DHAKA SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021





"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 NAMIRIA

"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

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

unending wait

Unchanging

pictures,

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

orange tee-shirt, sporting

on a red motorbike. It is

the last photo his family

Parvez, a Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal leader from the capital's Bangshal, was

picked up from Shahbagh

December 2, 2013, claimed

his family and friends, who were present when he was

"I have been coming

years," Hridi, sitting on the

back for the last eight

by members of a law

enforcement agency on

aviators and sitting jauntily

Every year, the photo is the same -- Parvez in an

Hossain.

has of him.

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 jabs 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 CO L 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

curb in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, told this correspondent. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 Big blow to

taken.

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

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY 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

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

peacekeepers

The United Nations has awarded eight fallen peacekeepers from Bangladesh with the "Dag Hammarskjöld Medal". As many as 129

UNB, Dhaka

peacekeepers from 44 nations were honoured

UN honours eight fallen Bangladeshi

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.

ingredient has gone up five times in the last five months.

Edible oil gets

pricier again

Prices increased for 5th

time in last 5 months

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

With this latest hike, the price of the essential cooking

price of Tk 144 set barely two weeks ago.

Akanda Muhammad Jahid

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

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 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

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

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 97run 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 Igbal -- 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: FTROZ 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.



BANGLADESH UPDATE 1,358 New cases in 24hrs Arge 7,96,343 Total cases

NEWS

12,511 Deaths

Deaths



NAZRUL'S PHOTO GOOF-UP National poet's family to file defamation suit against Robi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary was celebrated worldwide on May 25, with tributes pouring in from individuals, organisations and corporates alike.

However, one "tribute" on telecom giant Robi Axiata Limited's Facebook page angered many, including Kazi Nazrul Islam's family.

In a post commemorating the national poet, the picture that they used was actually of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

Khilkhil Kazi, the national poet's granddaughter, told The Daily Star yesterday that she is going to file a defamation suit against the telecom company for their "ignorance".

"I refuse to believe that this was a simple mix-up," she said. "Whichever agency or individual was involved in making the post not only had to be unaware of both our national poet and Rabindranath Tagore, but the post had to be approved by officials of Robi who were in charge of the page. This is insulting to both legendary figures in Bangla literature."

Khilkhil, a noted singer and organiser, said even the song lyric used in the post had errors in it. "This is a serious crime, and I will file a defamation case against Robi Axiata Limited," she said, adding that she had a meeting with her lawyer later that day to discuss the issue further.

The singer also expressed anguish at telecom companies profiting by using Kazi Nazrul Islam's work without

paying royalty. "None of these telecom companies pay any kind of royalty to our family, even though they have been using his work for years.

Even though the telecom company removed the post from their social media, screenshots of it had already gone viral. However, the company and its affiliated agencies are allegedly working towards silencing the scandal.



জ্যতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলামের লেখায় বিদ্রোহ, বিজয়, মায়া, মমতা, ভালোবাসা সবধরনের আবেগ পেয়েছিল এক নতুন মাত্রা। আজ ১১ই জৈষ্ঠ কবি কার্জী নজরুল ইসলাম-এর ১২২ তম জন্মবার্ষিকী ডে প্রিয় কবিকে জানাই বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা।



"People have contacted my niece, Zoya, and her office and told her to remove the post that she made regarding the issue," says Khilkhil Kazi. "I am sure that they also contacted others who criticised their actions. They did not even have the decency to call me directly and apologise. Nonetheless, they will be held accountable."

Robi Axiata Limited has published an official apology on their Facebook page, saying that the post was made by their affiliated agency.

"We have always been respectful towards our National Poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam, and Bangladesh's art and culture. We are deeply sorry for this mistake," they wrote.

"This was just an unfortunate mix-up, and we did give our official statement on social media," said Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi Axiata. Regarding the case, any citizen is well within their rights to file for defamation."

Ashraful Islam, media manager of Robi Axiata Limited, told The Daily Star that they have already made their official statement, and they have nothing more to add.

Govt plans to ease age bar Apart from this, under the Covax

FROM PAGE 1

"I think we can observe the situation till next week and then we may go for a decision."

Arsalan suggested that the universities can reopen in phases and students be inoculated accordingly.

"First public universities, then private universities and then colleges. But this plan depends on the availability of vaccine," he added.

facilities, a global vaccine alliance, Bangladesh will get 1.06 lakh Pfizer vaccine shots tomorrow. Health officials said Pfizer vaccine

doses will be administered mostly in the capital, considering the lack of facilities to store those outside the city. China has already gifted Bangladesh

five lakh doses of Sinopharm vaccine and promised to give another six lakh River Police patrol the Halda River in Ramdas Munshir

7,36,221 Recoveries

Haat area of Chattogram's Hathazari upazila. Police have also installed CCTV cameras, inset, at eight points of the river to stop the catching of mother fish, lifting of sand, operation of engine boats and damaging the biodiversity of the river. The photo was taken on PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Abul

GLOBAL

Big blow to fish farmers FROM PAGE 1 FOREST Department under S

Bagerhat. The target for fish production in this district in the current financial year is 33,000 tonnes, he added.

The fisheries officer, however, claimed that the damage of fish and shrimp enclosures would not affect the production target, saying fish did not die; rather it went from one place to another.

Meanwhile in the Sundarbans, several water vessels, watchtowers, jetties, crocodile sheds, foot rails and other structures were damaged by tidal waves and storms, inflicting a loss of around Tk 60 lakh, say forest officials.

Water of canals and rivers adjacent to the forest rose five to six feet on Wednesday. Besides, there was a strong wind. These inflicted infrastructural damage, said Joynal Abedin, assistant forest conservator of Sundarbans East

Forest Department under Sharankhola range. The disaster also damaged wildlife.

Four bodies of deer were recovered after the storm, he added. In Khulna, some 36 villages of Koyra upazila were inundated after embankments were breached.

Locals are repairing embankments at different points to stop gushing of water into the localities, said SM Shafiqul Islam, chairman of Koyra

Koyra upazila is surrounded by Kabodak and Sakbaria rivers. There are around 155km embankments in the upazila. Of these, around 4km was breached at 25 points.

repaired," said Shafiqul.

A lot of work to be done

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the pandemic.

conference, said that despite winning the series the Tigers will need to improve a lot in the coming days. "I would say we were lucky enough

to win the first two games. Our batting hasn't been up to the mark and we need to work on this aspect. Our bowling was good in the first two games but once again we lacked consistency with the ball and were shaky in our catching and fielding in the third game. So there Hasan before being dropped on 79 the hosts with four wickets for 46 runs

said. For Sri Lanka, though, it was the best performance all around and skipper Perera led from the front by scoring his sixth century after electing to bat first.

Perera, alongside Dhanushka Gunathilaka, scored 82 runs for the opening wicket, and despite Gunathilaka's departure for 39 off the bowling of Taskin Ahmed, Perea kept the scoreboard ticking.

The left-hander was dropped three times and made full use of those letoffs. He was first dropped on 66 by

though, was grassed by Mahmudullah at mid-on off the bowling of Rahman, with the batsman one short of his century

Hossain, superintendent

engineer of Water Development Board

in Khulna, told The Daily Star that they

already distributed geo-bags to local

chairmen to repair embankments. The

chairmen were repairing the dams with

He added that they already engaged

Contacted yesterday afternoon,

Dams broke at 51 points in different

districts and around 9,00 cattle were

also affected. The government has

already sent 16,500 packets of food for

the affected people, he added.

Enamur Rahman, state minister for

the help of locals, he said.

Perera was eventually dismissed by Shoriful Islam for 120 off 122 balls his innings featuring eleven fours and a six. Bangladesh did manage to pick up wickets at regular intervals but the early platform laid by the openers helped the visitors to continue the momentum. Dhananjava de Silva's unbeaten 55 off 70 balls guided the visitors to the big total.

Soybean oil now sells for \$1460

He said they have to pay the government an import duty of TK 28 to

Tk 30 for each litre of soybean oil which

"The soybean oil that we are selling

Afroza Islam Akhi, whose brother

enforced disappearance, said, "I have

been coming here for the last 13 years. If

the government thinks they can silence

a person by forcefully disappearing him,

it did not understand that that very act

gave the rest of the family members the

Sajedul Islam Suman, the general

secretary of ward-38 of the BNP's Dhaka

city unit, was held along with five others

in the Bashundhara residential area in

Nagorik Oikya convener Mahmudur

ideology doesn't mean he deserves to be

Dhaka on December 4, 2013.

strength to yell louder.

31 more die, 1,358 test positive for Covid in a day Bss, Dhaka

yesterday Bangladesh reported 1,358 new Covid-19 cases, while the coronavirus claimed 31 more lives.

The tally of infections has surged to 7,96,343 as 1,358 new cases were confirmed in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of Directorate General of Health Services.

With the 31 deaths, the total number of fatalities from the pandemic rose to 12,511

Around 14,606 samples were tested in 24 hours at 497 authorised medical laboratories across the country.

The recovery count rose to 7,36,221 after another 1,064 patients were discharged from hospitals during the period.

The DGHS statistics showed of the people infected from the beginning, 92.45 percent recovered, while 1.57 percent died.

Ten out of the 31 died in Dhaka division alone, said the DGHS release. Eighteen of them were men and 13 women. One was below 10 years, one between 11 and 20 years, four were in their 30s, five in their 40s, seven in their 50s and 13 were above 60 years, the release added.

Bangladesh recorded the highest number of Covid-19 fatality on April 19 this year when the virus killed 112 people in a day.

The country recorded 7,626 Covid-19 cases on April 7 this year, the highest daily spike since the outbreak of the pandemic, the release said.

Three US officers charged with killing of Black man in custody

AFP, Los Angeles

Two officers in the US state of Washington were charged with the murder of a Black man who died in police custody as he pleaded that he couldn't breathe, and a third was charged with manslaughter, prosecutors said Thursday.

Manuel Ellis died in Tacoma in March 2020, in a case that became a touchstone for protests in the Pacific Northwest, and which bears similarities to the killing of George Floyd by Minnesota police that sparked nationwide outrage two months later.

Ellis died after "felonious assault and/or unlawful imprisonment" by two of the officers, while a third "continued to hold Ellis in the prone position and to apply pressure onto his back" despite hearing Ellis say

workers at different points to repair the dams. "We are assessing the damage caused by the disaster." upazila parishad. disaster management and relief, said 27 upazilas of nine districts were affected by the cyclone.

"We have already repaired four points, but 21 points are yet to be

fifties but it was never enough for Bangladesh with the required run rate climbing all the time.

Skipper Tamim, at the post-match

Wednesday.

A good number of teachers and staffers have already been vaccinated.

Dipu Moni said the government has a plan to inoculate 1.3 lakh university students.

Educational institutions have remained closed since March last year due to the pandemic. Last week, the government extended the closure till June 12.

At present, educational institutions are holding online classes and the government is broadcasting educational programmes on state-run television channels.

Dipu Moni also said that if the current Covid situation improves, the government will reopen educational institutions on June 13.

The government has already approved the use of Chinese Sinopharm vaccine and is expecting to sign a contract soon to purchase 1.5 crore doses. Once the deal is signed, the country is expected to get 50 lakh doses of vaccines a month from June to August.

shots. The vaccine doses are being administered to medical students. Seeking anonymity, a top health

official told The Daily Star that the inoculation of university students is likely to begin once the first consignment of the Chinese vaccine arrives.

suspended The government administering the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine on April 26 soon after India temporarily banned export of Covid vaccine.

Bangladesh purchased three crore doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from Serum Institute of India and was supposed to receive 50 lakh jabs per month for six months from January to June.

delivered the first Serum consignment of 50 lakh doses in January, but shipped only 20 lakh in February. No other shipment has been made since then as the Indian government banned export of vaccine to meet its domestic demand.

UN honours

FROM PAGE 1

Saiful Imam Bhuiyan from Congo; LCPL Mohammad Abdulla Al Mamun from the Central African Republic; SGT Mohammad Ziaur Rahman from Congo; SGT Mohammad Mobarak Hussain from Congo; SGT Mohammad Ibrahim from the Central African Republic; LCPL Mohammad Saiful Islam from Congo; and Washerman Nurul Amin from South Sudan.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Ambassador Rabab Fatima received the medals on behalf of Bangladesh

The Permanent Mission will make necessary arrangements to send the medals to the family members of the deceased peacekeepers.

Defense Advisor to Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN Mission also attended this virtual ceremony.

"I pay my deep homage to all the brave men and women in blue helmets who lost their lives while serving under the UN flag, and express my heartfelt condolences to their families and friends," said Ambassador Fatima in a condolence message given on the occasion.

She also said that Bangladesh lost many of its valiant soldiers in the line of their sacred duty for world peace. "This sacrifice, however, has never deterred us from responding to the UN's call for duty; rather reinforced our resolve to continue serving the cause of peace."

She called upon the international community to honour the memories of the fallen peacekeepers through its pursuit for peace and by ensuring a world free from suffering.

The medals were virtually awarded by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres in presence of the respective Permanent Representatives of the 44 countries at the event.

The theme for this year is "The Road To A Lasting Peace: Leveraging The Power Of Youth For Peace And Security"

The UN Secretary-General also laid a wreath at the Peacekeepers Memorial Site in the North Lawn of the UNHOs in honour of all peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving under the IN flag over the past seven decades.

Bangladesh is currently the top contributor of uniformed personnel UN peacekeeping operations to and around 7,000 peacekeepers are deployed in nine peacekeeping missions currently.

So far, 159 peacekeepers from Bangladesh have lost their lives while serving in the UN peacekeeping operations, according to the Permanent Mission.

Each year, the United Nations observes the International Day of the UN Peacekeepers on the UN headquarters premises.

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was held virtually this year.

he could not breathe, a prosecutor statement says

2 suffer

FROM PAGE 1

A special team has been sent to track her down and bring her to Bengaluru. Once she is back, her statement will be recorded by a magistrate.

A 3:45 minute video clip of four men and a woman torturing and sexually abusing the 22-year-old woman has been doing the rounds on social media for the last few days.

Bengaluru police in a statement on Thursday said that on the basis of the video clip and the questioning of the accused, a case has been registered under charges of rape, assault and other provisions with Ramamurthynagar Police Station.

Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai yesterday told reporters that the victim's name has not been mentioned on the first information report (FIR), adding that the state police has submitted the information to a local court. He added that a probe has been ordered by the state government 'without any interference"

Kamal Pant, commissioner of police in Bengaluru city, on his official Twitter handle wrote, "The victim who is also a Bangladeshi was brought to India for trafficking and was tortured and brutalised due to a financial matter."

The other two men were identified as Mohammed Baba Sheikh and Hakeel. The identity of the female suspect has not been confirmed.

Police in Dhaka said they identified he victim and one of the perpetrators as Bangladeshi and that Bangladesh police were yet to be officially informed of the arrests.

Mohiul Islam, assistant inspector general of National Central Bureau NCB), yesterday said, "The NCB, which is linked to the Interpol, tries to bring back the accused from abroad by maintaining communication with its counterpart. However, the Delhi NCB has not officially informed us about the arrests. We have contacted them and started the process of bringing them back to the country.

Commissioner Deputy Shahidullah of Tejgaon division said a case under the human trafficking act and the pornography act has been filed against Ridoy and several unnamed others with Hatirjheel Police Station.

It initially seems like the suspects are part of an organised human trafficking ring, he said, adding that police would investigate whether the suspects and the victim entered India illegally.

Nazrul Islam, a private service holder, Biswajit Saha, director for corporate was TK 15 previously. said he was finding it very difficult to run and regulatory affairs at City Group, his family due to price hike of essentials said prices of edible oil increased by 160 now was bought earlier. At that time, "How can I buy edible oil at such a the price in the international market was

high price? Is there no one to look into the matter?" he questioned. Seeking anonymity, an official at a

private company said the current edible oil

in Dhaka, said the oil price hike came as

income people as they faced two waves of

"third blow" to the low and middle-

When the prices go up in the international market, it is reflected in the local market. But the consumers don't see price adjustment in the local market when prices fall in the international market, he alleged.

percent in the international market in the last one year.

soybean oil in the international market, the price would have been Tk 170 to 175

Unchanging pictures, unending wait

FROM PAGE 1 She was at a human chain organised by "Mayer Daak", a platform of families with members who have been victims of enforced disappearances.

Hridi is now nine years old and a student of class 4. Each year, this newspaper has been watching her get a year older, but making the same demand for whoever had caused her father's disappearance to return him back to her.

"I don't even remember my papa," said Hridi, who would have been less than two when Parvez was picked up.

Hridi is not the only child who has been coming back year after year.

Eleven-year-old Lamia Ákhter Mim has also been coming back for the last eight years. Her father Kawsar Hossain, a driver who was 22 when he was picked up allegedly by law enforcers from his house in West Nakhalpara on December 4, 2013.

According to Mayer Daak, Kawsar's mother passed away earlier this year in

January, her wish to see her son return unfulfilled.

Similarly, seven-year-old Safa has been son of Ilias Ali, the BNP leader who went coming to these protests every single year missing on April 18, 2012. of her life. "I was in the womb when my father was taken away," said Safa. Sajedul Islam Suman is a victim of

Mosquitoes from the open drain beside her buzzed at her legs, but she sat dutifully on the curb holding a picture of her father Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel, a Chhatra Dal leader in Bangshal.

"My father had gone to buy flowers when they took him away," said Safa. The date was December 2, 2013. "I know the other children here. I see

them each year," she said.

But how long before hope wears thin? "Last year we got a telephone from Bangshal Police Station [asking us] to withdraw the general diary we had filed. Rahman Manna said, "Just because someone had a different political But I have not lost hope. I will withdraw the GD when I find my husband," said Hridi's mother Farzana Akhter. forcefully disappeared."

"We have often seen our loved ones

If vaccinated, Tk 260cr could've been saved

FROM PAGE 1

Arabia had missed their flights to the Gulf nation, more than 30 migrant workers told The Daily Star.

After the new travel advisory came into effect, the workers were booking hotels with the assistance from officials of Saudi Arabian Airlines until May 25 when the officials stopped assisting the workers, leaving many of the workers frustrated and confused.

It was at this point that Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Thursday said the government was considering whether to prioritise vaccinating the migrant workers.

The government has decided to

assist the workers in booking hotels and is the government's utter neglect in considering whether to partly subsidise the expenses.

A top official of the expatriates welfare ministry said an inter-ministerial meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the issue.

Saudi health ministry requires no quarantine for non-residents and firsttime visitors who have proof that they spent 14 days after receiving all doses of a coronavirus vaccine.

Fakhrul Islam, former finance secretary and president of the Recruiting Agency Welfare Organisation of Bangladesh, said the main reason behind the crisis facing the workers

vaccinating the expatriate workers on

He added that Bahrain also issued a similar travel advisory as Saudi Arabia.

"We heard that several other countries may issue similar travel advisories. If they really do, the migrant workers will have to bear a massive financial burden. We could have saved several hundred crore taka had the workers been vaccinated, he said.

Tipu Sultan, president of the Recruiting Agency Oikya Parishad, said many of the migrant workers' travel abroad will be uncertain if more countries issue a travel advisory like Saudi Arabia had.

is still a lot of work to be done," Tamim by Afif Hossain. The easiest chance, in nine overs.

Edible oil gets pricier again prices in the country were not compatible per litre in Bangladesh, he said. processors for the steep rise in prices. with those in the international market. Aminul Islam, a low-income consumer per tonne in the international market,

According to the current price of

He said it would be possible for the processors to reduce the prices if the government withdrew the import duty.

> coming back. We cannot lose hope. We have to keep hoping that our family members will be back," said Abrar Ilias,

iswajit added.

\$1260-1270 per tonne."

BY IHTISHAM KABIR **Paradise Flycatcher**

Aking 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.

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



Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.

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.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

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

CITY

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.

migration-related all ...for activities of the appointed subagent 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' "We are considering opinion. 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, 64 districts, so only 20 sub-agents informal service providers or middlemen are an integral part of the adequate, she added. "This may lead 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,



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." government's the 'However,

registration plan is not viable." There are thousands of villages in

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

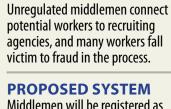
worker himself as he risks his life at the site. This photo was taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Dhaka recently.

for a recruiting agency might not be 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

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

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 governmentfixed 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 migrationprone district Tangail in 2017 found 19 percent people could not make it for overseas jobs despite paying Tk 1.95 lakh each on average.

head teacher

School staffer arrested for assaulting UN honours eight fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers UNB. Dhaka

Six killed in road crashes STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and 11 injured in road accidents The Daily Star | 3

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 altercated 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.

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 vesterday. The medals were awarded by the UN secretarygeneral 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, LCl 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.

auring the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents and a news agency.

In Mymensingh, two passengers of an autorickshaw 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

DAS

BIR

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 Ramnather Bhita.

In Bhola, three autorickshaw 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 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.



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



PHOTO: COLLECTED 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.

Battle of Bhomra

the following words: "It was already dawn and we took all-out preparation to attack the Pak army. Captain Salauddin of the East Bengal regiment was in charge of the company. I was the second-in-command of the troops in this operation.

"The enemies started moving forward. We kept monitoring their movement and kept changing our position to dodge the Pakistani forces.

"Whenever the enemies came inside our firing range, we opened fire. The enemies became disoriented and started to retreat. Freedom fighter Jabbar played a significant role in the battle.

"We were all in joyous mood after this initial victory. But around mid-day, we suddenly got information that Pakistani forces were coming back with a large contingent. We took position behind a thick wall and started firing targeting our enemies. Pak forces also launched counter fire. The battle went on for two hours, and finally the Pak army retreated. We had suffered four casualties: Subedar Jabbar, Subedar Samsul Huq, Abul Kashem, a member of Mujahid Bahini and Sepay Abdul Mannan. Some unofficial eye witness accounts estimated Pakiatani casualty at over 300."

KENNEDY ISSUES WARNING

Indifference by the US and other nations to millions of East Pakistani refugees is bringing the South Asia region "towards the brink of war", Senator Edward M. Kennedy charged today

In a letter, Kennedy said reports to his subcommittee indicate that at least 3.5 million refugees had already crossed into India. Kennedy said: "Their number increases daily at a rate approaching 100,000 a day.

Senator Kennedy asked for stronger efforts by individual governments and by the United Nations to encourage political accommodation between the central Pakistan government and the "rebels" of East Pakistan. He called on the US to respond immediately to Pakistan's food, water and medical needs. Kennedy also urged the United States to take unilateral action to aid India's appeal for refugee assistance even if the UN continues to be unresponsive to India's requests.

THAILAND REFUSES TO GIVE FUEL

The Thai foreign ministry announced its inability to supply fuel to Pakistan for military purposes. It also expressed its desire not to get involved in the "internal problems" of Pakistan.

It was also reported that two Daphne-class submarines obtained by Pakistan from France are now on their way to Karachi.

REFUGEES HIT BY CHOLERA

Cholera claimed 150 lives in the past two days in border area refugee camps where tens of thousands of refugees had fled into India from the war in East Pakistan.

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

Giant tortoise

FROM PAGE 12

as the Chelonoidis phantasticus species, which had been considered extinct more than a century ago

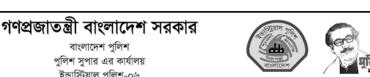
"Yale University revealed the results of genetic studies and the respective DNA comparison that was made with a specimen extracted in 1906," the Galapagos Park said in a statement.

BUILDING & LAND SALE (Suitable for Factory/ Hospital/University)

۲wo Buildings (each 6 Storied@ 90,000sft) total 1,80,000sft, Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity /Gas/Water Facility. Both Buildings ccord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factor unning at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta. Contact: **01711-525563**, email-**1960skt@gmail.com**

শ্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.৫৫০৬.০০১.০৭.০১৯.২০২১-৪৭০





তারিখ-২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ

'The Public Procurement Act-2006" & "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" ও তদ্বীয় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরে বাৎসরিক এবং কোয়ার্টার ভিত্তিক ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল প্রলিশ-০৬, খুলনার নিদুবর্ণিত লটে উল্লিখিত মালামাল ক্রয়/সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী অভিজ্ঞ ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হতে নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাড়ে সীলমোহরকত, মখবন্ধ খামে প্রতিযোগিতামলক উন্যক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পলিশ সপার এর কার্যালয়

ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-০৬

বাড়ি নং-২৯৩, রোডনং-২০, মুজগুন্নি আবাসিক এলাকা

খালিশপুর, খুলনা

উম্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

		ষ্ঠানের প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত, মুখবন্ধ	খান্দ					ছে।			
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	<u></u> ૦૨.	স্বাস্থ্যবিধান সামগ্রী সরবরাহ			8	চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	\$0,000/-	1		
	00.	অন্যান্য মনিহারি সরবরাহ			8	চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	٩٣,000/-	1		
	08.	সীল ও স্ট্যাম্প সরবরাহ			8	চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	20,000/-	1		
	00.	6 http://			8	চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	\$0,000/-			
	০৬.	কম্পিউটার ও আনুষাঙ্গিক সরবরাহ			8	চাহিদানুযায়ী	œ00/-	20,000/-]		
	٥٩.					চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	٤٥,000/-]		
	06.	আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ				চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	২০,০০০/-	And AN INFO THE		
	০৯.	ফোর্সের পোষাক সেলাই				চাহিদানুযায়ী	800/-	\$0,000/-	২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছর (জুলাই/২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে জুন/২০২২খ্রিঃ		
	٥٥.	ইউনিফর্মের রিবন সরবরাহ				চাহিদানুযায়ী	৩০০/-	¢,000/-	্রুলাথ,২০২১াএঃ ২ডে জুন/২০২২াএঃ পর্যন্ত)		
[۵۵.	বইপত্র ও সাময়িকি সরবরাহ				চাহিদানুযায়ী	৩০০/-	٥٥,000/-	পযন্ত)		
	১ર.	n .				চাহিদানুযায়ী	৩০০/-	٥,000/-			
	১৩.					চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	৩০,০০০/-			
	\$8.	মটরযানের কাঁচামাল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ স	রবরা	হ	00	চাহিদানুযায়ী	৬০০/-	80,000/-	-		
-	۵৫.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	٤٥,000/-	-		
ļ	১৬.	মুদ্রণ ও বাঁধাই			8	চাহিদানুযায়ী	\$00/-	\$0,000/-	-		
-	১ ٩.	ক্রীড়া সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	-		00	চাহিদানুযায়ী মক্তির জালী	200/-	\$0,000/-	-		
-	25	মটরযানের কাঁচামাল ও যন্ত্রাংশ মেরামত মন্ডর ডাল সরবরাহ				চাহিদানুযায়ী চাহিদানুযায়ী	000/-	\$0,000/-	1011 11 mm		
-	১৯. ২০.					চাহিদানুযায়ী চাহিদানুযায়ী	৬৫০/-	২০,০০০/- ২০,০০০/-	২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্ট (জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্ট		
-	૨૦. ૨১.	সরাবন তেপ সরবরাহ পোলাও চাল সরবরাহ				চাহিদানুযায়া	800/-	¢.000/-	২০২১-২২ অব বহুরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়াচ (জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়াট		
-	૨ <i>٠</i> . ૨૨.	জ্ঞালানী কাঠ সরবরাহ				চাহিদানুযায়ী	@00/-	\$0,000/-	(জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) (জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্ট		
-	২৩.	কুলি সরবরাহ				চাহিদানুযায়ী	voo/-	2,000/-	(জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্ট		
-	ર 8.					চাহিদানুযায়ী	¢00/-	\$0,000/-	(জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্ট		
-	24					মজুদ	0 00/-	२,०००/-	(জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্ট		
						মোতাবেক			(জুলাই/২১খ্রিঃ-ডিসেম্বর/২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)		
	10-20-2	আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী				দরপত্র সম্পাদনব হলিল প্রলিশ্বযুগা	<u> গরার বিবরণঃ-</u> র, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-০৬,	र्थलनाः ।			
હ. ૧.		আহবানকারা কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদব৷ আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা							াডনং- ২০, মুজগুন্নি আবাসিক এলাকা, খুলন		
	-124 (ML	יוידיוידאו איזיאיי אווידיוידיוידיוידי					, ২৩॥ব্যুয়াণ পুলেন-০৩, গান্স-০৪১-৭৬২৫৬১।	117 -1(- 1 00, (1	ા ૨૦૧૬ પુરુ સુવારાણ ગામાનામ લગામન, મુંથાન		
br.	১। ব্যা ২। নির্ধ ৩। ক্রন ৪। ক্রন	র্মারিত সময়ের পরে কোন অবস্থাতে দরপত্র য়কারী সন্থা কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীরেবে য়কারী সন্থা দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত পণ্যে বা সে	জেমা হ যে (বার প	র ও পৃ নেওয়া কোন ল ারিমাণ,	র্ণ পরি া হবে াটের ব হ্রাস ব	চিতি সম্বলিত আ না। া সম্পূর্ন দরপত্র ব যা বৃদ্ধি করার অধি	বদনের মাধ্যমে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষর গাতিল করার অধিকার সংর কার সংরক্ষন করেন।	ক্ষন করেন।	চ মূল্য পরিশোধ পূর্বক সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে উচ্চ দ্রপ্রক্রময় গ্রহণ ও উন্দ্রক করা যবে ।		
		নবার্য কারণে নির্ধারিত দিন ও সময়ে দরপর ্যায়নের ক্ষেত্রে অনিবার্য পরিস্থিতির কারণে						সময়ে একহ স্থানে উ	টক্ত দরপত্রসমূহ গ্রহণ ও উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।		
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নডি-১০									-৭৬০২০৩, ফ্যাক্স-০৪১-৭৬২৫৬১ লঃ <u>spip6@police.gov.bd</u>		

Khaleda FROM PAGE 12

conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office, Fakhrul said a 10-member medical board formed to treat Khaleda would examine why she developed fever.

The BNP organised the press conference to deliver its thoughts on the national budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

"Khaleda Zia is doing well now and her medical parameters are also good. But she has been suffering from fever since last night [Thursday night]. Doctors are treating her," Fakhrul said.

The BNP leader also said Khaleda's treatment for fever started and the medical board was scheduled to sit yesterday to review her health.

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 27, three days after she tested positive for coronavirus for a second time. She first tested Covid-19 positive on April

11. The BNP chief also has arthritis, diabetes, and eye problems.

The government sentence as per section 401 (1) of the Criminal Code of Procedure. The suspension was later extended twice.

The BNP chairperson landed in jail on February 8, 2018 after a special court in Dhaka sentenced her to five years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

the High Court increased her punishment to 10 years. South Asia crosses Covid vaccine, hoping to boost a FROM PAGE 12 declared it an epidemic with Lt countrywide inoculation drive to

Governor Anil Baijal issuing regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act to contain and manage cases of the

deadly mucormycosis in the city. According to a senior official, 153 cases of black fungus were recorded on Thursday, taking the total number of such cases in Delhi to over 770.

However, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal yesterday said Delhi will begin unlocking gradually from Monday as the positivity rate has been around 1.5 percent with only 1,100 new cases were reported in 24 hours.

The pandemic has killed at least 3,513,088 people worldwide since the virus first emerged in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data yesterday.

In Britain, authorities yesterday approved the use of a fourth

UN rights body orders The conflict flared after Hamas

FROM PAGE 12 citizens from Hamas' indiscriminate

rocket fire". A spokesman for Hamas, which governs the Gaza Strip, called the group's actions "legitimate resistance" and called for "immediate steps to punish" Israel.

Israel's main ally, the United States, said it deeply regretted the decision in the forum, where it has observer status and no vote.

The action today instead threatens to imperil the progress that has been made," said a statement released by the US mission to the UN in Geneva.

of international humanitarian law". By a vote of 24 states in favour, caused widespread destruction of and nine against, with 14 abstentions, civilian infrastructure and fatalities. the 47-member council adopted a resolution brought by the

allow its economy to reopen fully despite concerns about a new variant. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

A healthcare worker administers a Covid-19 test at a drive-through testing centre on the first day of a seven-day

lockdown, as the state of Victoria looks to curb the spread of an outbreak in Melbourne, Australia yesterday.

approved the single-shot Johnson & Johnson jab, after previously backing the Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna shots. Meanwhile, the Covax global

vaccine-sharing programme said Thursday it needs \$2.0 billion in additional funding by the beginning of June in order to boost coronavirus inoculation programmes in lowerincome countries.

In Japan, 's government yesterday extended a coronavirus emergency in Tokyo and other parts of the country until just a month before the Olympics, fuelling doubts about whether the Games can go ahead safely.

demanded Israeli security forces leave

the al-Aqsa mosque compound in East

Jerusalem following confrontations

there with Palestinians, and later

The compound sits atop the Old

City plateau known to Muslims as

al-Haram al-Sharif, or The Noble

Sanctuary, and to Jews as Temple

Mount. It is the most sensitive site in

strikes from rockets launched by

Hamas constituted "a clear violation

Bachelet said "indiscriminate"

She said Israel's strikes in Gaza

"Despite Israel's claims that many

launched rockets towards Israel.

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Three more FROM PAGE 12

police officials, including the additional SP, assistant SPs and officers-in-charge in the district, have been transferred so far after the Hefajat mayhem.

At least 15 people were killed in lashes between law enforcers and Hefajat men in Brahmanbaria on March 26-27.

A total of 56 cases have been filed with different police stations in the district against 39,000 people, including 414 named, over the Hefajat mavhem.

On March 26, Hefajat activists vandalised and torched Brahmanbaria Railway Station, halting Dhaka's railway links with Chattogram and Sylhet. The demonstrators set fire to the control panel of the station and torched seven rooms.

The following day, at least five people were killed and around 50 others, including 25 policemen, injured in clashes between law enforcers and locals during protests by Hefajat men in Nandanpur area of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila.

They were staging demonstrations protesting the visit of Indian PM Modi.

During a countrywide dawn-todusk general strike on March 28, Hefajat men vandalised and set fire to Brahmanbaria Sadar land office, Sur Samrat Ustad Alauddin Music Academy, Government Public Library, Zila Parishad building, municipality building, Police Lines, Khatihata Highway Police Station, Industrial School and Shilpakala Academy.

Momen seeks

FROM PAGE 12 Momen said although the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs

announced its target in 2011 of

doubling the share of LDCs in global

On October 30 that year,

released Khaleda from jail on March 25 last year suspending her

> Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Palestinian delegation to the United Nations.

European countries were split, with Austria, Britain and Germany voting against. France and the Netherlands abstained.

BACHELET ADDRESSES COUNCIL Bachelet told the council her office had verified the deaths of 270 Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including 68 children, during this month's violence. Most were killed in Gaza.

Hamas rockets killed 10 Israelis and residents, she said. Israeli authorities put the number of those killed by Palestinian attacks in Israel at 13.

"Regrettably, the self-professed global champions of human rights continue to shield the occupier from global accountability, and literally provide arms and ammunitions for its widely reported war crimes and crimes of apartheid against the Palestinian people," said Pakistan's ambassador to the OIC, Khalil Hashmi, who was speaking on behalf of the OIC.

All 4 TMC leaders get had stayed a bail given by the special

FROM PAGE 12

bench granted interim bail upon furnishing two bonds of Rs 2 lakh each.

The CBI can further interrogate the accused but without physically summoning them to the CBI office because of the prevailing Covid-19 situation, the High Court said, adding the investigations can proceed via video conferencing.

Also, the leaders cannot give interviews to the press on this case or any other legal matters pending on them.

When the hearing commenced in the High Court yesterday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed grant of interim bail to the arrested four politicians saying they are influential and could whip up public emotions again.

Justice I P Mukherji, one of the judges of the five-member bench asked the Solicitor General why the TMC leaders, who have not been arrested during the investigation for over four years, should be kept in house-arrest now when they are required to do public functions during the pandemic. The four politicians have been

under house arrest in the Narada sting a mob when the accused politicians operation case after the High Court were to be produced.

of these buildings were hosting armed groups or being used for military purposes, we have not seen evidence in this regard," Bachelet said.

"If found to be indiscriminate and disproportionate, such attacks might constitute war crimes," she added.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization yesterday called for access to patients in the Gaza strip and free passage to evacuate them for medical treatment as health workers struggle to care for the sick and wounded after 11 days of violence.

WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told a Geneva briefing that around 600 patients, including some with chronic conditions, needed to be referred outside of the Palestinian enclave since the start of the hostilities, but had been unable to due to crossing closures.

WHO has a presence on the ground, Chaib said, but was unable to confirm whether it currently had any access from the outside. Other aid agencies have complained about limited humanitarian access and drug supplies.

CBI court in the case which relates

to Narada portal's sting operation.

It showed the four accused taking

money from a fictitious investor in

The four leaders were arrested on

the morning of May 17 by CBI which

is investigating the Narada sting tapes

case on a 2017 order of the Calcutta

interim bail to the four accused on

May 17 but a division bench of the

High Court comprising acting Chief

Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Arijit

Banerjee stayed the bail later that day,

following which the leaders were sent

five-judge bench after a two-member

bench gave a split verdict on whether

the relief can be given to the four

The CBI had asked for the case

against the TMC leaders to be

transferred out of Bengal citing Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee's sit-in

protest at the probe agency's office on

May 17. It had also alleged that the

state law minister went to court with

The bail issue was referred to the

A special CBI court had granted

return for favours.

to judicial custody.

politicians.

High Court.

trade in one decade, unfortunately during the last 10 years, the share of LDCs in the global trade has rather decreased. The foreign minister stressed the need for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the area of trade and technological cooperation for benefitting the LDCs.

He also highlighted the catalytic role that aid for trade can play in helping the LDCs while referring to the ongoing pandemic of Covid-19 and its impact on LDCs' economies.

Referring sharp decrease in the income of LDCs from the service sector during the pandemic, he strongly advocated for providing support to the LDCs in the area of digital infrastructure, in particular e-commerce.

Momen also called for immediate implementation of all decisions of the WTO Ministerial Meetings in favour of the LDCs, including removal of nontariff and different standards-related barriers.

He stressed the importance of the transfer of technologies to LDCs, as provided for in WTO rules to address the digital divide between developed countries and LDCs.

Prisoner

FROM PAGE 12

committees were formed to investigate the incident.

Didarul could not be reached for comments over phone despite repeated attempts.

"After receiving information, we went to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital and found Milon dead," said Mohammad Rashid, officer-in-charge of Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station.

Khagrachhari Civil Surgeon Nupur Kanti Das said, "We're trying to find the cause of death."

Asked, Nupur said they were not sure yet whether the victim died by suicide. "We can be sure only after the post-mortem.

The jail super said the district administration gave Tk 10,000 to Milon's family for burial.

Talking to this newspaper, police officials in the district said Milon was arrested after a woman filed a case against him accusing him of secretly recording her daughter while she was taking a bath.

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.

INTERNATIONAL



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

'Asean opposes arms embargo'

Millions struggle to buy food as price hike, unemployment bite

AGENCIES

Southeast Asian countries Nine 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 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 xports rice, beans and fruit, millions ill 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.

AFP, Berlin Germany for the first time vesterday recognised it had committed genocide in Namibia during its colonial occupation, with Berlin promising financial support

1904-1908 COLONIAL-ERA ATROCITIES

Germany says committed

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.

genocide in Namibia 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.

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.

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 vesterday 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 Kwokhung, 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.

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 Tikhanovskaya 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-based 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.

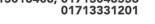
The EU has already slapped asset freezes and visa bans on Lukashenko and 87 other regime figures, but the strongman has shrugged off Western pressure with support from key ally Russia.

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

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Shamim Ara Nipa and Monira Parveen on their devotion to dance

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

6 | The Daily Star

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 teacherstudent duo share their views on dance, and more.

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



Monira Parveen and Shamim Ara Nipa

Bharati University, India. She received a scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for her bachelor's.

One of the founding members of the Department of Dance in Dhaka University, Monira expresses her gratitude and respect for her teachers. "Wherever I am today, is because of my teachers and their blessings. They are always a source of spiritual energy and inspiration for me," she says.

Monira does not only consider Nipa as her dance

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 ohelped 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.

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."

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.

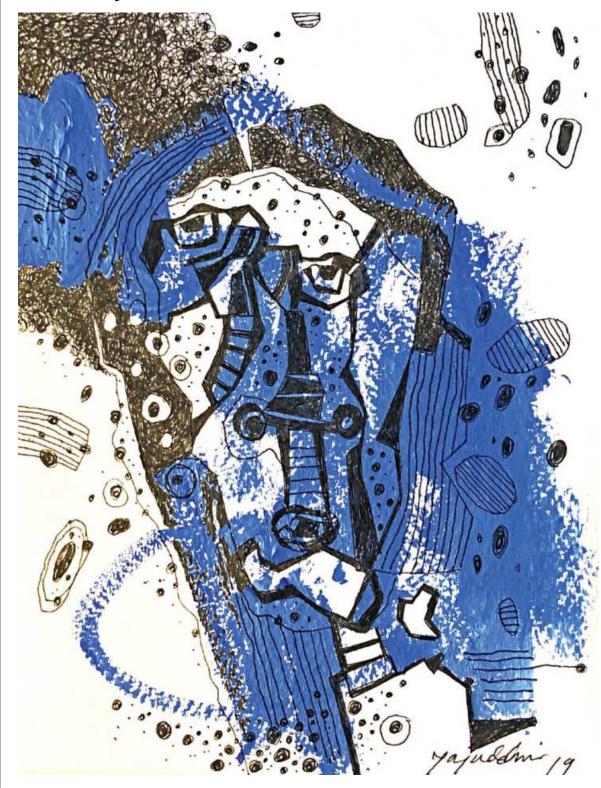
The band started their journey in 2011, as a rock band. As the years went on, they embraced their own inspirations to switch to the much more experimental progressive genre. "Our drummer Jim had a huge impact to play in the genre change, as it is impossible to play progressive rock/metal without a skilled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

The reigns of heavy music were popularized by bands like Cryptic Fate, Artcell, 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.



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



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

NOT-SO-STARRY-EYED CORRESPONDENT

"Babies are not

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

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

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."

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 infograph 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

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 swathes 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 environmentalhorror 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 communique 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 biobubble. 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.

EDITORIAL



Relief for Yaas survivors top priority now

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

ANGLADESH 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 longerterm 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.



changed context, the age-old conflict between Shamsad Mortuza the Israelites and the Philistines

URING

the latest

rerun of

has come alive. The world witnessed the helplessness of millions of Palestinian people as buildings turned into rubbles, 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 onesided 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

Desperate Times, Desperate Journeys

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 prophesy 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



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

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.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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.

first detected in India last December.

variant in India, and the dominant

The B.1.617.2 variant has two

significant mutations on its Spike

in a few months.

Currently, B.1.617.2 is the most reported

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

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)

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

Govt has to watch out for possible graft

CCORDING 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-Chattogram, 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 benefitting 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.



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 nonmutated original version of coronavirus. This finding was later supported by "real world evidence" demonstrated by the Public Health England in their postvaccine surveillance study amongst older people, published in the BMJ on Mav 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 12week 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

Single-dose Oxford vaccine cannot protect against Indian variant



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

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.

(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 "doublemutant" Indian variant B.1.617 that was PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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



19, the finance minister said, "The scope [to whiten black money] will be there as long as undisclosed incomes will be there." (The Dailv Star) Before

N May

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

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

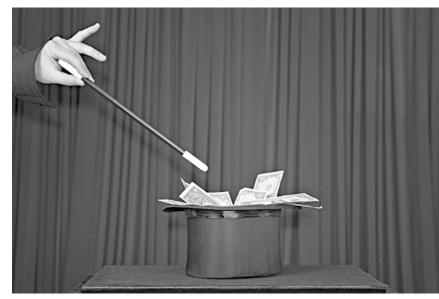
So, what did the government do? Well, last year, the government made a special addition to its black money whitening scheme: that black money holders could no longer be "questioned" about the source of their income no matter what—a clause the government had originally introduced the year before, but 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

> 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.

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.



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 to 25 percent tax every year, while 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 by paying 10 percent? This is possible

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

extreme of these facilities, introduced

last year through the Finance Bill 2020,

"has created a situation where honest

whitening their money by paying only

former chief of the National Board of

Even the honest industrialists and

this year when they can just wait a year

and then whiten their money next year

investors are being discouraged. Why

would they pay 15 to 25 percent tax

and regular taxpayers are paying 15

tax cheats and other offenders are

10 percent tax," said Abdul Mazid,

Revenue

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 is 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.

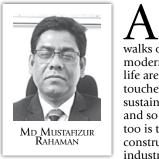
The fact is, the government's focus is totally in the wrong area. Black money is created because of illegal activities, corruption and anomalies in tax policies. So the government must try and put a lid on these sources of black money, instead of giving it a new makeover. It does not solve the problem, 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: @ FreshOmar1am

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

The Primacy of Innovation and Sustainability



sectors and walks of modern life are touched by sustainability

LL

Qatar's primitive livelihood was mostly based on.

In order to ensure that stadiums are being built in a sustainable manner, a certification framework has been adopted under the purview of Global Sustainability Assessment system (GSAS). According to the mandatory requirement of FIFA, each Qatar 2022 stadium must achieve a 4-star rating under the GSAS. As proclaimed by Qatar, all four fully

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

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরিশাল dsso.barisal@gmail.com

স্মারক নং-৪১.০১.০৬০০.০০০.০৭.৬৮৩.১৭.৫০২

তারিখঃ ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ

জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরিশাল

too is the construction industrywhether it

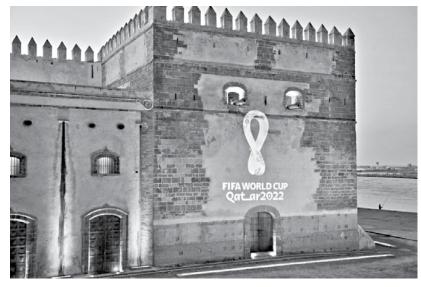
is buildings, airports, highways or stadiums. Simply put, sustainability engulfs three aspects: ecology, economy and environment. Sustainability is badly needed to avert the worst impacts of climate change. On the other hand, innovation can make something better or effective. FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 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 pinnacle of sustainability cantered on the construction of the stadiums and hotels shed lights on the: i) use of recycled and locally sourced materials wherever possible; ii) minimisation of construction waste; iii) use of less water; iv) more energy efficient; and v) green practices in the hotels.

Most countries would usually present their stadiums purely as a design idea and not as driven by innovative technology. Qatar wanted to ensure it was unique so it would stand out among other bidding countries. Accordingly, Qatar presented their stadium designs in a new way-as technology. Organising an energy-efficient tournament was the core consideration behind the makeup of the designs of the 2022 FIFA World Cup stadiums. One aspect of innovative technology that could be mentioned here is the design of the cooling system of the stadiums intended to achieve desired energy efficiency in cooling. This pioneering cooling technology developed by Qatar requires the stadiums be cooled only two hours before the match and reduce the consumption of energy. Moreover, the system will prevent hot air creeping into the venue.

Ras Abu Aboud Stadium, made from modular shipping containers, which will be repurposed into a range of sporting facilities after the FIFA World Cup, highlights another innovative technology employed in the construction of stadium for the first time. Someone will be astounded to see the innovation in the designs that reflect the tradition and values of Qatar as well. For example, Al Janoub Stadium, located at Al Wakrah, took the shape of an oyster on which

has been instrumental for creating a cooling effect. Hotel industries, which will accommodate the



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 Stadiumy, 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

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 environmental 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.

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জিডি-১০৮৩

							র্রিশাল ৮) ছোটমনি নিবাস, গৈলা, আগৈলঝাড়া,						
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	*	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক	(অগ		800/-	ß							
	*	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা	(অগ ধনী	ও অন্যান্য		উ	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।						
	খ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক	(অগ ধনী (অগ	ও অন্যান্য শচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	800/- २००/-		প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য						
	খ গ ঘ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা	(অগ ধনী (অগ	ও অন্যান্য শচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	২০০/-	ঐ	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।						
እኮ.	খ গ ঘ ঙ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল	(অগ ধনী (অগ ধনী	ও অন্যান্য শচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	૨૦૦/- ૨૦૦/-	ট	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য						
ንዮ.	খ গ ঘ ড দরপত্র	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ন	(অগ ধনী (অগ ধনী	ও অন্যান্য শচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	২০০/- ২০০/- ঃ আল্ম	ঐ ঐ ামুন তালুকদার।	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য						
১৯.	খ গ ঘ ড দরপত্র দরপত্র	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ন	(অগ ধনী (অগ ধনী মাম	ও অন্যান্য পচনশীল ও পচনশীল) ও অন্যান্য	২০০/- ২০০/- ঃ আল্ম ঃ উপপৰি	ঐ ট্রামুন তালুকদার। রচালক।	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।						
১৯. ২০.	খ গ ঘ ড দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার দ আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার দি	(অগ ধনী (অগ ধনী খনী ম মি মি	ও অন্যান্য পচনশীল ও পচনশীল) ও অন্যান্য	২০০/- ২০০/- ঃ আল্ ম ঃ উপপরি ঃ জেলা	ঐ ঐ ামুন তালুকদার। রচালক। সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরি	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।						
১৯. ২০. ২১.	খ গ ঘ দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার প আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠি আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠি	(অগ ধনী (অগ ধনী খনী ম মি মি	ও অন্যান্য পচনশীল ও পচনশীল) ও অন্যান্য	২০০/- ২০০/- ঃ আল্ ম ঃ উপপরি ঃ জেলা	ঐ ট্রামুন তালুকদার। রচালক।	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।						
১৯. ২০.	খ গ ঘ দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আব্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ন আব্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ন আব্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার স মান্ধানকারী কর্মকর্তার স	(অর্থ ধনী ু (অর্থ ধনী ু দবী দবী নাথে ৫	ও অন্যান্য পচনশীল ও পচনশীল) ও অন্যান্য যাগাযোগের নাম্বার	২০০/- ২০০/- ঃ আল্ম ঃ উপপরি ঃ জেলা ঃ ০৪৩১	ঐ ঐ ামুন তালুকদার। রচালক। সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরি -৬৩৩৯০।	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।						
১৯. ২০. ২১.	খ গ ঘ ড দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দর্গত্ব ফ্রিবির্ব ক) টে	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ন আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার স আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার স আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার স বীঃ ভার সিকিউরিটি বাবদ উদ্ব	(অগ ধ্বনী (অগ ধ্বনী দিবী দিবী নাথে (তুত মূ	ও অন্যান্য পচনশীল ও পচনশীল) ও অন্যান্য যাগাযোগের নাম্বার ল্যের ৫% অর্থ পে-অর্ডায	২০০/-	ঐ ঐ ামুন তালুকদার। রচালক। সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরি -৬৩৩৯০। ত্রের সাথে দাথিল করতে	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। নশাল।						
১৯. ২০. ২১.	খ গ ঘ ড দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র হ ট ড হ) টি খ) পি. খ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আন্ধানকারী কর্মকর্তার দ আন্ধানকারী কর্মকর্তার স আন্ধানকারী কর্মকর্তার স বীঃ ভার সিকিউরিটি বাবদ উদ্বৃ পি.এ ২০০৬ এবং পি.পি	(অগ ধনী (অগ ধনী দনী টকানা নথে ৫ ত মূ	ও অন্যান্য শচনশীল ও পচনশীল) ও অন্যান্য যাগাযোগের নাম্বার ল্যের ৫% অর্থ পে-অর্ডায ২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ)	২০০/-	ঐ এ ামুন তালুকদার। রচালক। সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরি সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরি তের সাথে দাখিল করতে ফ্রোন্ড পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাযে	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। নশাল। হবে। ব অনুসরণ করা হবে।						
১৯. ২০. ২১.	খ গ ঘ ড চরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র দরপত্র ক) টে থ) পি হ গ) গৃহঁ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসা বিবিধ মালামাল আন্থানকারী কর্মকর্তার ন আন্থানকারী কর্মকর্তার স আন্থানকারী কর্মকর্তার স নীঃ ভার সিকিউরিটি বাবদ উদ্বৃ পি.এ ২০০৬ এবং পি.পি তৈ দরদাতার নিকট হতে	(অগ ধনী (অগ ধনী দবী দবী টকানা নথে (অার উদ্ধৃত	ও অন্যান্য শচনশীল ও পচনশীল) ও অন্যান্য যাগাযোগের নাম্বার ল্যের ৫% অর্থ পে-অর্ডার ২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) চ দরের ১০% পারফরমেন	২০০/-	ঐ এ ামুন তালুকদার। রচালক। সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরি সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বরি তের সাথে দাখিল করতে ফ্রোন্ড পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাযে	প্রযোজ্য। ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য। নশাল। হবে। ব অনুসরণ করা হবে।						
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From a Prayer to a Call to Arms and Action

NIAZ 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 bhoyshunno, uccho 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.)

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



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.")

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 "Anandamoyeer 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 lotusheart 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

"Samyabadi" and "Ishwar," he spoke of the futility of searching for God in the forests and the heavens or in the different holy books of religions. God resides within the human heart, not in temples or the Ka'aba: "Ei hridoyer 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 chhediya" – and at the end of splitting asunder the Almighty's indifferent breast like the rebel sage Bhrigu: "Ami bidrohi bhrigu, bhagwan buke enke debo pada-chinho!/Ami kheyali bidhir bokkho koribo bhinno." (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.

human soul.

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

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 thoraces 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.

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA SATURDAY MAY 29, 2021, JAISHTHA 15, 1428 BS

Taskin's discipline pays huge dividends

SPORTS REPORTER



in the second match against Sri Lanka, but the seamer utilised that opportunity at a time when it was required most.

when he

Taskin Ahmed was

lucky to get a chance to

bowl after coming in as

ODI cricket's first-ever

concussion substitute

Mohammad Saifuddin

replaced

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, Mushfigur 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: Mushfigur 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 banged-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.





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 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 against Guardiola's mean machine,

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 force Guardiola to play something the element of chaos with timing

de Bryune, 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 mindgames, he could introduce and 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!"

> "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



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

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 is not always decided on paper composed of the likes of Kevin

'I don't point fingers at youngsters'

SPORTS REPORTERS



to have found the right mixture of aggression and composure 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

The national football

team reached Qatar

yesterday to take part in

next month's World Cup

and Asia Cup qualifiers.

not have a full-strength

Covid-19 infections. Day,

however, may find solace

in not receiving further

blows as all 23 players

negative Covid-19 tests.

and officials returned

Coach Jamie Day will

squad to choose from

due to injuries and

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

"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



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

steeper circumstances with the bat 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 Mushfigur 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.



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

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 2020, this could be the summer when Mount both head to Porto after seasons they truly announce themselves on the in which they moved from the 'promising global stage.



youngster' category into fully-fledged

years for failing to give opportunities

to players from their academies but

the investments of time and coaching

expertise in the two attacking midfielders

With both players in Gareth

Southgate's England squad for Euro

Both clubs have been criticized in recent

game-changers.

have paid off this term.

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



347 (80%)

THIAGO SILVA (CHELSEA) Played-7 Blocks-2

PLAYERS TO WATCH

KEVIN DE BRUYNE

Plaved-7, Assists-4

Passing Accuracy-

(MAN CITY)

Attempts-20

Clearances & Tackles- 20 Balls Recovered- 43





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-Israel 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.

Khaleda running a fever

Doctors to examine her, says Fakhrul Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda

Giant tortoise still alive 100 years after 'extinction'



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,

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

B'BARIA MAYHEM Three more Hefajat men arrested Our Correspondent, Brahmanbaria

Law enforcers arrested three more Hefajat-e-Islam men from different places in Brahmanbria 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.

M e a n w h i l e , 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

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

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

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 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

Khagrachhari jail super,

told The Daily Star.

who is also the

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 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

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 Firhad 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 Acencies

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

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