



50TH BUDGET OF BANGLADESH

Too weighed down to relish milestone

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Today, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal unveils his third budget, which coincidentally is the 50th fiscal plan of independent Bangladesh.

But he cannot dwell on the historic moment as the nation is eagerly awaiting to find out what he delivers amid a pandemic that just won't go away.

External challenges involving exports and internal challenges involving the ongoing more virulent second wave, threats of further waves, uncertainty about the availability of coronavirus vaccines, and high level of poverty and unemployment are enough to give him sleepless nights in the days leading up to his budget speech in the national parliament.

Kamal is expected to announce a Tk 603,681 crore budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The revenue collection target for the National Board of Revenue would be Tk

330,000 crore, a realistic goal under the current circumstances and at the current pace of tax collection.

There was almost nothing for the new poor, who may number at least one crore, in the outgoing fiscal year.

On and off lockdowns are hurting the economy. Businesses are struggling to stay afloat. Incomes did not return to the pre-pandemic level. Jobs have dried up.

He has to devise ways to support the informal sector, which employs 85 percent of the workforce and starving of funds.

The finance minister would aim to limit the budget deficit at 6.2 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), slightly up from 6.1 percent in the current fiscal year.

The new deficit target would allow him to spend an additional Tk 30,000 crore. Several economists have called for an even higher budget deficit.

The additional funds will pay off because the mass inoculation, when it begins in full

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Saudi-bound Bangladeshi expatriates line up in front of a travel agent's office at the capital's Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel yesterday. The expatriates, eager to get back to Saudi Arabia to join work, have recently been going from one office to another to manage tickets and hotel bookings. According to a recent Saudi travel advisory, travellers to the Gulf country will have to stay in mandatory quarantine in hotels at their own expense.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BUSINESS

An uphill battle ahead

The national budget for fiscal 2021-22 is being proposed today all the while the country's economy faces some tough realities amid the pandemic's second wave. The government will have to balance shrinking business with rising state spending as the hardships demand a bigger social safety net, policy support and incentives for many industries, improvements in health and education and so on, according to economists.

STORY ON B1

Covid scourge creeps up again

Highest daily cases in over a month; curbs imposed in some border dists

STAR REPORT

Restrictions have been imposed in several border districts due to fears that the Indian variant of the Sars-Cov-2 virus may spread there as the country yesterday recorded the highest number of daily Covid cases since April 30.

The health authorities reported 1,988 new cases after testing 20,259 samples, which put the daily positivity rate at 9.8 percent. On Tuesday, the positivity rate was 9.47 percent.

A total of 2,177 new cases were registered on April 30.

The overall positivity rate now stands at 13.44 percent, show data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Another 34 people were reported dead, raising the official coronavirus death toll in the country to 12,694. The mortality rate remained static at 1.58 percent yesterday.

The border districts, however, has been doing much worse than the national average.

The district administrations in Rajshahi and Naogaon yesterday imposed restrictions, stopping all night-time activities outside of home for seven days.

The restrictions exempted emergency services, agricultural activities, mango trade and online trade.

After a meeting of the district's coronavirus monitoring committee, Rajshahi DC Abdul Jalil announced 10 types of restrictions, including closure of all businesses and vehicular movement between 7:00pm and 8:00am every day until June 9.

The positivity rate in Rajshahi is at 16 percent, while daily positivity rate went up to as high as 50 percent on May 31.

In Naogaon, restrictions will be imposed between 6:00pm and 6:00am. All types of transport and NGO activities will remain closed in Naogaon municipality and Niamatpur upazila, but local markets of essentials can operate between 7:00am and 2:30pm.

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UN delegation lauds Bhasan Char project

Calls for international community's support

DIPLOMAT CORRESPONDENT

A high-level UN delegation yesterday lauded the Bhasan Char project and sought international community's support to make sure that the Rohingyas live there with dignity.

"The Bangladesh government has made an important investment in Bhasan Char by developing the housing facility. If you compare with Cox's Bazar refugee camps, the housing facilities are much better in Bhasan Char," said UN Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees (protection) Rouf Mazou, who visited the island in Noakhali on May 31.

"What needs to be done now for us and the rest of the international community is to support the government and make sure those who are in Bhasan Char and those who will be coming there can live in dignity," he told reporters after meeting Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at the state guesthouse Padma in the capital.

Gillian Triggs, assistant high commissioner for the refugees (operations), was with Mazou when he visited Bhasan Char where the Bangladesh Navy built a housing project for 100,000 Rohingyas.

Since December last year, some 20,000 Rohingya refugees were relocated to the

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Currency swap with Sri Lanka by next month

Says BB official; \$250m to be swapped

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's currency swap agreement with Sri Lanka to replenish the island nation's fast-depleting foreign reserves and ease pressure on its exchange rate will be completed by next month, according to a top official of Bangladesh Bank.

A total of \$250 million would be provided, said the official working on the deal set in motion during Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda

Rajapaksa's Bangladesh visit in March.

By July, all the necessary documents would be signed and the amount given to Sri Lanka, the official told The Daily Star yesterday, seeking anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) will hand over an equivalent amount of its currency, which depreciated about 7 percent against the US dollar this year.

Yesterday, each dollar traded for 197.9 Sri Lankan rupees, according to

the CBSL.

The BB will open an account with a bank in the South Asian country to keep the sum, which will be around 49.5 billion Lankan rupees, said the BB official.

The amount would be used for import payments, the high-up pointed out.

Bangladesh's import bill with Sri Lanka is \$50-55 million a year, the official said.

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Villagers in Barguna's Patharghata upazila carrying baskets filled with sand to be put in geo bags in order to repair an embankment along the Baleswar river that was breached by tidal surges during Cyclone Yaas. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

BANGABANDHU MURDER CONVICTS Govt decides to strip them of gallantry awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has decided in principle to revoke the state gallantry awards of four convicted killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The decision was made at a meeting of Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council on Tuesday. The ministry will issue a gazette in this regard within a couple of days.

Talking to reporters at the Secretariat, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM

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No response to Bangavax

Manufacturer of home-grown vaccine yet to get ethical permission from regulatory body for human trials

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Over four months have passed with no response from a government body to a local pharmaceutical company's application to conduct clinical trials for a home-grown Covid-19 vaccine.

Vaccine developer Globe Biotech Ltd sent a letter to the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) on January 17 this year to get ethical permission to conduct human trials.

Officials of the local drug company said they were yet to get any response from the regulatory body in this regard, adding that if they had already been allowed to conduct the trials, they would have been close to

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শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ
জীববৈচিত্র্যসমৃদ্ধ উন্নত পরিবেশ

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

সেন্টমার্টিনের বিরল জীববৈচিত্র্য ও প্রতিবেশ সুরক্ষায় পরিপালনীয় বিধি-নিষেধ

বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র প্রবালসমৃদ্ধ দ্বীপ সেন্টমার্টিন সরকার ঘোষিত একটি প্রতিবেশগত সংকটাপন্ন এলাকা। অনিয়ন্ত্রিত পর্যটন এবং পর্যটকদের অসচেতনতা, দায়িত্বজ্ঞানহীনতা, পরিবেশ এবং প্রতিবেশ বিরোধী আচরণের কারণে সেন্টমার্টিনের বিরল প্রতিবেশ এবং জীববৈচিত্র্য এখন ধ্বংসের দ্বারপ্রান্তে উপনীত। দ্বীপের পরিবেশ, প্রতিবেশ ও বিরল জীববৈচিত্র্য পুনরুদ্ধারসহ দ্বীপটিকে টিকিয়ে রাখার লক্ষ্যে পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ আইন ১৯৯৫ (সংশোধিত ২০১০)-এর ০৪ ধারার ক্ষমতাবলে এ দ্বীপে ভ্রমণের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নলিখিত কার্যক্রমসমূহ নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা করা হলোঃ

- ▶ দ্বীপের সৈকতে সাইকেল, মটর সাইকেল, রিক্সা, ভ্যানসহ সকল প্রকার যান্ত্রিক ও অযান্ত্রিক বাহন চালানো;
- ▶ দ্বীপের সৈকত, সমুদ্র এবং নাফ নদীতে প্লাস্টিকসহ সকল ধরনের বর্জ্য ফেলা;
- ▶ পশ্চিম পার্শ্বের সৈকতে কোনোপাড়ার পর দক্ষিণ দিকে এবং পূর্ব পার্শ্বের সৈকতে গলাচিপার পর দক্ষিণ দিকে পরিভ্রমণ;
- ▶ দ্বীপের চতুর্পার্শ্বে নৌ-ভ্রমণ করা;
- ▶ জোয়ার ভাটা এলাকায় পাথরের উপর হাঁটা;
- ▶ সামুদ্রিক কাছিমের ডিমপাড়ার স্থানে চলাফেরা, রাতে আলো জ্বালানো এবং ফ্ল্যাশ লাইট ব্যবহার করে ছবি তোলা;
- ▶ সৈকতে রাতের বেলা কোন প্রকার আলো বা আগুন জ্বালানো, আতশবাজি ও ফানুস উড়ানো;
- ▶ সৈকতে মাইক বাজানো, হে-চে এবং উচ্চস্বরে গান-বাজনা করা, বার-বি-কিউ পার্টি করা;
- ▶ ছেঁড়াডিয়া দ্বীপে স্পীড বোট, কান্ট্রি বোট, ট্রলার বা অন্যান্য জলযানে যাতায়াত এবং নোঙ্গর করা;
- ▶ সংরক্ষণের উদ্দেশ্যে সরকার কর্তৃক অধিগ্রহণকৃত ছেঁড়াডিয়া দ্বীপ ভ্রমণ;
- ▶ প্রবাল, শামুক, বিনুক, সামুদ্রিক কাছিম, পাখি, তারা মাছ, রাজকাঁকড়া, সামুদ্রিক ঘাস, সামুদ্রিক শৈবাল এবং কেয়া ফল সংগ্রহ ও ক্রয়-বিক্রয়;
- ▶ জাহাজ থেকে পাখিকে চিপস বা অন্য কোন খাবার খাওয়ানো;
- ▶ দ্বীপে সুপের ভূগর্ভস্থ পানি সীমিত বিধায় পানির অপচয় করা;
- ▶ সেন্টমার্টিন দ্বীপের প্রতিবেশের জন্য ক্ষতিকর যে কোন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা;

উল্লিখিত বিধি-নিষেধের লঙ্ঘন আইনত দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ।

**আসুন বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র প্রবালসমৃদ্ধ দ্বীপ সেন্টমার্টিনকে সংরক্ষণ করি।
বর্তমান ও আগামী প্রজন্মের জন্য টেকসই পরিবেশ গড়ি।**

মহাপরিচালক
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর



NATURE FINDS A WAY... New leaves sprout from the stump of a felled tree, possibly decades old, inside Suhrawardy Udyan. In early May, a number of trees were felled at the historic park to make way for food stalls, before an uproar from environmentalists prompted government authorities to halt the works. This photo -- of new life in defiance of the gentrification at the park -- was taken earlier this week.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'All about ensuring services to people'

Says Dhaka Range police chief Habibur Rahman

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN AND HASAN MEER

With 13 districts, 42 circles and 96 police stations under its jurisdiction, Dhaka range is one of the most important institutions of police that not only ensures safety and security of people but also oversees and monitors services provided by law enforcers. Recently, it brought all of its police stations under CCTV surveillance to improve services. In an interview with The Daily Star, Dhaka range police chief Deputy Inspector General Habibur Rahman spoke about their endeavours, challenges and plans to improve services.



For example, if a woman, elderly person or a person with disabilities comes to a station and has to wait for long, we can inform officials to help them right away.

We can also oversee whether officials are recording victims' complaints properly.

Most importantly, CCTV installation helps create a deterrent effect on unfriendly behaviour of officers towards people.

On April 8, Saltha Police Station in Faridpur came under attack during a Hefajat demonstration, and our senior officials from the range guided the police station's officials about steps to take.

The Daily Star (DS): You have recently brought all police stations of Dhaka range under CCTV surveillance. Can you tell us how productive the step has been?

Habibur Rahman: We have installed around 288 CCTV cameras in 96 police stations of the range, and we can now directly give instructions from the Dhaka office to police station officials.

Through the system, we can see the activities, hear conversations and record movement of duty officials. If any official does not perform duties accordingly, we are aware of it immediately. We can also observe and hear help-seekers at the stations and evaluate how satisfied they were with services.

DS: Do you take action if any anomaly is found or someone lodges a complaint regarding services?

Habibur Rahman: District superintendents of police are authorised to monitor police stations under their jurisdiction. In three teams, we do round-the-clock monitoring of CCTVs under command of additional deputy inspector generals (DIG, operations).

We take two types of actions -- instant and investigative. If any official is not in uniform or not listening to help seekers, we ask the seniors or local SPs to take action against them. If any official is found involved in a serious crime, we ask the local authority to launch an investigation.

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JS SESSION BEGINS

PM condemns Israeli attack on Palestine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday expressed its condolences to Palestinians killed in the recent Israeli airstrikes.

Describing the Israeli attack on Palestine as inhumane, Prime Minister Hasina said that what happened in Palestine is inhumane. The cries of the little children there, their helplessness, wandering around without parents -- are hard to see.

The premier said this while participating in the discussion on the obituary motion over the demise of ruling AL leaders -- Cumilla-5 lawmaker Abdul Matin Khasru, and Dhaka-14 MP Aslamul Haque.

Strongly condemning the Israeli massacre, Hasina expressed her utter criticism of the killings of Palestinian people by Israel.

Explaining Bangladesh's position on the Palestine issue, Sheikh Hasina said, "We are always with the brothers of Palestine."

We have cooperated them in the past. We will definitely continue this cooperation."

A freedom fighter, president of Supreme Court Bar Association and five-time MP Abdul Matin Khasru died of Covid-19 on April 14 at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka. He was 71.

Three-time MP Aslamul Hoque

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

No Hefajat activist to be arrested without specific allegations: JS body chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, also the chairman of cabinet committee on law and order, yesterday said that no Hefajat-e-Islam leaders or supporters would be arrested in future without any specific allegations.

The minister was addressing reporters at the secretariat after the end of a cabinet committee meeting yesterday.

He said the overall law and order situation is normal and the home ministry is performing its duties efficiently.

"Hefajat issues has been discussed in the meeting. No one has been arrested without specific allegations and it has been decided that no one will be arrested in the future without allegations. We will take action if evidence is found against anyone about involvement in crime," he said.

The minister said, "If any wrong message goes before nation about arrest of any scholars, then it is not correct. Under no circumstances will any arrest be made without any specific charges."

Law enforcers have been asked to be vigilant so that the law is not abused in the name of any party or community, said the minister.

'FOREIGNERS WITH EXPIRED VISA INVOLVED IN CRIME'

Mozammel Haque said some foreign nationals' visas have expired, but they are not leaving the country.

"They are not going back showing excuses like airline service being off and someone saying they have no money," he said.

But according to intelligence reports, most of these foreigners are involved in crime, he said, adding that arrangements will be made to bring them under the law and keep them in a safe zone.

If they have no money then the government will collect tickets and send them back to their country, said the minister.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad and State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain were also present in the meeting, among others.

MINISTER'S CELL PHONE SNATCHING In reply to a reporters' query on how a minister's cell phone can be snatched if the law and order is normal, Mozammel Haque said it was an isolated incident.

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RESORTING TO FRAUDULENCE Tufan Sarkar can't seek bail from any court: apex court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court ruling that Tufan Sarkar, a suspended Sramik League leader of Bogura who is accused of committing corruption, cannot seek bail from any court for six months for resorting to fraudulence.

The apex court also refused to grant bail to Tufan -- who came to the limelight after allegedly raping a college girl and shaving heads of the victim and her mother in Bogura in July, 2017 -- in the corruption case against him.

A full bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed an appeal filed by Tufan Sarkar challenging the HC order and also seeking bail in the case.

Tufan cannot get released from jail following the SC order, ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star. He also said the apex court passed the order considering that the HC ruling is correct.

Lawyer Sharif Uddin Chaklader appeared for Tufan Sarkar.

The HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim on April 1 this year ruled that Tufan Sarkar cannot seek bail from any court for six months for resorting to fraudulence.

Tufan committed forgery with the HC

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Mobilising \$100b for climate action a matter of trust

Says COP26 chief Alok Sharma

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UK lawmaker and COP26 president Alok Sharma is urging developed countries to step up efforts to mobilise \$100 billion annually, as pledged in 2015, to support climate vulnerable countries for climate adaptation and mitigation.

"I have made this case to donor countries around the world and said this \$100 billion is a matter of trust, and it is very important that we deliver on it," he said at a joint press conference, after a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

Sharma, who arrived early yesterday on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, after visiting Vietnam and Indonesia ahead of the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow in November, is drumming up support for climate ambitions of the countries.

Noting that the UK coal-based power projects should be a history, Sharma said many of the power plants [in Bangladesh] are not going to go ahead and can be replaced with clean energy.

Bangladesh has a potential of 40 gigawatts of renewable energy, which can be produced by 2041.

"Bangladesh is working on wind power onshore and offshore. Let's see what comes. We are keen to see that transition," he said.

At the joint press conference, AK Abdul Momen said Bangladesh is scaling down coal-power projects.

"We plan to have 40 percent renewable energy by 2041,"

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25

years of trusted economic and social partnership

On this occasion:

We pay our profound respect to the Greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** on his birth centenary.

We also remember with profound respect the sacrifice of our freedom fighters, martyrs and war heroes on the golden jubilee of our independence.

And we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our valued clients, patrons and well-wishers.

THE BANK OF 35 MILLION CLIENTS

Dutch-Bangla Bank
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER

19 arrested for gambling at Ctg stadium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Law enforcers arrested 19 persons with cash and cards for gambling inside the referees' association office at Chattogram's MA Aziz stadium on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Chattogram Jela Kriya Sangstha (CJKS) yesterday formed a probe committee to investigate the incident and sealed off the office, said Hafizur Rahman, vice president of CJKS.

Police also claimed that a syndicate has been organising gambling events at the venue in the guise of meeting of the association.

The arrestees include Md Iqbal (36), Akbar Hossain (27), Towhidul Islam (36), Abbas (42), Karim (30), Sohag (29), Towhidul Alam (41), Helal Uddin (63), Farid (35), Mahmudul Haque (30), Suman (30) and Kaium (40).

During a drive at the East Gallery's second floor, police seized Tk 6.75 lakh from their possession, said Officer-in-Charge Nezam Uddin.

Police said the room, where gambling was held regularly, had been used as the temporary office of Chattogram Football Training Academy for the last one year.

Sylhet city staffers clash with pullers of battery-run rickshaws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Workers of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) locked into a clash with drivers of battery-powered rickshaws in front of the Nagar Bhaban at Bandarabazar area in the city yesterday.

The clash started following rickshaw pullers' demonstration demanding release of seized battery-driven rickshaws -- which SCC ordered to prohibit on city roads -- and a demand of legalising the vehicles.

BM Ashraf Ullah Taher, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "During the demonstration, a group of city corporation workers became agitated and gathered with bamboo sticks which provoked the demonstrators and led to the clash."

"Three vehicles of the corporation were vandalised. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. No one was detained from the spot and no one filed any complaint with police," he said.

Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury said, "We've prohibited these years ago; six months ago, we ordered all such rickshaws to be removed from city roads. Following the order, we started the drive and seized a few."

"While we asked the pullers to show us legal documents about ownership and permission to ply as regular rickshaws, no one was able to show any papers and started demonstrating."

"Leftist Democratic Alliance leader Pronob Paul led the mob in attacking us while we were trying to settle the issue," he alleged, adding that the drive will continue.

Pronob Paul said, "We were in a peaceful demonstration. The city corporation workers attacked us on purpose which agitated the rickshaw pullers."

"Different cities now have permitted battery-driven rickshaws, and the government also formed a high level committee to decide in this regard."

"We urged the mayor to consider the humanitarian issue, but he did not. He threatened to destroy all seized rickshaws," he said.

"There are many stores in the city that are selling these vehicles, and the city corporation give them trade licence. If selling is legal, why pulling them on road cannot be legalised properly?" Pronob said.

Musician Noble sued under DSA

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer and musician Mainul Ahsan Noble was sued under the Digital Security Act yesterday.



The case was filed by veteran musician Isha Khan "Ethun Babu" with the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka.

Ethun Babu filed the case against Noble, who goes by the stage name Noble Man, for making derogatory comments about him on Facebook, Shamim Al Mamun, the tribunal's bench assistant of, told The Daily Star.

After a hearing, judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain took the case into cognisance and recorded the complainant's statements, he said.

The tribunal also instructed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police to investigate the case and submit a report to it by July 6, Shamim added.

According to case documents, Noble made some derogatory posts against complainant Ethun Babu and other noted artistes from his verified Facebook page in May this year.

All about

FROM PAGE 3

DS: A step has been taken to let people know about case updates on their phones. Tell us more about it.

Habibur Rahman: A GD/case monitoring cell has been launched at Dhaka range office to ensure proper investigation and dispel the common belief of people that lodging any GD or case requires money.

Every month, we usually monitor 9,000 to 11,000 GDs and cases. Every GD, after being lodged, reaches Range DIG Office by 10am the next day. Our cell instantly monitors those by calling up the lodgers or complainants and investigation officers. However, in some cases, calls are made within two to four days of its lodging.

We follow similar procedures to check whether there was any case of harassment or bribery during registering a case. We also follow through during mid-level stages of investigation, and after its completion.

A huge number of people now come to us for passport verification and police clearance. For that, we have introduced a mobile application. When a person comes to us for clearance, they receive a notification with details and contact number of the officer assigned.

The officer has to dispose of an application within three working days, or else a red mark is shown in the software, and we can check whether any anomaly took place. If the application has to be verified from two separate districts, we allow extra time.

Through the process, we can check if any official is taking money or bribe in exchange for service, as there is a team to monitor it. We also call applicants randomly to check if they faced harassment or difficulty.

DS: Dhaka range handles appointments, promotions and transfers of police members. Do you have any specific system in place for

that?

Habibur Rahman: We have introduced a system to dispose of official letters within five working days, unless there are inquiry-related issues. It has ensured transparency, and no one gets any scope for recommendation.

There's a provision in government service that one has to continue work in a place for at least two years. But we sometimes transfer officials on humanitarian grounds. If an officer is working in Barishal but his parents live in Panchagarh, we take that into account and transfer him to a nearby place upon request. Promotions are now maintained centrally through an evaluation examination.

DS: Often, there are allegations of irregularities against police members, especially in major commercial areas such as Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur. How do you deal with such issues?

Habibur Rahman: We have several tiers of monitoring system. We constantly monitor activities of all members through our Police Internal Oversight (PIO). If anyone is found involved in illegal activities like bribery, extortion, harassment, rude behaviour, or involvement with narcotics, members of PIO deployed in every unit instantly send that information to our range office, and departmental proceedings are drawn based on that.

In addition, we have central PIO to oversee allegations against police. We also have a central complaint cell for people in Police Headquarters named "ICP's Complaint Cell".

Nowadays, 999 has also become a popular medium to convey complaints against police members.

DS: Many citizens still hesitate to go to police stations or talk to officials fearing harassment. There seems to be a trust issue when it comes to police. What is your view on this? Are you

taking any step to address it?

Habibur Rahman: We have introduced a process to welcome help seekers in all police stations. First, we greet them with candies, which helps ease their discomfort and helps create a pro-police environment.

We then give them a card with names and numbers of officials in a police station. We have also come up with a GD form which can be filled up easily.

Besides, we have taken steps for quick case disposal, so victims can get justice swiftly. We have issued order for ensuring quick autopsy to finish investigations. Our OCs are now visiting mosques and informing people that they do not need to pay money for filing cases. Additionally, the government has appointed public prosecutors for those who do not have money to fight cases.

We have chosen religious institutions to raise awareness among citizens, as people from all walks of life go there.

DS: What are some challenges or limitations you have faced in Dhaka Range? How do you plan to overcome those?

Habibur Rahman: Dhaka Range is important as it surrounds the capital and covers all the city entry points. We have two ferry terminals, Savar National Memorial, the president and prime minister's village homes, mausoleum of the Father of the Nation and the largest commercial zone inside the range. We also have to ensure security of foreign delegates. Besides, we oversee or collect intelligence regarding militant or extremist activities.

These challenges have become routine work for us, and we have to do our duty with diligence. But the good news is that we have been able to do so successfully and are hopeful to continue the good work in the future.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for DIU Medical Center:

Senior Medical Officer

Vacancy: 2
Employment Status: Full-time
Job Location: Daffodil Smart City, Ashulia, Dhaka.

For details on academic and other qualifications, required experience and online application please visit <http://career.daffodiliversity.edu.bd>

Applicants with valid B.M.D.C registration certificate and minimum 3 years of experience in clinical/hospital field are eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: 17 June, 2021
Powered by:

Tufan Sarkar

FROM PAGE 3
by submitting a fresh bail petition even though a rule over this issue was pending with the same court, ACC lawyer Sazzad Hossain then told The Daily Star.

The ACC filed the corruption case with Bogura Sadar Police Station on December 31, 2018, against Tufan for amassing wealth of Tk 1.59 crore illegally.

Following another bail petition previously filed by Tufan, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman on September 9 last year issued the rule asking the ACC and the state to explain why Tufan should not be granted bail in the case.

Tufan submitted the fresh bail petition before the same bench on March 9 this year through his lawyer Md Shah Alam Sarker suppressing the information of the pending rule issued on September 9 last year.

Tufan abducted a student from her home, raped her and then asked his party cadres to make sure it was a secret on July 17, 2017, according to media reports.

In their attempt to silence the victim, they picked up the student and her mother, tortured them for four hours and then shaved their heads, the reports said.

Mobilising

FROM PAGE 3
and in the process, we want to have zero coal power," he said.

Sharma has agreed to attend a side event of Climate Vulnerable Forum led by Bangladesh in the COP26, Momen said.

Bilaterally, Momen said, Bangladesh is seeking UK support in building high and strong embankments in the coastal region.

No Hefajat

FROM PAGE 3
"However, the matter is sad and worrying. Naturally, the question arises as to what is the condition of the common people if the minister's phone is snatched," he added.

HOME MINISTRY TO ISSUE NID

All activities relating to National Identity (NID) cards will be provided from the home ministry within the next two months, said chairman of cabinet committee on law and order.

Mozammel Haque said, "Now NID services will remain under the home ministry. NID cards must be issued within 30 days of submitting applications. Or else, they will have to submit explanations. People have suffered a lot."

The Election Commission is entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the voter list and holding elections, said the minister.

Protests at Rohingya camps, bringing Amazon and Google under tax net, and LSD drug, among other issues, were discussed at the meeting.

Logistic Support Division
Head Office, City Center
90/1, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Social Islami Bank Limited hereby invites eligible and interested bidders to submit tenders for supplying (i) Blank VISA Electron Debit Card (ii) Blank VISA Gold Dual Credit Card and (iii) PIN Mailer. For detail specifications, tender instructions and information please visit Bank's website <https://www.siblld.com/home/tender>

Vice President & Head of the Division
Phone: 09612001122 Ext.: 50292 & 50299
e-mail: chspd@sibld-bd.com

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2021-9167499

Request for Proposal (RFP): Assessment of the adolescent-focused interventions implemented by UNICEF through the Accelerating Protection for Children (APC) with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA).

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"

Pre-bid Meeting Date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP**

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Thursday, 17 June 2021; Time: 11:00 Hrs**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process. www.unicef.org/bd

for every child

PM condemns

FROM PAGE 3
breathed his last at a city hospital on April 4 at the age of 61.

Recalling the contribution of Abdul Matin Khasru and Aslamul Haque for AL, the PM expressed deep shock at their demise and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

PM said it was Khasru who had placed the bill on repealing Indemnity Ordinance that had barred killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members from bringing them to book.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader, Law Minister Anisul Haq, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, Opposition Chief Whip Moshir Rahman Ranga, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Haseenul Haque Inu, Jatiya Party MP Kazi Firoz Rashid, and AL MP Ali Ashraf, among others, also spoke on the condolence motion.

A one-minute silence was observed and prayers were offered seeking salvation and eternal peace of the departed souls.

Later, the parliament unanimously adopted the obituary motion expressing profound grief at the demise of the two sitting MPs and other renowned personalities.

BUDGET SESSION BEGINS

Earlier in the afternoon, the budget session for 2021-22 fiscal year began at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury presiding over the session.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

BRAC Bank's financial results along with country-best credit rating & multiple best financial report awards speak of our aspiration, transparency and teamwork towards common objectives. While we thrive in present, we simultaneously invest for future - upgraded core banking system in Finacle 10, first local bank to rollout Oracle ERP, process alignment with best practices and many more. However, this feat of providing a comprehensive range of solutions to its 1.1 million customers would not be possible without our diversified business model and an unmatched network of 187 Branches, 471 ATM & CDMs, 456 SME Unit Offices, 11 Regional Operations Office and 510 Agent Banking Outlets.

Head of Business Planning & Analysis

We are looking for an insightful and analytical leader to head up our Business Finance & Planning team. As a team, there is plenty of collaboration opportunities and to take ownership of and deliver projects performance. This role will report to Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead the strategic and financial planning processes (e.g. monthly business reviews, forecasts, budgets and subsidiary performance & consolidation)
- Complete the implementation of financial & non-financial tools and reports that identify key business drivers and associated KPIs that guide management decision making and contribute to strategy formulation. Continually seek better ways to convert financial/non-financial data into intelligence that feeds improved business performance
- Measure progress against key objectives and present findings and recommendations to senior management
- Analytics and preparation of Management Committee packs and Board packs.
- Assist in external reporting in particular with Annual Report, Interim Management Statements and investor relations presentations
- Development and analysis of product/segment P&Ls as appropriate
- Providing insight as to business performance and competitiveness versus competition

Leadership & Teamwork:

- Lead development of business knowledge, partnering and finance capabilities of the team.
- Attract and retain finance talent and ensure a robust succession plan is in place
- Engage, inspire, motivate, lead and coach a team of diverse, aspiring and energetic professionals
- Fully leverage the matrix, set stretching goals and optimize the pace of delivery.

Operational Effectiveness & Control:

- Implement and validation of non-financial metrics used in external reporting

Qualifications:

- Understand, follow and demonstrate compliance with all relevant internal and external rules, regulations and procedures that apply to the conduct of the business.

The individual would be expected to have a varied finance career to date across multiple finance disciplines i.e. Financial Accounting & Control; Business Information & Analysis; Financial & Regulatory Reporting; Capital Management & Taxation; legal entity CFO; Accounting Policy; Change Management; and ideally exposure to living and working overseas given the global nature of the role.

- Minimum bachelor degree in Finance, Accounting, Economics or Engineering
- FCA/FCMA/CFA/MBA or other relevant qualifications would be preferred
- 12+ years of relevant experience in corporate financial planning or business finance
- Minimum 6 years of experiences in a financial institution

Attributes:

- Strong stakeholder management skills and ability to engage at senior levels, supported by a pragmatic approach to delivering simple, impactful solutions.
- Driven individual, motivated by achieving outstanding results.
- Demonstrates attention to detail, with strong organizational skills and a desire to pursue continuous process improvement.
- Ability to work on multiple projects while adhering to tight deadlines, in a dynamic and fast-paced environment.

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview as per the recruitment process. BRAC Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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Application Deadline: June 19, 2021

ডেলটা মেডিকেল কলেজ

২৬/১, ডিবিপ্যাল আবুল কাশেম সড়ক (সাবেক দারুস সালাম রোড), মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা-১২১৬।
ফোন : ৮৮০৩৮৫৬১, ৮৮০৩২৮২৮, ৮৮০৩৮৫৬০ ফ্যাক্স : ৯০১১৩৭২।
মোবাইল : ০১৩২৪-৯৭৭৮৬, ০১৭৮৮-৮৭৮৭৩৭, ০১৯২১৫১০৪৪৯, ০১৭১১৭৩৫৪৯৯, Web: www.dlmch.edu.bd

২০২০-২০২১ই শিক্ষাবর্ষে এমবিবিএস কোর্সে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অনুমোদন প্রাপ্ত এবং ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিভুক্ত এবং বিএমএন্ডভিসি ও বিসিপিএস কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত ডেলটা মেডিকেল কলেজে ২০২০-২০২১ই শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ এমবিবিএস কোর্সে (১৪৫ম ব্যাচ) ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তির জন্য কলেজের নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ভর্তির যোগ্যতাঃ-

- বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল এবং স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রণীত নীতিমালার আলোকে স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ে গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্ত মোতাবেক স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের নিয়ন্ত্রণে জাতীয়ভাবে ০২-০৪-২০২১ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত এমবিবিএস ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণকারী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের মধ্যে যে সকল ছাত্র-ছাত্রী উক্ত লিখিত পরীক্ষায় ১০০ নম্বরের মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ৪০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব প্রাপ্ত নম্বর (সরকারীভাবে এমবিবিএস ভর্তির যোগ্যতা অর্জনকারী) পেয়েছে কেবলমাত্র তারা ই ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।
- বিদেশী, অস্বচ্ছল ও মেধাবী এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটায় ছাত্র-ছাত্রী সরকারী নিয়মানুযায়ী ভর্তি করা হবে।

ভর্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা দান : ৫ই জুন ২০২১ই তারিখ থেকে ১৫ই জুন ২০২১ই তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ সকাল ৮টা হতে বিকাল ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত (শুক্রবার ও ছুটির দিনসহ) নগদ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা প্রদান (অফেরতযোগ্য) সাপেক্ষে ভর্তির ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা দেয়া যাবে।

ফলাফল প্রকাশ ও ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী করণীয় :- ১৯শে জুন, ২০২১ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১:০০টায় কলেজের নোটিশ বোর্ড ও কলেজের নিজস্ব ওয়েব সাইট (www.dlmch.edu.bd)-এ প্রকাশিত হবে।

ভর্তি কার্যক্রম :- ১লা জুলাই ২০২১ই তারিখ হতে ১৫ই জুলাই ২০২১ই তারিখ পর্যন্ত।

বিঃদ্রঃ ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের জন্য পৃথক হোস্টেলের সুব্যবস্থা আছে।
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ডেলটা মেডিকেল কলেজ।

Damaged bridge poses risk of fatal accident in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An old bridge on a local road at Hilora Adabari village under Mohera union in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila has remained in a vulnerable condition due to shifting of soil under it during the last flood.

Although fatal accident can happen any moment and locals have already informed the matter to the authorities, any step is yet to be taken in this regard so far.

Several villagers said the bridge was constructed on Korail-Hilora Adabari road about two decades ago for draining out flood water from the crop fields in the area during the monsoon.

Soil under the bridge was washed away due to passing of huge current of water during the devastating and prolonged flood last year, they said.

People and vehicles, including sand and brick-laden heavy trucks, move on the vulnerable bridge regularly, posing risk of fatal accident, they said.

However, no step is yet to be taken to stop plying of heavy vehicles on the vulnerable bridge and also at least no cautionary sideboards were hanged on there for warning people, they added.

Asked about the matter, Badsa Miah, chairman of Mohera Union Parishad, said that condition of the bridge is SO bad that it might collapse due to pressure of the heavy vehicles any moment causing casualties.

"I have already informed the matter to the upazila engineer of Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) and also officials of the upazila administration in



An old bridge at Hilora Adabari village under Mohera union in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila has remained in a vulnerable condition posing threat to a fatal accident. PHOTO: STAR

The bridge was constructed on Korail-Hilora Adabari road about two decades ago for draining out flood water from the crop fields in the area during the monsoon.

Mirzapur over the matter," he said. "I have also requested the upazila parishad chairman in Mirzapur for taking necessary step in this regard but the upazila chairman told me that they have no fund to do it," he said. "A new bridge should be constructed in place of the vulnerable bridge as soon as possible. However, as the new bridge construction is a matter of time, the authorities should hold some emergency works as soon as possible to protect the bridge and reduce the risk of accident," he added.

Contacted, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, a sub-assistant engineer of LGED, said that a number of roads and bridges were damaged fully or partially during the last year's prolonged floods and the process of reforms and repair work of these was underway. "We have already talked to the local public representatives about the risky bridge at Hilora Adabari area and requested them to bar movement of heavy vehicles on it. Steps will also be taken to repair the risky bridge as soon as possible," he added.

Dharla growing fierce in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Iman Ali, 60, lost his home to the Dharla river last Sunday afternoon. So did Saidul Islam, Zahurul Haque and Abdur Rahman -- all in their fifties.

They are all residents of Falimari, a village by the Dharla, in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila and all of them earn their livelihood by catching fish in the river.

The same river that provides their livelihood took everything that they called their own, one of them sighed in distress.

Over the past few days the Dharla has devoured several residential houses and fifty bighas of croplands in Falimari. At least fifty more houses and another hundred acres of arable land now run the risk of going into the river.

Iman Ali said his house was on 12 decimals of land. With the roof over their head gone, he and his family had to take shelter on someone else's land. The suffering they have been going through is indescribable.

Abdur Rahman's 10-decimal house was

on a government road. At this age it would be next to impossible for him to earn enough for building another house, he lamented.

The river has already eroded maize field on four bighas of his land between last Sunday and Monday and around fifty houses, including his, are now under serious threat of erosion, said villager Aminul Islam.

While speaking with this correspondent, Mogolhat Union Parishad Chairman Habibur Rahman said as the erosion of the river may turn more destructive during the upcoming monsoon, many people are now busy dismantling and removing their houses, away from the path of the destruction.

A petition seeking immediate steps to protect the properties of villagers has been filed with the Water Development Board (WDB), he added.

Contacted, Mizanur Rahman, WDB executive engineer in Lalmonirhat, said they would inform the higher authorities of the situation and they would be able to take steps in this regard only when funds are allocated for the purpose.



Iman Ali sits by the Dharla river that engulfed all that he had in Falimari village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০০

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ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা
১।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, আরবান এন্ড রিজিওনাল প্লানিং বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-	১টি

আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.kuet.ac.bd/career) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ৩৫০ টাকা অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনলাইন পেইমেন্ট সিস্টেম (www.payment.kuet.ac.bd/recruitment) এর মাধ্যমে টাকা জমা দিয়ে রশিদটি আবেদন পত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ২১/০৬/২০২১ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫:০০টার মধ্যে আবেদন পত্র রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে ইমেইল (recruitment@kuet.ac.bd)-এ জমা দিতে হবে।

(প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আনিছুর রহমান জুঃ এ) রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-1119



Jamal Hossain, founder of Sarpukur Youth Forum Library, goes to a reader's house and hands over books to him at Tipar Bazar village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Ferrying knowledge and hope

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

While most people are preoccupied with themselves, at the same time some are born into society for the betterment of the others. They work for social liberation in his own light. This is the motto of some people for the rest of their lives.

Jamal Hossain of Sarpukur union at Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat is such a person who stands out.

As lesser number of readers are frequenting his library due to the coronavirus situation, Jamal Hossain, the founder president of Sarpukur Youth Forum Library, is going to readers' doorsteps with bagful of books.

Readers are getting their favourite books calling Jamal on his mobile phone.

Abu Jahed, a college student from Sarpukur area, said he was not going to the library to read books because of the Corona situation.

But the exchange of his books has not stopped.

"After I finish reading a book, I call Jamal bhai and he almost instantly comes with a new book to my house," he said.

"I get a chance to enlighten myself by reading books regularly, thanks to Jamal bhai," he added.

Sarpukur Youth Forum Library was established in 2014. At present the library has a collection of six thousand books. The number of registered members of the library is 1500.

Apart from going to door to door with books, Jamal also provides books to different saloons where clients can make the best use of their waiting time reading books.

There are such 30 saloons where he provides books from the library. Twenty more have been listed as well.

The concept of reaching out to saloons with books is being followed in different parts of the country.

Jamal Hossain, 21, a Bengali honours student at Kabi Nazrul Islam Government College, started collecting books from his school life.

"When I get a phone call, I go to the reader's house without delay and deliver the book," he said.

"Our library has all kinds of books including agriculture, science, literature, history, religion, research, stories and poems," he also said.

"Books enlighten people. I want books to be people's constant companion. So, I want to keep myself involved in the book-reading movement for the rest of my life," he said.

However, the library building is in a dilapidated condition and the readers are worried that it would not withstand the bad weather.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, এর কার্যালয়
সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ
০৭৮১-৫২১০১
ই-মেইল: eenaw@rhd.gov.bd

সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি (১১তম আহ্বান)

০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	: ০১-এন,জে,আর,ডি/২০২০-২০২১ইং।
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	: সওজ, নবাবগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগীয় কামিশনারী - দারুিয়া - নাটোর - রাজশাহী - নবাবগঞ্জ - কানসাট - সোনামসজিদ - বালিয়াদিঘী - বর্ডার সড়ক (সড়ক নং-এন-৬) (নবাবগঞ্জ - কানসাট - সোনামসজিদ সড়কে) অবস্থিত "শহীদ ক্যাপ্টেন মহিউদ্দিন জাহাঙ্গীর বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ (মহানন্দা) সেতুর" উপর দিয়ে পারাপারকারী যানবাহন হতে টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে ইজারা প্রদানের বন্দোবস্ত।
০৩।	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	: ৩ (তিন) অর্থ বৎসর (০১/০৭/২০২১ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৪) পর্যন্ত ১০৯৬ দিন।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য	: টাঃ ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	: উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৬/০৬/২০২১ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৭/০৬/২০২১ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	: ভাটি ও আয়কর সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারি/বেসরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সড়ক প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার।
০৯।	ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের জন্য পায়লা যাবে	: জেলা প্রশাসক, টাঙ্গাইল/নবাবগঞ্জ/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ/রাজশাহী/নওগাঁ/পরিষ্কার বিভাগ-১/সেতু বিভাগীয় বিভাগ-১, পূর্বাঞ্চল, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা/উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ/শিবগঞ্জ/বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, রাজশাহী।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	: (ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ (খ) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, রাজশাহী (গ) জেলা প্রশাসক, টাঙ্গাইল/নবাবগঞ্জ।
১১।	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	: স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর, সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ। তারিখঃ ১৭/০৬/২০২১ খ্রীষ্টাব্দ। সময়ঃ ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	ইজারা আহ্বানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সড়ক কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

সানজিদা আফরীন বিন্দুক
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২৫১
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চঃ দাঃ), সওজ সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ

জিডি-১১২৪

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ব্যাংক সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়
প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা

১৯ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৮
তারিখঃ ২ জুন ২০২১

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংক সিলেকশন কমিটির তত্ত্বাবধানে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ "এ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট নেটওয়ার্ক এ্যামিনিস্ট্রেশিয়ান" পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে MCQ Test ও লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচনের জন্য ই-টেতার এর মাধ্যমে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রম	শিরোনাম	বিবরণ
১	কাজের নাম	১. ১৬২২ জন প্রার্থীর অভিনু প্রদ্রপত্রে ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনদ্বয়ের মধ্যে অবস্থিত পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে ০১ ঘন্টা ব্যাপী ১০০ নম্বরের MCQ Test গ্রহণঃ ২. MCQ Test এর ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে কয়/বেশি ৩০০ জন প্রার্থীর ০২ ঘন্টা ব্যাপী ২০০ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণঃ ৩. সকল ক্ষেত্রে পরীক্ষা গ্রহণান্তে মেধাক্রম ও রোল নম্বর অনুযায়ী ফলাফল তালিকা (হার্ড কপি ও সফট কপি) প্রদান ও সরবরাহ।
২	যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত উচ্চ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/প্রশিক্ষণ ইন্সটিটিউট/কনসাল্টিং ফর্ম যাদের বিপত ও (তিন) বছরের মধ্যে (টেতার দাখিলের তারিখ হতে) এক বা একাধিক কার্যসম্পূর্ণ/চুক্তির আওতায় একক আয়োজনে সরকারি/আই-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থা/ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষে ১০০০ (এক হাজার) জন প্রার্থীর নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ ও ফলাফল তৈরীর অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে এরূপ প্রতিষ্ঠান।
৩	নির্দেশিকা ও সিডিউল	বিস্তারিত নির্দেশনা ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে www.bb.org.bd এর e-Tender-এ পাওয়া যাবে।
৪	দর দাখিল	দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bb.org.bd) রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্নকরতে 'শ-খ' আইডি ও পাসওয়ার্ড ব্যবহার করে আর্থিক প্রস্তাবের নির্ধারিত Form যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করলে হবে।
৫	দলিলাদি দাখিল (সফট কপি)	দরদাতার স্বাক্ষর ও সীলসহ নিম্নবর্ণিত দলিলাদি/কাজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত কপি দরপত্রের নির্ধারিত স্থানে আপলোড করতে হবেঃ ১. বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিষ্ঠান গঠন সম্পর্কে সরকারের সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনপত্রঃ ২. কোনো বিভাগ বা কোনো বিশেষায়িত টিমের ক্ষেত্রে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত নিয়োগ সন্মুক্ত কাজ করার অনুমোদনপত্রঃ ৩. চাহিদা অনুযায়ী সম্ভাব্যজনকভাবে কার্য সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতার স্বপক্ষে কার্যসম্পন্ন প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত প্রত্যয়নপত্রঃ ৪. VAT ও TIN রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ। ৫. হালনাগাদ কর অব্যাহতি সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)। ৬. দাখিলকৃত আর্থিক প্রস্তাবের নির্ধারিত Form ৭. দরপত্র সিডিউল এর স্বাক্ষরিত কপি।
৬	দলিলাদি দাখিল (হার্ড কপি)	দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রামাণ্য যাবতীয় কাজপত্রাদি ব্যাংক সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় এর মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেতার বল্লে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৭	দাখিলের শেষ সময়	১৭/০৬/২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১১.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
৮	খোলার সময়	১৭/০৬/২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১১.১৫টায় দরদাতাগণ অথবা তাদের প্রতিনিধিবৃন্দের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ ব্যাংক সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ে অনলাইনে খোলা হবে।
৯	অন্যান্য শর্ত	১. অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না। ২. কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বমুঠ দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নয় এবং কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হেরানির শিকার হলে কিবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২২৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
আরিফ হোসেন খান
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সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

PROPOSED 'DRACONIAN' MEDIA AUTHORITY

Pakistan adamant amid outcry

Forms committee to discuss it with stakeholders; journos, broadcasters, activists vow to prevent it; opposition parties call move 'unconstitutional'

DAWN/ANN

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan has constituted a committee to liaise and discuss the Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) — a proposed media regulatory body — with relevant stakeholders defying an outcry.

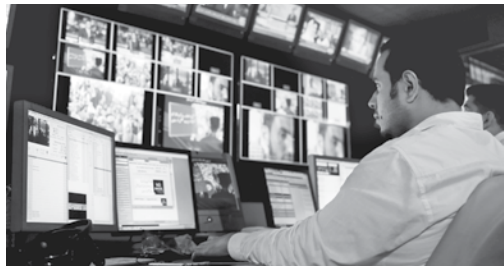
The proposal to establish the media regulatory authority has met with strong criticism from journalists, activists and the opposition.

However, in a notification issued yesterday, the ministry said State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farukh Habib would head the committee that would comprise three other members.

The PMDA is a proposed regulatory body that can "cater to the professional and business requirements of all forms of media and their users", according to a government proposal, and is meant to replace the current "fractured" regulatory environment and "fragmented" media regulation by multiple bodies. This means that according to the proposal, the PMDA solely will be responsible for the regulation of print, broadcast and digital media in Pakistan.

Under an ordinance drafted for the establishment of the authority, all previous laws pertaining to media regulation, control or indirect control will likely be abolished and fresh legislation will be enacted, giving legal cover to the PMDA and its functions.

No other body but the Supreme Court will



have the jurisdiction to question the legality of "anything done or any decision taken under the [PMDA] ordinance", the proposal states. In addition to its regulatory function, the authority will determine media employees' wages and resolve wage disputes.

Media organisations representing publishers, journalists, broadcasters, editors and news directors have rejected the proposed PMDA Ordinance, describing the concept as an unconstitutional and draconian law against freedom of press and expression and a step towards imposing state control to regulate all segments of media.

Condemning the proposal, a press release issued by the PBA said the authority was "aimed against the freedom of press and expression" and a step towards imposing state control over media operations.

"The proposed PMDA is intended to hinder media freedoms and take control [of] the media

by the top information bureaucracy," the press release read. "The concept is an attempt to tighten [the] federal government's hold over the media through one draconian authority ignoring the fact that print, electronic and digital media are separate entities, each with their own defined features and respective regulatory laws."

According to the press release, media bodies have resolved to resist the establishment of the PMDA at all levels and form a joint action committee for the purpose.

Besides, the PML-N and PPP, the two major political opposition to Imran Khan's ruling party, have expressed concern over the government's plan to establish the PMDA and vowed to resist it with full force.

In a statement issued on Monday, PML-N information secretary Mariyum Aurangzeb declared the government's move to establish the PMDA through an ordinance an "unconstitutional step" and in conflict with Article 19 of the Constitution which guaranteed freedom of expression and a free media in the country.

PPP's parliamentary leader in the Senate Sherry Rehman said in a separate statement that the disastrous effect that this ordinance would have on media and freedom of expression was "unacceptable".

"The civil society and media rights groups have termed the ordinance media martial law. Through this media outlets will either become state mouthpieces or go under," she decried.

POST-COUP CRISIS IN MYANMAR

Pupils suffer amid violence, boycott

REUTERS

No more than a quarter of Myanmar's more than 12 million pupils enrolled for the new school year amid a protest boycott against military rule and in the wake of a series of bombings, an official of a teachers' group said.

There were noticeably fewer students at many schools in the main city of Yangon as the new academic year began on Tuesday for the first time since both the February 1 coup and the relaxation of curbs imposed last year against the spread of Covid-19.

Security forces stood guard at some schools and brought pupils under armed escort from their homes.

An official of the Myanmar Teachers' Federation, who sought anonymity for fear of retribution, said that even fewer pupils had turned out than had been enrolled because parents were concerned about security, as well as joining the boycott. Teachers were also afraid, he said, adding, "Some teachers go to school in normal clothing and change into their uniforms only inside the school."

Reuters was unable to reach either the junta or its education ministry for comment. The junta-controlled Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper quoted Win Win Nwe, the headmistress of a school in Yangon's Kamayut township, as saying that about 30% of pupils had been enrolled there.

Teachers and students have been on the front line of anti-junta protests and the teachers' federation said more than 125,000 teachers, from a total of more than 430,000, had been suspended for joining a civil disobedience movement.

The phrase, "We're not sending our children to school," has been trending on social media since mid-May.

The junta complained that "politically extreme terrorist groups, who wish to destroy national interests" had been threatening pupils and teachers to disrupt education.



Xi calls for greater global media reach

REUTERS, Shanghai

China President Xi Jinping said the country must improve the way it tells its "stories" to a global audience as it seeks to develop an international voice that reflects its status on the world stage, official news agency Xinhua reported.

Speaking at a Communist Party study meeting, Xi said it was crucial for China to improve its ability to spread its messages globally in order to present a "true, three-dimensional and comprehensive China", Xinhua said on Tuesday.

China needed to develop an "international voice" to match its national strength and global status, Xinhua said, citing Xi. It also needed to strengthen propaganda efforts to help foreigners understand the Chinese Communist Party and the way it "strives for the happiness of the Chinese people".

The country needed to create a team of professionals and adopt "precise communication methods" for different regions, he said.

China's relationship with foreign media has become increasingly tense in recent years, with local news outlets such as the Global Times often singling out foreign reporters for what it says is biased and unfair coverage.

Several journalists working for US news organisations were expelled last year as relations between the two sides deteriorated.

China has also banned BBC World News from mainland Chinese television networks following criticism of the British broadcaster's coverage of human rights in the northwestern region of Xinjiang as well as the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Smoke rises from a fire onboard the MV X-Press Pearl vessel as it sinks while being towed into deep sea off the Colombo Harbour, in Sri Lanka yesterday. The cargo ship carrying tonnes of chemicals sank off Sri Lanka's west coast, its navy said yesterday, and tonnes of plastic pellets have fouled the country's rich fishing waters in one of its worst-ever marine disasters. The navy was preparing to deal with an oil spill of 350 tonnes which the ship estimated to have in its fuel tanks.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Blasts target 2 buses in Kabul; at least 12 killed

REUTERS, Kabul

Two separate bomb blasts on two public transport buses killed at least 12 civilians in the Afghan capital Kabul, security officials said yesterday, the latest in a series of such attacks in recent weeks as foreign forces withdraw.

Both attacks took place on Tuesday evening in western parts of the capital that are home to many from the country's Shia community, a religious minority in Afghanistan targeted in the past by groups such as Islamic State, the officials said.

Ferdaws Faramarz, Kabul police spokesman, said both buses were carrying passengers when the explosion occurred that killed at least 12 and wounded 10 more. The police launched an investigation, he said.

Roadside bombs, small magnetic bombs attached under vehicles, and other attacks have targeted members of security forces, judges, government officials, civil society

activists and journalists in recent months in Afghanistan.

No group claimed responsibility for the twin bombings.

The government usually blames the Taliban for such attacks but the insurgent group denies involvement.

Violence has sharply increased since Washington announced plans to withdraw all US troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11.

The bombings on Tuesday took place three weeks after a bomb attack outside a school in the same part of Kabul. Following the school attack, an official toll put the number of dead, most of them students, at 68, but a senior government official later said 80 had died.

Nearly 1,800 Afghan civilians were killed or wounded in the first three months of 2021 during fighting between government forces and Taliban insurgents despite efforts to find peace, the United Nations said last month.

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

POLITICAL STALEMATE IN ISRAEL

Lapid enlists Gantz, moves closer to oust Netanyahu

AGENCIES

Israel's opposition leader yesterday moved closer to unseating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and forming a new government after agreeing terms with several parties including one led by Defence Minister Benny Gantz, a spokesman said.

During a 12-year run in top office, Netanyahu has been an often polarising figure at home and abroad. An end to his tenure may bring reprieve from domestic political turmoil, but major shifts in Israel's foreign policy appear less likely from the staunch US ally.

Yair Lapid, a centrist tasked with forming the next governing coalition after the conservative Netanyahu failed to do so in the wake of an inconclusive March 23 election, has until midnight (2100 GMT) to present a final slate.

Lapid, a 57-year-old former TV host and author, has yet to clinch a deal with his main partner, nationalist Naftali Bennett, who would serve as premier first under a proposed rotation between the two men.

Lapid's Yesh Atid party and Gantz's centrist Blue and White said in a joint statement they had "agreed on the outlines of the government".

Gantz would remain defence minister in the new cabinet, the parties said.

Netanyahu, 71, has sought to discredit

Bennett and two other rightists negotiating with Lapid, saying they were endangering Israel's security - an allusion to efforts to curb Iran's nuclear programme and manage ever-fraught Palestinian ties.

Keeping the door open to them, Israel's longest-serving leader, who was first elected prime minister a quarter-century ago, says he is still capable of forming the next government.

Deals have also been reached with the left-wing Meretz and centre-left Labour parties as well as with former defence minister Avigdor Lieberman's nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party, a Lapid spokesman said.

The United Arab List was also negotiating to join the coalition. If it does, it would be the first time in Israel's history that an independent Arab party becomes a member of the government.

A source involved in the Lapid-led talks said the proposed new government would try to retain consensus by avoiding hot-button ideological issues such as whether to annex or cede occupied West Bank territory that Palestinians want for a state.

If Lapid misses yesterday's deadline parliament will have three weeks to agree on a new candidate. Should that fail, Israel will hold another election, its fifth in some two years.



A Palestinian boy carries a mattress as he walks amid the debris of a house destroyed in Israeli air strikes during Israeli-Palestinian fighting, in Gaza City, yesterday. In the latest 11-day war, Israeli strikes on Gaza killed 254 Palestinians, including 66 children, as well as some fighters. Fire by Palestinian militants claimed 12 lives in Israel, including one child, a teenager and an Israeli soldier.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UK reports no new Covid deaths

AGENCIES

Britain recorded no new deaths from Covid-19 on Tuesday, a big sign of improvement in one of the worst-hit countries, as the World Health Organization voiced deep concern at the situation in South America, warning that outbreaks in the already hard-hit region were once again worsening.

The pandemic has killed at least 3,681,985 people worldwide since the virus first emerged in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data.

The US is the worst-affected country with 595,213 deaths, followed by Brazil with 465,199, India with 335,102, Mexico with 227,840, Peru with 184,507 and Britain with 127,782.

The last time Britain recorded no deaths was in March 2020, before the country had entered its first lockdown.

But health minister Matt Hancock warned against complacency saying "we haven't beaten this virus yet."

Meanwhile, the WHO's emergencies chief Michael Ryan said eight of the 10 countries reporting the coronavirus highest mortality rates in the last week were in the Americas.

"The situation in South America right now remains of very high concern," he told reporters.

WHO says South America situation turning in 'wrong direction'

India reports 132,788 new infections, 3,207 deaths

US to detail global distribution plan for 80m vaccine doses

Japan to donate additional \$800m, vaccines to Covax

"South America was really in a difficult situation only a couple of months ago, and that situation again is starting to turn in the wrong direction."

Ryan's comments came after Peru on Monday more than doubled its official coronavirus death toll, becoming the country with the highest Covid-19 mortality per capita anywhere in the world.

Lima said it had raised the count from 69,342 to 180,764 on the advice of a panel of health experts, which found there had been an undercount.

Ryan pointed out that test positivity rates in many South American countries remained "remarkably high", standing at 37 percent in

Paraguay, 33 percent in Argentina and 30 percent in Colombia.

In India, government yesterday reported a daily rise in new coronavirus infections of 132,788 cases over the past 24 hours, while deaths rose by 3,207.

After number of cases skyrocketing for weeks, recently India's situation has shown signs of stabilizing.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that the United States would announce in the next two weeks how it plans to distribute 80 million Covid-19 vaccine doses it has pledged globally.

On Monday, Biden said his administration would send at least 20 million doses of the Pfizer Inc/BioNTech SE, Moderna Inc and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, on top of 60 million AstraZeneca Plc doses he had already planned to give to other countries.

Meanwhile, Japan is planning to pledge an additional \$800 million to the WHO's Covax programme, the Mainichi newspaper reported yesterday.

Japan has already pledged \$200 million to Covax, and the country is expected to announce donations of vaccine doses to the programme, the newspaper said without citing a source.

UN: Pandemic plunges 100m more workers into poverty

AFP, Geneva

The pandemic has pushed over 100 million more workers into poverty, the UN said yesterday, after working hours plummeted and access to good quality jobs evaporated.

In a report, the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) cautioned that the labour market crisis created by the pandemic was far from over, with employment not expected to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels until 2023 at the earliest.

The ILO's annual World Employment and Social Outlook report indicated that the planet would be 75 million jobs short at the end of this year compared to if the pandemic had not occurred.

And it would still count 23 million fewer jobs by the end of next year.

Covid-19 "has not just been a public health crisis, it's also been an employment and human crisis," ILO chief Guy Ryder told reporters.

The report showed that global unemployment was expected to stand at 205 million people in 2022 -- far higher than the 187 million in 2019.

But the situation is worse than official unemployment figures indicate.

Many people have held onto their jobs but have seen their working hours cut dramatically. In 2020, 8.8 percent of global working hours were lost compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 -- the equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs.

While the situation has improved, global working hours have far from bounced back, and the world will still be short the equivalent of 100 million full-time jobs by the end of this year, the report found.

And while global employment is expected to recover more quickly in the second half of 2021 -- provided the overall pandemic situation does not worsen -- the ILO warned that the recovery would be highly uneven. This, it said, was due to inequitable access to Covid-19 vaccines. So far, more than 75 percent of all the jobs have gone to just 10 countries.

Compared to 2019, 108 million more workers around the world were categorised as poor or extremely poor, meaning they and their families live on less than \$3.20 per person per day, the study showed.



Smoke rises from the Iranian navy's largest ship in Jask port in the Gulf, Iran, yesterday. Iran's largest navy ship the Kharg sank yesterday after catching fire in the Gulf of Oman, but the crew were safely rescued, Iranian media reported. No further explanation was given for the latest incident in a region of sensitive waterways, where there have been accusations of attacks on ships owned by arch-enemies Iran and Israel.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran nuke deal parties to wrap up talks in Vienna

REUTERS, Vienna

The remaining parties to the Iran nuclear deal were scheduled to meet in Vienna yesterday, the European Union announced, as diplomats said the meeting will wrap up the latest round of talks on reviving the deal and adjourn discussions for at least a week.

Such meetings of the remaining parties - Iran, Russia, China, France, Britain, Germany and the European Union - in a format known as the Joint Commission have punctuated and bookended indirect talks between Iran and the United States on both countries returning to full compliance with the 2015 deal.

The EU chairs Joint Commission meetings in the basement of a luxury hotel and leads shuttle diplomacy between Iranian envoys and a US delegation based in another luxury hotel across the road. Iran refuses to hold direct talks with Washington.

Talks are expected to be adjourned for at least a week.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator said the barriers to the revival of the deal are complicated but not insurmountable.

"Differences have reached a point where

everyone believes these differences are not insolvable," Abbas Araqchi told Iranian state TV ahead of the meeting.

"But the details are important and Iran's firm positions are important to be observed."

Iran's government spokesman on Tuesday denied that negotiations had stalled with the Islamic Republic's June 18 presidential election less than three weeks away.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation Board of Governors holds a quarterly meeting next week, with a number of the delegates at the nuclear talks due to attend.

The UN watchdog Monday voiced concern that Iran had not clarified queries over possible undeclared nuclear activity, adding that its enriched uranium stockpile was 16 times over the limit.

The two reports issued by the IAEA are the first substantive reports since Iran suspended some inspections in February.

Last week the IAEA said it had extended a temporary agreement with Iran until June 24 which has allowed many inspections to continue.



US risks 'losing a friend'

Erdogan warns before meeting Biden

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned that the United States risked "losing a precious friend" if it tries to corner his country, speaking two weeks before his first meeting with US counterpart Joe Biden.

Already tense, relations between the two Nato states have further deteriorated since Biden replaced Erdogan's ally Donald Trump in January, with the new president making a point of highlighting Turkey's dire human rights record.

When asked about Ankara-Washington relations, Erdogan said in an interview with Turkish state broadcaster TRT on Tuesday that "those who corner the Republic of Turkey will lose a precious friend".

Erdogan's combative stance comes ahead of the first meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of a Nato summit in Brussels on June 14.

Biden was in no rush to speak with the Turkish leader after taking office, waiting three months before calling Erdogan in April.

That call was also on the eve of Biden's historic decision to recognise the Armenian genocide by the Ottoman empire during World War I, a move that outraged Turkey which rejects that term.

He also listed several issues that have strained relations since 2016, including US support for Kurdish militias in Syria that Turkey deems "terrorists".

Herd of wild elephants approaches China city

REUTERS, Beijing

A herd of 15 wild elephants was approaching the city of Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan province, yesterday, defying attempts to redirect them after a journey of several hundred kilometres from forests to the south.

The group of Asian elephants, which includes three calves, originally lived in a nature reserve, according to the official Xinhua, and has trekked for nearly 500km along highways and through fields of crops over the past months.

They were within a few kilometres of the edges of Kunming, a city of some 8 million, on the afternoon of June 2, according to state television CCTV.

While it is unclear why the elephants are moving north, the Xinhua report said a decline in edible plants in forest habitats has put pressure on the animals, whose numbers have grown in Yunnan in recent decades.

Conflicts between villagers and elephants can emerge as they leave protected areas to enter villages and eat crops. Some 6.8 million yuan (\$1.1 million) of damage has been caused by this elephant herd, according to Xinhua.

Local governments in Yunnan, which borders Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar, have used roadblocks and tonnes of food to try to shift the elephants' course over recent weeks, while evacuating residential areas.

'In silence, wounds deepen'

Biden honors victims of 'forgotten' 1921 Tulsa race massacre, 100 years on

AFP, Tulsa

President Joe Biden led emotional commemorations on Tuesday to honor victims of the 1921 race massacre in Tulsa, Oklahoma, saying the United States must learn from one of the worst episodes of racist violence in the country's history.

The Democratic leader marked the centenary of the massacre by meeting survivors in the city, after the White House announced new initiatives including billions of dollars in grants to address racial disparities in wealth, home ownership and small business ownership.

"This was not a riot, this was a massacre," Biden said to loud applause. "(It was) among the worst in our history -- but not the only one and, for too long, forgotten by our history."

"As soon as it happened, there was a clear effort to erase it from our collective memories... for a long time the schools in Tulsa didn't even teach it, let alone schools elsewhere."

On May 31, 1921, a group of Black men went to the Tulsa courthouse to defend a young African American man accused of assaulting a white woman. They found themselves facing a mob of hundreds of furious white people. Tensions spiked and shots were fired,



and the African Americans retreated to their neighborhood, Greenwood.

The next day, at dawn, white men looted and burned the neighborhood, at the time so prosperous it was called Black Wall Street.

In 2001, a commission created to study the tragedy concluded that Tulsa authorities themselves had armed some of the white rioters.

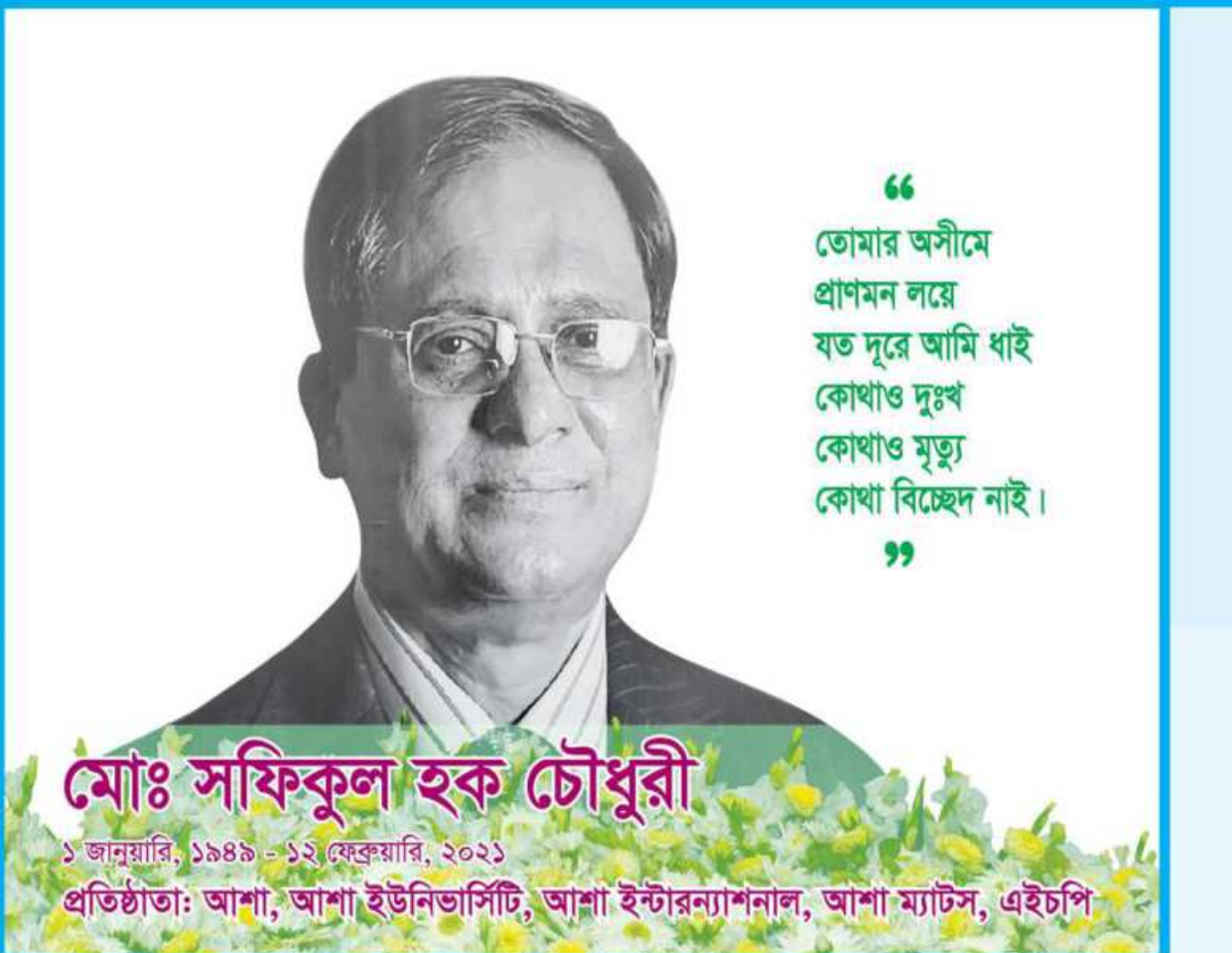
The mayor of Tulsa formally apologized this week for the city government's failure to protect the community. Historians say that as many as 300 African American residents lost their lives, and nearly 10,000 people were left homeless.

"I come here to help fill the silence because in

টেকসই ক্ষুদ্র আর্থিক সেবা মডেলের উদ্ভাবক দারিদ্র্য নিরসনের অগ্রণী পুরুষ ও নিরন্তর যোদ্ধা এবং সমাজ ও নারী উন্নয়নের অগ্রদূত মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরীর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

বাংলাদেশ তথা বিশ্বের ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম ও দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন প্রয়াসে মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরী একজন উজ্জ্বল নক্ষত্র। বাংলাদেশের এক নিভৃত পল্লীতে স্নায়ু পরিসরে তিনি শুরু করেছিলেন বঞ্চিত ও অবহেলিত মানুষের জীবনমান বদলের কর্মসূচি। বহুবছরের নিরন্তর প্রচেষ্টায় সেই কর্মসূচিকে তিনি উন্নীত করেছিলেন দারিদ্র্য নিরসনের সবথেকে টেকসই ও কার্যকর মডেল হিসেবে। তাঁর প্রতিষ্ঠিত 'আশা' এখন বিশ্বের সবথেকে দক্ষ, টেকসই ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠান। তিনি ১৯৭৮ সালে আশা প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন - যার বর্তমান ব্রান্ড সংখ্যা ৩,০৫৩টি। আশা গৃহীত কর্মসূচির সফল ভোগ করছে বাংলাদেশের প্রায় ৭০ লাখ মানুষ। পাশাপাশি বিশ্বের ১৩টি দেশের ২৫ লাখ মানুষকে দারিদ্র্য নিরসনে আশা কারিগরি ও জ্ঞানগত সহায়তা দিচ্ছে। আশার কার্যক্রমের কারণে অসংখ্য অল্পবয়স্ক নারীরা বাংলাদেশ পরিচিত হয়েছে বিশেষ মর্যাদায়।

গত ১২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১, মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরী আকস্মিকভাবে মৃত্যুবরণ করেন। এই কীর্তমান মানুষটির স্মরণে গত ২৪ মার্চ ২০২১ একটি স্মরণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। দেশের ও আন্তর্জাতিক অঙ্গনের বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিবর্গ এ সভায় অংশগ্রহণ করে আশার প্রতিষ্ঠাতার জীবন, কর্মসাধনা ও অবদান আলোকপাত করেন- যার সারাংশ এ ক্রোনোলজিতে উপস্থাপিত হলো।



মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরী

১ জানুয়ারি, ১৯৪৯ - ১২ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২১

প্রতিষ্ঠাতা: আশা, আশা ইউনিভার্সিটি, আশা ইন্টারন্যাশনাল, আশা ম্যাটস, এইচপি

তোমার অসীমে প্রাণমন লায়ে যত দূরে আমি ধাই কোথাও দুঃখ কোথাও মৃত্যু কোথা বিচ্ছেদ নাই।

এম এ মাদান, এমপি মানসীয় স্বাস্থ্য পরিকল্পনা মহাপরিচালক

ডাঃ জাফরুল্লাহ চৌধুরী প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও প্রাক্তন গণস্বাস্থ্য

ড. আতিউর রহমান ডাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্বাস্থ্য সেবার অধ্যাপক এবং বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সাবেক গভর্নর

পারভীন মাহমুদ এফসিএ

ড. হোসেন-আরা বেগম নির্বাহী পরিচালক গিএফএলস

সুখেন্দ্র কুমার সরকার সাবেক নির্বাহী পরিচালক আর্মিকরএসএ

ড. সালেহউদ্দিন আহমেদ সাবেক গভর্নর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

এম আবদুল আজিজ সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার আশা ও সাবেক মন্ত্রিপরিষদ সচিব

তাহলেদ্বা আবদুল্লাহ সাবেক গভর্নর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরীর জীবন ও কর্মক্ষেপে শ্রেষ্ঠ বহু পরিচয় রয়েছে। তিনি উন্নীত করেছিলেন দারিদ্র্য নিরসনের সবথেকে টেকসই ও কার্যকর মডেল হিসেবে। তাঁর প্রতিষ্ঠিত 'আশা' এখন বিশ্বের সবথেকে দক্ষ, টেকসই ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠান।

তাঁর অসংখ্য সহকারী রয়েছে। তাঁর অনেক কাজ সঙ্গীত রচনার মতোই ছিল। তাঁর গানের কথাগুলো শুধুমাত্র শ্রমিকদের মধ্যেই সীমাবদ্ধ ছিল না, বরঞ্চ জনসম্মুখে পৌঁছিয়ে দেয়া হয়েছিল। তাঁর গানের কথাগুলো শুধুমাত্র শ্রমিকদের মধ্যেই সীমাবদ্ধ ছিল না, বরঞ্চ জনসম্মুখে পৌঁছিয়ে দেয়া হয়েছিল।

সফিকুল হক চৌধুরী ছিলেন অত্যন্ত দক্ষ সংগঠক - যার স্মৃতি বৈশিষ্ট্য। তিনি লক্ষ লক্ষ মানুষের উপকার করেছেন, যে অবদানের কথা ভেবে তখনো না। সেটিই সফিকুল হক চৌধুরীর সবচেয়ে বড় পাঠ্য, আমি মনে করি। আশা অত্যন্ত ক্ষমতা সন্তোষ প্রসূ করেছিল। তাঁর আশার শক্তি কখনো কমিছিল।

মোঃ এনামুল হক চিফ অ্যাডভাইজার আশা ইউনিভার্সিটি

একেএম আমিনুর রশিদ এগ্রিকালচারাল ডিরেক্টর আশা ইউনিভার্সিটি

মহম্মদুল আহমাদ বৃহত্তম সিনিয়র সর্বাধিকার

অজয় দাশগুপ্ত সিনিয়র সর্বাধিকার

আমির হোসেন নির্বাহী পরিচালক ব্রুকস বাংলাদেশ

মোঃ আব্দুল হক চৌধুরীর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরীর স্মরণে

এম আবদুল আজিজ সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার আশা ও সাবেক মন্ত্রিপরিষদ সচিব

তাহলেদ্বা আবদুল্লাহ সাবেক গভর্নর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

শিব নায়ার কৈরী সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার (ফিন্যান্স) সাবেক স্বাভিজেন

আমির হোসেন নির্বাহী পরিচালক ব্রুকস বাংলাদেশ

মোঃ আব্দুল হক চৌধুরীর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

মোঃ আব্দুল আজিজ সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার আশা ও সাবেক মন্ত্রিপরিষদ সচিব

একেএম আমিনুর রশিদ এগ্রিকালচারাল ডিরেক্টর আশা ইউনিভার্সিটি

মহম্মদুল আহমাদ বৃহত্তম সিনিয়র সর্বাধিকার

শিব নায়ার কৈরী সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার (ফিন্যান্স) সাবেক স্বাভিজেন

আমির হোসেন নির্বাহী পরিচালক ব্রুকস বাংলাদেশ

মোঃ আব্দুল হক চৌধুরীর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

মোঃ আব্দুল আজিজ সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার আশা ও সাবেক মন্ত্রিপরিষদ সচিব

একেএম আমিনুর রশিদ এগ্রিকালচারাল ডিরেক্টর আশা ইউনিভার্সিটি

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শিব নায়ার কৈরী সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার (ফিন্যান্স) সাবেক স্বাভিজেন

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মোঃ আব্দুল আজিজ সিনিয়র এ্যাভভাইজার আশা ও সাবেক মন্ত্রিপরিষদ সচিব

একেএম আমিনুর রশিদ এগ্রিকালচারাল ডিরেক্টর আশা ইউনিভার্সিটি

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আমির হোসেন নির্বাহী পরিচালক ব্রুকস বাংলাদেশ

মোঃ আব্দুল হক চৌধুরীর প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

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মহম্মদুল আহমাদ বৃহত্তম সিনিয়র সর্বাধিকার

World loses a Legend of Sustainable Microfinance and an Innovator. His legacy remains forever.

Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, Founder of ASA

was an icon in the world's social development. He enjoyed a rare distinction for developing a simple and sustainable microfinance model for poverty alleviation and women's empowerment and for making it as a grand success at home and abroad. About seven million poor people of Bangladesh are being directly benefited by the services offered by ASA presently. Beyond Bangladesh, 2.5 million underprivileged people of 13 countries in Asia and Africa derive benefit of microfinance service in pursuance of ASA methodology.

Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury's sudden demise on 12 February 2021 is a great loss for poverty alleviation endeavour in Bangladesh and in the world too. A remembrance meeting was organized on 24 March 2021 for commemorating his life, legacy, contribution, and mission. Dignitaries, renowned social development exponents of the world, colleagues, admirers and friends of late Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury joined the commemoration and paid tributes by outlining his extraordinary works and dedication. Excerpts are presented here.



Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury was addressing at Microcredit Summit- 2006 held in Halifax, Canada.

Prafal Patel Former Vice President World Bank



I am so sorry that I could not be there personally with you all in Dhaka to celebrate dear Shafiq Bhai's life and legacy.

I am Prafal Patel, former Vice President of the World Bank and a board member of ASA International.

I first met Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury 20 years ago during one of my visits to Dhaka. And from the very first moment, I got very impressed with him with his humility, with his humanity and his tremendous and energetic dedication to the mission of ASA, which he founded and led right up to his untimely sad demise.

There are simply too many qualities and contributions of Shafiq Bhai for me to be able to share with you in a short tribute. He was a truly inspirational leader who made a difference in the lives of many.

I am personally benefited greatly from his friendship and learned more about microfinance and poverty alleviation programs than in my MIT degrees or in my years in the World Bank. And I shall be eternally grateful for that.

I will miss him dearly. But we all take inspiration from him to continue his legacy with renewed vigor, so that ASA can reach greater heights. Finally, I would like to thank his family for sharing him with us. May he rest in peace.

Dr. Jaime Aristote B. Alip Founder and Chairman CARD MRI Philippines



Today, we remember the life of a selfless leader, my good friend, brother and mentor of CARD MRI, Philippines. Mr. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury.

I will always remember him, the man who taught us that we have to be selfless, humble so that we can give the best service to the marginalized community.

His leadership as ASA Bangladesh Founder-President was compared to Henry Ford by the Asian Development Bank. Because of insistence and simplicity and therefore low-cost nature of ASA operation through standardization products and simplification of procedures with careful consideration of the institutional financial help.

But in every battle, there will come a time when a general must rest. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury has fought a long and meaningful battle and it is now up to us to continue the legacy to the world.

His contribution to the global mission of poverty eradication will be always remembered and celebrated. Rabeya, Tanvir, Tanzil and Tushir, I am one with you to remember Shafiq's life. You will always have a family in us here at CARD MRI to support you. Let's assured even Shafiq is no longer with us, I will always be Uncle Alip.

In order to keep Shafiq's legacy and life CARD MRI, Philippines will establish the Shafiq Choudhury Memorial Scholarships Fund. CARD MRI will endow an initial fund of 100 thousand US Dollar to the said scholarships and will continue to build that.

The fund will enable us to send qualified students so that we can produce future leaders with a mart of excellence and dedication similar to Shafiq's.

We will also place marker at CMDI nook of memory alongside Philippines' former President Corazon Aquino. The nook of memory is a place we recognized and immortalized community development leaders like Shafiq. We know all of these; we never be enough to show how extremely grateful we are to Shafiq.

But we hope that through these endeavours his legacy will always remain an inspiration not only to us but also to the next generation of community development practitioners.

Mary Ellen Iskenderian President & CEO Women's World Banking New York, USA



The world lost an innovator who dreamt of establishing "a society free from poverty and economic disparity; using sustainable microfinance as a tool to erase the curse of poverty from the world." The ASA that Shafiq established is known globally for building a low-cost, efficient and commercially-viable model of microfinance.

But beyond building a model for itself, ASA, under the leadership of Shafiq, has been selfless and generous in sharing this model in Bangladesh and with the world. Shafiq's vision has extended to 13 countries in Asia and Africa through ASA International, which has currently a reach of 2.3 million in addition to the 7 million reach that ASA has in Bangladesh.

ASA joined the Women's World Banking network in 1999 and by early 2003, ASA was hosting in Dhaka over 17 Network leaders who have adopted or were keen on adapting aspects of ASA's model. Shafiq's imprints and legacy in financial inclusion are undeniable.

Women's World Banking lost a champion for women's financial inclusion and we lost a friend.

Women's World Banking worked with ASA to conduct its second Organizational Gender Assessment (OGA) in November of 2008. Shafiq's support and participation was instrumental in the development of Women's World Banking's OGA toolkit. I also remember sharing the stage with Shafiq at the Citi Series on Asian Business Leaders at the Asia Society in New York, where Shafiq shared his wisdom and wit on the topic, "Microfinance Made Simple."

An inspiring leader, he captured his approach as that of a simple man with a simple way of doing things. I also enjoyed working with Shafiq in our short lived effort to establish ASA Foundation USA with the goal of reaching one million more. Shafiq was so tireless.

We and the Women's World Banking Network leaders will surely miss him. The grief that his wife Mrs. Rabeya Akhter, their three sons Ashraf, Ariful and Ashiful and their families are experiencing at this time must be unbearable. We send our sincerest condolences. We also send our condolences to Shafiq's colleagues at ASA and ASA International.

We hope that the knowledge that Shafiq made Bangladesh and the rest of the world a much better place will provide all of you some measure of comfort at this difficult time.

Vicente P. Perlas President and CEO Life Bank Microfinance Foundation Philippines



Greetings to all my friends at ASA Bangladesh and for those of you, who do not know me.

I would like to convey my deepest condolences to all of you for the passing of a great leader in microfinance.

I had the privilege to work with Mr. Shafiq, as I call him, for many years starting with the UNDP micro start project.

What we are now I attribute to him. His team of competent staff through the years in the project have to pass the basic foundation of a sustainable microfinance operation.

We have grown substantially since then. And I still continue to have fond memories of him and every time when I make major decisions, I always think of the things that he mentored the things that he said.

He truly was a visionary, he was truly creative and innovative leader, which we will surely miss.

So before I close I would like to give again my heartfelt condolences to all of you. May you continue to be a great organization even without him. I'm sure all of you will carry forward his vision.

As wellness, we will continue to remember him in our hearts. Thank you.

Sam Daley Harris Former Director Microfinance Summit Campaign USA



It's so wonderful to be with you, it's fore in the morning in Princeton, New Jersey, and it's so wonderful to be with all friends remembering Shafiq.

The first time I spoke to Shafiq, he told me about attending the first Microcredit Summit in 1997 in Washington DC. I think he said it was his first trip to the US. The summit was in February and it was very cold. He told me that he didn't own a winter coat at that time. As I got to know him, I would come to see his passion for ending poverty, his passion for efficiency and his passion for making a difference.

It was inspiring to be with him and to feel his energy; Shafiq was clearly one of a kind and will be deeply missed. The world needs more people like Shafiq, more people with his energy and his passion for serving the poor. My condolences to his family both his personal family and his ASA family. May he rest in peace.

Guy Dawson Chairman ASA International Group plc UK



Good afternoon everyone, I just want to say that in my 45 years of business life, Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury is the most remarkable leader I have ever met and worked with. He uniquely combined an unwavering social mission with the vision and drive to fulfill that mission through building to highly successful organizations in Bangladesh and Worldwide.

All the while remained as a charming humble and kind man. This for me is a unique combination. We at ASA International still guard Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury as our spiritual chairman and will strive to preserve and build on his legacy in the future.

Elisabeth van Basten Batenburg Conceptual Initiator ASA International Group plc, UK



Shafiq, my very honourable and most generous of friends was passionate, noble, committed, un-corrupted, focused, generous, inclusive, funny, gregarious, curious, loyal, relentless, egalitarian, of deep faith. The list is endless; Shafiq represented all that is good.

I hope, pray, that ASA and ASA I will not ever forget who Shafiq has been, what he has tried to do; he saw each and every one and worked relentlessly for the greater good.

M.M. Attanayake CEO Lak Jaya Micro Finance Limited Sri Lanka



Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and we thank on behalf of Lak Jaya Foundation, Sri Lanka, all the staff and all group members of Lak Jaya and we sadly miss our president who has let his entire life towards an unending journey.

My personal life, I met him in 2003 in Singapore. And he was very kind to give me some description over the program and I really appreciated it. Then I was fortunate to join ASA as an implementer in 2009.

Actually, he had been a very humble and gentleman. I had the opportunity to meet him couple of times after joining the Lak Jaya. And we always try to do the best for the people as he has sacrificed.

That is the respect could make him as members of this society. I thank you for giving this opportunity and I pray peace for his soul.

Stuart Rutherford Financial Inclusion Expert UK



This is Stuart Rutherford. I'm very sorry not to be with you in Dhaka today to celebrate Shafiq's life in the company of people who knew him and worked with him in ASA in microfinance in Bangladesh and in world development.

Somebody said to me the other day okay Stuart, you've talked about Shafiq's open and friendly personality. But what was it exactly about his character that made him a great and revolutionary microfinance leader. I thought for a bit and I came up with three answers.

First, he was intensely practical. When he devised the ASA method in the early 1990s, he himself designed the simple system, the branch layout and furniture everything. Always simplifying things to make them stronger, cheaper and more likely to succeed.

Second, he was extraordinarily transparent. When I wrote a book about ASA, I was amazed at his willingness to tell me the ASA's story in full, including the faults and errors as well as the successes.

This openness to the truth allowed him to see ASA's work as it really was what's an all. And this clarity of vision allowed him to lead ASA in a realistic way.

Thirdly, he had a very shrewd understanding of human character. And this often helped him to navigate his way through difficulties.

I served on the ASA board for a few years and I often noticed this shrewdness. For example, if he wanted the board to approve some contentious proposal of his, he would first find some trivial matters that he knew his board members would love to talk about endlessly.

That would use up most of the available time, then he push through his proposals with little adverse discussion at the tail end of the meeting. I still chuckled to myself when I think of these things. May he rest in peace.

Martijn Bollen General Counsel ASA International Group plc UK



Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to briefly speak about in where I had the opportunity and I'd like to speak from coming from a very different world.

I worked for a commercial law firm back in 2000-2004 and I decided to move away from commercial finance to a different world. And I first met Dirk and later Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury and he introduced me to microfinance.

And so I went from big deals of large corporations to small loans to women, which was a major step. And it was really through the work of ASA and the work of Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury that I became familiar of the importance of designing products that really help people.

When I speak about microfinance today, and when I talk to my colleagues, they always say the same thing. They tell us microfinance. Yes, it is a business and you can make money but at the end of the day it is a social service and you need to remember that.

I think that is the legacy of Mr. Choudhury that we have to nurture these human relationships because only when the human relationship is healthy and is based on mutual trust. You can be successful as an organization if your organization is built up of people.

I think that's what Mr. Choudhury has told me and my colleagues will forever remember that important lesson.

Dirk Brouwer CEO ASA International Group plc UK



I met Shafiq for the first time in 2004 in a little village in Switzerland where a small group of microfinance leaders and potential investors convened to discuss the potential for setting up an equity fund to invest in microfinance institutions across Asia and Africa.

From the moment Shafiq and I met, I was very impressed by him. By his down to earth directness, ability to make and steadfastly drives through decisions as well as his humility. Despite the great success yet already had in building ASA NGO as one of the world's leaders in microfinance.

For some reasons Shafiq and I really connected it at that meeting and at subsequent meeting with the same group of people in Dhaka. In many ways we complemented each other so well, and this states like that for 17 years, we worked together so closely and tried to build ASA International as a force for serving low-income female micro entrepreneurs across Asia and Africa.

During all those years, I cannot really remember a serious arguments between us on how to resolve problems we faced in building the company. And even if initially disagreed on certain matters, we generally let time help us in arriving at the mutual decision. We crisscrossed the world for so many years initially for rising funds for deathless microfinance investors in Silicon Valley, Wall Street and various European financial capitals and subsequently was building ASA International into a leading microfinance institution across Asia and Africa.

Other than with Elisabeth and our kids I do not think that there's anyone in the world. I've shared stead many miles with over time our relationship developed into a deep friendship based on mutual respect and a true sense of kinship.

Besides are many business meetings, we often were able to steal some time from our busy schedules to do some shopping together. Just like today when I convinced Shafiq to buy a formal business suit at several row in London, which we calls your IPO suit.

I hoped it will give his family comfort that their husband and father is widely recognized not only as one of the world's leader of financial inclusion as also as a kind-hearted human being who committed his life to serving the poor and disadvantaged in Bangladesh and across the world.

His legacy will continue and it's up to us now that ASA international do continue also his selfless work.

I'm extremely grateful for our friendship and I will deeply miss the work we did together our extensive discussions and just being together. Dear Shafiq, may you rest in peace.

S S Bhat CEO Friends of Women's World Banking India



It is so shocking to know the demise of Md Shafiqul Haque Choudhury President of ASA. It is a great loss to Bangladesh and the world microfinance community.

His contribution in poverty alleviation would be deeply remembered for all the time to come. A legend passes away making all of us poor and the microfinance clients aghast.

Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and people at ASA. May his legacy and ideologies continue to guide us for better days for the people at the bottom of economic pyramid.

C. S. Ghosh MD & CEO Bandhan Bank India



Shafiq Bhai's contribution towards microfinance sector is exemplary and so very valuable. His immense dedication towards building ASA and his charismatic leadership is absolutely noteworthy and will always speak volumes about his commitment towards his work.

He will forever and fondly be remembered by all. His association with Bandhan goes a long way. His immense support during the initial stages of Bandhan was commendable. We always appreciate and value his guidance towards our organization. He readily provided suggestions and valuable advice at various phases. Words are not enough to thank him. We will always remain obliged.

We will miss him dearly. Please accept our heartfelt condolences and extend to other family members and all at ASA. We pray that his soul rests in peace.

Roshaneh Zafar MD Kashf Foundation Pakistan



I was so saddened to hear the news of Shafiq Bhai's death. He was a great mentor, a great friend and a wonderful human being. I have such fond memories of spending with him in Dhaka and in Lahore, and the generosity he always extended to me in sharing his wisdom and thoughts. You are all in my thoughts.

I wish the best to the family of Shafiq Bhai in the midst of sorrow and comfort in the midst of pain. We have lost a remarkable person in the Microfinance sector of the world. He was a true champion of poverty alleviation and for the cause of women.

He will be truly and sorely missed by all of us. He touched our lives and thoughts in so many ways. May Allah accord him the highest place in Jannah, Ameen.

Anjan Dasgupta Managing Director ASA International India



Demise of Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury is a great loss. He had been a guardian and a role model for us. I have always held him great hope. In fact, without meeting him, I had implemented the ASA model in my banking days, when I was working in one of the remotest areas in India, which was highly successful. I read about him and about the ASA model. When I first met him for an interview, it was a great moment for me to meet him in person.

Subsequent, I came to Bangladesh for exposure visit on the ASA model and the methodology. It was a great experience. What I liked about him was he had details about people he was working with. He knew that my ancestors were from the Pre-partition Bangladesh in an area called Barisal. So he instructed everyone to send me to Barisal for my exposure visit.

When I came back from Barisal, he asked me what did you actually learn? I told him that it was a wonderful experience. It was so pleasant to know a model which was so simple and so workable. It was a great learning for me.

ASA President Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury said that you were working in one of the most underserved areas in India, the northeastern part and the eastern part. He said, "I wanted you to scale up and to reach out to the poorest of the poor. Forget about the costs. You should reach out to the people who needed financial assistance immediately."

My greatest respect to this gentleman. All staff of our ASA International India hold him in greatest of respect and pray for peace to his soul.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 3, 2021, JAISHTHA 20, 1428 BS

Border districts woefully underprepared for Covid-19 surge

Authorities must ensure healthcare facilities there have the capacity to deal with it

OVER the past week, there has been a worrying surge of coronavirus cases in border districts, with some displaying positivity rates that range from 20 percent to a whopping 40 percent. While there is, of course, a pressing need for action to contain transmission and ensure the new strain of Covid-19 doesn't spread across the country, it is equally important to ensure that there are adequate facilities in place to deal with the fallout should the cases continue to rise in these districts.

However, a report in this daily yesterday detailed how almost all of these districts are woefully underprepared. Examples from upazila health complexes, general hospitals and medical college hospitals paint a dire picture—of insufficient numbers of oxygen cylinders and concentrators, inefficient processes of refilling said cylinders, lack of N95 and KN95 masks, limited isolation beds, limited or no ICU facilities, inadequate manpower in covering daily shifts, and more.

What is truly frustrating is that although we have been dealing with the pandemic for over a year and experts have been issuing warnings of a potential second wave of Covid-19 for a while now, the concerned authorities seem to have taken little heed. For example, although these districts received some N95/KN95 mask supplies last year, the government's own data shows that other than Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and the occasional general hospital, most healthcare facilities have been supplied with nothing this year to protect their staff from becoming infected. In Chapainawabganj, Natore and Kushtia, there are already more admitted patients than there are isolation beds. Across the board, we see a health system that is struggling with very limited facilities and lacking the capacity to handle a Covid-19 surge.

While it is heartening to know that the DGHS has given the green light to all healthcare facility heads in the bordering districts to collect all necessary equipment from the Central Medicine Store Depot, we cannot help but wonder: if there are enough PPEs and oxygen cylinders available at the Depot, why on earth are so many healthcare facilities operating below capacity, more than a year into the pandemic?

The health ministry has come under severe scrutiny for the widespread corruption that has been exposed during the pandemic—from the scandal of fake N95 masks and subpar PPEs to irregularities in the purchase of medicine, surgical equipment and other machines. The border districts' lack of capacity in dealing with what could be an impending crisis is the symptom of a much wider issue of mismanagement and corruption, a lack of planning and blatant inefficiency. Although these issues should have been dealt with months ago, the authorities still have a small window of opportunity to ensure that healthcare facilities in the border districts have the capacity to provide proper care to Covid-19 patients while also protecting their frontline staff. It is absolutely imperative that they take actions now.

Corruption in public hospitals must be stopped

Exemplary punishment has to be given to corrupt officials

WE'RE shocked to know that a hundred steel almira's which would normally cost Tk 23,000 each have been bought at Tk 96,000 each by the 250-bed TB hospital in Dhaka, according to a finding by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) as reported by *The Daily Star*. Such blatant graft and waste of taxpayers' money leaves us disheartened and feeling helpless. At a time when the country is undergoing a devastating health crisis, it is shocking how such activities are being allowed to continue in the health sector.

Unfortunately, this type of incident is nothing new in the country. Overinvoicing or overpricing items has occurred many times before. In 2018, for instance, the same hospital purchased 19 essential medical items or equipment at an exaggerated price. The ACC's probe found that the former and current deputy directors of the hospital misappropriated around Tk 4.46 crore of public money in collaboration with the suppliers of the equipment. The said former deputy director initiated this trend by fixing prices of medical supplies at an excess rate in collaboration with the suppliers, floating tenders afterwards and finally giving contracts to those suppliers who bid the highest amount, according to the ACC.

Another report published on July 10, 2020 highlights that more than Tk 100 crore was misappropriated by 14 contractors from the funds of various government medical college and hospitals. Once again, the ACC had prepared and submitted an investigation report with ample evidence and asked the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to take necessary actions. The DGHS took six months just to blacklist these suppliers/companies. As we can see, lack of coordination between ACC and DGHS is resulting in the embezzlement of a huge amount of public money.

It is high time some sort of monitoring and auditing was incorporated in public procurement in these hospitals so that no one can get away with such irregularities. The ACC revealed a significant amount of information on graft but most of the time their contributions remain unheard of and undermined. And even if someone pays heed to them, it takes months for something to happen. The government must provide the ACC with more regulatory power so that it can take decisions on its own without depending on others. Most importantly, exemplary punishment has to be given to those healthcare providers and medical equipment companies who are part of this kind of corruption, stealing from the public and patients they are supposed to take care of.

How Bangladesh transformed from its challenging beginning into a middle-income country



BARKAT-E-KHUDA

ON the occasion of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and the 100th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, it is an opportune time to discuss how the country has transformed itself since its very challenging beginnings—from being a "bottomless basket" to "the test case for development" to finally a middle-income country.

Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) has increased manifold, from less than USD 6 billion to around USD 350 billion, and its per capita GDP has increased from less than USD 90 to USD 2,227. In PPP terms, the GDP is USD 953 billion, and the per capita GDP is USD 5,811. Bangladesh is projected to be the world's 28th largest economy by 2030 and the 23rd largest economy by 2050. The GDP (PPP) is expected to grow to USD 1,324 billion in 2030, and USD 3,064 billion by 2050.

The major drivers of our economic growth are: (i) growth in the agriculture sector, (ii) growth in the industrial sector, (iii) expansion in the services sector, (iv) export earnings from the RMG sector, and (v) remittances sent by the migrant workers. Also, our economic growth has been helped by a decline in the population growth rate.

At the time of independence, agriculture contributed around 50 percent to the GDP, and the industry and services sectors contributed 13 percent and 37 percent respectively. In 2020, the relative shares of these sectors were 13.3 percent, 51.3 percent and 35.4 percent respectively.

The agriculture sector has witnessed remarkable progress with a four-fold increase in food grain production. Rice production increased from 9.78 million metric tons (MT) in 1971-72 to 37.40 million MT in FY 2018-19—and wheat production from 0.11 million MT to around 1 million MT. The increase has been made possible by the liberalisation of input markets and expansion of irrigation, encouraging farmers to adopt the new seed-fertiliser technology. Also, during the last 3.5 decades, fish production increased around six times to 4.6 million tons. Fish products are exported, although it's still quite low (only around 3 percent of fish production is exported).

Bangladesh inherited a low industrial base at the time of independence. Beginning in the late 1970s and early

1980s, Bangladesh achieved considerable growth in its industrial sector. The open market policy followed by the government resulted in appreciable industrial growth in the 1990s. Since then, growth in the sector has been quite remarkable, except in a few years.

The expansion of the RMG sector has been a major growth driver in the overall industrial sector. It is the most important industry employing around 4.5 million people. Other industries include the pharmaceuticals, leather goods, ship building and breaking, food processing, ceramics, fertilisers, chemicals, etc. In addition to large industries, there are cottage, minor, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) that play a vital role in promoting economic growth, poverty

reduction, and employment generation in Bangladesh.

The Covid-19 pandemic. The RMG sector accounts for around 82 percent of the total exports of the country. Garments exports increased from USD 6.8 billion in 2005 to around USD 35 billion, but then declined to USD 29.8 billion during July-March FY 21 due to the adverse effect of the pandemic.

The RMG sector brought about three important structural transformations in the economy: (i) increasing reliance on export earnings compared to the declining dependency on foreign aid; (ii) complete change in the export structure that is largely dominated by manufactured goods, in a shift from earlier dependence on primary goods; and (iii) providing wage employment to the female workforce, which, in turn, has contributed to the

however, increased to around 30 percent following the pandemic. Further, there is concentration of income among the richer households, and growing inequality in income distribution.

Looking at some key social indicators, there has been a sharp decline in the annual population growth rate—from around 3 percent to 1.1 percent. Both fertility and mortality rates declined quite appreciably. Life expectancy increased to around 73 years from 46 years in 1971. Also, considerable success has been achieved in health and nutrition, although there are inequities by the socio-economic status of the population. Further, there has been an increase in the availability of drinking water; better access to, and use of, toilets; and an increase in the net attendance of children in primary and secondary schools. Gender parity has been achieved at both primary and secondary levels. The human development index (HDI) increased from 0.394 in 1990 to 0.632 in 2019.

The country's growth and development have been, however, constrained by various impediments including infrastructural deficits; near-stagnation in investment-GDP ratio, especially affecting the private sector; inequities in income and healthcare outcomes; poor quality of education; inadequate coordination among implementing agencies; weak monitoring and supervision; and insufficient accountability and transparency.

Growth and development are being further hindered by the crisis resulting from the pandemic, as in other countries as well. Economic growth has declined to around 5 percent; unemployment has increased to around 25 percent; poverty has gone up (with around 2 million more people being added to the ranks of the poor); and the healthcare delivery system is constrained in providing general health care services to the population in addition to those suffering from Covid-19 as well as those suffering from serious non-Covid diseases such as cardiovascular, diabetes, and mental health conditions. The government's generous stimulus packages of over Tk 1 trillion (about 3.5 percent of GDP) and the Bangladesh Bank's refinancing and credit guarantee schemes are directed towards addressing the needs of those affected. However, the problem of implementation continues to hinder desired outcomes.

To thrive as a middle-income country and to become a developed country by 2041, the government needs to undertake appropriate measures on an urgent and priority basis to remove the various impediments to development.

Barkat-e-Khuda, PhD, is a former Professor and Chairman at the Department of Economics, Dhaka University, and Dr Muzaffar Ahmed Chair Professor at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM). This is a highly summarised version of a paper presented on May 29, 2021 at a webinar organised by Dhaka University as part of its centenary celebrations.



The expansion of the RMG sector has been a major growth driver in the overall industrial sector.

SOURCE: STAR FILE PHOTO

reduction, and employment generation in Bangladesh.

There has been a wide range of policy reforms to facilitate the growth of the services sector including reforms in trade policy, industrial policy, monetary policy, fiscal policy, and promotion of foreign direct investment. Liberalisation of the services sector—particularly the telecommunication and financial sectors—received considerable importance. The services sectors are increasingly becoming the core of the national economy. A striking feature of Bangladesh's growth performance has been the strength of its services sector.

In 1972/73, exports were only around USD 380 million. It witnessed a ten-fold increase to USD 40.5 billion in 2018-19. However, it declined to USD 33.67 billion in FY 2019-20, and it was USD 28.92 billion during the July 2020-May 2021 period due to the adverse effect of

process of empowerment of women in the country.

Being a labour-surplus country, about half a million Bangladeshis migrate abroad annually in search of jobs. There were around 13 million labour migrants until February 2021. With the increase in the number of migrant workers, the amount of annual remittances increased considerably, from only USD 339 million in 1980 to USD 21.7 billion in 2020, and further to USD 22.8 billion during the July 2020-May 2021 period. Remittances as percentage of export earnings and import payments were over 50 percent and 40 percent respectively in FY2019-2020. Remittances increase the country's foreign currency reserves, and contribute to the process of economic development and poverty reduction in the country.

There has been considerable reduction in poverty, from around 80 percent in 1971 to around 22 percent, which,

The Mountbatten factor in India's partition



MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

IT can be said without any fear of contradiction that one of history's most massive displacements of population with the attendant violence and misery took place when, in 1947, the Indian subcontinent was partitioned along communal lines, resulting in the creation of two independent states: India and Pakistan. Despite the passing of seventy-four years since then, the debate on the justification of the partition continues, and perhaps will go on for an indefinite period, largely due to the deep wounds caused to so many people who were uprooted from their hearth and home.

A question arises as to whether India's last Viceroy's "forced march" to the demission of power further heightened communal tension and made partition inevitable and tragic. It would be relevant to recall that British Prime Minister Clement Attlee on February 28, 1947 declared that power would be transferred by June 1948 to such an authority or in such a way as would seem most reasonable and be in the best interests of the Indian people. Mountbatten arrived in New Delhi on March 22, 1947 with plenipotentiary powers and a clear mandate to expedite the process of British withdrawal. Therefore, when the Viceroy on June 3, 1947 announced his new plan and proposed to advance the date of transfer of power from June 1948 to August 15, 1947, the "forced march" began with disastrous consequences.

So why was Lord Mountbatten in a hurry? Recent revelations indicate that "it was his intention to rush back to the fleet as soon as he could extricate himself from India and to vindicate his father's reputation". His father, the "First Sea Lord of the Royal Navy, Prince Louis of

Battenberg, was forced by London's fierce anti-German prejudice during World War I to abandon the fleet over which he had once so proudly presided. His then fourteen-year-old son resolved to join the Navy himself and remain in it until he became the First Sea Lord".

It would not be inappropriate to observe that Lord Mountbatten had already decided to make fast work of his India assignment. Interestingly, although the British cabinet gave him eighteen months to complete the job,

commented in the British Parliament that "the government, by their fourteen months' time limit, have put an end to all prospect of Indian unity ... How can one suppose that the thousand-year gulf which yawns between Muslim and Hindu will be bridged in fourteen months? ... It is astounding." He called the time limit a "kind of guillotine". He further added that, "Will it not be a terrible disgrace to our name and record if, after 14 months' time limit, we allow one fifth of the population of the globe ... to fall into

He had been largely responsible for the "tragedy of partition and its aftermath of slaughter and ceaseless pain".

The rush for partition resulted in the horrid plight of ten million desperate refugees over Northern India. "Hindus and Sikhs rushed to leave ancestral homes in newly created Pakistan, Muslims fled in panic out of India. Each sought shelter in next door's dominion. Estimates vary as to the number who expired or were murdered before ever reaching their promised land. A conservative statistic is 200,000; a more realistic total, at least one million". The tragedy occurred as the last Viceroy did not have the wisdom and patience necessary to accomplish a delicate task. Additionally, he did not have the humility or good sense to appreciate the wise counsels of Indian leaders who "tried their frail best to warn him to stop the runaway juggernaut to partition before it was too late". Mountbatten's negativity towards Jinnah, and its tragic significance for all of South Asia in the aftermath of partition, has been traced from the recent study of transfer of power documents.

Partition maps, revealing the butchered boundary lines, were kept under lock and key on Mountbatten's orders. Had this not been so secret, then the governors of Punjab and Bengal could have saved countless refugee lives by dispatching troops and trains to "what soon became lines of fire and blood", but Mountbatten had decided to wait until "Independence Day festivities were all over, the flash bulb photos all shot and transmitted worldwide..."

"Only in the desperate days and weeks after the celebrations of mid-August did the horrors of partition's impact begin to emerge. No Viceregal time had been wasted in planning for the feeding and housing and medical needs of ten million refugees."

Muhammad Nurul Huda is a former IGP of Bangladesh.



Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last viceroy of India, meets with Indian leaders to discuss the 1947 partition in this undated photo.

SOURCE: MAX DESFORS/AP

he never had any intention of taking so long. To many experienced British administrators who had earlier served in India, even the eighteen months' time was an unduly hurried process—which if not reconsidered and its early terminal date not pushed back—would cause severe ruination of Indian regions and communities. The new Viceroy, however, was so eager to get on with the job that he would cut the all-too-brief allotment of time in half.

Even Winston Churchill, who was not favourably disposed to India's freedom,

chaos and carnage? Would it not be a world crime ... that would stain ... our good name forever?" However, the quit-India-quickly policy won the House of Commons vote by 337 to 185.

While the complexity of subcontinental politics, intransigence of the politicians, and personal ambitions of certain important political leaders—as well as the divide-and-rule policy of the British establishment—impacted the process of transfer of power, it has to be noted that none of those played as tragic or central a role as did Mountbatten.

Attempt to gag the press in Pakistan

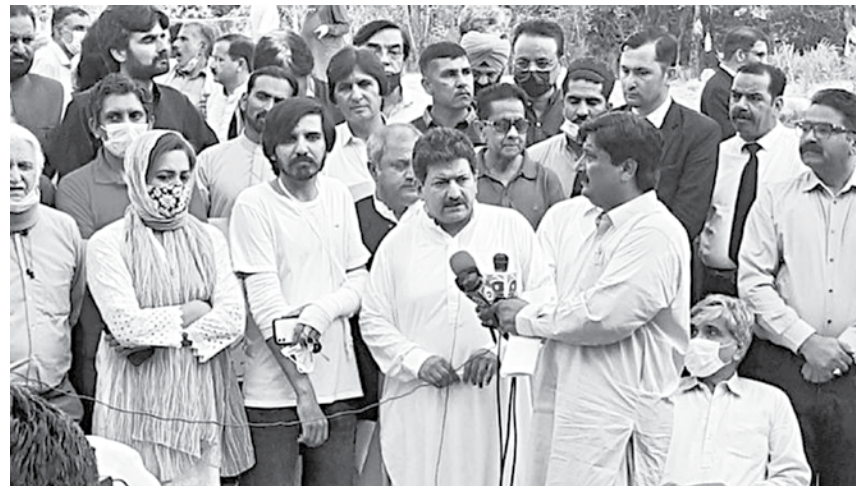
HUMA YUSUF

YOU may not be aware, but a long-running effort to deny you access to independent information is culminating. The state's attempts to control the media are blatant and blunt. If they succeed, Pakistan will be authoritarian in all but name.

Attacks against outspoken journalists have become shameless. They are shot at while strolling in the nation's capital, or thrashed in their homes. Inquiries are launched, but the culprits are never apprehended. Online, armies of trolls baselessly accuse journalists of reporting fake news, eroding both their mental health and credibility with threats of rape and murder.

Meanwhile, the government is trying to push through with the Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) Ordinance 2021, which media and rights groups have termed as akin to "media martial law". This seeks to centralise media oversight under one draconian authority. Media outlets will need annual NOCs to remain operational, and would be subject to suspension and arbitrary fees and penalties, with no onus on the government to provide warning or rationales for clampdowns. The law might enable the break-up of large media groups and extend control to digital platforms. What better way to turn media outlets into state mouthpieces than by making them entirely reliant on the government to stay in business?

Ironically, despite years of pleas by



In a display of press censorship recently, celebrated Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir (in white panjabi) has been taken off the air by Geo News, which suspended his show "Capital Talk" indefinitely.

PHOTO: TWITTER

the journalists to end impunity for killings and harassment, the PMDA also calls for media tribunals to mete swift punishment to journalists for violating the new rules. This is what it looks like when you formalise censorship.

And yet, the information minister still insists that Pakistan is "one of the freest states as far as media is concerned". To Mr Fawad Chaudhry, I want to say that simply publishing and broadcasting (and that too under threat, and on the direction of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority [PEMRA] and other backchannel directives) do not amount to freedom. Freedom is

about what you can say, and how. And those options are ever-diminishing.

No government wants to deal with a free press. Who wants to be criticised? Who wants to be held accountable? And this is precisely why the fourth estate is essential in functioning (even hybrid) democracies. Sadly, this simple point seems lost on a key constituency—large sections of Pakistan's burgeoning middle class.

For ages, this group was politically apathetic. Now mobilised, it has bought into the PII's populist politics, which paints the press as complicit and corrupt. It doesn't help that this

constituency's main engagement with the press is through political talk shows, which over the past two decades have brought out the worst in an industry gasping to survive while playing a cut-throat ratings game. Middle-class audiences assume that journalists who are killed, beaten or disappeared "deserved" it—that journalists cry foul because they are anti-army "traitors" trying to emigrate to the West.

This fugue state is exacerbated by the narrow middle-class conception of the media as hostile to the state. This us-versus-them dynamic is a by-product of Pakistan's fumbling political trajectory and the existential crisis that the press has faced through each martial law, and most democratic spells too. Our history has clouded over the fact that a free media defends the public's interests—not only against state institutions but also

Roman Protasevich, Jamal Khashoggi, and Daphne Caruana Galizia?

The extent to which media freedom has been reduced to lip service was laid bare by the recent cabinet-level approval of a journalists' protection bill, which will help Pakistan retain its GSP-Plus trading status with the EU. Days later, Asad Ali Toor was tortured by *na-maloom afraad* ("unknown individuals") exposing this bill as the cynical ploy that it is.

The only hope for Pakistan's media is for the middle class to realise how critical an uncensored press is for their own freedom, safety and prosperity. This is a tough ask: it requires the public to deconstruct deep-running institutional power tussles in Pakistan. Who has the patience to consider this? And who has the credibility to deliver the message without being undone with an allegation of foreign funding, a death threat, or worse?

Journalists also need to get better at documenting the nature and scale of the pressure they face. This will require unprecedented solidarity, which has been absent in the face of the state's divide-and-conquer strategies of recent years. We are at a tipping point now. Senior journalists at protests last week indicated that it's time to name the "known unknowns" who harass and attack journalists. Let the press do what it does best, and hold them accountable.

Huma Yusuf is a political and integrity risk analyst and a columnist for Dawn, an influential Pakistani newspaper.

Courtesy: Asia News Network (ANN)



corporates, international actors and any others who hold power.

These dynamics are not new, but they are playing out in a changing world. Previous regimes had to indulge a free press to keep up their appearances globally. But who can defend Pakistan's journalists at a time when there are few repercussions for those who persecuted

The idea of a university: Newman's vision and our reality

MASWOOD AKHTER

THE title of this article invokes the name of an important book by a 19th-century British thinker, John Henry Newman. While the shadow of this great theologian-academician pervades the following musings, my primary objective, however, is to situate Newmanian insights into the very context of ours, and thereby expose the tragic discrepancy between the university that Newman envisioned as ideal and the kind of universities that we have created for ourselves.

Over the past few years, our universities have been in the news mostly for the wrong reasons, and rarely for academic excellence or even for other achievements—be it in sports, theatre, scientific discoveries, or other fruitful human endeavours. Also, who would deny that our universities, like many other institutions here, are increasingly becoming question-sensitive, and suspicious or intolerant of dissenting voices? In universities, difference and heterogeneity should be the norm. But what we often witness instead is the criminalisation of difference and an obsessive quest for homogeneity.

The university, as Newman ideally conceives it, should exist as a system of engagement with differences, thus ensuring a vibrant intellectual and philosophical culture. The university will not only aim at giving a comprehensive coverage of available knowledge areas, but will also allow apparently conflicting thought systems to operate with their full energy. The university will encourage imagination of alternatives, and establish a congenial atmosphere for the birth of new, hitherto-unknown ideas and skills.

Newman emphasises the essential need for interconnectedness of diverse branches of knowledge. He conceives knowledge as an integrated whole, and recommends an interdisciplinary or "holistic" approach as a basic pedagogical principle. Rather than making students capable only of doing some particular job or producing mere professionals or technical hands, the university, according to Newman, produces "liberally educated gentlemen"

(and gentlewomen) who are endowed with "[a] cultivated intellect, a delicate taste, a candid, equitable, dispassionate mind, a noble and courteous bearing in the conduct of life." The university trains humans to think, "to reason well in all matters," and aims at a general, comprehensive, holistic development—that is, formation of character—of a person, the value of which is often undermined in the prevailing social and market parameters. Newman treats it as a danger when people become synonymous with their professions. A practical end that he assigns to university courses is training good members of society/humanity; their goodness, according to him, would bring with it a power and grace to every work and occupation which they undertake, enabling them to be far more "useful" than what the utilitarian capitalist market can conceive of them.

When we relate Newmanian insights to the present state of our university campuses, and the education and research climate there, we encounter things that are remarkably inconsistent or incompatible with the idea of a university. The entire arrangement appears to be plagued by limited vision, greed for immediate material profits, and an unholy nexus of local political elements and academic opportunists, resulting in a steep decline in intellectual and research standards as well as an increasingly shrinking space for academic freedom.

Since there are sustained attempts at valorising and legitimising bureaucratic invasions and reproduction of corporate values in our universities, we need to remain alert to diverse hegemonies hatched and launched by different establishments. But perhaps the most serious threat comes from within—from the formidable presence of people in our universities who are not academically inclined and almost clueless about Newman's "liberal education", "philosophical habit of mind" or "inner eyes"... who are not in search of knowledge and ideas, and whose eyes are rather fixed on immediate material rewards and lucrative positions.

Let us not indulge in the illusion that joining a university automatically

makes us academicians or intellectuals. No doubt, we become "technically" intellectual by dint of our university positions, but it is really that easy to acquire a "philosophical temper" and move beyond the status of an academic clerk? The responsibility of professors should ultimately transcend the boundary of their respective disciplines in order to engage with the larger issues, but a good number of our university teachers fail to understand the enormity of their roles and feel no qualms about being flatterers of people in positions of power; tragically, gratification of

Autonomy is a fundamental requisite of a university. You cannot run a university like a business house or corporate farm, or a military or civil bureaucracy. If you do so, it will diminish the culture of criticality and individuality, rendering a university intellectually inert and dysfunctional. Amid the frenzied dance of intolerant everywhere, a big hope of humanity lies in the universities—the importance of retaining the legacy of debates and critical thinking, the tradition of asking questions, and the passion for examining ideas, ideals and systems

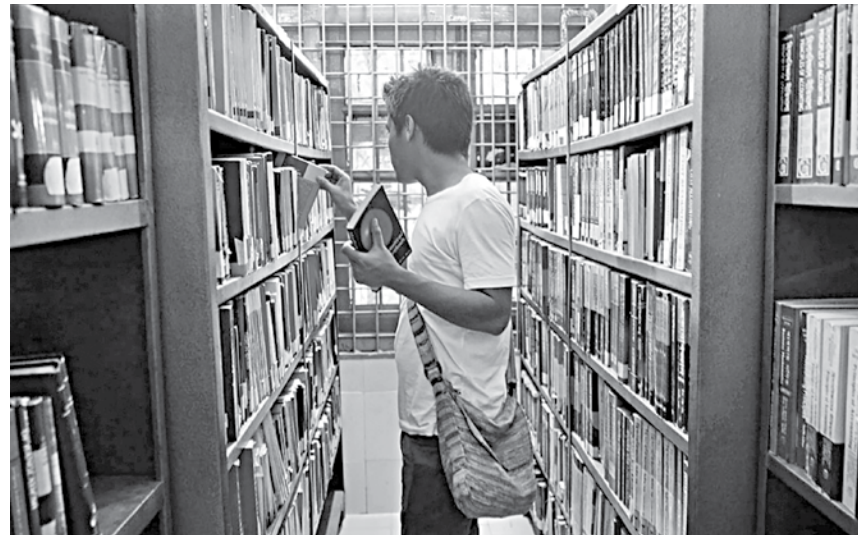


PHOTO: KAZI TAHSEEN AGAZ APURBO

their personal greed comes at a huge cost, the cost being the university itself. This unspeakable servility also helps to perpetuate oppressive mechanisms and unjust structures in our socio-political arrangement.

A university must retain its autonomous character so that students and professors with diverse ideas and affiliations can operate naturally; so that they can teach, learn and research freely; so that meaningful interactions of diverse strands become possible; so that new ideas may be born, and higher ideas and ideals may be pursued; so that its residents know that there is life, there is reality, and there is meaning beyond material affluence and mindless consumerism.

and exercising rational choices should, therefore, be understood and encouraged with more urgency than ever before.

We also need to understand the university's essential connection with, and disconnection from, the lived life (or the reality around); it has the responsibility to contribute to the material developments and needs of the present, but at the same time it should function as an "alternative social space" that creates and circulates new ideas and knowledge, and sets a higher ethical and intellectual tone for the community to aspire for. The university thus walks along with the society, and it also shows the society a way forward.

To what extent we would allow

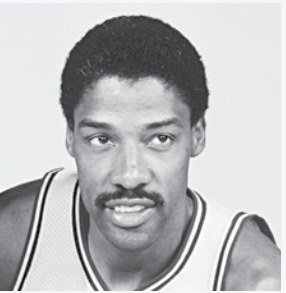
corporate, bureaucracy and other outside forces or neo-colonial institutions to intervene in deciding the curricula and character of the university is a real question we need to address. The fundamentals of a centre of learning like a university include critical pedagogy with deep politico-ethical sensibilities, its epistemological pluralism, and of course a wise and enabling administration nurturing an objective and democratic ambience for students, researchers and teachers to flourish as active participants in the cultivation and dissemination of diverse knowledge traditions. Academic engagement is a deeply political issue; it thus requires a critical consciousness so that you can apprehend power relations in the society, state and beyond, and determine your own role necessary to break the pattern of domination. Regrettably, some of our teachers are not "political" in the above-mentioned sense; instead, a significant number of them function as some sort of agents of mainstream political parties for their selfish gains, and their political bias is often reflected in their treatment of students and colleagues—a situation which is not only shameful but also dangerous.

Our universities are still alive because of the sincere and sustained efforts of some committed teachers and researchers in the campuses, among other things. We shall, however, be witnessing a tragic demise of our universities unless we come forward passionately for a genuine healing. It is not that what I am saying here is something new; you are, in fact, well aware of the miserable reality, but it is very important to remind ourselves frequently of these issues, and it is important not to become helpless witnesses of the slow, tragic death of our universities.

Let us remain academically focused and simultaneously build up a collective consensus so that our universities do not turn into desperate playgrounds for state and corporate fantasies, so that various hegemonic forces from outside academia may not ravage our universities irrevocably.

Maswood Akhter, PhD, is a professor at the Department of English, Rajshahi University.

QUOTABLE Quote



JULIUS ERVING
(1950-)

American former basketball player

"I firmly believe that respect is a lot more important, and a lot greater, than popularity."

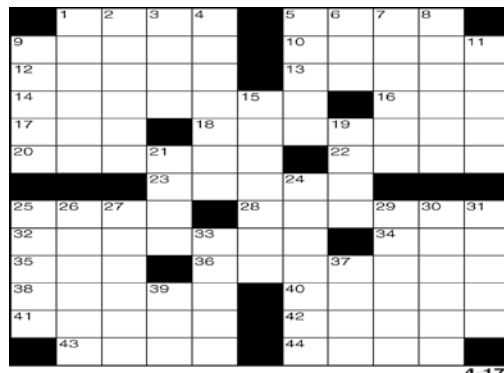
CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- Watch over
- Pouchlike parts
- Philly cager
- Dagger parts
- Biscotti flavor
- "Cats" poet
- Electrical measure
- "The Simpsons" bartender
- Before, to bards
- Movie technique
- Scorching
- Plow pullers
- Like bar beer
- Relaxing places
- Soak up
- Kidnap victim
- Sturgeon eggs
- Ump's call
- Summer house
- Blow one's top
- Home run, in sports slang
- Brawl
- Abrasive powder
- Precious
- June honorees

DOWN

- Cassiterite, for one
- Driven out
- Comfy spot
- "You wish!"
- "The West Wing" star
- Feel poorly
- High point
- Fall guy
- Thrifty one
- Painter Jan
- "I'm outta here!"
- The best
- Party leader
- Helped in a heist
- Closet pairs
- Came down in buckets
- Crafty
- Held forth
- Ginger in movies
- Like some frat parties
- Part player
- Writer Janowitz
- Sch. support group



SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

S	E	C	T	E	S	L	O	T		
A	X	L	E	S	T	I	P	I	N	
F	I	O	N	A	T	I	R	E	N	E
E	L	S	T	E	N	A	N	T	S	
R	E	E	L	I	N	G	Y	E	T	
D	Y	E	R	S	P	O	D	S		
O	N	E	S	T	U					
S	H	U	T	S	T	A	R	S		
E	A	R	M	A	R	S	H	A	L	
A	V	E	R	A	G	E	E	L	I	
L	A	Y	E	R	S	P	A	I	N	
S	N	E	A	K	S	E	R	V	E	
A	S	P	S			A	T	A	D	

BETLE BAILEY



BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
 ত্রিপিপ্যালের কার্যালয়
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী

তারিখঃ ২/৬/২১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-২৭/২০২০-২০২১

২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সালে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে অত্যাধুনিক কিচেন স্থাপন প্রকল্প বিভিন্ন ব্যয় বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে যোগ্য ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে শর্তসাপেক্ষে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বল্প মন্ত্রণালয় (জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ)।
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার নাম	ত্রিপিপ্যাল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।
৪.	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার ঠিকানা	ত্রিপিপ্যাল এর কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী।
৫.	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	নং-২৭/২০২০-২০২১
৬.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা/সক্ষমতা	ক) স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবসায়িক ঠিকাদারী ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত) থাকতে হবে, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ থাকতে হবে। খ) দরদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের একক নামে ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র (যা ব্যাংক কর্তৃক জুন/২০২১ মাসে ইস্যুকৃত)। গ) নিজ নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুকূলে টিআইএন নম্বরসহ আয়করদাতা এই মর্মে সনদপত্র ও ডাটাদাতা হিসেবে ডাট রজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (হালনাগাদ ও নবায়নকৃত) থাকতে হবে। ঘ) পিপিএ/২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সিডিউলে বর্ণিত যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী পালন ও কাগজ/দলিলপত্রাদি দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করার ক্ষমতা থাকতে হবে। ঙ) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল এ উল্লেখ আছে।
৭.	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)।
৮.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। ত্রিপিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী। ২। ডিআইজি, রাজশাহী রেঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়। ৩। পুলিশ সুপার, রাজশাহী এর কার্যালয়।
৯.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। ত্রিপিপ্যালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী। ২। ডিআইজি, রাজশাহী রেঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়।
১০.	দরপত্র সরবরাহের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৩-০৬-২০২১খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪-০৬-২০২১খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৪-০৬-২০২১খ্রিঃ ২.০০ ঘটিকা দরদাতা বা তার প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।
১৩.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	২৭-০৬-২০২১খ্রিঃ ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪.	কাজের বিবরণঃ	

ক্রমিক	দরপত্রের শিরোনাম/প্রকল্পের নাম	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি মানি
১.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে অত্যাধুনিক কিচেন স্থাপন প্রকল্প (সিডিউল কাজ)	১,৫০০/-	১,৯৫,০০০/-
২.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে অত্যাধুনিক কিচেন স্থাপন প্রকল্প (স্যানিটারী ও টাইলসের কাজ)	১,৫০০/-	১,২৫,০০০/-
৩.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে অত্যাধুনিক কিচেন স্থাপন প্রকল্প (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল কাজ)	১,৫০০/-	১,০৭,০০০/-
৪.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে অত্যাধুনিক কিচেন স্থাপন প্রকল্প (মিল কুচিং জোনের সরঞ্জামসমূহ ক্রয় ও স্থাপন কাজ)	২,০০০/-	২,৯৫,০০০/-
৫.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে অত্যাধুনিক কিচেন স্থাপন প্রকল্প (হাট কুচিং জোন এবং মিল এ্যাসেম্বলি এরিয়ার সরঞ্জামসমূহ ক্রয় ও স্থাপন)	১,৫০০/-	১,৭৪,০০০/-
৬.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীতে অত্যাধুনিক কিচেন স্থাপন প্রকল্প (ওয়াশিং, রিসিডিং, স্টোরেজ, বেকারী এবং ড্রিপারেশন কুচিং জোনের সরঞ্জামসমূহ ক্রয় ও স্থাপন)	২,০০০/-	২,২২,০০০/-

বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ
 ১। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত দিনে বা সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণ বা খোলা সম্ভব না হলে দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক দরপত্র দাখিলের ও খোলার/গ্রহণের পুনঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময় স্থানীয় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অবহিত করা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি কোন কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকে তা হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে যথাসময়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
 ৩। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
 ৪। দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় ত্রিপিপ্যাল, বিপিএ সারদা, রাজশাহী বরাবরে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাকেট আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে।
 ৫। দরপত্র পিপিএ/২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

তারিখঃ ০২/০৬/২০২১
 মোহাম্মদ মিজানুর রহমান
 বিপি নং-৭৪০৫১০৫০৭৫
 পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন)
 পক্ষে-ত্রিপিপ্যাল
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী
 সারদা, রাজশাহী

জিডি-১১২৩

বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (বিসিএসআইআর)
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নং-৩৯.৩০৭.০১৪.০০.০১.৩০১.২০২১-১২৭০
 তারিখঃ ০১.০৬.২০২১

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০৭.০২.২০২১ তারিখের ৩৯.০০.০০০০.০০৫.১১.০১২.১৭-২৯ সংখ্যক স্মারকের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদের রাজস্ব খাতের নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহ পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে Online-এ দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জ্যেষ্ঠ স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	বিষয়	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	প্রার্থীর বয়স
১	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	কেমিস্ট্রি	২০টি		১ জুন ২০২১ তারিখে অনূর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর। [মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান ও প্রতিবন্ধি প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য]
২	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	ফার্মেসি	০২টি		
৩	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	বায়োকেমিস্ট্রি/বায়োকেমিস্ট্রি এন্ড মলিকিউলার বায়োলজি	০২টি		
৪	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	মাইক্রোবায়োলজি	০২টি		
৫	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড বায়োটেকনোলজি	০২টি	সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে প্রথম শ্রেণিতে বি.এস.সি. (অনার্স) সহ	
৬	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	এগ্রাইড ফিজিক্স এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক্স/ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	০২টি	এম.এস.সি অথবা প্রথম শ্রেণিতে এম.এস.সি. ডিগ্রি	
৭	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	০২টি	অথবা উভয় পরীক্ষায় ২য় শ্রেণি।	
৮	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	ম্যাটেরিয়াল সাইন্স/ম্যাটেরিয়াল সাইন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	০২টি	শিক্ষাজীবনে পরীক্ষার কোনটিতেই তৃতীয় বিভাগ বা শ্রেণি থাকা চলিবে না।	
৯	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	লেদার/লেদার প্রোডাক্টস/ফুটওয়্যার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	০৫টি		
১০	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	ফিশারিস/এ্যাগোয়াকালচার এন্ড ফিশারিস	০২টি		
১১	স্যোনিটিক অফিসার (স্থায়ী)	ম্যাটেরিয়াল এন্ড মেটালার্জিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	০১টি		
১২	রিসার্চ কেমিস্ট (স্থায়ী)	কেমিস্ট্রি	০২টি	সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়সহ দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণিতে	
১৩	রিসার্চ ফিজিসিট (স্থায়ী)	ফিজিক্স	০১টি	বি.এস.সি ডিগ্রি অথবা এম.এস.সি। শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন স্তরেই তৃতীয় শ্রেণি বা বিভাগ থাকা চলিবে না।	
১৪	রিসার্চ বোটানিস্ট (স্থায়ী)	বোটানি	০১টি		
১৫	রিসার্চ ফার্মাকোলজিস্ট (স্থায়ী)	ফার্মেসি	০১টি		

শর্তাবলীঃ
 ১. অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী ও শর্তাবলীঃ
 ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি <http://bcsir11.teletalk.com.bd> এই ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে হবে। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ
 1. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরু তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ০৬-০৬-২০২১খ্রিঃ, সকাল ১০:০০টা।
 2. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৪.০৬.২০২১খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ৫:০০টা।
 উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২(বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এ পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।
 খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০xপ্রস্থ ৮০ pixel) ও রসিদ ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০xপ্রস্থ ৩০০ pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন।
 গ. Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যথেষ্ট পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।
 ঘ. প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি রসিদ প্রিন্টকপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনের সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।
 ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানঃ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিয়োগ পত্রটিতে যে কোন Teletalk pre-paid mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২(দুই)টি SMS করে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ সার্ভিস চার্জসহ ক্রমিক নং-১১ এর পদের জন্য ৪৪৫/- (চারশত পয়তাল্লিশ) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং-১২-১৫ এর পদের জন্য ২২৩/- (দুইশত তেইশ) টাকা অনধিক ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। এখানে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, "Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না"।
 প্রথম SMS: BCSIR11<space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
 Example: BCSIR11 ABCDEF
 Reply: Applicant's Name. Tk..... will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678. To pay fee Type BCSIR11<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222.
 দ্বিতীয় SMS: BCSIR11<space>Yes<space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
 Example: BCSIR11 YES 12345678
 Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for BCSIR Application for post xxxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxxx).
 ৮. প্রশেপত্র প্রাপ্তি বিষয়টি <http://bcsir11.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS-এর মাধ্যমে (শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।
 ৯. SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানের/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সম্বলিত প্রশেপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক রসিদ Print করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী প্রশেপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।
 ১০. শুধুমাত্র টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনঃপ্রদান করতে পারবেন।
 i. User ID জানা থাকলে BCSIR11<space>Help<space>User ID & Send to 16222.
 Example: BCSIR11 Help User ABCDEF & send to 16222
 ii. PIN Number জানা থাকলে BCSIR11<space>PIN<space>PIN No. & Send to 16222.
 Example: BCSIR11 Help PIN 12345678 & send to 16222.
 ১১. সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীকে (বিসিএসআইআর-এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশিত নমুনা মোতাবেক) নির্দিষ্ট ফরমে অনুমতিপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
 ১২. নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সরকারি নিয়মাবলী এবং কোর্টার ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ সিদ্ধান্ত অনুসৃত হবে।
 ১৩. আবেদনে উল্লিখিত তথ্য প্রমাণের জন্য মূল সার্টিফিকেট ও রেকর্ডপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
 ১৪. নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে প্রার্থী বাছাই করা হবে। এ ধরনের পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না। পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী বিসিএসআইআর এর Website: www.bcsir.gov.bd-এ প্রকাশ করা হবে।
 ১৫. কোন প্রকার তদবির প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।
 ১৬. নিয়োগকৃতদের রাজশাহী, চট্টগ্রাম, জয়পুরহাটসহ বিসিএসআইআর-এর বিভিন্ন গবেষণাগার/ইউনিটে পদায়ন করা হবে।
 ১৭. কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন আবেদনপত্র বাতিল করা এবং পদসংখ্যা হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধি করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

তারিখঃ ০১/০৬/২০২১
 শাহ আব্দুল করিম
 সচিব

জিডি-১১২৩

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 Health Services Division, Health Economics Unit (HEU)
 Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuchi (SSK) Cell
 14/2, Tophkhana Road (3rd floor), Dhaka- 1000
 www.heu.gov.bd

Expression of Interest (EoI)

For
 Procurement of services of a National Consultant (Leadership and Community Participation) for managing implementation of the Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuchi (SSK) Pilot Project and Quality Improvement activities

1.	Ministry/Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2.	Agency	Health Economics Unit (HEU)
3.	Name of The Procuring entity	Director General (DG), HEU
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5.	Type of Organization	Individual Consultant
6.	EoI Ref No & Date	45.05.0000.007.32.002.21-৪৫৬, 01/06/2021

Key Information:

7.	Procurement Sub-Method	Selection Based on Consultant's Qualification (SBCQ)
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Funding Information:

8.	Budget and Source of Funds	Funds of Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)
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Particular Information:

9.	Project / Program Name (if applicable)	Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuchi (SSK)
10.	EoI Closing date and Time	17 June 2021 at 2:00 pm
11.	Brief Description of the Assignment	Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuchi (SSK) is the social health protection scheme developed and managed by the Health Economics Unit (HEU) of the MOHFW. This scheme is a model of social health insurance / social health protection. Under the guidance of Line Director (LD), Health Economics and Financing (HEF) operational plan and DG HEU, the consultant will require to support HEU in executing the following activities related with SSK and Quality Improvement activities but not limited to: (i) To strengthen leadership capacity of health service providers, develop strategy, guideline, tools and relevant documents, and disseminate among stakeholders at local and national level (ii) Provide training and guidance to health service providers on best practices for community engagement (iii) Conduct and organize training, workshops and seminars (iv) Coordinate activities in close cooperation with the SSK Cell/HEU and (v) Any other relevant work as assigned by SSK Cell/HEU
12.	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	i) At least a MBBS or post-graduation degree in Public Health, Economics, Health Economics, Development Studies, Public Management or any other relevant field. ii) Having minimum 10 years working experience in the field of community liaison and community engagement. iii) Having at least 10 years field experience of working at public or private hospitals with reputed track record of leadership and community engagement. iv) Familiarity with current government health policies and priorities. v) Having excellent training and motivational skill. vi) Candidate must possess excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Bengali. vii) Good understanding of the functions and responsibilities of the post, ability to work independently with minimum supervision. viii) Good interpersonal skills and ability to work in a Team. ix) Good computer skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office. x) Excellent organizational and management skills and ability to carry out work in an efficient and timely manner.

i) Other Detail (if applicable):
 EOI should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked "Request for EOI for Procurement of services of a National Consultant (Leadership and Community Participation) for managing implementation of the Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuchi (SSK) Pilot Project and Quality Improvement activities" to the address of undersigned

ii) Association with external firm
 Individual Consultant. Must be willing to travel SSK pilot sites outside Dhaka frequently

iii) Phasing of Services:
 Starting 1 July 2021 till 30 June 2023

Procuring Entity Details:

iv)	Name of Official Inviting EoI:	Dr. Mohd Shahadt Hossain Mahmud
v)	Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Director General (Additional Secretary) Health Economics Unit (HEU), MoHFW
vi)	Address of Official Inviting EoI	Ansari Bhaban 3 rd Floor, 14/2 Tophkhana Road, Dhaka-1000.
vii)	Contact details of the official inviting EoI	Ansari Bhaban (3 rd Floor), 14/2 Tophkhana Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 9586822. Email: dg@heu.gov.bd; mahmud5212@yahoo.com
viii)	Detail information at	www.heu.gov.bd ; www.mohfw.gov.bd ; www.cptu.gov.bd

The Procuring Entity Reserve the Right to Accept and Reject any or all EoIs

তারিখঃ ০১/০৬/২০২১
 মোহাম্মদ মিজানুর রহমান
 বিপি নং-৭৪০৫১০৫০৭৫
 পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন)
 পক্ষে-ত্রিপিপ্যাল
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী
 সারদা, রাজশাহী

Dr. Mohd Shahadt Hossain Mahmud
 Director General (Additional Secretary)
 Health Economics Unit

GD-1116

25,000 heave sigh of relief

FROM PAGE 16
countries either.
Bangladeshi expatriates/citizens who visited (not residing) the 11 countries within 15 days before the date of travel to Bangladesh are allowed to travel to/from Dhaka provided they have the special approval/authorisation from the competent authorities of Bangladesh.

On arrival, the passengers will complete a mandatory 14-day institutional quarantine at government designated hotels on their own expenses, says the CAAB circular.

Names of Columbia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Mongolia, Oman, South Africa and Tunisia have been dropped from the Group A list. None from these countries was allowed to travel to Bangladesh since May 1.

The CAAB also said passengers from eight countries (Group B) -- Belgium, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Greece, Kuwait and Oman -- are permitted to travel to Dhaka.

However, the passengers on arrival will have to complete a mandatory 14-day institutional quarantine at government designated hotels on their own expenses.

There is no restriction on the passengers bound for these eight countries.

As an exception, passengers from Kuwait and Oman shall have to complete a mandatory three-day institutional quarantine in Bangladesh at government designated hotels on their own expenses.

Upon completion of the institutional quarantine, medical tests

will be performed. The passenger will be allowed to go home to complete 11-day home quarantine if the medical test result is satisfactory.

In case of an unsatisfactory medical test result, the passenger will have to go for isolation at government designated facilities on his own expenses or continue the institutional quarantine, CAAB said in its circular.

There will be no restriction on inbound passengers' travel to Group B countries.

The CAAB said passengers to and from all countries except from those in Group A and B are allowed to travel between the respective countries. In that case, inbound passengers will have to complete 14-day strict home quarantine.

However, if any passenger shows Covid-19 symptoms on arrival to Bangladesh, he/she shall be sent to a government designated hospital for further checkup or depending on the nature/intensity of the symptoms, the passenger will be sent to isolation at government designated facilities or hotels to stay there on his own expenses.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Fakhruul Islam, president of Recruiting Agencies Welfare Organisation of Bangladesh, said lifting ban on travelling to Oman and Kuwait is certainly a good news for about 25,000 Bangladeshi workers, who are stuck in the country for over a month.

"We hope the government will make necessary arrangements so that the migrant workers can return to work in those countries without suffering," he added.



Medical workers collect swab samples from people to be tested for the coronavirus disease in Cyberjaya, Malaysia yesterday. Malaysia reported 126 deaths from the coronavirus yesterday, the highest daily toll since the start of the pandemic.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Haris dropped from police

FROM PAGE 16
him and his brother Anis Ahmed.

Touching off public debate, a documentary titled "All the Prime Minister's Men" aired by the Qatar-based television channel Al Jazeera on February 1 referred Haris as a fugitive convict.

Later, it surfaced that the home ministry issued a notification on March 28, 2019 over pardoning Haris and Anis under Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

But his name along with his photo was still on the list of "wanted person" on the police website when the documentary was aired.

Interestingly, the name was removed from the website soon after Al Jazeera broadcast the programme but it reappeared again three days later. It was there at least till May 15.

In his application dated March 23, where he used his Dhaka address, Haris claimed himself as an established businessman since the '90s and a "shining star of Bangabandhu's ideology in Awami League politics" since '80s-'90s.

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the application.

"I never engaged in any criminal activities. I became the main target of the then Freedom Party and Jamaat-BNP because of their jealousy. To destroy me, pro-BNP-Jamaat political parties wrongly accused me in different cases at different times," he wrote.

Haris claimed he along with two brothers -- Anis and Tofail Ahmed Joseph -- was falsely implicated in the murder of Mostafa, a Freedom Party leader, at the instigation of local ward commissioner Habibur Rahman Mizan (Pagla Mizan).

Haris further said his elder brother Aziz Ahmed also would have been framed had he not been serving in the Bangladesh Army.

His another brother Joseph, who had been sentenced to death, got the presidential clemency, maintaining all the legal procedures, read the application.

Claiming that he has no case against him, Haris appealed that his name be removed from the Bangladesh Police list of wanted person and Interpol red notice.

Interpol issued a red notice on Haris on October 25, 2005 and withdrew it in 2019 following a DMP police commissioner's request, according to a letter of National Central Bureau of Bangladesh Police, dated April 7, 2021.

The home ministry sent the application of Haris to the inspector general of police on March 29 this year, asking for removal of his name from the wanted list according to rules, provided that there is no case against him.

On April 13, in a letter to the Detective Branch, CTC unit of DMP and all divisional deputy commissioners, DMP deputy commissioner (Crime) Ziaul Ahsan Talukdar wanted to know if there was any case against Haris.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter.

Contacted, Ziaul Ahsan, also the in-charge of ICT division of DMP, asked this correspondent to contact the media team of police. He denied signing such a letter.

"We [ICT division] work on internet or router issues, not on websites," he added.

The Daily Star contacted the media and planning team of Police Headquarters several times since May 27 but couldn't get any comment.

Deputy Inspector General SM Ruhul Amin told this correspondent to send him questions in written on May 27 evening. A day after getting the questions, he said he was not related to this issue.

Assistant Inspector General Md Sohail Rana neither picked up the phone nor replied to text messages since May 27.

Earlier in February, when the name of Haris was on the wanted list, Sohail Rana told The Daily Star, "The wanted list is updated according to specific rules upon directives from the relevant authorities of the government. In the case of removing a name, there is scope for dropping any name from the list depending on directives from the authorities based on an application in accordance with the rules."

Asked about it on Wednesday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal only said he couldn't say anything without seeing the files.

Haris was sentenced to lifetime imprisonment in two cases by two different speedy trial tribunals -- one on May 25, 2004 over the murder of Mostafizur Rahman alias Mostafa and the other on March 3, 2004 for the murder of Dhaka University student Abu Morshed.

Haris didn't mention anything about Morshed murder case in his letter but the home ministry circular issued on March 28, 2019 read he was granted government pardon in both the cases.

Riots in Syria's Manbij leave 4 dead: monitor

AFP, Beirut

Kurdish forces have shot dead four Arab protesters during riots in the northern Syrian region of Manbij, a war monitor said yesterday.

The violence broke out at a demonstration against military conscription against a backdrop of growing anger over a deepening economic crisis which the area's Kurdish leadership is struggling to contain.

The unrest comes weeks after similar riots gripped other parts of the autonomous zone Kurdish forces have carved out in northeastern Syria since civil war broke out in 2011.

In the Arab-majority region of Manbij, which was captured by Kurdish forces five years ago, "four protesters have been killed in the past 48 hours from live rounds fired by internal security forces," known as the Asayish, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Syria's state SANA news agency also reported four deaths.

The demonstrators initially took to the street to demand an end to forced military conscription by the region's main fighting force, the Syrian Democratic Forces.

But the protests swelled after one of their number was shot dead on Monday.

Protesters blocked roads and attacked an Asayish checkpoint outside Manbij on Tuesday, the Observatory said.

The Asayish responded by shooting dead three more protesters, further fuelling public anger, the monitor added.

The Manbij Military Council, a governing body linked to the Kurdish administration, acknowledged there had been casualties but did not specify how many.

Principal, super negligent

FROM PAGE 16
For the principal and superintendent's negligence and failure to save the woman from being raped, the court asked the vice-chancellor and registrar of National University to initiate departmental proceedings against them by placing them under suspension or releasing them from their respective positions within seven days of receipt of a copy of the judgement and order.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah came up with observation and directive while delivering the verdict.

"... The rape victim was entitled to have protection from the college authority -- a public institution in whatever manner it be -- in enjoying her most basic fundamental right to life and personal liberty, but it was crumpled brutally for which the inaction of the respective authority of the college was responsible," the judges said.

"If exemplary action is taken against the negligence, the women of our county will take our nation forward to a new height free from all sorts of oppression."

The right to life and personal liberty also includes rights to privacy as well, the bench said, adding that the country's constitution ensures certain rights which are fundamental in nature.

Following two separate reports published in The Daily Star on September 27 last year titled "Rape in MC College: 6 accused BCL men moved with impunity" and "Unpublished crimes led to horror like this", the HC bench on September 29 issued the suo moto rule.

In the rule, the court asked the authorities to show causes as to why they should not be directed to take appropriate legal steps against the principal and hostel superintendent of the college for their negligence and failure to save the woman from being raped.

The bench also formed a three-member committee, headed by Sylhet's District and Sessions Judge Md Bazlur Rahman, to probe into the incident of rape on the campus.

The committee submitted its 179-page probe report to the HC bench on October 20 last year, saying that there was negligence on the part of the hostel

superintendent, three daytime guards and two night guards.

Principal Prof Mohammad Saleh Ahmed also could not avert responsibility, the committee said in its report, adding that some former and current students of the college had occupied seats in the hostel and Saifur Rahman, a former student, managed to occupy the residence of the hostel superintendent.

Thus, they dared to commit the heinous crime on the college campus, the probe report mentioned.

The HC in yesterday's verdict did not say anything about the guards of the college as actions have already been taken against them.

The HC verdict will not create any hindrance in the trial proceedings of the case filed for the rape, court sources said.

Lawyers Muhammad Misbah Uddin placed The Daily Star reports before the HC bench and Md Abdul Qaium and Foyez Uddin Ahmed placed arguments in support of the rule, while Deputy Attorney General Nawroz Md Rusel and Assistant Attorneys General MMG Sarwar, Ashique Rubaiat and Yeshita Parvin represented the state.

East Pakistan will eventually become

FROM PAGE 16
that it was "premature to move on the Paks".

"We certainly will use our influence to do whatever we can to help solve the current humanitarian problems. But the President has felt that we should give President Yahya a few months to see what he can work out. As the President sees it, if we approach the Pakistanis emotionally now, we would not gain anything and we might lose what ability we may have to influence the situation," said Kissinger.

"Our judgment," Dr Kissinger continued, "is that East Pakistan will eventually become independent."

This, he felt, was the ambassador's judgment too. The problem was "how to bell the cat". The president chose to do it gradually, informed Kissinger.

In all honesty, Kissinger pointed out, President Richard Nixon had a special feeling for President Yahya Khan. One couldn't make policy on that basis, but it was a fact of life.

Kissinger said one of the president's main concerns was that India be discouraged from military action. Just to give the ambassador the flavour of the president's feelings, he recalled

that 10 days ago when he had received reports that India might be considering military action the president had said he would cut off economic assistance if India moved.

"But we don't have to think in those extreme terms. The Pakistanis are already up against a very difficult situation, and our policy is to give the facts time to assert themselves," said Kissinger.

CHOLERA TOLL AMONG BANGALEES PUT AT 2,000
Indian officials reported today that at least 2,000 refugees from East Pakistan had died of cholera in an epidemic that had been raging for a week in their teeming border camps.

Unofficial figures put the toll much higher among the Bangalee refugees, more than four million of whom fled to India to escape the Pakistani army, which since March 25 had been trying to crush the Bangalee independence movement in East Pakistan.

Government officials acknowledged that accurate death figures were impossible to keep under such chaotic conditions. They described the situation as "a grave crisis" and "absolutely impossible".

Speaking of the toll, KK Das, the

minister of health, said the epidemic was just beginning and that the deaths could easily increase to 40,000 or 50,000 in a matter of days.

Das, in an interview in his office, expressed alarm that large numbers of refugees, in panic and because of overcrowded conditions in border camps, were drifting closer to Calcutta. "God knows what would happen if the epidemic spread to Calcutta," he said.

Calcutta, an overcrowded city of eight million people, was already India's worst cholera center -- suffering from a shortage of drinking water and a sewage system that frequently consists of little more than stagnant open ditches.

BANGLADESH YOUTH CAMP OPENED

A camp of Bangladeshi students and youths was opened in Calcutta today by Dr Azizur Rahman Mallick, vice-chancellor of Chittagong University. About 70 college and university boys and girls enrolled themselves in the camp.

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

WHO narrows in on Indian variant

FROM PAGE 16
Monday to refer to variants of concern and interest using Greek letters -- aimed to avoid the possible stigmatisation associated with referring to them with the name of the countries where they were first detected -- the B.1.617.2 variant has now been dubbed Delta.

"We continue to observe significantly increased transmissibility and a growing number of countries reporting outbreaks associated with this variant," the UN agency said.

"Further studies into the impact of this variant remain a high priority for WHO."

In fact, a new variant announced by Vietnam's health authorities on Saturday appears to be a variation of Delta.

"What we understand is that it is this B.1.617.2 variant with one additional deletion in the location of the spike protein," WHO's technical lead on Covid-19 Maria Van Kerkhove told reporters Tuesday.

"We know that the B.1.617.2, the Delta variant, does have increased transmissibility, which means it can spread easier between people," she added.

The B.1.617.1 sub-lineage has meanwhile been downgraded to a "variant of interest," and named Kappa.

And the B.1.617.3 is now not even considered a variant of interest, WHO said, since "relatively few reports of this variant have been submitted to date."

It has not been attributed a Greek letter.

RECORD DEATHS IN MALAYSIA
The coronavirus has killed at least 3,681,985 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday.

The Australian state of Victoria yesterday extended a snap coronavirus lockdown in its capital of Melbourne for a second week, as it scrambles to rein in a highly contagious variant first detected in India, but will ease some curbs elsewhere.

Last Thursday's lockdown in Australia's second most populous state was to have run until today, following the detection of the first locally acquired cases in three months, but infections rose and the number of close contacts reached several thousand.

Malaysia reported 126 deaths from the coronavirus yesterday, the highest daily toll since the start of the pandemic, reports Reuters.

The Southeast Asian nation is seeing a surge in Covid-19 cases, partly due to more infectious variants, and has imposed stricter lockdown measures that have shut down non-essential businesses.

Britain was in talks with Oxford and AstraZeneca (AZN.L) for additional doses of their Covid-19 vaccine that has been modified to better target the "beta" coronavirus variant first identified in South Africa, and it will fund trials of the shots.

Move suicidal

FROM PAGE 16
Constitution. Bangladesh Election Commission Officers Association and Bangladesh Election Commission Secretariat and Field Level Officers-Employees Unity Council have expressed concern over this. I am declaring solidarity with them," Mahub said while talking to journalists at his office.

Article 119 of the constitution deals with the EC functions.

He said that he couldn't even imagine that the NID services would be shifted to the home ministry.

The constitution has made the EC an independent entity and the commission would save the independence given by the constitution, Mahub said.

A letter dated May 24, signed by the Joint Secretary of the Cabinet Division, has directed to replace the word "government" with "Election Commission" in the process of handing over the NID. On the other hand, it has been asked to take steps to hand over the existing infrastructure and manpower protection services of NID, Mahub said.

Voter lists and national identity cards are related to each other. The shifting will complicate the preparation of accurate voter lists and the EVM system based on the national identity card database.

"If this is done, I think it will not be possible for the Election Commission to perform its duties as per Article 119 of the constitution," the election commissioner said.

The instruction to transfer NID from the EC is like cutting a limb of the commission, he added.

Mahub said that the decision of shifting NID activities without consulting with the commission was like an insult to the commission.

"Never in the history of the EC has there been such a bad day," he feared.

3 victims share

FROM PAGE 16
trafficked over 1,000 women to India in the eight years he has been involved with a human trafficking gang, the DC said, adding that Mohiuddin and Quader also helped at least 500 women to illegally enter India by crossing the border.

Officers seized two motorcycles, a diary, four mobile phones and an Indian SIM card from the arrestees. In the seized diary and the phones, investigators found the names of Ridoy Babo, Sagar, Sobuj, Dalim and Rubel.

After the video clip of a 22-year-old woman being tortured and sexually assaulted went viral on social media, Indian police on May 27 arrested Rifadul Islam Ridoy, 26, who goes by the alias Ridoy Babo, and five other Bangladeshis in Bengaluru.

Bangladeshi law enforcers later identified an international racket, involving some Bangladeshis.

Police said Ridoy first met the 16-year-old plaintiff near the capital's Madhubagh bridge in 2019. On later occasions, he promised the girl of making her a TikTok star and offering her a well-paid job.

In February 2020, Ridoy arranged a TikTok Hangout with 70-80 boys and girls at the Adventure Land Park in Narayanganj. On September 18 of the same year, Ridoy organised a pool party with 700-800 young girls and boys at Afreen Garden Resort in Gazipur.

On February 19, 2021, Ridoy and other suspected members of the racket trafficked the girl to India through Satkhira border after telling her that they were taking her to Lalon Shah Mazar in Kushtia, the DC said.

In India, the girl was made to stay in several locations in Anandapura, Bengaluru. She met several other trafficking victims from Bangladesh.

She was sent to a hotel in Chennai for 10 days where she was subjected to severe torture and sexual assault, police said.

Police also found a video of the 16-year-old victim being tortured brutally by the same gang.

With the help of the 22-year-old woman, who was seen being tortured in the viral video, she was able to escape with two other Bangladeshi girls and return home.

DC Shahidullah said the women have all entered India illegally and later obtained Indian identity cards to move around.

'BOSS RAFI', 3 OTHERS ON REMAND
A Dhaka court yesterday placed four members of the human trafficking racket, including the "kingpin" Ashrafur Islam Rafi alias Boss Rafi, on a five-day remand each.

The others are Sahida Begum alias Madam Sahida, Ismail Sarder, and Abdur Rahman Sheikh alias Arman Sheikh.

Rab said Rafi met Ridoy two years ago and they used social media to target the victims. They trafficked about 50 girls after promising them modelling contracts or well-paid jobs.

According to Rab, Rafi has several "safe houses" in Bengaluru and along the borders of Bangladesh. **ANOTHER ACCUSED SHOT IN THE LEG**

Yet another suspect named Sobuj was shot in the leg by India's Bengaluru yesterday while he, according to police, was trying to run away from officers.

Sobuj attacked a police team which was trying to arrest him, reports our New Delhi correspondent, quoting police.

Just days ago, two other suspects were shot in the leg by police in India during what officials said was their attempt to escape.

BOOK REVIEW: NON-FICTION

A journalist explains the country that banished him

ZOHEB MASHIUR

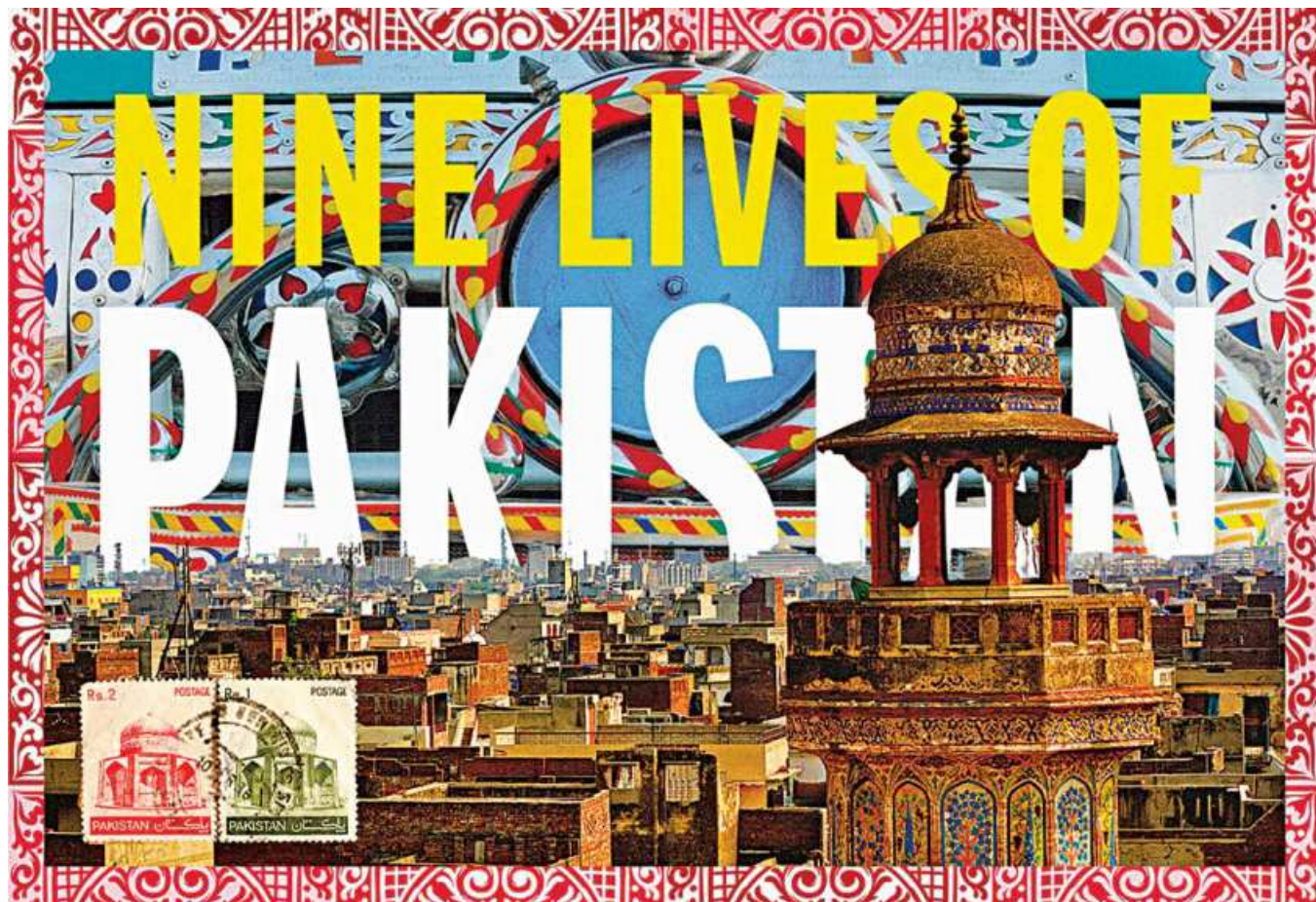
In the middle of an Islamabad night, just before the Pakistan election of 2013, the Irish journalist Declan Walsh was visited by “angels.”

These angels, as Pakistanis call the members of the military’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), served Walsh with a letter of expulsion. After nearly a decade as a correspondent reporting on Pakistan’s politics for *The Guardian* and then the *New York Times*, Walsh was given 72 hours to leave the country. The only reason that the ISI offered: he had taken part in “undesirable activities.”

Released in 2020, *The Nine Lives of Pakistan: Dispatches from a Precarious State* (WW Norton & Company) is the story of how Walsh came to learn what these “undesirable activities” had been, though it takes its time getting there. It’s only at the very end that we, and Walsh, discover what he had done to upset the ISI. To understand the reason, we need to first go on a journey through the political history of Pakistan as personified by the titular nine lives: Pakistanis whose life stories bring shape, depth, and clarity to a country that stands as an international enigma. All but two of these lives are people Walsh had previously covered in his reportage, and so we are launched into a narrative that is part history, part memoir, and part travelogue, as Walsh goes from the frontier of Waziristan to the sluggish coast of Sindh, from the anodyne mansions of Islamabad to the bleak fortresses of Balochistan.

Walsh’s chosen nine lives are all key players in singular moments of Pakistan’s history and its present political landscape. Starting with a character portrait of Abdul Rashid Ghazi, a liberal, “Westernized” man who becomes radicalised and dies in a military crackdown on his Islamist movement based in Islamabad’s Lal Masjid, we see Walsh’s method of showing people in crisis—in “precarious states”—and using them to launch into an explanation of the history that brought them to that moment.

We learn through Ghazi about the impact of American foreign policy and Pakistan’s relationship with the Taliban. Through a chapter on Jinnah, we see Pakistan as a country born through identity crises. We meet Asma Jahangir, a lawyer and human rights activist who defends Pakistan’s minorities and calls the



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

country’s indomitable generals “useless duffers” on television. The cast goes on. Walsh portrays them all with insight and empathy without condoning their often detestable actions, and the reader feels they understand even the most outlandish, dislikeable of these nine lives.

Walsh was able to write directly from situations only accessible to a writer with outsider status, media connections, and years of experience in the country. And these same experiences that pepper the book, are what ultimately led to him being evicted from Pakistan. In this last respect, *Nine Lives* stumbles somewhat in that Walsh disappears so well into the background of his chapters that it feels almost anticlimactic when the focus shifts back to his own story at the end of the book. Yet it cannot be disputed that he is an expert on the subject he tackles, and to his first-hand experience and deep outsider

knowledge of Pakistan, he adds a clear, graceful writing style. Imagery is kept short but evocative—often efficiently poetic, often wry.

While Walsh takes great pains to portray Pakistan as a tantalisingly complex, bewildering country that defies easy stereotyping—and explicitly condemns the reductionist, Orientalist takes many writers adopt for Pakistan—it has to be said that this is primarily a book about Pakistan’s politics and its security apparatus. International readers—not just Western, but South Asian—who are used to seeing Pakistan as a security problem and a dysfunctional state will find their views enriched, but not contradicted or terribly complicated by Walsh’s work. To an extent he can be a victim of his own success; he humanises Pakistan’s political instabilities enough that readers may come away feeling they

really understand Pakistan now, which is a task no one book and no one author can ever accomplish.

Bangladeshi readers will also be disappointed to note that he does not really delve into the relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan, and in his occasional references to the former East Pakistan and the 1971 war he seems to buy into the narrative of an Indian-instigated uprising, and a final Indian victory. Of course, Walsh never claims to be the definitive voice on Pakistani politics, much less on the country itself, so these are more words of caution to a reader rather than a critique of what is, finally, an excellent book.

Zoheb Mashiur is a doctoral researcher on race and the British Empire. He is based at the University of Kent’s Brussels School of International Studies. Twitter: @ZMashiur

OPINION

How bookstagram is keeping humanity alive

TASNEEM TAMBAWALA

Bookstagram, a niche community of book readers on Instagram, has in its unique way contributed immensely to the way social media tips the scales in public opinion these days, be it on the Black Lives Matter movement, gender equality, climate change, mental health, or the horrors forced upon Palestine.

Since I am a bookstagram novice, mostly watching, listening, and rarely creating content of my own, I feel a kind of motivation from this community to speak my mind about issues that have always been close to my heart. One such issue has been gender inequality and misogyny. Instagram has given feminists and advocates a platform to question patriarchy. It has taken the platform and transformed it into a looking glass that focuses on the core of the problem.

Fiction speaks louder to me, so it’s no surprise that authors like Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Arundhati Roy, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie have most effectively brought out to me the stories and experiences of women who have lived through gender bias, sometimes with quiet courage, sometimes with fierce bravery. Bookstagram accounts like @wellreadblackgirl, @tea_with_c, @zainub.reads, @shesreadingtheworld, and @intersectionalbookclub have also introduced me to books that highlight intersectional feminism and how “smashing the patriarchy” can mean different things in different parts of the world.



ILLUSTRATION: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

“It’s okay not to be okay”. It’s okay to seek help. It’s okay to just be. As May was Mental Health Awareness month, my Instagram feed in recent weeks was full of book recommendations on mental health. Recommendations apart, the community has also helped innumerable booklovers to deal with their own trauma and mental health issues by connecting with like-minded booklovers, by reading and listening to each other and validating each other’s feelings. Some accounts worth following for mental health awareness are @sahilpr109, @projectpurplebd, @cholokothaboli, @wevegonemental and @lenalangoach.

In the last few weeks, however, the biggest role bookstagram has played is in alerting the world of the crimes against humanity being committed in Palestine. While some of us feel helpless, wondering what we can do from across the world to ease their suffering, wondering whether our single voice is significant enough to make a difference in the larger scheme of things, the bookstagram community has risen to the occasion.

Bookstagrammers have extensively spread news of what is happening in Palestine on the ground, and some of them like @onthesamepagewithcats and @onlyfoxtales organised charities that combined monetary aid with spreading awareness. They reached readers all over the world simply by stacking books in the colours of the Palestinian flag and by using the right hashtags, even going against the platform’s algorithm and reducing their online “reach” in doing so.

Others, like @the_romantic_baker and @thebookishbox, generously joined in and managed to raise a few thousand dollars in donations from every corner of the world. The recent ceasefire has barely dulled the fervour of this community as they read and recommend literature from and about Palestine and Palestinians. The UK-based @books_for_gaza has organised a donation drive to collect books in order to rebuild the bookshop and library owned by Samir Mansour, which was destroyed during airstrikes in Gaza. One can also visit @samir_mansour_bookshop for the link to his GoFundMe that will help in rebuilding it.

With time, I’ve realised that there is much more to bookstagram than sharing book reviews, recommendations, and aesthetically pleasing photos. It is a community of mostly non-judgmental souls who are fearless in challenging norms and opening themselves up to conflicting viewpoints. They are invested citizens of the world who are willing to learn and unlearn with equal zeal. In a time of ceaseless violence and natural threats and disasters, when social media is known so often for triggering anxiety and other mental health issues, bookstagram, to a great extent, is keeping humanity alive.

Tasneem Tambawala is a teacher, librarian, and founder of the Bookcentric library in Dhaka. Reach her at tasneem1009@gmail.com or @tasneemreads on Instagram.

EDITOR’S NOTE Today we are 1

SARAH ANJUM BARI

It was during the peak of the coronavirus crisis, amidst the punishing heat of June, that we geared up to launch Daily Star Books on this very day in 2020. To us members of the editorial team—the writers, illustrators, and editors, all devout lovers of the written word—it was catharsis. We channelled the stress of the pandemic into reading, designing, and generating conversations around books that would offer both escape and intellectual stimulation for our readers.

On this first anniversary of Daily Star Books, we bring promises of newer, fresher content beyond the print editions, and ask that you stay with us every day of the week, not just on Thursdays. Find the articles from this schedule that resonate with your interests, and read it all online on *The Daily Star*’s website and on the Daily Star Books pages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We also invite you to share what you think of us, at thedailystarbooks@gmail.com.

FRIDAY
Elita Karim on The Class by Erich Segal

SATURDAY
Sharad Hassan on the environmental impact of publishing books

SUNDAY
Ajfar Aziz on Featureless human activity

MONDAY
Zihad Azad on Islam, Africa, and evolutionary psychology

TUESDAY
Enran Mahfuza on the struggles of poets in Myanmar

WEDNESDAY
Rasha Jameel on Fear Street by R.L. Stine

DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

The terror of living and loving

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

An 81-year-old woman is strolling about in her farm, reeling from nostalgia, dead leaves crunching under her feet. She is planting newly bloomed flowers in an empty pig pen. Why does she mourn? What is her past? In *A Beast in Paradise* (Europa Editions, 2021) Cécile Coulon recollects the events that led her to her current state.

The farm, entitled Paradise, has been looked after solely by Emilienne following her daughter and son-in-law’s untimely death. She lives with her orphaned grandchildren, Blanche and Gabriel, and household help, Louis. The title’s resonance grows loud as soon as we are introduced to Emilienne’s children’s death a few pages into the novel. Grief is a beast. It claws away at the heart until peace has vanished. Add heartbreak, obsession, jealousy, and fury to the mix, and we see the creature in its complete form pulsing through the story.

Winner of the Le Monde Literary Prize, Coulon has authored seven novels before this English language debut, and her translator Tina Kover is a National Book Award and PEN Translation Prize finalist. This novel makes a convincing case for more literary contributions from the duo. Their writing constantly reminded me of Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things* (1997) and *The Enlightenment of the Greengrass Tree* (2017) by Shokoofeh Azar.

Emilienne is a willful matriarch. Her world begins and ends at Paradise and she is intensely protective of this property, and the ones who reside in it. She “patched up the children’s wound like a field surgeon lacking supplies; she made do with what she had”, Coulon writes.

Blanche is a precocious child who shines in her classroom and the farm. It comes as a shock when someone so gifted and adept at academics decides to stay back at the village, helping her grandmother manage the farm, instead of opting for higher education like her classmates. Her brother, Gabriel, is taciturn. Unlike her, he continues to grieve for his parents. “His constant fatigue [...] excluded him from this strange family, whom he loved, certainly, but those arms were too full to gather him up in a hug.” Beyond the blood relations, Louis, even though a household help, is closely connected to the family. A child living under the shadow of an abusive father, he takes refuge at Emilienne’s and makes Paradise his home. Growing up, he develops an unrequited desire for Blanche, and it soon turns into an obsession that makes him hate Alexandre,



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

Blanche’s one and only love.

Blanche and Alexandre’s love affair might seem harmless at the outset. But as their goals and desires clash (Blanche being strongly devoted to the farm and Alexandre longing for the city), their relationship takes an unwanted turn, gutting Blanche in ways that will persist over time.

All the characters here are obsessed with one thing or another, be it Gabriel’s attachment to solitude or Blanche’s to Alexandre and the land. Perhaps it was the author’s main intention to portray the trajectory of a few lives through the lens of obsession, a base human characteristic.

Perhaps she also had the clash of urban and rural elements in her mind as the grand scheme of things. If Blanche reflects the rural landscape in this novel, Alexandre embodies the city. The life courses these two individuals embrace are a clever technique that the author uses to explore the uneasy tension between the two spaces.

Only 189 pages-long, this flighty novel is poetic, fast-paced, and wastes not a single word or scene. The reader is hooked from the beginning, and its hypnotic, nightmarish charms do not fade until the end. The fully fleshed out characters and their exploration of life’s tricky terrains cling to the reader’s mind long after the last page has been turned.

We all have beasts in our own Paradises; this is what the novel screams throughout its duration.

Shah Tazrian Ashrafi is a contributor.

'Everyone has to give more than 100 per cent'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will look to showcase their ability against Afghanistan today as they resume their World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign at the temperature-controlled Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha today.

The Group E match will get underway at 8:00pm (BST), preceding the hosts' game against India at 11:00pm.

Bangladesh, who are bottom of the five-team group with a single point, have faced significant setbacks. Their home advantage was lost due to the pandemic and the team has lost some key players through injuries or sickness while also getting less preparation time compared to their Group E opponents.

However, Jamie Day's charges take comfort in the fact that they have been in action through the domestic league, which was cancelled in other countries, and have played three or four matches before joining a two-week national camp. Another relief is that they will not have to contend with the scorching temperatures in Doha as stadium will be climate-controlled. The match is likely to be played around temperatures of 25 degrees Celsius.

Day and his players also appear confident that they can play as more than the sum of their parts and deliver a result against 149th-ranked Afghanistan, a team composed of Europe-based players.

"We know we have to play beyond our limits in all the games, including against Afghanistan, so that's the target," Jamie told The



Bangladesh footballers appear in relaxed mood as they pose for a photograph at the team hotel in Doha yesterday ahead of today's World Cup qualifying fixture against Afghanistan.

PHOTO: BFF

Daily Star over phone from Qatar. "It's about doing the best we can in the situation we find ourselves in currently."

Afghanistan's preparation is superior to most everyone else's. They came to Qatar after playing two practice matches against Indonesia (3-2) and Singapore (1-1) and they will definitely be hoping to carry their good form into the match against Bangladesh, whom they beat 1-0 in their home match in Dushanbe in September, 2019.

"They are a good side with some very technical players playing in Asia and around Europe. In my opinion (Afghanistan) had the best preparation, so it's [going to be] an extremely difficult game and tougher than in Dushanbe," said the Brit.

In the absence of experienced players like Bishwanath Ghosh, Nabib Newaj Jibon, Saad Uddin,

Mahbubur Rahman Sufil and Rabiul Hasan, Jamie Day believes his charges as not as sharp as last time.

"I don't believe we are as sharp as we were going into previous games," the 41-year-old said.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan was ready to take on the challenge with the young guns.

"I think the team is ready for tomorrow's game. We know it's going to be a hard game because there are a lot of new players in our squad. But at the same time, these players know what the management wants from them and we all have the same aim: to win the match against Afghanistan. I think we have a good chance to get points," Jamal told The Daily Star.

Echoing his coach's sentiments, defender Tapu Barman told The Daily Star: "Everyone knows that all players from the goalkeeper to the forwards have to give more

than 100 per cent if we want to get points from Afghanistan."

With inexperienced forwards up top, the defence has to play a key role and Tapu believes he has to lead the line in stopping Afghanistan's forwards as well keeping options open for Bangladeshi forwards.

"The most important thing is that we all are motivated ahead of tomorrow's match and we are really confident of putting on a good show because we are in good shape. If we can play as a team, I believe we can beat Afghanistan. I also know that I have to play a good role in defence and I will try to lead the defensive organisation and inspire the goalkeeper to keep a sheet clean," Tapu told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh have suffered defeat twice in seven matches against Afghanistan and have not beaten them in the past five matches since a 4-1 win in 1979.



New Zealand batsman Devon Conway flicks one towards the square leg boundary during a sparkling hundred against England in the first Test at Lord's on Wednesday. The debutante was unbeaten on 112 as the visitors reached 194 for three in 62 overs after electing to bat.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Zverev storms into third round

REUTERS, Paris



German sixth seed Alexander Zverev blew hot and cold with his serve but had enough artillery to take down Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin 7-6(4) 6-3 7-6(1) to reach the third round of the French Open on

Wednesday.

Zverev and Safiullin never contested a Tour-level match before Wednesday but met three times as juniors with the German winning all three in straight sets.

But the 182nd-ranked Russian, who mostly plies his trade on the challenger circuit, went toe-to-toe with Zverev in the baseline battle in the opening set before the German got the crucial break in the 11th game.

Serving for the set, Zverev committed two double-faults to give away the advantage and had another in the tie-breaker but he recovered to take the lead with back-to-back aces in the first match of the day on Suzanne Lenglen court.

"First week you play against guys, some of them play first, second, third time of a Grand Slam," Zverev told reporters. "They're very motivated. They're excited to play on the big courts, like I thought today."

"I think he played a fantastic match. I'm happy to be through in three sets. The match definitely wasn't easy."

Double faults continued to haunt the 24-year-old German in the second set as he smashed his racquet on the court in frustration and suffered a service break. But he recovered spectacularly to take the set by winning five games in a row.

Safiullin continued to trouble Zverev in the third set and forced the German, who rallied from two sets down to defeat qualifier Oscar Otte in Sunday's opening round, to dig deep.

Zverev, who served 15 aces against 10 double faults, was once again forced to overcome a 4-1 deficit to take the third set into a tiebreaker.

But the U.S. Open finalist served strongly and outplayed Safiullin in the tiebreaker to set up a clash against Serbia's Laslo Djere, who came back from a two-set deficit to beat countryman Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6 4-6 6-3 6-2 6-3.

"Today, especially last two sets, they could have gone both ways, especially the third. The second I thought I was in control more," said Zverev, who is considered one of the title contenders at Roland Garros this time after his win in Madrid.

"But, yeah, I'm happy to be through in three sets. I'm happy not to have played another five-setter. I think it's going to be important for me during the course of this tournament."



Mahmudullah guides Gazi Group to victory

SPORTS REPORTER



Captain Mahmudullah Riyad's all-around performance helped Gazi Group Cricketers register their first win in the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League T20 competition as they beat Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club by seven wickets in the day's second game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

After scalping two wickets with the ball, Mahmudullah's unbeaten 62 alongside Bangladesh's Test skipper Mominul Haque's blistering fifty saw Gazi Group chase down the 152-run target with seven balls to spare.

Sheikh Jamal started off well, riding on openers Mohammad Ashraful and Shykat Ali, who added 69 runs in eight overs. Both lashed out at the Gazi pacers and scored 42 off the first four overs.

The runs slowed down after the introduction of the spinners and, after scoring 33 off 30 balls with two sixes and three fours, Shykat was bowled by slow-medium pacer Soumya Sarkar.

At the other end, Ashraful looked in good touch, as exemplified by his four sixes, after scoring 38 in the first game. The right-hander once again looked solid and hit before Ariful Haque dismissed the Bangladesh skipper on 41 off 35 balls.

Mahmudullah then removed Nasir Hossain, who made 20 off 13, and Sheikh Jamal skipper Nurul Hasan as the batting side relinquished the early momentum provided by the openers. Only hard-hitting Ziur Rahman's 16-ball 21 helped Sheikh Jamal past the 150-run mark while pacer Mukidul Islam bagged two wickets for the bowling side.

Gazi Group were in a spot of bother in reply as opener Shahadat Hossain was dismissed for 13 by off-spinner Mohammad Enamul. The off-spinner then bowled Soumya Sarkar, who narrowly survived while trying to play a reverse sweep off the previous ball. He paid the price for trying to repeat that shot the very next ball, being bowled.

After that, Mominul -- who batted at number seven in the previous game -- was promoted to number three. He and Mahmudullah added 97 runs for the third wicket.

Mominul played the role of the aggressor with eight fours before being dismissed for a 36-ball 54 with, but Mahmudullah remained unbeaten on 62 off 51 balls, a knock featuring two sixes and four boundaries, and saw his side to an easy win.

In the day's first game, Prime Doleswar SC registered their first win of the tournament by beating Khelaghar SKS by 19 runs. Prime Doleswar opener Imran Uzzaman started in a blistering mood, striking four sixes and three fours as he made 40 off just 17 balls. However, things unraveled after his departure in the fifth over of the innings and the Doleswar batters slowed down. Saif Hasan's 33-ball 28 was the second-highest score for the batting side, who posted 149 for six.

In reply, Khelaghar lost wickets at regular intervals. Rishad Hossain's 19-ball 37 only served to narrow the margin of defeat in the end as they folded for 130. Kamrul Islam, Rejar Rahman and Enamul Haque Jr picked up two wickets each for Doleswar.

In the third match of the day, Prime Bank CC (120 for 7 in 19.3 overs) beat Shinepukur CC (120 all out in 20 overs) by three wickets.



Bangladesh's Test captain Mominul Haque (L) and T20I captain Mahmudullah Riyad got half-centuries to guide Gazi Group cricketers to a seven-wicket victory over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in their Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier Division T20 Cricket League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

ICC gets more inclusive with global events

AFP, London



The men's Cricket World Cup will once again become a 14-team tournament in 2027 and 2031, the International Cricket Council said Tuesday.

The changes were announced as the ICC, cricket's global governing body, unveiled its global schedule of events from 2024-2031.

Meanwhile, the Champions Trophy, a 'mini' World Cup last staged in 2017, when Pakistan won in England, is to be revived again in 2025 and 2029 as an event for the top-ranked eight one-day international teams.

Only 10 sides contested the 2019 World Cup, won by hosts England, compared to 14 four years earlier. But a statement issued by the ICC board said: "The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will become a 14 team, 54-match event in 2027 and 2031, whilst the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be expanded to a 20-team, 55-match event in 2024, 2026, 2028 and 2030."

The board, however, has retained the format for the World Test Championship in the next cycle, with nine teams playing six series each to compete in the final every two years.

India and New Zealand will contest the inaugural WTC final in Southampton, England, later this month. The expanded men's World Cup, which traditionally takes place every four years, will follow the same format used for the 2003 edition when South Africa were the main hosts of a tournament won by Australia. This will

see the 14 teams split into two groups of seven, with the top three in each group progressing to a Super Six stage, followed by semi-finals and final.

The men's T20 World Cup will consist of four groups of five, with the top two from each group going through to a Super Eights stage, followed by the knockout stages of semi-finals and a final. The Champions Trophy, in keeping with its

- > 14 teams in 50-over World Cup in 2027, 2031
- > Eight-team Champions Trophy to return for 2025, 2029
- > 20-team T20 World Cup in 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030

history as a slimmed-down event, will follow previous editions with two groups of four, semi-finals and a final. Reducing the number of sides involved in the 2011 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand to just 10 was a controversial decision by the ICC, with critics arguing it frustrated the global growth of the game.

Officials defended the move at the time by saying a streamlined format reduced the risk of mismatches and was preferred by broadcasters. But it appears the current ICC hierarchy value the overall benefit of global expansion, with the T20 World Cup now taking place every two years from 2024 and increased to 20 teams from 16.



21 YEARS OF VALUING RELATIONSHIPS ENABLING THE FUTURE

আস্থা ও বিশ্বাসের একুশ বছর

প্রতিটি সম্পর্কই আমাদের নতুন করে প্রেরণা দেয় আরো সমৃদ্ধ ভবিষ্যতের। আপনারদের নিরন্তর সমর্থন ও আস্থা ই আমাদের আগামী পঞ্চাশটির অনুপ্রেরণা। আমাদের সাথে থাকার জন্য যমুনা ব্যাংকের সকল গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই কৃতজ্ঞতা ও আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।




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MIGRANTS HEADING TO OMAN, KUWAIT

25,000 heave sigh of relief

RASHIDUL HASAN

Uncertainty over the return of around 25,000 Bangladeshi expatriates to work in Oman and Kuwait is over as Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has lifted its restriction on travel to Oman, and Kuwait is allowing domestic workers to fly to that country.

Issuing a circular on Tuesday, the CAAB said the decision on lifting the travel restriction will come into force on June 4.

According to manpower recruiting agencies and former leaders of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), around 22,000 to 25,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers, who have been stuck at home for the last one and a half months, will now be able to return to work in the two Gulf countries.

Oman in late April and Kuwait in early May imposed ban on entry of Bangladeshis and citizens of several other countries after the second wave of Covid-19 hit Bangladesh. Later, Bangladesh also imposed ban on travelling to Oman.

The CAAB's latest travel advisory contained a fresh list of 11 countries (Group A) from where no one will be allowed to travel to Bangladesh. The countries are: Argentina, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brazil, India, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

No Bangladeshi is also allowed to travel to these SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Motorcyclists riding their vehicles on the pavement in the capital's Tejgaon area, even though a sign right behind them urges bikers not to do so. By violating such traffic rules, they put lives of pedestrians at risk. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION
WAR HISTORY

East Pakistan will eventually become independent: Kissinger



JUNE 3, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

'GIVE THE FACTS TIME TO ASSERT THEMSELVES'

A conversation was held on June 3, 1971 between US Ambassador to India Kenneth Keating, Assistant to the US President Henry Kissinger and NSC staff Harold Saunders about the situation of East Pakistan. Kissinger said he thought it would be useful to explain the president's views on what has happened in South Asia. He felt SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

NID SERVICES AT HOME

Move 'suicidal and irrational'

Says Mahub Talukdar
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shifting of services related to National Identity (NID) cards from the Election Commission to the Ministry of Home Affairs means the nail in the coffin for the election system, said Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar yesterday.

He termed the move "suicidal and irrational" and he was concerned that such move was like a "funeral procession" of overall election management as voter lists and information of national identity cards are closely related to each other.

"I do not understand the purpose for which this suicidal and irrational decision was taken. This is against Article 119 of the SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-45 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

3 victims share tales of horror

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After being held captive by a sex trafficking gang in India's Bengaluru for 77 days, three victims who managed to flee and return home told police of their ordeal and informed that many others are still being held by the racket.

One of them, a 16-year-old girl, filed a case accusing 12 suspects under the human trafficking prevention act with Hatirjheel Police Station in the capital on Tuesday.

Officers then raided Dabokpara Kaliyani in Satkhira and arrested three suspects, said Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidullah of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon division).

Five of the 12 accused are in the country, he told a press conference yesterday.

The suspects arrested on Tuesday are: Mehedi Hasan Babu, Mohiuddin, and Abdul Quader.

Mehedi admitted to officers that he had SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Haris dropped from police wanted list

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The name of Haris Ahmed, younger brother of army chief Gen Aziz Ahmed, has been removed from the list of "wanted person" in the police website following his application in March.

Haris, who was awarded life term in a murder case, applied to the home ministry to remove his name from the police website, saying the government had pardoned SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

RAPE AT MC COLLEGE

Principal, super negligent

HC observes; orders their suspension

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Negligence of Sylhet's Murari Chand College's principal and hostel superintendent "crumbled" the right to life and personal liberty of the woman raped on campus, the High Court observed yesterday, directing that they be suspended.

On September 25 last year, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists -- both current and former students of MC College -- raped a woman after tying up her husband.

Later that night, the husband filed a case accusing six named and two to three

unnamed individuals. Police later arrested eight accused.

Delivering its verdict on a suo moto (voluntary) rule yesterday, the HC observed that for the downright negligence and inaction of Principal ProfMohammad Saleh Ahmed and Hostel Superintendent Ziban Krishna Acharja, and their indulgence, the rapists were able to commit the crime on campus.

The rapists even dared to stay in the official residence of the hostel superintendent, from where various illegal arms were seized, the court said. SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

WHO narrows in on Indian variant

Says only one strain of Covid now 'of concern', downgrades two others

AGENCIES

The WHO said Tuesday that one strain of a Covid-19 variant first detected in India was now considered "of concern" and had been dubbed "Delta", while two other strains had been downgraded.

The B.1.617 variant of the virus, which has in part been blamed for India's explosive outbreak, has been called a triple mutant variant since it is split into three lineages.

The UN health agency last month declared the entire strain a "variant of concern", or VOC, but on Tuesday, it said only one of the sub-lineages deserved that

label. "It has become evident that greater public health risks are currently associated with B.1.617.2, while lower rates of transmission of other lineages have been observed," the World Health Organization said in its weekly epidemiological update on the pandemic.

The B.1.617.2 variant remains a VOC, along with three other variants of the virus that are seen as more dangerous than the original version because they are more transmissible, deadly or have the potential to get past some vaccine protections.

In line with a decision announced SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

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সন্ত্রাসবাদকে 'না' বলুন

প্রকৃত ধর্ম প্রচারক ও উগ্রবাদী রিক্রুটার এর মধ্যে পার্থক্য

প্রকৃত ধর্ম প্রচারক	উগ্রবাদী রিক্রুটার
ধর্ম প্রচারের সকল কার্যক্রম প্রকাশ্যে করে।	ঘাপটি মেয়ে থাকে ও গোপনে প্রচারনা চালায়।
ব্যক্তির অসহায়ত্ব ও দুর্বলতা লাঘবে ধর্মের শিক্ষা দেয়।	ব্যক্তির অসহায়ত্ব ও দুর্বলতার সুযোগে তার প্রতি অতি-সহমতিতা প্রকাশ করে নিজ উদ্দেশ্য বাস্তবায়ন করে।
ধর্মের মৌলিক ও প্রায়োগিক শিক্ষাজলের উপর তরক্কাত আক্রমণ করে।	ধর্মের রাজনৈতিক ব্যবহারের উপর তরক্কাত আক্রমণ করে।
ধর্ম চর্চার উৎসূকে সুনামপরিষ্ক হওয়ার উপদেশ দেয়।	শর্টকাট উপায়ে পারসৌকিক প্রাক্তির শোভ দেখায়।
ধর্মের প্রকৃত ব্যাখ্যা সম্বলিত বই, অডিও-ভিডিও বা আদর্শ মানুষের সন্ধান দেয়।	উগ্রবাদে জড়িত ব্যক্তি বা গোষ্ঠির অতিও-ভিডিও বা বই এর সন্ধান দেয়। সাধারণত এরলোর সফট কপি বা লিংক শেয়ার করে।
দেশীয় বা বৈশ্বিক সন্ত্রাসী গোষ্ঠি এবং তাদের কর্মকাণ্ডকে ধর্ম বিরোধী বলে এতগুলো থেকে দূরে থাকার উপদেশ দেয়।	সন্ত্রাসী কর্মকাণ্ডকে অবশ্য কর্তব্য বলে প্রচার করে এবং তাদের অনুসরণ ও সমমনা বলে যোগ্য নিতে উপসাহ প্রদান করে।

বিঃ দ্রঃ উগ্রবাদের কোন একক কিংবা সুনির্দিষ্ট লক্ষণ নেই। উল্লিখিত লক্ষণ সমূহের কেবল একটি বা দুটি লক্ষণ বিদ্যমান থাকলেই তা উগ্রবাদের সুনির্দিষ্ট প্রমাণ বহন করে না। তবে কারো মধ্যে বেশিরভাগ লক্ষণ বিদ্যমান থাকলে তিনি উগ্রবাদী বিশ্বাস দ্বারা প্রভাবিত বলে ধারণা করা যায়।

উগ্রবাদে জড়িত হওয়ার নির্দেশকসমূহ (Indicators)

- হঠাৎ বদলে যাওয়া, পুরানো বন্ধুদের এড়িয়ে চলা, পুরানো শখ বা পেশার পরিবর্তন করা।
- শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে অনিয়মিত হওয়া ও ক্লাসে অমনোযোগিতা।
- পারিবারিক ও সামাজিক আচার-অনুষ্ঠান বর্জন এবং বিনোদনমূলক কর্মকাণ্ড থেকে দূরে থাকা।
- পারিবারের অন্যান্য সদস্যদেরকে ধর্মীয় আচারের বিষয়ে ক্রমাগত চাপ প্রয়োগ করা।
- ইন্টারনেটে গোপনীয়তার সাথে উগ্রবাদী প্রচারনা অনুসরণ করা।
- বাঙালি সংস্কৃতি ও গণতন্ত্রকে ধর্মের প্রতিপক্ষ হিসেবে দাঁড় করানো।

সহিংস উগ্রবাদে জড়িত হওয়ার নির্দেশকসমূহ (Indicators)

- ধর্মীয় বিষয়ে গোপন আলোচনা সভায় যোগদান বা আয়োজন করা।
- সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যমে পুরনো ইতিহাস মুছে ফেলা এবং ছদ্মনাম ব্যবহার করে উগ্রবাদী প্রচারনা অনুসরণ এবং তা প্রচার করা।
- পারিবারের সদস্যদের প্রতি নিজের বক্তব্য কনডে বাধা করানোর জন্য গৃহ ত্যাগের হুমকি দেওয়া।
- ধর্মের জন্য সহিংস কর্মকাণ্ডে অংশ গ্রহণ করার আগ্রহ প্রকাশ করা এবং এর জন্য চেষ্টা অব্যাহত রাখা।
- অস্ত্র-পিস্তলসম্বন্ধে সংগ্রহ ও তৈরি চেষ্টা করা।
- 'অবিত শরীহ' হয়ে শর্টকাট উপায়ে পারসৌকিক প্রাক্তির আশায় গৃহ ত্যাগ করা, ছদ্মনাম ও ভুল পরিচয়পত্র ব্যবহার করে বাসা ত্যাগ নিয়ে দেশে আত্মসম্পদ করা বা বিদেশে চলে যাওয়া।

আপনার সচেতনতাই পারে উগ্রবাদ রুখতে

উগ্রবাদ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে কাউন্সিলর টেরোরিজম এন্ড ট্রান্সন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিটকে (CTTC) প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য দিতে Hello CT Mobile Apps ব্যবহার করুন। এই Apps এর মাধ্যমে নিজের পরিচয় গোপন রেখে তথ্য প্রদান করা সম্ভব।

কাউন্সিলর টেরোরিজম এন্ড ট্রান্সন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিট, ডিএমপি। অর্ধায়েনে ৪ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের সন্ত্রাস দমন ও আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ প্রতিরোধ কেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প