বিশ ভাগ) হারে টাকা নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রামের অনুমোদিত যেকোন তফসীল থাকে হতে ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার/নিলাম দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।

লট প্রতি মূল্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, সীতাকুণ্ড সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, ফটিকছড়ি সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ এবং ১ম সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

১। জরুরিধারক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, এর কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক সার্কেল, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম।  
২। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, এর কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম।

০৬/০৪/২০২১ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।

০৭/০৪/২০২১ইং মূল্য ১২০০ খটিকায়।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম।

০৭/০৪/২০২১ইং বিকাল ০৩:০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

স্বর্ণিত নিলামের জন্য প্রস্তুতি সার্কেল রিপোর্টে উল্লেখিত স্থাপনা সমূহ ০৫/০৪/২০২১ইং হই পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, ফটিকছড়ি সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রামের উপস্থিত যোগাযোগ করে সরেজমিনে দেখা যাবে।

১। কার্যালয় প্রদানের তারিখ থেকে ৭(সাত) দিন।

অন্যান্য তথ্য ও শর্তাবলী নিলাম দরপত্রের দলিলে বিস্তারিত পাওয়া যাবে।

(মোঃ মাহিদুল ইসলাম)  
পরিচিতি নং-৭০০২৪৪  
উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ  
চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

(সোহন প্রসাদ বড়ুয়া)  
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২০৭০  
সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (চ.দা.) সওজ,  
চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

(পিটু চাকরা)  
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২১৯  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ,  
চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

GD-583

# EU imposes

FROM PAGE 12  
"The Burmese security forces' lethal violence against peaceful protesters must end," said Andrea Gacki, director of the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. "We continue to stand with the people of Burma."

There was no immediate response from the junta, which has shown no sign so far of being swayed by international condemnation of its actions.

At least 250 people have been killed so far in the crackdown on the protests, according to figures from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) activist group.

Three people were killed in Myanmar's second city, Mandalay in renewed unrest yesterday, including a 15-year-old boy, witnesses and news reports said.

EU foreign ministers adopted the travel bans and asset freezes on the individuals at a meeting in Brussels. So far, the EU has an arms embargo on Myanmar and it has targeted some senior military officials since 2018.

"We are going to take sanctions against 11 persons involved in the coup and the repression of the demonstrators," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters before the meeting that the crackdown "has reached an unbearable extent, which is why we will not be able to avoid imposing sanctions".

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১  
প্রধান কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা  
তারিখঃ ০৪ চৈত্র, ১৪২৭  
১৮ মার্চ, ২০২১

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ২১/২০২১**

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক 'সহকারী মেইনটেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ার' পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে বাংলাদেশী স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আবেদন করা যাচ্ছেঃ

০১। পদ সংখ্যা : ১৪ (চৌদ্দ)টি (কম/বেশী হতে পারে)।  
০২। বেতন স্কেল : জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ এর টাকা ২২০০০-২৩১০০-২৪২০০-২৫৪০০-২৬৭০০-২৮১০০-২৯৫১০-৩০৯৯০-৩২৫৪০-৩৪১৭০-৩৫৮৮০-৩৭৬৮০-৩৯৫৭০-৪১৫৫০-৪৩৬৩০-৪৫৮২০-৪৮১২০-৫০৫৩০-৫৩০৬০ স্কেল এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধাদি।  
০৩। শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা : ক) স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স/কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স এন্ড টেলিকমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইনফরমেশন এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি সার্টিফিক্ট বিষয়ে স্নাতক (সমমান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।  
খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট এবং তদুপর পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষাসমূহে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই)টিতে প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে।  
গ) কোনো পর্যায়ে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।  
ঘ) (১) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৩/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী এস.এস.সি বা সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমান প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ফেরমত, সিজিপিএ-এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হবেঃ

৫.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জিপিএ ১.০০ থেকে ২.০০ এর কম	তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ

(২) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮-২ অনুযায়ী অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সিজিপিএ-এর ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ফেরমত, সিজিপিএ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হবেঃ

অর্জিত সিজিপিএ	৫.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
৪.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	৩.৭৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
২.২৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
১.৬৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.২৫ এর কম	২.০৬৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.৮১৩ এর কম	তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ

০৪। বয়স (১৮/০৩/২০২১ তারিখে)  
ক) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থী ব্যতীত সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর।  
খ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর।

০৫। আশ্রয়ী প্রার্থীদেরকে আশ্রয়ী ১৫/০৪/২০২১ তারিখের মধ্যে শুধু বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সার্কেল [erecruitment.bb.org.bd](http://erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

০৬। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার সময় Application Form পূরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী উপরে উল্লিখিত ওয়েবসাইটেই পাওয়া যাবে।

০৭। ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের নির্ধারিত স্থানে প্রার্থী তার 'শাকর' ও সদস্য তোলা Formal রিভিন ছবি আপলোড করবেন। শাকর এবং ছবির ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড অবশ্যই সাদা হতে হবে।

০৮। O' Level এবং A' Level এর ক্ষেত্রে এ দেশীয় সন্থিত শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Qualification Certificate), বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে প্রাপ্ত ডিগ্রির ক্ষেত্রে দেশী সন্থিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/উপমুখ কর্তৃক সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের তথ্য প্রদান করতে হবে।

০৯। Online Application Form-এ পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

১০। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার পর CV Identification Number, Tracking Number ও Password যথাযথভাবে সুরক্ষিত করতে হবে। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র জটিলভাৱে করা এবং পরবর্তী বিভিন্ন কাজে বর্ণিত তথ্যসমূহ প্রয়োজন হবে।

১১। প্রার্থীদের লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

১২। প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে আবেদন উল্লিখিত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দলিলাদির সঠিকতা যাচাই সাপেক্ষে তাদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে প্রার্থীরা তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পর্যালোচনারূপে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের অনাপত্তিপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যান্য প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে না।

১৪। আবেদনের সময় উল্লিখিত স্থায়ী ত্রিকানার সপক্ষে সন্থিত সিটি কর্পোরেশন মেয়র/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/মেট্রি পাবলিক কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সন্দর্ভের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে জমা দিতে হবে। বিবাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীরা স্থায়ী ত্রিকানা হিসেবে যদি স্বামীর ত্রিকানা ব্যবহার করেন ক্ষেত্রে সন্দর্ভের উক্ত স্থায়ী ত্রিকানার সপক্ষে হতে হবে।

১৫। অসম্পূর্ণ/ভুল তথ্য সংশ্লিষ্ট আবেদন কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল করা হবে।

১৬। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সন্ত্রস্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারী নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

১৭। কোন ক্ষেত্রে কাগজপত্রাদির যাচাই থাকলে বা পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতার যাচাই পাওয়া গেলে বা দুর্নীতি, অসত্য তথ্য প্রদান, কোন জাল সনদ দাখিল, অসদুপায় অর্থকর্ম, প্রতারণার অনিশ্চয়তা নিয়ে বা আবেদনপত্রের গুরুত্ব (Substantive) ক্রটি বা যাচাই দেখা গেলে বা প্রদত্ত তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যে কোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।

১৮। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রার্থীদের কাউকে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সর্বশেষ করবে।

১৯।  
তারিখঃ ৪৮/২০২১-১০৬১  
তারিখঃ ২২/০৩/২০২১  
জিডি-৫৮৫

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হওয়ারাশির শিকার হলে কিংবা  
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৬৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

শাকর/বিভাগ  
কাৰী আকতাৰুৰ ইলসাম  
মহাৰাঘস্থাপক

## Hassan perplexed by Shakib's allegations and the timing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan yesterday said that he is yet to see the interview that Shakib Al Hasan gave to Cricfrenzy, an online news portal, on Saturday.

"I don't know. They [board directors who were at a meeting with Nazmul at his residence in Gulshan on Sunday night] told me about it [the interview] but I did not see it, heard it or read about it. They came to the meeting about the New Zealand tour and then said that Shakib said this and that. I told them that I do not have any other thoughts except for the New Zealand tour as the next ODI is tomorrow (Tuesday). I cannot say anything about it now. Let the series finish or at least let tomorrow's match end and then I will talk about it [Shakib issue]," Hassan told The Daily Star.

But Hassan heard bits and pieces of that interview in the media and from board directors, and the BCB boss questioned how a national player can say anything against any of the former national team members.

"He [Shakib] is the team's best player. Now, being a national player who was also the team's captain once, he cannot say anything



against the team. According to the rules, he cannot do that. He has signed an agreement with us and it clearly mentions that he cannot say anything against the board or any board member. This is what the rules entail. Forget the rules, as a person, one should have minimum respect towards the seniors. Why would I, being a national player, say anything against players like Akram [Khan] or [Naimur Rahman] Durjoy? Just because you [Shakib] are a good player, does that give you the authority to say anything against them? If he had anything to say, he could have said it in person to them," added Hassan.

The BCB president also wondered why the issue of Shakib participating in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) and skipping the Sri Lanka Tests has suddenly resurfaced after he had already been given an NOC.

"I don't know why he said all these things all of a sudden. According to myself, there is no basis for these things coming to the fore now. Many supported this and many did not [Shakib skipping Sri Lanka Tests for IPL]. But all those discussions stopped and the whole topic came to an end. I actually don't find any logic behind bringing this topic back and blaming board directors by name.

"What has happened suddenly that he had to say things by naming Akram or Durjoy and by questioning Durjoy's performance for the development of HP squad? I don't understand the ill-timing of this topic. It came up just after Bangladesh lost to New Zealand [in their first ODI]? I actually can't believe it."

Hassan also wondered why players always inform the board of their intentions regarding skipping a tour right at the last moment.

"When he [Shakib] said that he did not want to tour South Africa [back in 2017], we were a bit shocked. We needed to think and get a few players ready beforehand. We needed to play a few other players before that to make them ready for such a series. We were also shocked when we heard about his ban at the last moment just before the India series. Now he shocked us by saying at the last moment that he does not want to go to Sri Lanka. These things are actually unexpected. And then, Tamim, after going to New Zealand, is saying he won't pay T20s. I mean what is the problem if they let us know beforehand?" said Hassan.

And according to Hassan, while players have the right to choose which format or which series they want to play, it still is the foremost duty of a player to put his national team before any franchise league.

## Can batsmen land a punch in Round 2?

SPORTS REPORTER



All eyes will be on the batsmen after a disappointing showing in the first game when Bangladesh take on New Zealand in the second ODI at the Hagley Oval today, fighting to stay alive in the three-match series.

Tamim Iqbal and his men will not find much inspiration from Bangladesh's record at the Hagley Oval, which has been the case in all venues in New Zealand.

The Tigers suffered thrashing defeats in the two ODIs they played in Christchurch, losing by 77 runs and eight wickets back in 2016 and 2019 respectively.

On their latest sojourn, things have not changed much. In the first ODI in Dunedin the visitors were bundled out for 131, the first time they had been shut out below 150 since September 2018.

Bangladesh's top order, and in particular skipper Tamim, will have to come up with a better approach. Opener Liton Das and number three Soumya Sarkar also need to find a way to provide a solid start that has remained missing against the Kiwis in their own backyard.

A lot has been said over the seam-friendly conditions in New Zealand and the Hagley Oval is also expected to offer some bounce and swing for the pacers, and the home side will be expected to have an advantage on that front as Trent Boult broke the Tigers' backs with four wickets in the first ODI.

"Batters need to take more responsibility and all the players, from top to bottom, will have to give their best," said middle-order batsman Mohammad Mithun through a video message to the media yesterday. "There's always the discussion [about] where the game tends to slip away from us in the first 10 overs, especially in the batting department.

"Generally, pitches in New Zealand offer high-scoring games and definitely we have to score around 260-270 or else it's always difficult to put up a fight against New Zealand. No matter how the pitch behaves, we have to adjust to win the game and give something for the bowlers to defend."

It will be interesting to see whether the team management includes pace bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin in place of pacer Hasan Mahmud. Apart from that, head coach Russell Domingo might want to give one more opportunity to the batsmen who looked clueless and

### BANGLADESH V NEW ZEALAND IN ODIS AT HAGLEY OVAL, CHRISTCHURCH

2016: Bangladesh were all-out for 264 runs in reply to New Zealand's 341. Tom Latham hit 137 as the hosts won by 77 runs.

2019: Bangladesh were all out for 226 runs. Martin Guptill scored 118 runs to reach the target with eight-wicket in hand.

were prone to soft dismissals in the first game.

For the hosts, they will be without their experienced batsman Ross Taylor for the second consecutive game today after the right-hander suffered a hamstring tear while playing domestic leagues ahead of the series.

On a poignant note, Bangladesh will be playing in Christchurch for the first time since the horrific mosque shootings back on March 15, 2019, which then touring Bangladesh team narrowly escaped. The third and final Test at the Hagley Oval between was cancelled due to the incident.



## 'Relaxed' booters take on Kyrgyzstan U-23s

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team will perhaps start an international tournament without the pressure of winning it for the first time when they take on Kyrgyzstan U-23 team in the opening match of the Three Nations Cup at the Dasharath Rangasala in Kathmandu today.

The match will get underway at 5:45pm Bangladesh time and will be telecast live on T Sports.

Winning trophies or at least making it to the final have always been the talking points whenever the men in red and green have taken part in regional or invitational tournaments, but this time around coach Jamie Day has removed all the pressure from the shoulders of his charges by terming the tournament as a platform for youngsters to prove their worth ahead of June's World Cup Qualifiers.

While not thinking about the outcome, the 41-year-old coach will definitely hope that his players execute his plans properly, leading to positive results.

The coach will not have everything in place due to the absence of experienced campaigners such as Tapu Barman, Yeasin Khan, Nabib Newaj Jibon and Rahmat Mia. Captain Jamal Bhuiyan, who reached Nepal yesterday, will not be available for the first match either.

Day will, however, welcome the return of midfielder Masuk Mia Jonny and Matain Mia along with in-form midfielder Mohammad Abdullah. In any case, he would like to see the new ones fill in those big shoes and grab the opportunities.

While the coach is encouraging his players to enjoy the game without thinking about the title, the players are seemingly motivated to do something special.

"They have all trained very well, so hopefully they can take that into the

matches," Day told The Daily Star from Nepal. "My message to the players is to enjoy the game and play relaxed."

The English coach also explained his philosophy of relaxed display, saying: "Everyone will play over two matches. My focus is on seeing all the players play."

Midfielder Sohel Rana, though, believes the players will not take to the field just to enjoy the matches, instead they are thinking of leaving the pitch with victories.

"True that we don't have any pressure from any quarters to win the tournament but we will definitely want to win all the

True that we don't have any pressure from any quarters to win the tournament but we will definitely want to win all the matches because as players we want to do well.

SOHEL RANA  
BANGLADESH MIDFIELDER

matches because as players we want to do well," Sohel told The Daily Star.

The charges of Day have gone through light training, mostly involving technical aspects as the players had a hectic domestic schedule where they even played two matches in a week.

The Abahani midfielder also believes that if they can implement coach's plan properly, they can win every match. He also sees the possibility of young players stepping up to secure a place for the final squad of World Cup Qualifiers.

Bangladesh senior national side have never beaten their Kyrgyzstan counterparts in four meetings so far. During the 2018 World Cup Qualifiers, Bangladesh suffered a 3-1 defeat at home and a 2-0 defeat away.

## India look to ride on momentum

AGENCIES



Virat Kohli-led Indian team will look to ride on the winning momentum when they take on World Champion England in a three-match ODI series starting today in Pune.

The series is also part of ICC cricket world Super League, also known as ODI super league, which will help to determine the teams for ICC ODI World Cup 2023. The top seven teams on ICC ODI Super League, apart from the hosts, automatically making to ICC World Cup 2023 in India.

England's three one-day internationals against India starting today will be a fresh opportunity for players to make the case for World Cup places this year, skipper Eoin Morgan said. England lost a hard-fought Twenty20 series against India 3-2. But Morgan and coach Chris Silverwood say the tour is still providing valuable lessons about the tough conditions in the country where the T20 World Cup will be staged in October-November. And more will be learned from the ODIs in Pune, said to the captain.

"Given the World Cup round the corner, playing any international cricket at all is a huge opportunity for guys who have been on the fringes and not made selection so far," Morgan told reporters.

## Saif takes form to BNCL

SPORTS REPORTER



Opener Saif Hassan took his impeccable form to the Bangabandhu 22nd National Cricket League (BNCL) through which regular domestic cricket returned in the country yesterday after a long coronavirus-induced gap.

The right-hander, who was the player-of-the-series in Bangladesh Emerging Team's recently-concluded multi-format series against Ireland Wolves, scored a century, helping Dhaka Division amass a total of 297 for eight against Rangpur Division on the opening day of the country's oldest first-class domestic competition at the BKSP-4 ground in Savar.

Had it not been for Saif's 233-ball 127, things could have taken a bleak turn for Dhaka. After electing to bat, Dhaka lost both their openers -- Abdul Mazid and Rony Talukdar -- inside first three overs to pacers Mukidul Islam and Alauddin Babu

without adding anything on the scoreboard.

Saif then strung together a 79-run stand with Mahidul Islam to steady the rocking ship. But after Mahidul (47 off 91) fell prey to Mahmudul Hasan in the 28th over, Dhaka once again lost two quick wickets -- those of Taibur Rahman and Shuvagata Hom -- and were staring at a batting collapse.

It once again took a crucial 137-run sixth-wicket stand between Saif and skipper Nadif Chowdhury for Dhaka to get back into the game. However, Rangpur's star bowler Babu removed both Saif and Nadif (69 off 105) in one over before stumps and tilted the momentum back towards Rangpur. Babu finished with impressive figures of four for 25.

Meanwhile, at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, veterans Imrul Kayes and Tushar Imran missed out on centuries by agonising margins but helped Khulna score 308 for seven against Sylhet Division. Kayes was removed by pacer Abu

Jayed after a 127-ball 90 in the 44th over while Tushar was run-out in the final session of the day on 99.

At the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, young Shahadat Hossain's unbeaten 88 and fifties from Yasir Ali (63 off 119) and Mahedi Hasan Rana (55 off 101)

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### TIER 1

Khulna Division v Sylhet Division  
Khulna 308 for 7 in 83.3 overs (Tushar 99, Imrul 90; Ebadot 2/46, Jayed 2/73)

Dhaka Division v Rangpur Division  
Dhaka 297 for 8 in 90 overs (Saif 127, Nadif 69; Babu 4/25)

#### TIER 2

Barishal Division v Dhaka Metropolis  
Barishal 241 all-out (Ashraf 48, Sayeed 46; Hider 3/34, Rakibul 3/76)

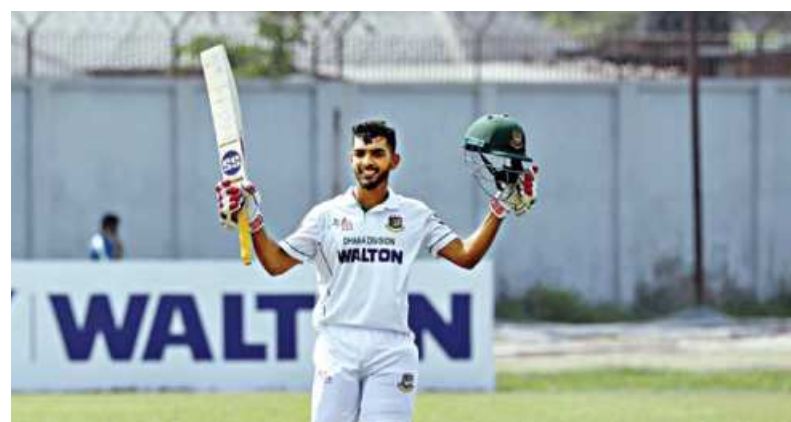
Dhaka Metropolis 29 for 1 in 12 overs (Shamsur 12 not out; Monir 1/9)

Chattogram Division v Rajshahi Division  
Chattogram 256 for 7 in 90 overs (Shahadat 88, Yasir 63; Farhad 2/36)

at the death spared the blushes of Chattogram Division as they finished with a respectable score of 256 for seven against Rajshahi in Tier 2.

In the other Tier 2 game, Barishal were bundled out for a small total of 241 after electing to bat against Dhaka Metropolis. Mohammad Ashraf top-scored with 48 for Barishal while pacer Abu Hider and spinner Rakibul Hasan bagged three wickets each.

Dhaka, in reply, lost the wicket of Anisul Islam and will resume the second day on 29 for one, trailing by 212 runs.



Saif Hassan.....127



Bangladesh cricketers had their final practice session yesterday at the Hagley Park ahead of today's second ODI against New Zealand.

PHOTO: BCB

## Juve decide to keep Ronaldo

AGENCIES

Juventus managing director Fabio Paratici said that the club has no intention of allowing Cristiano Ronaldo to leave the club.

Speculation continues to swirl over the Portuguese star's future, with concern about the value for money he brings to the team given his reported €55 million-per-year (£47m/\$65m) wages.

Paratici also gave head coach Andrea Pirlo a vote of confidence after a 1-0 home loss to struggling Benevento.

"We've decided to keep Cristiano Ronaldo. He's the best player in the world and we are holding on tight," the director stated at full time.

"We have a project that we started from last season, one game will not change our views or our strategy. This line continues and we are very happy with what we've done, so we'll continue working to improve."

Meanwhile, Juventus awarded Ronaldo a special shirt hailing him as the greatest player of all time and celebrating his latest goal landmark ahead of their Serie A match against Benevento on Sunday.

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# Fear, despair grip them

Mob gathering pre-declared before attack on Shalla Hindus



DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Noagaon, Sunamganj

"They took away all of my savings and the gold jewellery we had for my daughter's wedding. We managed to flee minutes before they attacked," 55-year-old Jhorna Rani Das said, describing the attack on her house.

Her four daughters have gone to their uncle's home and are too afraid to return to Noagaon village in Shalla, Sunamganj, where houses of Hindu people were vandalised in a communal attack on March 17.

After losing their job in a garment factory during the lockdown, her two daughters came back home in April last year. "Now we are completely broke."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



People express their displeasure to the person sitting in a counter at Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday after being refused for Covid test at 11:00am yesterday. Many of them had waited hours to get tested at the hospital only to be told that sample collection was done for the day.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# COVID-19 India reports worst day in months

Some hospitals begin to run short of beds

REUTERS, New Delhi

India reported its most Covid-19 cases and deaths in months yesterday, on the first anniversary of the start of a chaotic nationwide lockdown that left many people jobless and shrank the economy.

Authorities reintroduced some curbs to slow the spread of the virus, especially in the western state of Maharashtra, which accounted for nearly two-thirds of the 46,951 new infections and the majority of the 212 deaths.

Some hospitals in the country's worst-affected districts have begun to run short of beds, and there is a rising clamour for the immunisation campaign to be widened to cover more people, instead of just the elderly and those suffering from other health conditions.

With the biggest rise in cases since early November, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# COUP IN MYANMAR EU imposes sanctions on military

Targets generals; 3 more protesters killed

REUTERS

The European Union yesterday imposed sanctions on 11 people linked to last month's military coup in Myanmar as the repression of pro-democracy protesters by security forces reached what Germany's foreign minister called "an unbearable extent".

The sanctions marked the 27-nation bloc's most significant response since the overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government on February 1. The individuals targeted included General Min Aung Hlaing, the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar military.

The United States targeted Myanmar's police chief and an army special operations commander with sanctions yesterday over the government's deadly crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

Washington had already sanctioned Min Aung Hlaing and the new measures expanded the list of targets.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### 'Let's hope for the best and prepare for the worst'



Members of Joy Bangla Bahini saluting Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 23, 1971.

MARCH 23, 1971 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**A DILATORY TACTIC**  
The representatives of President Yahya Khan and an Awami League team met twice today. The AL team arrived at the President's House flying the Bangladesh flag -- a sight which clearly disturbed the junta. However, an agreement

on the implementation of the principles embodied in the Six Points was ultimately achieved.

MM Ahmed, economic adviser to Yahya, agreed that the Six Points scheme could be given effect with minor adaptations. He also showed some flexibility with regards to foreign trade and aid.

Lt Gen Peerzada, principal

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Bids opened despite leak of bidders' names

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Bids for the construction work of two student halls at Kushtia Islamic University (IU) for Tk 108 crore have been opened despite the fact that names of the bidders had been leaked a few days ago.

The university authorities, while opening the electronic government purchase (EGP) tenders on Monday afternoon, said they completed the process following all relevant rules.

"The construction company MS-MRT (JV) has been selected as the lowest bidder," HM Ali Hasan, director at the department of planning and development (P&D) of the university, told The Daily Star.

He said a total of 10 companies took part in the process. Four bids were made for one hall and six for the other.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# WORK AND TEST RELIEF Govt raises allocation by 81.25pc

Seeks to boost pandemic-hit rural economy

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The government has increased the allocation for its Money for Work and Test Relief (TR) programmes by 81.25 percent for the current fiscal year to revitalise a pandemic-hit rural economy and provide money to people through development of rural infrastructure.

The original allocation for the two schemes was Tk 1,216 crore. Following the increase by Tk 987.77 crore, the amount now stands at Tk 2,203.77 crore. The money will be spent for construction and repair of roads and development of infrastructure in rural areas.

Mid Mohsin, secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, said an additional amount of around Tk 2.5 crore was allocated for each upazila. The allocation was increased during the Mujib Borsho, he added.

The secretary said the rural infrastructures at the upazila level would be changed through the implementation of this initiative and people would have extra cash in hand, which would give a big push to the rural economy.

If such an initiative can be continued for next two or three years, it would help improve the lives of the rural people, he added.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Tarique, 24 others sued under DSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and 24 others were sued under the Digital Security Act in Sunamganj yesterday for claiming Ziaur Rahman to be the first president of the country and the first to declare its independence.

The case was filed by Moinul Islam, 47, a Bangladeshi expatriate in the United Kingdom, with Sunamganj Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Accepting the case, the court ordered Sunamganj police to investigate the matter, said the plaintiff's lawyer Akhtaruzzaman Ahmed.

According to the case statement, on December 19 last year Moinul saw on YouTube a video clip of a zoom meeting, attended by Tarique and 24 others, which was uploaded on the video-sharing platform on December 16.

In the video clip, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

# Student hung from ceiling fan, beaten

Madrasa teacher held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police arrested a madrasa teacher on charge of beating up a student by hanging him from a ceiling fan in Bagerhat's Rampal.

Syed Mohammad Osman Gani, 30, of Haji Arif Keratul Quran Hafizia Madrasa, was held from Sreefaltala Uttarpara on Sunday night.

In the evening, Moni Sheikh filed the case with Rampal Police Station for beating up his son Shukur Sheikh, 11.

Mohammad Shamsuddin, officer-in-charge of the station, said they produced Osman before a court that sent him

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



A sand-laden truck causes a Bailey bridge on the Mara Chitra river in Mollahat upazila of Bagerhat to collapse early yesterday. Bagerhat Roads and Highways Department executive engineer said there were 10 such bridges on that stretch of road and none of them could withstand so much load.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Europe can have immunity by July

Says EU commissioner; AstraZeneca's Covid jab found safe, effective in new trial data

AGENCIES

Europe could have herd immunity against Covid-19 by July, a European Union commissioner has said, as incoming jabs are expected to speed up the continent's sluggish vaccine rollout.

The note of optimism comes even as several European countries have started reimposing restrictions as they contend with surging coronavirus infections, and after mixed messaging on the safety of a key jab.

"Let's take a symbolic date: by July 14, we have the possibility of achieving immunity across the continent," Thierry Breton, the EU's commissioner for the internal market told French broadcaster TF1.

"We're in the home stretch, because we know that to beat this pandemic there's just one solution: vaccination. The vaccines are arriving," he said.

More than a third of France's population is now under renewed lockdown, while frustrations over virus curbs spilled into weekend demonstrations in Germany, Amsterdam, Bulgaria and Switzerland.

Europe's battle to prevent a deadly third wave of infections has been complicated by a patchy vaccine drive that included several nations temporarily halting AstraZeneca's shots in response to isolated cases of blood clots.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 23**

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:55 12:45 4:45 6:16 7:45

JAMAAT 5:30 1:15 5:00 6:20 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION