



A man tries to lift a woman that fainted after seeing the body of a relative who died from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), at a crematorium in New Delhi, India yesterday.

### Indian states run out of Covid jobs

FROM PAGE 12 crisis, with hospitals and morgues overwhelmed by the pandemic, medicines and oxygen in short supply and strict curbs on movement in the biggest cities.

dose since January. The original vaccination plan was to cover just 300 million of the highest-risk people by August, but India widened the target as infections flared.

the vaccine shortage, authorities said. Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged citizens not to show up at vaccination centres, as doses had not yet arrived.

### Chinese govt can't evade responsibility

FROM PAGE 12 investment from The China Development Bank, Bank of China and China Construction Bank, which amount to 71.71 percent of the total budget.

the opposite in the coastal areas of Bangladesh," the letter read. It said the demands of the workers who died in police firing on April 17 on the premises of SS Power I Plant were straightforward and not illegal in any sense, and were ensured under Bangladesh's Labour Act, 2006.

the squalid and unhygienic living conditions of the workers, which put them at risk of contracting Covid-19. Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University, economist Anu Muhammad, Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, human rights activist Sultana Kamal, Nijera Kori coordinator Khushi Kabir, Executive Director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh Meghna Guhathakurta, Prof CR Abrar, DU Associate Professor Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, Chief Coordinator of Gana Samhati Andolon Zonayed Saki, among others, signed the letter.

### Teenage girl gang-raped in Noakhali

STAR REPORT

A teenage girl was gang-raped in Noakhali on Thursday and a man was arrested yesterday on charges of raping another minor girl in Tangail.

The 14-year-old girl in Noakhali's Sonaimuri upazila was returning home from a nearby shop around 3:00pm when Abdur Rob, 23, and Rifat Hossain, 28, intercepted her, said police.

They then took the girl to a nearby abandoned place and raped her. Another youth named Salauddin acted as a guard at that time, the law enforcers added.

Hours later, they released her after threatening her with dire consequences if she disclosed the incident with anyone.

Returning home, the victim shared her experience with family members.

Later, on the same night, the victim's father filed a case against the trio with Sonaimuri Police Station.

The victim was produced before a court yesterday where a judicial magistrate recorded her statement.

She was then sent to the hospital for medical tests. Police were trying to arrest the accused, said Gias Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sonaimuri Police Station.

In Tangail, police yesterday arrested a man on charges of raping a neighbouring minor girl in Kalihati upazila.

The arrestee is Nosu Mondol, 65, of the same upazila.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said the five-year-old girl was playing near a local mosque on Thursday afternoon with other children.

At one stage, other children went to their homes leaving the girl alone there. Taking the chance, Nosu called the girl, then took her to his room and raped her.

Returning home, the girl shared her experience with her family members and became sick. Around 10:00pm on the same night, the girl was admitted to a local hospital.

The victim's family filed a case against Nosu with Kalihati Police Station yesterday morning.

Following the case, police arrested Nosu yesterday noon, said Saogatul Alam, officer-in-charge of Kalihati Police Station.

Our Noakhali and Tangail correspondents contributed to this report

### New curriculum

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2023," said a top official who attended the meeting.

Education Minister Dipu Moni, Primary and Mass Education State Minister Zakir Hossen, top officials of secondary and higher education division, technical and madrasa division, primary and mass education ministry and NCTB attended the meeting.

"We will work in line with the meeting decision. We will take steps after seeing the meeting resolutions," NCTB Chairperson Prof Narayan Chandra Saha told The Daily Star.

In the meeting it was also decided that new books for classes 1, 6 and 7 will be given to some schools in 2022 as part of a pilot programme. NCTB officials said the government took the decision when they were facing problems regarding the preparation of new books.

By now all the manuscripts for the books were supposed to have been prepared and NCTB was supposed to go for tender process of printing of the new books, said NCTB sources.

"But we could not finish the new books," said an NCTB member.

The new curriculum will emphasise competency rather than theoretical knowledge.

The NCTB has set 10 main competencies that a student will achieve after grade 12.

Those include a student's ability to communicate, collaborate, express themselves, honour other people's opinions, think critically and solve problems.

The curriculum also places emphasis on learning languages, communication, mathematics and reasoning, science and technology, the ICT, environment and climate, and values and morality.

In the new curriculum, NCTB did not make any proposals for holding Primary Education Completion Examinations (PECE) in grade 5 and Junior School Certificate Examinations in grade 7.

It also proposed to dissolve the science, humanities and business disciplines and suggested holding the Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams in just five subjects, based on the syllabus of grade 10 only.

The Higher Secondary Certificate exams will be held in two phases: in grades 11 and 12. The new curriculum also proposed a two-day weekend - Friday and Saturday - in schools, instead of just Friday.

The last time the curriculum was revised was in 2012.

### Dhaka, Delhi need

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difficult for Bangladesh and India to come to this stage of their relationship following the partition in 1947, and they should not slide back.

The noted global strategist thinks the new area of cooperation can be the Bay of Bengal, and both countries need to work together and use digital technology to find innovative ways.

He suggested that the think tanks come up with a possible solution.

Former Indian foreign secretary Krishnan Srinivasan said the Bangladesh-India friendship has been hostage to the vagaries of politics on both sides of the border. Now is time for looking at trade and connectivity that can lead the development without any detriment to sovereignty and independence.

"In a globalised world, every nation has multiple choices of friends, and India should accept that Bangladesh must have outreached to Southeast and Northeast Asia," he said.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami said trade will be a key driver of the Bangladesh-India friendship in future, and Bangladesh could provide India a key base for value addition, including in food production, RMG and textile.

He also talked about closer integration of transportation systems, cooperation on renewable energy, blue economy and health.

Bangladesh is interested in having connectivity with Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar through India, he said, adding, "It is a sustainable way to move forward if both sides see benefit in any initiative."

Doraiswami said there is a need for the two countries to do more on protecting the Sundarbans as well as check river pollution, especially around Dhaka.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) President Maj Gen (Retd) ANM Muniruzzaman said it's necessary to analyse the current irritants of the bilateral relations and address those.

He said not signing the Teesta water-sharing deal, border killings, India's role on the Rohingya issue, rise of fundamentalism in India, export ban of vaccine, National Register of Citizenship and Citizenship Amendment Act are some of the issues that developed wrong perception in the public mind and need to be addressed.

Top leadership uttering negative words about the people of another country is also a problem, he said, stressing on mutual respect.

Prof Intiaz Ahmed, of Dhaka University's international relations department, said the two-nation theory will not work and this had not worked back in 1971. "Two-nation theory is really bad and we need to keep that in mind."

He said it will not work if Bangladesh, India or any other country thinks that it will develop alone and will not allow others to develop.

Centre for Policy Dialogue Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya suggested that India continue to provide duty-free, quota-free access of Bangladeshi products to reduce the trade gap.

CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun said the potential of trade between the two countries is \$16 billion, but it is now less than \$10 billion.

India imports products from the world market worth \$45 billion, and regional trade could increase to a great extent if there was regional integration.

In response to India's role on Rohingya repatriation, former Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty said India, which shares a border with Bangladesh and Myanmar, cannot fully support Bangladesh over the Rohingya issue due to its internal problem and national interests.

"On Myanmar, my point is that India's ambivalence should be understood in the context of India's national interests. We can't swing into absolute support and favour for Bangladesh," he said.

"We have an insurgency problem in the northeast and we have our own problems and difficulties in dealing with Myanmar on the Rohingya issue," he said.

On the border killings, Vikram Doraiswami said it is a complex phenomenon that requires a far greater effort, including by district governance and border guards on both sides.

Pinak Ranjan said, "Alleging and pointing fingers at India all the time doesn't help resolve the problem and doesn't help create the public perception in India."

He said the main reason behind border killings is the huge smuggling network and the huge mafia operating on both sides of the borders, which should be addressed jointly.

In reply to a comment that "vaccine diplomacy" is going on in reference to India's halt of exporting vaccines, Doraiswami said India has tried its best to supply vaccines to its neighbours.

Also, it should be recognised that there is a major crisis underway in India. Alternatively, he said India had offered third stage trial of Covaxin and subsequently its co-production, but that remains on the table. "Of course, this is Bangladesh's decision."

Security analyst Brig Gen (Retd) Shahedul Anam Khan and COSMOS Foundation Chairman Enaytullah Khan also spoke at the event chaired by former foreign affairs adviser to a caretaker government Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

### An unprecedented move by

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Urban Service Consortium, who had just returned from an extensive visit to the outlying parts of Bangladesh. He estimated that almost a million Bangalee refugees had crossed the frontier into India and thought that the number could rapidly increase to two million. Over 60 per cent of the refugees were Muslims.

War on Want and Oxfam both launched campaigns for massive funds to assist the refugees. The first British relief plane to Calcutta would leave London on May 4. Although British relief organisations still hold £1,500,000 of the funds raised at the time of the flood disasters in the Bengal delta, they had been told by the commissioner of charities that this money could be used only in that area.

ABU SYED CHOUDHURY BANGLADESH'S UN ENVOY

The Bangladesh government appointed Justice Abu Syed Choudhury, the senior-most judge of Dhaka High Court and vice chancellor of Dhaka University, its emissary at the United Nations. Justice Choudhury, now in London, had been abroad attending

ironically, a meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission when the Pakistan army commenced the savage attack on unarmed civilians in Bangladesh. The directive to Justice Choudhury from the Bangladesh government was to present the case on behalf of the government to all member states and to the secretariat of the United Nations and help create a lobby in favour of the people now fighting for freedom.

SOVIET UNION CONDEMNS PAKISTAN'S POLICY

The Russians for the first time officially condemned Pakistan's policy in Bangladesh. Pravda expressed skepticism about official Pakistani claims of stability in the rebel territory. It reflected the grave concern felt in high Russian official circles that the tragedy of Bangladesh could lead to a larger conflict between India and Pakistan, with possible involvement of China, and warned that continuing bloodshed not only harmed the interests of the Pakistani people but "also harms the cause of peace in Asia and all over the world."

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UK PM faces new questions after phone number found online Revealations that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's personal mobile number has been circulating online for 15 years raised national security concerns yesterday, amid a raft of probes into his conduct.

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh Agro-Meteorological Information Systems Development Project (BWCSR-Component "C")

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাহাদুরাবাদী "কৃষি আবহাওয়া তথ্য পদ্ধতি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প" এর প্রকল্প মেয়াদকালীন সময়ের জন্য সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগিত পদসমূহ