





Your Right to Know

### Lockdowns do come but only too late

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

On May 29, the Epidemiology and Public Health Committee of DGHS recommended strict and immediate "lockdown" on seven districts where the Delta variant of coronavirus started transmitting in the communities.

But the government again failed to act on time and delayed implementing the recommendation.

Following the committee's recommendation, the cabinet on May 31 asked officials in the

seven districts of Khulna and Rajshahi divisions to take measures. But enforcement of the lockdown was delayed again to save people's livelihood during the mango-harvesting season.

The lockdowns were imposed recently, but those seven districts and many others have turned into Covid-19 hotspots.

The districts recommended for lockdown were Naogaon, Rajshahi, Natore, Kushtia, Jashore, Khulna and Satkhira, and many of them have been under such restrictions for the last 10 days.

Meanwhile, the overall Covid situation across the country is worsening

Yesterday, 67 deaths -- the highest since May 2 -- were reported by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The positivity rate rose to SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A woman working on a massive pile of throwaway plastic bottles in the Notun Baklia Bridge area of Chattogram. Hazardous as the single-use bottles are for the environment, many people in the country make a living out of picking up, sorting out, and bringing the bottles to factories that melt them into tiny plastic beads that are used by different industries in China.

#### SINOPHARM JABS Vaccination begins on a limited scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the administration of the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine resumed yesterday after around two months, 2,956 students of public and private medical and dental colleges were given Sinopharm jabs in the capital, according to a DGHS press release.

The government had suspended administering the first dose on April 26 due to a shortage of the AstraZeneca vaccines. Recently, it decided to recommence the vaccination on a limited scale at 67 centres across the country, with around 11 lakh Sinopharm doses in hand.

As only medical and dental students were given the shots yesterday, others had to return from the centres without getting the vaccine. Health officials said only such students would be vaccinated for the next few days "to maintain

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Online Gambling

### Crores siphoned out of country

Hundi, cryptocurrencies used for sending money abroad, MFS for local transactions

#### MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

An international gambling racket has been siphoning off crores of taka every day from the country and

investing in cryptocurrencies, according to

The revelation came to the fore after the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit of police arrested a man named Md Mohiuddin Parvez, 27, from his office in the capital's Badda area on June 14.

Six laptops and five mobile phones SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

### Woman kills parents, sister, then calls 999

Police say she 'drugged, strangled' them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

**KHULNA UNDER** 

**LOCKDOWN FROM** 

**TUESDAY** 

Highest deaths in Khulna 24

Positivity rate **38.5** 

Lockdown in force in 12

districts/parts of districts

A couple and their 21-year-old daughter were found dead in a flat in Dhaka's Kadamtali area yesterday morning.

Police suspect that the three were strangulated to death after being sedated. The legs and hands of the bodies were found tied up. The deceased are: Masud Rana, 50, a Saudi expat, his wife Mousumi

Islam, 45, and their daughter Jannatul Islam. The couple's elder daughter Mehjabin Islam Moon, 30, has been taken in for interrogation. The police suspect she was involved, Shah Iftekhar Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Wari Division of Dhaka Metropolitan

Two more members of the family, Moon's husband Shafiqul Islam, 40, and their five-year-old daughter were found unconscious in the flat. They

were undergoing treatment at city hospitals. "The incident may have been the result of a family dispute," the police official said.

The DC said that Kadamtali police recovered the bodies from the first floor of a five-storied building on Rajjab Ali Sarder Road around 11:30am after Mehjabin called 999. "She admitted that she mixed sleeping pills with tea and later strangulated them," he said.

He said that the deceased's hands and legs were tied and police found SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



### Khaleda now back home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia returned home from Evercare Hospital around 8:35pm yesterday.

The former premier has returned home after taking treatment at the hospital after around two months, Syrul Kabir Khan, member of Khaleda's press wing, said.

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs -- suggests the famous Greek storyteller Aesop. And looking at Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal's proposed tax measures for the mobile financial services operators for the incoming fiscal year, one cannot help but recall the famous fable.

Introduced around the turn of the last decade as part of the Bangladesh Bank's financial inclusion agenda, the platform has been the perfect propellant of the

What was historically a long-winded exercise became an illustration of how technology can make people's lives simpler and better: by way of MFS, rural people, who mostly remain out of the purview of

## Throttling industry growth for nothing

CORPORATE TAX HIKE FOR MFS PLAYERS

Digital Bangladesh vision.

formal banking channels for geography

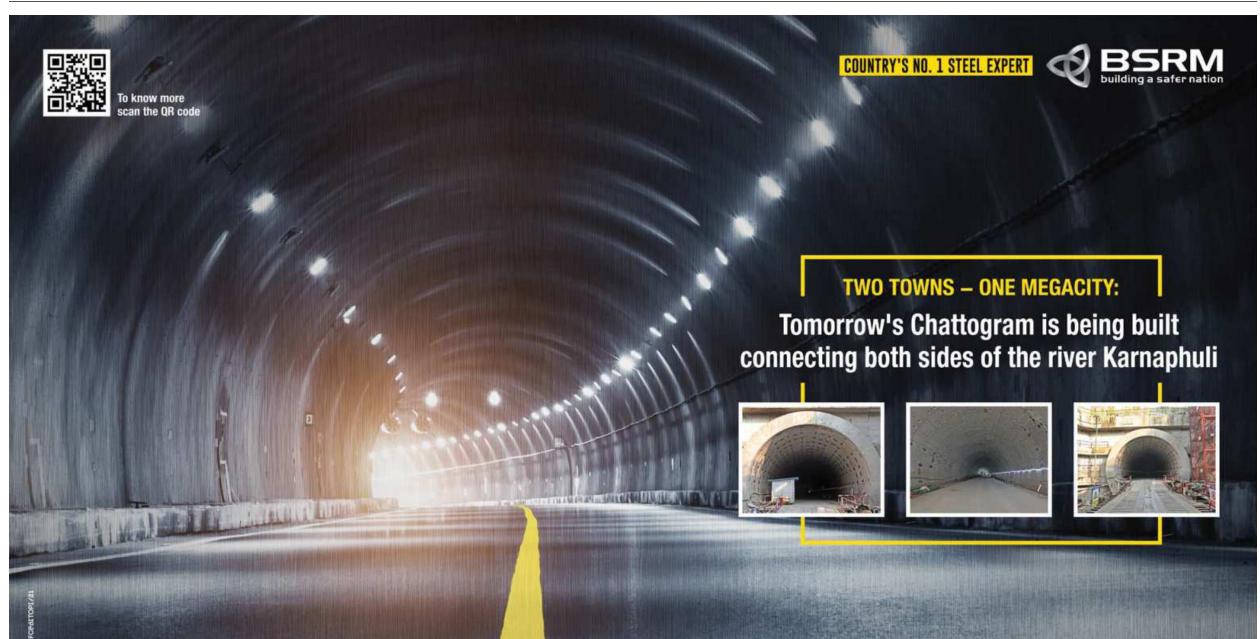
and a lack of a business case, could receive money from their friends and family in cities -- within moments. But, MFS is more than just a conduit for

urban-rural remittance -- and it is this latent potential that came to the fore during the global coronavirus pandemic. Because of the contactless nature of its

transactions, the platform came in handy for making payment at point-of-sale terminals, servicing utility bills and salary disbursements as fear of the coronavirus, which lingers on surfaces for hours, reigned

And because of the ease with which such transactions could be made, personto-person transfers within the system took off in a big way amid the pandemic, going neck-and-neck with cash-out transactions,

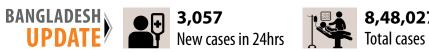
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



### BANGABANDHU MULTIPURPOSE ROAD TUNNEL IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM

When the Bangabandhu Tunnel is complete, the other side of the Karnaphuli will be a part of Chattogram city; communication routes will be easier between these regions and they will advance in trade and industry, elevating the standard of living for people in the area. Around

900 workers are involved in this Tk. 10,000 crore project, constructing this 3.43 km long and 150 feet deep tunnel, using steel from the steel expert BSRM. In this way, the Bangabandhu Tunnel shines a light of hope towards the path of a prosperous middle-income country.



8,48,027





7,80,146

**GLOBAL** 



3,870,114



178,768,577 Total cases

Man called out of

A 55-year-old man was shot dead in a remote village in Rowangchhari,

Omar Faruq, 55, was a resident of Tulachhari Aga Tripura Para, said Touhid Kabir, officer-in-charge of

"The assailants surrounded his

house around 9:00pm and asked him

to come outside and shot him dead

Faruq, who was a farmer, is

Gandi Lal Tanchangya, a ward

survived by three daughters and a son,

council member of the area, said

people of the neighbourhood have

been in fear since the murder.

Fugitive spotted

home, shot dead

in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bandarban, on Friday night.

Rowangchhari Police Station.

on the spot," said the OC.

TASKFORCE ON ROAD CRASHES

### Most decisions unimplemented

Meets for 3rd time today

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With most of its previous decisions unimplemented, a taskforce, led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, is going to sit for its third meeting today.

Formed in October 2019, the taskforce was made to oversee implementation recommendations given by a highpowered committee to reduce road accidents and bring discipline in the road transport sector.

In its second meeting on December 23, the taskforce decided that drivers, conductors and helpers of public transports have to be given appointment letters.

Transport association owners and workers were asked to ensure the matter jointly but no such move was

Shajahan Khan, president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, said the Road Transport Act-2018 stipulates the appointment for drivers.

He opined for incorporating provisions in the act for imposing fines in this regard, read the meeting minutes.

Mashiur Rahman Ranga and Khondaker Enayet Ullah, president and secretary general of the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, gave contradictory statements over the issue in the meeting.

Ranga said owners and workers outside the capital have decided to give appointment to drivers, but it is confusing as to why this has not been taking place in Dhaka.

On the hand, Enayet Ullah said field-level people are not as active as the people in the capital.

Effective measures have to be taken at division and district levels.

Contacted, Osman Ali, general secretary of the federation, said, "There has been no progress in this regard. We have sent letters to the owners' associations days after the meeting. But they [owners] are not implementing the decision although they said they would. We take many decisions in the meeting but see little progress.

Contacted, Enayet Ullah blamed the Covid-19 pandemic. "We could not make progress in this regard due to

the Covid situation." The taskforce had also decided that to implement the recommendations.

footpaths in the city would be freed from illegal occupation and effective measures would be taken to stop battery-run rickshaws in the city.

Both North and South city corporations and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police were given the tasks to ensure these matters.

This correspondent visited different areas of the city, including Farmgate, Panthapath, Paribagh, Agargaon, Dhanmondi, Tejgaon, Bailey Road, and found most of the footpaths occupied illegally.

Battery-run rickshaws were seen operating different parts of the capital including in Nakhalpara, Tejkunipara, Mirpur and Kathalbagan.

The taskforce also directed both city corporations to do road markings and installing necessary lighting facilities on the flvovers.

The decision was taken after DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said at the meeting that each fly over in the city has turned into nightmares due to

the lack of necessary lighting.
The taskforce also asked the transport association to introduce bus services for short distances on highways, so that passengers do not suffer after the illegal smaller vehicles like Nasimon, Karimon were driven off of the streets.

The meeting also decided to carry out surveys to determine the capacity of city roads and number of vehicles.

Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) already held meeting in this regard. The ARI is now preparing a technical and financial proposal for

Yousub Ali Mollah, additional secretary (estate) of the Road Transport and Highway Division, is the member secretary of the taskforce.

Contacted yesterday, he said today's meeting will discuss the overall progress of the implementation of the decisions taken in the last meeting.

This correspondent could not reach the home minister over phone for

In March 2019, a committee, led by transport sector leader Shajahan Khan, made 111 recommendations in order to reduce the number of road accidents and bringing discipline in the sector.

Later, the government formed a taskforce headed by the home minister



A woman breaks down in tears after her son, son's wife and granddaughter were found dead in a flat in the Kadamtali area of the capital yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### Woman kills parents, sister then calls 999

FROM PAGE 1 marks of strangulation.

At the Mitford Hospital, Shafiqul told reporters that on Friday, they went to his in-laws around 9:00pm from their home in Baganbari area of Kadamtali. There, his wife Mehjabin served noodles and tea to

all. He then fell asleep and could not

remember anything else. Shafiqul added that his relationship with his wife has not been going well for the last three months. Mehjabin's relationship with her parents was not good either, he said.

The DC said that Mehjabin's father Masud has been living in Saudi Arabia for nearly 22 years and he also has another wife there. He returned to the country four months ago.

In all these years, their mother raised the two daughters here.

"Mehjabin's husband Shafiqul all the wealth of Saudi expat developed a relationship with her sister Jannatul. Besides, there were disputes between them over money and properties. All these issues kill her family members," the police official said.

He said that the detainee was in shock and that they would interrogate her gradually.

Talking to this correspondent, Mehjabin's aunt Sonia Akhter blamed Shafiqul for the murders and the disputes.

She alleged Mehjabin married Shafiqul six years ago but for the last few years, he has been harassing her younger sister Jannatul.

To escape from him, Jannatul was even kept in a "safe home" for five months two years ago, she said.

"He [Shafiqul] wanted to grab today.

Masud Rana by marrying his two daughters," she alleged.

She added that Shafiqul was accused in a murder case in might have led to the woman to Keraniganj and to fight the case, he took Tk 8.50 lakh from Mehjabin's mother, which she provided by selling off her property. This is also one of the reason's behind the familial disputes, she added.

The OC of Kadamtali police station said Shafiqul, his wife, deceased Mousumi and Mousumi's sister had been accused in the 2016 murder case.

A neighbour told The Daily Star that the family, which has been renting in the building for four years, mostly kept to themselves.

Sources in the DMCH said the autopsies would be carried out

### Throttling industry growth for nothing

long the most common MFS transaction -- and giving wings to the cashless society dream.

Yet, nothing impresses more than the platform's ability to deliver social safety net allowances to the rightful beneficiaries.

To avoid queues at union parishads amid the pandemic, the government last year began social MFS players on a pilot basis to 50 lakh beneficiaries.

A common allegation of social safety net programmes -- which are anchored on cash transfers -- is that the system can be gamed, with the money ending up in the hands of those who do not need it. The rightful beneficiaries get shafted aside by the middlemen, who tend to be local political operatives.

But in one fell swoop, the MFS players bumped off the middlemen from the carousel.

The starting point for the MFS players -- bKash, Nagad, Rocket and SureCash -- was the list provided by the finance ministry.

They cross-checked the mobile numbers with the NID database of the Election Commission to ensure the same person did not get credited more than once -- a phenomenon that allegedly takes place during cash transfers.

The sifted numbers were sent to the Bangladesh Bank to check whether there were any national savings certificates bought with the NIDs. If there were, the numbers were struck off the list.

By dint of the vetting process, the initial list of 50 lakh was narrowed down to 35 lakh, and the amount meant for the 15 lakh beneficiaries was sent back to the finance ministry

-- something unheard of until then. effective with minimal waste.

Buoyed by the success of the pilot, the government ramped up the deployment of MFS for its disbursal purpose. So far, about 3 crore received their allowances through the

safety net disbursement through the efficient machinery -- if done entirely the point that the industry failed to through the MFS operators.

But for that to happen, the industry needs to develop much and its technological backbone and logistical infrastructure enhanced manifold. In short, a vast amount of investment is needed in the sector.

As of April, which is the latest available data from the central bank, there are 9.6 crore registered MFS accounts but just 38.5 percent of them had made transactions in the past 90 days. A year earlier, there were 8.5 crore registered accounts and 2.8 crore active accounts.

At present, there are 15 MFS players -- with bKash, Nagad and Rocket ruling the roost.

None of the players is logging in profit, meaning the 32.5 percent corporate tax -- which is a tax on the profits of a corporation -- for MFS players brings nothing to the state coffer.

Despite that, bafflingly, in the proposed budget for fiscal 2020-21, the corporate tax was raised. For non-listed MFS players, it would be 40 percent and for listed ones, 37.5 percent.

This begs the question: what was the point of hiking the rate when the outcome would be the same as before?

The only impact it would have is scare away foreign investors -- at a potential? Why nip it at the bud?

MFS SLOWLY GAINING GROUND

time when the industry was becoming In short, the process became attractive to them given the robust growth seen in the last few years. And this is not the first time

that the government has arrested the growth of a highly promising industry.

When the mobile industry was revving, the government had The episode informs social safety encumbered the operators with the net disbursement can be a well-oiled, highest tax burden in the world -- to draw in much foreign investment after that and also saw a few big names pack their bags.

> Ultimately, the mobile users are the losers as they have to make do with substandard service. A similar pattern is now being

witnessed in the case of the MFS industry, which is still in its fledgling

And it is not that that National Board of Revenue is not getting anything from the MFS industry at present: it gets 15 percent valueadded tax and 12 percent advance income tax from the transactions on the platform as well as 0.6 percent of the loss-making players' gross revenue as turnover tax.

In the first 10 months of fiscal 2020-21, total transactions on the platform stood at Tk 552,375.7 crore, up 46.5 percent year-on-year.

A 40 percent corporate tax is not a small amount and is in the range of banks and non-bank financial institutions, which have plenty of profit-making options.

What's worse is the corporate tax is immaterial -- for the foreseeable

Is it not in the best interest of the government to nurture the industry and see it blossom to its full

### programme OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshinganj A fugitive was seen at the inauguration

in govt organised

of a mural of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Munshiganj where the Liberation War affairs minister, two MPs, a deputy commissioner were also present.

Mahmudul Hasan Saadi, joint general secretary of Sadar upazila's Char Kewar union unit of Awami League, sat in front of the guests from 1:00pm to 3:00pm yesterday.

He is accused in a case filed on April 23 this year in connection with clashes in Chhoto Mollakandi and Khaskandi villages of Char Kewar union in Munshiganj Sadar. A total of 95 persons were sued in the case, according to police.

Saadi is also owner of the construction company that built the

Admitting that he did not get bail in the case, Saadi told The Daily Star, "I was wrongfully accused in the case and the case was false. Everyone is aware of

However, Munshiganj Sadar Police Station inspectors Sukanto Baul and Kajol Das confirmed that Saadi was a fugitive in the case.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque was present as the chief guest at the programme.

When asked the minister said, " haven't heard anything about it. I could have asked if you had told me earlier. The work for the mural was going on for a long time... was no one aware of

Munshiganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abu Bakkar Siddique, who was present at the programme, said "Saadi is absconding" and that he did not see the accused at the programme.

#### Vaccination begins FROM PAGE 1

Of the 67 centers, four are in Dhaka city, including at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital and Mugda Medical College Hospital.

Visiting the Mugda hospital resterday, a correspondent of The Daily Star saw many people heading home after failing to get the jab.

Ashim Kumar Nath, director of he hospital, said, "We have received 2,400 doses of Sinopharm vaccine. Currently, we are vaccinating students. Others who registered for the vaccination but have not received the first dose will get it once we overcome the shortage.

He said those people would be notified about their vaccination date via text.

At the DMCH centres, 303 students have been registered for the

vaccination today, said sources there. According to health officials, the noculation campaign will continue from 8:00am to 3:00pm every day, except on Fridays and public holidays.

They said almost 15 lakh people, who have completed registration, have not yet got their first shot.

For now, only those who registered with the 67 centres but have not received the first shots will get priority in the current campaign, said a notice issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Frontline government workers, police members, outgoing migrant workers (registered with the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training), cleaners of Dhaka's two city corporations, and ward or municipality workers involved in funerals will also get priority.

Besides, students government, private medical, dental, nursing, midwifery MATS and IHT colleges, residential students of all public universities, employees of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, and the Chinese nationals in Bangladesh will also be eligible for the vaccination, the notice said.

The first dose of inoculation against Covid-19 resumed with the Sinopharm vaccine at a time when the country is witnessing a rise in coronavirus cases and deaths.

Bangladesh received the Sinopharm doses as a gift from the Chinese government in two installments.

46.30 percent in the seven days until 18.02 percent. It was only 7.91 percent yesterday, the data shows. on May 29. "As the countrywide positivity Experts said the situation has turned

Lockdowns do come

so bad that one more slack measure to curb the virus can be disastrous. "It's already too late. When you delay enforcing lockdown even for a single day, the number of patients increases across the country. The

government has already wasted too much time," Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Committee (NTAC) on Advisory Covid-19, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In some of the seven districts, one in every two people tested is turns out to be positive for coronavirus. Dozens of deaths are reported there every day, shows DGHS data.

Many are dying without treatment as hospitals there have been at capacity

Besides, the number of high-risk

districts rose to 54 yesterday from 36

on June 3, DGHS data shows. A district is considered high-risk if it has the infection rate or positivity rate of 10 percent and above, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease

Control and Research. With the highest 24 Covid-19 deaths reported in Khulna, the district administration yesterday decided to enforce movement restriction from Tuesday.

community transmission of the Delta variant of coronavirus. The situation is particularly bad in Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Bogura, Natore, Noakhali, Kushtia, Chuadanga,

So far, a total of 12 districts slapped

restrictions to curb the skyrocketing

Jamalpur and Dinajpur. Compared to the previous week, the number of new cases has risen by 55.16 percent and deaths by

rate is more than 15 percent, there is no alternative to a countrywide lockdown. And to make the lockdown fruitful, there must be an enormous number of daily tests. But the government has never done this,' Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious diseases specialist, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The government didn't mean what they said about lockdown. The government steps are just for show. As a result, the people are too reluctant to adhere to the health safety guidelines."

He said the lack of coordination among different government bodies has been causing the loss of lives and livelihood since the beginning of Covid-19 outbreak. DGHS Director General Prof ABM

Khurshid Alam also agreed that the lockdown in different districts so far has not been enforced on time. "It is proven that lockdown is an effective way of curbing the spread of the virus... However, the health directorate is not the only authority

to decide on and execute lockdowns, The DG said a really strict lockdown was not there. "But the lockdown is in

effect in some places. Health officials will decide the next

course of action soon, he added. "When community transmission continues, there is no alternative to enforcing a countrywide lockdown. We will ask for it again. We will sit to

discuss the issue soon." On multiple occasions before, health experts blamed the government for not taking strict measures like closing of airports and ensuring health rules on time to tackle transmission

### Khaleda now back home

April 27, three days after she tested positive for coronavirus for a second

She also has arthritis, diabetes and eye

She first tested positive on April 11.

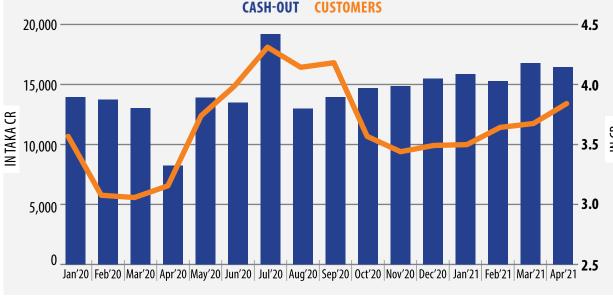
She was taken to the hospital's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) with breathing difficulties. Later, she tested negative and shifted to a cabin from CCU.

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 chairperson 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, 2018, the High Court raised her punishment to 10



#### COP KILLING IN CTG Don't stop, run them over

Bootleggers' gang leader told driver, say police; 3 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Three persons were arrested yesterday on charge of killing an Assistant Subinspector (ASI), Kazi Md Salauddin, of port city's Chandgaon Police Station, who died after being run over by a microbus carrying alcohol in Chandgaon area on June 11.

A drug peddler, who smuggled homemade alcohol from Rangamati to Chattogram, told his driver to run over the police officer if they tried to stop the vehicle on the way, said officials after they arrested three members of the gang.

The arrestees are Uttam Biswas alias Belal (34), Md Rashed alias Rasel (26), and Shamsul Alam (60) Among them, Belal was driving the microbus which ran over ASI Salauddin.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A worker loads a truck with leftover paper from printing presses in Chattogram city's Katalganj area. Traders buy these scrap papers for Tk 10-12 per kilogramme, these are sold back to paper producers for Tk 13-14, which is then composted and made into new pieces of paper.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

### Ex-VC's recruits lock up crucial buildings at RU

Their goal to cancel meetings they fear could scrap their jobs Our correspondent, RU

Authorities at Rajshahi University (RU) were forced to suspend a financial committee meeting yesterday, after a number of the 137 staffers who were unlawfully recruited by former Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan, locked administrative buildings, senate building and the VC's residence at the university.

University sources said a finance committee meeting was scheduled to be held around 10am yesterday, as well as a syndicate meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

But around 9:20am, some 30 staffers, mostly former and current Chhatra league leaders of the university, locked two administrative buildings, senate building and the VC residence to stop the meeting.

They also met acting VC Prof Ananda Kumar Saha at his residence for discussion around 9:50am, and demanded to allow them to join their posts. Later they took position before the administrative building.

Demonstrators said they fear their appointment might be cancelled at the syndicate meeting next Tuesday, unless they stop the meeting.

Former BCL leader Atiqur Rahman Sumon said, "We have heard the syndicate meeting may recommend the authority to cancel our recruitment. So we took position in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

### Toddler, his grandparents run over by bus in Bogura

Six people including his parents injured

STAR REPORT

In a tragic accident in Bogura's Shibganj upazila, a head-on collision between a bus and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw killed a twomonth-old and his grandparents yesterday,

reports our Bogura correspondent. The parents of the toddler and four

others were also injured in the accident. The deceased are Parul Begum (42) and Ashraf Ali (50), and their two-month-old grandchild Rezowan, who were all in the three-wheeler.

Ashraf and Parul died on the spot while Rezwoan died after being taken to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hospital. His parents are being treated at the same hospital, said police.

The accident happened when the family was taking Rezowan to the hospital as he was suffering from breathing issues, said Md

Khairul Islam, OC of Gobindaganj Highway Police Station, quoting family members.

The other injured were sent to local TMSS hospital, he said.

Belzar Hossain, station officer of Shibganj upazila fire service, said the accident occurred around 7:30am after the bus lost control and ran over the autorickshaw on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway

near Hatibandha area. The bodies were handed over to the family members, police said.

Meanwhile, the driver and helper of the bus managed to flee. Police seized the bus. In Thakurgaon's Boda upazila, a pedestrian was killed on Boda-Debiganj

road at Shimultali bazar yesterday. The deceased is Mostafa Elahi (50), of Kherbari village under the same upazila, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

### 'Metro rail for Ctg'

Obaidul Quader says govt has already done feasibility study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government is working to introduce metro rail in the port city.

He was virtually addressing the council of Chattogram city unit of Awami Swechchhasebak League as chief guest.

"The people of Chattogram have some demands -- one is introducing metro rail service and another expanding Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway," he said.

"Feasibility study has been conducted to initiate metro rail project in the port city," he said. "Work on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway will start soon," he said.

Addressing the council, he said no conspiracy could halt the country's march forward. "Bangladesh has become a state of loan giver from a loan receiver. We have given loans to countries like Sri Lanka and Sudan," Quader said.

AL joint general secretary Hasan Mahmud; president and general secretary of Swechchhasebak League Nirmal Ranjan Guha and AKM Afzalur Rahman; AL Chattogram city unit president and general secretary Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury and AJM Nasir Uddin also addressed the event, held at Institution of Engineers Chattogram.

### Monsoon brings misery for port city residents

Heavy rainfall submerges low-lying areas



Agrabad's Ma O Shishu Hospital is a regular victim of waterlogging in the city, and yesterday was no exception. The situation was so bad that patients had to be carried through the entrance by their relatives.

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Residents of Chattogram city woke up to a bad day yesterday, as incessant rainfall brought back all-too-familiar problems.

In the 24 hours till 9am yesterday, the Chattogram Met Office recorded 121.2 mm of rain, said met officer Sheikh Harunur Rashid.

Most low-lying areas in the city -- Chawkbazar, West Bakalia DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road, Katalganj, Kapasgola, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Sholashahar, Halishahar, Agrabad CDA, Chandgaon and Shulakbahar -went under knee- to waist-deep water, as streets got flooded by water mixed with filth, overflown from roadside drains.

Residents blamed authorities concerned for their sufferings, saying that they failed to bring about any improvement in waterlogging for over a decade, while continuing to point their fingers at the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) mega project.

The submerged roads were not just a matter of inconvenience. For some, it became a safety issue.

A CNG-run auto-rickshaw fell into a drain in Chandgaon residential area as the driver could not see it under water. An injured passenger had to be rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said Mustafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chandgaon Police Station.

But beyond just commute issues, the never-ending problem is also posing health risks for the residents.

"It's a health hazard in my family," said Uzir Ali Shah Bylane's Sadhan Das. "Most of the 16 members of my family have been suffering from diarrhoea and upset stomach because filthy water has leaked into our ground floor water tank."

He went on to ask why the Chattogram Development Authority could not alleviate the situation in three years since its launching.

Abdul Hamid, a resident of West Bakalia DC Road also put the blame on Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) for not cleaning the drains and canals properly and regularly.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Four burglars arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police early yesterday arrested four alleged burglars and seized electronic devices, gold ornaments and cash, after conducting drives at different areas of Chattogram city.

The arrestees are Md Imon (32), Md Asrab Khan (35), Imon's wife Sajada Akhter Sadia (20) and Anika Sultana Sony (19), said police.

Ófficer-in-Charge (OC) Nezam Uddin of Kotwali police said, "Imon is an apparel worker in Chattogram EPZ and has been

deposited the money through booths of a bank, the OC said.

Sub-inspector Mominul of the station said the gang so far committed over 300 areas of the city and nearby districts.

doing burglary for the last 12 years." After looting valuables and cash, they

burglaries in the last 10 years in different "During investigation of a case, police traced the gang and recovered electronics

devices including laptops and expensive

mobile phones from their possession,'

said the SI.

### 'Provide outline for inoculating migrant workers'

Recruiting agencies urges govt

A platform of recruiting agencies yesterday urged the government to give an "outline" while inoculating migrant workers with Covid-19 vaccine.

Forming a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, members of Recruiting Agencies Oikya Parishad (RAOP) said the government earlier allotted 1.20 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine for migrant workers on paper only.

In reality, no effective step was taken to vaccinate migrant workers with those doses, they said.

Recently, the health minister assured expatriates' welfare minister of providing migrant workers with vaccine on a priority basis. But, no specific outline was given to this end, they added.

They urged the government to immediately implement its measure to inoculate on a priority basis both migrant workers who are waiting to fly abroad with new employment visa and those who remained stuck after coming home on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

### Dhaka sees sporadic showers all day long

UNB. Dhaka

Dhaka witnessed a drenched morning yesterday as intermittent monsoon rain continued across the country.

The monsoon trough is active over Bangladesh and moderate over North Bay, commencing at 9am yesterday, according to a Bangladesh Met Department weather forecast.

Meanwhile from 6am to 3pm, 28mm of rain was recorded in the capital.

"The axis of monsoon trough runs through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal to Assam across the central part of Bangladesh. One of its associated troughs extends up to North Bay," said the BMD's weather forecast.

Maritime ports were advised to lower the local cautionary signal-three for now. According to the forecast, light

rain/thundershowers moderate accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3









From the classic "chin-mask" to hanging them by the wrists and ears, and putting them on the forehead, masks are sometimes everywhere except where they should be: over the nose and mouth. With low-priced face-masks swamping the market, they can even be seen in abundance on the roads, just lying there. Health measures, like the "no mask no service" signs in front of shops may have made the mask more common but not ever-present, as many don't even bother wearing them. These very same masks, when worn properly and regularly, can protect oneself and others around them from the deadly coronavirus. The photos were taken all over Dhaka in the last week.





### Appeal for help

Md Abdullah Sherdil is an ex-student of Dhaka University's linguistics department. The father of two young children from Paikgaccha, Khulna was recently diagnosed with blood cancer.



For his Acute

Lymphoblastic Leukemia, he is now taking treatment under Dr Abu Zafar Md Saleh, consultant and coordinator of Department of Haematology and Stem Cell Transplant, Evercare Hospital, Dhaka.

His doctors advised a bone marrow transplant as his treatment, which will cost around Tk 50 lakh.

But this is beyond the family's financial capabilities as they have managed to collect only around Tk 15 lakh till yesterday.

In this circumstance, Sherdil's family is seeking help to cover his medical expenses from the more affluent members of

Contributions can be sent to the fund of Abbullah Sherdil's personal bank account: Md. Abdullah Sherdil; Acc: 1031030066483; Account Routing No: 090260434; SWIFT code: DBBLBDDH; Dutch Bangla Bank, Banani Branch, Dhaka. Help can also be sent via mobile financial services through Sherdil's personal bKash/Nagad/Rocket: 01717047784; Rifatullah Sherdil (brother), bKash 01997916883; and Abdullah Al Mamun (brother), bKash 019-546-75010.

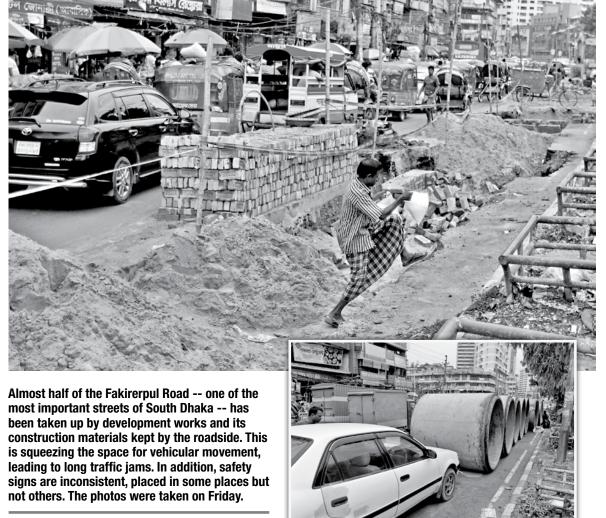


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

### Better behaviour for better policing

Ctg police circle launches initiative

Mostafa Yousuf, Ctg

At a time when public trust in policing is windling, a circle of Chattogram police has taken up an initiative to find a way to improve the people-police

The Raozan-Rangunia circle of Chattogram district police's initiative is threefold -- accumulating knowledge on human and constitutional rights, practical classes, and field demonstrations of learnings. With this aim, they have set up libraries and prepared a syllabus.

Md Anwar Hossen Shamim, assistant police superintendent of Chattogram district police (Raozan-Rangunia circle), said they acknowledge the people's eroding faith in the instituion of policing, and have launched the initiative aiming to dispel the negative perception of police.

The programme was launched in Rangunia and Raozan police stations, including their traffic control units, and have been running since May.

"In the class, the police are being taught fundamental human and constitutional rights, the key principles of our state, how to deal with people in precarious situations, and how to amiolerate the relationship between police and people," the official said.

Shamim said they also set up a library for each police station and are trying to create an environment that encourages the police personnel to read more. He hopes all of this effort will come together to make the police more people-friendly.

In a recent visit to Rangunia police station, this correspondent saw its staffers taking part in mock classes on how to amicably serve people at the station. They were also taking part in evaluation tests afterwards.

Swapan Kumar, sub-inspector of Rangunia police station, told The Daily Star, "We are learning a lot of things all over again. A sense of responsibility for good policing is arising among my colleagues.'

Md Arif, constable of the same police station told The Daily Star that since many of them entered police service right after their matriculation, a lack of understanding of the nuances of various laws, and human and constitutional rights prevailed.

#### Kamrul Manir passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshah

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Kamrul Manir passed away



in Rajshahi on Friday.

He was 71. He breathed his last at his home in Rajshahi's Sagarpara area at 4:30am, said former organising secretary of Rajshahi district unit BNP Golam Mostafa Mamun.

Manir had been battling lung cancer for one and a half years, he said. Manir went to India for treatment and stayed there for a year. He returned home a month back, he added.

A lawyer by profession, Manir was also a freedom fighter. He joined BNP in

Kamrul Manir had been serving as the BNP chairperson's political adviser since 2016.

Manir left behind his wife and a host of wellwishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Tikapara graveyard with state honours.

### Toddler

Officer-in-Charge of Boda Police Station Abu Sayeed Chowdhury said Samsul was returning home from the bazar along the road around 10:30am. In the meantime, a Boda-bound truck hit him from behind, leaving him dead

Locals intercepted the truck but its driver and helper managed to escape, police said.

In Narayanganj Sadar, two passengers of a batteryrun auto-rickshaw were killed and its driver was injured when a covered van hit it on the Chashara-Panchabati road at police lines area yesterday afternoon, reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

However, the identities of the two deceased and the injured driver were not immediately known, said OC Rakibuzzaman of Fatullah Model Police Station.

"A battery-run auto-rickshaw was going towards Panchabati with two passengers at around 4:30pm. Arriving at Amena Garments, a covered van coming from the opposite direction hit the autorickshaw. One passenger died on the spot," the OC said.

Later, locals rescued the driver and other passenger and sent them to Narayanganj General Hospital, where duty doctors declared the passenger dead. The driver was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Locals caught Russell, driver of the covered van, and handed him over to police, he said.

Meanwhile, in Barguna's Amtali upazila, a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch yesterday, injuring around 50 passengers, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

OC Shah Alam Hawlader of Amtali Police Station said the accident took place due to the driver's negligence, who was talking over the phone while driving through the Shakharia bus stand area of the Patuakhali-Kuakata road. Of the injured 50 passengers, 20 had to be taken to

Patuakhali General Hospital, the official said. The driver and helper of the bus managed to escape, he said. Legal action will be taken against the driver for negligence, the OC said.

Meanwhile, in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, a jeep lost control and fell into a ditch in Ghutabachha area. However, no casualties have been reported.

### Provide

Addressing the human chain, RAOP President M Tipu Sultan thanked the government for including migrant workers in the vaccination programme.

He, however, said problem still remains since the government has taken an initiative to provide migrant workers with Sinopharm vaccine, which is not accepted by the biggest host-country Saudi Arabia.

To resolve it, he urged the government to arrange either Pfizer or Johnson and Johnson vaccine for migrant workers.

At the human chain, RAOP members also demanded that the government fix a "labour fare" for migrant workers and implement it to reduce "illogical" ticket price hike by different airlines.

Some airlines authorities including Biman Bangladesh airlines hiked airfare three to four times for different Middle East countries including Saudi Arabia, they

While ticket price for Arab countries from neighbouring South Asian countries remained within a cost equivalent to between Tk 18,000 and Tk 22,000, ticket price for same destination from Bangladesh is between Tk 70,000 and Tk 90,000, they added.

The platform members demanded that the government allocate different stimulus packages for the sector as an industry.

Moreover, they urged the government to take step for including all licensed recruiting agencies in the lists of all Bangladesh and foreign missions. They also urged the government to

bring changes in the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 to stop "harassment" against recruiting agencies.

### Kulsum Zaman no more | Don't stop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

told The Daily Star.

investigation.

recruitment process.

Kulsum Zaman, wife of former Awami League lawmaker and first finance secretary late Khandakar Asaduzzaman, passed away yesterday while undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka. She was 85. She left behind son Khandaker

Mashiuzzaman Romel, chairman of

Ex-VC's recruits

suspended due to unavoidable reasons.'

Peoples Group and president of Dhaka Club; and daughter AL reserved seat MP Aparajita Haque.

She was buried at her family graveyard in Naruchi under Gopalpur upazila of Tangail after Magrib prayers yesterday.

the campus and locked those buildings to stop the finance

committee meeting, in order to stop upcoming syndicate

finance committee meeting, RU acting proctor Liakat Ali

Later around 11am, the administration suspended the

Acting VC Prof Anand Kumar Saha told journalists, "As

we were at the end of the fiscal year, it was necessary to hold

a meeting of the Finance Committee for the university. So

we called the meeting. However, the meeting has been

He further said the present administration has no

On May 31, unlawfully recruited staffers had confined

On his last day in office on May 6, Prof Sobhan recruited

at least 137 staffers, including nine teachers, sparking

protests on the campus. The education ministry termed

the recruitment illegal on the same day and initiated an

On May 8, the RU administration suspended the

authority to sanction their recruitment. "We have to follow

education ministry's order regarding the matter," he said.

top four university officials including the acting VC, and

put pressure demanding that they be allowed to join work.

"After killing ASI Salauddin, the three went into hiding and tried to go to Cox's Bazar from Chattogram. But police arrested them from Maijjartek area after a frantic effort," said Additional Deputy Commissioner (North) Abu Bakar Siddique.

The ADC said the arrestees had been bringing alcohol from Rangamati and then supplying to sellers in Boalkhali for a long

Inspector (Investigation) Rajesh Barua told The Daily Star, "On June 11, Md Jahangir, alcohol trader and owner of the vehicle, was in the microbus. He saw ASI Salauddin positioned at the police check post. Later, Jahangir told Belal and the two others not to stop at the police check post and told his driver to run over the policeman if they signalled their vehicle."

"Belal and his men got prepared and slowed down the microbus when ASI Salauddin signalled them. As Salauddin stood in front of the microbus and asked the driver to come out, they ran the microbus over two policemen as per the direction to avoid arrest," said Inspector Rajesh.

"We are trying to arrest Jahangir," he

Belal gave confessional statement before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shafi Uddin, said court sources. The court granted two-day remand for the three in a narcotics case.

ASI Salauddin was killed and a constable was injured that night.

The constable is now undergoing treatment at the hospital. Police filed two cases in this connection.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh District Primary Education Office

Memo No: 38.00.5600.000.33.000.21.458

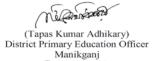
Manikganj www.dpe.manikgonj.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender (Goods)

e-Tender Notice No.- 02/2020-21

S1.	Tender ID	Name of Works	Tender	Tender Proposal Document last selling
No.	&		Method	& Submission
	Package No			Date and Time
1	556602	Furniture Supply for 19 Nos. Class Room and 2 Nos. Teachers	NCT,	Last selling: 04.07.2021 at 16.0
	NBIDGPS-	Room of Selected 4 Nos Govt. Primary Schools at different location	ОТМ	Submission: 05.07.2021 at 16.0
	1/G1.0024	at Shibaloy upazila of Manikganj District.		
2	556601	Furniture Supply for 33 Nos. Class Room and 4 Nos. Teachers	NCT,	Last selling: 04.07.2021 at 16.0
	NBIDGPS-	Room of Selected 9 Nos Govt. Primary Schools at different location	OTM	Submission: 05.07.2021 at 16.0
	1/G1.0023	at Horirampur upazila of Manikganj District.		5 HOMESTON 5010712021 W 1010
3	556600	Furniture Supply for 21 Nos. Class Room and 3 Nos. Teachers	NCT,	Last selling: 04.07.2021 at 16.0
	NBIDGPS-	Room of Selected 5 Nos Govt. Primary Schools at different location	OTM	Submission: 05.07.2021 at 16.0
	1/G1.0022	at Singair upazila of Manikganj District.		Suchingsion: 02.07.2021 ut 10.0
4	556599	Furniture Supply for 23 Nos. Class Room and 2 Nos. Teachers	NCT,	Last selling: 04.07.2021 at 16.0
	NBIDGPS-	Room of Selected 5 Nos Govt. Primary Schools at different location	OTM	Submission: 05.07.2021 at 16.0
	1/G1.0021	at Ghior and Daulatpur upazila of Manikganj District.		
5	556598	Furniture Supply for 18 Nos. Class Room and 3 Nos. Teachers	NCT,	Last selling: 04.07.2021 at 16.0
	NBIDGPS-	Room of Selected 4 Nos Govt. Primary Schools at different location	OTM	Submission: 05.07.2021 at 16.0
	1/G1.0020	at Sadar and Saturia upazila of Manikganj District.		

These are online Tender's where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)



**2**: 02-996610584 e-mail: dpeomanik@gmail.com

### Dhaka sees

Many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions are likely to see moderately heavy to very heavy falls including places over the country, according to the

An outlook for the next 72 hours forecast by BMD, however, shows a possible decrease in rain and thundershowers.

#### Monsoon FROM PAGE 3

"Water cannot flow freely

through the drains and

canals due to the waste

allegations, CCC deputy

officer Morshedul Alam

clean up drains and

regularly,

residents

indiscriminately throwing

them, making CCC's task

wastes

conservancy

thev

keep

stuck in them," he said.

Chowdhury said

Denying

chief

canals

some

household

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Date: 17/06/2021

difficult. Contacted, Lt Col Md Shah Ali, project director of the CDA mega project, said

the ongoing waterlogging is occurring due to the coincidence of heavy rainfall during the time of high tide.

"As the canals were filled up with water due to high tide, rainwater could not recede," he said.

"We will set up tidal regulators at the mouths of five canals in the city by October. The regulators will regulate tidal water and control the situation during heavy rainfall," he said.

significant "A improvement will happen with waterlogging from the next monsoon," he

#### REQUEST FOR BIDS

#### Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SINGLE STAGE TWO-ENVELOPE BIDDING PROCESS)

Employer: Soudia Agro Solar PV Power Plant Ltd.

Project: Multiple usages of Solar Power plant

Contract Title: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of 5 MWp Solar PV Power Plant at Bera under Pabna District Country: Bangladesh

PPA Authority: BPDB

RFB No: SASPV/June-2021-01

- Soudia Agro Solar PV Power Plant Ltd (SASPV) got approval from the Government of Bangladesh's concerned authority to implement a 5 MWp Solar PV Power Plant at Bera under Pabna District. For this project, SASPV looking for local/international reputed EPC company who can implement the project within shortest time ensuring multiple usages of land.
- 2. SASPV now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Operation and Maintenance (for 2 year after COD) of 5 MWp Solar PV Power Plant at Bera under Pabna District.
- Bidding will be conducted through international (including local) competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB), Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Process, according to international bidding practice, and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned and inspect the bidding document during office hours [i.e. 10am to 4pm] at the address given below [Office of the Project Director]. The bidding document is also available as a soft copy at the address given below. However, the soft copy version of the bidding document is for information
- The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 20,000.00 or US\$ 250.00. The method of payment will be Pay Order OR Demand Draft. The document will be sent by courier services. Those who want to get the bidding document through courier services in overseas countries shall pay US\$ 400 for such services.
- The bidding document shall be available from 26-June-2021 during office hours [i.e. 10am to 4pm] at the address given below [Office of the Project Director].
- Bids must be delivered to the address below [as mentioned in the Data Sheet of the Bidding Document] on or before 12:00pm on 15-July-2021. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be officially opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below. All envelopes marked "FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in the safe custody of the Employer until the second public Bid opening.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" and the amount of Bid Security will be BDT 12.75 million or US\$ 0.15 million.
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
- The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Md Abdul Gaffar

Project Director Soudia Agro Solar PV Power Plant Ltd. Address: House-39, Road-24, Gulshan-1, Dhaka Contact: +8801847090998 E-mail: m.a.gaffar012@gmail.com

GD- 1236

### Patuakhali teacher finds success in commercial cultivation of tween fruit

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

A madrasa teacher has seen the face of success by commercially cultivating tween fruit, commonly known as fig, in Patuakhali during the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Notably, there is also surah in the Holy Quran—At-Tin (The Fig) asserting the wholesomeness of the fruit. Tween is a good source of both calcium and potassium and has a huge potential of export after meeting the of the country.

Jahnagir Hossain a lecturer of agriculture of a madrasa in Tengrakhali area under Badarpur union of Patuakhali Sadar upazila, got inspired to commercially cultivate tween fruit from Facebook.

"I had a huge free time in my hand due to the closure of my madrasa and I was pondering to do something in this long hiatus. Then I came across some videos in the officials of the agriculture the Facebook on the goodness of tween fruit and fixed my mind that I would cultivate the fruit," he said. 1,000 per kg. Most of the buyers

He elevated 30 decimals of lowlying area adjacent to the madrasa and purchased 200 tween plants at the rate of Tk 720 per plant from Maona of Gazipur in October last year. His dreams came true as the trees start bearing fruits from February this year after four months of intense care. He has already started to marketise the

People from different districts are coming to see his orchard of the exotic fruits that are very juicy and can be consumed all the year round after drying and preserving in containers. Many visitors are also expressing their eagerness to learn the cultivation technique from Manik, he said.

"I was apprehensive about the cultivation of tween fruit at the beginning but I have gained success by dint of hard labour, intensive care and the advice of department. I have started the sale from the month of Ramadan at Tk

His dreams came true as the trees start bearing fruits from February this year after four months of intense care. He has already started to marketise the ripe fruits.

buy the fruits directly from the orchard and local super shop also ells them," he also said.

"Hopefully, I will see the face of profit from the next year," he

An engineer came from the neighboring district of Barguna came to visit the orchard. "I want to cultivate the fruit commercially," Engr Imran said.

Md Hasan, who came from Kalapara upazila town of the district, said that he has also decided to cultivate this exotic fruit and came to visit the orchard to see its cultivation method. Dr Shamim Ahmed, additional

deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension-DAE-- (Horticulture Wing) of Dhaka said the fruit is rich in Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, as well as almost all essential nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, sodium, carbohydrates, sugar, fat, protein and thiamine. It also has many medicinal properties.

It helps cure constipation, reduce weight, keep the heart healthy and controls high blood pressure. It also helps prevent

He further said each tree bears up to 1 kg in the first year, 8 to 11 kg in the second year and up to 25 kg fruits in the third year. In this way, it continues to bear fruit for 34 consecutive years. The lifespan of the tree is about 100 years. Tween fruits grow at the base of each leaf. Each tree is six to 30 feet tall and bears 60 to 70 fruits.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN



A section of the damaged concrete slabs around the Muktijoddha Chattar on Sylhet-Dhaka highway in Sherpur Bazar of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

MINTU DESHWARA

### Roundabout on Sylhet-Dhaka highway turns risky

Single Apartment Per Floor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The roundabout at Muktijoddha Chattar on Sylhet-Dhaka highway in Sherpur Bazar of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila has turned hazardous to unsuspecting moving traffic. After two sections of concrete slabs over the circular drainage line of the roundabout were damaged recently, locals have been anticipating a severe accident at the spot any time, as the newly exposed holes cannot be seen by drivers from far due to the curve of the roundabout.

Some of the fixtures made with stainless

steel pipes have also been damaged on the southern side of the roundabout, built by Moulvibazar district council in 2006.

Nurul Haq, a resident of the area said, the exposed holes over the drain are putting lives of thousands at risk, as all sorts of vehicle, large and small, ply the road every

Misbahur Rahman, chairman Moulvibazar district council, said they would soon send the engineer of the district council to assess the damage around Muktijoddha Chattar and make necessary arrangements for repair work.



The madrasa teacher's tween fruit garden in Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

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### **BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE EXPANDING NORTHWARD**

More 300 acre land to be acquired

Our Correspondent, Dinajpur

About Tk 300 crore is going to be spent on acquisition of at least 300 acres of land, mostly arable, to facilitate northward expansion of the Barapukuria coal mine in Parbatipur

The expansion of the country's lone active underground coal mine will ultimately result in an increase in its production cost by about 40 percent for each metric tonne of coal

Officials of the mine's operating authorities, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited (BCMCL), a subsidiary of Petrobangla, said keeping in mind that coal in the central reserve of the mine will end within the next two years, it has to be expanded to ensure uninterrupted supply of coal to Barapukuria 525 MW Thermal Power Plant in future.

The neighbouring power plant, operated by Bangladesh Power Development Board, is currently the sole user of most of the coal produced by BCMCL.

Coal from Barapukuria used

to be sold to brickfields for baking bricks, but the sale was suspended in March 2018.

The existing coal extraction contract between state-run BCMCL and China-based CMC-XMC Consortium expires on August 10 this year.

With that in mind and in line with the expansion plan, the BCMCL has already made all necessary preparations and extended its contract with CMC-XMC for six more years, effective from August 11 this year, said Kamruzzaman Khan, the managing director (MD) of

Under the six-year contract, CMC-XMC will develop new mines in the north of the existing central reserve and extract about 4.5 million tonnes of coal -- 1.3 million tonnes from the central reserve and 3.2 million tonnes from the northern reserve, he added.

The expensive and timeconsuming task of linking the central and northern reserves with a minimum of 5.8 kilometres of underground roadways will likely raise the production cost of coal, said several BCMCL officials.

As opposed to the current production cost of around USD 100 per tonne, the same amount of coal might end up costing about USD 140 after the development of the northern reserve is complete, they also speculated.

Since its inception in 2005 till May this year, 12 crore tonnes of coal was extracted from the mine. In fiscal year 2019-20 alone, BCMCL earned Tk 271.50 in net profit.

In 2006, when incidents of land subsidence took place in surrounding areas, BCMCL paid Tk 191 crore to villagers, in compensation for acquisition of at least 646 acres

BCMCL officials said the new land acquisition is a measure to avoid any loss of life or property in case of any land subsidence occurs during the development in the northern reserve of the mine.

The mine has been playing a significant role in the national economy by supplying its coal to the Barapukuria power plant, said Kamruzzaman, the MD of BCMCL.



Barapukuria coal mine in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER



# in brief



#### **Ghani replaces security ministers**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani replaced two top ministers charged with managing the country's faltering security yesterday, as the Taliban pressed on with their campaign to capture new territory in fierce battles with government forces. The presidency announced in a statement that General Bismillah Khan Mohammadi has been appointed the new defence minister. Ghani also appointed General Abdul Sattar Mirzakwal as interior minister.



Ebola outbreak ends in Guinea

The World Health Organization yesterday officially announced the end of Guinea's second Ebola outbreak which was declared on February

14. It was the second such outbreak in the country since the devastating 2013-2016 Ebola epidemic in West Africa, which left 11,300 dead in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Ebola causes severe fever and, in the worst cases, unstoppable bleeding. It is transmitted through close contact with bodily fluids, and people who live with or care for patients are most at risk.

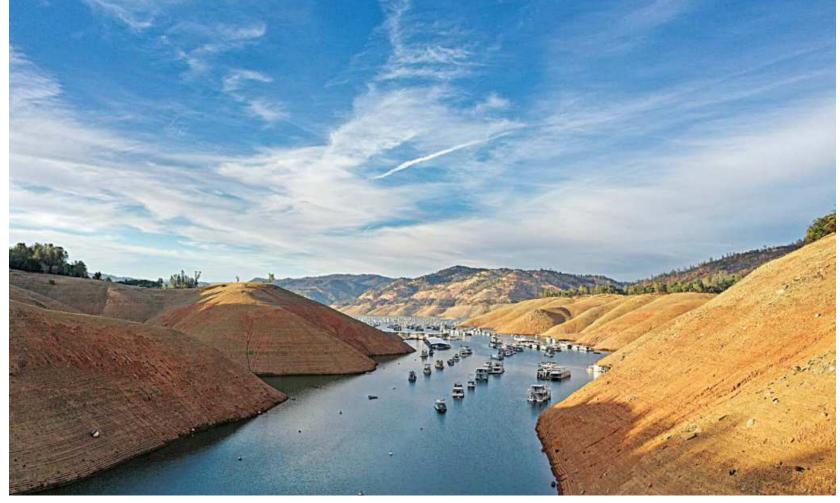


Modi to meet J&K leaders

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to preside a meeting with all political parties from Jammu and Kashmir on June 24 in the first concrete move to restore the political processes, including restoration of a popular government through election officials said yesterday. The meeting is the first since the Indian government announced the abrogation of Jammu and

Kashmir's special status under Article 371 of the Constitution and its bifurcation into federal territories in August 2019. The central leadership has begun the process of inviting National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah, People's Democratic Party chairperson Mehbooba Mufti, Altaf Bukhari of Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party and People's Conference head Sajjad Lone for the discussion, the officials said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



An aerial view shows houseboats anchored in low water levels at Lake Oroville, which is the second largest reservoir in California and according to daily reports of the state's Department of Water Resources is near 35% capacity, near Oroville, California, US. An extreme heat wave that has already shattered temperature records across the US Southwest threatened to push power systems to the brink of failure as residents cranked up air conditioners. The heat, which comes amid years of drought across the Southwest, has strained power grids in California and Texas and fueled the spread of wildfires. The photo was taken on June 16.



#### (JUNE 19)

1937 - The Scottish dramatist and novelist JM Barrie, creator of Peter Pan,

**1997** - Musical "Cats" makes Broadway history, completing longest ever run in New York.

**2000** - Dutch police link warehouse to deaths of dozens of illegal Chinese immigrants who suffocated in a truck in the English port of Dover.

**2007** - A suspected al Qaeda bomber killed 78 people in Baghdad when he rammed a truck into a Shia mosque.

**2008** - European Union states agreed to scrap sanctions against Cuba in a move aimed at encouraging democratic reforms on the Communist island.

2012 - Wikileaks founder Julian Assange seeks political asylum in Ecuador's embassy in London.

SOURCE: REUTERS

### Halt weapons to Myanmar

UN General Assembly passes resolution; division emerges in Asean

REUTERS

The United Nations General Assembly has called for a stop to the flow of arms to Myanmar and urged the military to respect November election results and release political detainees, including leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The General Assembly adopted a resolution with the support of 119 countries several months after the military overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in a Feb. 1 coup. Belarus requested the text be put to a vote and was the only country to oppose it, while 36 abstained, including China and Russia.

General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding but carry political

The risk of a large-scale civil war is real," UN special envoy on Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener told the General Assembly after the vote. "Time is of the essence. The opportunity to reverse the military takeover is

Olof Skoog said the UN resolution sends a powerful message: "It delegitimizes the military junta, condemns its abuse



and demonstrates its isolation in the eyes of the world.'

The military cited the government's refusal to address what it said was fraud in a November election as the reason for the coup. International observers have said the ballot was fair. An initial draft UN resolution

included stronger language calling for an arms embargo on Myanmar. According to a proposal seen by Reuters last

European Union UN Ambassador month, nine Southeast Asian countries wanted that language removed.

The compromise text "calls on all member states to prevent the flow of arms into Myanmar.'

The junta's forces have killed more than 860 people since the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. The junta says the number is much lower.

The General Assembly also called on Myanmar to swiftly implement a five-point consensus the junta forged with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in April to halt violence and start dialogue with its opponents.

Asean has led the main diplomatic effort to find a way out of the crisis, but was split on Friday over the UN action.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar's UN Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, who speaks for the country's elected civilian government, voted yes, while Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand

## Ease curbs carefully

India asks states amid Covid 3rd wave fears

India's central government yesterday urged states to be careful in reopening from Covid-19 lockdowns to prevent a resurgence of infections in the hard-hit country.

The statement comes as World Health Organization's chief scientist warned that the Delta variant of Covid-19, first identified in India, is becoming the globally dominant variant of the disease. Indian states are easing restrictions as a second wave of coronavirus

infections appears to abate. The country is second only to the United States in confirmed infections at 29.82 million, with 385,137 deaths. States and territories "must ensure that the whole process is carefully calibrated," Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla wrote in a letter to top provincial

bureaucrats. India yesterday reported 60,753 new Covid-19 cases and 1,647 deaths over the past 24 hours, according to a government statement. A third wave of infections is likely to hit India by October, and although it will be better controlled than the last outbreak, the pandemic will

medical experts showed. In Russia, Moscow yesterday reported a pandemic high for new coronavirus cases for the second consecutive day, as the city's hospitals are flooded with new patients due to the Delta variant. The city registered 9,120

remain a public health threat for at least another year, a Reuters poll of

new coronavirus infections in 24 hours. Meanwhile, in US, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris urged Americans to get shots, as the country looks likely to miss the White House's goal of inoculating 70% of adults at least one dose of vaccine by next month. by July 4, the Independence Day holiday. As of Friday, around 65.1% of people in the US had gotten at least one shot.

### 'It's a homemade crisis

EU warns Lebanon's leaders of sanctions REUTERS, Beirut

The European Union's foreign policy chief yesterday told Lebanon's leaders they were to blame for the country's political and economic crisis and some could face sanctions if they continue to obstruct steps to form a new government and

implement reform. Speaking after what he called a "frank exchange" with President Michel Aoun, Josep Borrell said he was bringing a firm message that the country stood on the edge of financial collapse and politicians could not afford

to waste more time. "The crisis Lebanon is facing is a domestic crisis. It's a self-imposed crisis," he told reporters after talks with Aoun. "It's not a crisis coming from abroad or from external factors. It's a home-made crisis, a crisis done by yourselves."

Lebanon's currency has lost 90% of its value. More than half the population are living in poverty and struggling with rampant inflation, power blackouts and shortages of fuel and food.

The crisis has been exacerbated by political stalemate, with PMdesignate Saad al-Hariri at loggerheads with Aoun for months over forming a new government capable of introducing reforms which could unlock desperately needed foreign

"We stand ready to assist," Borrell said. "But if there is further obstruction to solutions to the current multi-dimensional crisis in the country, we will have to consider other courses of action ... including targeted sanctions," he added.

### Raisi wins Iran vote

The harline cleric to replace Rouhani as president

Ultraconservative cleric Ebrahim Raisi was yesterday declared the winner of Iran's presidential election, a widely anticipated result after many political heavyweights were barred from running.

Raisi won just shy of 62 percent of the vote in Friday's election, according to official figures, on a turnout of 48.8 percent, a record low for a presidential poll in the Islamic republic. "I congratulate the people

on their choice," said outgoing moderate President Hassan Rouhani, who has served the maximum of two consecutive four-year terms and leaves office in August.

Raisi, 60, is set to take over at a critical time, as Iran seeks to salvage its tattered nuclear deal with major powers and free itself from punishing US sanctions that have driven a sharp economic downturn.

"God willing, we will do our best so that the hope for the future now alive in people's hearts grows further," said Raisi, adding that he wants to strengthen public trust in the government for a "bright and

pleasant life together".

The head of the Iranian judiciary, whose black turban signifies direct descent from Islam's Prophet Mohammed, Raisi is seen as close to the 81-year-old supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds ultimate political power in Iran.

> Khamenei hailed the election saying that "the great winner... is the Iranian nation because it has risen up once again in the face of the propaganda of the enemy's mercenary media".

Raisi, who holds deeply conservative views on many social issues including the role of women in public life, has been named in Iranian media as a possible

To opposition and human rights groups, his name is linked to mass executions of political prisoners in 1988. The US government has sanctioned him over the purge, in which Raisi has denied involvement.

Rouhani's landmark achievement was the 2015 deal with world powers under which Iran agreed to limit its nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.



Activist Alexandra Wong (C), also known as Grandma Wong, is dragged away by police inside the court grounds in Hong Kong yesterday, as executives from the city's pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper, chief editor Ryan Law and CEO Cheung Kim-hung, appear in court after they were charged with collusion over their newspaper's coverage after authorities deployed a sweeping security law.

### She was a 'trafficking victim'

successor to Khamenei.

Lawyer of British 'IS bride' Shamima Begum tells court

A schoolgirl who left Britain to join the so-called Islamic State group and had her British citizenship revoked was a victim of human trafficking, a court heard on Friday.

Shamima Begum was 15 when she

two fellow pupils in February 2015. Britain's interior ministry revoked her citizenship on national security grounds after she was discovered heavily pregnant in a Syrian refugee

travelled from London to Syria with

camp in February 2019, amid an outcry led by right-wing newspapers. The Court of Appeal ruled last July that Begum could return to Britain to challenge the decision. But the Supreme Court in February overturned the lower court ruling, and prevented her from doing so on

national security grounds.



the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) that deals with deportations on national security grounds and the revocation of citizenship.

Her lawyer, Samantha Knights, claimed Begum was "a child trafficked to and remaining in Syria for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced marriage".

She also argued that revoking Begum's citizenship left her stateless. The court was told Begum was living Begum, now 21, is challenging in a "dire" and "fundamentally the interior ministry's decision at unsafe environment in which June.

violence is endemic" in the al-Roj refugee camp in northern Syria. Knights added there was a

"serious and present danger" to Begum after the media located her whereabouts and due to her engagement with Western legal processes. The lawyer argued against delaying her appeal until the conclusion of a separate case in March 2022.

Begum is of Bangladeshi heritage but the country's foreign minister has said he will not consider granting her citizenship.

An estimated 900 Britons travelled to Syria and Iraq to join IS. The government has prosecuted returnees and revoked more than 150 people's citizenship, with unconfirmed numbers stuck in Syria.

SIAC judge Robert Jay said he would give a ruling by the end of

### WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORT

### US pulls antimissile batteries from ME

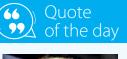
AGENCIES

The Biden administration is withdrawing Patriot antimissile batteries from four Middle East countries as the US reduces its military footprint in the region amid a reduction in tensions with Iran, a US news outlet reported on Friday.

The Pentagon is pulling about eight Patriot antimissile batteries from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait and Jordan, as well as a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system from Saudi Arabia that had been deployed by the previous Trump administration, the Wall Street Journal reported citing unnamed US officials.

The redeployment includes hundreds of US troops who operate the systems and began earlier this month following a June 2 phone call in which US informed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of the shift, according to the Journal.

The withdrawal of anti-missile batteries marks a return to a more normal level of defence in the region where the US continues to maintain tens of thousands of troops even as it has reduced forces deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, the Journal reported. The US deployed Patriot antimissile batteries and troops to Saudi Arabia after Iranian drone attacks hit Saudi oil facilities and to Iraq in 2020 after a spate of missile and rocket attacks on US forces by Iran and Iranian-backed militias.







war is real. ... Time is of the essence. The opportunity to reverse the military takeover is narrowing.

**CHRISTINE SCHRANER BURGENER**, UN SPECIAL **ENVOY ON MYANMAR, TELLS** MEMBER STATES AT UN

# A focus on abnormal uterine bleeding

PROF DR HAMIDA BEGUM

By the age of 10-14 years, when a girl gradually becomes an adolescent, various physical and mental changes take place. One of the most important manifestations of these changes is 'menarche' or starting of menstruation. Usually, menstruation takes place for 3-7 days and the amount of bleeding varies anywhere from 30-80 ml. But this menstruation can have various aberrations from normal when it occurs irregularly or multiple times in a single month and the amount of bleeding varies from scanty to very heavy. When no demonstrable or definite organic cause of this abnormal bleeding is found, it is called dysfunctional or abnormal uterine bleeding (DUB or AUB).

For menses to occur regularly, some external and internal factors are intimately related. Among external factors, body weight, nutritional status and climate play a dominant role. Among internal, there is an intimate and rhythmic balance between secretions of different hormones from endocrine glands such as from the ovary, adrenal and thyroid glands. Abnormal uterine bleeding is categorised into 3 types.

**Puberty menorrhagia:** This may persist once it started for 3-6 months with heavy amounts of bleeding, putting girls and



their parents under tremendous pressure. Sometimes excess or continuous blood loss leads to absenteeism in educational institutions and workplaces or anaemic heart failure leading to hospitalisation for frequent blood transfusions. Most of the time their body build is either skinny or too obese with a high body mass index (BMI).

Reproductive age: These groups of women either suffer from cyclical heavy bleeding or periods every 10-12 days interval (polymenorrhoea or

polymenorrhagia) or small amount of bleeding throughout the whole month (metrotaxis).

Premenopausal menorrhagia: Before established menopause, these groups of women with an age range of 45-50 years suffer from excess bleeding most of the time

Normally there is an intricate system of balance between blood supply and stoppage of bleeding in the uterus. 2 types of prostaglandins are playing together to maintain haemostasis as thromboxane causes vasoconstriction and platelet

aggregation whereas the reverse is done by prostacyclin. Whenever there is an imbalance between these 2 types of prostaglandins, which may occur in case of sorrows, anxiety, any kind of stress, sexual disharmony of a couple or abnormal secretions from adrenal or thyroids can lead to abnormal uterine bleeding.

Appropriate history, proper examination and relevant investigations to rule out known causes are paramount to diagnose a case of AUB. Relevant investigations may include complete blood count,

thyroid function tests and ultrasonography to exclude tumours of the uterus or ovary and to see the thickness of the inner lining of the uterus (endometrium).

The treatment for AUB depends on a few factors. Agerelated appropriate counselling to a greater extent is needed to get relief from anxiety, tension, mood fluctuation and sexual dissatisfactions. Those who are obese need to lose weight. Underweight women will need a nutrition-rich balanced diet. Anaemic individuals need their anaemia corrected.

Some medications like Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) or antifibrinolytics may prove to be beneficial. Combined oral contraceptives as prescribed by a physician may bring comfort to the patient. Hysteroscopy can be done for both diagnosis and treatment. When different medications can not relieve a patient of her symptoms, they may require surgical intervention.

Abnormal uterine bleeding is common and is rarely a reason to be worried. But if one experiences other symptoms in addition to irregular bleeding, she must consult with a doctor as soon as possible.

The writer is a Gynaecologist and Obstetrician working at Widad University College, Malaysia. E-mail: hmdbgm01@gmail.com

### **DISEASE FACTS**

### What is sarcopenia?

Dr Golam Nabi

Many ageing people are facing thinning out of their arms and thighs including hip muscles along with a bulging belly, and they look like an



orange on a stick. Medically it is called sarcopenia. Sarcopenia is the loss of both muscle mass and function that occurs with advancing age. It is associated with multiple adverse outcomes, including frailty, disability and death. Older age, female gender and muscle disuse caused by low

levels of physical activity or immobility is a well-

defined risk factor, less use or no use of muscle

result in a decrease in the size of muscle fibres and their total number.

Age related oxidative damage, low-grade chronic inflammation, nutritional factors, changes in the hormonal system are all responsible for the decrease in the size and number of muscle fibres. Sometimes sarcopenia is associated with coexisting diseases like diabetes, muscle diseases (myopathy), thyroid problems, low protein intake, prolonged fastings and overzealous dieting.

Anthropometric measures such as midarm circumference and skinfold thickness can help diagnose sarcopenia. Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA Scanning) can also be done. CT scan and MRI are gold standards for estimating muscle mass.

You can prevent sarcopenia by regular physical exercise. Exercise has an impact on both cardiovascular fitness and increasing muscle mass and promoting muscle protein synthesis. Treatment to lower ammonia, hormonal treatment (testosterone), micronutrient supplementation including Vitamin D can also help prevent sarcopenia. Myostatin antagonists have been proven to increased muscle mass. Furthermore, the effect of behavioural and psychological support from the family is also important.

The writer is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Z H Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital, Dhaka.

# HEALT Houlletin



## Tai chi helps the waistline a little

Tai chi is the slow-motion exercise sometimes called "meditation in motion." Tai chi is popular for its dignified pace and low impact, but its claimed medical benefits have been difficult to pin down. In this assessor-blinded, three-way randomised trial, researchers compared regular tai chi practice, standard aerobic exercise, and usual care for reducing central obesity among adults older than 50.

The participants were mostly women, mean age was early 60s, mean body-mass index (BMI) was 25.6 kg/m2, and mean waist circumference was about 92 cm. About half of participants had dyslipidemia or hypertension.

After 38 weeks of thrice-weekly 1-hour tai chi or aerobic-exercise sessions, mean waist circumference in both groups had declined by 1 to 2 cm. In contrast, that measurement in a control group had increased by almost 3 cm. Mean values for weight, BMI, HDL cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels were all slightly better in the tai chi group than in controls and were indistinguishable from those metrics in the aerobic-exercise group. At week 38, 10% to 15% of each exercise group no longer had formal diagnoses of central obesity, in contrast to 4% of the control group.

This rigorous study suggests that the modest metabolic benefits of regular tai chi practice approximate those of light aerobic exercise.

# Magnesium: the astounding mineral

Dr Tauhida Rahman Ereen

Magnesium is an essential mineral in all living organisms, with 99% of the mineral residing within the tissue cells. It is a nutrient that the body needs to stay healthy. Over the past few years, I have learnt a lot about precious minerals for total wellness. I would like to share with you the importance of the marvellous mineral magnesium.

How does magnesium improve health function? Magnesium is an essential macromineral that helps the body inside and out because of its involvement in many significant processes within tissues throughout the human body. Naturally occurring alkaline mineral magnesium may play a role in nerve, muscle function and more. Adequate magnesium may also play a part in keeping our bones strong and staying energised.

Magnesium promotes vitamin D metabolism. It is a key macromineral for boosting immunity. It also contributes to constipation relief. Amazing mineral magnesium may prevent and manage hypertension and stabilise blood pressure. Magnesium deficiency may worsen insulinresistant diabetes. Inflammation fighter magnesium helps with relaxing and opening your airways and relieves asthma symptoms. Some research has shown magnesium can reduce Premenstrual syndrome (PMS) symptoms. Doctors prescribe magnesium supplements for migraine sufferers, as it is a potential remedy for headaches.



How does magnesium affect the skin? Experts say that magnesium can be a big boost to your antiageing regime. it helps to repair, rejuvenate and regenerate cells. Additionally, this major mineral lessens stress and anxiety by reducing the stress hormone cortisol. One review concluded that supplementing with magnesium can improve sleep quality. A good night's sleep promotes the production of collagen and elastin in your skin. Miracle mineral magnesium is a fitness performance enhancer. Foods high in magnesium: Diets high in magnesium-rich foods appear to be protective against chronic disease, and low magnesium status is increasingly being linked to disease risk and impaired disease management. Men should aim for at least 400-420 mg and while women only need 310-320 mg per day. Add magnesium-rich food to your diet

and you will be amazed by what happens next to your body and mind. Best foods with magnesium to enhance your well-being are whole wheat bread, brown rice, oatmeal, dark green vegetables, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, banana, sweet potato with skin, avocado, raspberries, low-fat yoghurt, almonds and beans. Supplementing is an effective way to meet your magnesium demand, especially if you are magnesium deficient.

After decades of research, it has become increasingly evident that magnesium, the fourth most abundant mineral in the human body, is absolutely essential for regulating hundreds of biochemical processes and several physiological systems that maintain metabolic and cardiovascular health. So do not ignore this vital mineral and enhance your healthy lifestyle with magnesium.

## Carotenaemia: does the skin tell us a story?

PROF M KARIM KHAN

A couple of weeks ago I saw two patients having similar problems. Both the patients were around two years old, had deep yellow colouration of palms and soles. There were no other complaints. Their parents thought that their baby has been suffering from jaundice. On examination other than deep yellow colouration of palms and soles, there was no yellow coloration of eyes but urine was a bit more yellow. Their appetite was good and both of them were playful. Their livers were not enlarged, no itching and other findings were normal.

Feeding history revealed that both the mother used to give carrots and pumpkins every day in their food. Carrots and pumpkins contain carotenoid, excess consumption of which developed this deep yellow colour of the palms and soles of their child. This condition is called carotenaemia.

Foods high in carotene are carrots, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, egg yolks and other orange-coloured foods. Carotenaemia is a harmless condition in which the palms and soles become deep yellow due to excess consumption of carotene-containing foods regularly.

The treatment for this condition is very simple. Just withdraw carotene-containing food for three to four weeks. The yellow discolouration will gradually disappear and no medication is needed.

Excess of anything is not good, rather it creates problems. Thus avoid excess consumption of any food whatever it may be.

The author is a Professor of Paediatrics at Community Based Medical College, Mymensingh. E-mail: mmukkhan@gmail.com







8 | The Baily Star EDITORIAL



FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2021, ASHAR 6, 1428 BS

# Police accused of torturing a minor into murder confession

Authorities must conduct urgent investigation of complicit officers

S more details of the case of a 12-year-old boy from Bogura who was forced to confess to killing his younger brother in 2015 are being revealed, we are horrified to hear of the ordeal that this child and his parents have been put through for almost six years. This week, a video report from *The Daily Star* delved deeper into the case and revealed a shocking level of incompetence and potential corruption from the investigating police, as well as the torture of the minor suspect Sourav that continues to traumatise him, even today.

In the report, the statement from Sourav's father, day labourer Md Mohidul Islam, is truly heart-breaking. He struggled to hold back his tears while speaking of how, after the agony of losing his eight-year-old son, instead of receiving justice for his murder, he had to spend his remaining strength and resources in protecting his other child from a potential miscarriage of justice. It is clear from his tale that at every step of this case, there was a total disregard for the law—he could hear 12-year-old Sourav being tortured at the police station but was not allowed to see him; he did not receive any assistance from the police or local government actors regarding the case; and he was even forced to flee from his village after being threatened by the "influential" people who, he alleges, framed his son for the crime.

However, Md Mohidul refused to be intimidated and filed a no-confidence motion, after which the investigation was handed over to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), which later arrested two persons in connection with the murder. In fact, the sub-inspector of PBI Bogura revealed that they did not find any evidence of Sourav even being near the scene of the crime. So based on what evidence did the local police arrest him? When questioned on this, the callous reply from the local police station was that they have "a lot of work to do" and new investigations can reveal new findings later.

The chief of the PBI has now suggested that to avoid further occurrences like this, higher officials should be involved in the process before any recording of a child's confessional statement. However, measures such as this will be far too little, too late for Sourav, who is still unable to hear from one ear due to the torture he was subjected to. This shameful police brutality as well as the possible police collusion with local influential actors to frame a minor are not an issue that can be taken lightly. It is symptomatic of a wider problem of law enforcers resorting to lawlessness and subverting the law to serve their own needs. For too long, we have seen violent and corrupt police officers escape accountability with little or no disciplinary action. We urge the government to recognise the gravity of the situation and take immediate step to investigate the police officers who tortured Sourav into confessing. The lack of a strong response from the authorities will only reduce people's confidence in their ability to protect minors from such abuse at the hands of law enforcers again.

# Recognising the contributions of sanitation and waste workers

Their health and safety should be our priority

discussion held by *The Daily Star* with health policy experts has brought to light the utter neglect and apathy of our society towards one of the most essential groups of people: the sanitation and waste workers. These hidden and unsung heroes who risk their health and lives every day to clean the sewerage drains and other waste on a regular basis have little to no access to healthcare, even though they are most prone to illness due to their work in the most unhygienic conditions. The discussion is part of a campaign tilted "The Untold Stories of Sanitation and Waste Worker", jointly organised by *The Daily Star*, WaterAid Bangladesh and the Embassy of Sweden. Experts have rightly pointed to the challenges in improving the health and healthcare condition of these workers.

According to experts, one of the major reasons why these workers are so neglected is the lack of recognition for their profession. They face social stigma, economic hardships and are also deprived of civic benefits. They are underpaid and cannot afford a decent lifestyle, especially quality healthcare. Due to a lack of affordable and comprehensive healthcare services for the country's urban poor—an economic cluster to which the sanitation and waste workers belong—it has become difficult to ensure even the basic healthcare services for these unsung heroes. While the DGHS runs around 35 urban dispensaries in Dhaka to provide outdoor patient services, more should be set-up with comprehensive healthcare facilities to cater to the primary healthcare needs of the urban poor, including these workers.

The government must implement universal healthcare coverage for the urban poor so that they can afford the medical care needed. In a nation where, according to World Bank, a staggering 74 percent of healthcare expenses have to be borne out of pocket by the patients, poor sanitation workers are deterred from seeking

medical care even when they are seriously ill.

If the government is sincere in its efforts to ensure their proper healthcare, it needs to drive health insurance schemes for them. The government can collaborate with the NGOs working to ensure the rights of sanitation and waste workers through community partnerships to promote the insurance facility. Collaboration can also be made with the Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB), which has access to the 300 municipalities and their workers, to make sure every sanitation and waste worker has access to individual or even group health insurance policy. It is high time the government and the society as a whole recognised their needs and ensured their wellbeing. Providing access to healthcare would be the first step.

### **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

## 'What will happen to my child?'

### And other questions that haunt refugees



first met six-year-old Amina in the Kutupalong refugee camp in 2019. I couldn't help noticing the forlorn image of life in the camps she depicted—a child alone in a

corner, playing with a flammable item instead of a toy. Later, Amina's mother told me that she was hiding under the bed when the Myanmar military surrounded their household in Rakhine. She watched them kill her father and grandfather, and lay hidden while they gang-raped her mother. She hadn't said a word to anyone outside of her family since then.

Amina's mother also spoke of how lost she felt now that her parents and husband were dead. She lamented, "What will happen to my child?" During visits to the refugee camps, I have heard this refrain over and over again from Rohingya parents—"what will happen to my child?"

I started with this story because right after the 2017 refugee exodus from Myanmar—the result of military operations termed as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" by the then UN human rights chief—there was a lot more interest in Bangladesh regarding the human faces of the Rohingya who fled here. The stories of brutal murders, rapes and villages being burned en masse stirred something in the hearts of a nation prone to feel empathy towards persecuted populations. However, after four years of hosting close to a million refugees and feeling the strain on our local resources, that empathy has fast changed into refugee fatigue, and often downright aggression.

If mainstream and social media is anything to go by, we are no longer interested in hearing the stories of religious and racial persecution of this minority. Instead, we have fallen into the habit of speaking in sweeping generalisations only. In such a huge and diverse population, the stories of courage and agency—the Rohingya social workers teaching women about birth control, the elders passing on their language to the young, the youth volunteers engaging in community service—these stories are of no interest either. The words of the day, when it comes to refugees, are "crime", "drugs" and, of course, "repatriation".

The final buzzword is one thing that we can all agree on at least—despite what many may think, most Rohingya refugees have no desire to spend their whole lives confined in camps, however improved their conditions may be. A common accusation that you often hear against refugees in Bangladesh is that they are living a life of "comfort" and they would much rather live here for "free" than go back home. These voices have become even louder in the wake of Bhashan Char, where the resettled refugees have better accommodation and facilities (although the recent deaths of three Rohingya children amidst an outbreak of diarrhoea on the island shows that all is not as well as it seems).

While there are definitely marginalised pockets of our own citizens who would consider a daily ration of rice and lentils and a plastic tarpaulin over their heads

a luxury, I can guarantee that the people who are repeating these xenophobic tropes are not one of them. And this perception of refugees as free-loaders completely erases their identities and personal histories. Do we really believe the Rohingya people would choose to live out the rest of their lives fenced in with barbed wire, without livelihoods, education and freedom of movement, a stone's throw from their homeland, simply for the sake of "free" shelter and rations?

There is no question that Bangladesh has acted magnanimously when it comes to hosting refugees. And at almost every event hosted in the refugee camps, such as the ones organised on Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day every year, this gratitude towards the Bangladeshi authorities has been expressed by the Rohingya. Which makes it all the more depressing that when legitimate questions are asked about their current status-such as the right to education of over 450,000 Rohingya children in the camps who are being denied access to basic accredited education—our general reaction has been to shrug our shoulders and say "not our problem".

Time and again, Bangladesh has said that it cannot solely take responsibility for the Rohingya refugees, and the authorities *are* justified in saying so. But by failing to uphold their cause and create legitimate platforms where refugee voices can be amplified, we have made an error of judgment—because from the looks of it, the rest of the world, instead of stepping up in our place, have also washed their hands of the "refugee problem".

At the latest G7 meeting, global leaders met to discuss the pandemic, climate change and security issues—there was hardly a mention of the world's 26.4

million refugees (UNHCR estimate from mid-2020). Earlier this month, *The Guardian* reported that British foreign aid cuts of 42 percent will leave around 70,000 people without health services and 100,000 without water in Cox's Bazar, affecting not only refugees but host communities as well. Aid for Rohingya refugees has been dwindling by the year, with the latest Joint Response Plan receiving only 35 percent of the USD 943 million needed for 2021. Again, these funds are allocated not just to meet the needs of nearly a million refugees, but for almost half a million vulnerable Bangladeshis in Cox's Bazar as well.

Would things have been different if we had pushed a different narrative—if, say, instead of saying the Rohingya must return and the rest is not our concern, we had spoken up for a comprehensive solution that involved humane camp conditions, and donor investment in refugee training and education for third-country settlement, alongside dignified and safe repatriation to Myanmar? Could we have used our moral authority as the country with the largest Rohingya refugee population to remind other countries of their responsibilities, such as Japan and Saudi Arabia-who, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council, are guilty of taking in the least refugees despite having the best means? Bangladesh's presence in the region is no longer a minor one, as can be seen from the financial assistance we recently sent to Sri Lanka and the medical aid gifted to Nepal and India. So could we not have demonstrated that same leadership and diplomatic authority in denouncing the military coup in Myanmar and pushing other countries to do the same?

Earlier this month, ASEAN representatives met with the junta chief but failed to come up with a solution to

the crisis in Myanmar or even condemn the military's illegal takeover. At around the same time, Myanmar's shadow civilian government made a landmark announcement, pledging to amend the country's constitution and grant citizenship to the Rohingya if it regains power from the military. Which of these parties do our long-run interests coincide with? We need to carefully consider this while mulling our future diplomatic strategy concerning refugees.

The solution to the refugee crisis is not an easy one, but it will become even more difficult if Bangladesh and other refugee-hosting countries fail to play a leading role in engaging the international community and ensuring that donor support for the Rohingya does not continue to dwindle. And in order to play this role, we need to end the demonisation of refugees and see them for who they are—not free-loaders, not criminals, but a vast and diverse population struggling to survive and build a better life for future generations after being driven out of their native land.

To mark this year's World Refugee
Day, Save the Children has released a
report revealing that more than 700,000
Rohingya children across Asia are being
denied their most basic rights. On this
day, let us remember that we as a nation
are well-aware of the fact that people
can live through the most desperate
situations, but what they cannot live
without is hope. The Rohingya refugees
are not here to snatch the bread out of
the mouths of ordinary Bangladeshis, but
for the most humane of reasons, as the
question that is oft-repeated in the camps
show—"what will happen to my child?"

Shuprova Tasneem is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @shupro-



File photo of a Rohingya child at Unchiparang refugee camp, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TYRONE SIU

### Together we heal, learn and shine



Johannes van der Klaauw

there are more than 82 million people around the world fleeing war, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. This is the highest

number of displaced persons recorded in recent history, equating to some half of the population of Bangladesh. There are more disturbing facts: 2020 also marks the ninth consecutive year of increased forced displacements worldwide.

Myanmar, which forced almost 1 million Rohingya people to flee violence and persecution in 2017, is one of the top five countries contributing to increasing global displacement.

In Cox's Bazar, almost 900,000 Rohingya refugees have been generously sheltered by the government and people of Bangladesh for almost four years. The refugees wish to return home, but until it is safe to do so and they can be guaranteed their basic rights and a pathway to citizenship in Myanmar, they have no choice but to remain protected and assisted to live in safety and with dignity in Bangladesh.

Despite countless stories of personal tragedy, loss and suffering, on this World Refugee Day, we celebrate the resilience and determination of refugees to continue to live with dignity and keep their hopes high to one day be able to return home in Myanmar.

This year, we celebrate this day to help refugees "to heal, to learn and to shine", drawing attention to health, education and sports and arts being so important for their daily life and wellbeing.

The Covid-19 pandemic of the past year has shown us the spirit of Rohingya

refugees and their host communities to prevent and protect from the spread of the virus like never before. At the onset of the pandemic, refugee and local Bangladeshi volunteers alike mobilised in huge numbers to protect their communities. Thousands of volunteers, including a network of 1,500 community health workers, worked day and night to spread awareness in the refugee camps and local communities on Covid-19, on how to keep themselves safe, refer cases for testing and support those who needed it. This has saved lives.

To heal from the pandemic, refugees have provided mental health and psychosocial support through the UNHCR's peer-to-peer mental health programme. They have gone door to door within their community to mentor peers on how to support themselves and their families to deal with stress, anxiety and anger. This kind of outreach and support not only empowers youth to teach one another, but also to build their leadership skills, self-confidence, and ability to cope with adversity.

Other refugees have taken it upon themselves to spread information in different ways—using videos and online information campaigns. A self-started refugee youth group known as Omar's Film School has been creating videos in the Rohingya language to raise awareness for refugees to share information about how to avoid the virus. These young people are stepping up in the face of adversity to protect their own communities despite the risks to themselves.

Access to school and learning facilities has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, not only in Bangladesh but globally, especially for 85 percent of refugee children who live in developing countries around the world. For refugees, going to school was already a challenge, but lockdowns have now made learning

almost impossible. Still, refugee Learning Assistants continue to spend their days going door to door throughout the congested refugee camps, to provide at least some kind of learning at home to students, and to support their parents. Resuming caregiver-led education in the camps would allow children to continue learning at home until it is safe for learning centres and schools to reopen. In parallel, continuing preparations to roll out the Myanmar Curriculum in the camps to allow for its rapid implementation, once the Covid-19 situation permits to reopen the learning centres, will help to ensure that a generation of Rohingya children is not left behind.

Sports has also proven time and again to be an excellent way for people to heal from trauma. In the Rohingya camps, however, access to open spaces is very limited. Still, many refugees can be seen every evening playing football, volleyball and traditional "Chinlone" from Myanmar. Young refugees here are motivated by the Refugee Olympic team and the remarkable challenges these athletes have overcome to compete at the top levels, while representing all refugees who have been forced to flee.

The recent news of the success of young Noor Kabir, who was born in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and has now become a bodybuilding champion in Australia, has encouraged young people to continue to dream big and work hard towards a brighter future. Noor Kabir is also studying to be a nutritionist and intends to share his knowledge with the refugees in the camps he left behind in Bangladesh. There are also many young refugees who have demonstrated resilience as budding artists. Following the devastating fire on March 22 in the camps, which destroyed 40,000 shelters and killed 11 refugees, a large mural of bright artwork painted by Rohingya youth remained intact, telling

the story of the hardships they went through to arrive in Bangladesh, and standing boldly among the ashes as a testament to how resilience through art can shine through even the most difficult of circumstances.

To add to the Covid-19 pandemic,
Bangladeshis and Rohingya refugees alike
face the annual threat of monsoon rains
and cyclones. Again, it is the refugee and
Bangladeshi volunteer "first responders"
who are saving lives, raising awareness and
protecting their communities. Braving bad
weather, volunteers are out in force during
heavy downpours and flooding, moving
others to safety and ensuring that everyone
has access to food and basic needs.

These are just a few stories of the incredible resilience that Rohingya—and other refugees around the world—continue to show in spite of the odds stacked against them. On the World Refugee Day, we celebrate refugees' resilience and support them in their hopes for a brighter future. On this day, we also acknowledge the dedicated humanitarians alongside whom I serve every day, colleagues from both Bangladesh and other parts of the world who work tirelessly and selflessly to create a better life for refugees, often far from their own loved ones.

Four years into the Rohingya crisis, we cannot lose focus on the need to find solutions for the Rohingya refugees by creating peace, stability and justice for them in Myanmar, with their rights fully restored and their living conditions improved. We must continue to stand with the Rohingya and with all refugees in the world, to support them, and to ensure that their hope and aspirations for the future are kept alive and allow them to heal, learn and shine.

Johannes van der Klaauw is the UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh.

# Amidst a faltering COVAX, time for world leaders to step up



**¬**HE International Monetary Fund 19, 2021 note uploaded on its website stated that "Pandemic policy is also economic policy as there is no durable end to the economic crisis without an end to the health crisis." The IMF then proposed

three targets to that end: (1) vaccinating at least 40 percent of the population in all countries by the end of 2021 and at least 60 percent by the first half of 2022; (2) tracking and insuring against downside risks; and (3) ensuring widespread testing and tracing.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) advised that at least 70 percent of the world population must be vaccinated in order to end the coronavirus pandemic. Even if this requirement cannot be fulfilled in the near future, the IMF's 40 percent vaccination target should cover a minimum of 3 to 4 billion people. According to an article published on The Conversation website on June 9, 2021, Professor Monica de Bolle of the Johns Hopkins University estimated that if 60 percent to 70 percent of 8 billion people need to be vaccinated to achieve herd protection, it would require 10 billion to 12 billion doses of a two-dose vaccine. If the global capacity for Covid-19 vaccine production is 2 billion to 4 billion doses annually, it could be 2023 or even 2024 before enough vaccines can be

However, as well as the availability of vaccines, another major concern is the discrimination in vaccine access as rich countries are stockpiling most of the supplies. According to a report by The New York Times, till date more than 2.54 billion vaccine doses have been administered worldwide. While this may sound like a hopeful scenario, the

devil is in the details. "86 percent of the shots that have gone into arms worldwide have been administered in high- and uppermiddle-income countries. Only 0.3 percent of doses have been administered in low-income countries," the report says. Because of the widespread discrimination in vaccine access, some countries are yet to get a single dose of

The WHO, in a June 11 report, said that some 130 core people in the African countries severely lack access to vaccination. Many countries only received a fraction of what they need, with no guarantee for the rest. For instance, South Africa, which purchased vaccines from international market and are producing vaccines as part of a joint-venture arrangement, were able to vaccinate only 0.8 percent of its population. Another large African country, Nigeria could afford to vaccinate only 0.1 percent of its 200-million population.

As of June 11, Israel vaccinated 60 percent of its population, Bahrain 62 percent, Chile 60 percent, the UK 61 percent, and the USA

'86 percent of the shots that have gone into arms worldwide have been administered in high- and uppermiddle-income countries. Only 0.3 percent of doses have been administered in low-income countries.'



'If one considers the entire scenario, one cannot help but worry if the COVAX can at all fulfil its objectives.' PHOTO: REUTERS

52 percent. On the other hand, India only vaccinated 14 percent, Indonesia 7 percent, Sri Lanka 9.6 percent, and Bangladesh 3.6 percent. According to a report in February, Bangladesh was in the 17th position in terms of vaccination. Now it dropped to the 117th due to having not received the vaccine as it was supposed to. Region-wise data also shows distinct levels of discrimination. As of June 17, North America administered vaccines for 68 percent of the entire population. Europe has vaccinated 58 percent, South America 34 percent, Asia 31 percent, Oceania 17 percent, and Africa 3.1 percent. Only 0.3 percent of doses have been administered in the lowincome countries.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom

stated in a Geneva meeting on May 24 that more than 75 percent of the vaccines had been administered in only 10 countries. He termed this as a "scandalous inequality". He urged that at least 10 percent of the world population be vaccinated by September at any cost. Less than a month later, the reality hasn't changed much. In April 2020, the COVAX initiative started

with an aim to facilitate equitable access to vaccines for middle-income and poorer countries. The main two objectives were equitable access to diagnostics and treatment. However, despite initial promise, the arrangement has come to a halt of late.

Now the question is whether the COVAX was a meaningful initiative at all. WHO in

a joint statement with its partners has said: "Designed and implemented in the midst of an unprecedented global public health crisis, it has delivered over 70 million doses to 126 countries and economies around the world since February... Over 35 countries received their first Covid-19 vaccine doses thanks to COVAX." In the same statement, it also said that "if the world's leaders rally together, the original COVAX objectives—delivery of 2 billion doses of vaccines worldwide in 2021, and 1.8 billion doses to 92 lower-income economies by early 2022—are still well within reach.'

Against this backdrop, the leaders of G-7, a coalition of powerful countries, committed 870 million vaccines for the third-world countries to be delivered by 2022. This is less than half of the original objective of the COVAX initiative. It can be assumed that the G-7 countries have more vaccines in their

If one considers the entire scenario, one cannot help but worry if the COVAX can at all fulfil its objectives, and if and how the IMF proposal to vaccinate 40 percent of the world population by 2021 and 60 percent by the first half of 2022 for greater economic recovery will be achieved. Ultimately, this is not just an economic issue; more importantly, it is also an existential one for all of us. As it was mentioned by the WHO directorgeneral in May, 75 percent of all vaccines were administered in just 10 countries, but the question remains, can these 10 countries ensure their safety without helping ensure the safety of the people in other parts of the world? If world leaders don't come up with better solutions to cover the stark vaccination gap among different regions (and countries), what hope is there for us to defeat this deadly

Amir Khasru is Chief Executive, Study Group on Regional

## Building teacher leadership to navigate the new normal in education



Azwa Nayeem

disconnected education since March 2020 has affected students in more ways than one. Although the learning gap is an inevitable outcome, its extent and nature remain unknown,

while other skills such as collaborative and social-emotional skills are also bound to suffer. The nature and extent of discrepancies among students are unique to each community, with some commonalities across the region. Such a scenario demands teachers to design approaches based on individual student needs instead of applying generic or top-down solutions. Teachers need to act as leaders who can engage students, parents, the administration and other community members to co-create and implement community-rooted, learning-need-based solutions for equitable education.

In the wake of the pandemic, teachers took several initiatives to stay connected to their students and teach them. They took live classes on Facebook, created WhatsApp groups and phoned or texted students who did not have the internet. The pandemic suddenly gave them a license to innovate. However, many teachers have either been laid off with the prolonged school closure or face the risk of termination. Most teachers now feel demotivated and many have switched their field of work entirely. The initial momentum in initiatives and innovations got primarily disrupted by the inability of many teachers to cope with the new skill sets required to overcome the digital divide, stay connected and teach in the new normal. Empowering individual teachers to lead these unprecedented times can reinstil a sense of purpose into them and drive them to engage deeply within their schools' communities.

LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING-LEARNING For starters, it is essential to equip the teachers with a repertoire of skills on blended learning approaches that have worked within and outside the country in similar contexts. The existing general ICT training for the primary and secondary government school teachers merely introduces them to some hardware and software, with little hands-on knowledge of integrating technology with pedagogy. Hence, a tech-phobia among many teachers prevents them from confidently taking the lead. Once they have the basic understanding of the blended pedagogy and can tango smoothly between tech, low-tech and no-tech approaches, they can create the recipes that best fit their case for equitable education. If given a clear understanding of the nuances of varying pedagogies—the science behind learning and learning in the new normalteacher leaders can propose pedagogies of

change as a response to specific students' contexts, needs and vulnerabilities, and engage relevant members of the community in the

#### ANYONE CAN LEAD

We must promote a culture that believes anyone, whether in formal or informal roles, can practice leadership by actively driving change towards a shared purpose. Often, it is assumed that leadership will be exercised only by those in the role of formal leadership, typified by positions such as head teachers, teacher officers, principals and school leaders. However, if we shift away from this top-down, hierarchical model, we can promote the agency and capacity of others to lead. Teachers who are empowered by their principals and school communities to make decisions both autonomously and collaboratively, and are involved in decision-making, will practice

*In the wake of the* pandemic, teachers took several initiatives to stay connected to their students and teach them. They took live classes on Facebook, created WhatsApp groups and phoned or texted students who did not have the internet.

leadership not only for the development of the students and the school but also the community. It is essential to trust teachers to make autonomous decisions and lead change fully. Mutual trust needs to be complemented with a safe environment that accepts failure, and redefines it as a learning opportunity.

In a study by McKinsey, it was said: "Human nature being what it is, risk aversion (even fear) will rule people's actions if they do not actually believe it is safe to fail." Teachers will not be motivated to work as agents of change without the option to fail. However, the opportunity cost for failure is relatively high in education as children's future is involved. So, it is also essential to cushion the students from any fallout and prioritise their

#### COLLABORATIVE REFLECTION

Reflection is more than mulling over one's decision; it is an analytical process with purpose at its core that begins with diagnosing the problem, defining and redefining it, designing and redesigning the solution, and evaluating the impact to make informed

choices. When this is done with colleagues in a safe and constructive environment that promotes critical evaluation of one's work to unlock new learning opportunities, it is called collaborative reflection. Teachers can allocate short periods of time during the week when they work with each other and other community members, like parents and local education authorities, to understand the nature of the problem in their schools, co-create a solution, and distribute responsibilities—and then reconvene to evaluate the impact and re-design the solution for greater efficacy. The colossal nature of the challenges we face demands that we engage all the relevant stakeholders to drive change through distributed leadership and

#### collaborative reflection. REMOVING EXISTING BARRIERS

On regular days, teachers are swamped with administrative duties. In government schools, teachers have to enlist voters, map catchment areas, in addition to performing their regular work, which makes it challenging for them to take on new roles and initiatives. Remote learning has reduced many of these added tasks and given them a scope to be at the forefront of innovative change. In some government schools located in remote areas, the number of teachers is insufficient. This overburdens the existing teachers. For them to move beyond their traditional roles, they need to be given room and flexibility.

So recruiting sufficient and qualified teachers to ensure a 1:28 teacher-student ratio is paramount to enabling teachers to practice the art of leadership. There is limited scope for career progression in the teaching profession in the country. By opening the doors to promotion into Zila and Upazila teacher officer positions and tying it with teacher performance and their leadership skills, community-rooted leadership practices can lead to equitable education across the country.

Azwa Nayeem is the Chairperson of Alokito Teachers and Alokito Hridoy Foundation



### **CROSSWORD** BY THOMAS JOSEPH

27 By way of

30 Vulcan's

lookalike

31 Sphere

of 1945

40 Wrath

32 Binary digit

38 Ridiculous

41 Not bother

33 Remain for a bit

35 Conference site

39 Enjoyed avidly

QUOTABLE Quote

**BEVERLY CLEARY** American writer (1916-2021) Children should learn that reading is pleasure, not just something that teachers make you do in school.

**ACROSS** 1 Syrup source 6 Rabbit's home 11 Heavens supporter

12 Blue hue 13 Decade divisions 14 Spent 15 Anger, informally 17 Pester 18 Enzyme suffix 19 Kid's afternoon break 22 "You bet!"

24 Virtue

42 Lusty looks **DOWN** 1 Distress call 2 Relaxed 23 Army makeup 3 Runway sights 4 Cooking fat 25 Rx amount 5 Needed

6 Pillbox, for one 7 Israeli gun 8 Rutabaga's cousin 9 Defeats decisively 10 Yard border 16 Helium, for one 20 Latent promise 21 Gift from Santa 24 Nittany Lions'

25 Give 26 Brunch dish 27 Trip 28 Laundry worker 29 Doubleday et al. 30 Fit for a king 34 Writer Rice 36 Old boat

37 Zoo beast

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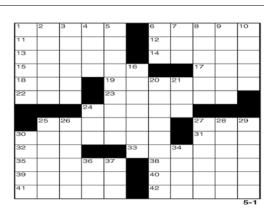


PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

#### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

A L A S V O K E BORI I N A N E NOWIN G SOME GE HOL D SON ETRO MOT ADHERES E D A M E R M SWAB ALOES ELOP Т UBOA

### **BEETLE BAILEY**





### **BABY BLUES**

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

BY MORT WALKER



### Police claim

they switched off their phones. The police official said they went

into hiding willingly due to various family and personal problems. Talking to The Daily Star, Siam, however, said, "I did not know that

he was staying at our house for the

last eight days. "After Adnan went missing, we even had a human chain in Rangpur with school friends," he told our correspondent over the phone yesterday afternoon.

On top of that, none of the locals noticed the car that carried Adnan and his friends in the area.

Only Nishat Nahar, Siam's mother, said the car took the group to their house and returned. It then went back to that house on last Friday to take them.

"During that time, I also talked to my mother about Adnan being missing but she did not tell me anything," Siam said.

"I was angry with my mother when I went to my home last Friday and heard that they left my house," he

Siam and Adnan, who remained missing from June 11 to June 18, were childhood friends and studied together at Lions School and College in Rangpur.

From then on, Adnan used to visit Siam's house regularly.

The residents of houses that are just 15-20 meters away from the house where Adnan and his companions stayed did not notice them at the house in those eight days they said.

AM Abdul Majed Uddin Khan, chairman of Boali Union Parishad, his wife Nazneen Chowdhury, and their son Asif Khan live right beside Siam's house.

Contacted, Majed, who is also the elder uncle of Siam, said, "As I am the running chairman of this union parishad, I remain busy with many activities. I do not get the time to go to Siam's house. We do not know that Adnan was hiding at Siam's house for the last seven days.

Siam's younger uncle Sohel Nawaz Khan lives with his family only 10 yards away from Siam's house. Contacted, he said that he and his

family did not know anything. However, he also said, "I heard the news of Adnan's disappearance on

While talking to Siam's mother, a woman working next house, entered Siam's house but Siam's mother did

not allow her to enter the house. When this reporter later tried to talk to house help, she refused to talk and said, "I do not know whether Adnan and his companions were

Asked why Siam's mother did not tell anyone about Adnan, she said, "Antar [Adnan's nickname] had forbidden me from that.

"That day he came to our house with Abdul Muhith, Firoz Alam and Amir Uddin and asked me for shelter for a few days."

Adnan told Siam's mother that some people were following him for some days and he was threatened, she

Talking to the locals, villagers and shopkeepers around the village, this correspondent found no one that saw a car dropping Adnan at the village.

#### A new campaign

FROM PAGE 12

The Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said today that there was no possibility of any summit meeting between India and Pakistan on the Bangladesh issue until the massacre of Bangalees was completely stopped. Addressing a crowded press conference Indira Gandhi made it clear that India was fully prepared to meet any fresh aggression by Pakistan. "We are also prepared to foil all attempts of Pakistan to create communal troubles and disruption in our country," she added.

The prime minister said that it was very unfortunate that some people in Kashmir had started comparing Kashmir with Bangladesh and had even described the Kashmir Chief Minister as Yahya Khan of Kashmir. "Either it is deliberate mischief or it shows how misinformed the Kashmiris are," Gandhi added. **BELGIAN ENVOY VISITS** 

**EVACUEE CAMPS** C Kerremans, Belgian ambassador in India compared the exodus of refugees from Bangladesh with that of the evacuation of his countrymen in 1940 when his country was overrun by the Germans. He told newsmen at Dum Dum Airport today that the only difference between the two was that "in our case it was a total war." The international bodies, the ambassador said, besides giving aid to India should also find ways and means by which these unfortunate people could go back to their homes.

REFUGEE NUMBER EXAGGERATED: The Military Governor of East Pakistan General Tikka claimed that India had seriously exaggerated the number of East Pakistan refugees crossing its borders. The total number of refugees from Bangladesh entering India had not exceeded one million, he added. Talking to newsmen Tikka Khan noted that railroads and bridges between Dhaka and Chittagong destroyed in the fighting were still damaged. Only one bridge, he said,

had so far been repaired. Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com



Iran's outgoing President Hassan Rouhani meets with Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran, Iran, yesterday. Ultraconservative cleric Raisi was elected president with just under 62 percent of the vote, according to figures released Saturday by Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli.

### DU students charged dorm, transport fees despite closure

development fee by 50 percent for the 2019-20 academic year.

According to the decision made at its Academic Council Meeting on June 1, DU will conduct the final exams of different departments and institutes, which were delayed by 15 months. Before sitting for the exams, students must fill up forms (regarding the previous year's fees). The submission of the forms will begin online tomorrow.

Seeking anonymity, a residential student of Bijoy Ekattor Hall said, "We are not allowed admission until we renew our hall cards. And if we want to renew the card, those who are non-residential must pay Tk 1,000 and those who are residential have to

"Why should we pay this money as

all of us are having to live outside the halls for the past year and half?" He also said they didn't use the

university's transport facilities. "Then why pay Tk 1,080 for this purpose?' Students, former leaders of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), and other student

organisation leaders strongly criticised

the authorities' decision and urged them to take a student-friendly Many are making posts on social media, protesting the decision of charging transport and residential

Slamming the decision, former

DUCSU vice president Nurul Haque library and other fees. The decision to Nur, told The Daily Star, "Amid the pandemic situation, DU authorities should have been on the students' side. But they didn't do that. Their decision is totally illogical and unethical.'

"We will talk with authorities in this regard immediately," said Saddam Hussain, general secretary of DU Chhatra League.

Speaking to the Daily Star, Foez Ullah, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, said, "From the beginning, we have been urging authorities of all educational institutions to waive the tuition fee due to the Covid-19 situation. But the DU authorities are taking extra fees, including transport, residential,

the hope for high profile vaccination

programme began very well with the

first phase of the vaccine came very

rapidly. But then the whole thing

broke down. In the second wave, there

was a big contract default on the part

of Serum Institute who did not deliver

collaboration of AstraZeneca and the

do so is in conflict with the values of the university."

According to the university transport office sources, the university was in an agreement with BRTC, where it would charge according to the trips made. If there is no trip, there is no money charged. With the current pandemic situation, there has been no

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman said, "Establishment services fees will not be reduced, as these services are continuing on a limited scale for the university's employees. However, students are not using these facilities as the university has been closed due to the pandemic situation.'

### S Asia failed to play due role

Contexts and Recovery - South Asian Perspective" organised by the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM).

Not only that, the government's capacity to enforce lockdowns, incapacity to contain virus transmission, collecting and administering vaccine rollout drive has worsened the situation in the region, they said.

Prof Rehman Sobhan said he does not see that the governments of the regions have come up with innovative solutions to the crisis.

He said people in bordering districts use to cross borders quite frequently even for less important reasons. And here, there was a responsibility of governments to control movement so that transmission could be stopped, the spread could be controlled.

"Collective responsibility was there but there was a collective failure," he said. In the case of Bangladesh, he said there was a lack of enforcement of lockdown.

Days after the beginning of the lockdown, traffic jams were seen in Dhaka. As a result, the lockdown is seemed to have a questionable impact, he said.

He said Bangladesh has the lowest level of testing records, and as a result it is difficult to know the actual infection rate.

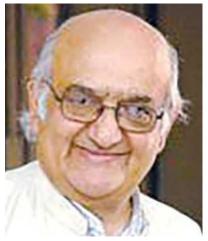
"We have no idea of what is the level of infection is. We are operating in a no man's land in terms of infection rate," he said.

In case of death, he said, the actual number of casualties might be higher

than the reported cases and added that there might be an underestimation of

Prof Sobhan also pointed out the lack of efficacy of lockdown measures taken by the governments as those were enforced without ensuring adequate support needed for poor and low-income people.

As a result, people had to come out Sobhan said.



**Prof Rehman Sobhan** 

for their livelihoods despite the risk of infection and spread. There has also been a weakness in the enforcement of lockdown by the government.

In the case of Bangladesh, the authorities could neither enforce lockdown properly nor could stop people coming from lockdown areas in bordering districts, he said.

So here it is also a case of no man's land, he said.

In terms of the recovery process,

two-third of its obligation to deliver,

**Prof Deepak Nayyar** 

So a significant portion of the people who got the first phase of the vaccine could not get the opportunity of the second dose, he said.

The vaccination programme is a classic example of the failure of the Indian government, said Prof Deepak.

He said lockdown imposed in India just hours before its implementation had created a humanitarian crisis there.

Deepak said the crisis has caused

increased poverty and inequality. "Services and informal sectors are

standard victims," said Rehman. He said stimulus funds channeled

through banks and most of the funds went to known regular and known clients while many who needed support might be missed out on. He termed the situation as a business governance failure.

Sobhan said, "One of the big problems in South Asia is the low allocation for social protection. This is also worst governed sector.'

There is also intervention failure, he added.

Prof Sobhan called for increased collaboration among civil society bodies in research and experience sharing.

"I will not bet a great deal of money on governments of South Asia," he said. Rehman also talked about economic growth.

He said the pandemic and subsequent effect caused slowed growth in economic growth. India fell into recession. Bangladesh also suffered but it was not that much

affected like India. 'Certainly, Bangladesh is in better shape than India," he said but raised

doubts about the growth statistics. 'We are never really sure about the validity of statistics.... We are left in

the grey area," he said. Rehman called for increased

collaboration among civil society bodies in research and experience

"I will not bet a great deal of money on governments of South Asia," he

### 20 families now all smiles

With the house came electricity and water, the bills of which the family does not need to pay, Das said.

"We express our utmost gratitude to the PM," she added.

Jiban Malakar, 58, who runs a tea stall, also received a house -- which came with two rooms, a kitchen, a toilet and a porch -- in the area five months ago after being nominated by his local Union Parishad Chairman Al

Previously, Jiban, who has a wife and four children, lived in a cramped house with feeble roofing at Chandra area in Sultanpur for which he had to pay Tk 400 per month as house rent and electricity bill.

"We had to face much sufferings and difficulties in Chhapra house during rain. We are very well now," he said, showing gratitude to the PM for the initiative.

At Jangal village, three Hindu families and 17 Muslim families have received new houses, he said.

Like them, housewife Dalia Begum, 40, received a house under the

Ashrayan-2 project at Jangal village. Her husband Ratan Miah, 50, is a rickshaw puller.

They used to live in a house in Shilapur village earlier and had to pay Tk 2,000 every month as house rent and also pay the electricity bill. But due to a financial crisis, they

could not afford to pay the house rent and electricity bills. "Now we don't have to pay the bills and we are living in a very good

house," a happy Dalia added. As many as 53,340 more houses to landless and homeless families will be provided with houses under the Ashrayan Project-2.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will give the houses as part of her government's campaign to bring all such destitute families under a housing scheme, Project Director Md Mahbub Hossain told reporters at a briefing at Jangal village on Friday.

He said the premier will inaugurate the handover ceremony virtually today under the second phase of the Ashrayan-2 project. "This is an inclusive development

model under the leadership of the PM. This will play a very important role in reducing the poverty in the country," Hossain said.

Earlier in January, the prime minister handed over 69,904 houses to homeless and landless families under the first phase of the project on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Under the scheme, joint ownership of two-decimal house land alongside a modern abode will also be given to the husband and wife of each family. The tin-shed pucca houses will

be given to 53,340 more homeless and landless families, according to Hossain. According to an official statement, each family is getting assets worth

some Tk 2.6 lakh, if the value of twodecimal land is on an average Tk 50,000 The construction cost of every house is nearly Tk 2 lakh, while the

cost of utility connectivity (electricity and gas) is some Tk 10,000. On Sunday, 12,436 houses will

be given in the Rangpur division, while 10,547 in Chattogram, 7,630 in Dhaka, 7,172 in Rajshahi, 37,153 in Barishal, 911 in Khulna, 2,512 in Mymensingh and 1,979 in Sylhet divisions.

According to the lists prepared under the Ashrayan project, the number of homeless and landless families (under class-Ka) is 293,361 in the country, while that of only homeless families (under class-Kha) is 592,261

According to the PMO officials, the joint ownership documents of the two-decimal homes along with a tinroofed pucca dwelling will be given to both husband and wife of a family ensuring gender equality, reports

Besides, 100,000 more houses will be given by December next as part of the government's move to rehabilitate the country's homeless people in the Mujib Year.

A total of 373,562 houses have so far been given to homeless families under Sheikh Hasina's Ashrayan project run by the PMO, says UNB report.

### Space reproduction

Scientists said they produced 168 offspring using mouse sperm cells that were stored aboard the International Space Station (ISS) for five years and 10 months and then rehydrated back on Earth, injected into unfertilized egg cells and transferred into female mice at a Japanese laboratory.

The sperm cells were exposed to radiation 170 times greater than sperm kept in ground storage for comparative purposes at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Center. The higher radiation levels present in space are attenuated by Earth's atmosphere.

### Crores siphoned

FROM PAGE 1

were seized from him.

Parvez, a graduate of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, maintained the four agent accounts with online gambling sites for the last seven months, earning up to Tk 1.5 lakh a day, said Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of CTTC.

In four agent accounts, Parvez used to make transactions of up to Tk 50 lakh a day. On June 14, right before he got busted, Parvez deposited about Tk 82 lakh to different bank accounts in the country, according to Tohidul.

Parvez made a confessional tatement before a Dhaka court resterday after being on remand for three days

"We have the details of over a dozen people with agent accounts similar to Parvez's. They are on our watch. Through these 2,300 gambling agent accounts, at least Tk 50 crore could be siphoned from the country in a single day," Tohidul said.

Officers have identified two ndividuals from Russia and Cyprus as the ringleaders.

"We would seek support from the Interpol to track them down," he added. Gamblers in the country mostly spend the money on online casinos,

betting on international sports like

football or cricket, and games played on computers and other devices. 1xbet.com, melbet.com linebet.com are popular gambling sites in Bangladesh. The sites are

maintained from Russia. The money won by the gamblers also reach théir hands through illegal channels, officers said.

Besides, most of the money spent by the gamblers eventually end up at the bank accounts belonging on papers to apparel companies.

Such companies launder the money out of the country and hoodwink the law enforcers by lying on the documents related to the import of raw materials, according to the investigators.

Parvez told investigators that he first had communications with someone named Michel Victor, to whom he had requested for an agent account on the

online gambling site 1xbet.com. Victor then asked Parvez for his personal details. Once he provided the information, someone named Tom contacted him and asked him to deposit \$5,000 to the bank accounts of a Bangladeshi fashion house and

an IT firm, investigators said. After Parvez deposited the money, he had his agent account opened on the site, Tohidul said.

The money was later sent back to the agent in the form of cryptocurrency, which is illegal in Bangladesh.

"We have several local fashion houses and IT firms on our list. We are investigating their link with the gambling nexus.

Parvez told investigators that agents like him mainly receive money from local gamblers via the mobile financial services platform.

People like Parvez maintain several agent accounts with the MFS. Once a gambler deposits money through MFS, the agent makes sure that the money is laundered out of the country, it reaches the hand of the site operators.

The currency used by the sites are cryptocurrencies, the investigators

"We identified a couple of bKash agent accounts in the capital that are recipients of the money sent by the online gamblers. We learnt that the bKash accounts were opened using fake details and trade licences," said a high official of the CTTC unit,

requesting anonymity. Local agents like Parvez also use recognised online payment systems.

After receiving the money, the local gambling agents refill the gambler's account through online payment systems like Perfect Money, Skrill, PayPal and Net Hiller.

Once the account is refilled, the gambler can spend on the sites. Perfect Money is popular now, said

an official, adding that the gambling agents are now charging Tk 90 against one unit of Perfect Money. Contacted, Abu Hena Md Razi Hasan, chief of Bangladesh

Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), "We are also receiving information about the use of online payment systems for gambling. We are sharing the information with the law enforcers. Asked how people could open

bKash accounts using agent false information, Shamsuddin Haider Dalim, head of corporate communication at bKash, said: "We always investigate if we receive any complaint regarding the use of agent accounts for criminal activities, and we take actions like suspending the account. We have two dedicated teams closely working with law enforcers and BFIU."

Besides, the agent accounts go through routine scrutiny, he added.

# e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2021, ASHAR 6, 1428 BS

WTC Final (Day 3) India vs New Zealand Live from 3:30 pm

Live from 10:00 pm Switzerland vs Turkey Live from 10:00 pm T SPORTS & GAZI TV
Dhaka Premier Division T20 Prime Doleshwar vs Sheikh Jamal

Live from 9:00 am Abahani Limited vs Gazi Group Cricketers Live from 2:00 pm Prime Bank vs Mohammedan Sporting Live from 6:30 pm



AGENCIES



A first half goal from Guido Rodriguez, his first in 11 international appearances, Argentina a 1-0 win over

get off the mark

Uruguay in a leaden Copa America clash on Friday. The Real Betis midfielder started for his country for the first time since June

2019 and he justified that decision when he converted a cross from Lionel Messi after 10 minutes reacted and pointed out the importance at home and are doing things very well."

cautioned his teammates of complacency and there is a long way to go. "Come on!!! It was important to win

today. This will give us peace of mind for what is coming will continue to be hard," tweeted an elated Messi after their

"We've lacked a bit of luck to get victories (recently)," said Argentina's second half substitute Angel Di Maria. "Today we managed to do that against a direct rival who are always contenders for the Copa America."

"Brazil are the best team (so far)," he added. "We're taking it step by step and the dream is alive, I hope we can make it come true. Argentina are always After the game, an elated Lionel Messi a candidate (for the title) but Brazil are

Argentina's next game is against finally some peace of mind, but he also Paraguay on Tuesday 6am (Bangladesh Time) while Brazil will meet Colombia in their next match on Thursday at 6am (Bangladesh Time).

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The result extended Argentina's unbeaten run to 15 games since they lost in the semi-final of the last Copa America in 2019.
- Argentina are now undefeated in 5 games against Uruguay in the Copa America (4 wins, 1 draw). Uruguay's last win was 2-0 in the 1989 edition.
- With this important win Argentina move on to 4 points to sit joint top with Chile in Group A. Brazil are leading Group B with maximum six points and Colombia are in second position with four points. The top four teams of each group will advance to the knockout stages of





### THE FLYING SIKH NO MORE

Indian athletics trailblazer Milkha Singh, the man dubbed "The Flying Sikh" for his Olympic and Asian Games exploits, died Friday at the age of 91 after contracting Covid-19. Singh won gold medals at the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games.



However, he shot to fame at the 1960 Olympics in Rome when he finished fourth in the 400m after a photo-finish was required to decide the winner.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE STORY

### Rain ruins BDPL games



The Super League stage of the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier Division T20 League (BDPL) was scheduled to kick off yesterday but unfortunately all three Super League matches at the Shere-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and one match of the relegation league

in Savar were abandoned due to incessant rain. Only Prime Doleshwar and Gazi Group shared points but the other matches were abandoned without a ball being bowled and are set to be rescheduled soon.

### BPL to resume sans spectators



Following the suspension after May 11 due to Eid ul Fitr and the national football team's international engagement, the second phase of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) will resume from June 25

at four different venues (Dhaka, Tongi, Munshiganj and Cumilla) but will be held without spectators maintaining Covid-19 protocols- as decided in an emergency meeting of the league committee chaired by BFF's senior vicepresident Abdus Salam Murshedy at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday.

#### **EURO 2020 HIGHLIGHTS**

### **KOHLI HELPS INDIA REBUILD**

Skipper Virat Kohli led India's revival and steered his team to 146-3 against New Zealand before bad light stopped play in the weather-marred World Test Championship (WTC) final on Saturday. Kohli had raised 58 runs with Ajinkya Rahane when the players were forced off amid fading light at the Ageas Bowl with only 9.1 overs played in the final session. The India captain, like several of his team mates, stood outside the crease to try to negate any swing and played the moving ball quite late for his unbeaten 44. Rahane, batting on 29, looked cagey initially but gamely hung on to feature in India's second 50-plus partnership. After persistent rain washed out the entire opening day on Friday, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson unsurprisingly elected to field after winning the toss. Only 64.4 overs have been played in the first two days of the weather-hit contest which has a reserve

### Hungary ready to surprise Germany, says Rossi

Hungary coach Marco Rossi was not sure his team would achieve much against world champions France in their Euro 2020 Group F match on Saturday but after they came away with a 1-1 draw he wants them to spring a surprise against Germany as well.

After a heartbreaking late meltdown in Hungary's first game on Tuesday which they lost 3-0 to defending champions Portugal, a team Rossi thought would be easier to face than France, the coach said he was happy for them to be the protagonists now.

This is incredible, it is exceptional," a joyful Rossi told a news conference, stressing that besides the result against France the effort was laudable as well. "We have to be happy about the

performance. It should make our guys

Attila Fiola put the hosts ahead just before halftime but Antoine Griezmann equalised in the 66th minute to move France on to four points after two games and on track for the last 16.

Hungary's unexpected point kept alive their slim hopes and they must now beat another heavyweight, Germany, on Wednesday to have a chance of advancing to the knockout

"We need to keep our feet on the ground. I'm not arrogant and saying we'll win in Munich, but we will do our best to make it a match," said Rossi, who took a swipe at critics who said he should have called up different players for the finals.

PHOTO: TWITTER



Attila Fiola





### **Germany sink Portugal** in six-goal thriller

REUTERS, Munich

Three-times European champions Germany shrugged off their opening game loss and announced their arrival as serious contenders at Euro 2020 with an emphatic 4-2 win over highly-rated Portugal in their Group F match on Saturday.

Cristiano Ronaldo had given the defending champions a 15th minute lead but Germany went in at the break 2-1 up thanks to own goals from Ruben Dias and Raphael Guerreiro.

The Germans turned on the style in the second half with goals from Kai Havertz and the impressive Robin Gosens making it 4-1 before Diogo Jota pulled a goal back for Portugal.

The win moves Germany, who face Hungary in their final game, into second place in the group on three points, a point behind leaders France and level on points with the

Portuguese. Hungary drew 1-1 with France earlier on Saturday.

Germany coach Joachim Loew punched the air when Robin Gosens headed in their fourth goal at the far post in their Euro 2020 Group F 4-2 win over Portugal on Saturday, knowing his attacking gamble with his in-form left back had paid off in spades.

Gosens played a sensational game on the biggest stage, intimidating the Portuguese defence with his speed and power down the left wing as he charged through again and again to set up two goals and score another.

"I don't know if it was the game of a lifetime for him, maybe he still has to play that," Loew said.

"But an amazing performance from him. He worked very hard and on top of that he was a constant threat up front as well. That is exactly what we needed today.'

day to make up for lost time.





ASHRAYAN-2 PROJECT

### 20 families now all smiles

ASHUTOSH SARKAR, from Brahmanbaria

Surobala Das, 60, a landless single mother of three from Brahmanbaria cannot believe her luck.

Her family is one of the 20 to have received a brick house at the Jangal village of Sultanpur union under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila under the second phase of the Ashrayan-2 project.

"Even a few months back, we did not imagine that we could live in a pucca house. My endless blessings are for the Prime Minister," an elated Das told the Daily Star on Friday.

The family of Surobala, now 60, is one of 20 families at Jangal village of Sultanpur union under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila, which were given a pucca house each under the second phase of the Ashrayan-2 project.

She said her husband Diresh Chandra Das died from cancer 12 years back and since then she with her son and two daughters had been living in a place given by her husband's brother Girendra Das at Birampur village, where they did not feel comfortable.

The family arrived at the Jangal village two months ago, where a local representative proposed their name in the list of people who will get houses from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A teenage girl named Onamika and her grandmother Surobala Das smiling in front of their new home at Jangaal village in Brahmanbaria's Sultanpur union. The government distributed 20 houses among the homeless people there.

ANISUR RAHMAN

### ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### A new campaign of terror

**JUNE 20, 1971** 

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PAK ARMY **ELIMINATING PROFESSIONALS** The Sunday Times



(London) alleged that the professional classes in Bangladesh were being eliminated in a new campaign of terror. The newspaper said that their information had come from 'academic and professional sources we know to be unimpeachable.' It claimed that all public servants, teachers, writers, journalists and industrialists were being screened and the 'dangerous' were being eliminated. The newspaper said the Pak Army was creating three lists -- white, grey and black. Those on the white list would be given clearance, those on the grey list would probably lose their jobs and be imprisoned, and those on the blacklist would be shot. The report also included details of what it called a new element in East Bengal, a secret force called Razakars. NO SUMMIT TILL PAK BUTCHERY ENDS: INDIRA GANDHI

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

#### DU students charged dorm, transport fees despite closure

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Though they didn't use dormitory and transport facilities for around a year and half, Dhaka University students will have to pay for those.

Many students, much to their frustration, claimed this was an extra burden for

DU authorities, however, said though the university remained shut down, its transport and hall services are continuing on a limited scale and they are charging

Considering the pandemic, the authorities have decided to waive the "admission delay fee" this time. Earlier, they slashed the departmental

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

### Space reproduction research yields baby mice



REUTERS

Trail-blazing space reproduction research that yielded healthy baby mice produced using freeze-dried sperm stored for years in orbit is showing the possibilities of procreation beyond Earth, with future implications for humans exploring the cosmos.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Adnan Missing

### Police claim he was in Gaibandha

Adds to confusion MOSTAFA SHABUJ from Gaibandha

The hearsay of young Islamic preacher Abu Taw Haa Muhammad Adnan hiding in one of his friend's house in Gaibandha

created confusion. Adnan, along with the associates and the driver, left Dhaka's Gabtoli for Rangpur on the night of June 10. They went to the house of Adnan's friend Siam Ibn Sharif in Gaibandha Sadar upazila, said police.

In a press briefing, Abu Maruf Hossain, DC (crime) of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, also told journalists that after reaching Trimohoni in Gaibandha,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

### S Asia failed to play due role

Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Deepak Nayyar say about Covid prevention, recovery plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The governments of South Asian countries including Bangladesh have failed to play their roles in controlling the spread of the coronavirus and come up with sustainable Nehru University -- shared the view and effective recovery solutions to the yesterday at a discussion on "COVID-19: pandemic-induced crisis.

Two eminent economists -- Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Prof Deepak Nayyar, emeritus professor of Economics Department at New Delhi's Jawaharlal

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



#### **PRAYER TIMING JUNE 20**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



It is illegal to set up markets or commercial establishments within 10 metres of a highway area, reads a signboard that is ironically placed in the middle of an illegal market that sprouted on a highway in Ashulia of Dhaka.

SK ENAMUL HAQ

### টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (দ্রেডা) জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্ৰপাতি স্থাপনে, ৫% হারে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন। লানি সাশ্রয়ের মাধ্যমে নিজে লাভবান হউন এবং দেশকে উপকৃত করুন। সাশ্রয়ে জ্বালানি,সমৃদ্ধ আগামী "জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সংরক্ষণ বৃদ্ধি কার্যক্রমে অর্থায়ন প্রকল্প" website: www.sreda.gov.bd

### WE MOURN



#### Mrs. Marina Yasmin Chowdhury

With profound grief, we share with you that Mrs. Marina Yasmin Chowdhury, Sponsor Director, Prime Bank Limited and Vice Chairperson, East Coast Group, breathed her last on June 19, 2021 at Square Hospital in Dhaka (Inna lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un). She is the wife of Mr. Azam J Chowdhury, renowned industrialist and mother of Mr. Tanjil Chowdhury, Chairman of Prime Bank Limited.

The Prime Bank Family is deeply mourning the sad demise of their revered guardian. She has been an inspirational icon to the Bank, supporting the entity for long years with her valuable vision and foresight. We pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul and convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

