

## The Indians

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He also requested Nixon to send a reply to Pakistan President Yahya Khan's letter, which according to him "would give him [Yahya] an excuse to answer all the things by saying, listing all the things he's doing because he can't get any publicity here".

As to the content of the letter to Yahya, Kissinger suggested, "You just say you hope the refugees will soon be able to go back to East Pakistan. He will then reply to you [saying] that's exactly what he wants. I've got it all arranged with the embassy. Then you can take credit. You can tell the Indians to pipe down and we'll keep Yahya happy."

Nixon agreed with Kissinger and said, "The Indians need—what they need really is a... a mass famine. But they aren't going to get that. We're going to feed them -- a new kind of wheat. But if they're not going to have a famine the last thing they need is another war. Let the goddamn Indians fight a war."

### NAZRUL'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

The exiled government of Bangladesh today observed the 72nd birthday of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at a simple ceremony. A spokesman of the Bangladesh government told reporters that on the occasion of the rebel poet's birthday the Bangladesh people renewed their pledge to eliminate the West Pakistani troops and their scyphants from the soil of Bangladesh. Hossain Ali, chief of Bangladesh Mission in Kolkata, paid floral tribute to the poet on behalf of the Bangladesh government.

### BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS

#### A THREAT TO INDIA: INDIRA

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi reiterated in the Lok Sabha today that the developments in Bangladesh posed a threat to security of India and also to the peace in South-East Asia. Indira Gandhi, who was winding up a debate on Bangladesh, regretted that when democracy had so brutally been destroyed in Bangladesh, "we do not hear much comment nor do we see the spontaneous response" that was expected from abroad.

While urging the members to have faith in "the courageous people of Bangladesh and their determination to fight for their rights", the Indian prime minister did not commit the government on the question of recognition of the Bangladesh government.

She repeated, "The matter is constantly under review. We have given deep and anxious thought to all aspects."

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## Police claim

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over the construction of boundary gates and pillars at Awal's Ali Nagar project in Pallabi.

Awal planned to kill Shahinuddin and his staffer Sumon was assigned to execute the plan in return for a huge amount of money. Sumon, with the help of others, hacked Shahinuddin to death on May 16, he said.

Sumon was given Tk 20,000 in advance for the murder. The rest of the money was supposed to be given after the murder, said AKM Hafiz.

The DB Additional Commissioner said the information was given by the three accused in their confessional statements before court, in our investigation and in statements given to police by other arrestees.

The DB has so far arrested 10 people, including six named accused -- MA Awal, Sumon Byapari, Md Titu, Md Dipu, Babu alias Baitte Babu and Md Murad.

Four others, whose involvement was found in Shahinuddin's murder -- They are Rocky Talukder, Nur Mohammad Hasan, Iqbal and Sharif -- were also arrested.

Two accused in the case Monir and Manik were allegedly killed in "gunfight" with Rab and the DB.

Hafiz said the FIR had 20 named accused in the case and that they were trying to arrest them all, adding that the investigation is currently at its final stage.

Sumon Bepari confessed to a magistrate on Monday that he hired 12 other goons to kill the trader upon former lawmaker Awal's instructions.

After being attacked three times in last six years, receiving numerous death threats, and even after filing general diaries in this regard, Shahinuddin was attacked and brutally killed on May 16 in front of his 7-year-old son.

The following day, his mother filed a murder case with Pallabi Police Station.

## Home ministry

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cases against them, according to the circulars.

The development came a day after Lt Col Mohammad Iftekhar Uddin, director (operations) of Rab, wrote to the police headquarters to take SP Fazlul Haque back to the police force from Rab and take administrative steps against him.

The Rab official mentioned that Fazlul had a sensitive phone conversation with Nazmul in which he made unacceptable, false and indecent remarks reading Rab and its officials, which created confusion among various quarters.

There is a possibility of unexpected misunderstanding between the two forces due to his sensitive remarks and activities, which are unacceptable and punishable offence, Iftekhar mentioned in the letter to the deputy inspector general (administration and discipline wing) of police headquarters.

## One suspected to have black fungus dies

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infection. "We will release it as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said necessary steps were being taken to deal with black fungus, reports UNB.

"A few cases of black fungus have been detected in the country along with the Indian variant of Covid-19. But there is no need to panic over the disease as it hasn't spread that much," the minister said while inaugurating a vaccination programme at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Pharmaceutical companies have been asked to increase the production of medicines that are used to treat black fungus infection, he said, adding that the department concerned has been instructed about the treatment of the disease.

Zahid said discussions on producing vaccines in Bangladesh are underway. "Like medicines, export of vaccines will be possible after meeting the domestic demand."

Black fungus is caused by mold found in damp environments like soil or compost, and can attack the respiratory tract. It is not contagious and does not spread from person to person, says CNN.

Several types of fungi can cause the disease. These fungi are not harmful to most people, but can cause serious infections among those with weakened immune systems,

according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Black fungus commonly affects the sinuses or lungs after a person inhales fungal spores in the air, and can also affect the skin following a surface injury like a cut or burn. Symptoms depend on where in the body the fungus is growing, but can include facial swelling, fever, skin ulcers and black lesions in the mouth.

The disease "begins to manifest as skin infection in the air pockets located behind our forehead, nose, cheekbones, and in between the eyes and teeth," said the Indian Health Ministry in a statement on May 14. "It then spreads to eyes, lungs and can even spread to the brain. It leads to blackening or discoloration over the nose, blurred or double vision, chest pain, breathing difficulties and coughing of blood."

The Birdem Hospital in Dhaka yesterday disclosed that a patient suspected to have black fungus died at the facility on Sunday.

"The 65-year-old patient died with suspected black fungus. We are examining to confirm the case," Prof M Delwar Hossain, chairman of department of respiratory medicine at Birdem, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the patient had uncontrolled diabetes and kidney problems, but he had recovered from Covid-19.

## It looks uncertain

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Regarding women empowerment, Hasina said the process to empower women was initiated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman just after Bangladesh's independence.

"We are just following his path to empower women in all sectors of society -- from politics to administration," she said.

The PM said currently the leader of the house, opposition leader of the house, speaker of parliament and deputy leader of the house in Bangladesh are women.

She said the government has also

ensured food security in Bangladesh apart from expanding the social safety net.

Bozkir said they were thinking about holding the General Assembly this year with the physical presence of heads of governments. "We're thinking of allowing a delegation of one-plus persons from each country in this year's UNGA," he said.

He highly appreciated the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the remarkable progress in gender parity and women empowerment in Bangladesh. "Bangladesh has achieved tremendous success led by a lady prime minister."

## Govt to give them cash support

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going abroad and institutional quarantine of workers upon arrival in Saudi Arabia.

The official mentioned that they already wrote to the civil aviation and tourism ministry to offer "special airfares" to the migrant workers to lessen their financial burden in going to the Middle East countries.

Around 6,500 migrant workers were thrown into uncertainty about joining work in Saudi Arabia after the kingdom on May 10 issued a travel advisory effective from May 20 for a number of countries, including Bangladesh.

According to the advisory, migrant workers have to spend an additional Tk 60,000-Tk 70,000 for 7-day institutional quarantine in Saudi Arabia if they aren't vaccinated.

The workers must have medical insurance for Covid-19 and hotel reservations for institutional quarantine, it mentioned.

The Saudi authorities said the violators of the rules will be deported and banned from entering the country.

Following the fresh travel advisory, Bangladesh Biman suspended all its 18 weekly flights to Saudi Arabia for nine days from May 20, saying it needs time to make arrangements to comply with the travel advisory.

The national flag carrier is yet to complete the arrangements.

Sources at the expatriates' welfare ministry said the ministry is trying its best to help the migrant workers from the Wage Earners Welfare Fund.

## Over 200 villages under water as levees

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Low-lying areas of Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Barishal, Bhola, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur and Chattogram will be inundated, the Met office said.

People from these districts will also experience storm winds along with rainfall, the Met office added.

The Met office advised the maritime ports of Bangladesh to hoist cautionary signal number three, which means there will be 40-50kmph wind and anchored boats could get damaged.

The authorities concerned have cancelled operation of water vessels as river remains very rough.

At least 70 villages in Patuakhali and Barguna were inundated yesterday, affecting over 40,000 people.

Local administrations were working to evacuate people.

Till filing of this report yesterday evening, many were taken to cyclone centres and some were on the way to safe shelters. But many others were still in their homes.

In Barguna, over 50 villages were flooded as water of different rivers were flowing above the danger level. Several thousand have been marooned.

"Flood protection dam of our area collapsed, resulting in inundation of many houses in our village. My house has also been damaged," said Shamsul Haque, of East Rupdhon village in Patharghata upazila.

In Patuakhali, at least 21 villages were flooded. Around 6km embankment of Lala union in Kalapara upazila and about 10km embankment in Charanda, South Charmontaj and Chalitabunia unions of Rangabali upazila were washed away yesterday morning.

Water level of the Andharmanik river was flowing 23cm above the danger level, said officials concerned.

Rangabali Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mashfaqueur Rahman said water was entering localities due to tidal surges. Many people have already been marooned. The local administration is working to evacuate people, he said.

About 40 shops on Kuakata beach have been damaged by strong winds and tidal surges.

In Noakhali, around 5,000 people have been marooned as about 50 villages were flooded in coastal upazila Hatiya.

People of the island upazila were in panic as five to

About one admitted black fungus patient, he said he was given medicine and his condition was not that severe.

Hossain said they have already written to the DGHS about the admitted patient and also informed it about the medicine as it was expensive.

He said that the other black fungus infected patient, aged 45, was not taking treatment at the hospital.

Birdem Hospital revealed the two confirmed cases to The Daily Star on Monday. The two individuals are the first Covid-recovered patients detected at the facility with the rare fungal disease.

Health experts in Dhaka said there was no reason to panic as people of all ages are not at risk of the disease.

Covid-19 patients who are diabetic, take steroids, have cancer or transplanted organs and other comorbidities are susceptible to the infection, they said.

Coronavirus affects people's immune system and the treatment drugs further suppress their immune response, they added.

Over 7,200 people in India have been reported with black fungus and 219 of them have lost their lives, Indian media reported, quoting health officials. The rise in black fungus infections, mostly in patients who had severe coronavirus infections, has been linked to overuse of steroids, the reports add.

Five Indian states have declared black fungus as an epidemic.

About Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC status, Bozkir said Bangladesh has become an example before the whole world. "The people of Bangladesh are very courageous, and they'll carry it forward," he said.

Turning to the Rohingya issue, the UNGA president highly praised the generosity of Bangladesh for giving shelter to over one million Rohingyas.

PM's daughter Saima Wazed, who is also the chairperson of the Bangladesh National Advisory Committee for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin were present during the meeting.

## Mushfiqur, bowlers deliver

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Off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz was once again instrumental, bagging three wickets for 28 runs in his 10 overs while Mustafizur Rahman took three wickets too. Shakib AL Hasan picked up two wickets and equalled Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as the highest wicket-taker for the Tigers in ODIs with 269 wickets while debutant Shoriful Islam picked up one wicket.

Earlier, Bangladesh were in some sort of trouble after electing to bat first. Skipper Tamim Iqbal smashed three boundaries and got a life in the very first over from Isuru Udana but could not make the opportunity count.

The left-hander was trapped leg-before to a fast Dushmantha Chameera delivery in the very next over on 13 before the seamer dismissed Shakib in the same over pretty much in a similar fashion.

Shakib, for the second consecutive game, missed out with the bat and was trapped leg before without troubling the scorers as Bangladesh were struggling at 15 for two.

Liton Das, desperate to return to form after scoring a duck in the previous game, remained watchful early in his innings and it seemed that the right-handed batsman would be able to score big.

But that was not the case as Liton was dismissed in a rather soft manner when he handed an easy catch at point, going for a cut to a long-hop from Chinaman bowler Lakshan Sandakan after scoring 25 off 42 balls.

Mosaddek Hossain, included in place of Mohammad Mithun at number five, wasn't able to make an impact with the bat and was caught down the leg side off Sandakan for 10 as Bangladesh lost four wickets for 74 inside 16 overs.

Then it was once again the two experienced campaigners -- Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah Riyad -- who bailed the team out like the first ODI.

The pair started the rebuilding job and remained cautious but slowly started to take control over the bowlers, with Mushfiqur being the

more aggressive.

Although Mahmudullah was eventually dismissed by Sandakan after scoring 41 off 58 balls; he had added 87 runs for the fifth wicket to navigate a tricky situation.

But the job was not done yet for the Tigers who still needed to post a decent total and it was down to Mushfiqur who emerged as their saviour.

Despite losing partners at the other end, Mushfiqur made sure he scored as many runs as possible. The right-hander also didn't try a single reverse-sweep after getting out trying a reverse-sweep at a crucial time in the last ODI.

Although rain interrupted the game twice, it couldn't stop Mushfiqur from registering his eighth ODI ton off 114 balls. The 34-year old went on and was eventually dismissed as the last batsman with eleven balls to spare after scoring 125 off 127 balls.

## India's Covid

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that the entire region could be the next hot spot of the virus, officials said yesterday.

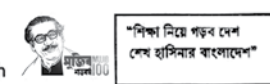
The country's overall officially recorded case load since the start of the pandemic now stands at 26.95 million.

There are serious concerns that many new infections are not being reported, due to a dearth of testing in the countryside, where the virus has spread to from the cities.

Deaths due to Covid-19 amounted to 3,511 in the last 24 hours, bringing the total since the pandemic first struck over a year ago to 307,231, according to health ministry data.

Experts believe that grossly underestimates the actual toll as only people who have tested positive are counted, whereas many victims were never tested.

The Economist magazine's excess-deaths model estimates that around a million people have died of Covid-19 in India so far, way above the 590,240 in the United States, which is the worst hit country based on official counts.



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Memo No: 37.03.0000.070.007.203.020.254 Date: 23 May 2021

**e-Re- Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods details belows in the table.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref.	Tender ID No. (From e-GP Portal)	Tender Description	Publication Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1	37.03.0000.070.007.203.020.347 Date:18.05.2021	578296	Supply and installation of Welding and Fabrication Trade Equipments for 10 Technical School and College at Different Upzillas	27-May-2021 10:00	24-Jun-2021 12:00

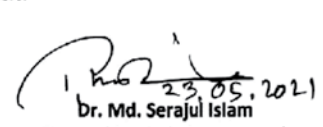
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required


The fees for downloading the e-GP tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to specified date & time mentioned in the e-GP system.

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

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.



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[www.kda.gov.bd](http://www.kda.gov.bd)

**e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.procure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of works mentioned below under KDA, Khulna.

Sl. No.	Name of work & package No.	e-Tender notice	Tender ID	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender opening/ closing (date & time)
	Widening and Improvement of Khulna Shipyard Road. SWD-01 (Re-Tender ID-502973)	e-GP/01/KDA/Khulna/2020-2021	581310	22-Jun-2021 Time: 17.00	23-Jun-2021 Time: 13.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 17.00 on 22-Jun-2021. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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