

Witness to the killing of Italian priest

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of cars and commercial vehicles to replace the Bangla number plates by those in English or face punitive action. The action was taken for the convenience of Pakistani law enforcement agencies who were not familiar with the Bangla script and numerical.

APP also reported that famed Sindi poet Sheikh Ayuz was placed under house arrest under Martial Law regulations. He was described as having "leanings towards the Awami League".

SITUATION REPORT: JESSORE, KHULNA

Pakistan military government allowed six foreign newspapers, including the New York Times, into occupied Bangladesh this week for a tour with official escorts.

The New York Times correspondent provided an account of the killing of Italian priest Father Veronesi in Jessore which occurred on April 4: "In

the Catholic hospital grounds of this smashed and burned city [Jessore] is the fresh grave of an Italian priest. The grave is that of the Rev. Mario Veronesi, 58 years old, who worked at the Roman Catholic mission here for 18 years. Father Veronesi was one of four Italian priests at the Fatima Catholic Hospital here. All were members of the Xaverian order.

"At the Catholic hospital, according to witnesses, two soldiers arrived late in the afternoon as a doctor priest was about to operate on a girl. Witnesses said the soldiers began firing into the house and Father Veronesi walked out with his hands up. They said he was wearing no cassock, but his shirt carried a Red Cross badge. The grounds are clearly marked as a Catholic hospital. At this point, a soldier is said to have opened fire at the priest with a sten gun, killing him instantly.

"The witnesses said that troops then entered the church and shot four persons, including two women.

Troops on a truck reportedly opened the offensive in Jessore by firing a machine gun at all buildings as it passed along the street near the hospital."

Two days ago, Gen Tikka Khan, military governor of East Pakistan, told foreign newsmen that the army had not desecrated or damaged any religious shrines. Asked by a reporter whether an Italian priest had been killed, he paused and said that an Italian journalist had been wounded. When the Italian ambassador to Pakistan reportedly visited the mission, military authorities informed him that Father Veronesi had been killed by the rebels, not the army.

It was reported that Jessore and Khulna were among the most heavily damaged towns in East Pakistan. Many market areas and buildings are burned out, the streets deserted.

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US may consider taking a good number

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He also expressed optimism that the US, as the largest donor for the humanitarian operations for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh, would continue to provide necessary assistance for them, including those now settled in Bhasan Char.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller met the foreign minister at his ministry office on Thursday and discussed the issues.

The US envoy informed the minister that during the upcoming launch of the annual Joint Response Plan (JRP) on May 18 in Geneva, the US is expected to pledge again to make a large contribution to the humanitarian operation for Rohingyas.

Momen also assured the US side of Bangladesh's cooperation on the ongoing investigation into genocide against Rohingyas in

Myanmar, as reinitiated by the Biden administration.

The minister urged Miller to address the difficulties being faced by a large number of Bangladeshi students to obtain visa interview dates at the US embassy in Dhaka, as many of them may lose admission and scholarships due to the delay.

The US envoy informed that many interview slots had to be cancelled due to the lockdown.

He assured Momen of doing the best to make sure all the student visa applicants get interview slots on a priority basis once the lockdown is over.

The main point of the discussion was the process of acquiring AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine from the US to meet up the growing needs in Bangladesh.

Momen underscored that while the immediate need of Bangladesh

is around 4 million doses of vaccine, the US government may consider providing 20 million AstraZeneca vaccine to Bangladesh from its stock.

The US ambassador said his government was sincerely working on the proposal, though this was difficult to predict a timeframe at this moment.

He also informed that the United States is yet to provide any AstraZeneca vaccine to India, and hopefully Bangladesh will get the vaccine at the same time India gets.

The foreign minister emphasised an early decision.

He also welcomed Biden's declaration to support Intellectual Property Waiver for vaccines in the WTO, and expressed optimism that this would enable developing countries, including Bangladesh, to produce US vaccines in the near future.

5 doctors sued

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of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the incident. The court also asked the PBI to submit the report by August 12, court sources said.

Quoting the case statement, plaintiff's lawyer Abdul Baki Miah told The Daily Star that Mahbub took his daughter Kamrun Nahar Rini to the hospital on January 31 and she gave birth to a male child there after her Cesarean operation.

The doctors stitched her abdomen keeping a surgical gauze inside.

She started feeling pain the next day. The doctors, however, treated her at the hospital for the next 22 days with medicines for gastric problems, he said.

As her condition was deteriorating, Rini was taken to a hospital in the capital on February 27. While checking, something abnormal was seen inside her abdomen. Later, doctors at the hospital conducted an operation and found a one-foot-sized gauze inside the abdomen.

The lawyer added that an organ of Rini was damaged as the gauze was there for many days, leaving her on the verge of death. Her treatment is going on, he said.

"The victim's father filed the case as he wants justice for his daughter. So, he wants trial of the doctors for their negligence," he added.

Contacted, Dr Khandakar Sadiqur Rahman, assistant director of the 250-bed Tangail General Hospital, told this correspondent that a four-member body, formed by the hospital authorities to probe the incident, found that the allegation of the patient's relatives was true.

The probe report also mentioned that the incident was unintentional and such an incident did not happen in the hospital before, he said.

"However, we will seek explanations from the accused medical officers and also write to the higher authorities for deciding the next course of action in this regard," he added.

Malaysia

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According to the notice, foreign nationals who embark on their journey from Bangladesh, either by direct flight to Malaysia or transiting in Malaysia, will not be allowed to enter the country.

Vessels with a 14-day history of travelling from certain countries, including Bangladesh, will not be allowed to undergo sign-on and sign-off procedures in Malaysia.

However, Malaysian crews will be allowed entry but will require to undergo a 14-day mandatory quarantine at gazetted quarantine stations.

Malaysian citizens from Bangladesh are allowed to enter the country, but must undergo a 14-day mandatory quarantine at gazetted quarantine stations, the notice read.

According to the notice, Malaysian citizens will be barred from traveling to certain countries, including Bangladesh.

Entry and exit approval that has been obtained earlier, either through MyTravelPass, MyEntry, or any other mechanism will be VOID and no longer valid.

Following the implementation of the above entry restriction, visa services by the Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka will be temporarily suspended until further notice.

Cutting trees in name

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Architect Mubasshar Hussein said, "I was a member of the committee that oversaw the glass tower construction at Suhrawardy Udyan. At one stage, the government allowed marble constructions around the tower without our consent. This was done to facilitate a company that supplied marble stones."

"And what is the result of that? Now people cannot go near the tower during daytime because the stones get too heated up when the sun shines," he explained.

He also chalked out a solution to keep the trees unharmed despite construction of restaurants.

"The trees can guide the seating arrangement and design of the area. Eco-friendly material like straw can be used to set up stalls. People would welcome it," he said.

"I think more trees are being felled than was necessary," said Mubasshar. "Those trees needed around 50 years

to reach today's stage. And they were felled in one night."

The authorities concerned should have arranged a public hearing over this issue, he said.

"Whenever such projects are initiated, the government forms a committee headed by a bureaucrat. Though efficient in running administration, they are not engineering or architecture experts. This culture needs to go," said the architect.

"Cutting trees has a long-term adverse effect. When concrete structures replace greenery, surface water cannot go underground. So water level under Dhaka is decreasing every day," said Mubasshar.

"The masterminds behind this project should be punished. Even, I have requested the prime minister to punish those who provide such evil suggestions to her," concluded Mubasshar Hussein.

Narrow Buriganga bend

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A vessel carrying 29 cattle sank after collision with a passenger vessel on August 18, 2018, according to media reports.

"The turning point is very dangerous. When we approach the turning point, we cannot see any vessel coming from the opposite direction. That is why we have to maintain maximum caution as we cross it," said Altaf Hossain, in-charge master of passenger vessel Sundarban-14.

"We have to keep honking while crossing the zone. The channel is so narrow that we often face difficulties in operating our vessel through that point," he told The Daily Star.

Mohammad Ruhul Amin, assistant master of MV Sundarban-10 launch, echoed this, saying the major danger is the narrow turning point, compounded by the fact that many cargo vessels are kept anchored there.

Nurul Haque said, in most cases, owners of sand-laden vessels appoint unskilled drivers who don't have any training to operate these vessels. That is why accidents are occurring frequently, he added.

RIVERBANK GRABBING

Where previously, the Dhaka-Narayanganj highway could be seen easily from the bank of the Buriganga, it now appears distant because most of the land between the river and the highway has been grabbed and illegal structures set up.

On a recent visit, this writer observed a market constructed on the grabbed river land between the highway and Fatullah launch terminal by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), a government body.

A weekly cattle market sits every Tuesday on the filled-up portion of the river adjacent to Postogola-Narayanganj highway to the north of Fatullah launch terminal. It, however, has no permanent structure.

Locals said the government authorities have evicted all the illegal structures there. But no step has been taken to re-excavate the riverbank, they added.

The western side of the Buriganga's narrow bend is visibly worse off as multiple dockyards have been set up

occupying the riverbank, where vessels are being constructed and others are anchored.

Konda Union Parishad Chairman Muhammad Saidur Rahman Chowdhury, under whose jurisdiction this area lies in Keraniganj's Konda union, said BIWTA set up pillars demarcating the river boundaries and evicted illegal structures.

"But the government authorities are yet to take any measure to excavate the river bank. If the river banks on both sides are excavated, the river channel would be wider and safer," he added.

Contacted, BIWTA Executive Engineer Md Motiul Islam, also Dhaka's Circular Waterway Project's deputy chief director, referred this writer to Md Gulzar Ali, joint director (port and transport) of BIWTA.

Gulzar Ali then referred this writer to BIWTA's joint director (river safety and traffic management) Md Jainal Abedin, who did not respond to multiple calls or text messages.

HC DIRECTIVES IGNORED

Poribesh Bachao Andolon Chairman Abu Naser Khan said the problems of the waterway can be solved if the High Court directives on river boundaries' demarcation are followed properly.

The river channel can be widened if the river bank is excavated on the basis of CS land survey records, he said.

In 2009, the HC's landmark judgement on saving four rivers surrounding Dhaka included directives to demarcate the rivers based on CS records, set boundary pillars, evict grabbers, and dredge the rivers, among others.

When these were ignored and earth and sand filling continued unabatedly, the HC gave another judgement in 2019 which declared all rivers flowing through the country to be living beings and accordingly, legal rights in case of harm.

The HC also directed the government to remove sand and earth if any river land is illegally filled up and that this cost be realised from the occupying party by the government.

"Keeping the river banks unexcavated is similar to living with cancer. There is no alternative to excavating the river bank to ensure a safe river route," said Naser.

Rabindranath's 160th birth

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the nation is digitally celebrating the birth anniversary of Tagore, who reshaped Bengali literature and music as well as arts of Indian subcontinent with contextual modernism.

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the poet, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages yesterday, paying rich tributes to the poet.

Due to the pandemic, there is no official event on the occasion in the country.

Nobody had influenced the minds of so many Bengali-speaking people before or after him. His influence has been compared, by many, to Shakespeare in the English-speaking world.

The youngest of 13 surviving

children of Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Devi, Rabindranath, nicknamed Rabi, was born on 25 th of Bengali month of Baishakh in 1268 (May 7, 1861) in Jorasanko Mansion of Kolkata.

His novels, short stories, songs, dance-dramas and essays always speak about the political and personal life of people.

Gitanjali (Song Offerings), Gora (Fair-Faced) and Ghare-Baire (The Home and the World) are his best-known works and his verse, short stories and novels were acclaimed for their lyricism, colloquialism, naturalism and unnatural contemplation.

Author of Gitanjali, profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse, Tagore became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. Sometimes referred to as "the Bard

of Bengal", Tagore's poetic songs were viewed as spiritual and mercurial.

His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems: Bangladesh's "Amar Sonar Bangla" and India's "Jana Gana Mana". The Sri Lankan national anthem was inspired by his work.

The legendary poet breathed his last at his paternal home in Kolkata on Sraban 22 of Bangla year 1348 (August 7, 1941).

State-run Bangladesh Television and other private television channels and Bangladesh Betar are airing special programmes, highlighting the life and works of Tagore.

Chayanat will organise a programme titled "Dhar Nirvar Gaan". The show will be aired on Chayanat's Facebook group and YouTube channel at 9:00pm today.

4 city areas at risk of dengue

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However, he said the ongoing restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 also creates obstacles for spreading dengue. Schools and colleges are major sites for spreading the virus as the young generation are the main victims.

Similarly, the restrictions on people's movement throughout the country can be a positive.

But still there is risk of dengue and authorities will have to take necessary steps to stop its spread, he said.

"It will be a very big burden for us if dengue cases start to spread as the coronavirus pandemic is going on," he said.

"Authorities will have to take necessary steps to raise awareness so people destroy all breeding sources like abandoned pots, tyres and clean flower pots, cement tanks and drums once every week," he said.

Attention should also be paid to cleaning bus stops, hospitals, vehicles seized by police, etc. in anti-mosquito drives, he said.

Educational institutions have been closed for more than a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and cleaning operations have to be done at the places to eliminate breeding sources, he suggested.

The government also has to take action on targeted sources by identifying them, he said.

Government will have to introduce

a modern surveillance system to identify Aedes mosquito larvae, he added.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said there were no alarming findings in the DGHS survey, but there is still a risk of dengue infection.

If the activities of the two city corporations and people are conscious about destroying breeding sources the number of Aedes mosquitoes will not be high even after rainfall, he said.

But if proper measures are not taken from now, the number of Aedes mosquitoes will increase, Bashar warned.

Awareness building will have to start from now. If it is a public place then authorities concerned will have to take steps to destroy the breeding grounds and if it is a residence then the house owner will have to take steps to clean it, he said.

DNCC mayor Md Atiqul Islam said they are conducting drives at different places to check Aedes mosquito larvae.

"We are also sending text messages to owners of houses identified during our combing operation last year to take necessary steps against Aedes mosquitoes. We have an app where all the information of previous users is preserved," said Atique.

He said they are also taking action to identify hotspots of Aedes mosquitoes.

Atique said there was a shortage of

mosquito control supervisors and they have already managed 54 supervisors for 54 wards of DNCC, given them necessary training and they are now working at field level.

"There are two entomologists in the DNCC. We have also sought 10 entomologists from the government to conduct their operation as they play a vital role to control [the spread of] Aedes mosquito," the mayor said.

He said awareness is very important, but although they were unable to conduct physical awareness campaigns this year amid the pandemic they are taking steps to raise awareness through social media and other platforms.

Health official of the DSCC Mir Mustafizur Rahman said they are conducting an ongoing anti-Aedes mosquito drive through three mobile courts.

They are also working at the zone and ward level to control it even during the lockdown, he said.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh held a meeting with relevant officials on Monday and gave directions to take necessary steps to control Aedes mosquitoes, he said.

As Aedes is a mosquito that breeds in clean water building awareness about it is very important and people will have to come forward to clean their own houses and destroy all possible breeding sources to control the menace, he said.

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Memo No. 35.01.2690.007.07.001.21-1957 Dated: 06/05/2021

e-Tender Notice: CORRIGENDUM-01
This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Package No. & date publishing	Name of work	To be replaced (last selling and closing date & time)	Replace with (last selling and closing date & time)
ID: 567012 No. DZ(e-GP)-21/Dev/2020-2021 Publishing: 11/04/2021	Reconstruction of Flexible Pavement, Earthwork, Surfacing, RCC Box Culvert and Protective Work Etc. of Panchdonadanga-Ghorashal Road (Z-2047) (Danga Bazar to Islampur Kheaghat) at Ch. 2+700 to 8+100 and Dhanga-Islampur-Kheaghat Road (Z-2048) at Ch. 0+000 to 3+500 under Narsingdi Road Division during the year of 2020-2021 (WP-2).	11-May-2021 17:00 12-May-2021 13:00	17-May-2021 17:00 18-May-2021 13:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

Md. Rasal Sub-Assistant Engineer, RHD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka
Md. Maminul Islam Assistant Engineer (c.c.), RHD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka
Md. Sabuj Uddin Khan Additional Chief Engineer (c.c.), RHD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka

'Extremely low' risk of damage from rocket debris

Says China
AFP, Beijing

China said yesterday the risk of damage from a rocket falling back to Earth was "extremely low", after the United States warned it could crash down on an inhabited area.

Military experts in the US expect the body of the Long March 5B rocket, which separated from Beijing's space station, to come down some time around today or tomorrow, but warned it was difficult to predict where it will land and when.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal

Invitation for Tender (Corrigendum Notice)

It is to inform all concerned that the Invitation for Tender No. OTM-01/2020-21, invited vide this office dated 29.04.2021 is hereby amended as follows;

Name of work	Notice & Sl. No.	Description	Published in tender	Amended
Supply of Boson Store Goods-Lot: 1	Sl. No. 10	Procurement nature	-	Goods
Supply of cookeries and cutleries for cadet mess-Lot: 2	SL. No. 18	Tender last selling date	17-05-2021 (1700 hours)	23.05.2021 (1700 hours)
Supply of sports and misc. items-Lot: 3	SL. No. 19	Tender closing date and time	18.05.2021 on 12.00 Noon	24.05.2021 on 12.00 Noon
Supply of stationery items for cadet and office-Lot: 4	SL. No. 20.	Tender opening date and time	18-05-2021 on or after 12.30pm	24.05.2021 on or after 12.30 Noon
Supply of materials for demonstration hall (For practical classes of cadet - Lot: 5	SL. No. 28	Tender document price	Taka 2000.00 (two thousand) non-refundable DD/PO in favour of the Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal (Drawable Sonali Bank, Barishal University Branch), Barishal Sadar, Barishal is to be submitted.	Taka 1000.00 (one thousand) Per Lot non-refundable DD/PO in favour of the Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal (Drawable Sonali Bank, Barishal University Branch), Barishal Sadar, Barishal is to be submitted.

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged. This corrigendum notice will be part and parcel of the tender.

Capt. SM Atiqur Rahman BN
Commandant
Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal

GD-924