



**"My first season as a manager has ended. It has been an intense, complicated but in any case wonderful year."**  
ANDREA PIRLO AFTER JUVENTUS SACK HIM AFTER ONE SEASON



**"We will now officially refer to these events as what they are from today's perspective: genocide."**  
GERMAN FM HEIKO MAAS ON COLONIAL-ERA CRIMES IN NAMIBIA



**"Isn't that great? I will work out and read in jail then I will be a better man when I am out."**  
HONG KONG DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGNER FIGO CHAN AFTER RECEIVING JAIL TERM FOR TAKING PART IN 2019 PROTESTS

## COVID VACCINATION

# Govt plans to ease age bar

Target to bring univ students under mass inoculation

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government plans to lower the age limit for Covid-19 vaccination as it wants to inoculate students aged above 18 and take them back to classrooms by reopening universities.

"Now the age limit is 40. We're planning to bring it down to 18-20. We will make the final decision in consultation with the education ministry," said ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Teachers who have not got the jobs yet will also be included in the vaccination campaign, he told The Daily Star.

"We are in close contact with the education ministry. But everything depends on the availability of vaccines. We have made good progress on vaccine procurement. We are hopeful that we can start vaccinating university students within a month."

The DG said the coronavirus positivity rate was coming down and it would dip further if everyone followed the health safety guidelines.

Last week, Education Minister Dipu Moni said they were relying on the suggestions of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, which has recommended reopening educational institutions once the infection rate drops below 5 percent.

The positivity rate stood at 9.30 percent yesterday, while the overall positivity rate was 13.49 percent, shows DGHS data.

Contacted, NTAC member M Iqbal Arsalan said they were yet to hold any meeting on the issue.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Holding a photo of her missing father Parvez Hossain, Adiba Islam Hridi along with her mother joins a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Parvez, who was allegedly picked up by law enforcers from the capital's Shahbagh, has been missing for about seven and a half years. Mayer Daak, a platform of family members of the victims of enforced disappearance, staged the protest demanding safe return of the victims.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

## Unchanging pictures, unending wait

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the past five years at least, The Daily Star has been documenting little Adiba Islam Hridi on the streets and in conference rooms, holding a photo of her missing father Parvez Hossain.

Every year, the photo is the same -- Parvez in an orange tee-shirt, sporting aviators and sitting jauntily on a red motorbike. It is the last photo his family has of him.

Parvez, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader from the capital's Bangshal, was picked up from Shahbagh by members of a law enforcement agency on December 2, 2013, claimed his family and friends, who were present when he was taken.

"I have been coming back for the last eight years," Hridi, sitting on the curb in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, told this correspondent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Edible oil gets pricier again

Prices increased for 5th time in last 5 months

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

The price of soybean oil goes up again in the country today, with each litre to be sold for Tk 153, up from the previous price of Tk 144 set barely two weeks ago.

With this latest hike, the price of the essential cooking ingredient has gone up five times in the last five months. The price of each litre of bottled soybean oil has soared by Tk 38 (33 percent) since December 30 last year when the price was Tk 115 a litre.

The new price rate becomes effective from today, Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association said in a circular on Thursday.

The price hike comes at a time when people are struggling to keep up with the rising prices of essentials amid the pandemic.

According to the new price rate, the price of five-litre bottled soybean oil has been fixed at Tk 728, up by Tk 43 from the previous price of Tk 685. Loose soybean oil will be sold for Tk 129 a litre, up from Tk 122.

However, the price of loose palm oil has been reduced to Tk 112 per litre from Tk 113.

In the last week of December 2020, bottled soybean oil was sold for around Tk 115 per litre while loose soybean oil for around Tk 110, up by Tk 10 to Tk 15 per litre from the previous month.

Many consumers blamed the government's lack of price monitoring and arbitrariness on the part of edible oil

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## QUARANTINE COST OF KSA-BOUND WORKERS

# If vaccinated, Tk 260cr could've been saved

RASHIDUL HASAN

Around 40,000 expatriate workers waiting to go to Saudi Arabia in the next one and a half months could have saved almost Tk 260 crore in hotel expenses had the government prioritised inoculating them against Covid-19.

As per the new travel advisory that has been in effect since May 20, a worker has to stay in a hotel for a week upon reaching Saudi Arabia, spending about Tk 65,000, said the leaders of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

"The nearly 40,000 workers will be spending a total of Tk 260 crore," Mohammad Faruk, former senior vice president of Baira, told The Daily Star.

Saudi authorities said those who had been inoculated against the coronavirus at least 14 days before reaching Saudi Arabia would not be required to be in quarantine, according to a new travel advisory.

Faruk said the large sums of money would not have gone to Saudi Arabia "had the government heard our repeated calls for prioritising the inoculation of migrant workers all set to join their workplaces in Saudi Arabia".



Overseas recruiting agencies also wrote a letter in this regard to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina several months ago, he said. "We also sent several letters to the expatriates' welfare minister and met him in person to urge him to include migrant workers among the sections of people prioritised for vaccination," Faruk said.

The government praises the remittance earners for their contribution to the country's economy, but had not ensured vaccines for them in the five months since the inoculation programme was launched in February, he said.

In the last four days, an estimated 1,000 workers who failed to book a hotel in Saudi

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## UN honours eight fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has awarded eight fallen peacekeepers from Bangladesh with the "Dag Hammarskjöld Medal".

As many as 129 peacekeepers from 44 nations were honoured at a virtual ceremony on the occasion of the International Day of the UN Peacekeepers on Thursday.

All the recipients lost their lives while rendering duties in different peacekeeping missions in 2020.

This medal commemorates the strength, purity and fragility of the lives lost in the cause of peace.

The fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers awarded with the medal are WO Abdul Mohammad Halim from Mali; WO Mohammad

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Big blow to fish farmers

Yaas destroys 4,830 fish, shrimp enclosures in Bagerhat alone; loss estimated at Tk 4.5cr

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY and DIPANKAR ROY

Fish, shrimp enclosures and other structures in coastal areas surrounding the Sundarbans were damaged by tidal surges and storms due to the impact of cyclone Yaas, causing a loss of over Tk 5 crore.

Around 4,830 fish and shrimp enclosures were washed away by tidal surges on Tuesday and Wednesday in Bagerhat. The losses can roughly be estimated at around Tk 4.5 crore, said ASM Russell, district fisheries officer.

Fish farmers of Rampal, Mongla, Sharankhola and Morrelganj upazilas of Bagerhat are the worst victims of the disaster, he added.

"It was raining incessantly on Tuesday night, making the surrounding bank of my shrimp enclosure vulnerable. When tidal water came, the surrounding bank collapsed and all of my fish got washed away. I suffered a loss of around Tk 5 lakh," said Shahriar Hossain, a shrimp farmer in Rampal upazila.

Several hundred fish farmers experienced a similar situation in the district, said Mahtab Hawlader of Teligati village in Morrelganj upazila.

Government officials are now preparing a list of affected fish farmers to provide with assistance, said ASM Russell.

There are 67,000 shrimp and other fish farms in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## A lot of work to be done

Tamim says after Tigers lose the 3rd ODI by 97 runs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh were unable to execute the perfect game as Sri Lanka bounced back from two defeats with a convincing 97-run win in the third and final ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Skipper Kusal Perera's magnificent hundred helped the tourists post a fighting total of 286 for six before a maiden five-wicket haul from young pacer Dushmantha Chameera bundled out the hosts for 189 in 42.3 overs.

Having lost the series already, the visitors had made four changes to the side while the hosts went in with one change, left-hander Naim Sheikh replacing Liton Das at the top of the order.

However, the change did not pay any dividend for the hosts as Naim managed only one run before becoming the first victim of Chameera. The lanky fast-bowler went on to pick up two more wickets soon -- Shakib Al Hasan (4), who was unable to make an impact throughout the series, and Tamim Iqbal (17) -- as the Tigers were reduced to 28 for three.

Player-of-the-series Mushfiqur Rahim and Mosaddek Hossain tried to build a partnership, adding 56 runs for the fourth wicket, but Mushfiqur's dismissal for 28 signalled the start of the end for the Tigers.

Mosaddek and Mahmudullah scored

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Sri Lanka pacer Dushmantha Chameera (C) celebrates dismissing Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal -- one of his five wickets -- during the third ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The youngster's efforts helped bowl Bangladesh out for 189 for a 97-run victory for the visitors, who had earlier scored 286 courtesy of a 120-run knock from Kusal Perera.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## ARREST OF 5 BANGLADESHIS 2 suffer bullet wounds during escape attempt

Say Indian police; they raped, tortured a woman

STAR REPORT

Two of the Bangladeshis arrested in India on charges of raping and assaulting a woman were shot in the leg during what Indian officials said was their attempt to flee yesterday.

Around 5:00am local time, police took four of the five Bangladeshi arrestees to the crime scene in K Channasandra, Bengaluru, to "reconstruct the sequence of events relating to the crime", reports our correspondent in New Delhi, quoting Shranappa SD, deputy commissioner of police (Bengaluru East), as saying.

During an inspection of the crime scene at a house in Karegowda Layout, suspects Ridoy Babu, 25, and Sagar, 23, tried to attack the policemen and flee, prompting the law enforcers to shoot them, reports Indian newspaper The Hindu, adding that both the suspects were shot in the leg and apprehended.

They are now being treated at a government hospital, it said.

Efforts are on to track down the victim who is said to be a 22-year-old Bangladeshi woman currently staying in another Indian state, the newspaper said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



TANGENTS  
BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Paradise Flycatcher

Taking in a sharp breath and forgetting to exhale is a common reaction when watching a flying male Asian Paradise Flycatcher. That's because, like an apparition straight out of the Arabian Nights, two long tail streamers several times the length of the bird glide behind it making waves in the sky. I've seen many beautiful birds around the world and this bird ranks high among them.



Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

The Asian Paradise Flycatcher lives year round in Bangladesh. An uncommon bird here, it is found in forests and village groves. The female is rufous (reddish brown.) The male can occur in two colours (morphs): white or rufous. Both males and females have black heads, grey-blue oversized hooked bills and a blue ring around their eyes. The tail of the male bird has two streamers several times the size of the body.

Years ago I saw the white Asian Paradise Flycatcher at a pond deep inside Satchori National Park. It perched on a plant on the bank and made swift short flights to catch prey. Like all flycatchers, it went after insects on the wing: butterflies, bees, wasps, beetles and dragonflies. It also took several quick dips in the water – too fast for my camera – and then flew away with the long white tail trailing behind it like a mirage.

Recently I went to Narayanganj with friends to see a nesting pair of Asian Paradise Flycatchers. This time the male was a rufous morph. They had built their nest, the size and shape of a small cup, at the junction of two thin branches, impossibly difficult to see in the foliage. Both parents incubated, the mother more than the father. The father was out and about more, flying around looking for food to bring home. Occasionally it brought a bee or another insect and fed its mate while she incubated. When the eggs hatch, both parents will bring food to the nestlings.

When not incubating, the birds moved rapidly, hopping over short distances within a tree looking for prey before taking a longer flight to another tree. The father guarded his territory well. It buzzed a squirrel

that was scouting out the nest. It also attacked a Rufous Treepie that came too close. However, it had no quarrel with nearby starlings and drongos. The pair stayed within a radius of perhaps two hundred feet from the nest.

Paradise flycatchers comprise sixteen different bird species spread around Asia and Africa. They belong to the monarch group of flycatchers. Their genus name, Terpsiphone, means "sweet voice of paradise."

Beside the Asian Paradise Flycatcher I also saw the Malagasy

Paradise Flycatcher in Madagascar. It looked similar to the rufous coloured bird I saw in Narayanganj with two exceptions: its tail streamer was white, and it was shorter than our bird's. I saw several pairs in different forests of the island incubating eggs in tiny cups that looked the same as the one I saw in Narayanganj. They were just as fidgety but less wary than our birds.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

MIDDLEMEN IN LABOUR MIGRATION

Govt to bring them under legal framework

Says formally recognising informal service providers will help check fraudulence, ensure accountability

JAMIL MAHMUD

The government is going to make informal grassroots service providers in labour migration accountable by formally recognising them under the relevant law with the aim to end fraudulence in the sector.

The expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry is amending the Overseas Employment and Migrant Act-2013 and has already formulated a draft of the proposed law, setting up a definition of such service providers widely known as "sub-agents" or "middlemen".

Migrant rights groups and sector insiders welcomed the move. However, they said the government needs to find a viable option to hold informal service providers accountable.

Once the proposed Overseas Employment and Migrant (Amendment) Act-2021 is passed, the middlemen will formally be identified as "sub-agents" or "representatives" working under licensed recruiting agents, irrespective of being paid by the agents.

"...for all migration-related activities of the appointed sub-agent or representative, both related recruiting agent and sub-agent will be responsible collectively and separately," reads a sub-clause of the proposed law.

The ministry recently uploaded a draft copy of the proposed law on its website and sought stakeholders' opinion. "We are considering modernising the 2013 Act," said Shahidul Alam, additional secretary of expatriates' welfare ministry.

In Bangladesh, most recruiting agents are based in Dhaka whereas workers are based in rural areas. Hence middlemen are needed to link the two parties, explained an official of the ministry, seeking anonymity.

"On the other hand, when a worker is deceived or lured or additional money is taken from them, they can seldom tell the name of the person responsible. As a result, it becomes difficult to bring the culprit to book," said the ministry official.

The main goal here is to make these culprits accountable, he said.

Despite the lack of legal recognition, informal service providers or middlemen are an integral part of the labour migration cycle.

They provide at least a dozen types of services to migrant workers – from assisting in passport processing to accompanying workers to the airport, according to studies by various migrant rights groups.

This is due to a major gap that exists in the government's pre-departure services to migrants, said a joint report of IOM and ILO.

As per the proposed law, the persons appointed as sub-agent or representative have to be registered with recruiting agents' association,

64 districts, so only 20 sub-agents for a recruiting agency might not be adequate, she added. "This may lead to the creation of 'sub-agents' of the sub-agents," said Prof Tasneem.

She said they have already suggested a system under which Baira, the apex trade body of recruiting agents, will register sub-agents across the country.

The registration process will follow criteria set by the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, she recommended.

According to the joint report of IOM and ILO, migrants depend on informal agents more than authorised recruiters and state institutions because of their proximity with the



**CURRENT PROCESS**  
Unregulated middlemen connect potential workers to recruiting agencies, and many workers fall victim to fraud in the process.

**PROPOSED SYSTEM**  
Middlemen will be registered as "sub-agents" with recruiting agents' association, and the government will have a list of all those registered.

and the association will keep a list of all registered sub-agents or representatives, an updated copy of which has to be submitted to the government each year.

The proposed law says a recruiting agent will be able to appoint a maximum of 20 sub-agents. But the government will decide on a number by issuing directives from time to time. Each sub-agent can only register under one recruiting agent at a time.

Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, founding chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), said, "Following a longstanding demand of migrant rights groups, the prime minister in 2019 directed to register the sub-agents or middlemen." "However, the government's registration plan is not viable."

There are thousands of villages in

former and lack of awareness.

Informal intermediaries and migrants' social networks now procure more than 50 percent of visas and other migration services, including passport and smart card collection, online registration and medical checkups, said the 2018 report by IOM and ILO.

A World Bank report published in March last year says Bangladeshi labour workers spent on average Tk 2.78 lakh, or more than \$3,000, for migration. The highest government-fixed migration cost is Tk 1.66 lakh for jobs in Russia, followed by Tk 1.65 lakh for Saudi Arabia.

An RMMRU survey of 5,407 households in the high migration-prone district Tangail in 2017 found 19 percent people could not make it for overseas jobs despite paying Tk 1.95 lakh each on average.

School staffer arrested for assaulting head teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Police yesterday arrested an office assistant of a school for allegedly assaulting the head teacher on Thursday.

The arrestee – Rakib Khan (30) – works at Baroihati Govt Primary School in Gafargaon, Mymensingh. The head teacher, Nilufa Khanam, filed a case with Pagla Police Station, accusing Rakib.

Quoting the case, OC Rasheduzzaman said although the school is closed, teachers prepare students' assignments there.

On Thursday, when Nilufa asked Rakib to clean the rooms, he altercation with her and, at one stage, hit her on the head with an iron rod. When other teachers rushed in, Rakib fled.

Gafargaon UNO Md Tajul Islam said Rakib has been terminated from his contractual job.

UN honours eight fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has awarded eight fallen peacekeepers from Bangladesh posthumously with the "Dag Hammarskjöld Medal".

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said their service and sacrifices will never be forgotten, according to a press release from the UN Information Centre in Dhaka.

A total of 129 peacekeepers from 44 nations, who lost their lives while rendering duties in different peacekeeping missions in 2020 were honoured, at a virtual ceremony on the occasion of International Day of the UN Peacekeepers yesterday. The medals were awarded by the UN secretary-general in presence of the respective permanent representatives of 44 countries at the programme.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, Ambassador Rabab Fatima, received the medals on behalf of Bangladesh.

Among the 129, eight were Bangladeshi peacekeepers, highest from any single country this year.

The fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers are Abdul Md Halim who served with MINUSMA, LCpl Md Abdulla Al Mamun and Sgt Mohammad Ibrahim, who served with United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic; Sgt Md Mobarak Hussain, LCpl Md Saiful Islam, Md Saiful Imam Bhuiyan and Sgt Md Ziaur Rahman who were deployed with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Washerman Nurul Amin of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

Six killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and 11 injured in road accidents during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents and a news agency.

In Mymensingh, two passengers of an auto-rickshaw were killed and its driver was injured as it collided head-on with a microbus in Nandail upazila yesterday. The deceased are Shahabuddin (45) and Khaleque (70).

UNB from Gaibandha reports, one person was killed and five were injured in a head-on collision between a bus and auto-rickshaw on Gaibandha-Saghata Road yesterday. The deceased, Dulal Chandra, was from Rannather Bitha.

In Bhola, three auto-rickshaw passengers – Sohag (35), Aziz (30) and Siraj (25) – were killed and five injured as a bus hit two three-wheelers in Charfashion upazila on Thursday.



A worker barely balances himself on two thin rods, welding a safety shed on the fifth level of an under-construction building to prevent any debris from falling on passers-by. But there is no safety equipment, or even a helmet for the worker himself as he risks his life at the site. This photo was taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Dhaka recently.

Looking out for avian friends

Youths set up bird nests at author Upendrakishore's birthplace

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

A group of youths have started setting up nests for birds at Masua village in Kishoreganj's Katiadi upazila. This initiative is the first of its kind in the district.

The youths under the forum "Manobik Masua" began their humanitarian work last Eid by distributing essentials among 40 families in need, said Afjal Hossain, a member of the forum. "We created this forum so people could come together irrespective of political, religious identities."

Masua is just five kilometres away from Katiadi upazila headquarters.

The youth forum has primarily set up 40 nests at the historic houses of then Masua zamindars. Legendary children's author Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury was born to the zamindar family of Masua, and the historic houses are the ancestral homes of Sukumar Ray and Satyajit Ray.

"We will set up 200 more nests in the next two months," said Afjal.

"Birds of many species used to live in this area. But indiscriminate felling of trees and spread of human habitat and infrastructure has greatly harmed the biodiversity of this beautiful village," said forum member



A youth sets up a clay pot on a tree where birds can build nests with ease.

Delwar Hossain Roman, an MBA student.

Every nest costs Tk 200, and the 40 members of the forum bear the cost, said Probal Kumar Bhowmik, another member.

This initiative was inaugurated on Friday by Masua High School Principal Taposh Kumar Roy and Masua Eidgah Imam Maulana Abu Jafor Saleh.

The administration and green activists of the area affirmed their support for the initiative. They said this step by the forum will help young people realise their duty to the society and environment.

PALLABI TRADER MURDER Two accused confess

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two more accused confessed to a magistrate yesterday that they were directly involved in the killing of trader Shahinuddin in the city's Pallabi area on May 16.

The accused are Mohammad Sharif and Iqbal Noor. Earlier, four accused including Sumon Bepari gave their confessional statements.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nivana Khair Jesi recorded the statements of Sharif and Noor. The magistrate later sent them to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

They told the magistrate that they took part in the killing under the leadership of Bepari as per direction of former lawmaker from Laxmipur MA Awal. On May 16, miscreants stabbed Shahinuddin to death at Mirpur-12 over a land dispute with former lawmaker Awal. Police so far arrested 11 people including Awal in connection with the murder.



A rickshaw-van driver is on his way to deliver a mountain of empty plastic containers, neatly stacked and fastened with rope on the three-wheeler. The stack is so high that the driver can't be even seen from the back. While such seemingly precarious arrangements is the norm for transporting materials on rickshaw-vans, sometimes they may be too risky for the roads. This photo was taken on Thursday from the capital's Palashi intersection.



# No timeline yet for new Covid origins probe

Says WHO after West insists in-depth probe

AFP, Geneva

Facing intensifying pressure for a new, more in-depth investigation of the Covid-19 pandemic origins, the World Health Organization yesterday said that it was still awaiting expert guidance.

US President Joe Biden this week ordered the US intelligence community to investigate whether the Covid-19 virus first emerged in China from an animal source or from a laboratory accident.

The move hints at growing impatience with waiting for a conclusive WHO investigation into how the pandemic that has killed more than 3.5 million people worldwide began.

The European Union and a range of other countries also pressed during an ongoing meeting of WHO member states for clarity on the next steps in its efforts to solve the mystery, seen as vital to averting future pandemics.

But the UN health agency said it was still waiting for recommendations from a team of WHO technical experts on how to move forward.

The WHO finally managed to send a team of independent, international experts to Wuhan in January, more than a year after Covid-19 first surfaced there in late 2019, to help probe the pandemic origins.

But in their long-delayed report published in late March, the international team and their Chinese counterparts drew no firm conclusions, instead ranking a number of hypotheses according to how likely they believe they were.

The report said the virus jumping from bats to humans via an intermediate animal was the most probable scenario, while a theory involving the virus leaking from a laboratory was "extremely unlikely".

Long dismissed as a kooky right-wing conspiracy theory, and vehemently rejected by Beijing, the idea that Covid-19 emerged from a lab leak in Wuhan, China has been gaining increasing momentum in the United States.

While not suggesting that a lab leak was necessarily the source, a number of prominent international scientists have said a deeper, more scientific look at the theory was needed.



People relax at outdoor dining areas on the South Bank, as lockdown restrictions continue to ease amidst the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, in London, Britain, yesterday. Despite a robust Covid vaccination campaign, the estimated reproduction "R" number in England has likely crept over 1 and the epidemic could be growing by as much as 3 percent each day, Britain's health ministry said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# France resists more joint Nato funding

REUTERS, Brussels/Paris

A \$20 billion plan to give Nato more flexibility in facing military threats, climate change and China's rise has hit firm resistance from France, which fears the move could undermine its defence priorities, four diplomats and a French defence source said.

Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg proposed in February that allies put more money directly into existing, albeit small common budgets, rather than rely on the current system that each government pays for its own military operations.

The proposal also seeks to heed French President Emmanuel Macron's 2019 warning that Nato was "brain dead" because the alliance, formed in 1949 to contain a military threat from the Soviet Union, lacked a clear political strategy in the post-Cold War, multipolar world.

But France believes the idea - which the diplomats said was to put some \$20 billion into common budgets over 10 years - is unlikely to benefit French military priorities and risks diverting attention and resources away from building up weak defence capabilities among EU member states.

"If the idea is to brutally increase the contribution of countries to common budgets and change the philosophy of Nato, moving from national responsibility to the dilution of responsibility, France's response will be clearly no," a French armed forces ministry source told Reuters.

The EU has been working since December 2017 to develop more firepower independently of the United States, led by France, the EU's remaining major military power after Britain left the bloc.

# 'Asean opposes arms embargo'

Millions struggle to buy food as price hike, unemployment bite

AGENCIES

Nine Southeast Asian countries have urged the United Nations not to endorse a freeze on arms sales to Myanmar, according to a report from Benar News.

The report by the affiliate of the U.S.-funded Radio Free Asia, quoted a Liechtenstein diplomat as saying the nine states wrote a letter to nations sponsoring a draft UN General Assembly resolution on Myanmar, where a Feb. 1 coup has sparked mass protests and a bloody crackdown by the military-led junta.

The news outlet said the letter asked countries sponsoring the draft resolution to remove a sentence calling for "an immediate suspension of the direct and indirect supply, sale or transfer of all weapons and munitions" to Myanmar.

The letter was sent on behalf of nine

of the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) grouping but did not include bloc member Myanmar, Benar News reported.

## POST-COUP MYANMAR

A spokesman for Indonesia's foreign ministry said he was unaware of the letter and referred Reuters to Asean. A spokesman for Asean did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Meanwhile, Myanmar economy and banking system have been paralysed since a military power-grab forcing millions worry about their future.

Livelihoods have been lost after strikes and factory closures, fuel prices have shot up and those lucky enough

to have bank savings face day-long queues to withdraw their cash.

Venturing out in public to earn a living has also become a safety hazard against the backdrop of an indiscriminate and brutal crackdown on dissent that has killed more than 800 civilians, according to a local monitoring group.

In a country which in normal times exports rice, beans and fruit, millions will go hungry in the coming months, the World Food Programme has warned.

Price hikes have hit remote areas particularly hard -- near the Chinese border in Kachin state, rice is almost 50 per cent more expensive, according to the WFP.

The WFP estimates that within the next six months, as many as 3.4 million more people will go hungry in Myanmar and it is poised to triple its emergency food assistance.

## 1904-1908 COLONIAL-ERA ATROCITIES

# Germany says committed genocide in Namibia

AFP, Berlin

Germany for the first time yesterday recognised it had committed genocide in Namibia during its colonial occupation, with Berlin promising financial support worth more than one billion euros to aid projects in the African nation.

"We will now officially refer to these events as what they are from today's perspective: genocide," said Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in a statement welcomed as a "first step" by Windhoek.

The agreement came after more than five years of negotiations between the two countries over events in the territory held by Berlin from 1884 to 1915.

German colonial settlers killed tens of thousands of indigenous Herero and Nama people in 1904-1908 massacres -- labelled the first genocide of the 20th century by historians.

"The acceptance on the part of Germany that a genocide was committed is the first step in the right direction," Namibian President Hage Geingob's spokesman Alfredo Hengari told AFP. "It is the basis for the second step, which is an apology, to be followed by reparations," he added.

Tensions boiled over in 1904 when the Herero -- deprived of their livestock and land -- rose up, followed shortly after by the Nama, in an insurrection crushed by German imperial troops.

In the Battle of Waterberg in August 1904, around 80,000 Herero, including women and children, fled and were pursued by German troops across what is now known as the Kalahari Desert. Only 15,000 survived.

German General Lothar von Trotha, sent to put down the rebellion. At least 60,000 Herero and around 10,000 Nama were killed between 1904 and 1908.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Suspect held over latest attack on French police

A man stabbed and badly wounded a policewoman in the town of La Chapelle-sur-Erdre in western France yesterday before he was arrested in a shoot-out, the national gendarmerie force. The assailant had been caught after a manhunt that involved two police helicopters and more than 200 officers. There was a shoot-out during the arrest and two officers were shot and wounded. The stabbed policewoman was in a critical state, BFM TV reported. The assailant's motive was not immediately clear. The incident comes a month after a female police administrative worker was knifed to death near Paris by a Tunisian national who had watched religious videos glorifying acts of jihad just before launching his attack.

### Covid kills 32 MPs in Congo

Thirty-two members of parliament in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or about 5% of the total, have died from Covid-19 since the start of the pandemic, the vice president of the National Assembly said. Even as Congo, like many other African countries, has officially reported relatively few cases and deaths, the virus has rippled through the corridors of power, killing prominent lawmakers and members of the president's entourage. The country has reported 31,248 confirmed cases and 780 deaths.

### Assad wins 4th term

Bashar al-Assad has been re-elected for a fourth term as president of war-ravaged Syria, official results showed on Thursday, despite Western accusations the polls were "neither free nor fair". The controversial vote extending Assad's stranglehold on power was the second since the start of a decade-long civil conflict that has killed more than 388,000 people, displaced millions and battered the country's infrastructure. Assad garnered 95.1 percent of the votes cast.

### Jimmy Lai among 8 jailed

Jailed Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai was among eight democracy activists handed new prison sentences yesterday for attending protests on the 70th anniversary of the founding of communist China that were followed by a sweeping crackdown. Lai, who is already behind bars for taking part in earlier protests, was given 14 months after pleading guilty to organising an unlawful assembly on October 1, 2019. He will now have to serve a total of 20 months for his multiple protest convictions. Seven other leading activists, including 25-year-old youth campaigner Figo Chan, as well as former lawmakers Lee Cheuk-yan and Leung Kwok-hung, were also given new jail terms.

### Woman breaks Everest record

Hong Kong mountaineer Tsang Yin-hung has recorded the world's fastest ascent of Everest by a woman with a time of just under 26 hours, a Nepal official said Thursday. Tsang, 44, scaled the 8,848.86-metre (29,031 feet) mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes on Sunday, Everest base camp's government liaison officer Gyanendra Shrestha said. The fastest woman to conquer Everest had been Nepali Phunjo Jhangmu Lama when she completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Alyssa Rubino and Christina Gonzalez hold a picture of their cousin Michael Joseph Rudometkin during a vigil for victims of a shooting at a rail yard run by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose, California, US on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# 'Time to change course'

EU chief tells Belarus leader; Russia backs Lukashenko

REUTERS, Brussels

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen yesterday warned Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko "it is time to change course" as her executive held out the promise of a three-billion-euro support package if he leaves power.

The European Commission president said the EU's message was twofold: one of support to the Belarusian people -- and a warning to Lukashenko.

"No amount of repression, brutality or coercion will bring any legitimacy to your authoritarian regime. So far, you have blatantly ignored the democratic choice of the Belarusian people. It is time to change course," she said.

"When -- and we believe it is a case of when, not if -- Belarus starts its peaceful democratic transition, the EU will be there to accompany it."

A commission spokeswoman said von der Leyen had written to Belarus's opposition leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya and other opposition figures "expressing her respect and admiration for the courage and strength of the people of Belarus".

The proposed support from the EU comes as the bloc aims to ramp up pressure on Lukashenko after the forced landing of an Athens-to-Vilnius Ryanair flight in Minsk on Sunday and arrest of a dissident journalist onboard.

EU leaders have already agreed to ban Belarusian airlines from flying to the bloc and recommended EU-biased carriers avoid Belarusian airspace.

Diplomats from the 27 nations are now working on expanding sanctions on Belarus and

are eyeing hitting key sectors of the economy to try to undercut Lukashenko's financial backing.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell wrote on Twitter that the three-billion-euro support plan "should be a genuine incentive for the regime to change its course".

Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus since 1994, claimed a sixth presidential term in last August's vote that the opposition and Western diplomats said was rigged.



Lukashenko's security forces unleashed a brutal crackdown after widespread protests swept the country, jailing thousands and forcing key opponents into exile.

The EU has already slapped asset freezes and visa bans on Lukashenko and 87 other regime figures, but the strongman has shrugged off Western pressure with support from key ally Russia.

Lukashenko was to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi yesterday. The Sochi trip was planned ahead of the plane diversion incident.

## Park Provence

At Khilbari adjacent to Baridhara Block-J

Redefining Comfort & Style

**Park Provence** a luxury highrise has more to it than just its cosmopolitan looks. Being built to truly international standards and located adjacent to Baridhara J Block, it is designed to be one of the finest residential developments in Dhaka. Park Provence consists of modern 3 bedroom Apartments with high-end amenities encompassing a **Swimming Pool, Community Hall, Gymnasium, Rooftop Garden, Walkway, Children Play Area etc.**

Call 16687

01713018408, 01713048556  
01713331201

Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd  
91 Gulshan Avenue

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়  
কলকারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শন অধিদপ্তর  
হিসাব উপশাখা  
শ্রম ভবন, ১৯৬, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণি  
বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০

নম্বরঃ ৪০.০১.০০০০.১০১.০৭.০২২.১৭.৯৬ তারিখঃ ১৩ জৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৮  
২৭ মে ২০২১

বিজ্ঞপ্তি/নোটিশ

**বিষয়ঃ Invitation for e-Tender**

Invitation Reference No. 40.01.0000.101.07.007.022.17-12 Date: 24/05/2021	
Tender/Proposal ID	581054
Name of the work	Procurement of Karkhana License, Doka and Protisthan License, Shilpo Protisthan License, Banijo Protisthan License, Banijik Bank and Bima Protisthan License.
Tender document last selling date & time	07-June-2021, 17.00
Closing date & time	08-June-2021, 15.00
Publication date	24 May, 2021 at 10.00
Tender document price	Tk 1000/- (one thousand) non-refundable

ডা. সৈয়দ আবুল এহসান  
যুগ্ম মহাপরিদর্শক  
ফোনঃ +৮৮-০২-৮৩৯১৪৬১  
ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৮৩৯১৪২৫  
ইমেইলঃ dr.ehsan63@gmail.com

GD-1081



Monira Parveen



Shamim Ara Nipa

PHOTOS: COURTESY

## Messianic Era's 10-year journey to culminate in debut album

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Progressive band Messianic Era have seen their share of vicissitudes throughout the years. The talented underground band, inspired by the likes of Dream Theatre, Opeth and Porcupine Tree, will release their self-titled debut album on June 18.

"It has been a long road", says the band's vocalist and frontman, Navid Ehsan, known by his stage name EB. "We started recording for it in 2017, and we've been able to finish the album. There's no feeling like it."

Ehsan had the opportunity to share his musical chops with world-renowned guitarist Guthrie Govan in 2017, claims that this was the turning point in his musical career. "This was when I was inspired and finally took the initiative to aim for an album, the practice of which is declining nowadays."

The album, which will have 9 songs, comes with an intro and outro as the first and last tracks respectively.

The band has released two of the tracks, "Barzakh" and "Osshikar", as singles. Once the album is out, they will release physical variants of it on a limited scale.

Messianic Era consists of Navid Ehsan, Tahmid Rahman Jim and Sheikh Rafayyat Kabir Jim.

The band started their journey in 2011, as a rock band. As the years went on, they embraced their own inspirations to switch to the much more experimental progressive genre. "Our drummer Jim had a huge impact to play in the genre change, as it is impossible to play progressive rock/metal without a skilled drummer," says Ehsan.

The reigns of heavy music were popularized by bands like Cryptic Fate, Arctell, Metal Maze and De-Illumination. Messianic Era, however, was most inspired by Vibe. "Vibe's influence on our music, even if not on an outward level, is deeply evident," says Ehsan.

The band, however, promises to not stop at just a single album, like their inspirations. The album release on July 18 will dictate that future.



## Shamim Ara Nipa and Monira Parveen on their devotion to dance

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

*Ekushey Padak winning dancer Shamim Ara Nipa co-founded Nrityanchal with dancer Shibli Mohammad in 2000. Since then, she has been a constant source of motivation for aspiring dancers. Monira Parveen, a lecturer at the Department of Dance, University of Dhaka, is a student of Shamim Ara Nipa. In a candid chat, the teacher-student duo share their views on dance, and more.*



Monira Parveen and Shamim Ara Nipa

Nipa, with tutelage from renowned dance maestros such as G A Mannan and Nikunja Bihari Pal, also had the opportunity to learn from Pandit Birju Maharaj in different workshops, especially on Kathak.

Monira was a student at the Khulna Udichi and Shahid Altaf Mahmud Sangeet Bhaban, before coming to Nrityanchal in 2003. Under the tutelage of Shamim Ara Nipa in folk and creative dance, and Shibli Mohammad in Kathak, Monira later pursued her bachelor's and master's in Kathak, from Rabindra

teacher, but also as a constant source of guidance and support in every aspect of her life. "She always supports me and helps me in my personal problems as well," says Monira. "She is a role model for dancers. Her compassion and guidance has helped me to stay on the right path in life."

Monira is currently working on a book, the first of its kind about Bangladeshi dancers, to acknowledge dance gurus in Bangladesh and inspire new generations of dancers.

Nipa shares that dancers need to value the eagerness to learn and the blessings of their teachers. "Apart from being a talented dancer, Monira is one of those students who respects her teachers, and in doing so, she stands out," she adds. "Her dedication and admiration for her teachers make her a compassionate artiste."

On the other hand, Monira describes Nipa as a perfectionist. "She is also very liberal when it comes to accepting new methods and styles, working with her is always a peaceful experience," says Monira.

In 2014, Monira was awarded a gold medal for her outstanding result at Rabindra Bharati University. She was also awarded the Nirod Baran Memorial Prize, Sunit Basu Memorial Prize, and Asit Chattopdhyay Memorial Prize.

"Monira's expressionism and dedication are valuable qualities," says Nipa. "I can depend on her to execute any given task in a short time."

She further shares that it is through a student that a teacher gains different perspectives to hone their craft. "I expect my students to surpass me through their dedication," Nipa asserts, "however, we must never forget or deny our teachers' contributions in our lives. We must remember the valuable lessons they instilled in us."

## Tajuddin Ahmed's "Faces" reflects on human resilience

ALI ADIL KHAN

Tajuddin Ahmed, a renowned Bangladeshi artist, started working on his reflective series "Faces", when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. He put human faces under the microscope to create minutely detailed miniature paintings of men, women and children in different moods, shapes



and shades. These paintings are executed in detail, and vary in sizes from standard letter size paper to some being as small as 1x1 inch. This collection of paintings reflects a major transition from Ahmed's large scale aerial abstract paintings that he is well known for, and are exhibited across Bangladesh at major banks and institutions.

Facial appearance is vital for human recognition and communication. Each face is unique and distinguishes a person and their personality. Ahmed's "Faces" is a tribute to his teacher and mentor Zainul Abedin, who fancied studying and painting faces. The artist's faces portray the strong desire and resilience of humans for survival and to fight the pandemic.

They are also a stark reminder that the pandemic is self-inflicted and that humans must stop playing with the balance of nature or be ready to face dire consequences. It has been scientifically proven that deforestations is leading to more



infectious diseases in humans and has a direct relationship with the appearance of new viruses and diseases. The coronavirus pandemic is suspected of originating in bats and pangolins. It has brought the risk of viruses that jump from wildlife to humans into focus.

These interactions often happen at the edges of the world's tropical forests, where deforestation is increasingly bringing people into contact with animals' natural habitats. Yellow fever, malaria, Venezuelan equine encephalitis, Ebola – all of these pathogens have spilled over from one species to

another at the margins of forests. This is why Ahmed's human faces have an assimilation of animal features and instincts.

His paintings of faces are complex abstract compositions. On closer examination, they appear to be present in their environment in mutated forms emulating the fragility of humans and their susceptibility to disruptive changes in the balance of nature. As Covid-19 is mutating into new forms and different strains of virus, it is playing havoc on humans.

Through his morbid yet profound paintings, Ahmed presents a stark reality – a warning for humans to stop their exploitation of nature or risk being wiped out from the face of this World.

The author is the founder and director of SAGA Foundation and South Asian Gallery of Art (SAGA) in Toronto, Canada. He is an art critic, writer, curator and collector.



Tajuddin Ahmed and his "Faces" series.

PHOTOS: COURTESY



## 'Environmental' mother-to-be worried baby will tip the scales towards climate doom

NOT-SO-STARRY-EYED CORRESPONDENT

*"Babies are not environmentally friendly. Babies will ruin the environment. Babies are the reason sea turtles are choking on your used plastic and dying. Babies are in direct cahoots with other baby animals stealing their resources."*

These are just some of the few zillion thoughts plaguing Nadiba P, an environmentalist, who recently found out she is having a baby. The miracle of life has not induced any feeling of magic or joy in her yet. Instead, the dominant feeling is that of pure dread at the state of the environment and what her little bundle of joy will do to its precarious balance.

In fact, she was among a growing number of people who were starting to blame unborn babies and expecting parents for daring to do something so environmentally damaging as getting pregnant.

Yet, who can deny biology and the ominous biological clock that gave her baby fever. It was body against mind and her body won.

But ever since the conception, she has been met with a flurry of mixed reactions. Her environmentally conscious peers who are "free

to party" and travel to wild destinations have criticised her decision to get both tied down and bring a baby into the world.

Something considered as bad as burning of fossil fuels and running mega industries.

"One of my peers who has been vocal against eco-fascism -- which when boiled down basically means overpopulation is not to blame for environmental damage but the rich and imbalanced use of resources are to blame -- recently shared an infographic banning babies! Now how do those two philosophies add up? So, overpopulation is to blame? A poor baby and a rich baby can cause the same environmental damage?" asks a visibly distraught Nadiba.

Nadiba has been trying to move from using plastic straws to reusable steel ones. She is an avid believer of recycling but at the same time, during a

visit to her house, this correspondent found lines of PET Pepsi bottles.

In contrast, Nadiba has also said she wants to promote individual good actions for the sake of the climate but that takes away from the bigger picture -- which is that industries, massive ones, are at the crux of the problem.

They are the ones who have essentially created dead zones in the sea, plundered forests to make unnecessarily large amounts of goods that has fuelled a consumerist society. They have ruined vast swaths of vital ecosystem crucial to the survival of the wild.

But this correspondent refrained from sharing these thoughts with Nadiba as the visibly pregnant interviewee stressfully drank yet another bottle of coke while listing the number of diapers she would have to use for her environmental-horror baby.

## Cricket team now to be coached by board president with no cricket experience

SPORTS CONJECTURER

Chapasthan Cricket Board (CCB) President Kamrul Kaman said yesterday that to save the country's cricket from cricketers and former cricketers, he, a medicine man, will now be holding press conferences and barking orders to the cricket team when international matches are going on.

He has already piloted this strategy during a recent match, after Chapasthan had finished batting. He held a press conference and blasted their performance during the innings break, and the pilot turned out to be a resounding success.

After the public tongue-lashing, Chapasthan romped to a comfortable win. "As you know, I don't like to interfere in the cricket side of things anymore," Kaman later told a television camera. On a side note, it was learnt from sources close to the camera that Kaman can



now no longer speak unless a television camera is pointed at him.

"But we have to find out what is wrong with the team," Kaman told the camera. He zeroed in on one batsman, Shunno Paash. "I think Shunno can open in T20s, but not in ODIs... he should

bat at five or six. I don't want to force anything on them. I don't do that anymore."

Shunno opened the batting in the next match, but failed to score again.

That seemed to give Kaman more ammunition in his next communicate with the nation, and

the team, through TV cameras. This time he turned his focus on the coach -- aka the one talking to the team who was hired because of his cricket expertise.

"If we ask the coach why they batted badly, he will point towards their shot-selection. What will be my reply?" he asked the cameras. "What does shot selection have to do with it? All shots are interchangeable -- efficacy levels may vary, but it's about preventing serious illnesses..."

At this point, a CCB director sitting next to him leant over and said, "Sir, that press conference is scheduled for later. This is the cricket one."

"Oh, right," Kaman grunted. "Next question." Asked whether he should be giving specific cricket advice to the team, that too in the middle of matches, when he did not have any cricket experience to speak of, Kaman said, "That is a silly question. Who is the coach? He is hired and fired by the board. I am the board president... Tell me who knows more: a doctor working in the hospital or the man running the hospital? The pharmacist or the owner of the pharmacy? Don't be silly. I am a medicine man; I know how to fix things."

"But now, I can't even sit with the players due to Covid. They don't even allow me into the bio-bubble. What can I do?"

In news that may be related, speaking on condition of anonymity, a member of the coaching staff said they are thinking of extending the bio-bubble even if the pandemic passes.

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021, JAISHTHA 15, 1428 BS

## Relief for Yaas survivors top priority now

*Rising frequency of cyclones and tidal surges calls for long-term plans*

BAKANGLADESH is no stranger to cyclones. The people of this land have had to live with such extreme weather events since as far back as modern history goes, with increasing frequency in recent years. Yet it is small comfort when life becomes a rollercoaster and you have to rebuild it, again and again, just like survivors are now set to do in the aftermath of Cyclone Yaas. The cyclone, coming a year after the super-cyclone Amphan, has left a trail of destruction in at least nine coastal districts, and the danger is not over yet, as swollen torrent continues to sweep through hundreds of villages. According to initial reports, numerous houses, farms, fisheries and even roads lie submerged after embankments holding back the rivers crumbled, or were partially damaged, in many places. Many bridges, culverts and tube-wells were also ruined.

It may take days before we get a fuller picture of the devastation and damages caused. According to one estimate, eight people died on Wednesday and three more on Thursday, as a result of the cyclone. The loss of lives, livelihoods and physical properties this time is expected to be lower compared to Amphan, but the government must urgently roll out aid and relief measures to help the survivors recover and rebuild. This is going to be a huge task, with the regular communication channels disrupted in many areas. We expect nothing less than a well-coordinated drive from the authorities so that no one affected by the cyclone falls through the cracks.

A continuing worry, however, is the tidal surges, with some rivers still flowing above danger levels at different points. The rising trend in higher tides in recent times has seen rivers swell even during non-cyclonic events. Experts fear this may have a long-term effect on the soil, water, environment and even public health in the region. Before Yaas, in the last four years, the Bay of Bengal alone had reportedly seen at least 12 cyclonic storms. According to the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine, whereas there was one big cyclone in every six years and four months previously, now a storm is hitting the country in every 1 year and 10 months. Even though the death toll from cyclones has significantly dropped in the last few decades, because of Bangladesh's increasing disaster response capacity, the fact that the incidence of cyclones and tidal surges is increasing calls for a longer-term plan.

With climate change expected to further increase the frequency and intensity of such cyclones and higher tides, the government must focus on undertaking more pre-emptive action. There is a need for more funding and more grassroots involvement to help the communities living in the coastal belt, so they can better stand up to these disasters. Reducing poverty and boosting their access to social safety nets are also paramount. But right now, the priority, of course, is to make food and medical supplies available to the Yaas survivors and also help them rebuild their lives through financial and other forms of assistance.

## No decision on Electric Traction System for six years!

*Govt has to watch out for possible graft*

ACCORDING to a report published by *The Daily Star* on May 27, even after six years the Bangladesh Railway (BR) still has not been able to decide on introducing an electric train service in the country which could make this mode of transport both more efficient and environment friendly. The confusion of how to bring about such a massive change in our railway system lies mostly in the selection of rail routes like Dhaka-Narayanganj, Dhaka-Chattoogram, etc. Why is it taking so long?

If we just look at India, it has a whopping 45,881 km of rail tracks, among which a staggering 71 percent has been electrified till March, 2021. The railway lines in Bangladesh are only 3,019 km, on which both diesel-powered broad-gauge and meter-gauge trains ply regularly. The process of turning a country's rail tracks into electric ones is known as Electric Traction System (ETS), which is both cost effective and environment friendly. According to officials, if BR can implement electric traction system, 35 percent of the operation cost and 30-50 percent of maintenance cost of BR will be saved. Another specialist, who is also a former BR engineer, says that the cost of an electric locomotive is lesser than that of a diesel locomotive. Besides, BR spends a large amount of money on diesel. Also, ETS can be applied to the existing rail lines without taking any further initiative from the government to lay out new rail tracks.

So why are we not taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity? The reality is quite disheartening. The aforementioned report mentions that BR had prepared a proposal for ETS in February, 2015. It has been more than six years now but there is still no activity from the government's side to implement the project. The proposal is just passing from one hand to another. According to some current and former BR officials (wishing not to be named), a section of railway officials are benefiting from the decades-old diesel-powered rail operation system. These are the people who seem to be blocking the path of establishing ETS. Also, a large sum of money is spent every year for procurement and maintenance of diesel engines. As a result, if ETS is executed, certain corrupt officials inside the BR will lose their illegal benefits.

We urge the government to ramp up the process of implementing the proposal of BR to introduce electric train system as soon as possible. With reduced uses on diesel, the government will be able to save a large portion of peoples' money and use it in some other urgent development projects. Also, the government has to bring the corrupt officials to book and make sure that graft doesn't take place during the implementation of ETS.



SHAMSAD MORTUZA

**BLOWN' IN THE WIND**

**D**URING the latest rerun of the biblical David and Goliath narrative in a changed context, the age-old conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines has come alive. The world witnessed the helplessness of millions of Palestinian people as buildings turned into rubble, hundreds of bodies became maimed, and 200 plus individuals became corpses under the heavy bombardment of the Gaza Strip by the Israeli Air Forces. Conversely, most of the homemade crude missiles hurled by Hamas got intercepted by the Iron Dome that acted very much like a sci-fi giant; some of the rockets dodged the interceptor and damaged property and killed about 10 civilians in Israel. But the damage caused to the Palestinian side was of epic proportion as residential, media and commercial towers crumbled, road and alleged tunnel network caved in. It was a brutal one-sided affair in which the disproportionate use of technology and military might was aided by diplomatic standoff to allow the destruction to go on to diffuse any semblance of Palestinian resistance.

In the Biblical story, David was a mere shepherd boy who killed the giant of a Philistine Goliath who was armed with a javelin and a shield with a single slingshot. King Saul, who raided the northern Jerusalem around 11th century BCE, was challenged for a single combat by the Champion of the Philistine, Goliath. Once David killed and beheaded Goliath, the Philistines ran away, and the state of Israel begin to flourish under different kings of Israel. Then came the Babylonians who caused the Jewish diaspora in the 8th century BCE, and the Jews got dispersed around the world. After the end of the First World War, the end of the Ottoman rule over the Middle East helped the creation of the State of Israel. The persecution of the Jews during WWII sent the western world on a guilt trip, allowing the dispersed Jewish community to subdue their "enemies" and expand their homeland. But the problem was, their promised home could only be built over somebody else's land who have been living on it for thousands of years. History and pre-history clashed to find the right story for the home of the two people: the Israelites and the Palestinians.

One of the videos that prompted this latest protest, leading to the raid of the Israeli army inside Al-Aqsa mosque in the holiest of the night for the Muslims and the consequent full-scale military engagement, involved a 22-year-old Palestinian woman. In the Sheikh Jarrah

neighbourhood in the occupied East Jerusalem, this woman confronted an intruder, saying, "Jacob, you are stealing my house." "If I don't steal your home, someone else will steal it," was the answer given by the Israeli settler to Mona al-Kurd. The house was under court order for eviction to make room for settlers. The arbitrary nature of the ruling shows how one can be dispossessed in a regime that has no empathy for its occupied

the Native Americans are in America.

The Jewish believe that the return to their "home" is a fulfilment of the prophecy made by Moses. Moses was the one who saved the Jews from persecution at the hand of the Pharaoh. Moses knew that during the low tide, the seabed of the Red Sea is exposed, when he could take his people away from the wrath of the Pharaoh.

Interestingly, the mythical exodus finds

Most of these people are fleeing some violent situations and making such desperate journeys to reach Europe. Their migration can be explained by the push/pull factors: they are pushed to migrate or dislocate due to the repressions at home, and they are simultaneously pulled by the myth of prosperity. Diaspora is guided by the twin-piston of fear and hope.

Every year, many Asians and Africans try to enter Europe through the Mediterranean Sea route. They call it a game. The human traffickers choose Spain, Italy, Cyprus, and Malta to smuggle fortune-seekers from around the world into Europe. They take advantage of the desperation of people looking to flee their homes and hoping to find new ones, and carry them inside the belly of what can only be described as slave ships from the colonial era.

According to UNHCR, the most common nationalities of Mediterranean Sea and land arrivals in the first four months of this year include Tunisia (14,649 people, 18.8 percent), Algeria (9,466, 12.1 percent), Morocco (5,399, 6.9 percent), Bangladesh (5,360, 6.9 percent), Syrian Arab Rep. (5,118, 6.6 percent), Afghanistan (5,061 people, 6.5 percent), Côte d'Ivoire (4,554, 5.8 percent), Mali (3,525, 4.5 percent), Guinea (3,138, 4.0 percent) and Others (3,122, 4.0 percent).

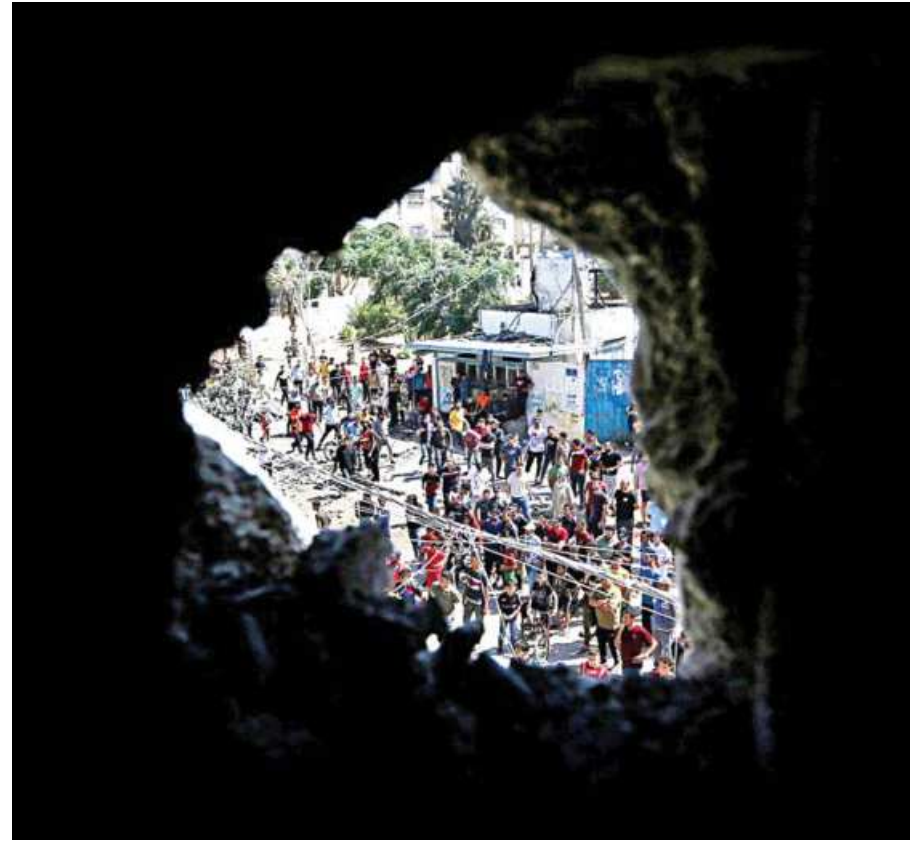
Bangladesh ranks joint third on the list. A local newspaper ran a lead story on May 23 to describe how 200 men paid Tk 8-10 lakh each in their efforts to enter Italy from the coast of Libya. 120 were rescued by the Tunisian police, while the rest are feared dead.

I looked at the list. I can understand the desperate measures taken by the people of some of these countries. I read about their tribulations and can discern their troubled travel. But in no way I can understand why our nationals are making such desperate attempts, and what does it tell us about a nation! Why isn't enough done to stop them from falling into the hands of the smugglers? Is this the gift of independence? Or do we think that some of these men would make it to the developed world and start sending revenues for us to bask in the glory of their sweats and blood?

Maybe we need to tell the tales of home and homelands to educate our people. We need to tell them, with reference to the people who are homeless, to remind them home is where your heart is. The dream-sellers will create a lakh-taka fancy of a better home—but the moment you enter the home of a different person, you will be treated as an intruder. As the ongoing drama tells us: nobody likes an intruder, whether powerful or powerless.

Shamsad Mortuza is Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), and a professor of English at Dhaka University (on leave).

# Desperate Times, Desperate Journeys



Palestinians are seen through a damaged house as they gather following an Israeli air strike.

PHOTO: REUTERS

people. The whole narrative then is about homeland at a state level, and about home at a personal level. The questions are: who gets to stay, who runs away? Who has the power to stay? Who has the determination to stay back? The recent spate of violence has brought the issue of home and homelessness to the fore. How can you have two states in the land between the Jordan River in the Mediterranean Sea when all the lands are occupied by one group only? Is it possible to have a one state with a cosmopolitan Jerusalem and a pluralistic democracy? As long as the demography is on the side of the Palestinians, Israel would never allow it. They are afraid of the hostile Arab nations. The only way Israel can exist is by flexing its muscles. Meanwhile the Palestinians suffer with occasional doses of world sympathy. They are the strangers in their own land like

its parallel in a lived experience when migrants from Morocco started crossing the shallow water at Fnideq to enter Ceuta. At the height of the Israel-Palestine conflict, on May 18, at least 6,000 migrants reached Spain's Ceuta enclave. Apparently, Morocco has been angered by the way Spain gave medical support to one of its rebel leader. To retaliate, the Moroccan authority allowed the migrants to pursue their dream of going to Europe. The migrant manpower was unleashed to plague Spain as Ceuta saw a record number of people wading into their territory over a single day. These were desperate people longing for a sea-change in their lives.

They embraced the uncertain reality of a refugee. No one chooses to be a refugee, to leave everything behind for an uncertain future. They do so because there is probably a war or ethnic cleansing raging in their own country.

# Single-dose Oxford vaccine cannot protect against Indian variant



KHONDOKER MEHEDI AKRAM

**B**ANGLADESH is potentially approaching a dual crisis. One is the shortage of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, Covishield, leaving over 14 lakh people in uncertainty over their second doses, and the other is the emergence of the notorious "Indian variant" in the country.

Initially, there was a glimmer of hope that people who received the first dose of Covishield will be protected from Covid-19 at least for three months or so—and therefore, they can wait for longer to get their second dose, when it is available, to achieve a fuller protection.

Previously, the Phase-3 clinical trial data showed that a single dose of Oxford vaccine can protect 76 out of 100 vaccinated people (76 percent efficacy) from symptomatic Covid by the non-mutated original version of coronavirus. This finding was later supported by "real world evidence" demonstrated by the Public Health England in their post-vaccine surveillance study amongst older people, published in the BMJ on May 13, 2021, which showed that a single dose of either Oxford-AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccine provides at least 60 percent protection from symptomatic Covid and over 80 percent protection from severe Covid and death from the mutated "UK variant" (B.1.1.7) virus infection.

This data lets the policymakers in Bangladesh advise delaying for second dose beyond the WHO-recommended 12-week timeframe. The government appears optimistic about arranging the required Oxford-AstraZeneca shots from sources other than the Serum Institute of India within a couple of months to resolve the situation.

However, a recent study conducted by Public Health England, which has yet to be peer-reviewed, showed that a single dose of either Oxford-AstraZeneca

or Pfizer vaccines is not effective at all in preventing symptomatic Covid by the "Indian variant" (B.1.617.2). To achieve 60 to 80 percent protection against infection by the Indian variant, a double dose is absolutely necessary.

This finding emphasises how important it is to conduct variant surveillance in Bangladesh to monitor the spread of Indian and other variants of concern

first detected in India last December. Currently, B.1.617.2 is the most reported variant in India, and the dominant variant amongst all other foreign variants in the UK. The UK's leading scientists are expecting to see this Indian variant become the dominant variant in the UK in a few months.

The B.1.617.2 variant has two significant mutations on its Spike



People waiting to get tested for coronavirus in front of a tent on the premises of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, on March 15, 2021.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

(VOC). The course of the pandemic and the efficacy of vaccines are largely driven by the mutation of the virus. This recent development should make the policymakers rethink how to address the second-dose crisis in Bangladesh, and how to protect those who will be waiting longer for the second doses if the Indian variant becomes dominant in the country, which is very much likely to happen.

In the UK, the cases of the Indian variant are increasing rapidly. To date, over 3,400 cases of the B.1.617.2 variant have been detected, which is one thousand cases more than in the preceding week. This particular variant is a sub-type of the so-called "double-mutant" Indian variant B.1.617 that was

protein: one is on its receptor binding domain (L452R) and the other is on the furin cleavage site (P618R)—the key components of the virus for infection and spread. This simultaneous dual mutation enhances its infection and transmission capability by 40-50 percent compared to the UK variant, and thus makes it a "best fit" virus for rapid community transmission.

Between April 5 and May 16 this year, Public Health England conducted a vaccine efficacy survey using Oxford-AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines on 11,621 UK variant and 1,054 Indian variant (B.1.617.2) cases. The study reveals that a single dose of either Oxford-AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccines provides only 33

percent protection against the Indian variant compared to 51 percent protection against the UK variant. On the other hand, two doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine provide 60 percent protection against the Indian variant and 66 percent against the UK variant. A similar trend was seen in case of the Pfizer vaccine as well, where its two shots show efficacy of 81 percent and 87 percent against the Indian and UK variants respectively. This data provides a clear real-world evidence that to achieve protection against the Indian variant, two shots are essential. For this, the UK government is now doubling up its vaccination drive to provide two shots to 60 percent of its population by June.

In Bangladesh, several cases of the Indian variant (B.1.617.2) have been detected during the last few weeks in the border regions and in Dhaka. Despite the so-called lockdown, pre- and post-Eid movement of people could not be stopped. We have been seeing a rise in daily cases for the last 10 days. Due to its highly transmissible nature, it is likely that the Indian variant could spread along with people's movement from one region to another.

From the UK's situation, we now know that the Indian variant has the ability to outcompete other variants like South African and Brazil variants. Once the Indian variant becomes dominant, the consequence of that could be catastrophic, as we have witnessed in India and Nepal. To avoid such a disaster, we must maximise our effort to conduct nationwide variant surveillance, either by genome sequence or by targeted RT-PCR tests, as done by Public Health England. To protect people who have received only one dose of Covishield, their second doses should be ensured within the shortest possible timeframe, unless otherwise it is confirmed that the Indian variant is not widely spread in Bangladesh. There is no doubt that a single dose of Covid vaccine is not effective against the Indian variant.

Dr Khondoker Mehedi Akram is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Sheffield, UK.



# What does and doesn't happen when money changes colour



ERESH OMAR JAMAL

**THE OVERTON WINDOW**  
ON May 19, the finance minister said, "The scope [to whiten black money] will be there as long as undisclosed incomes will be there." (The Daily Star) Before commenting on this statement, let's take a step back and think how we got to this point.

The opportunity to whiten black money has been granted on multiple occasions by different governments of our country. The argument for it has always been that it will help bring a substantial amount of money circulating outside of the conventional economy—hence the term "black money"—into the mainstream, and thus generate more revenues and jobs. Historically, that has not been the case. Prior to FY2020-21, the response to the government's black money whitening schemes had always been poor—except maybe in FY2007-08 and FY2008-09 under the caretaker government, which, it is argued, was mainly due to the "exceptional" nature of the political and social circumstances of that time and hence is a whole different can of worms.

Despite the scheme historically failing, for five straight years—before FY2020-21—the Awami League government had allowed black money holders to whiten their assets by investing in residential buildings, among others. And this, supposedly, was mainly for those who had not filed their taxes in other years, which is the other common argument the authorities use to justify such programmes: that it provides individuals who had previously missed their yearly tax payments an opportunity to "legalise" their income

by paying some sort of tax now. And yet, for five straight years, the government had failed to draw much of a response.

So, what did the government do? Well, last year, the government made a special addition to its black money whitening scheme: that black money holders could no longer be "questioned" about the source of their income no matter what—a clause the government had originally introduced the year before, but on a much more limited scale. And lo and behold, during the first nine months of FY2020-21, some 10,034 people legalised cash and assets worth Tk 142.95 billion under the provision, setting a new record.

According to some experts, this rise in black money whitening has somewhat been driven by the Covid-19 pandemic making money laundering difficult, or in other words, due to "exceptional" circumstances. Even then, a portion of the increase must have been caused by the special provision. For the sake of simplicity, let's just forget reason number one for a brief moment. What is the core motivational factor behind reason number two? That you can no longer be questioned about the source of your income. And, generally, when would you not want to be asked that

question? When the source of your income is crime and/or corruption. So the argument that this facility is there to help ordinary citizens who missed their previous year's tax payments to whiten their income does not hold water. Instead, what the past record shows, particularly when considering last year's changes, is that this facility is a boon, almost exclusively, for criminals and the corrupt.

But this was bound to happen.

the same rate that a job-holder earning Tk 58,000 per month will be paying as income tax this year."

Because "corrupt individuals who have amassed astronomical amounts of money are getting amnesty just by paying a nominal amount of money as tax", this money whitening scheme "will sharply increase economic discrimination in the country," according to eminent economist Rehman Sobhan. And the most

when the government keeps providing the facility year after year. They may still pay their regular taxes if they are moral. But the question is, why do we have a law that encourages even moral individuals to commit immoral acts?

In light of all this, it is unclear what message the finance minister was trying to convey, as it is still unknown what facilities the government plans to provide in the next budget, set to be placed on June 3, in relation to black money whitening. However, if it was meant to be literal, then it was very irresponsible. What are people to make of it? That it is alright to have black money, because the government will continue to give you the opportunity to whiten it, and for cheap? That money made from drug dealing, human trafficking and other criminal activities can now freely enter the mainstream economy under a special provision, and we are all to accept that it is for the greater good?

And what good is a "special opportunity" when it becomes so "frequent"? Isn't that what the government has done with its black money whitening programme? Has it worked in reducing the size of the shadow economy? Has it improved the tax system? Has it reduced inequality? Has it strengthened the rule of law? Data and experts suggest otherwise.

The fact is, the government's focus is totally in the wrong area. Black money is created because of illegal activities, corruption and anomalies in tax policies. So the government must try and put a lid on these sources of black money, instead of giving it a new makeover. It does not solve the problem, it only creates new ones.

That's why the government should remove the facility to whiten black money in the next budget, and be more committed and sincere in its fight against corruption.

Eresh Omar Jamal is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal



*During the first nine months of FY2020-21, some 10,034 people legalised cash and assets worth Tk 142.95 billion under the special provision, setting a new record.*

Experts have been warning about this for quite some time because this is what happened every time similar provisions were allowed almost anywhere in the world. According to Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow at the CPD, "Money earned by committing crimes and corruption is being termed undisclosed income and being whitened by paying tax." In one of its reports, this newspaper succinctly put it into perspective through just one sentence: "The 10 percent tax levied on black money earned from all sources, including criminal activities like human trafficking and drug dealing, is

extreme of these facilities, introduced last year through the Finance Bill 2020, "has created a situation where honest and regular taxpayers are paying 15 to 25 percent tax every year, while tax cheats and other offenders are whitening their money by paying only 10 percent tax," said Abdul Mazid, former chief of the National Board of Revenue.

Even the honest industrialists and investors are being discouraged. Why would they pay 15 to 25 percent tax this year when they can just wait a year and then whiten their money next year by paying 10 percent? This is possible

# FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

## The Primacy of Innovation and Sustainability



MD. MUSTAFIZUR RAHAMAN

**A**LL sectors and walks of modern life are touched by sustainability and so too is the construction industry—whether it

is buildings, airports, highways or stadiums. Simply put, sustainability engulfs three aspects: ecology, economy and environment. Sustainability is badly needed to avert the worst impacts of climate change. On the other hand, innovation can make something better or effective. FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 illustrates best how a sports event can be refurbished with innovation and sustainability and thereby making the event effective to negate the externalities of climate change.



The official 2022 Fifa World Cup Qatar logo is projected on the walls of the Oudaya kasbah in the Moroccan capital Rabat. PHOTO: AFP

completed venues have secured 4 or 5 star design and build ratings from GSAS. Education City Stadium, which had a virtual launch in 2020 during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, has a 5-star GSAS rating, whereas Khalifa International Stadium (launched in 2017), Al Janoub Stadium (launched in 2019) and most recently inaugurated Ahmed Bin Ali Stadium (launched in December 2020) have 4-star ratings. Al Bayt Stadium, the venue of the opening match on November 21, 2022, which impressed the FIFA president, has received a 5-star rating from GSAS. Qatar expects to get 4-star rating for the three other stadiums—Al Thumama, Ras Abu Aboud and Lusail, where the final match will be held on December 18, 2022.

Qatar is committed to delivering the most sustainable sporting event in history in 2022. One aspect of the plan is to deliver a carbon neutral tournament. As a way to offset carbon footprint, Qatar has developed a Turf and Tree nursery for replanting across stadium sites and other areas. After the tournament, Tree & Turf Nursery will be transformed into a public park thereby ensuring the legacy of a green tournament. Qatar Airways, the official airline of the FIFA World Cup 2022, also work with the aviation industry

to achieve environmental goals. An assessment report of sustainable FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 reveals that the construction of stadiums has been 30 percent more energy efficient than international benchmark, used 40 percent less water than the international benchmark, and green landscaping has been instrumental for creating a cooling effect. Hotel industries, which will accommodate the

teams and visitors, have been encouraged to employ sustainable practices and reportedly they have endeavoured to practice the issues of sustainability. For example, one Doha hotel replaced 75 percent of the old lightbulbs with energy efficient fixtures which enabled them to reduce 9 percent of energy consumption. In another case, the hotel has come up with an innovative waste management policy that focuses on 100 percent single use plastic free hotel.

Innovation and sustainability have been central to the mega event that is FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Qatar's case is a new addition to the field of study of how innovation and sustainability can play a vital role in making a sports event environmentally friendly. Qatar's case may prove to be useful to strengthen the respective efforts to address the climate factors for other nations, especially on the eve of the disastrous effects of climate change.

Dr Muhammad Mustafizur Rahaman is currently Counsellor (Labour) at the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the State of Qatar. He holds Ph. D in International Public Policy from the School of International Public Policy, Osaka University, Japan. He was also International Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science at Kyoto University Japan (2014-2016).

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরিশাল			
dssso.barisal@gmail.com			
স্মারক নং-৪১.০১.০৬০০.০০০.০৭.৬৮৩.১৭.৫০২		তারিখঃ ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
০১	মন্ত্রণালয় বিভাগ	ঃ	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	এজেন্সি	ঃ	সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
০৩	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	ঃ	মহাপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল।
০৪	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার জেলা	ঃ	বরিশাল।
০৫	যে কাজের দরপত্র	ঃ	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর এর আওতাধীন ১) সরকারী শিশু পরিবার (বালক) ২) সরকারী শিশু পরিবার বালিকা (উত্তর) ৩) সরকারী শিশু পরিবার বালিকা (দক্ষিণ) ৪) সরকারী দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী বিদ্যালয় ৫) মহিলা ও শিশু কিশোরী হেফাজতীদের নিরাপদ আবাসন কেন্দ্র ৬) সামাজিক প্রতিবন্ধী মেয়েদের প্রশিক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্র ৭) সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, বরিশাল ৮) ছোটমনি নিবাস, গৈলা, অগৈলাবাড়া, বরিশাল এর নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুষ্ণংক ও শিক্ষা স্বাস্থ্য প্রসারীণী ও অন্যান্য এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
০৬	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	ঃ	৫০২, তারিখ ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
০৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	ঃ	২৯/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
০৮	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম)।
০৯	বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস	ঃ	রাজস্ব বাজেট জি, ও, বি।
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ	ক, খ, গ, ঘ এবং ঙ।
১১	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম	ঃ	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত বিভিন্ন আবাসিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুষ্ণংক ও শিক্ষা স্বাস্থ্য প্রসারীণী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল ক-গ্রুপ- খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষ্ণংক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল), খ-গ্রুপ- শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসারীণী ও অন্যান্য এবং ঙ-গ্রুপ- বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	২০/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২১/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২১/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকায়।
১৫	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান কার্যালয় এবং উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।
	ক. মূল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়	ঃ	জেলা প্রশাসক এর কার্যালয় এবং উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।
	খ. দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ	ঃ	জেলা প্রশাসক এর কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।
	গ. দরপত্র দলিল খোলা	ঃ	জেলা প্রশাসক এর কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।
১৬	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	১) বৈধ সরকারী প্রতীক। ২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের টেন্ডারী চালানের মূল্যক, পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভ্যাট প্রদান (২০১৯-২০২০) সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে।
১৭	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য টেন্ডারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড ১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২০৬৬ ৫ (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।
	গ্রুপ	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য
	ক	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষ্ণংক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	৫০০/-
	খ	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য প্রসারীণী ও অন্যান্য	৫০০/-
	গ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষ্ণংক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল) এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসারীণী ও অন্যান্য	৪০০/-
	ঘ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষ্ণংক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল) এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসারীণী ও অন্যান্য	২০০/-
	ঙ	বিবিধ মালামাল	২০০/-
	১৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	ঃ আল্ মামুন তালুকদার।
	১৯	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	ঃ উপপরিচালক।
	২০	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	ঃ জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।
	২১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের ন্যায্য	ঃ ০৪৩১-৬৩৩৯০।
	২২	শর্তাবলী	ঃ
		ক) টেন্ডার সিডিউলটি বাবদ উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৫% অর্থ পে-অর্ডারে মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।	
		খ) পি.পি.এ ২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর ২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।	
		গ) গৃহীত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিডিউলটির অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যদেয় প্রদান করা হবে।	
		ঘ) "ঙ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যদেয় প্রদান করা হবে।	
		ঙ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবেন।	
		চ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।	
		আল্ মামুন তালুকদার উপপরিচালক জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরিশাল	
		জিডি-১০৮৩	

# From a Prayer to a Call to Arms and Action

NIJAZ ZAMAN

In December 1921, almost a hundred years ago, Kazi Nazrul Islam wrote what would be his most iconic poem: "Bidrohi." The poem would transform him from the Soldier Poet to the Rebel Poet. "Bidrohi" was unlike any poem written at the time as the very first lines reveal: "Bolo bir/Bolo unnato momo shir/Shir nehari amari, notoshir oi shikhor himadri" [Speak, Hero, say, My head is held high./At its sight the Himalayan peak hangs down its head.] The effect of the alliteration, the internal rhymes, the declamatory tone of the poem make it almost impossible to translate. The late Karunamoy Goswami noted, "it seldom happens . . . that one poem raises its composer to the pinnacle of glory. But it happened in the case of Kazi Nazrul Islam" (*Kazi Nazrul Islam: A Biography*).

who stands up against all forms of subjugation, prejudice, injustice.

In *Naivedya*, Rabindranath Tagore had written a remarkable poem titled "Prarthona," the first line of which reads "Chitto jetha bhoysunno, uchho jetha shir." Tagore would translate this poem – along with others – and include it in his English *Gitanjali*. The poem, read in the Bangla original or in Tagore's own English translation, is a prayer to the Creator for a country "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high/ Where knowledge is free. . . ." It is "Into that heaven of freedom" that Rabindranath prays his country might awaken one day. (Scholars have pointed out that the tone of the last few lines of the translation is milder than that of the original.)

During his sojourn in Karachi – between the end of 1917 and the beginning of 1920 – Nazrul became conscious of the situation in the Middle East and the subjugated condition of its people. Inspired by Pan-Islamist ideals, he wrote "Shat-il-Arab," "Rono Bheri," "Bajiche Damama," "Anwar Pasha," and "Kamal Pasha." "Shat-il-Arab" reflects on the fallen condition of the Muslims of Arabia, which reminds the poet of the situation of the people of India under the British. In "Bajiche Damama" – which is replete with martial images and notes – he calls upon Muslims to hold their heads high and reclaim their lost glory by holding firmly to the Quran and the kalma.

However, in the poem Nazrul wrote in December 1921, the Pan-Islamist ideal is forgotten. Though Nazrul would go on to write moving *hamds* and *naats*, as well as *shyama sangeet* and *kirtan* – devotional Muslim and Hindu songs – he would combine violence and destruction, Hindu mythology with Islamic allusions, in an exceptional way in this poem.

What changed Nazrul? Earlier that year, Nazrul had obliged the editor of a journal by writing "Agamoni," a poem celebrating the victory of Durga over Mahishashur, and ending with the nationalistic cry of "Bande mataram." Not to be confused with "Anandamoyee Agamone," which is also about the coming of Durga, the earlier poem invokes martial images and notes to celebrate the arrival of Durga. Nazrul had also later that year visited Comilla where he renewed his brief acquaintance with Ashalata Sengupta – better known by the name given her on marriage, Pramila. Ashalata was barely fourteen but Nazrul fell in love – an emotion perhaps compounded by the circumstances of the fiasco of his marriage to Nargis a few months earlier.

In late December that year, inspired by a complex of personal and political feelings, Nazrul combined his Muslim heritage with his knowledge of Hindu mythology to write what would be his most iconoclastic poem: "Bidrohi." Muzaffar Ahmed, with whom Nazrul was boarding at the time, narrates how the poem was written during one night. He notes that neither Nazrul nor he had a fountain pen. "His thoughts were flowing too fast for him to keep dipping his pen into the inkpot and write and so he wrote this poem in pencil" (quoted in Rafiqul Islam, *Biography of Kazi Nazrul Islam*). Early next morning, Nazrul read the poem out to Muzaffar Ahmed, who refers

to it as "the finest piece of work in his [Nazrul's] life." Others too who heard the poem recognized its exceptional quality. Early next year "Bidrohi" appeared in *Bijli*, on 22 Poush 1328 [January 5, 1922]. The poem would be reprinted many times, including in the poet's own journal, *Dhumketu*, when it started publication.

While the main theme of Nazrul's poem is about shattering all forms of oppression and discrimination, the poem is also celebratory. It celebrates humanity, creativity, beauty, love, nature. As in Nazrul's poem "Proloyullash," "Bidrohi" too combines images of destruction with images of creation.

I am the rainstorm, the  
hurricane,  
Smashing all in its path.  
I am dance-crazy rhythm,  
Dancing to my own beats.  
I am the joy of a life of total  
freedom!

A musical metaphor contrasts the two contradictory aspects of the poet – and the poem: "Momo ek hate banka bansher banshori, aar hate rono turjo" [In one hand I hold the tender bamboo flute, the trumpet of war in the other]. In Indian literature and culture, the flute has always been the symbol of Krishna as the lover of Radha. Nazrul was both the iconoclast and the lover.

Kinetic images of frenzy and destruction juxtapose tender images of young love and the first flushes of passion.

I am the fancy-free maiden's  
flowing hair, the glow in her  
eyes,  
The fiery passion in the lotus-  
heart of a sixteen-year-old girl.

The poem describes stolen kisses, secret glances, and the sound of glass bangles even as it calls for the destruction of oppressive forces.

I am the tremulous excitement of a  
girl's first stolen kiss;  
I am the quick sidelong glance of a  
secret lover;

I am a young girl's romance, the  
tinkle of her glass bangles.

These images of young love seem out of place in the poem until one realizes that the poet who was rebelling against all forms of discrimination was also rebelling against a conventional society which would keep lovers from different religious communities apart. However, love and romance are only a small aspect of this poem which is about rebelling against all that destroys the human soul.

Nazrul was against all forms of religious bigotry and suppression. In

"Samyabadi" and "Ishwar," he spoke of the futility of searching for God in the different holy books of religions. God resides within the human heart, not in temples or the Ka'aba: "Ei hridayer cheye boro kono mandir-kaba nai" ("Samyabadi"). In "Bidrohi," however, he uses violent images to destroy what he sees as the oppressive nature of conventional religion. At the beginning of the poem he speaks of piercing the throne of the Almighty – "khodar ashon arsh chhediyai" – and at the end of splitting asunder the Almighty's indifferent breast like the rebel sage Bhrgu: "Ami bidrohi bhrgu, bhagwan buke enke debo pada-chinho!/Ami kheyali bidhir bokkho koribo bhinnno." (Early translators omitted these lines of the poem.)

Towards the end of the poem, the rebel notes his weariness, expresses his desire to rest. But he can only do so when all oppression ends:

I am the great rebel, weary of  
battle,  
But I will rest only when the  
anguished cries of the oppressed  
Cease to resonate in air and  
sky,  
And the oppressors' swords  
cease to ring on the battlefield.  
Only then shall I, a rebel,  
weary of battle,  
Rest in peace.

As long as there is injustice and oppression, the rebel cannot rest. Thus the poem ends with the eternal rebel, holding his head high.

I am the eternal rebel hero –  
Alone, my head ever high,  
Rising far above Earth.

Though the soldier poet seems to have been replaced by the rebel poet, the poem stresses that the soldier and the rebel have become one: "Ami chiro bidrohi bir" [literally, "I am the eternal rebel warrior"].

Today, a hundred years after the poem was written, injustice remains, discrimination remains, religious fundamentalism and bigotry remain, the weak and defenceless continue to be exploited, to be bombed and killed. It is not yet time for the rebel to rest.

Niaz Zaman is at present Advisor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). The translated lines from "Bidrohi" are from Kaiser Haq's translation, "The Rebel," in Kazi Nazrul Islam: Selections volume 1. Edited by Niaz Zaman. *writers.ink*, 2020.



## উন্নত মম শির

Ninety-eight lines of the 139-line poem begin with "ami" – which is also repeated several times within the lines. However, despite the recurrence of the word "ami," the poem doesn't begin with the self. It is addressed to the "bir," the hero, the courageous one, the warrior. However, the speaker is soon forgotten – or rather merges with the "bir" so that the poem becomes the poet's celebration of the self. (Perhaps Abdul Hakim is the only translator to see that the poet is addressing another. Almost all other translators conflate the poet and the "bir.") Like Walt Whitman – with whom Nazrul has been compared by scholars such as Syed Ali Ahsan – the poet celebrates himself but also celebrates every person

Nazrul, who had read much of Rabindranath – and often quoted him in his writings – could not have been unaware of this poem. However, the two poems where Nazrul asks for the head to be held high are both significantly different from each other and from Rabindranath's. Rabindranath's poem is a prayer, Nazrul's a call to arms and action. (Here one might compare Rabindranath's "Esho, esho, esho he baishakh" and Nazrul's "Proloyullash." In the former Rabindranath prays for the Baishakhi storm to wash away all the accumulated rubbish of the past year; in the latter Nazrul welcomes the violence of destruction which is also the turbulence of creation: "The beautiful one comes in the guise of the terrible.")

A translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Duronto Pothik"

## Restless Wanderer

BY JACKIE KABIR

He walked on an inaccessible path filled with thorns. Looking back he saw that a million of unblinking eyes were watching him. Boundless optimism reflected from those eyes and filled the traveler's heart with an intoxicating pride. He asked with a gratified smile, "So tell me, what is the source of the unbound encouragement of your look?"

The thousands of bright onlookers replied, "O fearless wanderer! We got our strength from you, your journey!" Only one voice among the thousand said with brimming compassion, "The young wanderer is likely to lose his life on this inaccessible path!" A million voices roared in response: "Quiet, you coward! This is the true and eternal journey that the human soul must take!"

The wanderer immersed himself in the blessings of the onlookers. The hidden truth inside him resonated like the melody of the veena, as if someone struck its cord with a finger and said, "move forward!"

The greenwood bestowed its youth upon him and said, "Here I put the sacred mark of the coronation of youth on you; you will be forever young and immortal!"

The faraway sky bowed down and kissed his forehead. The horizon where the earth and sky meet guided him towards unrestrained freedom. The leaves on the branches of trees waved and welcomed him. A fiery tune of awakening of souls came from the entrance of the land of freedom, and he ran like a deer following the tune to reach emancipation.

"Oh! Where is your principal gate? Please open up, show me the way, give me light!"

The incantation of the wellbeing of the universe surrounded him and said,

"It's not yet time! You must travel further!"

The wanderer was startled and he said,

"It is you that I want!" the unfamiliar companion replied, "If you want me, you



have to cross that door standing on that elevated piece of land."

The restless wanderer sped up and said, "Yes, that is my target!"

The blue sky peeped through the woods and was astonished to see the wanderer, and the voice of millions of youths resonated with him, "That is our target too. Move, let's move forward. We follow your footsteps."

"You may face death on this path," said the wanderer with the pride of being the torch bearer.

The fiery voices of the youth rang out, "We don't care! This is not the end; this is the beginning!"

The elderly people with broken thoraxes walking at the rear were shaking all over

in fear of death. Someone riding over their shoulders mimicked them saying, "Here is death!" A bonfire was lit in order to camouflage their sights. Another was leading these old men towards the bonfire as he tried to refrain from laughing. He pointed his finger, "See! There is your fire to extinguish selfhood and get immersed with divinity. Why would you lose your lives trying to travel on the bumpy path? It is for the restless wanderers, not elderly people. And those youthful ones will perish soon." The elderly people lifted their hands upward and answered, "Yes! Of course!"

Some voices warned them, "you idiots! It's just as well! They will burn you in fire bit by bit."

The herdsman laughed saying, "Don't listen to them! They have a long way to go, the road is dangerous and full of many impediments, pain and sorrow. Your goal lies ahead, right there!"

The restless wanderer followed the tune of flute that came from the liberated land. Now he was faced with the tumultuous tortures of the path. He saw that some footprints were still visible. The path also presented him with some skulls as if telling him, "See! This is what happens to those who tread this path!"

The young traveler said, "Ah! But these are the people who have summoned me! I would welcome this death. My death wouldn't be my end; rather I would be alive

among the young people who are following me along this journey.

Terror inquired, "Who are you?" The wanderer smiled and answered, "I am eternal emancipation, see these skulls! They are not dead but they are alive in me and the many of us. I have come with a new light, new life and this new youth is immortal."

Terror shook with rage and roared, "Don't you know who I am? I am bondage. Whatever you say, my mission is to kill you. I will bind all those who want freedom. You have to die."

The restless wanderer stood his ground and declared, "You can bind me, you can beat me but you can't stop me. I'm deathless. I'll reincarnate."

Terror barred his way and said, "For as long as I'm able I will kill you every time you come. I dare you to kill me or be ready to be killed by me."

The ever-young travelers with luminous bodies who had reached the land of freedom stood at the veranda and welcomed him to join them. The wanderer asked, "Is it worth giving up this life?"

The free souls from the free windows replied in a moist voice, "Yes, it is! People have welcomed this death through ages. You will lead thousands of lives to freedom and there lies your success. Your death will make us ever awake, immortal."

The young traveler then bared his chest and uttered, "Strike me with your sword then!"

All the young travelers picked up the lifeless body of the restless wanderer on their shoulders and cried, "Please return to us!" Somewhere from the distant horizon came voices in concord:

Lands abuzzed with the resonance of the trumpets.

Heroes are welcomed to take seats.

Jackie Kabir is a writer and translator.

# SPORT

## Taskin's discipline pays huge dividends

SPORTS REPORTER

Taskin Ahmed was lucky to get a chance to bowl after coming in as ODI cricket's first-ever concussion substitute when he replaced Mohammad Saifuddin in the second match against Sri Lanka, but the seamer utilised that opportunity at a time when it was required most.

The 26-year-old had been dropped from the second game after going wicketless in the first game for the concession of 62 runs from nine overs. But the pacer, who has been in fine rhythm since his comeback to the international circuit earlier this year, displayed promise and maturity as a bowler at the second time of asking.

He has been a touch unlucky as well, with catches dropped off his bowling regularly, but the encouraging part is that Taskin managed to focus on the process rather than the outcome.

That led to the performance in the second ODI, when, although he went wicketless, Taskin drew praise for bowling a very good line and length and conceding just 27 in his eight overs in defence of a modest 246-run total.

But despite bowling brilliantly, it was important that Taskin got among the wickets to gain confidence and the tall pacer finally broke the jinx by picking up his third four-wicket haul in ODIs yesterday.

On a pitch in the third ODI that was not ideal for seamers with the ball coming onto the batsmen pretty well, Taskin's effort took a lot of discipline, especially considering that he did not have the best of starts. When he was introduced into the attack in the ninth over of the innings, the seamer's wayward bowling cost 12 runs.

But with Bangladesh desperate to break the dangerous opening stand between Kusal Perera and Danushka Gunathilaka, Taskin was the one who finally provided the all-important breakthrough, setting up Gunathilaka with two-short pitched delivery to start the over. The left-hander, unaware of the trap, went for an expansive shot as Taskin pushed the length further up. Gunathilaka was undone by the change of length and only managed to get inside and hit the timber.

The presence of mind from Taskin reflects maturity. He realised the nature of the surface early on and changed his length to force the batsman to play around the off stump.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka: 286 for 6 in 50 overs (Gunathilaka 39, Perera 120, Mendis 22, Dhananjaya 55 not out, Hasaranga 18, extras 17; Shoriful 1-56, Taskin 4-46)  
Bangladesh: 189 all out in 42.3 overs (Tamim 17, Mushfiqur 28, Mosaddek 51, Mahmudullah 53, Afif 16, extras 11; Chameera 5-16, Hasaranga 2-47, Mendis 2-40)  
Result: Sri Lanka won by 97 runs.  
Player-of-the-match: Dushmantha Chameera.  
Player-of-the-series: Mushfiqur Rahim.

Taskin also removed Pathum Nissanka in the same over with a beautiful length delivery outside off, with the right-hander caught in two minds and only managing a knick to the keeper.

Taskin once again provided the breakthrough for the Tigers in his second spell. This time Kusal Mendis was undone by some extra pace from Taskin as the right-hander skied a banded-in delivery to give a simple catch at mid-off.

It was an ideal game for Taskin, who bowled in various situations and once again made an impact in the death overs. He picked up his fourth wicket in the 49th over of the innings to end with figures of four for 46 from nine overs.



Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed celebrates after taking the wicket of Pathum Nissanka during the third and final ODI against Sri Lanka in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 'I don't point fingers at youngsters'

SPORTS REPORTERS

Sri Lanka seemed to have found the right mixture of aggression and composure in their game in the final ODI and it culminated in them clinching 10 crucial points for the ODI Super League, welcome respite even as the series ended 2-1 in favour of Bangladesh.

"Badly needed win, but we lost the series. Our bowling department did a really good job. Our only concern in the first two games was the batting. Otherwise fielding and bowling we have done well. Some of the guys coming into touch is a good sign," Lankan captain Kusal Perera, who guided his team with a ton yesterday, said during the post-match presentations.

The Tigers had wanted to play the perfect game but in reality faced far



Kusal Perera.....120

didn't play to our potential in this series. After winning the series, I can tell you there are a few areas to work on."

Tamim felt Sri Lanka were allowed



The national football team reached Qatar yesterday to take part in next month's World Cup and Asia Cup qualifiers. Coach Jamie Day will not have a full-strength squad to choose from due to injuries and Covid-19 infections. Day, however, may find solace in not receiving further blows as all 23 players and officials returned negative Covid-19 tests.

PHOTO: BFF

steeper circumstances with the bat yesterday. Their surrender was almost meek against Sri Lanka, ravaged by Dushmantha Chameera's fifer. Skipper Tamim Iqbal said there were areas that needed to be worked on.

"As I said at the end of the last game and beginning of this game, we have won the series but I thought we never played a complete game. We

to get away with some missed chances in the field and they proved costly.

"They had a very attacking mindset coming into this game and we helped them do that. We bowled too short. We didn't grab our opportunities, missed two catches at important times, and could have probably got 30 runs less to chase," Tamim felt.

Mosaddek Hossain and Mahmudullah Riyad fifties flattered to deceive that there were no difference-making performances from the young names. Asked if it was a worry, Tamim said: "It is, but I am someone who keeps believing in youngsters. I don't point fingers at them, because I know how hard they try."

Despite no rescue mission from Mushfiqur Rahim in the final ODI, he said he really enjoyed the pressure. "Sri Lanka are not an easy side to play against, they never give up and come hard. I really enjoyed (the pressure); Mushfiqur said.



## HIGH-STAKES and a battle of mind games

KHALID HOSSAIN



Apart from the playing style, the only predictable feature of Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola's game is the unpredictability of his starting eleven and consequently the formation, especially when it comes to huge occasions such as the Champions League final.

Like all great forms of sports, football too has the essence of chess in some of its strategic aspects. If observed through the lens of chess tactics, in every cohesive move during a match—starting from the goal-kick, followed by many passes and moves that may lead to a goal -- a game of rapid chess can be perceived as being played.

In the biggest stages of football, such as the Champions League knockout rounds or the World Cup final, a master tactician can decide the final outcome based on minuscule observations and the resulting adjustments, which is consequence of constantly simulating myriad possibilities in his mind throughout the match.

Being a pioneer in tactical innovation, Guardiola will characteristically trust his own philosophy and instincts and may leave to tinker on his system dynamics till the last minute, as he previously showed during his time as Barcelona coach where he won two Champions League trophies in a quite convincing fashion, and both against Manchester United led by Sir Alex Ferguson -- one of the greatest managers and tacticians the

Manchester City and Chelsea have only faced each other once in a European tie before -- in the semi-finals of the 1970-71 European Cup Winners' Cup. Chelsea won 1-0 in both the home and away legs against the Citizens, who at the time were the holders of the competition.

Tuchel had never beaten Guardiola as a coach before taking charge of Chelsea. His record against the Spaniard with Mainz and Dortmund was D2 L3 with two goals scored and 11 conceded. In the most recent two meetings, Tuchel's Chelsea won 1-0 and 2-1 respectively against Guardiola's City.

game has ever seen.

Someone like Guardiola is analogous to a chess Grandmaster who keeps revisiting his moves even when the game is well within his grasp -- such is his perfectionist nature and obsession with the game. We have seen Pep play with a radical striker-less formation, as well as deploying false roles at important positions -- the false wingers and full-backs, the false 9s and 10s for instances -- which ended up bamboozling the opponent.

In the blue half of Manchester, he has the necessary arsenal to execute his vision, and most importantly he has acquired the faith of his players, in leaps and bounds over the years, to blindly trust him on the night of one of the biggest stages in any sport.

Even though this scintillating City side look to be theoretically favourites, however historically, the outcome in this great game is not always decided on paper

beforehand.

After all, it all inevitably boils down to what legendary Dutchman Johan Cruyff once said: "Football is a game of mistakes. Whoever makes the fewest mistakes wins."

That is where Chelsea coach Thomas Tuchel, who is an experienced, master tactician in his own right, can seek inspiration. His side is flying high on confidence after having reached this far against the odds and moreover, winning the recent encounter against City in the Premier League by 2-1 at the last minute would have boosted their morale a great deal.

### TEN 2

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
FINAL  
MANCHESTER CITY VS CHELSEA  
LIVE FROM 1:00 AM (SUNDAY)

Tuchel knows what it is like to play and win in big matches as well as what it is like to play against Guardiola. He knows that to destabilise the order of possession football, he would have to execute the element of chaos with timing and perfection -- with a threatening brand of counter-attacking football with ruthless execution.

The German coach certainly has the players with suitable technical skills and heart -- the likes of Mason Mount, N'Golo Kante, Antonio Rudiger-- to take the game by the scruff of the neck against Guardiola's mean machine, composed of the likes of Kevin

de Bruyne, Bernardo Silva, Riyad Mahrez and Phil Foden.

The German would be inclined to instruct his men to play a reactive game with intelligence and caution, and focus on delaying, if not preventing, City from setting up their desired, sustainable tempo; and when the opportunity presents itself, as it usually does in every match, jump in to capitalise on the mistakes made by the Premier League champions.

Chelsea's superior experience in playing Champion's League final in modern era should allow them play with lesser pressure compared to City, who are bound to face the ominous music when and if the events of the match do not proceed in their favour. City indeed have more at stake, compared to the Blues from London, due to underachievement at UCL and therefore City could be more prone to committing errors at crucial stages on Saturday night at the Estadio do Dragao in Porto.

Even if Tuchel fails to come up with fitting moves in the chess mind-games, he could introduce and force Guardiola to play something else altogether -- like a game of poker perhaps, and thus hope to create distraction and confusion in Guardiola's mind with the art of bluffing and deception, in order to psychologically induce unforced errors from his counterpart.

To wrap things up, here is another famous statement by Cruyff:

"Every disadvantage has its own advantage!"

### PLAYERS TO WATCH

RUBEN DIAS

(MAN CITY)  
Played- 10  
Clearances & Tackles- 22  
Blocks- 7  
Balls Recovered- 49



KEVIN DE BRUYNE

(MAN CITY)  
Played- 7, Assists- 4  
Attempts- 20  
Passing Accuracy- 347 (80%)



N'GOLO KANTE

(CHELSEA)  
Played- 12, Tackles- 5  
Balls Recovered- 49  
Passing Accuracy- 340 (85%)



THIAGO SILVA

(CHELSEA)  
Played- 7  
Clearances & Tackles- 20  
Blocks- 2  
Balls Recovered- 43



## Foden and Mount inject youthful zest



REUTERS

Europe's top clubs invest millions in signing players from all over the world but two of the key players in Saturday's Champions League final between Manchester City and Chelsea are a reminder that there is still value in home-grown talent.

City's Phil Foden and Chelsea's Mason Mount both head to Porto after seasons in which they moved from the 'promising



youngster' category into fully-fledged game-changers.

Both clubs have been criticized in recent years for failing to give opportunities to players from their academies but the investments of time and coaching expertise in the two attacking midfielders have paid off this term.

With both players in Gareth Southgate's England squad for Euro 2020, this could be the summer when they truly announce themselves on the global stage.

"It's [about] the quality of the players, trying to understand their skills, creating a good environment and a good mood, because football is not just tactics; it's emotions and relations between the lads and even with the backroom staff. This is the most important thing for a team to last for a long time, which has happened here for five years."

PEP GUARDIOLA  
MANCHESTER CITY MANAGER

"As a child, you dream of these matches and it's like watching the moon -- it's so, so far away. Once you're in it, you're just in it. I don't hesitate to say that Man. City and Bayern have been the benchmark in Europe this season and last season. We are trying to close the gap and the good thing is, in football, you can close gaps in 90 minutes."

THOMAS TUCHEL  
CHELSEA MANAGER

**BSRM**  
Building a better world

**BUILD YOUR HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH THE TOUGHEST STEEL**

**treme**  
**B500 DWR**  
the tough steel

**Aktaruzzaman Flyover Chittagong**

**Principal Cement Brand**

**SHAH CEMENT**

CRIMES DURING GAZA CONFLICT

# UN rights body orders int'l probe

Israeli PM says decision 'shameful'; US voices deep concern

REUTERS, Geneva

The United Nations Human Rights Council has agreed to launch an international investigation into alleged crimes committed during the 11-day conflict between Israel and the Islamist group Hamas in Gaza.

The independent investigation will have a broad mandate to look into all alleged violations, not just in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, but also in Israel during hostilities that were halted by a ceasefire on May 21.

Michelle Bachelet, the UN high commissioner for human rights, earlier told the council that deadly Israeli strikes on Gaza might constitute war crimes and that Hamas had violated international humanitarian law by firing rockets into Israel.

Israel rejected the resolution adopted by the Geneva forum and said it would not cooperate.

"Today's shameful decision is yet another example of the UN Human Rights Council's blatant anti-Israeli obsession," Israeli Prime Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday said in a statement accusing the forum of whitewashing "a genocidal terrorist organisation".

Israel's foreign ministry said its forces acted "in accordance with international law, in defending our

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Ainal Hossain tends to his stand where face masks are displayed for sale in front of the capital's Mugda Medical College Hospital. The 35-year-old worked in a Middle East country for four years and came back home on vacation last year. Unable to return due to the pandemic, he has taken up selling health safety items to make ends meet. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

B'BARIA MAYHEM

## Three more Hefajat men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Law enforcers arrested three more Hefajat-e-Islam men from different places in Brahmanbaria in 24 hours till yesterday morning in cases filed over vandalism and arson attacks during protests over Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh in late March.

With the latest arrests, a total of 506 people have been held so far in connection with the cases, said Brahmanbaria police in a press release.

Police said they identified those involved in vandalism and arson attacks after examining photos and video clips of the incidents that took place on March 26-28.

Meanwhile, Brahmanbaria Additional Superintendent of Police Rais Uddin has been transferred, a Police Headquarters notification said yesterday.

With him, a total of 20

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



## Khaleda running a fever

Doctors to examine her, says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who tested negative for novel coronavirus 20 days ago, has caught fever.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the former prime minister suddenly showed symptoms of fever on Thursday night.

Khaleda, 76, has been undergoing treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital since April 27. Speaking at a press

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Giant tortoise still alive 100 years after 'extinction'



CNN ONLINE

Ecuador confirmed that a giant tortoise found in 2019 in the Galapagos Islands is a species considered extinct a century ago.

The Galapagos National Park is preparing an expedition to search for more of the giant tortoises in an attempt to save the species.

The turtle was found two years ago on Fernandina Island, one of the youngest and most pristine in the archipelago, during a joint expedition between the Galapagos National Park and the Galapagos Conservancy.

Scientists from Yale University then identified it

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

KHAGRACHHARI JAIL

## Prisoner found dead in bathroom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A 26-year-old Tripura youth, who was arrested on May 16 in a case filed under the pornography act, was found dead inside the Khagrachhari district jail early yesterday.

The dead is Milon Bikash Tripura of remote Arun Para in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila, Executive Magistrate Sajjad Hossen of Khagrachhari district administration, who is also the Khagrachhari jail super, told The Daily Star.

Quoting the jailer Didarul Alam, the jail super said, "Milon was found hanging from an iron rod at the bathroom of an isolation ward around 4:00am. Some 22 inmates are kept at the ward."

He was later taken to Khagrachhari Sadar hospital.

The jail super said three

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Battle of Bhomra

MAY 29, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN



TAJUDDIN'S INTERVIEW

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad said he failed to understand how the democratic governments of the world could support the dictatorial regime of Pakistan, which was crushing the democratic aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

Tajuddin told a foreign correspondent in an interview, broadcast by the Swadhin Bangla Kendra: "We wanted to establish the democratic rights of the people of Pakistan and to that end, we tried our best. We made all peaceful attempts in this direction but Yahya's army, most shamelessly cracked down on the unarmed people of Bangladesh. We had no other alternative but to proclaim independence for the 75 million democratic Bangalees of Bangladesh."

The radio station, quoting Awami League leaders, said "Bangladesh is a free and sovereign country today and there is no scope for talks."

The AL leaders were commenting on a statement by the spokesman of the US state department about a formula suggested by an emissary of Pakistan President Yahya Khan for a settlement of the issue.

BHOMRA BATTLE

A heavy fight broke out today between Bangladesh Liberation fighters and Pakistan army at Bhomra, Satkhira. Mahbub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, then chief of police in the subdivision of Jessore, fought valiantly in the battle. He shares his memory in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

COVID VACCINE PRODUCTION

## Momen seeks global support for LDCs

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has sought financial and technical support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to produce Covid-19 vaccines and other lifesaving medicines.

"Meaningful transfer of technology, access to aid for trade, exemption from intellectual property rights so that LDCs can produce Covid-19 vaccines and other life-saving medicines," he said.

The foreign minister delivered a statement virtually at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Thursday, a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

Momen was the keynote speaker at the thematic discussion on enhancing international trade and regional integration for the LDCs.

The foreign minister highlighted the importance of providing support to the graduating LDCs, including providing them with continued LDC-specific support for 12 years after graduation.

He called on the Developed and Developing country Member States of the UN to help the graduating LDCs for their smooth and sustainable graduation.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

NARADA CASE

## All 4 TMC leaders get interim bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Eleven days after their arrest by CBI in Narada sting operation case relating to alleged graft, senior West Bengal ministers Firdah Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee, ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislator Madan Mitra and former Kolkata mayor Sovan Chatterjee were granted interim bail by the Calcutta High Court yesterday.

The interim bail was given by a five-member bench of the High Court with condition that it is valid till the bench gives a final order in this case. The

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A craftsman in South Alekanda of Barishal weaving baskets to be used for keeping food items. He goes from one place to another to sell the baskets and earns around Tk 1,200 a day, of which around Tk 300 is his net profit. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# South Asia crosses 30m Covid cases

Delhi declares black fungus epidemic; UK approves J&J vaccine

AGENCIES

Coronavirus infections in the South Asia region surpassed 30 million yesterday, according to a Reuters tally of official data, led by India which is struggling with a second Covid-19 wave and a vaccine shortage across the region.

India, the second most-populous country in the world, this month recorded its highest Covid-19 death toll since the pandemic began last year, accounting for just over a third of the overall total.

The South Asia region - India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka - accounts for 18% of global cases and almost 10% of deaths.

But there is growing suspicion that official tallies of infections and deaths are not reflecting the true extent of the problem.

The country's official tally of daily coronavirus infections has been falling in the past few days, offering hope that its second wave is ebbing. But there are serious concerns that many new infections are not being reported, largely due to a dearth of testing in the countryside.

As of yesterday, India has reported nearly 27.6 million cases and 318,895 deaths. Daily infections reported across India have more than halved from more than 400,000 earlier this month, according to official statistics.

Meanwhile, amid rising incidents of black fungus in the national capital, the Delhi government on Thursday

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING MAY 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-43 8-05  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-47 8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION