## Indian MPs want military

CONVERSATION AMONG NIXON, KISSINGER AND KEATING

American President Richard Nixon today discussed the Bangladesh issue with his Assistant for National Security Affairs Henry Kissinger and the Ambassador to India Kenneth Keating on the eve of his meeting with Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh.

In a reply to Nixon's question on whether India want the US to pressure Pakistan President Yahya Khan, Keating said, "Yes. I think he feels that—what he said is Russia and the United States are the only ones that can influence Yahya to stop the killing. And he said in my judgment the United States has more leverage with him than Russia has. And the only way is an economic way."

Nixon commented, "What we have to do, Ken [Keating], is to find a way to be just as generous as we can to the Indians, but also we do not want to do something that is an open breach with Yahya -- an open breach, an embarrassing situation. And that's really the problem."

Referring to the existing political situation in occupied Bangladesh, Keating said, "What political settlement that he [Yahya] can bring about ... that I'm not able to get in my head because this Amin [Nurul

Amin] was the biggest leader next to Mujib, he got one or two members of parliament, and ... Yahya tried to get him to head it up and he wouldn't touch it because he'd get his throat slit. Now they had a few, I'm told, a few members of the Awami League, about nine, who are ready to help form a government. But the bitterness is so great that I believe, and indeed Joe Farland does, that the old Pakistan is through.

#### INDIAN ENVOY MEETS THANT

Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh conferred today with the UN Secretary General U Thant and urged that international pressure be exerted on Yahya Khan's government to cease atrocities in East Pakistan. The Indian minister, who had visited Moscow, Bonn, Paris and Ottawa, would go to Washington to schedule talks with President Nixon and Secretary of State William P Rogers.

After leaving Thant's office, he told correspondents that he had asked the secretary general to use his "tremendous influence" to impress upon the Pakistani government the need for a political solution to enable millions of refugees now in India to return home.

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



with new work visas have been waiting to go abroad.

He said if not vaccinated, workers travelling to Saudi Arabia will have to spend about Tk 70,000 additionally to undergo hotel quarantine there. Such workers were already paying additional money to get plane tickets.

Although the government has agreed to pay Tk 25,000 of the quarantine fees as subsidy, migrant workers still have to pay the rest and high air fare, which is a burden for them, he added.

"Migrant workers should be given priority considering their contribution to the country's economy," Alim said. FWRAAB Secretary General M Saudi Arabia as most other markets Mohiuddin said they have raised the remained closed due to the pandemic.

demand to ensure vaccination of both male and female, and new and old migrant workers. The government has recently imported a little over one lakh jabs of

the Pfizer vaccine, he said. He said they want around 50,000 doses of those so that they can overcome the present crisis over

migrant workers' travel abroad. Mohiuddin said they demanded Johnson and Johnson vaccine as experts suggest a person

needs only one dose of the vaccine. This will help migrant workers save both money and time, he added.

He added that at present they were mainly sending workers to

Mohiuddin said although the government earlier allocated about 1.20 lakh shots of vaccine for migrant workers, those were later used for other sector. Referring to hassles workers have

to face to ensure hotel quarantine in Saudi Arabia, he said if the government starts vaccinating migrant workers, such situation would not happen.

According to an estimate of this newspaper, migrant workers travelling to Saudi Arabia could have saved at least Tk 260 crore in one and a half months from paying quarantine fees had the government prioritised inoculating them against Covid-19.

FWRAAB is a platform of about 600 recruiting agencies which send female workers to different countries.



Protesters make the three-finger salute as they take part in a flash mob demonstration against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar yesterday.

## ASI Shoumen confesses

The accused in his confessional statement claimed himself to be Asma's husband. He said he married her two years ago.

The ÁSI said he would submit the evidence of the marriage to the court

Shoumen said he wanted to take Asma to Khulna, but she did not agree. This angered him. The accused also suspected that

Asma was in a relationship with Shakil and that's why she was following his The ASI told the magistrate that he on Sunday repeatedly enquired Asma

about her relationship with Shakil,

an agent of digital money transfer platform bKash. As she kept mum, he

pulled a pistol and opened fire. He claimed he did not want to kill the minor boy, but it happened at one

The cop also admitted that he left his workplace without permission. He said he carried with him his service pistol and bullets.

Hailing from Magura's Asba village, the ASI was working at Fultala Police Station in Khulna. He once worked in

Shakil's father Mejbar Rahman filed a murder case with Kushtia Model Police Station on Sunday night. Asma's mother Hasina Khatun filed the other murder case that night. Shoumen was named as the only accused in both the cases.

Asma, who hailed from Naturia

this week. "Visitors will have to step on

a sponge-like platform which will act

as a sanitiser for shoes," a government

to provide oxygen cylinders and beds

to patients last month as infections

surged but earlier this month, the

city allowed businesses to bring back

50% of employees and they partially

In the southern state of Tamil Nadu,

known for automobile manufacturing,

some businesses were allowed to

bring back 50% of employees and

salons and liquor shops re-opened.

Bus services remained suspended

the field of social science and verified

As primary sources, a total of 59

From the selected centres, experiences

vaccine centres have been randomly

selected in 43 districts of eight

of 1,387 people who took the vaccine

were brought to the fore by taking

each data against multiple sources.

divisions, says the statement.

resumed public transport.

until June 21, reports Reuters.

Hospitals in Delhi had struggled

FROM PAGE 12

official told AFP.

India gingerly eases curbs

Report meant to help govt

"exit poll" interviews. Besides, vaccine research has been mentioned, it adds.

in Kushtia's Kumarkhali upazila, used to live in Kushtia town. Shakil was from Sawnta village in Kushtia's Kumarkhali upazila.

Police on Sunday said they were not sure about the relationship between the three dead.

"As Shoumen has claimed in the court that Asma is his wife, police have nothing to say about it," said Additional Superintendent of Police Farhad.

Asma's family members claimed that she met Shoumen when the latter was working in Kushtia. The ASI married her two years ago, they added.

Khulna Superintendent of Police Mahbub Hasan said the ASI was suspended and departmental action would be taken against him. He went to Kushtia Sunday morning without taking a leave of absence.

An investigation committee was formed as per the directive of the DIG Khulna Range) of police to probe Shoumen's leaving the workplace without permission and carrying the

Police sources said Shoumen was promoted to ASI from constable in 2015. The following year, he joined Kumarkhali Police Station in Kushtia. He later worked in some other police stations of the district.

Meanwhile, the bodies of the victims were handed to their families yesterday afternoon after autopsies.

The three were buried at their respective villages following namaz-e-

In Bengaluru, the capital of

neighbouring Karnataka state and

a major tech hub, traffic returned

to the streets as authorities allowed

the partial re-opening of businesses

though strict night and weekend

The pressure to resume some

"India needs to reopen as the

economic activity has grown as

millions depend on daily wages to pay

challenge of maintaining a fine

balance between lives and livelihoods

is very crucial," said Rajib Dasgupta,

head of the Centre of Social Medicine

and Community Health at New

Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.

management activities at the selected

centres have been brought to the fore

published on the websites of different

government and non-government

organisations, as well as information

from news reports were collected

and analysed, says the statement.

The source of each data used in the

As secondary sources, information

through direct observation, it adds.

curfews remained in place.

for food and rent.

# A moniker that couldn't ring hollower

FROM PAGE 1

East and the University of Oxford in the UK can be revealing.

We can begin by discussing what the universities have been doing amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In Bangladesh, the first cases of Covid-19 were detected on March 8 last year. As the situation kept deteriorating, authorities of the Oxford of the East announced an indefinite shutdown of the institution on April 9 last year. The dormitories have been

The shutdown is largely still in force, although the university did hold some examinations. But all other academic activities remain suspended.

The university's state of lockdown is easily visible to anyone visiting the There is a gigantic archway that

constructed by the Dhaka University Alumni Association at the university's When the country enforced the

lockdown, the authorities put bamboo fences across the archway to restrict entries of vehicles. Over time, the government withdrew the lockdown, but the university has

not removed the fences blocking traffic to the historic campus. Not surprisingly, temporary kitchen markets have

sprouted there. The DU authority also set up fences on Fuller Road, where there are living

quarters of the teachers and officers. Many people jokingly said that the DU authority is trying to prevent coronavirus with bamboo fences.

A few months ago, when the DU authorities decided to hold examinations without resuming classes, the fences were removed.

But then, the daily new cases of coronavirus skyrockéted and the bamboo fences reappeared.

Besides the fences, the authorities took another "important" initiative: They banned the general public from the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) on campus.

The university's proctorial team used to patrol the TSC area and repeatedly asked "outsiders" through loud speakers to steer clear. Tea stalls and other temporary shops were also removed.

At that point, DU Proctor AKM

Golam Rabbani tested positive for

Thus far, much of the coronavirus prevention measures of the Oxford of the East seemed to involve shutting down the institution, setting up bamboo fences and ousting tea stalls and vendors.

Dhaka University authorities started conducting Covid-19 tests at its laboratories on May 5 last year. But a few days later, testing was stopped with authorities saying the laboratory facility would be used for academic and research purposes. "It's a university; not a hospital,"

Prof Akhtaruzzaman, vice-chancellor of the university, told The Daily Star on June 1 last year. "The lab apparatus we brought from our three departments need to be returned for their research purposes. The apparatus needs to be disinfected and reinstalled in their previous places. That's why coronavirus mples will no longer be tested

The kits and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were supposed to be provided by the health ministry, and the university was supposed to bear the other costs of testing.

The university authorities had then said they needed at least Tk 15 to 20 lakh a month to do the testing, that bearing the expenses was difficult and an added pressure on the institution.

After authorities of the Oxford of the East stopped coronavirus testing for the masses citing unavailability of funds, they announced they would start testing only for its teachers and students, fixing the testing charge at Tk

The teachers availed the facilities, but the students did not. We now come to the University of Oxford in the UK.

Coronavirus was first detected in the UK in January last year, around three months before the first case was detected in Bangladesh.

The University of Oxford launched a mobile app for instant contact tracing on March 17, the day all educational institutions in Bangladesh were shut down.

A day later, a release claimed the scientists of the University of Oxford unveiled rapid testing technology. Two days later, they disclosed the roadmap

for easily settable ventilators. Later, in phases, the University of

Oxford conducted multiple researches affect pregnant women, and the mental health of infected people.

of Oxford signed a contract with AstraZeneca to develop a vaccine that got approval on December 30 last year.

While the University of Oxford in the UK was conducting such busy fencing up its streets to restrict movement of outsiders.

East issued nine press releases. One was a condolence message

from the VC, two were about leave extensions and one about the decision

health assistance services over phone.

The University of Oxford has around 14,000 researchers. It is roughly estimated that some 91 percent of its graduates get jobs within six months completion of their studies.

can recall a remark of Vice-chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman.

In a programme in January 2019, he said, "Our university has another pride. You cannot find a cup of tea along with a piece of chaap, shingara and samosa for only Tk 10 anywhere in the world. But it is available in our university. If the international community come to know of this, it could be placed in the Guinness Book of Records.

Considering the divergent paths of each institution since the Oxford of the East opened its doors just under 100 years ago, the gulf between the two is much more than the 8,000 kilometres that separate them physically.

To paraphrase a famous poem, it seems never the two shall meet.

#### on different aspects of Covid-19. These included research into which types of people would be massively infected, the practicable actions that could be taken by parents of isolated children, how lockdowns would be implemented, how the virus would

Most significantly, the University

researches, the Oxford of the East was During this time, the Oxford of the

Two other press releases were issued

about the donation to the Prime Minister's coronavirus fund (Tk 1.37 crore). Three other messages were on raising awareness of using face masks, telemedicine programmes and mental

Let us now discuss the general heritage and impact of each institution within their respective environments.

About the Oxford of the East, we

#### বাংলাদেশ মহিলা পরিষদ পরিচালিত জেন্ডার, নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন এবং উন্নয়ন বিষয়ক অনলাইন সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স ২০২১ কোর্সের মেয়াদ দুই মাসে (৮ সপ্তাহে) এবং অনলাইন রেজিস্ট্রেশনের জন্য রিসোর্স-পার্সন হিসেবে উপস্থিত ১৬ দিনে মোট ৩২টি ক্লাস। মহিলা পরিষদের ওয়েব সাইট থাকবেন বিভিন্ন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক, প্রতি বৃহস্পতিবার ও শনিবার ক্লাসের সময় বা ফেসবুক পেজ দেখুন অর্থনীতিবিদ, আইনজীবী, গবেষক বিকেল ৪.০০ - সন্ধ্যা ৭.০০ ও নারী নেত্রীবৃন্দ ক্লাস শুরু ১২ আগস্ট, ২০২১ ভর্তি যোগ্যতা স্নাতক পাস (ন্যূনতম) কোর্স ফি ৪০০০ [চার হাজার] টাকা সীমা মোসলেম, যুগা সাধারণ সম্পাদক ও কোর্স পরিচালক আবেদনের শেষ ৩০ জুলাই, ২০২১ কেন্দ্রীয় কমিটি, বাংলাদেশ মহিলা পরিষদ বাংলাদেশ মহিলা পরিষদ ফোন: +৮৮০ ১৯১৪ ৪৩২৫১৭, +৮৮০ ১৬২৫ ০১৮৪৫৭ তারিখ প্রশিক্ষণ, গবেষণা ও পাঠাগার উপপরিষদ, কেন্দ্রীয় কমিটি E-mail: info@mahilaparishad.org

## Songbirds act as one

used for singing in the listening partner, which helps link the pair's brains and coordinate turn-taking for a seemingly telepathic performance, according to a news release.

It's not telepathy -- but almost, according to study coauthor Eric Fortune, a neurobiologist and associate professor at New Jersey Institute of Technology's department of biological sciences.

"The birds hearing each other links their brains to act as one," he told CNN. "The male's brain has expectations

of what the female brain is going to do. The female brain has expectations of what the male brain is going to do. And when they start operating together, they're tied," Fortune added.

The study focuses on what happens in the brains of male and female plain-tailed wrens -- a species native to the Andes region, living in bamboo thickets -- while they sing duets.

The duets of Pheugopedius euophrys are frantically paced call-

and-response songs, and they take turns singing so rapidly, it sounds as if a single bird is singing, according to the study. Working from the Yanayacu

Biological Station's lab in Ecuador, right by the active Antisana volcano, scientists specifically investigated an area of the songbirds' brain known to control singing. Researchers recorded the birds'

brain activity during duets using electrodes much thinner than a hair, Fortune explained. The team observed that when a bird sings, the neurons spike in activity, but when a bird hears a partner sing, the neurons quiet

The fact that neurons quiet down especially significant, Fortune explained.

"Oftentimes, what happens is after you have inhibition, you have a rebound, and that rebound can change the timing of your own behavior," he said.

# Village chief shot

10 last year. Another union parishad member was gunned down inside a government office room by unknown assailants in Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati on February 24 this year.

### Khaleda's kidneys

suffering from fever again and again. Yesterday [Monday], she had fever, he said.

Fakhrul made the remarks at a press conference at party chairperson's Gulshan office after the party's standing committee meeting. The BNP leader said they have repeatedly been saying that Khaleda

has been suffering from post-Covid

complications and that's why she could not return home even after one and a half months. Fakhrul said the healthcare professionals of Evercare Hospital are trying their best, but at the same time they are saying that she needs to treat

in advanced centre as their hospital is not equipped enough to treat her. Khaleda was admitted to the hospital on April 27, three days after she tested positive for coronavirus for a second time. She first tested positive on April 11. She also has arthritis,

diabetes and eye problems. She was taken to the hospital's Coronary Care Unit with breathing difficulties. Later, she tested negative and was shifted to cabin from CCU.

The government released Khaleda from jail on March 25 last year, suspending her sentence as per section 401 (1) of the Criminal Code of Procedure. The suspension was later extended twice.

The BNP chief landed in jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court sentenced her to five years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. On October 30 that year, the High Court raised her punishment to

### Two MPs blast

FROM PAGE 1

bureaucracy, saying the situation becomes difficult if bureaucrats behave like the Pharaohs.

Speaking on the "Iodised Salt Bill, 2021", the BNP MP said, "In a bid to make people understand the despicable attitude of bureaucrats, the planning minister [MA Mannan] several days ago said that even the Pharaoh could not run his activities without bureaucrats.'

Rumeen said, it's true that bureaucrats are necessary to run a modern country and its government.

She said an Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Bogura's Adamdighi Upazila fined a goat for consuming flower plants on the office premises in May. A family in Narayanganj was

subjected to harassment and fined after a member of that family sought food support by calling 333, said Rumeen. The harassment of journalist

Rozina Islam of Prothom Alo by health ministry officials has proved that people in different sectors are being harassed by the bureaucrats. Pointing to a provision of mobile courts in the "Iodised Salt Bill",

Rumeen said the mobile court must not exist in a country where there is an independent judiciary. "Mobile court is being operated by the country's executive division which is totally contradictory to Article 22,

Article 115 and Article 116 of the Constitution." Operation of mobile court by an executive magistrate is against the

spirit of the constitution.

Speaking on the proposed budget for 2021-22 fiscal, Workers Party leader Menon said the government has taken various actions against individuals involved in corruption in the health sector. "But no actions were taken against

officials who posed for photographs and inked the agreement with the Regent Hospital [owner]," he added. The prime minister's brave measures to contain Covid-19 were

of little use because of a group from the civil and military bureaucracy and rich individuals close to power. "Although the finance minister has pointed out economic progress in the budget... structural weakness

been exposed over the last one year, Menon added. The proposed budget is not peoplefriendly, it's business- friendly, he said. He also criticised imposing vat

and corruption in health sector has

on private universities. "ENSURE COMPLETE FREEDOM

OF MEDIA" Jatiya Party MP Salma Islam told parliament that the government must ensure complete freedom of the media and the opposition parties in

order to strengthen democracy. She also suggested that the government confiscate properties of oan defaulters.

Salma Islam, who was elected to a reserved seat for woman in parliament, also said the government should welcome criticism on any

She said the government should not invite the loan defaulters to any "Air tickets should not be sold to

them and licences of their cars should be revoked," she added.