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Your Right to Know

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'VERY BAD GAMBLE'
Iran FM warns Israel, US after 'attack' on the Natanz atomic site
SEE PAGE 6



"What is going on in the name of lockdown? People are on the streets and factories are open. It seems there is no planning..."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR



"We have to control the second Covid-19 wave as we did last year. And for this, we have to refrain from unnecessary movement."
IGP BENAZIR AHMED



"I urge governments to consider a solidarity or wealth tax on those who have profited during the pandemic, to reduce extreme inequalities."
UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES

Rush, queues everywhere

People hurry to leave city, withdraw money, buy essentials as stricter curbs take effect today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People in their thousands left the capital for their village homes yesterday as the government is set to enforce what officials dubbed as a nationwide strict lockdown for a week starting this morning to curb the spread of Covid-19.

In the capital, there were long queues at banks and ATM booths and also a huge rush at kitchen markets and shopping malls on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan and Pahela Baishakh.

Officials say the fresh restrictions will be enforced strictly all over the country amid a worsening Covid situation as the previous restrictions had apparently proved less effective in containing the spread of the virus.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Benazir Ahmed yesterday urged all to strictly follow the restrictions to check the virus transmission.

"We don't want to see anyone on roads and outside home, except for emergencies, from April 14. Please follow the government rules spontaneously, and we won't be rude with anyone," the IGP told reporters in the capital after inaugurating the "movement pass" app.

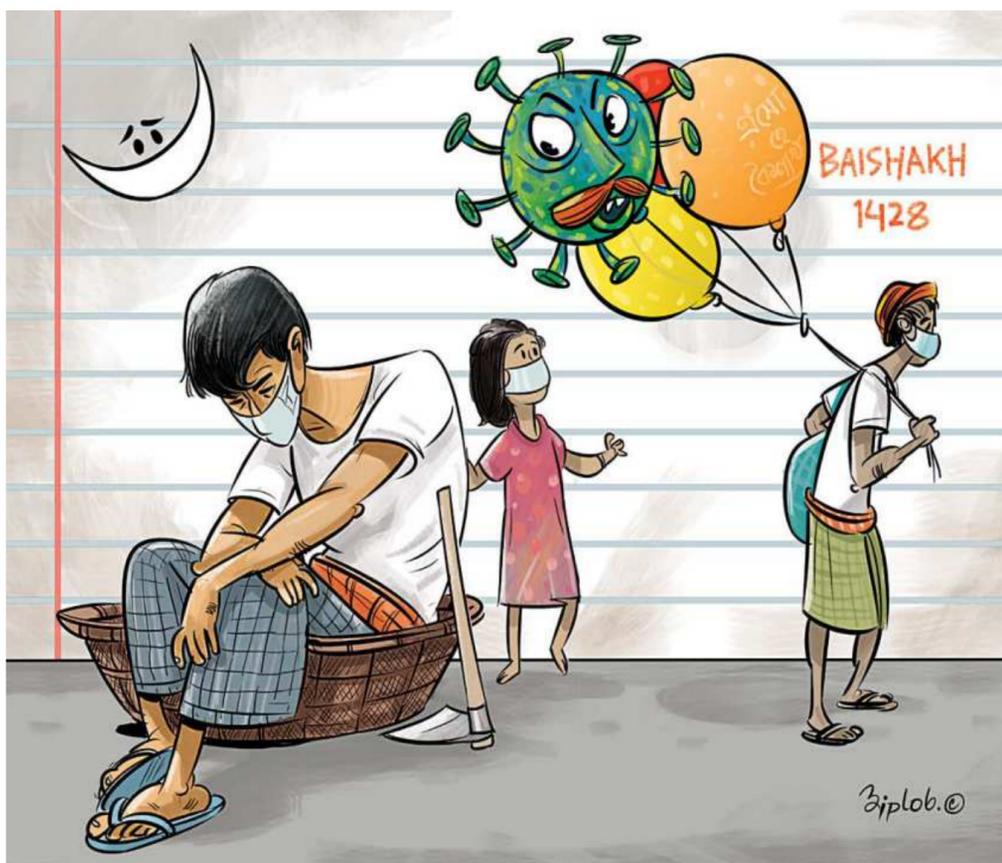
One can go outside in case of emergency during the strict restrictions, obtaining a pass through the app introduced by police.

Benazir further said millions left Dhaka amid the pandemic last year, and this time the same thing happened over the last two days.

He urged people outside the capital to ensure that those returning to

"MOVEMENT PASS" APP
Pass for individuals to go outside in case of emergency
SEE PAGE 3

BANKING HOURS
Certain branches of banks to stay open 10:00am-1:00pm
SEE B1



Grief, fright take colours off Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangla year 1428 arrives today without the vigour and melody that comes with Pahela Baishakh.

For the second

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh. Therefore, the newspaper will not come out tomorrow.

Ramadan begins amid restrictions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The holy month of Ramadan – a time when Muslims engage in self-purification through fasting and abstinence – begins in the country today as the new crescent moon was sighted in the sky yesterday evening.

This indicates that Lailatul Qadr, the night of divine blessing and benediction, will be observed on May 9.

The National Moon Sighting Committee took the decision at a meeting held at the Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office with Religious Affairs Minister Faridul Haque Khan in the chair.

After the meeting, Faridul announced the decision of the committee at a press conference.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Do not panic, govt with you

PM tells nation in her Pahela Baishakh address, urges all to celebrate at home, follow health rules

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to follow health guidelines and celebrate Pahela Boishakh at home as the nation enters a strict weeklong lockdown to contain the upsurge in coronavirus cases.

"We have to remember that the lives of the people come first. If [we] survive, we'll be able to rearrange everything," she said while addressing the nation on the eve of Bengali New Year, Pahela Boishakh.

The PM also urged people not to be panicked at the second wave of Covid-19 and assured that her government is always with them. She asked the authorities concerned to take measures to provide necessary assistance to the poor and low-income people.

In her roughly 13-minute speech, Hasina said the government last week imposed some restrictions on the movement of people due to the second wave of coronavirus.

She said the rise in cases compelled the government to take some tough measures following the advice of public health experts.



The PM admitted that strict measures could cause some issues for the livelihoods of many people. She reminded everyone that protecting people's lives was the top priority.

She said the situation was not unique to Bangladesh. "Such steps are being taken

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

PLASMA THERAPY Hardly effective on variants from South Africa, Brazil

ZYMA ISLAM

Researchers in Germany have found that the South African and Brazilian variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus might be able to evade "plasma therapy".

The study, which was recently published in the scientific journal called Cell, tested to see how well antibodies induced by infection and vaccination neutralise the South African (B.1.351) variant and the Brazilian (P.1) variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The study was titled "SARS-CoV-2 variants B.1.351 and P.1 escape from neutralizing antibodies".

Antibodies induced by infection exist in the blood of convalescent or

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 New symptoms now pronounced

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

Doctors have observed symptoms like severe fatigue, muscle pain, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, sleeplessness, and conjunctivitis in a large number of Covid-19 patients requiring medical treatment.

They said these symptoms were not so common in such patients during the first wave of the disease in the country.

The Daily Star has learnt this after talking to doctors at four government and private hospitals treating Covid-19 patients in the capital.

"During the first wave, symptoms like fever, cough and loss of taste or smell were mainly observed in coronavirus patients. This time, a large number of patients are showing the additional symptoms," Dr Forhad Uddin Hasan, a medicine and infectious disease specialist at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's Covid-19 unit, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said critical patients were gasping for oxygen. Based on his experience of dealing with Covid-19 patients, Dr Tarek Alam, professor and head of medicine department of Bangladesh Medical College, said, "Almost all patients have been complaining of weakness and insomnia this time. They are also having diarrhoea."

"There has also been a basic change regarding the lungs infection. During the first wave of Covid-19, many patients' lungs were severely affected between the eighth and 14th day of being infected. This time, the virus is damaging the lungs faster, within four to five days," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ECONOMIC RECOVERY Bangladesh leads the way in South Asia

SAYS IMF

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Despite the recent spike in Covid-19 infections, South Asia excluding India is recovering, led by Bangladesh, due to higher-than-expected exports and remittances, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

The Washington-based multilateral lender revised its GDP projection for Bangladesh to 5 percent in 2021, up from its October last year's projection of 4.4 percent.

The nation's economy is expected to grow 7.5 percent the next year, said the IMF at its Spring Meetings which took place virtually.

With a remittance income of \$18.60 billion,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Brick kiln labourers and their family members on a truck are stuck in a long tailback near Shimulia ferry ghat in Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila yesterday. With brick kilns shut ahead of the weeklong lockdown, they are bound for their village homes in southern districts. Passengers had to endure long delays at ferry terminals yesterday as a large number of people left the capital and its adjoining districts. Inset, a truck carrying people leaves Savar's Aminbazar area.

PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN/ANISUR RAHMAN

VACCINE PURCHASE WB to provide \$500m more

REJAUH KARIM BYRON and DWAIPIYAN BARIJA

The World Bank has agreed to provide \$500 million to Bangladesh in additional financing to buy Covid-19 vaccines, but set some conditions regarding the procurement of the shots.

The main objective of the WB's additional financing for this project is -- vaccination of 31 percent of the total population of the country through direct purchase of Covid-19 vaccine recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) or three Stringent Regulatory Authorities or advance purchase from Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX).

A loan agreement was signed between the government and the Washington-based global lender yesterday in this regard.

With this deal, the government inked three loan agreements with the WB in the last two days through virtual programmes. The WB is providing the country with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Bangladesh cards rule West Bengal polls



PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

From slogans to smear campaigns, election pledges to blame games, Bangladesh has featured heavily in the discourse of rival parties in India's ongoing West Bengal assembly polls.

Bangladesh has always been an important factor for the eastern region of India, and West Bengal in particular.

The fourth-most populous Indian state not only shares around 2,216 kilometres of border with Bangladesh, it also shares culture, language, climate and blood bonding with the country.

Against this backdrop, it is natural that Bangladesh comes up in political campaigns during the West Bengal polls.

This time around, however, Bangladesh is coming up more prominently than ever before and many of the political talking points portrayed the neighbouring country negatively, said political analysts.

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has repeatedly used Bangladesh and Bangladeshi issues to draw Hindu

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BANGLADESH UPDATE



6,028
New cases in 24hrs



6,97,985
Total cases



9,891
Deaths



5,85,966
Recoveries



GLOBAL UPDATE



2,964,752
Deaths



137,723,499
Total cases

Grief, fright

FROM PAGE 1
consecutive year, Bangladesh will celebrate the new year at home as the day coincides with the beginning of a seven-day nationwide lockdown imposed to stem the spread of Covid-19.

Like last year, people will have to welcome the first day of the Bengali calendar amid the grim reality caused by the second wave of the deadly disease.

There will be no festivity or cultural practices, rooted deeply in secular ethos, no rendition of the song "Esho hey Baishakh, esho esho" under the banyan tree at Ramna Batamul in the capital.

And just like last year, there will be no outpouring of people on the streets or colourful festivals around Dhaka University campus through which the Bengalees will welcome the new year.

However, there will be a token Mangal Shobhajatra, a colourful, ceremonious procession, which is the mainstay of the festival, from the Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts. Last year, the procession was halted due to the pandemic.

The university authorities will allow a maximum of 30 people in the rally, which would be recorded and sent to the media.

The government has already suspended all public programmes, asking all not to hold any mass gathering or outdoor celebrations for Pahela Baishakh.

The country is now seeing an alarming spike in Covid-19 cases and deaths for the last one month. In this situation, hospitals have been overwhelmed by the increasing number of patients.

The DU's fine arts faculty was found to be quiet yesterday, even though this place would be brimming with teachers and students preparing for the festival before the global pandemic began.

"It's because of the Covid-19 that we could not build the structure of the Mangal Shobhajatra," said Shakhawat Rony, a student of the Department of Drawing and Printing of Fine Art.

Another student, Tahsina Ferdous Linia, said they had been waiting for this day eagerly but culture and heritage had to take a back seat due to Covid-19.

"I'll miss the celebration," she said. DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman said they will celebrate the day on a limited scale. "There will not be any kind of public gathering," he said.

Mughal Emperor Akbar introduced the tradition of celebrating the Bangla New Year -- Naba Barsha -- to mark the closing of the annual tax collection.

Traditionally, traders and shopkeepers open a new "halkhata" (account register) on this day and celebrate it by offering sweetmeat to their clients.

In the course of time, it evolved into a day of mass celebration and an integral part of the Bangalee culture. It has been considered a non-communal festival as people irrespective of religion, sect, class and creed celebrate the day as one race.

Ramadan begins

FROM PAGE 1
Muslims are meant to fast from dawn to dusk during the lunar month.

This year, a maximum of 20 people, including the khatibs, imams, hafez, muezzins and khadims, can together attend Tarabi prayers and the five daily prayers in one mosque during the holy month.

The statement was part of some instructions issued by the ministry on April 12 in regards to offering prayers at mosques from April 14 till further notice in order to ensure proper health safety measures following the current Covid-19 situation in Bangladesh.

Besides, there will be no iftar mahfils and sehris at mosques during the month of Ramadan this year to tackle the second wave of Covid-19 sweeping through the country.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the nation yesterday on the eve of the Bengali New Year 1428. PHOTO: PTI

Do not panic, govt with you

FROM PAGE 1
wherever the impact of this deadly virus is intensifying.

She said the government alongside saving people's lives is keeping a watch so that country's economy and people's lives and livelihoods do not fall apart.

"With cooperation from all we have taken some steps. As a result, last year we were able to face the coronavirus pandemic successfully."

The PM said the government fixed four key activities last year to face the possible adverse impacts of coronavirus. They were: increasing public expenditure prioritising employment generation; formulating stimulus package for reviving economic activities, keeping labourers and workers in their jobs and keeping competitiveness of entrepreneurs; expanding social safety net programmes to fulfill the basic needs of people living under the poverty line, day labourers, and those engaged non-institutionally; and increasing supply of money to overcome the adverse impact on the economy in a way to make sure that there is no inflation.

"Our activities are continuing based on these four principles. We have already announced 23 stimulus packages of Tk 1,24,053 crore," she added.

"DON'T WORRY" Hasina said some 2.5 crore people have been brought under the coverage of various government assistance programmes and steps have been taken for uninterrupted production at mills and factories and increasing agricultural production.

"There's no need to be worried, the government is always beside you. I have taken steps for the poor and lower income people after the second wave hit the country."

The PM said the government allocated Tk 807.65 crore for employment generation in rural areas and more than Tk 672 crore for holy Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr. This will benefit 1,24,42,000 lower income families.

5.6M RECEIVED FIRST SHOT
Talking about vaccination against Covid-19, Hasina said more than 56 lakh people have taken the first dose of the vaccine. "Those who've taken the first shot are now taking the second one. Gradually, we will bring everyone under the vaccination programme."

Referring to the comments of health experts, the premier said there is no assurance that one will be fully protected from the virus after receiving the vaccine. "So, after taking the vaccine, we will have to maintain health guidelines too."

Hasina urged everyone to be careful and ensure protection for themselves, their family members and neighbours. "So, gatherings have to be avoided and everyone should wear a mask while going outside. After returning home, one should get cleaned and take vapour from hot water."

She greeted the countrymen on the occasion of Bengali New Year and the beginning of Holy Ramadan.

Hasina also asked all to stay home. "Like the previous year, Bengalees will have to celebrate Pahela Boishakh festival digitally staying at home."

State-owned Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television simultaneously broadcast her address. Private television channels and radio stations also aired the PM's speech.

Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority.

A technical assistance project named Central Coordination Unit of the Private Investment and Digital Entrepreneurship Project under ERD will play the coordinating role between the implementing agencies and World Bank and oversee monitoring and evaluation, fund flows and utilization and thus will ensure smooth operation of the project, said the release.

The activities to be carried out by the project include creating an environment conducive to private investment and sustainable development, performing all activities through Public-Private Partnership by forming a special operation unit at BEZA and developing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar as a green and environment friendly industrial city in phases.

On Monday, the government also inked a financing agreement with the WB's International Development Association for a credit amount of Tk 339 crore to implement "Additional Financing for Digitising Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project".

The project will be implemented by Central Procurement Technical Unit under Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division and the Ministry of Planning.

The loan is repayable in 30 years with a grace period of five years. The closing date of this project is December 31, 2023, added the release.

Dr Tareq was the one who in July 2020 had claimed that the drug Ivermectin has an efficacy in reducing viral load against the novel coronavirus. Based on his claim, the icddr, later conducted a study and found this to be true.

Talking about the symptoms, Dr Md Robed Amin, secretary (research) at Bangladesh Society for Medicine, however, said, "These are anecdotal symptoms, not any findings of any scientific study. But these have some sort of significance as there is no proven cure for Covid-19."

'VARIANT CAN BE A REASON'
There is no scientific study on why more patients were showing symptoms different from those exhibited last year.

Prof Tareq Alam said, "Most probably, the new variants of novel coronavirus -- the UK variant and the South African variant -- are to blame for this. These two strains are 70 to 100 percent more infectious than the previous variants found in our country."

Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist at Universal Medical College Hospital, said a scientific study was required to reach any conclusion.

He, however, said, "The lungs getting infected faster and higher infection rates among women and young people were also noticed in South Africa. We're observing a similar situation here. So, the variant can be a reason, but we need to carry out a study on it."

CASES, DEATHS KEEP RISING
Sixty-nine people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the Covid-19 death toll in the country reached 9,891. The death rate stood at 1.42 percent, it said.

On Monday, the country had reported a record 83 coronavirus deaths for a single day.

At least 6,028 new infections were recorded in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, taking the total number of people infected to 6,97,985, said the release.

The current positivity rate is 18.29 percent while the total positivity rate stands at 13.76 percent.

A total of 32,955 samples were tested across the country in those 24 hours, said the release.

At least 4,853 Covid-19 patients recovered during the period. The total number of recoveries stands at 5,85,966 and the recovery rate at 83.95 percent.

Among the 69 deceased, 43 were men and 26 were women, added the release.

Hardly effective on variants

FROM PAGE 1
recovered patients. These are produced when the body's immune system reacts to the antigen in the virus.

Convalescent Plasma therapy constitutes of taking the blood of a convalescent patient or a person who has recovered from Covid-19 and doing a transfusion into the body of a patient with an active infection.

Previous studies have shown that the antibodies in the convalescent blood fight the antigens in the blood of the patient.

In the absence of any sure-fire treatment, plasma therapy has been commonly used by doctors across the country to try and control the infection since the pandemic started.

However, the study said, "Seven out of nine plasma samples inhibited entry driven by the S [spike] proteins of the B.1.351 [South African] and P.1 [Brazilian] variants less efficiently as compared to entry driven by WT [Wuhan] S protein."

The limitation of the study was that instead of a live virus, they used a "pseudotype" which "faithfully mimics key aspects of SARS-CoV-2 entry into cells [...] and antibody-mediated neutralisation".

"These results suggest that individuals previously infected with WT [Wuhan] SARS-CoV-2 might only be partially protected against infection with B.1.351 [South African] and P.1 [Brazilian] variants of SARS-CoV-2," the study added.

Recently icddr, conducted a study where they tested 57 samples in the third week of March and found that over 80 percent of patients were infected with the South African variant.

Similarly, Child Health Research Foundation sequenced the genomes of 22 SARS-CoV-2 samples in March and found that 19 were either the UK variant or the South African variant.

The Cell journal article goes on to state that these results suggest that SARS-CoV-2 scape neutralising antibody responses, which has important implications for efforts to contain the pandemic.

The study also found that there

New symptoms

FROM PAGE 1
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Rush, queues everywhere

FROM PAGE 1
their village homes remain isolated for seven to nine days.

"The locals should keep in mind that if anyone in their vicinity is infected, that person will transmit the virus to others," the IGP said.

The Cabinet Division on Monday issued a circular with a set of strict restrictions effective from 6:00am on April 14 to April 21 midnight to check the spread of the virus.

Several top government officials hinted that the restrictions might be extended if the Covid infection rate and deaths don't come down during the period.

As per the circular, all public and private offices will stay closed and all modes of transport will remain suspended.

Nobody is allowed to go outdoors unless there is an emergency such as buying medicine and essentials or taking treatment.

Banks have been asked to keep certain branches open from 10:00am to 1:00pm on workdays, while trading at the stock market will continue from 10:00am to 12:30pm, said the authorities concerned yesterday.

At a press conference at the Rail Bhaban, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said the railways will operate special goods trains so that farmers can transport their farm products during the weeklong restrictions.

He further said 25 percent concession will be offered on the freight charges. **MAD RUSH FOR VILLAGE HOME**
Thousands were seen leaving the capital for their village homes ahead of the weeklong strict restrictions, posing a fresh risk of Covid-19 transmission.

There was a huge rush of home-bound people at the capital's exit points and ferry terminals yesterday morning.

As public transport was unavailable, many were seen crossing the capital's exit points -- Gabtoli, Jatrabari, Abdullahpur, Babu Bazar and Postogola -- on foot.

With inter-city bus services suspended, many hired cars or minibuses to go to their village homes, while many others chose to travel by motorbikes.

"Since buses are off the road, I have decided to go to my village home on my bike," said Joyjit Dutta who was heading for Cumilla from the capital.

The Dhaka-Chattoagram highway saw a huge rush of vehicles, mostly cars, minibuses and goods-laden trucks. Many were seen travelling by pick-ups.

The situation was similar on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, the gateway to the northern districts.

A total of 31,881 vehicles crossed the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge in 24 hours from 6:00am on Monday to 6:00am on Tuesday. The number was almost double the usual one, said a bridge official.

Several hundred vehicles were seen waiting at Paturia ferry terminal in Manikganj for hours to cross the Padma.

Thousands of home-goers travelling by cars, minibuses and CNG-run auto-rickshaws were seen heading towards Shimulia ferry terminal in Munshiganj.

Besides, people in large numbers were seen leaving the port city of Chattogram ahead of the weeklong restrictions.

CROWDS AT MARKETS
The capital's kitchen markets, including Kawran Bazar, saw a sudden rise in buyers yesterday evening after the new moon was sighted.

Marjina Begum, a buyer at Kawran

Bazar, said she came to the market to buy ifter items as prices of those were low there compared to other markets.

Mohammad Gofran, a shop owner at the kitchen market, said the number of buyers went up in the evening and most of them were buying ifter items and sanitizers.

Other markets and shops across the city also saw a big rush of customers. There were traffic congestions on major roads in the evening.

Though most of the shoppers wore facemasks, the guideline on physical distancing was largely ignored.

"I have come to this market to buy a shirt since all shops will remain closed from tomorrow... I really need this," said one of the buyers, Md Sabuj, at Farm View Supermarket in the city's Farm Gate area.

Some shop owners kept their outlets open even after 5:00pm, the deadline for closing the shops. Many of them argued that they had to do so because of a huge rush of buyers.

At Farm View Supermarket and nearby Shezan Point, shutters of a good number of shops were kept half-open till 6:00pm.

Meanwhile, the registrar's office of the Supreme Court issued notifications saying the regular functions of all courts, including the High Court and the SC, will remain suspended for a week from today in line with the government-imposed restrictions.

The courts, however, can carry out judicial proceedings virtually on a limited scale during the period.

[Our Correspondents in Narayanganj, Cumilla, Munshiganj, Tangail, Pabna, Manikganj and Chattogram contributed to this report]



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Police launch 'movement pass'; don't go out unless necessary, says IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Benazir Ahmed yesterday urged people to strictly follow the lockdown restrictions and stay home to contain the spread of coronavirus.

"We don't want to see anyone on the roads except for emergency needs from April 14 and we do not want to be rude with anyone. We will curb the wave for the second time like we did last year and for this we have to refrain from unnecessary movement," he said.

The police chief came up with the remark while inaugurating the "movement pass" at a programme at Rajarbagh police lines in Dhaka.

The IGP said last year, several thousand people had left Dhaka and now many are doing the same for the last two days, which is unwise.

During this strict lockdown period, those who need to go out for emergency purposes, the police chief suggested to take a movement pass and return home as early as possible.

The pass can be collected from: movementpass.police.gov.bd.

It will be required to go out during the lockdown in the case of emergency or official work such as getting Covid-19 vaccine, shopping for grocery and medicine, medical services, agricultural works, goods transportation, supply, burial or cremation activities and other activities, according to Police Headquarters.

This pass also can be collected for travelling from one district to another but the journey hour will be of maximum three hours.

For movement inside the city, people have to mention the time of going out of home and how long they need to stay outside. Besides, a person will

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A patient's feet stick out of a CNG autorickshaw parked in front of Chattogram Medical College Hospital, while he is writhing in pain holding onto the grill of the vehicle (inset). Due to an acute shortage of stretchers and wheelchairs for transporting patients into the hospital, they have to endure a long wait outside the hospital. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Regular judicial functions closed until April 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has decided to keep the normal judicial functions of courts closed in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 from today (April 14) to April 21 in line with the restrictions imposed by the government.

The chief justice, however, decided to virtually operate the judicial proceedings of the courts including the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court to a limited scale through using information technology for disposing of "very urgent" cases during this period.

The SC administration issued three separate notifications yesterday to this effect.

The notifications said the government has imposed restrictions running all government, semi-government, autonomous, private and financial offices and on normal activities and movements since 6am on April 14 till midnight of April 21 through issuing a gazette notification on April 12.

In this situation, a decision has been taken to virtually operate the judicial proceedings of the courts to a limited scale through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Port city residents jostle to board an already full bus on AK Khan Road ahead of the nationwide lockdown. Although inter-district buses were barred from plying, some were seen taking or dropping off passengers yesterday, evading authorities.

Mad rush to leave Ctg amid lax monitoring

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

People were seen rushing out of the port city, facing almost no hindrance yesterday, the last day before enforcement of a weeklong lockdown throughout the country. Although the government asked residents to not move from their location, initiatives from the administration to compel people to comply with the directive were absent on the roads.

As a result, people, many with families, were seen going to their village home "to enjoy the seven-day holiday".

There were some constraints on roads -- a lack of inter-district buses being one, but the desperate "holidaymakers" left no stone unturned to overcome the obstacles.

One of them was Azizul Islam, who works at a shop in a city shopping mall.

"I couldn't go home due to my work. As the shopping mall is going to close today, I've a seven-day vacation now, and so I'm leaving the city for my village home at Cox's Bazar's Chakaria," the 27-year-old told this correspondent at Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area.

"However, there are problems...I came here very swiftly by a city bus, but now, I've to go the rest of the way by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and other small vehicles," he said. "Drivers of auto-rickshaws are demanding triple the regular fare."

Asked, why he is leaving the city spending extra money, Azizul smiled and said, "My newly-married wife is there, and she requested me to come home."

Capitalising on the mad rush, many drivers of small vehicles were seen demanding high fares.

In Bahaddarhat intersection, Sadhan Rudra along with wife and two children

was seen bargaining with an auto-rickshaw driver over fare.

"I work at a private firm. As my office is going to close today, I've taken an early leave to go to my village home at Fatikchhari upazila with my family," said Sadhan. "But the auto-rickshaw driver is demanding double the normal fare."

Admitting the matter, Md Jasim, the driver, said usually he takes Tk 250-300 to go to Fatikchhari from Bahaddarhat, but he was demanding Tk 500 yesterday.

"The lockdown is going to start from tomorrow, and we'll have to sit idle with no income during that time," he said. "So, I'm trying to earn as much money as possible today."

Meanwhile, no initiative from the administration was seen to keep a check on the whole situation. One or two inter-district buses were seen plying on the road, dodging the eyes of the administration and capitalising on the lax monitoring.

A Chattogram city-bound bus coming from Cox's Bazar was seen dropping off passengers at Bakalia area around 11:30am.

Contacted, Suraya Yasmin, executive magistrate of Chattogram District Administration, said three mobile courts conducted drives in different exit routes of the city in the morning.

"We will be strict from tomorrow to compel people to stay at home, as 12 mobile courts will be on roads round the clock," she said.

Echoing the same, Sumani Akter, additional district magistrate of Chattogram, said mobile courts of the administration conduct drives every day, but people's awareness is key for the lockdown's success.

WEEKLONG 'LOCKDOWN'

BR to run parcel trains for farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) will operate special parcel trains to facilitate farmers to transport their farm products during the weeklong strict restrictions starting today.

As per the plan, railway will operate parcel trains on four routes -- Dhaka-Sylhet, Chattogram-Sarishabari, Khulna-Chilahati, and Dhaka-Panchagarh.

The state-run transport service will give 25 percent concession on hire and revoke all other charges for transporting vegetables, local fruits and other farm products.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Suhan disclosed the plan and different perspectives of the service at a press conference at Rail Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

BR has suspended all passenger trains service from April 5 when the government imposed restriction on public transport to contain Covid-19 pandemic.

However, it continues freight trains service. The minister said like last year, BR is going to introduce the special service to strengthen supply chain of the essential products and to give support to the growers.

Replying to another question, he said they introduced the service for the "lockdown" period and they will continue the service if it gets expected response.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Pandemic fallout could cause rise in child labour

Says lawmaker Mujibul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of children in the labour market may increase due to the income reduction of people in the current Covid-19 pandemic, said lawmaker Md Mujibul Haque, who is also the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee of the Ministry of Labour and Employment yesterday.

"Currently, there are 152 million child labourers worldwide and 82 million is alone in the Asia-Pacific region. We have to work in coordination with the government and the private sector so that our progress in the elimination of child labour before Covid-19 is not diminished," he added.

He made the comments as the chief guest at a virtual press conference yesterday, organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) and supported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

BSAF Director Abdus Shahid Mahmood presented the keynote paper at the conference. "Since the United Nations

has declared 2021 as the Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, we hope the government of Bangladesh will keep its promise of eliminating all forms of child labour within 2025, which was made at the 2017 global conference in Argentina," he said.

Mentioning that a large number of child labourers are in the informal sector, he said, "To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), we have to eliminate the millions of children working in the informal sector as well."

In addition, he urged the government to provide legal protection to a large number of children involved in domestic work, education and skill development support for them and social safety net programmes designed for the child labourers and their parents.

Shahid also stressed the lack of updated data on the child labour situation. "Even today, we are forced to use the data from the 2013 Child Labour Survey."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Music director Farid Ahmed no more

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Farid Ahmed, a national award-winning music director, passed away at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 60.

He breathed his last at 9:30am at Square Hospital, renowned lyricist and his friend Farida Farhana, told The Daily Star.

The esteemed composer had tested positive for Covid-19 last month, along with his wife, Shiuly Akhter. As his condition deteriorated, he was taken to the hospital on March 25. Even though his wife recovered, Farid was still battling kidney and diabetes-related complications.

Farid Ahmed was born in the capital's Kalabagan. The artist, who won the National Film Award in 2017 for his work in "Tumi Robe Nirobe", has over 300 scores for television serials and almost 3,000 scores for short television dramas under his belt, and is considered a legend in the music industry.

He was at the helm of the Music Composers' Association of Bangladesh.

Some of his notable work include "Tumi Chara Ami Jeno Morubhumi" with Kumar Bishwajit, "Ferari Siren" with Runa

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Ensure vaccines for all

Amnesty International urges South Asian govts; says int'l cooperation key to contain spread of Covid-19

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The South Asian governments must ensure that vulnerable groups are not excluded from access to Covid-19 vaccines, said Amnesty International yesterday, calling on the international community to enable vaccine production at the national-level to address supply shortage across the region.

As vaccination programmes have commenced across South Asia, people including slum dwellers, Dalits, ethnic minorities, daily wage earners, sanitation workers, garment workers and tea plantation workers, people in rural areas, prisoners, and internally displaced people have so far been denied access, it said.

Meanwhile, others including refugees and migrants have been excluded entirely from the government vaccine campaigns in many countries for now. With vaccines in short supply, most countries in South Asia have not inoculated more than six percent of their population with even a first dose. The efforts so far reached the middle and higher-income groups.

"South Asia's governments must ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for everyone irrespective of caste, socio-economic or other status, race, or nationality," said Yamini Mishra, Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific director.

"The lack of access to vaccine supply in most countries across the region is a real and pressing concern that needs to be urgently addressed.

"However, this must not provide cover to these countries to unduly limit access to vaccines, for example, by not reaching out to vulnerable groups to tell them how they can get vaccinated. Who you are and where you live should not determine access to the vaccine."

The Amnesty International said many underprivileged communities across South Asia do not have access to smart phones and other mobile devices, which are required in most cases to register online for vaccines and where most public health information is disseminated.

Meanwhile, vaccination plans that have been developed by countries like Bangladesh for a holistic coverage of the population are not reflected in their implementation such as efforts to inoculate cleaning workers, unskilled wage earners and people in lower income groups, Amnesty International said.

Due to a lack of access to government plans and information sharing mechanisms on vaccine roll-out, a misperception among rural people that Covid-19 is a concern only for urban and city dwellers persists in countries such as Bangladesh.

Amnesty International called on national authorities to put measures in place, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, to raise awareness among rural people about vaccine campaigns and the danger posed by Covid-19.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Former Jamaat Ameer Maqbul Ahmed dies of Covid-19

UNB, Feni

Maqbul Ahmed, former Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islam, died of coronavirus at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

He breathed his last at the ICU of Ibn Sina Medical College Hospital, confirmed the party's current Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman through a statement on his official Facebook page.

He expressed deep sorrow at the demise of the former Ameer and sought emancipation of his departed soul.

Makbul was the acting Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islam from 29 June 2010 to October 2016.

Later, he served as its elected Ameer from 2017 to 2019 before handing over the responsibility to Dr Shafiqur.



Droves of people on trucks, buses and in three-wheelers arrived at Barishal yesterday, just before the lockdown. Social distancing is almost impossible to maintain in these situations, and some didn't even bother with face-masks. This photo was taken from Barishal-Dhaka Highway Retritola area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Hope Malaysia will play active role at the Asean summit: envoy Sarwar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh hopes Malaysia would play an instrumental role to move the issue of Rohingya refugees forward within Asean and help achieve a durable solution to the crisis.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia Golam Sarwar said Malaysia was one of the countries that immediately responded to Bangladesh's call for assistance during the early weeks of the Rohingya crisis in 2017, reports Malaysian news agency Bernama.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state in 2017 and sought refuge in Bangladesh. Despite repeated attempts, not a single Rohingya agreed to return to Myanmar.

Golam Sarwar said Malaysia has also been a dependable supporter of Bangladesh on this issue in various international fora, including in the Asean Summit and the UN General Assembly.

He was addressing the Ambassador Global Lecture Programme organised by the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) yesterday.

The lecture held virtually was titled "50 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Malaysia and the way forward".

"We are thankful to the government of Malaysia for their efforts in setting up field hospital in Cox's Bazar to provide medical assistance to the Rohingya refugees," he said. "We hope that Malaysia would continue its political pressure on Myanmar so that the latter creates a conducive environment in the Northern Rakhine State in order to ensure repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Myanmar at the earliest," he added.

15,000 apply

FROM PAGE 3
 have to follow the route given by police after applying.
 One can collect the pass by entering their name, gender, age, reasons for movement, date and time for movement, NID, information about vehicles and photo.
 Sources said registration for the pass started around 11am yesterday and on an average 15,000 people were hitting the site every minute. But analysing applications, police issued pass for 2,000 to 2,500 people every minute, they added.
 Till 6:30pm, around six lakh people accessed the site and some 60,000 were able to complete registration and police issued around 30,000 passes against it, according to PHQ database.
 When asked if some will abuse this pass, IGP Benazir said, "Even in the midst of a pandemic, if anyone does that we will take legal action against them."
 He said, "It is not necessary to take a movement pass and we are not forcing anyone. There is no legal issue here."

However, the IGP indicated that a person will face police interrogation if they come out of home without a pass.
 Asked what will happen to the marginalised people who do not have internet or smartphones and how they will collect this pass, he said, "About seven crore people in the country use internet. The marginalised population can take help of a neighbour in this regard. Besides, we will get daily feedback from the media."
 Meanwhile, a special meeting was held at PHQ, presided over by the IGP, with field police officials to ensure a strict lockdown.
 Highway, railway and river police were instructed to ensure smooth movement of emergency services like food, medicine and produces. Industrial police will ensure movement of RMG and other workers.
 Tourist police will be responsible for closing all restaurants and hotels. Police officials were also instructed to monitor social media so no one can make instigating posts regarding Covid-19 or lockdown.

50th martyrdom anniversary of five members of a family

CRV DESK
 The 50th martyrdom anniversary of five members of the family of Saidur Rahman, Founder (President) of Projonmo '71 will be observed tomorrow, said a press release.
 On this day in 1971, Fazlur Rahman, his wife Hosne Akhter, and three sons Mostafizur Rahman Moznu, a college student, Hasinur Rahman Hiron, a school student, and Azizzur Rahman Babu, also a school student, were killed at their railway government residence in Sayedpur under Nilphamari by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators for their involvement in the Liberation War.
 Saidur's mother was buried alive after being charged with a bayonet. Saidur along with his elder sister Dilruba khatun (Kajol) and younger sister late Camellia Rahman (Kakon) escaped narrowly.
 Quran khwai will be held, and food will be distributed among the destitute on the occasion. All have been invited to pray seeking salvation of the departed souls.
 Saidur Rahman is a senior news presenter of Channel i.

Music director

FROM PAGE 3
 Laila and "Dalchhut Projaputi" voiced by Sabina Yasmin and Runa Laila.
 Farid had also made hundreds of title songs for popular shows such as Ityadi, Hridoye Mati O Manush and Channel-i Shera Kontho.
 Eminent singers Runa Laila, Kumar Bishwajit, Fahmida Nabi and many others

paid their tributes and shared experiences of working with Farid. Besides, eminent actor Abul Hayat and Chanchal Chowdhury also paid their respects.
 His namaz-e-janaza was held after Asr prayers on Kalabagan Law College field. He was buried in Rayer Bazar Graveyard.
 He is survived by his wife, Shiuly Akhter, and daughter, Durdana Farid.

Regular

FROM PAGE 3
 using information technology in order to protect the people's constitutional rights, keeping the courts' normal proceedings closed, according to the notifications.
 The notifications upheld the earlier decisions saying that Court No-1 of the Appellate Division (a full bench of the Appellate Division headed by the chief justice) will run judicial functions from 9:30am to 12pm on every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday and its chamber judge will deal with the cases from 11am on every Monday and Wednesday.
 Four High Court benches-- three division benches (two-judge) and a single-member (one judge) --- out of total 52 will perform judicial functions though using information technology to deal with urgent writ, civil, criminal and company and admiralty-related petitions.
 Besides, a magistrate will deal with urgent cases under district and sessions judge, metropolitan sessions judge, women and children repression prevention tribunal, children court, chief judicial magistrate and chief metropolitan magistrate court in every district strictly following health safety guidelines during this period, according to the notifications.
 On April 12, the SC administration issued another notification directing jail authorities not to produce under-trial prisoners before the lower courts or tribunals concerned during case proceedings -- including hearing of their bail petitions -- till further order, as a precaution to coronavirus outbreak.
 Magistrates concerned can hold hearings on remand-related petitions through video conference in association with jail authorities, it said.

Request for Quotation: Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR)

BRAC Bank Limited delivers a full array of banking services to individuals as well as business entities with a network of 187 Branches, 374 ATMs, 456 SME Unit Offices across the country. Currently the Bank is seeking for vendor(s) to provide **Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR) Solution.**

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ along with details of the bidding process can be found on the bank's website at <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>.

Interested eligible bidders are requested to send their expression of interest by 19th April, 2021 and their technical bid by 26th April, 2021 as per the mentioned bidding process.

BRAC BANK
 গ্রাহক ডায়ালগ

পেশা হারানোর উদ্বেগ

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 E-mail: pit@desco.org.bd, www.desco.org.bd

Corrigendum-01

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender notice for Procurement of Three Phase 315 kVA Distribution Transformer (Core material-CRGO) against Tender No.: 47/2020, vide memo No. 27.24.0000.021.07.047.20.298, dated: 25/02/2021 is hereby revised as follows:

Tender selling date, Closing & Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
May 23, 2021 5.00 pm	May 24, 2021 12.00 noon	May 24, 2021 12.00 noon	May 24, 2021 12.30pm

All other contents of the Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.
 Memo No: 27.24.0000.021.07.047.20.507
 Date: April 12, 2021
Engr. Mohammad Kamruzzaman
 Superintending Engineer (P.&T), DESCO

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি ডিভিশন
 (আইটি প্রকিউরমেন্ট এন্ড মেইনটেন্যান্স)
 প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।

e-GP সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে টেন্ডার আহবান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পন্য ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সেবা এবং কার্য ও ভৌত সেবা সংক্রান্ত সকল প্রকার ক্রয়কার্য e-GP (Electronic Government Procurement) সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে টেন্ডার আহবান প্রক্রিয়া শুরু হতে যাচ্ছে।

আগ্রহী সকল ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অতিসত্তর e-GP সিস্টেমে Bidder রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো।

GD-764 **ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার**

বাংলাদেশ স্টাডেন্টস, জাতীয় সদর দফতর

প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় সমূহে কাব স্টাডিং সম্প্রসারণ (৪র্থ পর্যায়) প্রকল্প
 ৬০, আত্মমান মুফিদুল ইসলাম রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০

স্মারক- ব্যাংকগ্রা: বি: কা: স্বা: প্র: ৪৮/(৩৯৭)/(১)/২০২০ তারিখঃ ১৩ এপ্রিল ২০২১

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধর বাংলাদেশ স্টাডেন্টস কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন "প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় সমূহে কাব স্টাডিং সম্প্রসারণ (৪র্থ পর্যায়)" প্রকল্পে সরকারি বিধি অনুযায়ী নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে প্রকল্প মেয়াদে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাদি পূরণ সাপেক্ষে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা হচ্ছেঃ

পদের নাম, পদ সংখ্যা ও শিফট	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা
হিসাবরক্ষক- ০১ জন; বেতন (সাপেক্ষে): ২৫,০০০ টাকা	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্য ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণীর স্নাতক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ	(ক) এমএস অফিস (এমএসওয়ার্ড, এন্ট্রোল, পিপিটি টেন্ডার) এবং কম্পিউটার চালানায় বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা, (খ) সরকারি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পে অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

শর্তাবলীঃ

- প্রার্থীদের পূর্ণ জীবন বৃত্তান্তসহ আবেদনপত্র (মোবাইল নম্বর ও ই-মেইল আইডিহিস) ও সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের কপি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি, আবেদন উল্লিখিত সকল অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এবং ৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি আগামী ২৪ মে ২০২১ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রকল্প পরিচালক, প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় সমূহে কাব স্টাডিং সম্প্রসারণ (৪র্থ পর্যায়) প্রকল্প, জাতীয় স্টাডি ভবন, বাংলাদেশ স্টাডেন্টস, ৬০ আত্মমান মুফিদুল ইসলাম রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০ ঠিকানায় ডাকযোগে/সরাসরি পৌছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ২৪ মে ২০২১ তারিখে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর এবং সর্বনিম্ন ১৮ বছর। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/ শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এসএসসি বা সমমানের সনদ বিবেচ্য হবে।
- আবেদনকারীকে ৩০০.০০(তিনশত) টাকা মূল্যের (অফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার "প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় সমূহে কাব স্টাডিং সম্প্রসারণ (৪র্থ পর্যায়) প্রকল্প" শিরোনামে রূপায়ী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, ন্যায়পটন কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে প্রেরণ করতে হবে। ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণদের সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র/প্রমাণপত্রের মূলকপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ক্রটিপূর্ণ/ অসম্পূর্ণ/ বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- প্রকল্পের হিসাব সংরক্ষণ, বিল পেমেন্ট, বিল আউটার, নিম্ন বৃত্তান্তকরণ, মহাহিসাব নিরীক্ষকের কার্যালয়ে বিল আউটার সমন্বয় ইত্যাদি সকল কাজে প্রকল্প পরিচালকের নিম্নলিখিত জবাবদিহি করতে হবে।
- কোনো পাবলিক পরীক্ষার তৃতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী প্রাপ্তদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
- লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- প্রকল্প শেষে নিয়োগপত্র আপনা আপনি চাকুরি হতে অব্যাহতি পর হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

প্রকল্প পরিচালক

Pandemic

FROM PAGE 3
 Mujibul said the work of child labour survey is supposed to start in 2021. "If that happens successfully, we will be able to know the actual picture of child labour in Bangladesh by the end of 2022," he said, adding, "The government has already declared six sectors free of child labour and a few more sectors will be included after examining."
 The MP also said two years after undertaking a project worth Tk 284 crore by the labour ministry to eliminate hazardous work of children through NGOs, the government is yet to select the NGOs, which is frustrating.

Ensure

FROM PAGE 3
 With vaccine manufacturing countries prioritising their own populations, countries across South Asia have been scrambling to place orders to meet national demands.
 The situation has left hundreds of millions across the region unable to access vaccines for the foreseeable future, including groups such as Bangladesh's one million Rohingya refugees and Afghanistan's four million internally displaced.
 Amnesty International called upon governments to fulfil their human rights obligations and actively support a proposal to waive certain provisions of the TRIPS agreement, a global treaty governing intellectual property rights, which often restricts where, when and how medicines are produced.

BR to run

FROM PAGE 3
 The special trains would operate on Dhaka-Sylhet and Chattogram-Sarishabari routes every day while the trains would run on two other routes every alternate day.
FOOD GRAINS FROM INDIA BY FREIGHT TRAINS
 Railway Secretary Salim Reza said apart from the freight train service in the country, freight trains are being operated to bring food grains from India.
 The amount of food grains -- rice and wheat -- brought to Bangladesh from India by trains continued to increase since January this year, showed BR documents.
 Total 141329.68 tonnes of food grains were imported in March using 140 trains while 48478.08 tonnes came to the country in the first 10 days of April by 55 trains, it said.
 Replying to another question, the railways minister said they would not bar contractors from doing construction works of railways project if they can do those maintaining health safety guidelines properly.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
 কক্সবাজার দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ।
www.forestsouth.coxsbazar.gov.bd

পত্র নং-২২.০১.২২০০.৯৯০.০২.০০২.২০২১.১৪৪১ তারিখঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২১ খ্রিঃ।

নোটিশ

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গত ০৬/০৪/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখের দৈনিক আমার সংবাদ ও দি ডেইলি স্টার পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত এ দপ্তরের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২৪/২০২০-২১, তারিখঃ ০১/০৪/২০২১ খ্রিঃ মূলে আহবানকৃত দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ দিন আগামী ১৯/০৪/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ সরকার যোগিত লকডাউনের কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকার নির্দেশনা থাকায় দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ২৭/০৪/২০২১ খ্রিঃ ও গ্রহণ ২৮/০৪/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পুনঃ নির্ধারণ করা হলো। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

(মোঃ হুমায়ুন কবির)
 পরিচিতি নং-১৩১৫৯
 বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
 কক্সবাজার দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ
 ফোনঃ ০৩৪১-৬২০৯৫

GD-772 ই-মেইল নং-dfocoxsbazarsouth@gmail.com

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
 Bridges Division
 Bangladesh Bridge Authority
 Widening of road and construction of elevated road by Panchabati-Mukterpur Bridge Project
 Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212
www.bba.gov.bd

Memo No: 50.01.0000.851.13.009.21-57 Date: April 13, 2021

Corrigendum Notice (1st)

It is hereby notified to all concern that the Invitation for Tenders (international) of "Widening of road and construction of elevated road by Panchabati-Mukterpur Bridge" invited vide office memo no 50.01.0000.851.13.009.21-36 dated: 08 March, 2021. As per the Invitation for Tender, per-tender meeting was held on 04 April, 2021. Against this backdrop, tender last selling, closing and opening dates and time have been changed with this Corrigendum Notice. Moreover, some amendments of tender documents have been made through Addendum-1.

Ref: IFT	Descriptions	Date & Time	
		As per published IFT	As per this Corrigendum Notice
14	Tender Last Selling Date	28 April 2021 at 5.00pm (BST)	30 May 2021 at 5.00pm (BST)
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	29 April 2021 at 12.00 Noon (BST)	31 May 2021 at 12.00 Noon (BST)
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	29 April 2021 3.30pm(BST)	31 May 2021 at 3.30pm (BST)

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum notice is an integral part of IFT which was published vide memo no: 50.01.0000.851.13.009.21-36 date: 8 March 2021.

Shafiqul Islam
 Project Director
 Phone: +880 2-55040374
 E-mail: pdmukterpur@gmail.com

GD- 763

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
 প্রধান কার্যালয়
 ঢাকা।
 website : www.bb.org.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ২৮/২০২১ তারিখ : ৩০ জুন, ১৪২৭
 ১৩ এপ্রিল, ২০২১

পুনঃদরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক "সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রকৌশল-পূর্ণ)" পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা পরিচালনাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচনের লক্ষ্যে আহ্বানকৃত পুনঃদরপত্র দাখিলের সময়সীমা পরিবর্তনকরণ প্রসঙ্গে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত ০১/০৪/২০২১ তারিখের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ২৬/২০২১ এর মাধ্যমে "সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রকৌশল-পূর্ণ)" পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে ৩,৩০৬জন প্রার্থীর ০২ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী ২০০ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষা ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনস্থলের মধ্যে অবস্থিত পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে ০১(এক) দিনে ০১(এক) দেশে গিয়ে এবং মোকদ্দম ও রোল নম্বর অনুযায়ী ফলাফল তালিকা (হোর্ড কপি ও সফট কপি) প্রদান ও সরবরাহ" সংক্রান্ত আহ্বানকৃত পুনঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়সীমা নিম্নলিখিতভাবে পরিবর্তন করা হলোঃ-

দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে ঘোষিত তারিখ, বার ও সময়	১৮/০৪/২০২১ রবিবার, বেলা ১২ঃ৩০	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের পূর্বে ঘোষিত তারিখ, বার ও সময়	১৮/০৪/২০২১ রবিবার, বেলা ১২ঃ১৫
দরপত্র দাখিলের পরিবর্তিত তারিখ, বার ও সময়	০৫/০৫/২০২১ বুধবার, বেলা ১২ঃ৩০	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের পরিবর্তিত তারিখ, বার ও সময়	০৫/০৫/২০২১ বুধবার, বেলা ১২ঃ১৫

উল্লেখ্য, ০১/০৪/২০২১ তারিখে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ২৬/২০২১ এর অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

ডিসিপি : ৪৮/২০২১-১৩৮০
 তারিখ : ১৩/০৪/২০২১

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হেরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

শাকরিভ/ (কাজী আকতারুল ইসলাম) মহাব্যবস্থাপক

GD-767

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION FOR SUPPLY OF BULK LPG

Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) is one of the biggest and unique organization of South Asia which is solely dedicated for the welfare of the humanity.
 SKS LPG a sister concern of SKS Imports LPG, do Bottling and Distribute LPG all over Bangladesh under the brand name of "SENA LPG". Yearly 36,000 MT storage capacity, fully automatic, European standard and state of the art SKS LPG plant is located at Mongla Port Industrial Area, Bagerhat.
 SKS LPG hereby requests for proposal from all benefited local and international trading companies for the supply of bulk LPG through LPG Vessel to its LPG plant from July 2021 to December 2021

- Item Name : Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)
- Specification : Propane: 30±5%, Butane: 70±5%
- Quantity : 2,000- 4,000 MT LPG per month
- Cargo Size : 2,000 – 2,500 (±5%) MT

Details of jetty and other commercial information can be collected from 14 April 2021 to 22 April 2021 during working hour (9am to 3pm) from SKS LPG office: Head of Business Division-2, Sena Kalyan Sangstha, SKS Tower (Level-10), 7, VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Telephone: +88029890819, fax: +880-29890900, email: lpghscm@senakalyan.com

Interested firm/companies are requested to submit their HARD COPY techno-commercial proposal on 22 April 2021, from 1000 hrs to 1500 hrs in a dedicated drop box kept in the above office by authorized representative of the bidder or BY EMAIL to dgbd2@senakalyan.com Contact details of the authorized person with attested signature must be informed via email to us in case of hard copy submission in the drop box.
 For any query, please communicate to lpghscm@senakalyan.com / +880176905638, commercial.skspg@gmail.com / +8801766333133

SKS LPG reserves the right to cancel this selection process without assigning any reason whatsoever.
 Head of Business Division-2
 Sena Kalyan Sangstha, SKS Tower (10th Floor)
 7, VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION FOR SUPPLY OF COMPACT VALVE

Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) is one of the biggest and unique organization of South Asia which is solely dedicated for the welfare of the humanity.
 SKS LPG a sister concern of SKS imports LPG, do bottling and distribute LPG all over Bangladesh under the brand name of "SENA LPG". Yearly 36,000 MT storage capacity, fully automatic, European standard and state of the art SKS LPG plant is located at Mongla Port Industrial Area, Bagerhat.
 SKS LPG hereby requests for proposal from all benefited local and international trading companies for the supply of 22 mm compact valve for 12 kg LPG cylinder.

- Item Name : 22 mm Compact Valve for 12 kg LPG Cylinder
- Specification : As per Technical Specification
- Quantity : 30,000 Pcs (Thirty Thousand)

Details of Technical and Commercial Information can be collected from 14 April 2021 to 21 April 2021 during working hour (9am to 3pm) from SKS LPG office: Head of Business Division-2, Sena Kalyan Sangstha, SKS Tower (Level-10), 7, VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Telephone: +88029890819, fax: +880-29890900, email: lpghscm@senakalyan.com

Interested firm/companies are requested to submit their HARD COPY techno-commercial proposal on 22 April 2021, from 1000 hrs to 1500 hrs in a dedicated drop box kept in the above office by authorized representative of the bidder or BY EMAIL to dgbd2@senakalyan.com Contact details of the authorized person with attested signature must be informed via email to us in case of hard copy submission in the drop box.
 For any query, please communicate to lpghscm@senakalyan.com / +880176905638, commercial.skspg@gmail.com / +8801766333133

SKS LPG reserves the right to cancel this selection process without assigning any reason whatsoever.
 Head of Business Division-2
 Sena Kalyan Sangstha, SKS Tower (10th Floor)
 7, VIP Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh

Manpower crisis cripples Shayestaganj fishery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Infrastructure as well as activities at the government-run Shayestaganj Fisheries Extension and Training Centre in Sayestaganj upazila of Habiganj has remained in a deplorable condition for years.

The centre is running with many problems including dilapidated office buildings, broken furniture, decaying boundary walls and silted up ponds.

Manned with only one person, the necessary equipment of the fish hatchery is being wasted due to lack of maintenance.

The Fisheries Extension and Training Centre was established in 1961 in Shayestaganj on an area of about 12 and a half acres of land.

In the past, it was successful in producing fry of different species of fish, but now the training center is crippling due to lack of care.



For almost four years, the center has had only one employee instead of five. However, there are two staffers in the master roll.

Shamiul Islam of Kadamtali village adjacent to the fish farm said, "Even though the fish center was established for the betterment of our area, it is not working now. It has become crippled due to lack of

manpower."

Miraj Rahman of Shampur village of the upazila said since there is only one person employed at the farm, locals often enter the farm and take away various equipment and fish.

Besides, the equipment inside the fish farm is also being destroyed and the boundary wall of the center is also breaking down.

Abdur Rauf of Dakshin Barachar village in Shayestaganj municipal area said, although some people get jobs in the master roll at the center, they do not want to continue the work as they are not paid properly and regularly.

Shayestaganj Fisheries Extension and Training Centre's farm officer Nasir Uddin said, the farm has a target of producing 205 kg of fish fry per annum and the government has received revenue of Tk 859,000 this year from it.

He also pointed to the fact that there is not enough manpower in the fish farm.

"In the past, there were two employees but now I am handling the fish farm alone. I have been able to meet the target of fish production by hiring people in the master roll," he said.

He also said that a guard needs to be appointed on an emergency basis.

Habiganj District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Shahzada Khasru told this correspondent, the farm is supposed to be manned with five people, but there is only one.

"Lack of manpower is disrupting the normal functioning of the farm. The concerned department is being contacted about the matter.

They have assured us that manpower will be recruited soon," Khasru said.



Shayestaganj Fisheries Extension and Training Centre in Habiganj has been running with many problems including dilapidated office buildings, broken furniture, decaying boundary walls and silted up ponds for long. PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh cards rule West Bengal polls

FROM PAGE 1

But statistics shows trespassing from Bangladesh declined since BJP assumed power in India.

On February 10, India's Home Ministry presented a statistic in parliament which said 1,601 people were detained for illegal entry in 2016, and that the number dropped to 955 in 2020.

In 2018, 884 people were arrested at the border for illegal trespassing.

PM Modi's recent Bangladesh visit also added fuel to the high-octane campaign rhetoric between TMC and BJP.

Mamata took the visit as an opportunity to hit back at the BJP leadership. "At other times, they [BJP] used to say Mamata is patronising illegal trespass. And during election time, he [Modi] himself visited Bangladesh to seek votes, and to bring criminals from Bangladesh," Mamata told a public rally at South 24 Parganas on April 3.

Trinamool and BJP have even engaged in a tug of war over the slogan "Joy Bangla".

Joy Bangla was the slogan in Bangladesh's Liberation War and it united the nation to fight against the Pakistan military under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On January 23, during a programme marking the 124th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose -- one of the most prominent figures of India's independence movement -- at Victoria Memorial where both Modi and Mamata were present, the latter walked off the stage hearing "Jai Shri Ram" slogans from the audience.

"Jai Shri Ram" is BJP's political slogan. In protest, Mamata chanted "Joy Bangla" and left the dais.

Mamata's slogan sparked another row between BJP and TMC.

West Bengal chapter BJP President Dilip Ghosh immediately capitalised on it and wrote on his verified Facebook page, "Honourable [Mamata] is fighting for greater Bangladesh."

In that post, he also shared photos of Bangladeshi actor Ferdous during a TMC campaign for Lok Sabha polls in 2019 and of cricketer Shakib Al Hasan attending at a makeshift Kali temple last year.

Moreover, Dilip, during a meeting with the election commission in January, alleged that many illegal immigrants and Rohingya

refugees from Bangladesh were on the voter list.

Bangladesh also became an issue during and after Modi's two-day visit to be part of the twin celebrations of the Bangabandhu's birth centenary and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence.

During his second day in Bangladesh, Modi visited a sacred shrine of the Matua community at Orakandi in Gopalganj.

Centring Modi's visit to the shrine, Mamata alleged that the PM's Bangladesh visit was a violation of the electoral code of conduct and demanded cancellation of Modi's Bangladesh visit.

While speaking at an election rally at Midnapore, Mamata categorically said Modi's visit to a temple of a specific community in a foreign country was made to draw the attention of the Matua community.

"Why shouldn't your visa be cancelled? We'll complain to the EC," she had said.

Around over 3.5 crore Matua people live in West Bengal and 1.5 crore of them are voters.

The politically active community is a decisive factor in 30 out of 294 WB assembly constituencies and has indirect influence in around 63 seats.

Bilateral issues like the longstanding Teesta water-sharing also came up during the electioneering.

At an election rally in Siliguri on March 7, CM Mamata alleged that the central government did not engage the state in any dialogue on the Teesta water issue, adding that her government would agree to the Teesta water-sharing only when West Bengal got enough water.

Bangladesh's Teesta water-sharing treaty with India has been stalled for the last 11 years due to Mamata's stubborn opposition.

Teesta is crucial for Bangladesh, especially in the leanest period -- from December to March -- when the flow of water falls to less than 1000 cusecs from 5,000 cusecs.

Recently, images and footage of Bangladesh featured in a video song titled "Didi you do not love us", which was made for BJP's election campaign.

Paper cuttings, photographs and news clips containing reports on minority repression in Bangladesh, police action against Islamic outfits in the country dominated a major part of the song.

The song started with Purnima Rani Shil, a 2001 post-election gang-rape victim in Sirajganj.

The video includes guerilla fighters from the Middle East fighting under the banner of the Islamic State with their own flags. It also contained images of cattle smuggling from India.

Biswanath Chakraborty, a professor of political science at Rabindra Bharati University in India, told The Daily Star that Bangladesh is being negatively portrayed as both TMC and BJP are doing identity-based politics instead of ideology-based politics.

"Negative campaign is destined to breed where political parties shift position from ideology," said Chakraborty.

Tarek Shamsur Rahman, a political analyst and a professor at Jahangirnagar University, told The Daily Star that this time BJP selected issues that can woo Hindu voters in West Bengal.

Rahman also said Narendra Modi's efforts, like intentionally highlighting repression on the minority community, or his visit to the Matua shrine were aimed at wooing Hindu voters and the BJP leadership has done it tactfully.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

the country recorded 35 percent year-on-year spike in remittances in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, thanks to migrant workers and non-resident Bangladeshis who sent money home, data from Bangladesh Bank shows.

While the overall export remained slightly below the last year's level in July-March period of the current fiscal year, shipment soared by 13 percent year-on-year to \$3.7 billion from a year ago, shows data of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

The IMF said the pandemic has resulted in unprecedented output losses in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Losses varied widely across economies as a function of the stringency and effectiveness of containment policies; dependence on tourism and contact-intensive services; and the degree of policy support. Some of the Pacific Island countries have been among the worst affected," said Deputy Director of IMF's Asia and Pacific Department Jonathan D Ostry at a press briefing.

The IMF said although a recovery is now underway, and the pandemic is receding in some countries, elsewhere, second or third waves of infections are raging notably in India and some of the ASEAN economies.

"Outlooks in the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are affected by weak tourism and limited policy space," said Ostry.

The IMF predicted that regional growth would be just above 7.5 percent this year.

Jonathan said recovery in Asia depends on a smooth handoff from public support to private demand.

"After the historically unprecedented stimulus in 2020, fiscal policy in the region is expected to continue to do its part this year, with the fiscal stance remaining supportive in the region," he said.

The IMF suggested accommodative fiscal support, targeted towards vulnerable groups, until private demand recovers.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়
প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা
তারিখ: ১৯ ফেব্রু, ১৪২৭
১২ এপ্রিল, ২০২১

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যসভায় বাংলাদেশ হাউজ বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন-এ ২০১৯ সাল ভিত্তিক 'আইন অফিসার' এর ৬টি শূন্য পদে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে পূরণের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিম্নে Online এ দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্রমিক	শিরোনাম	বিবরণ
১.	পদের নাম	'আইন অফিসার' (২০১৯ সাল ভিত্তিক)
২.	পদ সংখ্যা	৬টি
৩.	বেতন	জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫-এর টাকা ২২০০০-২৩১০০...৫০৫৩০-৫৩৬০০ স্কেল এবং তৎসহ নিয়মনুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।
৪.	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	(ক) যে কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে আইন বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা চার বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক(সম্মান) ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। স্নাতকোত্তর/স্নাতক(সম্মান) পর্যায়ে কমপক্ষে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী অথবা গ্রেজিং পদ্ধতির ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতকোত্তর/স্নাতক(সম্মান) পর্যায়ে গ্রেড পরেট এভারেসজ(জিপিএ) কমপক্ষে ২.৭৫ থাকতে হবে। (খ) মাধ্যমিক বা উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ে গ্রেড পরেট এভারেসজ(জিপিএ) কমপক্ষে ৩.২৫ থাকতে হবে। (গ) স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যন্ত পরীক্ষার অনূন দুইটি প্রথম বিভাগ বা শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। তবে কোন পরীক্ষার তৃতীয় বিভাগ বা শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

৫. বয়স (০১/০৩/২০২০ তারিখে) : (ক) বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থী ব্যতীত সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর।
(খ) বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর।

৬. আবেদনপত্র দাখিল এবং ফি প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০৬/০৫/২০২১ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।

৭. Verify Payment (Prepaid পদ্ধতি) এবং Tracking Page সজ্ঞাহের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০৯/০৫/২০২১ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।

৮. আবেদন ফি এর পরিমাণ: পরীক্ষার ফি অফেরতযোগ্য টা, ২০০/- (টাকা দুইশত মাত্র) যা ডাচ বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর Payment Gateway 'রকেট' এর মাধ্যমে প্রদান করতে হবে।

৯. আবেদন পদ্ধতি:

ক. **Online Application Form:** কেবল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সজ্ঞাহত ওয়েবসাইট <https://recruitment.bb.org.bd>-এ প্রদত্ত Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। Online-এ আবেদন দাখিলের বিস্তারিত নিয়ম ও শর্তাবলী ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

খ. Online আবেদনে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম (এসএসসি অথবা সমমানের সনদ অনুযায়ী), হারী জেলা, জন্ম তারিখ, ছবি, স্বাক্ষর অন্যান্য তথ্য অত্যন্ত সতর্কতার সাথে নিশ্চলভাবে পূরণ করতে হবে। আবেদনে প্রদত্ত সার্বিক তথ্য, ছবি, স্বাক্ষর ইত্যাদি verification সাপেক্ষে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচনী ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ প্রদান করা হবে।

গ. প্রার্থীর বর্তমান ঠিকানা: প্রার্থীর বর্তমান বসবাসের স্থান এবং নিয়োগ সজ্ঞাহত চিঠির পেতে উচ্চক ঠিকানাতে বর্তমান ঠিকানা হিসেবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

ঘ. প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা: প্রার্থীর ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত জাতীয়তাসনদে উল্লিখিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা মোতাবেক প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। তবে অবিবাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন দাখিলের পরে বিবাহবন্ধনে আবদ্ধ হলে যথাযথ প্রমাণ সাপেক্ষে স্বামীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানার অনুকূলে নিজের স্থায়ী ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন করতে পারবেন।

ঙ. Job ID No. : বর্ণিত পদের Job ID 10137 আবেদন ফি প্রদানের সময় নির্ধারিত স্থানে ব্যবহার করতে হবে।

চ. ছবি (Photo): ইতোপূর্বে নিবন্ধনকৃত প্রার্থীগণ বিদ্যমান ছবি ব্যবহার করতে পারবেন। তবে নতুন প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই নির্ধারিত স্থানে 600x600 pixel ও file size 100 KB এর বেশী নয় একপ মাপের অধিক তিন মাস পূর্বে তোলা রঙিন ছবি (সাদা ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড সফলিত) scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। ছবি তোলা সময় মুখ ও কানের উপর আবরণ রাখা যাবে না। সাদাকালো ছবি এবং Informal ছবি আপলোড করলে সরাসরি প্রার্থীতা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

ছ. স্বাক্ষর (Signature): নির্ধারিত স্থানে 300x80 pixel ও file size 60 KB এর বেশী নয় একপ মাপের প্রার্থীর নিজের স্বাক্ষর scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। স্বাক্ষর অবশ্যই সাদা কাগজের উপর কাগো কাটিতে হবে।

জ. অর্জিত ডিগ্রীর ফলাফলের তারিখ: পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত সংশ্লিষ্ট ডিগ্রীর ফলাফল প্রকাশের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

ঝ. বিদেশী ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থী: 'O' Level ও 'A' Level পাশ হলে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট এবং বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ডিগ্রী প্রাপ্ত হলে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক সমমান সার্টিফিকেট অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের (শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/জিপিএ/সিপিএ উল্লেখসহ) তথ্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় চেংকি বোর্ডে অবশ্যই উপস্থাপন করতে হবে। অন্যান্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ঞ. CV ID No. : বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সিস্টেমে ইতোপূর্বে নিবন্ধনকৃত প্রার্থীদের বিদ্যমান CV ID No. এবং Password ব্যবহার করে Online এ আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে। নতুন আবেদনকারীগণ ওয়েবসাইট <https://recruitment.bb.org.bd> এর মাধ্যমে Online এ আবেদন সম্পন্ন করলে একটি CV ID No. এবং Password প্রাপ্ত হবেন।

ট. Application Fee Payment পদ্ধতি: আবেদন ফি Payment পদ্ধতি বিস্তারিত জানতে <https://recruitment.bb.org.bd/onlineapp/rocketprepay.pdf> ওয়েবসাইটে ডিজিট করে হবে। ডাচ বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর Payment Gateway 'রকেট' এর Prepaid অথবা Instant Payment পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করে ফি প্রদান করা যাবে।

(১) Prepaid পদ্ধতি: রকেট অ্যাপ বা ম্যানুয়াল উভয় ক্ষেত্রেই ফি প্রদানের জন্য Biller ID হিসেবে Bankers Selection Committee Secretariat অথবা 499 সিলেট করতে হবে। পরবর্তীতে পর্যায়ক্রমে সংশ্লিষ্ট Job ID No, নিজ CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ [হাইফেনের (-) আগের অংশ], ফি এর পরিমাণের প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য ব্যবহার করে ফি প্রদান করতে হবে। ফি প্রদান করলে প্রার্থী মোবাইলের মেসেজ অপশনে একটি Transaction ID (TxnID) নম্বর পাবেন। প্রাপ্ত TxnID নম্বর টি ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই পৃথকভাবে Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতে হবে; অন্যথায় আবেদন অসম্পূর্ণ রয়ে যাবে।

(২) Instant Payment পদ্ধতি: আবেদনের সময় বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটের Payment অপশন হতে Instant Payment নির্বাচন করলে প্রার্থী সরাসরি রকেট এর ১টি লিংক পাবেন। উক্ত লিংকের মাধ্যমে রকেট একাউন্ট হতে ফি প্রদানের পরপরই মোবাইলের মেসেজ অপশনে ১টি One Time Password (OTP) পাবেন। প্রাপ্ত OTP টি নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে লিংকের নির্দিষ্ট ফিল্ডে বসিয়ে প্রার্থীকে Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।

ঠ. Verify Payment: Prepaid পদ্ধতিতে প্রার্থীগণকে ফি প্রদানের পর প্রাপ্ত TxnID বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের recruitment সাইটে নির্দিষ্ট ফিল্ডে বসিয়ে Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। Instant Payment পদ্ধতিতে প্রার্থীগণকে পৃথকভাবে Payment Verify করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

ড. Tracking Page সজ্ঞাহ: Payment Verify সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পর প্রার্থীকে Tracking ID No. সফলিত ১টি Tracking Page প্রদান করা হবে। Tracking Page টি ভবিষ্যতে ব্যবহারের জন্য সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। Tracking Page সংরক্ষণ করলেই প্রার্থীর আবেদন সম্পন্ন হয়েছে বলে বিবেচিত হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে কোনো অবস্থাতেই Tracking Page এর Duplicate Copy সরবরাহ করা হবে না।

১০. প্রার্থীদেরকে নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

১১. প্রার্থীদেরকে Online আবেদনের সময় কোনো কাগজপত্র জমা করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে অনলাইন আবেদন প্রদত্ত পদ্ধতি তথ্যের স্বপক্ষে যথাযথ সনদ/প্রত্যয়নপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন দাখিল করতে হবে। Online আবেদনে প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত তথ্যের সঠিকতা যাচাইযোগ্য কোনো substantive ত্রুটি ধরা পড়লে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে না। তাছাড়া, মৌখিক পরীক্ষা শেষে প্যানেল প্রস্তুতিকালে কোনো প্রকার ত্রুটি পরিলক্ষিত হলেও প্রার্থীকে প্যানেলভুক্ত করা হবে না।

১২. চাকরীকৃত প্রার্থীদের তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বানুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন উক্ত অনুমোদনের কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

১৩. নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সজ্ঞাহত সরকারী সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা ও অন্যান্য বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।

১৪. প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র ও নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার তারিখ সজ্ঞাহত বিজ্ঞপ্তি যথাসময়ে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সজ্ঞাহত ওয়েবসাইট ও ডেনিক জাতীয় পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, প্রার্থীদের অবহিতকরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের পক্ষ হতে এসএমএস/ই-মেইল/ফোন/পত্র প্রেরণ বা অন্য কোনো মাধ্যমে কোনো প্রকার যোগাযোগ করা হবে না।

১৫. সংশ্লিষ্ট আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য: শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল, নির্ধারিত ফি প্রদান ও Payment Verify সম্পন্ন করতঃ Tracking Page টি হার্ডকপি আকারে সংরক্ষণ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। ভুল Job ID বা ভুল CV ID ব্যবহারপূর্বক ফি জমা দিলে আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না এবং এর ফলে প্রদত্ত আবেদন ফি ফেরত পাওয়া যাবে না।

ডিসিপি : ৪৮/২০২১-১৩৫০
তারিখ : ১৩/০৪/২০২১

GD-766

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

(আক্ষি হোসেন খান)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও সদস্য সচিব
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Rajoir, District: Madaripur
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: LGED/UE/RAJ/2021/246
Date: 12/04/2021

e-Tender Notice-04/2020-2021

This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of below the works interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of work	Tender last selling (Date & Time)	Tender closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)	Tender ID No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01.	e-Tender/NBIDNNGPS/MAD/RAJ/2020-2021/W2-00221	Construction of Boundary wall & Gate of Kadambari Primary School.	05/05/2021 17.00pm	06/05/2021 15.00pm	06/05/2021 15.00pm	558717

Quazi Mahmudullah
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LGED, Rajoir, Madaripur
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GD-769

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan to release contaminated Fukushima water into sea

Japan will release more than 1.3 million tonnes of contaminated water from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea, the government said yesterday, a move China called "extremely irresponsible", while South Korea summoned Tokyo's ambassador in Seoul to protest. The first release of water will take place in about two years, giving plant operator Tokyo Electric Power time to begin filtering the water to remove harmful isotopes, build infrastructure and acquire regulatory approval. Japan has argued the water release is necessary to press ahead with the complex decommissioning of the plant after it was crippled by a 2011 earthquake and tsunami. It says similarly filtered water is routinely released from nuclear plants around the world.

'The Rock' to run for president!

"Fast & Furious" star Dwayne Johnson, known as "The Rock," said on Monday that he would run for US President if he felt he had enough support from Americans. Johnson, 48, one of the highest-paid and most popular actors in the United States, has been flirting with a possible White House bid for several years. The former professional wrestler did not say which party he would represent or when he might launch any bid for the White House. An opinion poll released last week by consumer trends company Pipsay that found some 46% of Americans would consider voting for Johnson.

Joshua Wong jailed

Joshua Wong, one of Hong Kong's most prominent democracy activists and among 47 people charged under a national security law, was sentenced to four months in jail yesterday for an unauthorized assembly and violating an anti-mask law. Wong, 24, had pleaded guilty to both charges, including taking part in and using a facial covering at an unauthorized assembly in October 2019 during the height of anti-government protests, the court heard. He had faced a maximum possible sentence of three years in jail. The sentence will extend a 13-and-a-half-month sentence he is already serving for organising an illegal assembly.

Reuters names first woman as editor-in-chief

Reuters has announced Alessandra Galloni, 47, will take over as its new editor-in-chief from next week, becoming the first woman to head the global news agency in its 170-year history. Galloni is taking over from Stephen J Adler, who is retiring. Thomson Reuters said in a statement. A native of Rome who speaks four languages, Galloni began her career at Reuters' Italian-language service and rejoined the agency in 2013 as editor of the Southern Europe bureau and later became global managing editor. During her time outside the agency, she spent 13 years in various positions at the Wall Street Journal in New York, London, Paris and Rome, specialising in business and economics coverage.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



People enjoy their drinks at The Fox on the Hill pub after its reopening, as the coronavirus disease restrictions ease, in London, Britain, yesterday. Crowds queued up outside shops, pubs started selling pints at midnight and hairdressers welcomed desperate customers as England started to reopen its economy after three months of lockdown. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia calls US 'adversary' Rejects Nato call to end Ukraine build-up

REUTERS, Brussels/Moscow

The United States called on Russia to halt a military build-up on Ukraine's border yesterday as Moscow, in words recalling the Cold War, said its "adversary" should keep US warships well away from annexed Crimea. Moscow seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and fighting has escalated in recent weeks in eastern Ukraine, where government forces have battled Russian-backed separatists in a seven-year conflict that Kyiv says has killed 14,000 people.

Two US warships are due to arrive in the Black Sea this week. In Brussels for talks with Nato leaders and Ukraine's foreign minister, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington stood firmly behind Ukraine. He also said he would discuss Kyiv's ambitions to one day join Nato - although France and Germany have long worried that bringing the former Soviet republic into the Western alliance would antagonise Russia.

"The United States is our adversary and does everything it can to undermine Russia's position on the world stage," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies on Tuesday. Ryabkov's remarks suggest that the diplomatic niceties which the former Cold War enemies have generally sought to observe in recent decades is fraying, and that Russia would robustly push back against what it regards as unacceptable US interference in its sphere of influence.

"We warn the United States that it will be better for them to stay far away from Crimea and our Black Sea coast. It will be for their own good," Ryabkov said, calling the US deployment a provocation.

Russia has regularly accused Nato of destabilising Europe with its troop reinforcements in the Baltics and Poland since the annexation of Crimea. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Russia had moved two armies and three paratrooper units to near its western borders in the last three weeks, responding to what it called threatening military action by Nato.

Don't play with fire on Taiwan

China tells US

REUTERS, Beijing

China yesterday told the United States to stop playing with fire over Taiwan and lodged a complaint after Washington issued guidelines that will enable US officials to meet more freely with officials from the island that China claims as its own.

The US State Department's Friday decision to deepen relations with self-ruled Taiwan came amid stepped-up Chinese military activity around the island, including almost daily air force incursions into Taiwan's air defence zone.

China urges the United States "not to play with fire on the Taiwan issue, immediately stop any form of US-Taiwan official contacts, cautiously and appropriately handle the matter, and not send wrong signals to Taiwan independence forces so as not to subversively influence and damage Sino-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

'Very bad gamble'

Iran FM warns Israel, US after 'attack' on the Natanz atomic site; Lavrov slams EU sanctions

AFP, Tehran

Iran and Russia united against the United States and Europe yesterday warning on the eve of new nuclear talks that an attack on the Natanz atomic site and new EU sanctions could harm ongoing negotiations.

Iran charged Monday that its arch-enemy Israel had sabotaged its Natanz uranium enrichment plant and vowed it would take "revenge" and expand its nuclear activities.

The latest of a string of incidents to hit Iran's nuclear programme came just days after talks opened in Vienna on bringing the United States back into a troubled 2015 deal that then US president Donald Trump abandoned in 2018.

Israel, which did not claim responsibility for the sabotage, is strongly opposed to US President Joe Biden's efforts to revive the agreement.

After talks with his visiting Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warned the US it would gain no extra leverage in Vienna through "acts of sabotage" and sanctions.

"The Americans should know that neither sanctions nor acts of sabotage will give them negotiation tools and these acts will only make the situation more difficult for them," Zarif told a joint news conference.

He also hit out at Israel. "If (Israel) thought that they can stop Iran from following up on lifting sanctions from the Iranian people, then they made a very bad gamble."

"What they did in Natanz, they thought it would reduce Iran's leverage" in Vienna talks but "it makes it possible for Iran ... to use any capacity it has at Natanz," he said.



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (right) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (left) during their meeting in Vienna.

Iran would make the enrichment plant "more powerful" by using advanced centrifuges, he added.

Unsources Israeli media reports attributed the Natanz disruption to a "cyber operation" by the Israeli security services. The New York Times, quoting unnamed US and Israeli intelligence officials, also said there had been "an Israeli role" in the attack in which an explosion had "completely destroyed" the power system that fed the plant's "underground centrifuges".

Quoting another unnamed intelligence source yesterday, it added an "explosive device had been smuggled" into the site and "detonated remotely," taking out primary and backup power. The White House said the US "was not involved in any manner".

Lavrov blasted the European Union for slapping sanctions on eight Iranian security officials, saying that the blacklisting threatens efforts to restore the deal.

In response to the EU sanctions, Iran said Monday it was suspending cooperation in various fields including "terrorism, drug (trafficking) and refugees".

Pandemic gainers should pay

UN chief pushes tax on world's richest who gained \$5 trillion during crisis; WHO urges halt to sale of live wild mammals in food markets

AGENCIES

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged governments on Monday to consider imposing a "solidarity or wealth tax" on the rich - who made money during the coronavirus pandemic - in a bid to cut extreme inequality.

"We must make sure funds go where they are needed most. Latest reports indicate that there has been a \$5 trillion surge in the wealth of the world's richest in the past year," Guterres told a UN meeting on financing for development.

"I urge governments to consider a solidarity or wealth tax on those who have profited during the pandemic, to reduce extreme inequalities," he said.

Guterres again said the Group of 20 rich nations and big emerging powers should extend debt service suspension into 2022 and to expand it to help both developing and middle-



income economies recover from the pandemic.

"But we need to go beyond debt relief," Guterres said. "We urgently need to strengthen the international debt architecture to end the deadly cycles of debt waves, global debt crises and lost decades."

Guterres also repeated his call for Covid-19 vaccines to be made available to all countries and appealed for more money to fully fund the COVAX vaccine sharing facility.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization called on yesterday for a halt to the sale of live wild

mammals in food markets to prevent the emergence of new diseases such as Covid-19.

The WHO said because traditional markets play a central role in providing food and livelihoods for large populations, banning the sale of live wild mammals could protect the health of market workers and customers alike.

The call came in fresh guidance drawn up in conjunction with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The three agencies said wild animals were the source of most emerging infectious diseases in humans and recommended measures to reduce the potential risk.

Europe passed the grim milestone of one million coronavirus deaths on Monday with coronavirus has already killed more than 2.9 million people and infected nearly 136 million across the world.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কটন এগ্রোনমিস্টের কার্যালয়
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কৃষি সমৃদ্ধি

কাঁচা কাঠাল বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-১১০

তাং-১৩/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ

চলতি মৌসুমে তুলা গবেষণা, প্রশিক্ষণ ও বীজ বর্ধন খামার, শ্রীপুর গাজীপুরের নির্ধারিত সীমানার মধ্যে অবস্থিত ৬৬৫ (ছয়শত পয়ষট্টি) টি ফলবান কাঁঠাল গাছে ১৬৭৭৪ (ষোল হাজার সাতশত চুয়ান্বত্র) টি কাঁচা কাঁঠাল নিলাম দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে।

আগ্রহী ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট থেকে আগামী ০৪/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর ও উপজেলা কৃষি অফিস, শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর এর দপ্তরে সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখা হতে প্রতিটি সিডিউল ও শর্তাবলী নগদ ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকার বিনিময়ে (অফেরৎযোগ্য) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। নিলাম দরপত্র আগামী ০৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অত্র খামারের দরপত্র বাস্তবে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং ঐ দিনই ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় দরদাতাগণের বৈধ প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র যাচাই ও মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে। নিলাম দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হবে না। দরপত্রের সাথে প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ড্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ছায়ািলপি এবং যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে প্রতিষ্ঠানের আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদপত্রের ছায়ািলপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। অন্যান্য সকল শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন অথবা সকল নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি কোডিত ১৯ বিবেচনায় নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও মূল্যায়নের তারিখ সংশোধনযোগ্য।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
গাজী মোঃ ফরহাদ হোসেন
কটন এগ্রোনমিস্ট
☎ : ০১৭১৪-২৯৬৭৮৪
E-mail: ca.sreepur@gmail.com

জিডি-৭৬২

রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ
শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

স্মারকঃ রবিবা/পওউ/কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক সামগ্রী ক্রয়/১১৮/২০২১/২৮

তারিখঃ ১১/০৪/২০২১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা পিপিআর ২০০৮ অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত দরপত্রের যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১. মন্ত্রালয়/বিভাগ	শিক্ষা মন্ত্রালয়।
২. এজেন্সি	বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন।
৩. সংগ্রহকারী স্থলার নাম	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
৪. সংগ্রহকারী স্থলার কোড	বর্তমান ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে না।
৫. সংগ্রহকারী স্থলার জেলা	সিরাজগঞ্জ।
৬. কি কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর জন্য কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক সামগ্রী ক্রয়।
৭. আহ্বানের সূত্র	রবিবা/পওউ/কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক সামগ্রী ক্রয়/১১৮/২০২১/
৮. তারিখ	১১/০৪/২০২১।
৯. সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
১০. বাজেট এন্ড সোর্স অফ ফান্ড	জিওবি।
১১. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর	০৩/২০২০-২১।
১২. দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	১৩/০৪/২০২১।
১৩. দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	২৭/০৪/২০২১ (অফিস সময় পর্যন্ত)।
১৪. দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৪/২০২১ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত।
১৫. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৪/২০২১ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০টা।
১৬. দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	উপপরিচালক (চলতি দায়িত্ব), পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন-এর কার্যালয়, অস্থায়ী অফিস (বাড়ি ৭৮/১, কান্দাপাড়া, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ)। দিয়ার্জো অফিসঃ বাড়ি ৬৫/এ, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৯।
১৭. দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন দপ্তর, রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, দিয়ার্জো অফিসঃ বাড়ি ৬৫/এ, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৯।
১৮. দরপত্র দাখিল খোলার দপ্তর	পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন দপ্তর, রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, দিয়ার্জো অফিসঃ বাড়ি ৬৫/এ, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৯।
১৯. দরপত্রাদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	১. যে কোন সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান যাদের হালনাগাদ ড্রেড লাইসেন্স, মূল্য সংযোজন কর নিবন্ধীকরণ, টিআইএন ও ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদপত্র রয়েছে। ২. সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিগত (চার) বছরের মধ্যে ১,০০,০০,০০০.০০ (এক কোটি) টাকার কার্যবাহী থাকত হবে। ৩. কমপক্ষে ৩০,০০,০০০.০০ (ত্রিশ লক্ষ) টাকার ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি থাকত হবে। ৪. দরপত্রের সঙ্গে কোনরূপ মিথ্যা সনদপত্র দাখিল করলে এবং প্রমাণিত হলে জামানতের অর্থ বাতিলসহ ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে Debarred করার জন্য সুপারিশ করা হইবে।
২০. কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা	সিডিউল মোতাবেক।
২১. কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণী	--

প্যাকেজ নম্বর	কাজের নাম	অবস্থান	জামানতের পরিমাণ (টাকা)	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য (টাকা)	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময় দিন/সপ্তাহ
প্যাকেজ নম্বরঃ ০৩ (লটঃ ০২টি)	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর ব্যবহারের জন্য কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক সামগ্রী সংগ্রহ	বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ	লট-১ঃ ৪৫,০০০.০০ লট-২ঃ ৪৫,০০০.০০	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) (অক্ষরতযোগ্য)	২৮ (আটশ) দিন

২২. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম ও পদবিঃ মোঃ শিবলী মাহবুব, উপপরিচালক (চলতি দায়িত্ব), (পওউ), রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ।

২৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর যোগাযোগের ঠিকানাঃ টেলিফোন/মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১১-৬০৬৮১৫, ইমেইলঃ riad2092@gmail.com

২৪. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হইতে পরবর্তী ৬০ (ষাট) দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বহাল থাকবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
মোঃ শিবলী মাহবুব
উপপরিচালক (চলতি দায়িত্ব)
পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন দপ্তর
রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ

জিডি-৭৫৬

GRAPE VINE

PORI MONI'S dream come true

Pori Moni is set to work as the brand ambassador of Hash Marka Gondhoraj Oil. Ever since she was a child, she had dreamt of modelling for that brand. Finally, her dream has come true. She will be seen in multiple advertisements of the brand. Recently, the Tauquir Ahmed directed film Sphulingo was released, where she was featured in. Pori Moni recently completed the shooting for the film Mukhosh, directed by Iftekhar Shuvo. Her film, Adventure of Sundarban, is awaiting its release.



Amina Hossain

PHOTO: COLLECTED

INDO-BENGAL DUET



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Singer Sabbir Nasir and Kolkata-based singer Shampa Biswas, known for her appearance in Sa Re Ga Ma Pa sang a duet together, titled Binodini Rai. The lyrics and the tune for the song were made by Plabon Koreshi. The musical arrangements were done by Rial Ashiq. Sabbir Nasir said, "I hope that the new song will turn out well. I tried to keep the originality of the tune intact while singing. I hope the audience will like it." Plabon Koreshi said, "We will find traces of Bangladesh in this song. I have been very meticulous in the songwriting and composing department."

Amina Hossain

SHAKIB KHAN'S new eid feature

The shooting of the Eid special film, Antaratma, featuring Shakib Khan, has been completed. Audiences were amazed seeing the diverse looks of the film that were periodically released. He hasn't yet posted any pictures with the Kolkata-based actor, Darshana Banik who will be seen alongside him. The film has been directed by Wajed Ali Sumon. Sohani Hossain wrote the storyline while Ferrari Farhad wrote the dialogues. According to the director, "The post-production of the film is taking place in India. If the pandemic is within control, the film will be released on the coming Eid-ul-Fitr." The film will also feature Shahed Sharif Khan, Aruna Biswas, Jhuna Chowdhury and S M Mohsin, among others.

Amina Hossain



PHOTO: COLLECTED

COVER STORY

CREATIVE GROWTH

Since she started uploading music to 'YouTube' five years ago, Xefer has made an impact on the music industry. From releasing her debut album, 'Uncaged' to being the executive producer for 'No Dorai', she has done a lot in a relatively short period of time. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, she talks about her start as an artist and how she spent the COVID-19 pandemic working on music and expanding herself creatively.

Rafi Hossain: Today we are joined by a very special guest, Xefer Rahman. How are you doing nowadays?

Xefer: I am very busy with work nowadays. Sometime back we got to loosen restrictions a bit so we were able to work more, but now I think that the situation is getting worse again. So, we are working while making sure to stay cautious regarding the pandemic.

Rafi: I hear many people from your generation say that older people have too much patriotic sentiment. What are your thoughts on that?

Xefer: I think that if someone has too much patriotism then that is a good thing. The sacrifices people made so that we have this country are something that we should be proud of. I don't know the point of view of people who say that too much patriotism is bad, but from my own point of view, I think we all should have a lot of patriotic sentiment.

Rafi: As an artist, how do you want to present yourself as a Bangladeshi to the whole world?

Xefer: As an artist, it is difficult, so what is the right way to present myself and what is the wrong way? Art is very subjective, and we should be able to express ourselves in whichever way we like. But



to only have music as your only career. Some even say that the industry is in dire conditions and that it is going through a crisis. And after the pandemic, it affected the industry even more. What do you think the state of the showbiz industry will be after the pandemic is over?

Xefer: Since the beginning of the pandemic, it's not just people in the showbiz industry that were affected. People who owned businesses were also affected badly. From an artist's standpoint, it affected me badly. We stopped being able to do live shows, so that was very bad for us. Since music is my main earning source, I had to think a lot about what I must do. But after restrictions loosened, people were able to do some small shows here and there. During the quarantine, I spent a lot of time working on new songs, and I also got to think about things I probably would not have had time to think about during the regular busy life. But I have to admit, I am privileged in a way as I did not have to worry about my earnings be it for savings and other reasons, whereas there were many people who had to worry about how they were going to put food on their plates on the daily. So, I was very fortunate that way. Now I cannot tell you what the industry will be like after the pandemic, but in my case, I just spent my quarantine time working on new songs which will help my music career. Aside from this, I have an announcement to make. I recently got appointed as the brand ambassador for the clothing brand LoveGen. It is an already established brand in India. I will be doing a lot of work with them in the coming days.

Rafi: You worked as an executive producer on 'No Dorai'. Will we be seeing you in that role again in the near future?

Xefer: It was a very interesting experience to be the executive producer of the film. I put in some input to the film and also helped out with some of the creative processes for it. However, I don't think that I can manage to do that role as a profession, but if I do find a very interesting project in the future, then I will definitely consider doing it again.

Rafi: You strike me as someone who is very interested in fashion. Were you always very fashion conscious?

Xefer: Even when I was very little, I always liked the idea of being a fashion designer. Even before getting into music, I was into fashion. However, after I started music, I knew that I was more into making music, but fashion always had a place in my heart. I am just naturally interested in fashion, there was no planning there. I do make custom outfits for my music videos and the photoshoots with those videos. I also have designed some of those outfits which I have worn.

Rafi: Xefer, you have been a musician for five years now. Could you please tell us what your journey in

music has been like over these five years?

Xefer: When my journey started, it was very unexpected for me. Before me, I don't think anyone had made a career in music by making songs and putting them on YouTube. I used to do it as a hobby, and it came as a massive shock to me when I realized that people were really liking what I put out. I never really made a song that was meant to be a very commercial song. I just made whatever I felt like, and for most of my career, I made songs in English. My progress in the industry was slow, but steadily increasing. But now I have been doing playbacks and I even had a song in No Dorai. So the last five years were an interesting experience, and I hope the next five years will be good for me and my career.

Rafi: What should one do to retain a good career in music?

Xefer: I don't think that I am the right person to advise on this. But for me, what helped me retain the fame I have is that I always stayed true to my craft. There were times when I made a song and if I didn't like it then I would not put it out. I only released something if I liked it. I stayed passionate and did what I liked. But during the pandemic, I got the chance to explore myself more musically. I got to evolve as an artist and my music style changed a bit. I try to evolve as an artist and I think people will get to see my evolution more prominently in the future. And I wholeheartedly believe that I have more to offer as an artist.

Rafi: Who are your favorite musicians, both old and new?

Xefer: From the newer artists, I really like the work that Pritom has been doing, and there's a relatively newer artist called Farooque Bhai, I really like his music too. I also like the music that Pragata is doing and also Fairouz. There are many more new artists who I think are doing great. From the more senior artists, I love Arnob, Fuad bhai, James, Ark, Chirkutt, Nemesis, and many others. When I started making music, I was heavily inspired by the band Evanescence, but with time I think my inspirations also changed. Now I have had so many artists that have inspired me.

Rafi: Do you have any final message for the readers?

Xefer: I think right now the main thing that I want to tell people is that we are still in a pandemic, so we must remain cautious. Wear masks, wash your hands and make sure to not only stay healthy but to ensure that your families are healthy as well. I know that a lot of people have to go out and work, but make sure to remain cautious if you must go out. Make sure to maintain social distancing. We must stay safe, and better days are ahead.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some binge worthy movie and TV series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.



Hello, Me

Hello, Me is a South Korean drama fantasy television series on Netflix. It has been directed by Lee Hyun-seok, produced by Jung Ah-reum and Jung Hyun-joo, and stars Kim Young-kwang, Choi Kang-hee, and Lee Re among others. The show, which has been based on Kim Hye-jung's novel, Fantastic Girl, tells the story of a woman who meets her younger self and becomes inspired to bring changes in her current life. It was first released on February 17, 2021.

KARNAN

Karnan is a Tamil action and drama film. It has been directed by Mari Selvaraj, produced by Kalaipuli S. Thanu, and stars stars Dhanush, Lal, Yogi Babu, and Natarajan Subramaniam among others. The film follows the story of a young man who has to fight for his village and its people who have been discriminated against for years due to their caste. It was originally released on April 9, 2021.



American Gods

American Gods is a fantasy drama television series that is available on Amazon Prime Video and has been based on the eponymous novel by Neil Gaiman. The series has been developed by Bryan Fuller and Michael Green, who also produced the show alongside others, and stars Ricky Whittle, Emily Browning, and Crispin Glover among others. It follows the life of an ex-convict, who, after getting released, gets a mysterious job offer which leads to him being involved with people in a world where magic is real. It was released on April 30, 2017 with the final episode being aired on March 21, 2021.

Shreya Shomoyeeta

Pandemic pushing up poverty rate again

Recovery depends on govt's aid packages and mass vaccination

ACCORDING to a new report released by the World Bank, the ongoing pandemic has reversed Bangladesh's steady trend of poverty reduction, which had continued over the past two decades. Data from the government showed that the poverty rate in the country stood at 21.8 percent in December 2019. Therefore, it can be safely assumed that the rate right now is much higher than that.

Various studies that came out in the recent past had estimated that the pandemic created somewhere between 17.5 and 20 million new poor in the country. And the World Bank also said that 30 percent of the country's population is now living below the poverty line. Despite the government's relatively quick response to the economic shock from the pandemic, its aid packages to the poor were not very effective due to a number of implementation challenges. And small businesses also struggled to access the government's stimulus funds.

Once the first wave of the pandemic started to subside, things did begin to look up, according to the World Bank study. However, as the country is now being severely hit by a new wave of the virus, things could again get much worse.

As we enter a fresh round of "hard lockdown", the economy is expected to get hit hard again. And many more people could lose their jobs as a result, particularly those working in the informal sector—which makes up the majority of our labour force. In order to mitigate these losses and to prevent more people from falling back into poverty, the government needs to immediately come up with new aid packages. However, they must also be designed better and be delivered more efficiently.

At the same time, the government's number one priority has to be to reduce the spread of the virus, so that businesses can go back to functioning as close to normal, as early as possible. In the long run, that is the best way of ensuring that the economic shock of the pandemic is minimised. And for that, mass vaccination is key, as the World Bank pointed out.

Controlling the pandemic

Community engagement is an essential element of a multipronged strategy

THE best strategy to fight the pandemic is to stifle its spread. This was brought out quite clearly during the last one year of our experience of the virus.

Although the government has decided, belatedly though, to go for a general lockdown to curb the spread of the virus, it doesn't quite solve the ancillary problems thrown up by the pandemic. A general lockdown has far wider and severer implication; the economic impacts leave an equally damaging effect, if not more, on the nation. It throws up the question of lives and livelihood. The efficacy of the combat plan depends on how a balance is made between the two. This dichotomy is not unique to Bangladesh. Even the rich nations have faced the same contrasting compulsions.

Combating the pandemic demands a multipronged effort and this aspect was brought out very well in a virtual discussion organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue on Monday. Thus, a lockdown must also come with adequate support to the marginalised so that health safety measures can be enforced more effectively. And, apart from the government's fiscal policy to deal with the economic impact, particularly on the marginalised segment of society, experts felt that the role of the community in dealing with the pandemic was an indispensable aspect of the mitigation effort. Community based efforts to improve awareness regarding the health safety measures would be more effective than the general efforts that we have experienced so far. And the community can also pool resources, both cash and kind, to help those who would be comparatively at a greater disadvantage than the others more fortunate. The suggestion of building community isolation centres that can be operated with the help of patients' relatives is an idea worth considering.

We hope that the administration will give due consideration to the suggestions made at the conference. We are sure too, that the government will come up with aid programmes like last year. While those previous efforts were partly blunted by some unscrupulous officials and local leaders, we hope that will not be allowed to happen this time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Joyful childhood education a must

Education is said to be the backbone of the nation, the means of development, and the key to social change. Learning something new has always been exciting to children, but an unfavourable and unfriendly learning atmosphere instills a fear of studying in their minds. In the deep-rooted tradition of rote learning, the tag of "examinee" has been stuck to them, eating away at their curiosity in learning new things. It is important for education to be pleasant and joyful for the children, otherwise it becomes nothing more than a process of simply obtaining a certificate.

Wares Ali Khan, Sadar, Narsingdi

The secular spirit of Pahela Baishakh

A look into the history of the Bangla New Year can tell us how Pahela Baishakh is rooted in all the different traditions and faiths of this diverse land

MUHAMMAD ENAMUL HAQUE

LET us think about the origin of the Bangla Noboborsho—how it evolved through the years and what the current status of this Noboborsho is. The way we celebrate our new year is quite different from the way other nations of the world celebrate it, which is only natural, given that different nations live in different geographical locations and environments.

The phrase "Bangla Noboborsho" (Bangla New Year) is synonymous with "Pahela Baishakh" (the first day of Baishakh) now. It took thousands

In some places, the new year would be celebrated in winter, while in other places it would be celebrated in spring or autumn, based on the importance of the season to that particular place. Moreover, small seasonal festivals would be held on a regular basis. It is easily understandable that the main seasonal festival of the Bengal region used to be celebrated in summer. And all over the world, the main seasonal festivals of the year have turned into the new year festival. The same may have happened here. What I think is, in Bangladesh the havoc wreaked by the *Kalboishakhi* (nor'wester), followed by the new creation of life in nature, compelled



PHOTO: STAR

of years for these two terms/phrases to become synonymous with each other. Noboborsho used to be celebrated as a seasonal festival in ancient societies, whereas Pahela Baishakh used to be celebrated as an agricultural festival by the non-nomadic people. In ancient times when people followed a nomadic lifestyle, they used to celebrate seasonal festivals according to the change of seasons. When people invented agricultural science, they settled down. They started to live in one place permanently as they had to sow seeds and harvest at the right time of the year. They then learned that 12 moons made one year. Basically, Baishakh, Jaishtha, etc. are lunar months.

What is notable here is that in different parts of the world, the new year used to be celebrated in different seasons.

us to accept the dominance of summer in our life. If not, there would be religious influences on our new year celebrations as our country is inhabited by Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and many Indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, we don't see any such influence on our new year festivals.

Some may say that the occasion of *halkhata* is influenced by religion. It has been observed that a religious *shostibachon* is usually written on top of the *halkhata*. While a Muslim businessman writes "Elahi Bharosha", a Hindu person writes "Nomo Goneshay Nomo". Similarly, a Buddhist writes "Budhdhong Shronong Guochhami....." while a Christian draws a crucifix. But that does not mean this occasion is influenced by any religion. This *shostibachon* is only an expression of one's personal religious belief.

Bangla Noboborsho is an ancient tradition of this country. Through the festivals of Pahela Baishakh, the people of this country have kept their traditions alive. Singing, dancing, feasting, etc. are the common features of any festival, be it ancient or new. Although in this modern age, some features of this festival have changed, the basics of this festival remained the same.

Although at present, *halkhata* has become a business-related occasion, it was originally related to agriculture. In ancient times, business was done based on a reciprocal relationship. A household head would keep some of his agricultural produce for his family's consumption and trade the rest with others. He would keep count by tying a knot in the rope, or by accumulating rocks. *Halkhata* is a derivative of this.

There was also an occasion called *Punnah*, which is not in practice nowadays. It was a lively event in which taxes would be collected and the *Zamindar* and his subjects would meet and exchange pleasantries. This occasion was entirely based on agriculture as there was no other way for the farmers to pay tax if the harvest was not good. Needless to say, at the beginning the farmers would pay taxes with their produce, and later it was done through the use of coins. No religious rituals were related to this occasion. Here, I want to mention the Sanskrit word *bhubreehi* [the person who harvested *bhu* (much) *breehi* (paddy)]. The phrase *dhaner jamidar* can be mentioned here as well.

Another agriculture-based occasion was *gorur dour* (cow race), which is now extinct. On Pahela Baishakh or Bangla Noboborsho, this race would be arranged in Munshiganj of Dhaka. There was no religious element in this event either. In southern India, such an event still takes place.

The seasonal and agricultural festivals of the country have evolved into fairs of the new year. Agricultural products and handicrafts are sold in these fairs. It should be noted here that although most of the fairs of the world are influenced by religions, religions have not yet had any influence on our fairs.

The Gomveera, held both in India's Maladaha and Pakistan's Rajshahi, is an exclusive occasion of the new year. Speaking about the origin and evolution of Gomveera, Pundit Haridash Palit said that it is an evolved form of Gajon of Shiva. Because in these songs by addressing *bhola* (Bholanath is equal to Shiva), the singer depicts the stories of happiness and woes of the people. But one thing Haridash Palit didn't notice is that *Shiber Gajon* is held on the day of *Chaitra Shangkranti*, the last day of the Bangla month Chaitra, not in Baishakh. Neither did he say anything about why the occasion of Gomveera takes place throughout the month of Baishakh.

The Muslims believe that *bhola* is not Shiva or Bholanath. According to them, *bhola* is the person who has forgotten and ignored all his responsibilities and thus brought misfortune to people. The Muslims say that Gomveera is *Saltamamir Gan*, which depicts the distresses of the bygone year and wishes of preventing such sad events in the future.

Bangla Noboborsho is an ancient tradition of this country. Through the festivals of Pahela Baishakh, the people of this country have kept their traditions alive. Singing, dancing, feasting, etc. are the common features of any festival, be it ancient or new. Although in this modern age, some features of this festival have changed, the basics of this festival remained the same. So the Bangla Noboborsho is a seasonal as well as an agricultural festival. But this festival is, in no way, related to any religion.

This is an excerpt of Dr Muhammad Enamul Haque's article titled "Bangla Noboborsho ba Pahela Baishakh", translated by Naznin Titli (Source: *Bangladesher Utsab: Nababarsha*, edited by Mobarak Hossain and Kutub Azad, published by Bangla Academy). This article was originally published on April 13, 2015 in *The Daily Star's* Noboborsho Special Supplement.

On President Biden's Climate Summit and John Kerry's visit to Dhaka

POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

he was withdrawing former President Trump's withdrawal letter from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and that the United States was rejoining the Paris Agreement.

He has since followed this up by appointing John Kerry, who was President Obama's Secretary of State and had been key in achieving the Paris Agreement in 2015, as Biden's Climate Envoy. He has also declared that he wants the US to not only rejoin the Paris Agreement, but to become a leader in tackling climate change with the degree of seriousness that the issue deserved.

In that vein, he also plans to hold a leaders' climate summit on April 22, where he will be inviting 40 of the world's leaders to join virtually and support the US in taking stronger actions regarding the climate crisis, and prepare to make really meaningful progress at COP26 (to be held in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, hosted by the United Kingdom).

President Biden has sent his Climate Envoy, John Kerry, around the world to hand-deliver his invitation to the leaders' climate summit. Kerry just visited India and Bangladesh, where he delivered the invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has formally accepted the invitation. During his stay in Dhaka, he was hosted for lunch by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, where I had the privilege of being invited to join.

So, what can our expectations be from President Biden's Climate Summit?

The first point to reiterate is that, while the world has indeed welcomed President Biden rejoining the Paris Agreement and also his declaration that he wanted the US to become a world leader in tackling the climate crisis, he will need to earn that position of leadership. This means that his actions will speak louder than his words.

Therefore, the biggest challenge that every country has to deliver on is to make meaningful plans for getting to

net zero emissions and not just pledges to reach that goal by 2050, although the pledges are indeed important as well. The US has yet to share its pledge and plans, and we look forward to some really ambitious plans which will enable the global temperature to be kept below a 1.5 degrees Centigrade warming, which is what all countries agreed to in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Delivering these emissions reductions at the national level is by far the most

credibility of the developed countries.

To Biden's credit, he has promised to pay the USD two billion that was due from the US in the year 2020 and has said that he will also raise more during 2021.

The challenge for the US will be to get all the other countries to deliver their promised amounts for both 2020 as well as 2021. An associated issue with the amounts made available is with the distribution for developing countries to either tackle mitigation or adaptation



US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at State Guest House Padma on Friday, 9 April, 2021. PHOTO: COURTESY

important action that Biden and his government have to deliver, and will be judged by. To his credit, President Biden has indeed appointed some very climate change-savvy cabinet members and is taking an all-of-government approach to tackling climate change in the US. His recent USD two trillion infrastructure bill has detailed a lot of actions to tackle climate change. These are indeed welcome developments.

The second pledge that Biden will have to deliver on is one made by the developed countries in Paris in 2015 to collectively provide USD 100 billion a year to the developing countries so they may tackle climate change, starting from 2020. The share of the US to this pledge was USD three billion, and President Obama provided USD one billion of that just before he handed power over to Trump, who then stopped payments of the remaining amount.

Partly for this reason, the year 2020 has come and gone without the USD 100 billion having been provided to developing countries, as promised in Paris in 2015. This has left a major dent in the

to the climate crisis. The demand from the vulnerable developing countries has always been for the ratio of support to be 50/50 for mitigation and adaptation, with the adaptation funds being targeted at the most vulnerable of the developing countries. However, from the data available so far, the ratio for 2020 was 80 percent for mitigation going to a handful of bigger developing countries and only 20 percent for adaptation in the majority of vulnerable developing countries. This imbalance must be rectified going forward.

The third and final major issue to be addressed is the fact that loss and damage due to a rise in the global temperature over one degree Centigrade due to human-induced climate change has become a reality in 2020, and people have lost lives, property and ecosystems due to super wildfires, cyclones, typhoons, hurricanes, and even droughts and heatwaves—all of which are now scientifically linked to human-induced climate change. While this does not mean that these climatic events occurred because of climate change, it is true that

they have become more severe because of the higher global temperature due to the emissions of greenhouse gases over the last decades.

This topic remains a politically sensitive one, as the major-emitting countries do not wish to discuss funding for the victims of loss and damage for fear of being opened up to claims of liability and compensation. Indeed, John Kerry himself inserted a clause in the COP21 decision associated with the Paris Agreement in 2015, in which he insisted that acceptance of Article 8 on Loss and Damage in the Paris Agreement could not be used for liability and compensation.

I had the opportunity during the lunch in Dhaka to ask Kerry about his views on funding the victims of human-induced climate change for the loss and damage that they have suffered. His response was to acknowledge that this was now a reality but that we should focus on raising funds for adaptation and resilience rather than for loss and damage, which he felt would be too politically difficult in terms of convincing the US Congress, who are in charge of fund allocation.

I must say that this response disappointed me and I felt that he was repeating exactly what he had said in Paris back in 2015. The challenge for the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) countries, and for Bangladesh as their leader, is to explain and convince the Biden administration that one of the most consequential outcomes of the US government refusing to fulfil its obligations under the Paris Agreement for the last four years, has been to make the visible and scientifically attributable loss and damage from human-induced climate a reality. Even if the US does not want to make payments as forms of liability and compensation, they can still make funds available under a sense of solidarity with the victims of climate change.

President Biden finding it difficult to convince his Republican Senators to fund victims of the climate crisis is not an acceptable reason for the rest of the world to give the US a pass on this issue.

We must challenge the US to demonstrate that it recognises that loss and damage is truly attributable to human-induced climate change and that it believes the victims deserve funds, which are well beyond adaptation and resilience only.

Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and Chair of the Expert Advisory Group of the Climate Vulnerable Forum.

Fifty years of the evolution of trade policy in Bangladesh



THE country celebrated the golden jubilee of independence this year, and there is indeed much to celebrate. Analysts of all shades of opinion have hailed the quality of social and economic progress achieved by the country which was, at inception, derided as a "basket case" by none other than Henry Kissinger, the then US secretary of state. Bangladesh emerged in 1972 with a per capita income of under USD 100, at the bottom of the income pile, in the company of such nations as Chad, Rwanda, Burundi, and Nepal. Today, having crossed the per capita income threshold of USD 2000, with a GDP of USD 325 billion, it ranks in the top 40 economies of the world by GDP.

The growth momentum it picked up in the 1990s has not lost steam yet. The minor dip in fiscal year (FY) 2020 notwithstanding, over the past two decades, Bangladesh has recorded the fastest rate of GDP growth among developing countries. Any economy that consistently records six to seven percent GDP growth per annum for two decades has to experience significant augmentation of income per capita accompanied with substantial reduction of poverty. The economy and society also undergoes momentous transformation as a consequence. That is exactly what has happened in this country of 166 million people.

What were the key drivers of this notable transformation? Of course, there were positive political and social developments that planted the pillars of stability and inclusiveness in the transformation process. In my view, the general direction of economic policies was broadly consistent with the fundamental tenets of macroeconomic stability that laid the foundations for rapid growth and poverty reduction. To keen observers of the Bangladesh economic scene, the trigger that unleashed the forces of rapid economic growth would have to be the radical change of direction in trade policy (complemented by market orientation and deregulation) during much of the 1990s. It is now possible to make the assessment that after the first two decades of prevarication in trade policy, Bangladesh was able to change course and get it right—at least partially so. In my assessment, nowhere in the policy space was there such a radical change of direction as in the case of trade policy. Evidence shows that Bangladesh massively reaped the benefits of those changes in the subsequent decades.

In the 1970s, trade policy as an instrument of development never seemed to have been on the radar. The priority agenda was addressing massive poverty and fuelling economic recovery, largely through domestic policies supported with donor assistance. By default, the trade policy stance was a legacy of the past—where East Pakistan was turned into a captive market for West Pakistani financial and industrial corporates via high tariffs and import controls, resulting in an inward-looking import substituting economy. Starting with zero foreign exchange reserves to pay for much needed imports, high tariffs and import controls were found to be the expedient approach to keep from falling into a balance of payments

crisis. The notable industrial and trade policy innovation (indeed, we can call it that) came with the special dispensation formulated for the readymade garments industry at the end of the decade. The innovation was the grant of duty-free importation of inputs and back-to-back letter of credit (LC) facility to cover import costs, to be paid from export proceeds. Taking advantage of this facility, Desh garments, set up by an influential civil servant, collaborated with the Korean firm, Daewoo, to launch a 100 percent export-oriented enterprise to access Western markets under the multi-fibre arrangement (MFA) that offered export quotas for Bangladesh. Thus was born Bangladesh's leading manufacturing sector, that would exploit Bangladesh's comparative advantage in labour-intensive production and create millions of jobs, particularly for women. The rest is history.

There were three notable developments in the trade policy arena during the 1980s. First, there was widespread disenchantment over import substitution—which restricted imports to grow domestic industries—as a strategy of development, because there was growing evidence that this approach neither generated competitive industrialisation nor fuelled growth. On the other hand, protectionism tended to perpetuate itself, leaving numerous inefficient firms in its wake, as "infant" industries failed to become competitive and needed higher protection over time to survive. Second, departing from the import substitution regime, a new development paradigm—export-led growth—had emerged out of the tremendous export-led growth successes of several East Asian economies (described by the World Bank as the East Asian Miracle) in the 1960s and 1970s. By the 1980s, this new paradigm had got a firm foothold in development discourse. Third, there was the Washington Consensus—a set of free-market economic policies that emphasised *inter alia* trade liberalisation and was promoted by multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB)—which gained currency among development institutions and most development practitioners.

Inexplicably, these significant developments in the policy sphere got little attention from policymakers in Bangladesh. Thus, as far as trade policy developments in Bangladesh are concerned, the 1980s was a lost decade. There was little traction in mainstreaming trade policy as an instrument for development as the government took no initiative to bring trade policies into the development discourse. When trade-related actions were taken at the prompting of multilateral institutions, it tended to be episodic (for example, tied to some World Bank loan) and limited to tariff liberalisation for specific imports or sectors, without a holistic approach towards the overall extent of trade openness or measures to augment competitiveness.

The only notable development was the tariff liberalisation for imports of agricultural inputs, which complemented the deregulation in domestic agricultural markets—for seeds, fertiliser, machinery and implements. The general trade policy stance did little to improve the balance of payments (BOP) situation, nor did it fuel GDP growth, which was anaemic throughout the decade, culminating in the BOP crisis of 1990. What could be levelled



PHOTO: AFP

as a missed opportunity was the lack of an effort to adopt the new paradigm of export-led development. Thankfully, that changed in the subsequent decade.

The 1990s was truly the golden period of trade policy developments when you consider the whole gamut of radical changes in the trade policy regime that were launched at the start of the decade. At the close of the 1980s, the economy was literally in shambles. GDP growth was anaemic, foreign exchange reserves had reached rock bottom, and financing of the BOP deficit was at a dead end. The confluence of an economic and political crisis (collapse of the Ershad regime and the onset of democracy) paved the way for radical reforms. The economic mess left by the departing regime had to be cleared first to restore the economy's potential for growth and poverty reduction. The WB-IMF stepped in to save the situation with structural adjustment loans and BOP support on the back of wide-ranging trade policy reforms, in addition to measures for restoring internal macroeconomic stability through fiscal conservatism, market orientation, deregulation of investment and privatisation of state-owned enterprises, *a la* Washington Consensus.

Compared to the previous 20 years, the trade policy changes undertaken could be termed radical indeed, and included (a) sharp reduction and rationalisation of tariffs, (b) significant import liberalisation through removal of bans, quantitative restrictions (QRs) and import licensing (end of the license Raj), (c) move from fixed to flexible exchange rates, and (d) convertibility of the current account. This time, trade liberalisation during the 1990s was deep and pervasive. In 2001, a seminal World Bank study on the impact of trade liberalisation on growth and poverty (by David Dollar and Art Kraay, titled "Trade, Growth and Poverty" and published in *The Economic Journal*) listed Bangladesh among the "globalisers" of the developing world, confirming that these globalisers were experiencing rapid growth in incomes and decline in poverty.

In hindsight, we can argue that the WB findings signalled the dawn of a new era of trade openness that fuelled rapid growth and poverty reduction in Bangladesh with the advent of the 21st century. The strategy of export-led growth built on the back of trade liberalising policies had finally taken hold in the policy space. The liberalising reforms of the

1990s, albeit incomplete, generated enough momentum to stimulate export-oriented manufacturing growth, job creation, and poverty reduction for the next two decades. Average decadal GDP growth began rising by over one percentage point every decade—4.8 percent in FY91-00, 5.9 percent in FY2001-10, and 7.2 percent in FY2011-19. The moderate poverty rate, which was 57 percent in 1990, was nearly halved by 2010 (31.5 percent), and is estimated to be around 20 percent in 2019—a highly effective sign of inclusive growth. These positive developments notwithstanding, a closer look at the tariff developments during the two decades of the 21st century points towards a stalemate in the tariff structure during the latter part.

Unlike the 1990s, the first decade of the 21st century saw a slowdown in tariff reduction and other trade reforms. The reform highlight of this decade was the move from flexible to floating exchange rate (a managed float, actually) launched by Bangladesh Bank in 2004, along with a final elimination by the Ministry of Commerce of all bans/QRs on

imports for protection reasons. The latter was done through a modest scheme of tariffication of the last remaining QRs on textile imports. One para-tariff, the infrastructure development surcharge (IDSC) was eliminated and absorbed with custom duties (CD). But no sooner was this chapter closed, another para-tariff, the regulatory duty (RD) of three percent across the board, emerged in FY2010. It is fair to say that with that closed the chapter on tariff reforms. RD, which by law has to be renewed every year, has gained a life of its own and it looks unlikely to be abandoned any time soon.

As confirmed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in its 2019 Trade Policy Review, tariffs and para-tariffs are now the principal instruments of trade policy in Bangladesh.

Recently, the Bangladesh economy has earned praise from analysts across the globe for its export and growth performance, and is on a path to winning the war against poverty; but close to home we find an ominous tendency towards ossification that has gripped the Bangladesh tariff structure. Trade economists have long

argued that export performance and tariff protection are not mutually exclusive. Tariffs on import substitute production are indirect subsidies that undermine support to exports and create anti-export bias. The sooner we can come out of this antiquated tariff regime and make our tariff structure reflective of a dynamic export-oriented economy, the better our chance of post-Covid-19 economic recovery, with a bustling export-driven manufacturing sector that creates jobs and income to win the war on poverty. This is exactly the strategy laid out in the Eighth Five Year Plan, recently approved by the Prime Minister and launched by the Bangladesh Planning Commission.

After the 2020 *annus horribilis*, a terrible year, the Bangladesh economy finds itself at a crossroads. The challenge to revive exports and grow at an average of eight percent over the next five years has never been more daunting as graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status beckons. It would be a fair assessment to suggest that Bangladesh energetically launched first generation trade reforms in the 1990s and is still reaping the benefits of those reforms in terms of export, growth and poverty impacts. But tariff reforms, one critical ingredient of trade policy, still remain largely unfinished, with some ossification evident in recent times. Can the economy achieve its medium-term goals without modernising its tariff structure? As I have argued in many fora and writings, the current tariff regime is a major stumbling block to the realisation of export diversification—a priority development agenda of the government.

As the nation addresses trade facilitation as part of second generation trade reforms, completing the unfinished agenda of the trade and tariff reforms begun in the 1990s and taking them to their natural conclusion should be a national imperative, which will yield rich dividends on the way to Bangladesh becoming an upper middle income country by 2031.

Dr Zaidi Sattar, a former Bangladesh civil servant and World Bank economist, is Chairman at Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI).

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Invitation for Tender

Sealed tender is hereby invited from the manufacturer/wholesaler/supplier for supply of MSR for Upazila Health Complexes (UHC). As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION				
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division.			
2 Agency	Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW.			
3 Procuring entity	Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS.			
4 Procuring entity code	224330400.			
5 Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6 Invitation for	Supply of MSR for Upazila Health Complexes.			
7 Invitation for offer Ref. No.	UHC/Proc./RPA-GOB/MSR (UHC)-26/2020-21/169			
8 Date	12/04/2021.			
KEY INFORMATION				
9 Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and source of funds	RPA-GOB.			
11 Development partners	None.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/program code	224330400			
13 Project/program name	UHC.			
14 Tender package No.	UHC/R-GD-6/2020-21			
15 Offer package name	MSR for Upazila Health Complexes.			
16 Tender publication date	13/04/2021			
17 Tender last selling date	03/05/2021 at 5.00pm			
18 Tender closing date and time	04/05/2021 at 12.30pm			
19 Tender opening date and time	04/05/2021 at 2.30pm			
20 Name and address of the office				
a) Selling of tender documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1st Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. c) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
b) Receiving tender documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1st Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. c) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
c) Opening tender documents	Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1st Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21 Eligibility of tenderer	As stated in TDS.			
22 Brief description of goods	Supply of MSR (17 items) for 400 Upazila Health Complexes.			
23 Brief description of related services	Not applicable.			
24 Price of tender documents Taka	Tk. 6,000 (Six thousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable).			
No.	Identification & name	Location	Tender security amounts in BDT	Completion time (in weeks)
25	Single lot	UHC office, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.	Tk. 10,00,000.00 (Ten lacs) only by Pay Order in favour of Line Director, UHC, DGHS.	8 weeks from date of signing the contract
PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL				
26 Name of official inviting offer	Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman.			
27 Designation of official inviting offer	Line Director, UHC, DGHS.			
28 Address of official inviting offer	BMRC Bhaban (1st Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
29 Contact details of official inviting offer	BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone: 02-222280785, Fax: 02-222282900.			

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.

Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman
Line Director
Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS
BMRC Bhaban (1st Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

GD-758

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Trails
6 Last Greek letter
11 Underway, to
Sherlock
12 Kick back
13 Throw a tantrum
15 Attempt
16 "My word!"
17 Homer's neighbor
18 Stylishly quaint
20 Yucatan natives
23 Throw away
27 Antiquated
28 Rank above viscount
29 Private's denial
31 Ungainly
32 Des Moines native
34 Presidential nickname
37 Spoil

DOWN

1 Audition goal
2 Miles off
3 Theater award
4 Spicy
5 Rocket sections
6 Picks an entrée
7 Body of eau
8 Flair
9 Donated
10 Sent packing
14 Tennis court need
18 Arm bones

19 Indian, e.g.
20 Chess piece
21 In the past
22 Agreeable answer
24 Uncooked
25 Bible boat
26 Tissue layer
30 New Testament book
31 Growing plot
33 Pale
34 Newspaper section
35 Ring match
36 Beige
38 Face feature
39 Ran, as color
40 Friend
42 Reunion group
43 Singer Carly-Jepsen

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SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

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

Two decades gone by, yet

FROM PAGE 12
court [HC] will hold the hearing after the state and defence lawyers will get prepared for placing arguments on the case," he told The Daily Star on March 30.

Last year, too, courts -- including the Appellate and HC divisions of the Supreme Court -- were closed across the country due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak and the then attorney general Mahbubey Alam had told The Daily Star that his office would take steps for hearing and disposing of the death reference and appeals of the case after the court reopened.

Mohammad Shishir Manir, a defence lawyer for death-row convict Moulana Akbar Hossain alias Helaluddin, told The Daily Star recently that the case has been included in the HC's hearing lists 315 times since 2014, but the benches concerned adjourned the hearing each time following the state's adjournment prayers.

There is no evidence and documents to prove charges brought against the convicted accused of the case, he said, adding that the trial court has delivered an "emotional verdict" in the case, he said.

"My client has been suffering in a condemned cell for around 20 years although there is no evidence against him," he added.

On March 14 this year, Deputy Attorney General Shahin Ahmed sought adjournment from the HC bench led by Justice Krishna Debnath for hearing the case, saying that the Attorney General will place arguments on the issue.

Earlier, two separate HC benches had refused to hear the same matter for different reasons.

According to the sources in the attorney general's office, the investigation of the case was conducted carelessly during the rule of the then BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Besides, the main accused, Mufti Abdul Hannan, has already been executed in 2017 in connection with another criminal case.

There are no proper documents and evidence, other than confessional statements from one or two convicts, to prove the charges brought against the accused and therefore the state counsels are not serious about this case, these sources said.

If a lower court sentences any person to death, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence.

The case documents and judgement reach as death references to the HC from the lower court within seven days of the latter

delivering the verdict, as per the relevant rules of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim had started hearing the death references and appeals of the Ramna case on January 8, 2017; after hearing for several days, it adjourned the hearing on February 22 the same year.

This bench then dropped the matters from its cause list on August 8, 2017 as state counsel had not officially informed it about the execution of Mufti Hannan.

Subsequently, the Chief Justice assigned the HC bench led by Justice Md Ruhul Quddus to finish the hearing of the death references and appeals. But this bench too could not hear the case as its hearing jurisdiction was reconstituted.

THE RAMNA BLASTS
Two bombs went off during Bangla New Year 1408 celebrations on April 14, 2001 organised by Chhayanaut, a leading cultural organisation, at Ramna Batamul in Dhaka. Ten people were killed and dozens injured in the incident.

On June 23, 2014 a Dhaka court handed down the death penalty to eight militants of Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji), including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, for the killings. Six other militants of the banned Islamist outfit were sentenced to life imprisonment for their involvement in the blasts.

The accused who got capital punishment by the trial court are Mufti Abdul Hannan, Moulana Akbar Hossain alias Helaluddin, Moulana Mohammad Tajuddin, Hafez Jahangir Alam Badar, Moulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Hawlader, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Mufti Abdul Hye, and Arif Hasan Suman.

The court awarded life imprisonment to Moulana Abu Taher, Moulana Sabbir alias Abdul Hannan, Moulana Yahya, Moulana Shawkat Osman alias Sheikh Farid, Moulana Abdur Rouf, and Shahadat Ullah alias Jewel.

Nine of the convicted accused are in jail while five -- Tajuddin, younger brother of BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu, Hafez Jahangir, Moulana Abu Bakar, Mufti Shafiqur, and Mufti Hye -- are absconding.

Mufti Abdul Hannan, one of the country's most notorious militants involved in plotting and carrying out terror attacks by Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami Bangladesh, was executed at Kashimpur High Security Prison on April 13, 2017.

Hannan was executed for carrying out a grenade attack on the then British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet on May 21, 2004.

Resume int'l flights, help migrants

FROM PAGE 12
out of the purview of this suspension, CAAB said.

Baira and Atab leaders demanded that the manpower sector be kept out of the purview of lockdown by declaring the sector as an emergency service sector.

On behalf of Baira, its former finance secretary Fakhruul Islam read out a written statement at the press conference while Monsur Ahmed Kalam, president of Atab read out their demands.

Baira said about 20,000 to 25,000 migrant workers have already bought air tickets at high prices and are waiting to go to their workplaces abroad within the next week.

Besides, thousands of expatriate workers are waiting for tickets. As a result of the sudden suspension of flights, migrant workers became frustrated due to uncertainty over their travel abroad.

According to Baira, if all international flights are canceled

for a week, migrant workers along with recruiting agencies will suffer a serious loss, and the country will be affected as well.

They said thousands of Qatar and Oman-bound workers have booked hotels for quarantine with a huge amount of money and those are non-refundable and if the workers cannot reach their respective destinations on time, they will have to suffer a huge financial loss.

The Atab president said thousands of expatriate visas had expired due to a two-month-long ban on the international flight during the lockdown last year.

"After huge sufferings, many of them have completed all the process of going abroad again and are just waiting for the flight. Due to the ban on an international flight, their fate will be put in serious uncertainty again," he also said.

Atab said about 20,000 workers had bought high-priced tickets

to go to Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Oman, and Qatar during the six days of the lockdown. Of these, tickets of various airlines are not refundable.

Atab and Baira leaders said after getting visas, thousands of fresh workers were waiting to fly to their workplaces within a week.

"Since there are no restrictions in the recipient countries, international flights should be operated from Bangladesh following proper health guidelines," M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, a member of Atab, said.

According to Baira, Nepal, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and other manpower export countries are sending their workers to different countries even during the lockdown.

"If the sending of workers from Bangladesh is stopped, Bangladesh will lag behind the competition in the international labor market," said Taslim.

Bangladesh cabinet approves 7-point

FROM PAGE 12

The newly formed provisional government today set about the task of transforming the liberation army into an organised force by setting up a full-fledged operational base and an interim capital and naming commanders for well-defined liberated zones.

Colonel Osmani was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Mukti Fauj. The names of regional commanders as announced by Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad were: Maj Khalid Musharaf, Sylhet-Comilla; Maj Ziaur Rahman, Chittagong-Noakhali; Maj Safula, Mymensingh-Tangail; and Maj MA Osman, south-west.

Besides the interim capital located in the western zone, a regional unit had been set in the Sylhet-Comilla zone with full administrative authority for the eastern region.

A LAND LIVING IN FEAR
Maurice Quaintance of Reuters news agency conducted a tour of war-torn Bangladesh in the first

half of April, 1971 with five other correspondents. They were the first allowed to enter the country since the expulsion of all foreign correspondents at the start of the war. The tour was supervised throughout by the Pakistan army and it was only after protests that the correspondents were allowed to talk to people without being overheard.

The report submitted by Quaintance was published in Guardian (UK) on April 14, 1971. He wrote: "A horrifying picture of slaughter and destruction met journalists on an official visit over the past week. The scale of it went beyond the imagination. No one will ever know the full truth but authoritative sources put the figure of dead at 300,000 and others asserted that it was perhaps as high as half a million."

"Priests speak in a whisper at a Roman Catholic mission hospital in East Pakistan where Father Mario Veronese from Padua, was gunned down by soldiers last month.

They look over their shoulders for the officer outside as journalists ask them questions. Repeat the experience scores of times over four days and it conjures up the fear - justified or not - that lurks outside the military cantonments in a land where tens of thousands of people have been put to death," the report continued.

The report also provided details of army operations in various parts of the country. Indicating to the Pakistan army's ruthless method of combating rebels the report quoted a senior officer at Khulna, who said, "It took me five days to get control of this area. We killed everyone who came our way. We never bothered to count the bodies."

The reports also mentioned incidents where non-Bangalees were attacked and brutally killed by the Bangalees.

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

Shipbreaking yard foreman dies in Ctg

FROM PAGE 12

without wearing any safety gear, an iron plate from the rope suddenly fell on him, leaving him critically wounded.

Soon after the incident, they took Ataur to a nearby place, but he was not hospitalised by the shipyard manager and safety officer for around three hours, the workers alleged.

A vehicle takes around half an hour to reach Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) from there, they said.

Asked why Ataur was not hospitalised for hours, Md Majid,

safety officer of RA Shipbreaking Yard, claimed that he was taken to nearby BSBA hospital, run by the shipbreaking yard owners. Doctors of the hospital referred Ataur to CMCH. He died on the way to the public hospital.

He also claimed that the victim wore necessary safety gear.

Witnesses said Ataur was taken to BSBA hospital at the eleventh hour from where he was rushed to CMCH.

According to the death certificate, Ataur was brought dead at the CMCH around 10:10pm.

Abudllah Al Sakib Mubarrat,

deputy inspector general of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, Chattogram, told this paper that primarily, they found evidence of delay in ensuring medical care for the injured. They would look into the matter, he said.

Mohammad Ali Sahin, coordinator of YPSA (Young Power in Social Action) working with shipbreaking workers to ensure safety and labour rights, said the life of the injured worker could have been saved if he had been given proper treatment in due time. There was negligence, he said.

Top Hefajat leader resigns

FROM PAGE 12

opinions of most of the Hefajat leaders. Those controversial outsiders forced the organisation into enforcing hartal-like programmes that caused public sufferings."

He also said Hefajat in the past used to carry out its activities through discussions among its top leaders. "But in recent times, Hefajat has become a platform which materialises the personal agenda of some of its leaders. After realising

these matters, I have resigned as naye-e-ameer of Hefajat-e-Islam," said Hasan.

In a written statement, he also said he was very much saddened by the death of 20 people and injuries of scores of others at different parts of the country, including Hathazari of Chattogram, and Brahmanbaria, during recent Hefajat protests.

Besides, he urged the government not to harass innocent alem-ulema. HEFAJAT'S ASSISTANT PUBLICITY

SECRETARY ARRESTED

A team of detective branch of police (Wari division) has arrested Mufti Sharifullah, assistant publicity secretary of Hefajat-e-Islam's central committee, from Mir Hazirbagh area of Jatrabari yesterday.

Based on information, the DB team conducted a drive around 7:30pm and made the arrest, Azharul Islam Mukul, additional deputy commissioner of DB police, told The Daily Star.

DNA report

FROM PAGE 12

the deceased was a man. Later, a woman named Selina Khatun claimed the body to be of her husband's.

However, DNA testing of samples from the victim's body showed that the dead was a female. Police then went back to the hospital to recollect DNA samples from its sample bank, but the hospital authorities claimed that those were damaged, the OC added.

Police later exhumed the victim's body with permission from a local court and collected DNA samples again for repeat testing. They are now awaiting results of the test.

In another incident, police recovered the body of a girl in Belkuchi upazila on July 1 last year and sent DNA samples to the CID forensic lab for testing. The test report shows that the dead was a boy. Due to the wrong DNA report, the identification of the body is yet to be confirmed.

Police later exhumed the victim's body, collected DNA samples from it and sent those to the forensic lab for retesting.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Hasibul Alam, superintendent of Sirajganj police, said their investigations were being hampered due to incorrect DNA test reports. He blamed the hospital authorities for this.

"Due to mistakes by hospital staffers, identification of victims is delayed," the SP said.

He said they have lodged a complaint with the hospital authorities in this regard.

The hospital authorities, however, claim wrong identification of samples causes the problem. They said they are now ensuring that DNA samples from bodies are collected in presence of an expert from the hospital.

"We have ordered our staffers to collect DNA samples in presence of an expert so that there is no mistake in the process," Dr Md Saiful Islam, superintendent of the hospital, told The Daily Star.

Camel traffic

FROM PAGE 12

Dunhuang City sits in an oasis in the Gansu-Xinjiang desert region, and was the first Chinese-administered settlement reached by travellers heading east on the ancient Silk Road.

In recent years, tourism to the area has grown, thanks to the Mingsha Mountain, the Mogao Caves temple complex, and the Yumen and Yangguan passes, which are the westernmost gates of the Great Wall.

India fast-tracks

FROM PAGE 12

India has sold more than 54.6 million vaccine doses abroad and gifted more than 10 million doses to partner countries.

It is currently using the AstraZeneca shot and a homegrown vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech for its own immunisation drive. The country this week approved Russia's Sputnik V shot for emergency use.

Since April 2, India has reported the world's highest daily tallies of infections, reaching more than 100,000 a day in the last week, compared with fewer than 10,000 daily cases earlier in the year.

Gopalganj Pourashava

Gopalganj

Memo No. GOP/Eng.D/2020-2021/272/2 Date: 13/04/2021

Corrigendum Notice

e-Tender Notice Number: 07/2020-2021

This is to inform all concerned that the tender notice No. 07/2020-2021 floated vide Memo No. GOP/Eng.D/2020-2021/235, Dated: 15/03/2021 the following Corrigendum is as follows.

Package No.	Tender ID reference No. & scheme name	Field name	Old value	New value
NUPRP/W2	554052 Construction of 5-storied "Climate resilient housing and basic services for the low-income household" at Gopalganj Pourashava (Building 1 and 2)	Tender last selling date & time	18 April, 2021 Time: 16:00	28 April, 2021 Time: 16:00
		Tender closing date & time	19 April, 2021 Time: 13:00	29 April, 2021 Time: 13:00
		Tender opening date & time	19 April, 2021 Time: 13:00	29 April, 2021 Time: 13:00
		Last date & time for tender security submission	19 April, 2021 Time: 12:00	29 April, 2021 Time: 12:00
NUPRP/W2.1	554058 Construction of 5-storied "Climate resilient housing and basic services for the low-income household" at Gopalganj Pourashava (Building 3 and 4)	Tender last selling date & time	18 April, 2021 Time: 16:00	28 April, 2021 Time: 16:00
		Tender closing date & time	19 April, 2021 Time: 13:30	29 April, 2021 Time: 13:30
		Tender opening date & time	19 April, 2021 Time: 13:30	29 April, 2021 Time: 13:30
		Last date & time for tender security submission	19 April, 2021 Time: 12:00	29 April, 2021 Time: 12:00

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Shahinuzzaman
Executive Engineer (In-charge)
Gopalganj Pourashava

GD-771

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

নং-ডিইও/৩৯৫-সি/কার পার্কিং/পার্ট-৩/৩১১ তারিখঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র কার্যক্রম স্থগিত করণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম এস্টেট বিভাগের আওতাধীন চট্টগ্রাম জেলার কোতয়ালী থানার বটতলী মৌজার অবস্থিত চট্টগ্রাম পুরাতন রেলওয়ে স্টেশনের ওভার ব্রীজের উত্তর পার্শ্বে স্টেশন এপ্রোচ রোডের পূর্ব পার্শ্বে উত্তরে স্টেশন রোড, দক্ষিণে জিআর পি থানা ভবন, পূর্ব ও পশ্চিমে কার পার্কিং লাইসেন্স মাংশল আদায়ের নিমিত্ত ১৪ই সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখে জারীকৃত বিদ্যমান নীতিমালার ৩৪ অনুচ্ছেদ অনুযায়ী আগামী ০১/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে ৩১/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত ০১ (এক) বৎসর মেয়াদে লাইসেন্স প্রদানের জন্য ডিইও/৩৯৫-সি/কার পার্কিং/পার্ট-৩/২৫৬; তারিখ ২৮/০৩/২০২১খ্রিঃ মূলে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়। মন্ত্রিপরিষদ বিভাগের মাঠ প্রশাসন সমন্বয় অধিশাখার ১২/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের ১২০নং স্মারকে করোনা ভাইরাসজনিত রোগ কোভিড-১৯ বিস্তার রোধকল্পে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সার্বিক কার্যক্রম/চলাচলে নিষেধাজ্ঞা আরোপ করায় যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষে ১৯/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের কার্যক্রম আপাতত স্থগিত করা হলো। টেন্ডার কার্যক্রম পরবর্তীতে গ্রহণ করা হলে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে।

S(21)(108)
GD-770

বিভাগীয় ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Mymensingh
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.6100.000.07.001.21-1548 Date: 13/04/2021

Corrigendum of Tender Notice IFT Number : 55/2020-21

This is for all concerned that due to unavoidable circumstance the IFT No: 55/2020-2021 Published vide Memo No: 46.02.6100.000.07.001.21-1295, Date: 31/03/2021 will be changed in the following manner.

Package No & Name of Scheme	Tender ID	Previous Last Selling Date & Time	Previous Closing/Opening Date & Time	Amended last Selling Date & Time	Amended Closing/Opening Date & Time
1	2	3	4	5	6
e-Tender/LGED/MYM/GOB/M/20-21/W-69 Rehabilitation of 1x3.00m x 2.00m RCC Box-culvert on Chechua-Khamarer Bazar Road Via Mogailola & Syedpara Bazar Road at Ch. 9241m Under Muktagachha Upazila District Mymensingh Road ID 361652009	563578	Date: 18-April-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 19-April-2021 Time: 13:45	Date: 02-May-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 03-May-2021 Time: 17:00
e-Tender/LGED/MYM/GOB/M/20-21/W-70 Rehabilitation of 1 x 2.50m x 2.50m RCC Box-culvert on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj R&H Musullli Bus Stand to Tarail Road at Ch. 3000m Under Nandail Upazila District Mymensingh Road ID 361722004	563579	Date: 18-April-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 19-April-2021 Time: 13:45	Date: 02-May-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 03-May-2021 Time: 17:00
e-Tender/LGED/MYM/GOB/M/20-21/W-71 Rehabilitation of 1 x3.0m x 3.0m RCC Box-culvert on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj R&H Musullli Bus Stand to Tarail Road at Ch. 3200m Under Nandail Upazila District Mymensingh Road ID 361722004	563580	Date: 18-April-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 19-April-2021 Time: 13:45	Date: 02-May-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 03-May-2021 Time: 17:00
e-Tender/LGED/MYM/GOB/M/20-21/W-72 Rehabilitation of 1 x3.0m x 2.50m RCC Box-culvert on Nandail H.Q.Atharabari GC Rd at Ch. 2400m Under Nandail Upazila District Mymensingh Road ID 361722005	563581	Date: 18-April-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 19-April-2021 Time: 13:45	Date: 02-May-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 03-May-2021 Time: 17:00
e-Tender/LGED/MYM/GOB/M/20-21/W-73 Rehabilitation of 1 x3.0m x 3.0m RCC Box-culvert on Jhulua Bazar Nandail U.P. Daleratia bazaar at Ch. 500m Under Nandail Upazila District Mymensingh Road ID 361723004	563582	Date: 18-April-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 19-April-2021 Time: 13:45	Date: 02-May-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 03-May-2021 Time: 17:00
e-Tender/TGED/MYM/GOB/M/20-21/W-74 Rehabilitation of 1 x3.0m x 2.50m RCC Box-culvert on Surati Bazar-Battolia Bazar at Ch.550m Under Nandail Upazila District Mymensingh Road ID 361725091	563583	Date: 18-April-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 19-April-2021 Time: 13:45	Date: 02-May-2021 Time: 17:00	Date: 03-May-2021 Time: 17:00

All other terms and conditions will be remain unchanged.

Md. Shahiduzzaman Khan
Executive Engineer
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GD- 768

Tamim bears Tigers' burden

MAZHAR UDDIN

Tamim Iqbal will hold the key for Bangladesh at the top of the batting order and the team will depend on the experienced left-hander to make an impact in their upcoming two-match Test series in Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh have had a rough time since the resumption of international cricket after the Covid-19 pandemic halted the game and the Tigers are under tremendous pressure to put up better showings in the island nation.

Things started to unfold for Bangladesh, especially in Tests, following a 224-run humiliation against newest Test-playing nation Afghanistan, that too on home soil, in 2019. Bangladesh's dismal performance also resulted in a 2-0 whitewash at home against a relatively inexperienced West Indies side earlier this year.



Tamim Iqbal composed a patient 117-ball 82 and stitched a 109-run partnership with Sabbir Rahman for the third wicket to chase down 191 on the fifth and final day to celebrate their first Test win against Sri Lanka in memorable 100th Test appearance at the P Sara Oval in Colombo in March 2017.

PHOTO: ICC

TEST STATS

Tamim Iqbal against Sri Lanka (Home and Away)

M	Inn	R	HS	Avg	100s	50s
9	8	504	82	28.00	0	4

In Sri Lanka

M	Inn	R	HS	Avg	100s	50s
3	6	276	82	46.00	0	3

Overall batting (Home vs Away)

	M	Inn	R	HS	Avg	100s	50s
Home	27	70	2620	206	37.97	5	16
Away	25	49	1888	128	38.53	4	12

Among the biggest reasons for those dismal performances in the longest format has been a failure in the batting department. To be more specific, a lack of consistency at the top order remains one of the major concerns for team management.

Bangladesh fielded five different partners alongside Tamim to open the innings in their last seven Tests but none appeared to be a settled option. It will be important for the dashing southpaw, who has developed into a world-class

opening batsman over the years, to give his batting partner assurance as well.

However, Bangladesh's leading run-scorer across all formats will be looking to improve on some areas such as his conversion rate in regards to turning fifties into hundreds. With 28 fifties and nine hundred in 119 Test innings, Tamim generally scores a century once every four times he reaches a 50 in a Test and has even scored a double-century.

But, based on his calibre and the high standards that he sets among Bangladesh's batsmen, Tamim will definitely want to improve those stats. Since scoring his last hundred against New Zealand in Hamilton in 2019, Tamim reached fifty-plus runs three times. He also went past 40 twice and recorded one 30-plus knock in those 10 innings for Bangladesh.

It will be important for Tamim to utilise the starts that he has been

able to get in the recent past, but the left-hander has shown an inability to adjust the tempo of his innings and at times has been unable to check his shots, costing his wicket.

Tamim will also be looking to improve his stats against Sri Lanka, against whom he is yet to score a hundred. In nine Tests against them, Tamim has scored 506 runs at an average of 28 with four fifties.

In the absence of two of the most experienced cricketers, Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah Riyad, Tamim will have to shoulder the responsibility for a rather demoralised Tigers and lead the charge.

The 32-year-old can take heart from the fact that he was the man of the match during a win in Bangladesh's historic 100th Test in the island nation. However, it was also the only time Bangladesh managed to win a Test match against their Lankan counterparts since 2017.

Jewel envisions better future for swimmers

ANISUR RAHMAN



Despite the return of sporting activities last September following a seven-month break due to the Covid-19 pandemic, swimming had not organised any events. But the swimmers, especially from services teams, have burst onto the limelight and are now a topic of discussion after producing 11 national records in the recently-concluded Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games.

Jewel Ahmed of Bangladesh Army is among the crop of swimmer, having bagged four gold medals and setting two national records to go with his two silver medals. The 26-year-old, who won two silver medals in the last South Asian Games, held in Nepal in 2019, told The Daily Star yesterday about the problems posed by the Games' deferral.

"Swimmers were fully prepared for the 2020 Games in April, but it was suspended and then we again prepared for February

performance was good because I improved my timing in two events in which I made national records in 2019, but unfortunately I could not defend the gold medal in both events."

The swimmer from Kushtia, who thanked his Unit CEO for gifting him the Tk13,000 swimwear that he was sporting, added: "I had a target of defending all the five gold medals that I won in 2019, but I missed one of them. There is no sorrow about that because I improved my timing in that event but lost to a better swimmer."

Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Army shared all 42 gold medals up for grabs, underscoring the point that the pool was dominated by service teams and Jewel believes good training facilities is the reason service teams enjoy such success.

"I can tell you about the Army, which has good training facilities and coaches. So the swimmers can train whenever we want. Besides, our higher-ups also take care of our needs properly so we are doing well. But there are no such facilities at a district level and they can't get results," said Jewel, who first played for Bangladesh Ansar at junior level before joining Army in 2012.

On the gap with swimmers from India and Sri Lanka, Jewel said: "The swimmers from the sub-continent have been improving, but swimmers from India and Sri Lanka are moving ahead faster than Bangladeshi swimmers on the back of long-term training abroad. So we can't catch them despite improving our timing."

Jewel also praised the talent hunt programme, from which swimmers like Kajal Mia, Nur Alam and Anna have been unearthed and accelerated into mainstream swimming competitions, and emphasised the need for such long-term talent hunt programmes to take Bangladesh to new heights.

"As records are being made in each of the Games or swimming championships, we are moving forward and improving. I think a good future is ahead of us but we need long-term training under quality foreign coaches if we are not given training abroad," said Jewel, who possesses five national records.



but the Games were held two months later, in April, 2021. So, our preparation was interrupted and all the swimmers faced problems in terms of practice due to the of the Games," Jewel said.

"However, I think my individual

SA women leave after Covid fiasco

SPORTS REPORTER

Five members of South Africa Women's Emerging team boarded a flight back home from Dhaka on Tuesday evening after returning negative results in their second Covid-19 tests conducted in the capital earlier in the day.

The five individuals, who returned positive results in the first round of tests, stayed back as the rest of the team returned on the previous day. They were put in isolation at a hotel in Dhaka and went through the second tests.

"The results from Osmani Medical College [Monday] were wrong, it showed false positive results. The five individuals underwent tests in Dhaka today [Tuesday] and all of them have tested negative. They are taking a flight back home at 6:00pm today [Tuesday]," Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) women's wing chairman Shafiq Alam Nadel told media on Tuesday.

The four players who had tested positive in the first round are: Sinalo Jafta, Leah Jones, Nobulumko Baneti, Robyn Searle. Team manager Marsia Letsoalo also tested positive.

The visitors lost the five-match one-day series against their Bangladeshi counterparts 4-0, with the last match cancelled in the wake of nationwide lockdown.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINALS

Los Blancos set out to finish the job at Anfield

City aim to keep quadruple hopes alive

AGENCIES



In need of another famous Champions League fightback, Liverpool cannot rely on a wave of passion, colour and noise from the stands at Anfield to inspire a comeback from 3-1 down against Real Madrid on Wednesday.

The Los Blancos produced a dominant display against Liverpool in the first leg and capped off a glorious week with a 2-1 win over bitter rivals Barcelona in El Clasico. Los Blancos have been in great form and are favourites to make it to the semi-finals over Liverpool, whose season is starting to get increasingly forgettable.

Real's midfielders were on top of their game last week and they ran the show with great authority. Their frontline has also joined the party in recent weeks and Vinicius Jr. bagged a brace while Marco Asensio got on the scoresheet as well.

If the English champions are to reach the semi-finals for the third time in four years, they will instead need their manager Jurgen



Klopp to conjure the motivation and tactical masterplan to once again eliminate one of Spanish football's giants.

Klopp has earned near God-like status on Merseyside for delivering a sixth European Cup and a first league title for 30 years to Liverpool. But the charismatic German has been unable to halt the Reds' fall from grace this season. With seven games to play in the Premier League, it is already mathematically impossible for Liverpool to retain their title as they lie 22 points adrift of Manchester City in fifth.

Hopes the Champions League could

prove the salvation of a disappointing season were also dashed as Real ran riot in the first 45 minutes in Madrid last week to open up a commanding first-leg lead.

Liverpool's deficit is not as steep as when Barcelona visited two years ago in the semi-finals in what turned out to be arguably the greatest of all the memorable European

HIGHLIGHTS

- Madrid were at their wily best in the first-leg, taking charge of the tie with a 3-1 win in the Spanish capital. The Merengues' canny midfield were at the heart of that victory, though two goals from Vinicius Junior and one from Marco Asensio ultimately did the damage.
- City head into the second leg 2-1 to the good thanks to Phil Foden's last-minute winner in Manchester. Kevin De Bruyne had given Josep Guardiola's in-form side a first-half lead, but Marco Reus' late effort looked to have forced a draw until City's young England midfielder poked in.

nights at Anfield.

Depleted by injuries, Klopp's men still rolled over Barca's stellar cast of star names 4-0 on their way to winning the trophy.

Meanwhile, Manchester City will be aiming to book their spot in the semi-finals when they take on Borussia Dortmund in the second leg of their quarter-final bout.

On a night where Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland was expected to show City what could be theirs if they play their cards right, the Norway international was unable to make the Etihad net ripple, although he must have thought that his assist for Marco Reus' 84th minute equaliser would be a game-defining moment last week.

As for Manchester City, Pep Guardiola's side suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Leeds United at the weekend. Guardiola will be hoping his side can move past that loss quickly and pick up where they left off against Dortmund.

City will wrap up the Premier League title in the coming weeks but this remains the competition they all want to win.

'Cricketers still see Test cricket as the pinnacle of the game'

PTI



New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson won his fourth Sir Richard Hadlee medal for excelling across formats and was also adjudged the 'Test Player of the Year' in the country's annual cricket awards on Tuesday.

Devon Conway won the men's ODI and T20 Player of the Year during the 2020-21 awards season which was conducted digitally for a second year running because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Williamson's incredible home Test summer helped him clinch the two awards alongside the Redpath Cup for first-class batting, after he amassed a whopping 639 runs in just four innings at an average of 159. He claimed the big prize for the fourth time in last six years.

In bowler friendly conditions, Williamson, the number one ranked Test batsman in ICC standings, recorded his top international score

of 251 against the West Indies in Hamilton.

He also notched a Boxing Day Test century on his home ground of Bay Oval in Tauranga, before adding another double-century

against Pakistan at Hagley Oval in Christchurch - to help the Black Caps book their place in the ICC World Test Championship Final.

"Going into the Test summer - there was that Championship Final

carrot and there was a real drive there for the guys," Williamson told Sir Richard Hadlee upon receiving the news of the award on a phone call.

"Although it seemed a long way off, winning four Tests before you've started one is a pretty lofty goal and we knew we just had to try and play as well as we could and commit to what was in front of us.

"...certainly pretty proud as a leader and a player in this side that we were able to achieve some of those things and we're looking forward to that final," he added.

Williamson also made special mention of the international Test player of the year award.

"Test cricket is special in a big way to all the players and certainly to myself," he said. "Growing up watching the game, the tradition and history behind it - and I know all around the world cricketers still see it as the pinnacle of the game so it's an award I feel fortunate to receive."



Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner was seen sharing something with Kane Williamson during a practice session. Sunrisers, who lost their opening fixture against Kolkata Knight Riders, take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in today's IPL fixture.

PHOTO: TWITTER

'I always get fed'

REUTERS, Oslo



The son of Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has weighed in on his father's spat with Tottenham Hotspur boss Jose Mourinho after the Norwegian coach said he wouldn't feed his son if he simulated an injury.

The row erupted following Sunday's 3-1 win in the Premier League for United when Solskjaer senior criticised Spurs attacker Son Heung-min for exaggerating a blow to the face.

United had a goal disallowed after Son appeared to be struck by Scott McTominay in the build-up, with Solskjaer saying afterwards that if his son, who plays for Kristiansund in his native Norway, went down the way Son did, he wouldn't feed him.

That prompted an angry response from Mourinho, who said that Son's dad was a better father than Solskjaer, but Noah came to his father's defence in Tidens Krav, a local newspaper in Kristiansund.

"I always get fed, I can assure you of that," the 20-year-old midfielder told the paper with a smile, adding that his Norwegian team mates had teased him over the incident when he arrived for training



Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer poses with his sons Elijah Solskjaer and Kristiansund's Noah Solskjaer.

FILE PHOTO

on Monday, asking if he'd had breakfast. "I have never lain down the way Son did. Mourinho probably just wanted to take the focus away from the fact they had lost," he said.

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Two decades gone by, yet no closure

Death reference, appeals in Ramna Batamul attack stuck in legal tangles

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Twenty years on from the 2001 Ramna Batamul bomb blasts which killed ten people at Pahela Baishakh celebrations, justice is yet to be delivered to the family members of the victims as the appeals and death reference in connection with the carnage case are still pending with the High Court.

Legal tangles continue to cause delays in the hearing and disposal of appeals filed by the convicts and the death reference of the case at the HC for nearly seven years, as two separate HC benches have refused to deal with them for different reasons.

Besides, the attorney general's office has not extensively taken any move for their expeditious hearings, considering that an expected judgment may not come from the HC as there are serious weaknesses in the investigation and lack of evidence and documents, say court sources.

The HC bench led by Justice Krishna Debnath and ASM Abdul Mobin is scheduled to hold hearing on the death reference and appeals of the case on May 30.

Contacted recently, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin could not specify how much time will be needed for hearing and disposing of the Ramna Batamul carnage case.

"I cannot say when the High Court can finish hearing and disposal of the [Ramna Batamul carnage] case. The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Halima, an entrepreneur who sells locally-produced bracelets and bangles in the Dhaka University area, faces financial loss ahead of events like Pahela Baishakh due to the nationwide lockdown that has been imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus. She said she had a loan of Tk 120,000 that could not be returned because her earnings have dropped.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Resume int'l flights, help migrants

Recruiting agencies, travel agents urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that around 20,000 to 25,000 expatriate workers will face uncertainty about reaching their workplaces abroad, Baira and Atab yesterday demanded to keep international flight operation out of the purview of weeklong lockdown begins from this morning.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (Atab) made the demand at separate press conferences at the capital's DRU.

Both the organisations said that the weeklong ban on international flights to and from Bangladesh would cause many workers' visas to expire.

Leaders of Baira and Atab also said that respective employers would also cancel visa permits of many Bangladeshi workers if they fail to reach their workplaces abroad due to suspension of international flights.

Following the government guidance and instruction, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) on April 11 announced to suspend the operation of all international passenger flights to and from Bangladesh from April 14 to April 20 in a bid to contain Covid-19 infection.

However, medevac, humanitarian, relief, cargo, technical landing (for refueling only), and the flights cleared under special consideration will remain

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

DNA report identifies a man as female

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sirajganj police in October 2019 had recovered the decomposed body in Sadar thana area.

After an autopsy, DNA samples from the body that police had identified as being that of a man were sent to the CID forensic lab in Dhaka.

Results of DNA testing showed that the victim was a woman. Police are yet to identify the victim as they cannot make any progress in the investigation of the unnatural death case due to the incorrect test report.

Sirajganj police said they could not complete probes into four unnatural death cases in the last one year due to DNA reports which conflicted with the case statements.

Police blamed flaws in collection of DNA samples from the bodies by Sirajganj Bongamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib General Hospital for the errors in DNA reports.

Dipak Kumar Ghosh, officer-in-charge of Ullapara Police Station, said police recovered a decomposed body from Sarbil area of Ullapara on July 11 last year. Examining the dress of the victim and other evidence, police found that

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh cabinet approves 7-point plan

APRIL 14, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CABINET MEETING HELD
The first cabinet meeting of the provincial government of Bangladesh today laid down a seven-point programme for smooth functioning of the administration as far as practicable under the prevailing situation.

The cabinet meeting was attended by Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Khondkar Mushtaque Ahmed, Kamarujjaman and Yusuf Ali.

The points laid out in the programme are:
1. Endeavour to keep liberated areas free from any attack.
2. Run the civil administration in the liberated areas in right manner by picking up development work, particularly the productive aspect, both in agricultural and industrial fields.
3. Try to resume normal

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



flow of life, run school, offices and other commercial establishments such as bank.

4. Continue the fight with the enemy in the occupied areas with stepped up vigour.

5. Opening foreign trade with some neighbouring friendly countries immediately.

6. In the absence of gold standard, the trade will be run in some sort of barter system.

7. The government is already into negotiations with some neighbouring friendly countries for starting barter system. [Hindustan Standard, April 15, 1971]

REORGANISATION OF LIBERATION FORCES

Top Hefajat leader resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maulana Abdullah Mohammad Hasan, a nayebe-ameer of Hefajat-e-Islam, has resigned from the Qawmi madrasa-based organisation, alleging that the Islamist group has turned into a platform that materialises personal agendas of some controversial Hefajat leaders.

He came up with the announcement at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"As far as I understand, the death of Hefajat Ameer Shah Ahmad Shafi has created a crisis of competent leadership in the organisation," he said.

"People with different opinions and ideologies have intruded into Hefajat and they are tactfully trying to make Hefajat hit the streets to materialise their personal gains.

"They, to a large extent, have become successful in bringing Hefajat under their control, defying

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Camel traffic lights introduced in China



CNN ONLINE

Officials in northern China have inaugurated what they say is the world's first traffic signal for camels.

The signal came into operation on Sunday in an area popular with tourists near Dunhuang City, Gansu province, Chinese state media outlet ECNS reported Monday.

Camel-riding tours are a big attraction for visitors to the area, according to ECNS.

But visitors to the Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Spring will now be safe from camel collisions, thanks to the new traffic signal, which turns green to let the animals cross and red to make them stop.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 14

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:15 12:45 4:45 6:23 7:45
JAMAAT 4:25 1:15 5:00 6:33 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR

1	14	6:23
2	15	4:14 6:24
3	16	4:13 6:24

Shipbreaking yard foreman dies in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A foreman of a shipyard died after a piece of iron sheet fell on him in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila on Monday.

His fellow workers alleged that the shipyard authorities did not take quick steps to hospitalise him, leading to his death.

The victim, Aatur Rahman, joined RA Shipbreaking Yard 10 days ago. Aatur was injured at the yard when an iron plate fell on him around 7:00pm on Monday.

According to a High Court order in 2011, shipbreaking work is prohibited at night.

Aatur and three others were dismantling MT Gagason Johor, a chemical tanker, which used to sail under the flag of Bhutan. This 118-metre long ship, which was built by China in 2009, weighs around 7,600 tonnes.

Other workers told The Daily Star that when Aatur was standing beside the ship to oversee the work

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Mainuddin Talukdar, a 60-year-old Covid-19 patient, holding his son's hand while waiting in an ambulance at the gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital before he got admitted there yesterday. He had been admitted to a private clinic in the capital with other complications before he tested positive for the virus.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

India fast-tracks approval for foreign vaccines

US to pause J&J jab; study says UK variant not as severe as feared

AGENCIES

India yesterday said it will fast-track emergency approvals for Covid-19 vaccines that have been authorised by Western countries and Japan, paving the way for possible imports of Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Moderna shots.

Meanwhile, US health authorities yesterday recommended a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine over blood clot fears, as surging coronavirus cases in many parts of the world overshadowed the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The Indian move, which will drop the need for companies to do small, local safety trials for their vaccines before seeking emergency approval, came following the world's biggest surge in cases in the country this month.

Vaccines authorised by the World Health Organization or authorities in the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom and Japan "may be granted emergency use approval in India, mandating the requirement of post-approval parallel bridging clinical trial", the health ministry said in a statement.

"The first 100 beneficiaries of such foreign vaccines shall be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes before they are rolled out," it said.

India, the world's biggest maker of vaccines, has so far administered more than 106 million doses of Covid-19 shots, but many states are now running short of supplies as inoculations expand due to surging cases.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6