



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## Hospitals swamped by Covid patients

Admission rises 267pc in last 2 weeks

STAR REPORT

Hospitals across the country have been struggling to cope with a sharp rise in Covid-19 patients as infections from the highly transmissible virus continue to surge.

As of yesterday afternoon, at least 10 hospitals were treating more patients with Covid-19 or coronavirus-like symptoms than the hospitals' capacities would allow, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Four of those hospitals were in Rajshahi division, three in Chattogram and one each in Rangpur, Khulna and Barishal divisions.

The number of hospital admissions has increased by around 267 percent across the country over the last two weeks.

In the first four days of July, an average of 7,024 patients with Covid-19 or coronavirus-like symptoms were being treated in the hospitals each day. This number was only 2,628 countrywide between June 15 and June 18.

In July, hospitals in Dhaka division were treating three-and-a-half times more patients compared to mid-June.

Hospitals in Rajshahi division saw around a 148-percent increase in hospital admissions during the same period, followed by 143 percent in Khulna division.

The picture is similar in all other divisions, with the number of patients rising.

Each of these divisions has also been seeing a surge in Covid-19 deaths. Between May and June, Rajshahi saw weekly deaths rise from 15 to 48. From June to July, this number rose by 157 percent to a weekly death toll of 139.

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Rickshaw-pullers navigating their vehicles through a waterlogged portion of the capital's Green Road yesterday. Torrential rain for hours in the morning and afternoon and the city's widespread drainage issues led to similar scenes throughout Dhaka, where 43mm of rainfall was recorded till 6:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Moderate rain exposes poor drainage in city  
Many areas inundated for several hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For three hours after 9:00am yesterday, there was a rainfall of 38mm in the capital, which is considered to be a moderate downpour.

But this was enough to send many neighbourhoods and main streets knee-deep in water, thanks to poor drainage systems.

Fewer people ventured outdoors due to the lockdown, but those who did suffered on the flooded streets.

Urban planners blame the gradual decline in the number of water bodies that act as reservoirs and recent lackluster cleaning efforts by the city corporations for the mess.

Residents posted

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## Left to starve in pandemic

Tens of thousands of workers jobless after jute mills closure last year still owed arrears, struggling to find work



Farida, 56, who was a jute mill worker, now finds it difficult to get by.

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Farida worked as a "substitute" labourer at Platinum Jubilee Jute Mill in Khulna's Khalishpur area for around nine years before it was shut down in July last year, leaving her unemployed.

At the age of 56, she started working as a domestic help in Khulna town. But she was jobless again for around three months, unable to find steady work during the pandemic.

Farida, whose husband died around 15 years ago, is a mother of four. Her elder son, 38-year-old Alamin Sheikh, who worked at the same jute mill, also lost his job. He then worked as a day labourer but soon, this work also dried up as the pandemic effects continued in the country.

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### COVID DAILY UPDATE

## Bangladesh logs record 153 deaths

Daily infection rate rises to nearly 29pc

STAR REPORT

One hundred and fifty-three people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

This is by far the highest number of deaths from Covid-19 in a single day in the country since the pandemic began last year.

The total number of Covid-19 deaths in the country has reached 15,065 and the death rate stands at 1.59 percent.

At least, 8,661 new infections were recorded during the period, taking the total number of people infected to 944,917, added the release.

The current positivity rate is 28.99 percent while the total positivity rate stands at 14.05 percent.

A total of 29,879 samples were tested

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## Moderna roll-out likely next week

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government is likely to start administering the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine among priority groups early next week.

The jobs will be given to professionals, law enforcers, freedom fighters and students, who already got registered for vaccination and are waiting for the first dose, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque.

"We have resumed mass inoculation with Sinopharm and Pfizer vaccines. We hope to start inoculation with the Moderna vaccine early next week," the minister told The Daily Star yesterday.

Vaccine registration is now open for people under three categories -- law enforcers on the frontline, medical students and students of residential universities. They will get either Moderna or Sinopharm vaccine, he mentioned.

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## RESTORING CTG HILL Contempt rule against 9 officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has issued a contempt of court rule against nine government officials including a secretary for not complying with its earlier directives to restore Gunagari hill in Banshkhali upazila to its original state.

In the rule, the court asked the nine officials to explain in four weeks why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them for violating the directives issued in May, 2018.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker

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Policeman Liton Hasan doing his bit to serve as well as protect by helping a woman in a wheelchair cross the street in the capital's Nayabazar area yesterday. Due to the strict lockdown enforced, it has been harder for people who have to depend on others to get necessary things done. And sometimes a little help goes a long way in making someone's day.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 7 NEW BRIDGES IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS Havoc on rivers for faulty designs

Finds IMED study

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

At least seven bridges built recently by the Roads and Highways Department in several northern districts have faults, either in alignments or guide banks, which may have adverse impacts on the rivers there, says a government report.

The impacts include rivers dying and eroding, says the report by Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), prepared on a foreign-funded RHD project.

The IMED published the in-depth monitoring report recently over the Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project of RHD. It had carried out the study by its consultant named Techno Consultant International Ltd in 2020-21 fiscal year.

The RHD built solid reinforcement

concrete walls which had already created discontent among locals as it obstructed the view of the river.

In an executive summary of the report, it has gone through different lab test reports to check the quality of the bridge and found the reports "satisfactory".

"However, the design and construction work of the guide banks of seven bridges in several districts [Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh] built under the projects appears to be faulty. As a result, it can have adverse impacts [such as rivers eroding and dying] on climate change," reads the report.

Bridge guide banks are built to control the river flow and to ensure that water flows beneath the bridge at all times, engineers said.

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### Business



### CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SUPPLEMENT 2021

Home appliance makers and retailers are trying to lure home-confined people with attractive offers and discounts ahead of Eid al-Adha. To know more about the offers read today's business supplement.

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**8,661**  
New cases in 24hrs



**9,44,917**  
Total cases



**150,65**  
Deaths



**8,33,897**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**



**3,990,596**  
Deaths



**184,440,655**  
Total cases

# Cyclone, floods displaced 4.4m people

Says global study about Bangladesh last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 4.4 million people were internally displaced in Bangladesh last year largely due to natural disasters like cyclonic storm and monsoon flood, says a new global report.

The number of people displaced in Bangladesh last year was third highest among global internal displacements after China and Philippines, according to the "Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021".

The report, however, says about 3.5 lakh people were living in displacement as a result of disasters in Bangladesh till December 31 last year.

Globally, conflict and disasters triggered 40.5 million new internal displacements across 149 countries and territories last year, it added.

Switzerland-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), which is part of Norwegian Refugee Council, published the report in May this year. The report is available in IDMC's website.

It says cyclone Amphan which hit in May last year triggered around 2.5 million new displacements in Bangladesh, mostly in the form of pre-emptive evacuations.

Besides, the monsoon triggered around 1.9 million displacements nationwide, it added.

At least seven million people internally displaced by disasters across 104 countries and territories as of 31 December last year were still living in displacements, it says.

The report mentions the scarcity of data on how long people remain displaced, however, makes it difficult to fully understand the scale and nature of protracted displacement triggered by disasters and climate change impacts.

It also says the monsoon in Bangladesh caused the worst flooding in a decade.

The floods coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic, disrupting the operation of local markets, eroding people's livelihoods and economic

resilience and making their impact more severe.

Despite these challenges, there were also some positive developments in the humanitarian response, such as the use of anticipatory action forecasting to allocate assistance to affected areas quickly.

According to the report, South Asia accounted for almost a third of the world's new disaster displacements in 2020.

Around 9.2 million were recorded, an above-average figure for the second year in a row, it says.

Cyclone Amphan triggered nearly five million evacuations across Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Bhutan in May, making it the largest disaster displacement event of the year globally, it further says.

Monsoon rains and floods affected the whole region from June onwards and particularly Bangladesh, it added.

Around 3.2 million people across the region were living in internal displacement as a result of disasters last year, the report mentioned.

Besides, more than 4,04,000 new displacements due to conflict were recorded in Afghanistan despite ceasefires and ongoing peace negotiations, and the country was home to more than 3.5 million conflict internally displaced persons last year.

Conflict displacement was also registered in India and to a lesser extent in Bangladesh and Pakistan, it says.

Globally, disasters triggered more than three-quarters of the new displacements recorded worldwide last year, accounting for 30.7 million.

Over 98 percent were the result of weather-related hazards such as storms and floods.

On the other hand, conflict continued unabated in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Syria and Ethiopia, which are also home to some of the largest numbers of people living in protracted internal displacement.



**Montaj Uddin sitting at the back of his rickshaw, waiting for a fare along with many others of his profession. Although rickshaws are allowed to ply the streets during this lockdown, a sharp decline in passengers has seen his daily income drop from Tk 800 before the lockdown to around Tk 300 now. The photo was taken from the capital's Jatrabari on Saturday.**

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Hospitals swamped by Covid patients

FROM PAGE 1

The same trend can be seen in Khulna. In the first week of May, Khulna saw seven deaths. In the last week, ending on July 3, Khulna had 252 deaths.

In Barishal, deaths rose by 340 percent from the first week of June, while in Rangpur, deaths rose by 204 percent in the same period.

Chattogram saw 61 deaths in the first week of June, but last week the division reported 139 deaths -- an increase of 157 percent.

In Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), there were 80 additional patients in the 385-bed Covid-19 unit of the hospital while all 20 ICU beds were occupied as of yesterday noon.

Doctors of the hospital said they have been receiving an average of around 75 patients daily for the last couple of weeks and at least 40 percent of them are being brought to the hospital at a critical stage.

Many of the patients cannot survive as the ward lacks the required logistical support, they said.

With a shortage of devices providing high-flow oxygen support, doctors have been sharing the available devices between patients.

On June 29, a doctor at ward-32 of the RMCH had four patients aged between 32 and 42 requiring high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) support, and she had just one HFNC to share among them.

"I decided to ration the lone high-flow oxygen device between them in three-hour chunks. When I was taking away the machine from one patient to give to another, the patient's son started crying and asking me not to do that. I couldn't resist my tears, but I had no

alternative," the doctor told The Daily Star yesterday.

The next day, the hospital authority provided two additional high-flow nasal cannulas to that ward.

As of yesterday, the hospital had 69 HFNCs, according to officials.

District-level hospitals in Chapainawabganj, Natore and the Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital were also struggling with additional patients.

Six other hospitals in different districts in Rajshahi, were almost at capacity.

As of yesterday noon, only 147 general beds for Covid-19 patients were vacant in 10 hospitals in Rajshahi division. Meanwhile, only 11 ICU beds out of a total of 46 were vacant, indicative of an increase of critical patients.

In Khulna division, where the highest number of deaths has been reported for the last seven days in a row, around 980 patients were undergoing treatment in 10 Covid-19 hospitals. Besides, there were 44 patients in the ICU beds in those hospitals.

The Kushtia Sadar hospital was treating 65 patients over its 190-bed capacity in the Covid-19 general wards. All four ICU beds were occupied.

In the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, the highest 51 Covid-19 patients died in Khulna division, out of a countrywide total of 153.

In the past 32 days, a total of 159 people died in the Covid-19 unit of Satkhira district hospital. Of them, 82 percent (131) deaths were with Covid-19 symptoms.

To tackle the rush of the Covid-19 patients, authorities of Rangpur

Medical College Hospital (RpMCH) has increased the number of beds in its Covid-19 unit from 100 to 131 yesterday, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Of all general beds, 91 have a central oxygen supply line. The eight ICU bed in this divisional-level hospital has been occupied for the last two weeks.

Relatives of patients alleged that a patient died when the oxygen supply was disrupted for technical reasons for half an hour on Saturday.

As of yesterday noon, there were 20 patients in the queue for the ICU.

Nurun Nabi, superintendent of the Covid-19 unit at RpMCH, told The Daily Star, "We are struggling as more patients are coming from nearby districts every day. Most of the patients need critical care, including ICU support. We, however, have no alternative as we have shortage of such support."

In Dinajpur, the authorities of M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital (MARMCH) have also decided to increase the number of beds for Covid-19 patients from 100 to 135.

For the last couple of weeks, this hospital has also been overburdened with additional patients.

On Sunday, at least 130 patients were undergoing treatment at MARMCH against its capacity of 100 Covid-19 patients. Besides, all 16 ICU beds for Covid-19 patients were occupied as of yesterday noon.

Abu Mohammad Zakirul Islam, the Rangpur divisional health director (acting), said, "As the number of Covid-19 cases has been on the rise in Rangpur division, we have decided to increase the number of beds."

### COVID DEATHS IN PREVIOUS WEEKS

DIVISION	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	RAJSHAH	KHULNA	BARISAL	SYLHET	RANGPUR	MYMENSINGH
May 10 to May 16	98	66	15	7	6	12	10	1
May 17 to May 23	93	59	14	20	6	20	7	7
May 24 to May 30	50	63	24	30	8	13	16	3
May 31 to Jun 6	66	60	48	34	7	16	20	5
Jun 7 to Jun 13	65	61	54	51	5	12	24	7
Jun 14 to Jun 19	63	65	78	88	9	14	20	11
Jun 20 to Jun 26	132	87	104	178	11	19	38	18
Jun 27 to Jul 3	193	130	139	252	22	19	73	31

## Left to starve in pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

Farida's other son, who is 35, used to work in a scrap shop before the pandemic hit last year and now he too is unemployed. Farida's two young daughters also don't have any work.

"Now, we all live in a small room in a slum at Khalishpur industrial area. We are struggling so hard to get food," Farida told The Daily Star last week.

She is among over 31,000 temporary and substitute jute workers, who have been plunged into dire straits after losing their jobs following the closure of nine state-owned jute mills in the Khulna-Jashore industrial belt in July 2020 amidst the pandemic.

"I have worked in this jute mill for 17 years. Like me, thousands of people have spent our golden years for the development of the jute mills. In return, the authorities have terminated us without paying our due wages," said Siddiqur Rahman, a former temporary worker of Crescent Jute Mills.

"Now we want our due wages before Eid," he demanded.

The government closed all state-run jute mills on July 1 last year due to heavy losses and excessive production costs, laying off workers including more than 46,000 in Khulna.

Of them, around 15,000 were permanent, 5,000 temporary, and 26,000 substitute workers, according to workers' associations and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation

(BJMC), the government body which regulates and supervises the state-run jute mills.

On a visit to four jute mills in Khulna's Khalishpur last week, this correspondent observed that the area wore a deserted look, which was once crowded round the clock with workers coming to and from their shifts.

Talking to The Daily Star, worker leader Ruhul Amin said, "The lives of temporary and substitute workers are in dire condition, as they don't know when they will be paid."

While many male workers are now working as rickshaw-van pullers, female workers face greater difficulties finding jobs, even as domestic help, due to the pandemic, he said. "During this pandemic, there is no work, no food for them."

Though the jute mill authorities promised workers they would pay their due wages within two months, this has only been partly implemented in one year, said Ruhul Amin.

Most of the workers used to live in the colonies on the mills' territory. When the mills were closed, the authorities concerned announced workers would be paid their due wages and arrears, only if they signed documents to the effect that they would leave the colony within the shortest possible time.

The workers signed the documents and left the colonies accordingly but their wages are yet to be paid, said Ruhul Amin.

Almost all the temporary and substitute workers are due wages of around six weeks to eight weeks in arrears, he added.

BJMC officials said due wages and arrears of almost all laid-off permanent workers have already been paid. But payments of nearly 22,000 substitute workers are still due.

"Firstly, we are paying the due wages of permanent workers. Then, we will pay substitute and temporary workers," said Md Murad Hossain, general manager of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mill in Khulna.

The arrears of substitute workers roughly amount to Tk 112 crore but there is no estimation for temporary workers yet, said BJMC officials.

Ruhul Amin said even the names of many permanent workers have been dropped from the workers' list due to spelling errors.

These workers, numbering around 1,500, are also worried about receiving any of their dues as their names are not even on the mill's list, he added.

At the time of closure, government officials concerned said the mills would be modernised and reopened shortly through joint venture, public-private partnership, or government-to-government agreements.

About the reopening of the mills, Golam Rabbani, BJMC liaison officer for Khulna zone, said the government is mulling leasing out the mills shortly.

ATTACK ON RAB

## Rab sues 149, UP chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Rab has filed a case against 150 people, including an UP chairman, in connection with the July 1 attack on members of the Rapid Action Battalion-9 in Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria.

Abdul Hannan, deputy assistant director of Rab-9, Shayestaganj Camp, filed the case with Nasirnagar Police Station.

Bahar Uddin Chowdhury, chairman of Dharmandal Union Parishad, have been accused in the case.

According to the case, a team from Rab-9 -- based on information -- carried out an anti-drug drive in Thakurbari area of Dharmandal village around 10:30pm. Rab members detained three drug dealers, Abu Mia, 27, Bahar Mia, 28, and Sattar Mia, 32, with 100 grams of heroin, 235 yaba tablets, and Tk 281,170 in cash.

As the Rab members were leaving the scene, locals attacked them with weapons yelling they were robbers. Two members of the Rab team -- ASI Bokul Hossain and Nayek Md Touhidul Islam of Shayestaganj Camp -- were injured.

## UK announces harsher sentences for Channel migrants

AFP, London

Britain has announced it will seek harsher sentences for migrants caught entering the country without permission amid a record-breaking surge in arrivals over the English Channel.

The stricter prison sentences for both migrants and people smugglers come as part of Home Secretary Priti Patel's plans to overhaul asylum rules in a bid to prevent what her department has characterised as "asylum shopping".

The legislation announced Saturday makes it a criminal offence to arrive in the UK without permission, with a maximum sentence for those entering the country unlawfully increasing from six months to four years.

Under the law set for its first reading in parliament on Tuesday, people smugglers will face life sentences, up from the current maximum of 14 years.

Patel said the plans were "fair but firm", adding that the UK would "welcome people through safe and legal routes whilst preventing abuse of the system, cracking down on illegal entry and the criminality associated with it".

## Moderna roll-out

FROM PAGE 1

"We will open registration for other priority groups after checking vaccine stocks."

As of yesterday, 72,75,977 people got registered through the government app for getting vaccines. Of them, 42,89,913 took both shots of Covid vaccine while 58,20,015 got the first jab.

Earlier on Friday and Saturday, Bangladesh received 45 lakh doses of Covid vaccines from two sources -- 25 lakh Moderna vaccine jabs provided by Covax, a global vaccine alliance, and another 20 lakh shots of Sinopharm vaccines bought from China recently.

The minister also said they will not administer all the 45 lakh shots right away. Half of the jabs will be kept for the recipients of the first dose and will be administered as second dose.

The Directorate General of Health Services is now drawing up a fresh vaccine plan for these jabs.

"Moderna vaccine doses will not be administered at all the centres across the country because of the storage issue," the minister mentioned.

The efficacy rate of Moderna vaccine is over 94 percent in trials. Like Pfizer, Moderna uses the same mRNA technology. The doses need to be stored at minus 20 degrees Celsius, but those can be kept at 2-8 degrees Celsius for up to a month.

A recipient has to take two shots of the Moderna vaccine -- 28 days apart. On July 1, government resumed administering the Sinopharm vaccine at all district hospitals and 40 centres in the capital.

It has so far inoculated less than three percent of the population. Its vaccination campaign, which started on February 7, stumbled due to suspension of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine supply by the Serum Institute of India amid a surge in daily infections and deaths in that country.

Amid a fast depleting vaccine stock, Bangladesh suspended administering the first dose of the vaccine on April 26. Registration for vaccination was also suspended nine days later.

Bangladesh and Serum signed an agreement that the latter would ship three crore shots of the vaccine to Bangladesh in phases between January and June.

Serum delivered the first 50 lakh doses in January, but shipped only 20 lakh the following month. No shipment has arrived since.

Meanwhile, India gave Bangladesh 3.3 million doses of the vaccine as gift.

## Moderate rain exposes poor

FROM PAGE 1

pictures of pedestrians, rickshaw pullers, and motorists on flooded parts of Dhanmondi 27, Green Road, West Nakhlaipara, Rajarbagh, Tezturibazar, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Gandaria DIT Plot, Kazipara and Gopobagh.

Maleka Banu, who lives on the ground floor of a building in Poshchim Kazipara, said she had to put everything in her house on the beds and the tables because there was water on the floor.

It takes over eight hours for the water to recede in such cases in her neighbourhood, she said.

Akbar Ali, a grocery store owner in the area, said, "Some of the goods were damaged because the shop was flooded. There was knee-deep water on the road in front of my shop until 4:00 pm."

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said, "Lockdown or not, the cleaning activities must go on."

The two city corporations should not fail us.

It is unfortunate that the authorities have not done anything to make rainwater drain to Dhanmondi Lake from near Rapa Plaza on Dhanmondi 27, he said. There should have been no waterlogging in the area so close to the lake.

"Water must flow to the rivers through the drainage network and the canals without interruption," said Habib.

## Contempt rule

FROM PAGE 1

Diluruzaman issued the rule on June 30 following a contempt of court petition filed by rights organisation Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

HRPB President and its lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star yesterday that the nine officials against whom the contempt of court rule has been issued are -- the then Chattogram deputy commissioner when the directives were issued and current jute ministry Secretary Md Abdul Mannan, and the incumbent Chattogram DC Md Mominur Rahman; the then superintendent of police (SP) AKM Hafiz Akhter and current SP SM Rashidul Haque; the then upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Sabbir Iqbal and current UNO Saifuzzaman Chowdhury; the then officers-in-charge (OCs) of Banskhalhi Police Station Abdul Malek and Md Shahjahan Khan and present OC Shaful Kabir.

He said following a writ petition filed by HRPB, the HC on May 7, 2018, directed the officials to take

steps to fill up the pits of Gunagari hill in Banskhalhi and restore it to its original position within one year with money collected from the people liable for the damage.

The court also asked them to take appropriate legal action against those involved in cutting and damaging the hill.

But the respondent government officials have not yet complied with the directives, which is tantamount to contempt of court, Manzill Murshid added.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

across the country in 24 hours. At least 4,698 Covid-19 patients have recovered during the period.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 833,897 and the recovery rate at 88.25 percent.

Among the 153 dead, 96 were men and 57 were women. Of them, three were between 21 and 30, 11 between 31 and 40, 24 between 41 and 50, 45 between 51 and 60, and 70 were above 60 years old, added the release.



A youth shows a clip of a Tk 150-fine imposed on him by a mobile court for loitering in the capital's Chowkbazar area yesterday, violating the lockdown. The small group of people seen behind him were also rounded up for the same reason by law enforcers.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Detention no deterrent for lockdown flouters

More people out on streets on fourth day

STAR REPORT

Despite arrests and penalties, restrictions seemed to have loosened up with the increasing number of public and vehicular movement on the fourth day of the nationwide weeklong lockdown, on a day the country logged its highest Covid-19 deaths.

More than 2,100 people have been detained in the last four days in the capital by Dhaka Metropolitan Police. However, alleys and kitchen markets remained crowded, with people ignoring health guidelines en masse.

A lax scenario was also seen in various parts of the country outside Dhaka.

Yesterday, the country recorded 153 deaths from Covid-19, the highest in a single day since the first cases were reported in March last year.

More cars and rickshaws were seen in various parts of the capital, compared to other days. People mostly left home to either go to offices or factories, provide emergency services, or to go to kitchen markets.

Even amid lockdown, motorcyclists were seen carrying one or two pillion, which was prohibited in the lockdown guideline.

There were check-posts on roads manned by teams of army, BCB, Rab and police. Executive magistrates were seen

at some of the posts. They stopped traffic and those who failed to explain why they ventured outdoors were detained or fined.

Due to rain and waterlogging, no law enforcers were seen at some of the check posts yesterday in the capital.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday detained 618 people in Ramna, Lalbagh, Motijheel, Wari, Tejgaon, Mirpur, Gulshan, Uttara and other places in the capital, according to DMP's media wing.

Besides, mobile courts fined 161 people with a total of Tk 54,450. Traffic division of the DMP fined 496 vehicles Tk 12.81 lakh for violating Covid-19 restrictions.

Yesterday, Rapid Action Battalion teams conducted 187 patrols and set up 211 check posts across the country, said a statement, adding that 56 mobile courts, accompanied by Rab, fined 438 people a total of Tk 4.04 lakh.

According to law enforcers, the detainees failed to give acceptable reasons as to why they defied the stay-at-home order.

During a visit yesterday, this correspondent found crowds in the alleys in Tejgaon, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Farmgate, Panthapath, and Green Road areas.

In East Raza Bazar, some shops were found open where men and youths were seen puffing cigarettes and drinking tea along the road.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# The struggle for a seat in a DU dorm

Students must become political activists to get accommodation, else face wrath of seniors

ASIFUR RAHMAN and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Mir Lokman has been a well-known face on Dhaka University (DU) campus since his first-year as a student. He was the founding president of "DU Mime Action" and staged at least 300 mime dramas at that time at various government and non-government institutes.

But despite all his accolades, Lokman was driven out of his residential hall twice by his seniors. In both incidents, he was in no fault. It was the simple whim of the ruling political party's student wing, as, according to Lokman, it rules the dorms of DU.

To explain the situation, he shared his experience with The Daily Star.

Lokman, who joined DU in 2009-10 session, comes from a rural area of Narsingdi's Shibpur upazila. As he has no relatives in Dhaka, and his family was not financially able to pay house rent, he requested a senior acquaintance in his hometown to manage a seat (hall accommodation) for him.

He then moved into a "gonoroom", which had only four beds but accommodated around 25 students, with his bags and started living there. Sometimes, when every student was

present in the room, some then had to resort to sleeping at a nearby mosque.

The "rule" to live in the gonoroom is to attend the ruling party's rallies and other political activities.

"Whoever could show that they are active in those events got priority to get a good seat. Some took the chance, and when they got a seat, they became inactive. It's just the process," Lokman said.

Asked why he did not complain to the hall provost after being driven out, he said, "Political activists are the supreme authority when it comes to giving seats or cancelling allotment."

This whole situation is not new; it's a common experience in the dorms of DU. Residential halls are controlled by the ruling party's student wing. Whoever wants to stay there would have to obey the party leaders or maintain good relations with them, said students who talked with The Daily Star.

Every year, a number of students are driven-out by the ruling party's student wing. As DU turns 100, the institution is suffering from the worst seat crisis ever.

With time, the number of students at the university increased, but residential and other facilities did not.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# DNCC opens digital cattle market for Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To facilitate cattle purchase ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has inaugurated a digital cattle market for the second year running yesterday.

This year, the city corporation plans to sell one lakh cows through the platform.

Maintaining the guidelines of the Ministry of Commerce, the DNCC digital cattle market-2021 is being implemented by DNCC in association with E-commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), Bangladesh Dairy Farm Association, Business Promotion Council, A2i, and Ekshop.

To purchase a cow from the haat, one needs to enter

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# Hope of a better life, crushed

Minu Akhter, who served jail time by proxy in Ctg, dies in road crash days after release from prison

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hit by poverty, Minu Akhter had languished in jail for three years for money instead of a convicted accused from 2018.

She did not know anything about the case and agreed to go to jail for a few days in exchange for money to support her family members. Once in jail, she found out that she was serving a life-term imprisonment.

Distraught and traumatised, the only thing that kept her alive was the hope to see her children again.

After learning about the matter, a Chattogram court and jail authorities took steps to free her.

After many legal hurdles, Minu was freed from Chattogram Central Jail on June 16. She was finally able to return to her family in Sitakunda upazila. And together, they started dreaming of a better life -- as a

family.

But the reunion did not last long as Minu (33) died at Chattogram Medical College Hospital on June 28 after being reportedly hit by a truck on Bayezid Link Road in the night.

After her death, Anjuman Mofidul Islam buried her as an unidentified person, said Md Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bayezid Bostami Police Station. "During investigation, police found out who she was and verified it with her family members," he said.

The OC said they were trying to identify the killer truck.

Minu's lawyer advocate Golam Mowla Murad told The Daily Star, "She went missing after coming out of her brother's residence to go to her son's madrasa. We will request



court to investigate the incident."

Minu served three years in jail instead of convicted Kulsuma Akhter from Lohagora upazila of the same district in connection with a case filed for killing one Kohinur Begum.

On March 24, the documents from the Chattogram court regarding the issue reached the HC Court for its decision. Later an HC bench ordered to release Minu.

On July 9, 2006, RMG worker Kohinur was killed in her house in port city's Rahmatganj following an altercation over a phone.

A case was lodged over the murder with Kotwali Police Station and police arrested one Kulsuma Akhter and sent her to jail in 2007. She later walked out of jail on bail.

On November 30, 2017, a court in Chattogram sentenced Kulsuma to life-term imprisonment in absentia after trial.

# Couple held for torturing 12-yr-old domestic help MJF concerned over rise in abuse of house helps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Saturday night detained a couple from Dhaka's Topkhana Road area on charge of torturing their house help.

During the drive, the law enforcers also rescued the victim, a minor, who has several injury marks.

Sweety (12) was admitted to one-stop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

According to police, the girl has bruises, including on her face, and burn wounds on her hip.

A team of police rescued her after a neighbour of Sweety's employer shared her photographs on social media, which a journalist later forwarded to the police's official Facebook page, said Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (media) of Police Headquarters.

Police detained the couple -- Tanvir Ahsan and his wife Nahid -- who employed the victim from a disadvantaged family in Kishoreganj's Mithamoin Upazila, nine months back, he said.

Jahangir Hossain, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station, said the girl told police that the couple used to torture her on regular basis over trivial matter.

"We called the victim's family to Dhaka. Filing of a case is underway," he said.

Meanwhile, some neighbours of the couple demonstrated in front of Dhaka Reporters Unity, demanding their exemplary punishment for torturing the girl.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation yesterday expressed deep concern over torture of house helps and demanded exemplary punishment for perpetrators.

The organisation came up with the demand in a statement a day after police detained a couple from the capital's Segunbagicha area on charge of torturing their 12-year-old house help.

MJF said this was not an isolated incident; such incidents are happening one after another. Although some perpetrators were detained, they remained unpunished. They manage to evade punishment by either misusing power or due to legal loophole.

Quoting a statistics of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), the organisation said a total of 18 house helps have been tortured from January to May this year. Of them, eight have died.

Besides, a report by MJF titled, "Child Affairs Report 2020: From the Pages of Newspapers", said some seven domestic helps were tortured last year. Of them, three died.

The statistics were prepared on the basis of news reports of eight newspapers.

The government has a policy -- "The Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015". MJF worked with the government to formulate it.

The policy has some specific provisions to ensure physical and mental welfare of domestic helps, good behaviour from employers, regular payment of their wages and alimony as well as granting sufficient vacations. MJF demanded immediate formulation of law on the basis of the policy.



DU students sleep on the floor of a "gono room", a space designed for four to six people but often boarded by dozens as an individual seat remains the proverbial El Dorado. The photo was taken early last year at Surja Sen Hall.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# 'Please help us find him'

Family of JU student 'missing' for 11 days urges at press conference

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PATUAKHALI

Zahid Hasan Raju, a master's student of Jahangirnagar University, has been missing for 11 days, said his family members at a press conference in Barguna Press Club yesterday.

Raju's mother Aklima Begum and wife Hafsa Begum at the event sought government help in finding him. His wife also brought along their 14-month-old girl.

They said Raju went missing from a mess in Dhaka's Mirpur on the night of June 24. Raju, who completed his honours in Chemistry from JU, was doing his master's at the university. He was staying at the mess while searching for a job.

His classmate Mizanur Rahman, who lived in the next room, said Raju went out for prayers around 8:30pm and did not return.

He said around 9pm, two unknown persons entered the room and went out again. Later, he went to Raju's room and saw that Raju's mobile phone and tablet were not there.

Since Raju could not be found, Mizanur filed a general diary with Pallabi Police Station on June 26.

Raju is from Golbunia village of Raipur union in Patharghata upazila of Barguna. His father, Humayun Kabir, is a day labourer and mother a housewife. Raju is their only son.

At the press conference, Raju's wife Hafsa said, "Please help us find him. He was not involved with any unsocial activities. He used to study and support us." The family also sought the prime minister's intervention.

Contacted, Md Parvez, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said they are looking into the matter.

Jahangir Mallik, superintendent of Barguna police, said they will also extend their help to the family.



As strict as the lockdown is, the financial pinch that comes with it is more difficult to deal with for many. With their incomes squeezed, many are opting to move to cheaper areas, while others have already moved back to their homesteads. This photo was taken yesterday from Chattogram New Market area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

# STUDENTS GOING ABROAD

## HC inquires about their vaccination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the attorney general's office to talk to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and inquire about vaccinating Bangladeshi students, on priority basis, who will go abroad to study.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim told DAG Samarendranath Biswas to ask Attorney General Amin Uddin to talk to DGHS on the issue.

DAG Samarendranath can also communicate with DGHS to know necessary steps in this regard, the bench said.

Many Bangladeshi students are admitted to different foreign universities by depositing money, and their academic sessions will start in August or September. Therefore, the HC wants to know how they will be vaccinated, said Justice M Enayetur Rahim.

The HC bench came up with the observation after Supreme Court lawyer SK Jahangir Alam verbally pointed out the issue and prayed for an order.

Contacted, DAG Samarendranath said he has informed the HC order to the attorney general. He said he will talk to the DGHS office and will inform the outcome to the HC.

## Justice Ansar Ali's death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 26th death anniversary of Justice Muhammad Ansar Ali. A doa mahfil, Quran-khwani and discussion have been arranged by his family in Badalgachhi village in Naogaon and Banani graveyard in Dhaka to pray for his departed soul, according to a press release.



Justice Ansar Ali joined the then Dhaka High Court under Pakistan Supreme Court in 1962. During his student life, he played an active role in the Language Movement. The 'Matribhasha Padak' was conferred on him in 2001, posthumously. He was elected senior vice president of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association and also elected twice as president of then Rampur High Court Bar Association.

## Rain turns Cumilla city into a swamp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

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

From 5am to 9am, the Cumilla Met Office recorded 106mm of rain, said Met officer Ismail Haque. He said the rain, caused by active monsoon, is likely to continue.

Due to the rainfall, thoroughfares, lanes and bylanes were partially or fully submerged in most areas. At places, human waste and dirt came out of sewers.

However, even after the rain stopped, water did not recede, exacerbating sufferings of people. Most of the city areas were still inundated as of filing this report in the evening.

Meanwhile, city dwellers said it is the inadequate storm-water drainage system, not the rain, which caused the waterlogging.

They also blamed the city authorities for failing to manage the drainage systems properly. They said the projects taken to mitigate this perennial crisis were nothing but "eyewash" and a waste of public money.

Rainwater flooded Cumilla Medical College Hospital, Cumilla General Hospital, Police Superintendent's Residents, Water Development Board, Tomsom Bridge, Ashoktala, Racecourse and many other areas of the city.

People were seen wading through muddy water go to their destinations while many business owners from Kandirpar, Rajgonj, Chowkbazar, Racecourse and Jhawtala were seen draining out water as it



PHOTO: COLLECTED  
A man expertly casts a fishing net on the submerged premises of Cumilla General Hospital, while at least two others are seen in the same photo preparing to cast theirs. Many areas of the city turned into fishing grounds as rain caused severe waterlogging.

entered their shops and offices.

Ahsanul Kabir, a heritage researcher, said, "The city authorities have failed to fulfill their responsibilities. They should be held accountable for this waterlogging."

Cumilla civil surgeon Dr Mir Mobarak Hossain said, "I have informed the city corporation at 10am about water entering the hospitals and they assured that it will recede within two hours. Now it's 3:30pm, and nothing changed."

"What's worse, it's not the first time this happened. Rainwater also flooded the hospitals last Thursday," he added.

Contacted, Mir Shawkat, chief executive officer of Cumilla City Corporation, said, "We have deployed around 100 workers

to clean up the drains. There's a culvert underneath the rail line, which is very narrow and water does not recede quickly through that. We are looking into it."

Mayor Monirul Haque Sakku said, "The city corporation has five drainage outlines (a channel down which surface water naturally concentrates and flows). We have cleared all the drains and canals in the city area. We have built RCC drainage and covered it up with slabs."

"But the outlines are in Jagannathpur and Durgapur unions in Cumilla Sadar and Sadar South upazila. The drains and canals outside the city area are narrow. So water is not receding rapidly."

FIRED FROM GOVT JOB

## Justice served after 39 yrs Apex court dismisses state petition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

A man who was dismissed from his government job for selling government jute seeds for higher than market rates, finally regained his rights after 39 long years of legal battle in court.

The verdict came after the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, dismissed the state's review petition last Monday. At the same time, the judgment of the High Court was upheld to abolish all his penalties and give all the benefits he is owed.

Obaidul Alam Akon, a freedom fighter, had lost his job in 1982 at the behest of the military junta court during Hossain Mohammad Ershad's rule.

Akon, a jute extension assistant, was arrested on April 15, 1982 under the accusation. On September 27 of the same year, a military court fired Akon and sentenced him to two months in jail and a fine of Tk 1,000.

Almost 30 years later, in 2012, Obaidul filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the military court's verdict to dismiss him.

In the petition, instructions were sought to pay the entire salary and allowance, from the time of dismissal to the time of retirement.

Following a hearing of the petition on November 20, 2017, the High Court declared the sentence illegal and directed that all his dues are paid, including salary and allowances till the time of his retirement.

However, in 2018, the Department of Agricultural Extension appealed against the High Court's verdict.

The Appellate Division gave its verdict on March 8, 2020 on the hearing of this appeal.

In that judgment, the part of the High Court judgment regarding the salary and allowance of Obaidul Alam Akon was upheld and the part relating to the declaration of invalidity of the sentence of the military court was removed (expunged).

However, the Department of Agricultural Extension further sought a review of the verdict, but the Supreme Court dismissed that appeal too.

As per the verdict, the freedom fighter will get back all his salaries and allowances.

Lawyer Prabir Niyogi appeared for Obaidul in the court, while Additional Attorney General SK Morshed appeared for the state.

## The struggle for

FROM PAGE 3

For 877 students, there were three residential halls in the 1921-22 academic year (one hall for 292 students). Now, the figure of students stands at 47,197, and there are 19 halls to accommodate them (one hall for 2,484 students).

Educationalists and political analysts say this practice remains only for producing "loyal slaves" in the name of political workers on campus. Students are helpless when they get admitted, and political parties take the chance to use them.

The Daily Star talked with 10 first-year students who lived in residential halls. The students, both men and women, wishing not to be named, said seat crisis is a great hassle for them.

They said they are bound to their "political brothers" to get seats in the dormitories.

And if anyone fails to join a political programme, they are harassed at the "guestroom".

A first-year student of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall said, "We faced a lot of mental torture. The guestroom is horrible. They order to do lots of unethical things."

A student of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall said, "I think first-year students need residential facility badly, as most come from outside Dhaka. I didn't find a suitable environment to study after getting seat. When I have no classes, I have to attend the political programmes. If we don't attend, we have to face the guestroom torture."

A student of Zahurul Haque Hall from Netrakona said, "If there were any clashes between political groups or with outsiders, they called us to go there with rods and sticks."

Another student of the hall said, "I didn't agree to go to political programmes and started living in a hall mosque. One day, they called me in the guestroom and said if I want to stay at the hall, I should attend the programmes. They were cursing me out."

A female student of Rokeya Hall said, "Most of us move to the hall by recommendation of any teacher or political leader. Whoever can get a teacher's recommendation, they are lucky, as the leaders make others' lives hell."

In 2016, Hafizur Molla, a student who stayed at Salimullah Muslim Hall, died from pneumonia, after attending a guest room programme on a winter night. Students loudly demanded for an end to this seat crisis at that time, but after four years, there has been no change.

Contacted, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhteruzzaman said, "It's a long-accumulated crisis, which cannot be resolved in a day. We need to build more halls. We have a plan to resolve the crisis and add this issue in the master-plan."

Dr Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, a professor of International Relations department at DU told The Daily Star that it is an "artificial problem" which is created by the system.

He said hall administrations do not know how many students they could accommodate or how many live there.

"The reason behind it to forcefully involve general students into political programmes. In this cycle, the ruling student organisations use them as their soldiers. This kind of a system is not politics, it's malpolitics," he said.

## DNCC opens

FROM PAGE 3

the site www.digitalhaat.net.

"We sold 27,000 cows through the digital cattle market last year. This year, we have set the target at one lakh," said DNCC mayor Md Atiqul Islam, who chaired the virtual programme.

If successful, the platform could prevent numerous people and cow traders from going to physical cattle markets, which will be crucial during this serious phase of the pandemic, the mayor said.

Atiqul said not only residents of DNCC, but anyone from any place will be able to purchase cows from the market, all without the need to pay "hasil".

LGRD minister Md Tazul Islam inaugurated the cattle market as the chief guest and said everyone should be involved in purchasing their cattle online this year.

Lauding the initiative, the minister said, "We need to find a way to get those who don't know how to use such online platforms."

The minister said he has brought cattle from the market himself.

Tazul Islam also suggested the authorities concerned at the union level to take initiatives to purchase and sell sacrificial animals through such online platforms due to the increasing trend of coronavirus in the country.

"As the coronavirus pandemic has turned worse this year, we have to be more careful of gatherings," he said.

President of Bangladesh Dairy Farmers' Association Md Imran Hossain said the market will protect the interest of both buyers and sellers.

He said there's also the option to get the meat processed and delivered to the buyer's doorstep.

Imran said they have capacity to provide slaughtering service for up to 500 cows and deliver up to 1,000 based on the demand.

President of e-CAB Shomi Kaiser said last year, 60 merchants including 45 members of e-CAB had participated in the initiative. While this year, more than 100 merchants from both e-CAB and Dairy Farm Association will take part in the market.

## Two killed in bike accidents

STAR REPORT

A motorcyclist died and his pillion passenger sustained injuries after their bike collided with a battery-run van on a road in the capital's Paribagh area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohiuddin (30), a shop employee at Gausia Market, police said.

The accident occurred around 1:30am when Mohiuddin and his friend Tanvir (25) went out of his Kamrangirchar home during the "strict lockdown", said Chhampak Chakraborty, sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station.

Even though the streets were empty, as they reached a petrol pump in Paribagh area, the bike collided with the van, leaving both injured, he said.

Locals rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Mohiuddin dead around 2:30am, the police officer said.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. Tanvir was released from the hospital after treatment.

In Manikganj, a housewife was killed after a truck ran her over at Baliakhora Puran Para area under Ghior upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Morzina Begum (20), reports our Manikganj correspondent.

Sub-Inspector of Ghior Police Station Selim Hossain said Morzina was on her way to Manikganj on a motorcycle with her husband Abdur Razzak around 10am when the accident occurred. While overtaking a truck, Morzina fell from the motorcycle and was crushed to death by the same truck. The body was sent to Manikganj District Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Her husband Abdur Razzak is unhurt, Selim said.

## Detention no

FROM PAGE 3

Rab said they started patrolling in the alleys and shutting down the makeshift shops and tea stalls.

"Many people are still crowding in shops and tea stalls in the alleys. We have asked them to go to their houses," said Khandaker Al-Moin, Rab's media wing director, at a briefing yesterday.

He said that some drug peddlers were trying to use the restriction for peddling drugs in guise of emergency service. Rab had foiled two drug peddling attempts in Chattogram and Rangpur, said Moin.

Outside Dhaka, law enforcers were seen on roads and highways in and around cities and towns yesterday but

they were not seen in the suburbs and rural areas.

In many places, people hid when they saw the policemen.

While visiting different alleys and lanes in Chattogram, public movement was found to be like regular time, with people loitering the streets. Some of them were without masks, reports our correspondent.

People started to run when they heard police siren or saw police personnel. Shutter of shops were seen kept down to avoid mobile courts.

In Rangpur, there were more number of rickshaws, motorcycles, and three-wheeler easy bikes yesterday.

Besides, many people thronged

local markets to buy daily essentials. The situation was worse in the alleys and lanes.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reports that there was relaxation at the checkpoints in the district. A good number of shops were found open, violating the restrictions. More vehicles were plying on roads and highways than the past few days.

Suman Sarker, who came from Narayanganj to Munshiganj, said that he found five police check-posts on his way.

"Police barred small vehicles. But anyone can cross it by walking and then changing to another vehicle," he said.

**North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.**  
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & OHSAS 45001:2018 Certified  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
**Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)**  
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)  
Soydabad, Sirajganj

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.170 Date: 04/07/2021

### e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief description of tender	Publication date	Last selling date & time	Opening date
1	586936	Spare parts of BOP control system.	29/06/2021	27/07/2021, 3:45pm	28/07/2021
2	586937	Transformer Bushing.	29/06/2021	27/07/2021, 4:00pm	28/07/2021
3	586939	Spare parts of Transformer and Switchyard Protection System.	29/06/2021	27/07/2021, 4:00pm	28/07/2021

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker**  
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)  
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)  
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj

GD-1308

## Eau et Vie wins Prince Talal Prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eau et Vie (Water and Life), a project working to improve living conditions in the urban informal settlements of Bangladesh, was recently awarded the first category Prince Talal International Prize for human development.

"Eau et Vie was selected for the First Category Prize honouring the 6th Sustainable Development Goal on 'Clean water and sanitation', by the prize committee, made of a number of renowned international development leaders, in particular Professor Muhammad Yunus, Noble Prize Laureate and founder of Grameen Bank," said an Eau et Vie press release.

Eau et Vie thrives to sustainably improve the living conditions in the urban informal settlements of Bangladesh, through access to essential services. Its social enterprise Shobar Jonno Pani Ltd builds a water network in the targeted areas, to which it connects each household.

**Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)**  
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
[www.tcb.gov.bd](http://www.tcb.gov.bd)  
**Commercial Section**

### Invitation for Tender (International) of

**(a) 30,00,000 (+5%) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil**  
**(b) 3,000 (+10%) M. Ton Onion**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).
3	Procuring entity name	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	(a) Refined Soyabean Oil (b) Onion.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	a) 26.05.0000.016.08.166.21.1203 (b) 26.05.0000.016.08.166.21.1204
8	Date	04-07-2021
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget and source of funds	TCB's own fund.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
11	Package No.	(a) TCB/Imp-03/Soyabean Oil/2021-22 (b) TCB/Imp-03/Onion/2021-22
12	Package name	(a) Refined Soyabean Oil (b) Onion.
13	Tender publication date	05-07-2021
14	Tender documents last selling date and time	Date: 16-08-2021 Time: 17:00pm
15	Tender closing date and time	17-08-2021 11:00am
16	Tender opening date and time	17-08-2021 11:15am
17	Name & address of the office(s)	Address: (1) Sonali Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka (2) Trust Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch, and (3) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka.
	- Selling tender document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column	
	- Receiving tender document	In front of TCB's reception (2nd Floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
	- Opening tender document	Board Room, TCB.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
18	Eligibility of tenderer	Bona fide Suppliers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the tender documents.
19	Brief description of goods	Import of (a) 3,000,000 (+5%) (three million plus minus five percent) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil Packed in 02 (two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle. (b) 3,000 (+10%) (three thousand plus minus ten percent) M. Tons Onion.
20	Price of tender document	(a) Tk 3,000 (three thousand) only per set. (b) Tk 3,000 (three thousand) only per set.
21	Lot No., Identification of lot, Location	Tender security amount (USD/Tk) Shipment schedule
	1 (a) Refined Soyabean Oil (SOIT-1) (b) Onion	Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram (Previous name Chittagong) by sea. Tender is to be submitted along with tender security amounting to: (a) USD 89,400 (US dollar eighty-nine thousand four hundred) or BDT 76,000,000.00 (BDT seventy-six lac) only. (b) USD 29,000.00 (US dollar twenty-nine thousand) or BDT 24,65,000.00 (BDT twenty-four lac sixty-five thousand) only in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee. The successful tenderer is to submit 5% (five percent) performance security in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
22	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Shekhabur Rahaman.
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
24	Address of official inviting tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
25	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone No. 02-8180074 Fax No 880-2-8180057 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tcb@tcb.gov.bd">tcb@tcb.gov.bd</a> <a href="mailto:tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd">tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd</a>
26	Special instructions:	a. Incomplete, conditional tender and alternative offer shall not be considered. b. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. c. Tenderer who was awarded the Notification of Awarded (NOA) earlier but could not submit Performance Security (PS) in due time, will not be eligible for the tender. d. Tenderer whose Performance Security (PS) was partially or totally forfeited earlier will not be eligible to participate in the tender.

GD-1312

**Md. Shekhabur Rahaman**  
Chief Officer (Commercial)  
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

# Pregnant women suffer as construction materials, vehicles occupy hospital

RHD appointed construction firm keeps heavy vehicles, materials in UHFHC premises

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Pregnant women coming to Gomnati union health and family welfare center (UHFHC) at Dakkhin Ambari village in Domar upazila for taking antenatal and postnatal services facing insecurity and health hazards as a bridge construction firm has been using its premises to keep heavy vehicles and construction materials for the last few months.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has recently given work order to a renowned construction firm to build a 50-meter-long and 10.3-meter-wide concrete bridge over Dewnai river in the village on Domar-Chilahati-Vaulaganj highway near the health centre with a view to connecting Chilahati land port with country's different parts.

Visiting the UHFHC recently, this correspondent found that various types heavy vehicles moving to and fro over its premises creating obstacle for service seekers at the health centre.

Family planning supervisor (FPI) also the UHFHC in-charge Abdur Rahman said, "The situation has created health hazard for the service seekers and I've discussed it in the monthly meeting of our department



Pregnant women coming to take medical service at the centre are suffering a lot as a construction farm has been using its premises to keep heavy vehicles and construction materials for the last few months. PHOTO: STAR

several times and also asked the constructor's men to remove the materials but to no avail."

Every day 25-30 pregnant housewives used to come to the center daily but now only 4-5 come

because of the situation.

Due to the situation, regular sub-assistant community medical officer (SACMO) has taken transfer and one from the adjacent Ketiabari UHFHC has been temporarily appointed who

attends the centre once in a week.

Hasina Banu (24), a housewife of Uttar Ambari village said it is not feasible for many village women to visit the centre due to the obstacles, many women now prefer visiting

neighbouring Ketiabari center.

A number of locals alleged that Gomnati union parishad (UP) chairman who is also the president of the centre's managing committee allowed the contractor to use the premises to be benefitted.

However, the UP chairman Abdul Hamid on contact admitted that he has allowed the contractor to use a small part of the centre's premises temporarily in consultation with relevant officials for the area's greater interest.

Contacted, Zakir Hossain, site in-charge of the construction firm said, "We keep our goods on a rented land belonging to an individual adjacent to the health center and so some materials may have been kept on the UHFHC premises as there is no boundary wall. However, we will remove the materials soon."

"I will look into the matter and take necessary step," said Monjur-ul Alam, executive engineer of RHD in Nilphamari.

Caption: A view of the heavy vehicles and construction materials is seen on Gomnati union health and family welfare center (UHFHC) premises at Dakkhin Ambari village in Domar upazila of Nilphamari.

## Selfie with Phensedyl lands him in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Saturday afternoon arrested a man from Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat after he took a picture of himself with several bottles of contraband Indian medicine Phensedyl and posted it on his Facebook wall.

According to police, the arrestee -- Dildar Hossain, 32, son of Mohammad Sabu from Khordda village in the same upazila -- is wanted for three prior criminal cases filed against him.

Polash Chandra Deb, officer-in-charge of Panchbibi Police Station, said on June 20, Dildar's selfie with several bottles of Phensedyl in his right hand went viral after he posted the photo on Facebook.

Police had been looking for Dildar, who is an addict and a drug peddler. But soon after making the post, he went into hiding to evade the arrest.

A team of police from Panchbibi Police Station finally succeeded in capturing him on Saturday afternoon when they acted on a tip-off and raided a bordering village named Atapara.

Police later filed a case against the arrestee, the OC said, adding that on Sunday they produced Dildar before a Joypurhat court, which sent him to jail custody.

# Cattle dermatitis causing concern in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Cattle owners in different areas of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat are growing increasingly worried as a type of dermatitis or skin disease in cattle has been on the rise in the two districts.

While the news of cattle dying from the disease in different areas is raising alarm among the cattle owners, the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) advised otherwise.

The DLS said the cattle owners need not worry much as the disease is curable and nothing new in the region.

Kurigram and Lalmonirhat is home to 14,55,830 cattle, according to data provided by DLS in the two districts.

Farmer Malekjan Begum, from Char Mantola in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said after her cow got infected with the disease and suffered for about a week, a local veterinarian treated it with medicines.

But the cow died in the last week of June. However, her two other cows did not contract the disease.

Another farmer Montu Miah, from the same village, said one of his four cows "died of skin rot disease" about the same time, before he managed to take it to the veterinarian.

Although his other three cows do not have the disease, cattle owners in the area are panic-stricken over the death of his cow, he also said.

Two other farmers -- Joynal Miah, from Char Shakhahati in Chilmari upazila, and Nazrul Islam, from Char Boalmari in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila -- said they both lost one cow each, in the last week of June, to the skin disease despite getting the animals treated by veterinarians in their areas.

Asked, Chilmari Upazila Livestock Officer Rashedul Islam said dermatitis or 'skin rot' disease has been in the



A cow infected with dermatitis in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. PHOTO: COLLECTED

region for a long time and affected cattle can be cured of the disease with general treatment.

Cattle infected with the disease are less likely to die, he said, adding that some other reasons might have caused the deaths of the cows in the area recently.

Abdul Hai Sarkar, district livestock officer in Kurigram, said wrong treatment might also cause death of any livestock.

Advising cattle owners not to panic, he also said that skin rot disease is not a major disease, as a

cow infected with it can move around and survive for a long time.

District Livestock Officer in Lalmonirhat Saidur Rahman said the prevalence of the skin rot disease is common during and after the rainy season. However, the disease has started to spread before the monsoon this year.

DLS veterinarians and officials have been providing medical services to infected cattle as well as creating awareness among cattle owners so they get their livestock treated only by certified veterinarians, he added.

**EDCL** **ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE**

EDCL invites International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material on C&F© Dhaka by Air and Chittagong by Sea Basis:-

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/RM/SEM/01/2021-2022 dated 04/07/2021	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: (specification as per tender schedule):</b> 01. Methyl Hydroxy Benzoate Sodium BP 02. Polyethylene Glycol # 300 BP 03. White Soft Paraffin BP	Tk. 1,550.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 18.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 02/08/2021 At 11.00 AM Opening : 02/08/2021 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order / Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**N.B: This information is also available at our Website : [www.edcl.gov.bd](http://www.edcl.gov.bd)**

**General Manager  
Procurement  
For : Managing Director.**

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তারিখঃ ০৪.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ

**দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

২০২১-২২ অর্থ বৎসরে জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল এবং এর আওতাধীন জাতীয় অ্যাজমা সেন্টার, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-এ কর্তৃত্বকৃত রোগীদের পঞ্চা সমগ্রী (চাউল, ডাল, মশলা: শাক-সবজি ও ফলমূল; মাছ ও মাংস; পাউরুটি এবং দুধ ইত্যাদি খাদ্য-দ্রব্য) সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে লিনেন সামগ্রী (বৌতকরণ) ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী দরপত্রদাতা/বৈধ বাস্তুসংস্থের সরবরাহকারী দরপত্র প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহ হতে দরপত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব লেটার হেডপ্যাডে সীলগালা মুহুরত্বসহ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে। দরপত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অবশ্যই দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত সরকারী গেজেট নোটিফিকেশন পিপিএ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর ২০০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীর আলোকে) প্রতিপালন পূর্বক এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্রাদি ও নমুনা দাখিলসহ দরপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

**দরপত্রের সাথে জমাদানের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজ ও শর্তাবলী :**

১	মন্ত্রণালয় অধিদপ্তর/সংস্থের নাম	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের অধীনে জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।		
২	প্রকিউরমেন্ট মেথড	উন্মুক্ত (পিপিএ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর ২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী)।		
৩	ফাভের উৎস	গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার (জিওবি) বরাদ্দ/ভেডেলপমেট বরাদ্দ।		
৪	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	মারক নং- জাববইহা/পথ্যা/২০২১-২২/ তারিখ- ০৪.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ।		
৫	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত টিকাদারী কাজের জন্য দরপত্রদাতাকে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি সরবরাহ করতে হবে : ৬. সর্বশেষ ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বৎসরের নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি। ৭. সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে কাজের ক্ষেত্রে সরকার-কে প্রদানকৃত সর্বশেষ ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বৎসরের আয়কর সনদপত্র (এক্ষেত্রে ইনকাম ট্যাক্স জমাদানের রশিদ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না) এর সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ-এ কোন মামলা থাকে তা উল্লেখসহ)। ৮. হলনাগাদ ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (১৩ ডিজিট)। ৯. হলনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সীপত্রসহ যাতে রোগীদের আপদকালীন খাদ্যদ্রব্য সরবরাহের ও বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা (গত ৫ বৎসরের মধ্যে ও বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতার নোহা+চুক্তিপত্র+কার্যাদেশের ফটোকপি) এবং একক কার্যাদেশে চাউল, ডাল, মশলা : মাছ ও মাংস সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে ৪০,০০,০০০/- (চল্লিশ লক্ষ) টাকা, শাক-সবজি ও ফলমূল সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে ১৫,০০,০০০/- (পনের লক্ষ) টাকা, পাউরুটি এবং দুধ সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে ২৫,০০,০০০/- (পঁচিশ লক্ষ) টাকার অভিজ্ঞতাসহ (গত ০৫ বৎসরের মধ্যে ০৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতার নোহা+চুক্তিপত্র+কার্যাদেশ এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে) শর্তাবলীতে উক্ত ব্যালেন্স এর উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে এবং তার মূলকপি যাচাইয়ের জন্য জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। ১০. সরকারী হাসপাতালে রোগীদের লিনেন বৌতকরণ কাজের জন্য ও বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ (গত ০৫ বৎসরের মধ্যে ০৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতার নোহা+চুক্তিপত্র+কার্যাদেশ এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে) এবং একক কার্যাদেশে ৫,০০,০০০/- (পাঁচ লক্ষ) টাকার অভিজ্ঞতাসহ শর্তাবলীতে উল্লেখিত লিকুইড গ্যাসেট থাকতে হবে। সমস্ত কাগজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি ছাড়াও পিপিআর ২০০৬ এবং ২০০৮ এর নিয়মানুযায়ী যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি সংযুক্ত করতে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।		
৬	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা (প্রধান)	জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা। তারিখঃ ১১.০৭.২০২১ হতে ২৮.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ ০৯.০০ টা হতে ২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত শুধু মাত্র অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।		
	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা (অন্যান্য)	ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, বনানী থানা, ঢাকা। তারিখঃ ২৫.০৭.২০২১ হতে ২৮.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ ০৯.০০ টা হতে ২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।		
৭	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় শুরু তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় শুরুর তারিখঃ ১১.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত শুধু মাত্র অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকে ট্রেজারী চালানে কোড নং ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ নম্বরে (ক-১ নং হতে ক-৪, খ-১) কাজের জন্য নিম্নোক্তিত পরিমাণ টাকা প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য আলাদা আলাদা করে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। তার মূলকপি দাখিল করতে হবে; যা অনলাইনে চেক করে সঠিক পাওয়া গেলে ক্যাশিয়ার, জাববইহা, কর্তৃত্ব সিডিউল সরবরাহ করা হবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখঃ ২৮.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।		
৮	দরপত্র বাস্তব জমাদানের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান :	দরপত্র বাস্তব জমাদানের তারিখঃ ২৯.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ (সকাল ৯.০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)। স্থানঃ জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এবং ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, বনানী থানা, ঢাকা।		
৯	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	তারিখঃ ২৯.০৭.২০২১ খ্রিঃ, দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় (উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাদের সম্মুখে)। স্থানঃ জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।		
১০	কাজের সংশ্লিষ্ট বিবরণ	অবস্থান/ স্থান	দরপত্র দিল্লির মূল্য (অফেরত যোগ্য) টাকা	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত টাকা (সেরতযোগ্য) আফেট মানি
	২০২১-২২ অর্থ-বৎসরে জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল এবং এর আওতাধীন জাতীয় অ্যাজমা সেন্টার, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এর জন্য নিম্নোক্ত কাজের নিমিত্তে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান। হাসপাতালে কর্তৃত্বকৃত রোগীদের খাদ্য দ্রব্য/পথ্যা সরবরাহ ও লিনেন সামগ্রী বৌতকরণ কাজ :	জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা। ক-১ : ওকনা খাবার (চাউল, ডাল, মশলা) : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার)। ক-২ : শাক সবজি ও ফলমূল : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র)। ক-৩ : মাছ ও মাংস : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র)। ক-৪ : পাউরুটি এবং দুধ : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র)। খ-১ : লিনেন সামগ্রী বৌতকরণ এর কাজ : ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত)।	সিডিউল এর মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) ক-১ : ওকনা খাবার (চাউল, ডাল, মশলা) : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার)। ক-২ : শাক সবজি ও ফলমূল : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র)। ক-৩ : মাছ ও মাংস : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র)। ক-৪ : পাউরুটি এবং দুধ : ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র)। খ-১ : লিনেন সামগ্রী বৌতকরণ এর কাজ : ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত)।	যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে, পিঠালক, জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা এর বরাদ্দে নিম্নোক্ত পরিমাণ প্রতিটি এপ্রের জন্য আলাদা আলাদা আফেটমানি জমা দিতে হবে। ক-১ : ওকনা খাবার (চাউল, ডাল, মশলা) : ৫,০০,০০০/- (তিন লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র)। ক-২ : শাক সবজি ও ফলমূল : ৬০,০০০/- (ছয় হাজার টাকা মাত্র)। ক-৩ : মাছ ও মাংস : ৩,০০,০০০/- (তিন লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র)। ক-৪ : পাউরুটি এবং দুধ : ২,১০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র)। খ-১ : লিনেন সামগ্রী বৌতকরণ : ৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
১১	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার সর্বময় ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবেন। দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষেত্রে জাতীয় বন্ধুবাধি ইনস্টিটিউট ও হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এক্ষেত্রে কোন আইন/আদালতের আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করা যাবে না। দরপত্র দাতাকে লেটার হেড প্যাডে এ বিধেয় মুচলেকা প্রদান করতঃ দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।		

(ডাঃ মুঃ সাইদুল ইসলাম)  
পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)।

GD-1309

## NEWS

### IN brief

#### Big win for BJP in UP local body polls

The India's ruling BJP clinched a massive victory in local body elections in Uttar Pradesh, in a big setback for Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party. The BJP took 67 seats in the zila panchayat chairperson election where 75 seats were at stake. Yadav's party won only five seats. The Rashtriya Lok Dal, Jansatta Dal and an independent candidate won a seat each. In comparison, back in the same election in 2016, Yadav's party took 60 of the 75 seats. Those analysing the elections, however, say the local body polls are unlikely to be any indicator of which direction the wind will blow in the assembly election next year.

#### Palestinian killed in West Bank, airstrike hits Gaza

Israel's military Saturday said that its aircraft launched retaliatory air strikes in the Gaza Strip and that its troops in the occupied West Bank shot a suspected Palestinian assailant, whom Palestinian officials said had been killed. An Israeli military spokesperson said that soldiers had been trying to disperse confrontations that erupted between Israeli settlers and Palestinians from a nearby village in the West Bank. The troops then saw a man throw an explosive device at them from a rooftop and "responded with fire against the suspect in order to eliminate the danger," the spokesperson said. In Gaza, Israeli jets struck a weapon manufacturing facility and a rocket launcher in response to incendiary balloons sent from the Palestinian enclave into Israel on Saturday, the military said. One man was critically wounded, Gaza medics said.



#### Chinese astronauts complete first spacewalk

Chinese astronauts successfully performed the country's first tandem spacewalk yesterday, working for seven hours on the outside of the new Tiangong station in orbit around Earth. Three astronauts blasted off last month to become the station's first crew, where they are to remain for three months. Yesterday morning, two of them exited the station for tasks which involved elevating a panoramic camera outside the Tianhe core module, as well as testing the station's robotic arm which will be used to transfer future modules around the station, state media said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



## MILITARY PLANE CRASH IN PHILIPPINES

First responders work at the site after a Philippines Air Force Lockheed C-130 plane carrying troops crashed in Patikul, Sulu province, Philippines, yesterday. At least 45 people were killed and dozens injured when the military aircraft crashed and burst into flames after missing the runway in the country's south, officials said. Nearly 100 people, most of them recent army graduates, were on the military transport plane which was trying to land on Jolo island in Sulu province around midday. A search was still under way for at least 5 missing people.

PHOTO: REUTERS

#### CLASHES BETWEEN ARMY AND ANTI-JUNTA FIGHTERS

## 25 killed in Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

Twenty-five anti-junta fighters and civilians were killed during clashes with the military in central Myanmar, villagers said yesterday, as locals increasingly take up arms against the regime in the coup-wracked country.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a February coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government, with 890 people killed in a junta crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group.

In some areas civilians have formed "defence forces" to combat the State Administration Council, as the junta dubs itself, often using hunting rifles or makeshift weapons cobbled together from household items.

The central Sagaing region has been the site of multiple skirmishes between defence forces and the military, and on Friday fighting broke out in Depayin township. Residents told AFP that military trucks entered their area and opened fire on a village near the jungle hoping to flush out members of the local defence force.

"We heard the shooting of artillery 26 times," said a villager, who added that anti-junta fighters tried to retaliate but could not fend off the attack.

"They shot everyone who they saw on the road and in the village. They did not just have one target," he said.

Civilians were among the dead, he added.

Villagers waited until Saturday to venture out of their homes to assess the casualties, said a member of the local defence force who helped to organise the collection of bodies.

"We firstly got nine dead bodies and buried them," he told AFP, adding that eight more were found by a different team and also buried the same day.

On Sunday, they found eight more bodies.

"I noticed from their bodies that most of them were shot in the head," he said -- an observation that another man who helped move the dead confirmed to AFP.

BBC News Burmese -- the BBC's Myanmar language service -- reported a similar death toll.

Despite the threat of crackdowns, protesters in Myanmar are still taking to the streets daily in defiance of the military regime. Yesterday, residents across Sagaing held short demonstrations, flashing a three-finger salute of defiance during rapid marches through the streets.

## Families flee as Taliban seize key Afghan district

AFP, Kandahar

The Taliban have captured a key district in their former bastion of Kandahar after fierce night-time fighting with Afghan government forces, officials said yesterday, sending scores of families fleeing from the area.

The insurgents have pressed on with their campaign to capture territory across Afghanistan's rural areas since early May when the US military began its final pullout of troops from the violence-wracked country.

The fall of Panjwai district in the southern province of Kandahar comes just two days after US and Nato forces vacated their main Bagram Air Base near Kabul, from where they led operations for two decades against the Taliban and their al-Qaeda allies.

Over the years, the Taliban and Afghan forces have regularly clashed in and around Panjwai, with the insurgents aiming to seize it given its proximity to Kandahar city, the provincial capital.

The leader of the Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada, hails from Panjwai. The province of Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban, who went on to rule Afghanistan with a harsh version of Islamic sharia law until being overthrown by a US-led invasion in 2001.

Kandahar provincial council head Sayed Jan Khakriwal confirmed the fall of Panjwai, but accused government forces of "intentionally withdrawing".

Scores of families of Panjwai fled their homes after the Taliban captured the district, an AFP correspondent reported.

Panjwai is the fifth district in Kandahar province to fall to the insurgents in recent weeks. Fighting has raged across several provinces of Afghanistan and the Taliban claim to have seized more than 100 out of nearly 400 districts in the country.

Experts say that one of the main reasons for government forces to lose dozens of districts is the lack of US air support in recent weeks.

#### Quote of the day



"They've mobilized every power of government to come after me, my family, my wonderful employees and my company solely because of politics. ... It's really called prosecutorial misconduct. A terrible, terrible thing."

FORMER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP ON TAX FRAUD CHARGES AGAINST HIS COMPANY AND IT'S CFO



Riot police clash with demonstrators during a protest against the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Saturday evening.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Four killed in Cyprus forest fire

AFP, Vavatsinia

A huge forest blaze in Cyprus has killed four people, destroyed homes and forced evacuations of villages as Greece, Israel and other countries deployed fire-fighting planes to the Mediterranean island.

The fire began Saturday afternoon and has swept through districts in the southern foothills of the Troodos mountains as the country grapples with a blistering heatwave with temperature hovering around 40 degree celsius.

Firefighters were successful in bringing the main fire under control yesterday morning, authorities said, while warning that strengthening winds could yet propel a resurgence.

A 67-year-old man was arrested and remanded in custody on suspicion of starting the blaze.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters  
6, Phoenix Road, Dhaka



### Invitation for Re-Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Medicine manufacturer companies in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka for the financial year 2021-2022.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs/Public Security Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3	Procuring entity name	AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
4	Invitation for	Purchase of Medicines.
5	Invitation Ref No.	44.01.0086.600.07.019.2021
6	Date	04/07/2021

#### KEY INFORMATION

7 Procurement method Open Tendering Method (OTM).

#### FUNDING INFORMATION

8 Budget and source of funds Revenue Budget (GOB).

#### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9	Tender publication date	05/07/2021
10	Last date of selling tender schedule	01/08/2021
11	Closing date and time of tender	14.30 hrs on 02/08/2021
12	Opening date and time of tender	15.00 hrs on 02/08/2021

#### NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE(S)

13	Place of selling tender documents	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.		
	Place of receiving tender documents	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.		
14	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting. Bidder must remain present in the meeting to avoid any future ambiguity	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka	Date 28/07/2021	Time 11.00

#### INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15 Eligibility of tenderer (1) Up-to-date trade licence (2) Up-to-date income tax certificate (3) VAT registration certificate and (4) Other documents described in tender document.

#### Brief Description of Goods

Sl. No.	Name	Tender security in Taka	Price of tender document	Completion time in days
01.	Medicine	3,25,500	Tk 1000	The whole lot must be delivered in four installments; August/21, October/21, February/22 & April/22.

#### PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

17	Name of official inviting tender	Shorif Mostafizur Rahman.
18	Designation of official inviting tender	AIG (Health Services).
19	Address of official inviting tender	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
20	Contact detail of official inviting the tender	Tel & Fax: 88-02-55101621

#### Special instructions

- No tender will be received after the deadline for submission of time date.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason.
- The procuring entity also reserves the right to omit increase or decrease the quantity of any item(s) from the tender.
- If not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue.
- Evaluation will be on item by item basis.
- The tender must comply will all requirements as per the tender data sheet provided with the tender schedule.
- Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods.
- The procurement will be performed according to The Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Rules-2008.

08/09/2021  
Shorif Mostafizur Rahman  
BP 7605104564

AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters, Dhaka  
Tel & Fax: 88-02-55101621  
aighealth@police.gov.bd

GD-1310



JULY 05

**1945** - US General Douglas MacArthur announced the liberation of the whole of the Philippines in World War Two.

**1948** - The state-run National Health Service came into being in Britain.

**1994** - Yasser Arafat travelled to the West Bank after 27 years in exile, determined to turn Palestinian-ruled areas into a state with its capital in East Jerusalem.

**2016** - NASA's Juno space probe enters orbit of Jupiter.

SOURCE: REUTERS

## S Africa's health system 'buckling'

Ramaphosa warns of massive resurgence of infections driven by Delta variant; Russia posts highest number of cases since early Jan

#### AGENCIES

The health system in South Africa's Johannesburg is being overwhelmed by a massive wave of infections driven by Delta variant, as Russia yesterday counted more than 25,000 new infections.

The Delta variant is now dominant in Africa's most developed country, where the official death toll is now more than 60,000.

The new variant is fuelling an aggressive third wave of infections across the African continent, with case numbers climbing faster than all earlier peaks, according to the World Health Organization.

Authorities in South Africa have been unable to stem the spread of the new variant, only moving to impose new restrictions after a massive wave of infections ravaged the country's economic heartland.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the country's health system was "buckling" as he imposed a two-week

ban on all gatherings, indoors and outdoors. An extended curfew was also imposed, and schools shut early for holidays.

"We have overcome two decisive waves but now we have a new hill to climb, a great challenge, a massive resurgence of infections... a devastating wave," he said.

#### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The coronavirus has killed nearly four million people worldwide, forcing numerous nations to reimpose restrictions well over a year after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Moscow has so far ruled out a new lockdown, but yesterday's 25,142 infections were the biggest figure since January 2. Record virus deaths were registered five days in a row rising to 697 on Saturday, before dropping to 663 on yesterday.

Indonesia imposed a partial

lockdown on Saturday, a day after also reporting more than 25,000 cases and 539 deaths, both new daily records.

Mosques, restaurants and shopping malls were shuttered in the capital Jakarta, across the main island of Java and on Bali after the daily caseload quadrupled in less than a month.

The Delta variant accounts for more than 80 percent of new cases in some areas, Indonesia's health ministry said.

In South America, Brazil has suffered more than 500,000 Covid-19 fatalities and thousands took to the streets again Saturday to protest against President Jair Bolsonaro.

Meanwhile, the US State of Vermont is laying claim to be the safest place in the world.

The second-least populated state in the United States recently became the first to partially vaccinate 80 percent of eligible residents.

"It makes us probably the safest place in the country and maybe the world," said health commissioner Mark Levine.

# Habshi rule in Bengal (1487-94)

MUHAMMAD AHMEDULLAH

Very few people know that Bengal was once ruled by Habshi African sultans. Four rulers from an African background occupied the Sultanate of Bengal during 1487-94. Those who know about that period are mostly confined to a narrow group of academics, whose interest levels on the topic seem to have been also very limited.

How was it possible when there was no African invasion in Bengal or the size of the African community was not sufficiently large in our country, at any time, to enable this to happen?

The main primary materials I have consulted are two books and coins issued by the four respective sultans. The books are *Tarikh-i Firishtah*, written by Muhammad Qasim Hindu Shah (Firishta) during the first decade of the 17th Century, more than one hundred years after the Habshi rule had ended; *Riyazu-s-Salatin* (A History of Bengal), written by Ghulam Husain Salim, in around 1778, nearly three hundred years after the episode.

During 1487-94, the Bengal Sultanate was ruled by a series of African kings. From the beginning of the Muslim rule in northern India, in addition to Turkish slaves, enslaved Ethiopian men were imported to serve nobles, military commanders and the sultans, primarily as slave soldiers. Some of them rose through the ranks and achieved high positions as military commanders, senior officials, nobles, governors and even rulers. In the case of the Bengal, four Africans ruled the Sultanate for a brief period of nearly seven years.

The city of Gaur – whose another name was Lakhnauti – was the capital of the Bengal Sultanate at that time, a large city by the standards of the period. The Italian Ludovico Di Verthama, who visited Gaur during the first decade of the Sixteenth Century, described the Bengal capital as ‘the best place in the world, that is, for living in’. A small part of that city now lies within the border of present-day Bangladesh, the rest being in Malda in West Bengal, India.

The ruler of Bengal immediately before the start of the Habshi period in 1487 was Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah. He was the last

slightly different, but not contradictory, account of why Malik Andil was summoned to the capital: it was ‘in order to imprison him by means of a trap’. Both sources state that Malik Andil rightly understood the intention of Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah and took steps to pre-empt the latter’s plan.

According to the sources, Malik Andil entered the capital fully prepared with a large force. On seeing the strength and support of Malik Andil, Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah refrained from executing his plan to capture and kill Malik Andil. Instead, he, through overtures of friendliness, invited Andil Malik to the palace and then demanded that the latter, his hands on the Quran, promise never to injure him, in one account, and not to kill him, according to another. Malik Andil responded to that demand by answering that as long as Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah was on the throne, he would not harm him. Malik Andil, according to how Firishtah and the Ghulam interpreted the conversations between the sultan and the commander, did not promise not to ever kill the Sultan – whom he considered to be an illegitimate ruler of Bengal – but only that he would not kill him while he was on the throne. Firishtah says that Malik Andil’s promise was specific, who said to Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah that ‘since he had ascended the throne, he would never lay hands on him while he “filled that seat”, which only meant seating on the throne.

Although Malik Andil swore on the Quran that he would not harm Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah, he, nevertheless, planned to avenge the killing of Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah, the previous sultan whose loyal servant he was to the end. His efforts in this regard were said to have made some inroads into winning the confidence and support of some of the personal guards of Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah. As such, in one evening, Malik Andil was secretly let into the palace, who then ‘entered the harem to kill the eunuch’ sultan.

According to the Ghulam, ‘when he found the latter asleep on the throne’, due to being intoxicated by ‘excessive indulgence in liquor’, Malik Andil ‘hesitated, on recollecting



**Firuz Minar.** This five-storey tower is attributed to Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah, the second Habshi ruler of Bengal.

appreciate the value of money which has fallen into his hands, without toil and labour. We ought to set about discovering a means by which he might be taught the value of money, and to withhold his hands from useless extravagance and lavishness.” They laid out one lakh rupees in a place for the king to see for himself what one lakh looks like so that he can learn the value of money. But when the king saw the money, he said: “How can this amount suffice? Add another lakh to it.”

Ghulam says that he died after three years of rule and that the cause of death, from the most reliable account, was that he was killed by the palace Paiks. Based on coins and inscriptions during the rule of Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah, Syed Ezaz Hussain concludes that he ruled for about three years from 1488 to 1491.

victorious, Mahmud Shah, the King, son of Firuz Shah, the King”.

According to some accounts, Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah treated the infant son of his master, Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah, as if he were his son, and might have even adopted him. If that were the case, then describing Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah as the son of Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah would not cause any problems.

Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah was only a young child when he ascended the throne, and, as such, he could not have played much of a role, if any, in decision making. Habash Khan, the prime minister, as the regent and de facto sultan, acted on behalf of Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah. It might have been Habash Khan who decided to name Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah as the father of Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah on coins issued in the new sultan’s name.

As the new sultan was young, he was unlikely to have been actively engaged in running the administration of the Sultanate. Like in many other places around the world when a young child inherited the throne, a regent was normally elected or appointed to run the affairs of the government on behalf of the child while underage, with support from a council of nobles and officers. Whether he was the son of Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah or Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah, Habash Khan was the regent placed in charge of the government.

Habash Khan’s ‘influence so completely pervaded all affairs of government, that, except a bare title, nothing of sovereignty was left to Mahmud Shah’. However, he was soon challenged and murdered by another Abyssinian named Sidi Badr Diwana, also described as a slave. Then, shortly afterwards, he conspired with the palace paiks, and

closely to the tenets of the orthodox faith’.

Firishtah also states that Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah’s Prime Minister, Syed Hussain Sharif, encouraged the sultan to disband the greater part of his standing army, which led to the reduction of the number of soldiers on service so low that many of the army chiefs quitted their jobs. Firishtah suggests that the activities of Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah that made him very unpopular and hated were engineered by the prime minister, deliberately designed to malign the sultan.

With the increasing unpopularity of Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah and the many plots that were being hatched against him by some nobles, army chiefs and officers, the prime minister decided to join hands with the rebels to oust the sultan from power. The move of the rebel group against the sultan at Gaur palace, however, did not result in an immediate victory for the rebels. Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah was said to have barricaded himself at the palace with five thousand Abyssinians and thirty thousand Afghan and Bengali forces. Hand to hand, sword and the use of arrow were parts of the methods of warfare employed by both sides. According to one report, the battle raged for about four days, and according to another, it lasted four months. Many people were killed on both sides during the fierce fighting over a few months.

Finally, after a major push by the rebels against the besieged palace, they became victorious and Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah, with many of his relatives, got killed. According to Firishtah, the end part of the battle came when the prime minister gained the confidence of the palace paiks. They let him enter the palace with eleven others who then killed Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah. After that, the prime minister, Syed Hussain Sharif, got installed on the throne and became the new sultan.

Soon after the killing of Sultan Muzaffar Shah, according to Ghulam, a council of nobles was called. There the nobles supported Syed Hussain Sharif’s desire to become the sultan after he had answered their questions satisfactorily.

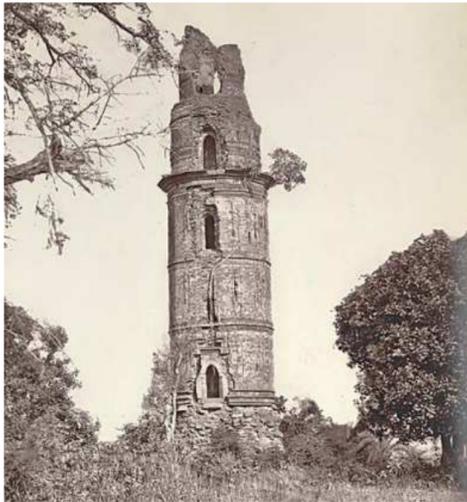
Syed Hussain Sharif was asked, “If we elect you king, in what way will you conduct yourself towards us?” To this, he answered, “I will meet all your wishes, and immediately I will allot to you whatever may be found over-ground in the city, whilst all that is underground, I will appropriate to myself.” This gave licence to the nobles and soldiers to pillage the city – the city of Gaur that Ghulam described as eclipsing Cairo in terms of wealth.

The new sultan, enthroned in 1494, became known as Sultan Alauddin Hussain Shah. However, after a few days of ascending the throne, the sultan forbade the continuing pillaging of the city. When some did not adhere to his edict, he killed about twelve thousand plunderers, which brought the pillaging to an end.

Syed Ejaz Hussain, after analysing relevant coins and inscriptions, including newly discovered ones, concludes that Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah ruled for two years and a few months.

The new sultan, who was said to have been of Arab descent, founded a new ruling family called the Hussain Shahi Dynasty. During its forty-year rule, it produced the rule of four sultans until it was ended by the Afghan Sher Shah when he defeated the last Hussain Shahi ruler, Sultan Mahmud Shah, in 1538.

Muhammad Ahmedullah is a researcher. He is a founder member of Brick Lane Circle, London.



**Firuz Minar.** The photo was taken in the 1860s by John Henry Ravenshaw.



**Firuzpur Gate, Gaur.** The photo was taken in the 1860s by John Henry Ravenshaw.

Ilyas Shahi ruler of Bengal, who ascended the throne in 1481.

According to Firishtah, one day, a Habshi called Khawajasara, ‘one of the eunuchs of the palace... murdered the king’. After that, he became the new ruler of the Bengal Sultanate, calling himself Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah. The eunuch sultan then took steps to consolidate his power by collecting ‘together all the eunuchs of the palace, as also men of low station and desperate fortunes’. But the ‘chief officers and nobles of the state... resolved together to depose’ the usurper.

Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah could not have moved against Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah without a prior conspiracy and support from a significant section of the dissatisfied nobles and officers at the court. Unless the murder of the sultan was the result of a heat of the moment event, the eunuch who killed the sultan, surely, would not have had the courage to kill him without significant support from within the court.

**Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah (1487)**  
The next phase of the drama was the conflict between Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah and Malik Andil, the Habshi commander, loyal to the murdered Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah. At the time of the murder, Malik Andil was somewhere at the frontiers. When Malik Andil learned of the murder of Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah he wanted to punish the ‘usurper’ and avenge the death of his master. Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah, fearing what Malik Andil might be planning against him, summoned the latter to return to the capital ‘for the purpose of seizing and putting him to death’, according to Firishtah. Ghulam Husain Salim provides

his vow’, made while holding the Quran, not to harm him while sitting on the throne. However, one thing led to another and within a very short time that night, there was a swift end to the life of Sultan Shahzada Barbak Shah at the hands of Andil Malik. The eunuch sultan ruled only for a few months.

Although at first Andil Malik was hesitant in accepting the wishes of the dowager Queen, the widow of Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah, to become the new sultan, later changed his mind when a unanimous assembly of noblemen at the court agreed that he would be the best person for the job. He took the regnal title of Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah.

**Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah (1487-90)**  
Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah ruled for nearly three years. He was both admired and feared; known as a good king who brought justice and stability to the Sultanate; carried out many public works; undertook initiatives to improve the conditions of the poor. Though neither Firishtah nor Ghulam includes in their accounts details of public works that were said to have been part of his legacy, the latter mentions that “a mosque, a tower and a reservoir in the city of Gaur, were erected by him”.

Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah’s levels of public expenditures, especially in supporting the poor, alarmed many officers and nobles at the court. An example of that has been provided by Ghulam.

On one occasion, Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah instructed his officers to distribute one lakh rupees to the poor, who disliked the ‘lavishness’ of the new ruler and used to say to one another: “This Abyssinian does not

## Firuz Minar

The Firuz Minar in Gaur is usually associated with the ‘tower’ mentioned by Ghulam. Some commentators have said that, just like the Qutub Minar in Delhi, the Firuz Minar was also built as a symbol of victory. However, no war or victory achieved by Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah has been chronicled by either Firishtah or Ghulam or anyone else. Another point to note is that the building of the Firuz Minar was supposed to have begun in 1485, according to some sources, which was about two years before this sultan was enthroned. If it were true that the construction of the Firuz Minar was started in 1485 then this means that it was Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah who commissioned the project.

## Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah (1490-91)

When Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah was killed or died a natural death in 1490, a child became the new sultan, who became known as Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah. According to Firishtah, Jalaluddin Fateh Shah, the last Ilyas Shahi sultan, was his father. In contrast, Ghulam says that when “Firuz Shah passed to the secret-house of non-existence, the nobles and the ministers placed on the throne his eldest son, Mahmud.

However, based on the study of ‘recently discovered coins’, Syed Ejaz Hussain concludes that Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah was the son of Sultan Saifuddin Firuz Shah. Ejaz bases his conclusion on the writings on the coins when describing Sultan Qutubuddin Mahmud Shah: “*Qutub-duniya wadin Abul Mujahid Mahmud Shah Al-Sultan ibn Firuz Shah Al-Sultan (pole-star of the world and religion, the father of the crusader*



**Some of the coins issued by Habshi rulers in Bengal.** COURTESY: WWW.WORLDOFCOINS.EU

killed Sultan Mahmud Shah and established himself on the throne and called himself Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah.

According to an analysis of relevant coins by Syed Ejaz Hussain, Sultan Mahmud Shah’s reign lasted only for a few months.

## Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah (1491-94)

Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah, described as a slave, has a very negative reputation. He was painted as blood-thirsty, short-sighted, cruel and unwise. Ghulam states that he killed ‘many of the learned and the pious and the nobility of the city, and also killed the infidel Rajas who were opposed to the sovereigns of Bengal’.

Other unwise acts attributed to him include cutting the pay of soldiers to build up a treasury for which he also ‘committed oppressions in the collection of revenue’. Firishtah adds that those that Sultan Shamsuddin Muzaffar Shah killed were ‘whose principles induced them to adhere

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FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

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## Disparities in testing facilities, ICU beds, oxygen supply

### Outcome of centralising healthcare service in Dhaka

**W**E are once again suffering the deleterious outcome of concentrating the bulk of health service facilities in Dhaka. And we are learning our lessons the hard way. The sad part is that it is costing lives. It is hard to convince oneself about the logic of almost 70 percent of the country's RT-PCR testing facilities being based in the Dhaka division. Surprisingly, out of a total of 128 RT-PCR facilities, essential for accurate diagnosis of Covid-19, only 39 are serving the remaining seven divisions of Bangladesh, with Chattogram accounting for 10 percent of them. This is a very worrying situation indeed given that the focal point of the pandemic has surged in other districts and towns particularly the bordering areas.

Such an anomalous situation came to light with the initial attack of the virus early last year. It is quite apparent that, in spite of the tremendous investment in the health sector, with hundreds of health centres sprouting up in the nooks and corners of the country, the essential facilities were lacking when it came to the crunch. Thus, the districts and towns were crying for both human resources and equipment with the onset of the pandemic. The disparity in the number of ICU beds and emergency care facilities, along with the shortage of trained nurses and doctors, between Dhaka and other districts and divisional towns became very shamefully stark. Such disparities also exist in oxygen supply. Reportedly, almost 50 percent of the nearly 11,000 oxygen cylinders in the country is available in Dhaka and Chattogram. Very few hospitals in the country have central oxygen supply facilities.

We believe that quick and extensive testing is a sine qua non for preventing the spread of the virus. Without proper testing, identifying, isolating and treating patients would not be effective. Thus, testing facilities have to be expanded urgently. Side by side, other healthcare facilities should be procured and added to the district and divisional hospitals. After all, keeping the outlying areas inadequately served can never make Dhaka safe or secure.

All this should have happened months ago given the unpredictability and quick spread of the virus. It is time to hold those officials accountable who failed to carry out the orders of the PM given in June 2020 to construct more ICU beds all over the country as well as set up high-flow oxygen support in public hospitals. Their inaction has left the country gasping for breath literally.

## Sexual assault during remand!

### Individuals in custody must be protected from all kinds of abuse

**T**HE allegations of a woman charged in a murder case being sexually assaulted and subject to other forms of physical torture while in remand are extremely serious and need thorough, independent investigation. But why did this happen in the first place? While there is no ambiguity about sexual assault being a punishable crime, there seems to be a general, tacit acceptance of the practice of torture during interrogation or remand despite court directives to the contrary.

Section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) lets law enforcers torture individuals during remand period. The High Court had issued a 15-point directive on April 7, 2003 against this provision. The then government had filed an appeal with the Supreme Court on August 2, 2003 against the high court verdict. Finally, after 13 long years, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court directive through issuing some guidelines regarding custodial torture on May 24, 2016. But, as the above-mentioned case shows, these guidelines are routinely ignored by the policemen of this country.

A *Star Weekend* report published on July 20, 2018 provides ample evidence of torture during remand period and terms it as a regular practice of the law enforcers. The report mentions Ain O Salish Kendra, according to which in 2017, a total of 53 people died in custody, 20 of whom were convicts and 33 were detainees. In the first half of 2018, 25 people had reportedly died in police custody, 14 of whom were detainees. The recent death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in police custody proves that custodial torture continues with impunity. According to Barrister Sara Hossain (a Supreme Court Lawyer), rights of the arrested and detained individuals are guaranteed by Article 33 and 35 of our constitution—including being kept safe from torture. Whether proven guilty or not, any individual in custody has the right to be protected from torture. The police have to follow the laws of the land and directives provided by the courts.

Although the Superintendent (SP) of Barishal has said that necessary actions will be taken if the allegations are found to be true, he also added that he is yet to get any official order. Our hope will be that the police department will not sit on this issue but carry out a thorough and immediate investigation and if the allegations are proven true, the culprits must be given exemplary punishment. All law enforcement agencies must abide by the constitutional and court directives and completely shun the barbaric practice of torture of individuals in custody.

# Longer TRIPS transition period for LDCs overlooks post-graduation challenges



FAHMIDA KHATUN

**O**N June 29, members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) extended the deadline for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to protect intellectual property under the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) until July 1, 2034. Members agreed to extend the present transition period, which was scheduled to end on July 1, by 13 years. The TRIPS Agreement that facilitates trade in knowledge and creativity, covers areas such as copyright, trademark, geographical indicators, industrial design, patents, layout designs of integrated circuits and undisclosed information. It may also be mentioned that the transition period for pharmaceutical products was earlier extended by the Council for TRIPS until the end of 2032.

On behalf of the LDC Group in the WTO, Chad requested the extension on October 1, 2020. The LDC Group requested an extension of the transition period so that LDCs are exempted from applying TRIPS provisions till an LDC graduates instead of a fixed period which is applicable to all LDCs. Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement provides flexibility to LDCs. These countries have been exempted from applying the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement twice since 2005—the first time from 2005 to 2013 and then from 2013 to 2021. While granting such exemptions, the special requirements of LDCs were taken into consideration. Their economic, financial and administrative constraints and the need to create a technological base have been mentioned by the WTO for such exemptions.

The other request from the LDC Group was exemption of an additional 12-year period after an LDC graduates so that the country can graduate in a smooth manner by overcoming shocks during the new circumstances. However, WTO members did not agree to the LDC request for continuation of the transition period after a country graduates from LDC status to the developing country category.

This is unfortunate since during the initial period after graduation, LDCs face challenges in terms of the loss of several international support measures. These include loss of preferential market access for LDC products in several developed and developing countries, access to concessional finance, TRIPS waiver, LDC-specific funds and technology transfer, among others.

It is widely discussed that though the

pandemic has affected all economies, LDCs are more vulnerable to the crisis. These countries are facing health and economic shocks which are reflected through low economic activities, loss of employment and income of people, financial stress, fiscal deficit, and increased poverty. Social challenges such as poor healthcare, learning loss of students, violence against women, burden of unpaid care work, increased child marriage, and greater inequality have also become prominent in these countries during the pandemic. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2020), the pandemic could

graduate in a sustainable manner. In such circumstances, LDC-specific support measures need to be continued for a longer period. One of these measures is the continuation of the TRIPS transition period during post-LDC graduation.

Advanced countries are working towards building their economies in a better way than the pre-pandemic period. Not only do they have access to enough vaccines to fight the pandemic, they are also investing heavily in human capital and green technology. LDCs do not have access to affordable knowledge products, healthcare facilities, and green technology. Article 66.2 of the TRIPS

and poor countries in the world. This requires conscious efforts of the global community.

Bangladesh played an important role in driving the extension of the exemption period for LDCs to implement the obligations of the TRIPS Agreement. Though Bangladesh has fulfilled LDC graduation criteria during the triennial reviews of the United Nations in 2018 and 2021, and is expected to graduate in 2026—it will need the LDC-specific flexibilities for a few years during its post-graduation period. This will help the country to prepare for absorbing the shocks to be felt due to the sudden



create an additional 32 million extreme poor by 2020 in 47 LDCs. This will increase the number of extreme poor to 377 million people, more than half of the number of poor worldwide. The pandemic is feared to take away some of the achievements in case of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under such circumstances, LDCs require even more flexibility than before. A shorter transition period as provided to graduating LDCs in the past is not enough.

LDCs have become more vulnerable in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Several studies have apprehended that achievements made by LDCs so far could be reversed due to the impact of the pandemic. This may not be reflected in the average statistical numbers but the inherent strength of their economies will be weaker. Hence, newly graduated LDCs will require a longer time to

Agreement refers to technology transfer to LDCs by developed countries so that a sound and viable technological base is created in LDCs. This is yet to be observed in a significant way. There has been a general lack of interest on the part of the developed countries in transferring technology. Rather, redundant and obsolete technologies are often dumped onto LDCs.

As the advanced countries aspire to "build back better" as part of their recovery plan and remain committed to global goals such as the SDGs, their commitment towards enhanced support to LDCs will be crucial. LDCs are facing uncertainty in getting vaccines while several developed countries have purchased more than their requirements. Therefore, the post-pandemic period will not only exacerbate inequality within countries but also between the rich

withdrawal of various international support measures.

At the national level, Bangladesh will have to work towards preparing itself to overcome the challenges following graduation. These include a host of issues, such as diversification of its exports and markets, higher resource mobilisation and its efficient utilisation, increased capacity and productivity, technological adoption, and stronger institutions. As far as TRIPS is concerned, Bangladesh should also develop and strengthen its IP regime with support from the WTO and also by engaging national experts. At the global level, Bangladesh will have to continue its engagement along with the LDC Group for the extension of TRIPS flexibilities both for current and graduating LDCs.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.  
Views expressed in this article are personal.

## We need to lead, not follow, in the digital age



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

**W**E make clothing in Bangladesh, and we do it exceedingly well. But how good are we at marketing and selling this clothing? The traditional route to market for Bangladesh apparel makers has been through agents and other middlemen, who in turn connect us with global fashion brands and retailers. Exports via these avenues have formed the backbone of the Bangladeshi economic success story for the past 30 years, and there is no reason why this should not continue for many more years to come.

However, selling directly to brands will always be a critical part of the business proposition for Bangladesh.

So, in an industry which is changing at lightning speed, I believe it is time our garment makers begin thinking deeper about their route to the market (and to end consumers). I also believe our policymakers should put more focus in this area, by ensuring we have the right skills and capabilities to thrive in the digital age.

This week, I read an interesting report from the United Kingdom about Amazon. It was focused on individuals who have created multi-million-pound businesses, selling their products via Amazon. In some cases, revenues of more than 10m Euros annually had been achieved.

I have discussed Amazon as a potential sales route for garment makers in the past so I will not go over it in too much detail here. In summary, Amazon allows other sellers to list their products on its website, and will even do the delivery (or "fulfilment") for them using its huge logistics network.

The massive scale of Amazon means that if a seller can get the products and the

marketing right, they can find themselves selling huge amounts worth of goods quite quickly.

Can Amazon also be a direct route to customers for Bangladesh RMG sellers? I believe we need to be thinking more broadly in this regard, while considering all routes to market and the issue of digital marketing generally.

In the past, it was enough for our garment makers to focus on their core business—making clothing—and to let others worry about digital marketing and selling. I now think this issue has become so central to our industry that it's too big

to grips with developing websites which are ripe for search engine optimisation (SEO). Better SEO makes it a lot easier for a website to be found.

Additionally, I would like people within the Bangladesh RMG industry to become leaders in digitisation in the same way they are leaders in garments manufacturing. Let's really set our sights high in this area.

The second thing I would like to see is more support for Bangladeshi garment businesses which choose to sell directly to consumers, through the internet. This could be in the form of grants, free access to training and other support networks.



to ignore. It is too vital to our industry as its lifeblood to farm it out to third parties and hope for the best. We all need to understand what is happening in the digital space.

There are a couple of changes I would like to see, for instance. In our schools, universities and technical colleges, I believe we should now have much more focus on training and development in digital sales, marketing, coding and other related issues. That means understanding the mechanics of marketing and selling online, getting

I believe our business leaders should push the boat out in this area and see if it is possible to foster some major digital success stories in our garment sector.

There is a company from China called Shein. You may not yet have heard of it but this Chinese online fashion seller is now valued at around USD 30 billion. The company has sales of more than USD 10 billion annually—despite having been formed just seven years ago.

Shein is turning fast fashion on its head by selling directly to consumers from its

base in China. The business asks for its clothing manufacturers to be located no more than a five-hour drive away from its sourcing hub in the Chinese city of Guangzhou. This is to allow for better speed to market.

The company also stipulates that its suppliers be able to complete the design and production process in around 10 days, again giving it a head start on traditional fast fashion brands.

When I read of stories like this, my first thought is—why not Bangladesh? Imagine a newly developed online fashion player, based in Bangladesh, coordinating its own, finely-tuned supplier network to respond quickly and seamlessly to the wants of international consumers. Shein is a Chinese success story in online fashion selling, and there are many more like it out there.

Where are the equivalent stories from Bangladesh? These stories do not exist because we have yet to properly embrace the digital space. We rely on others to do it for us. This has to change in the next few years. If we continue to focus purely on one aspect of the supply chain—RMG manufacturing—I believe we risk being left behind.

I wish to be clear here that I am not advocating for our shifting away from traditional RMG to becoming fashion brand business models. Rather, I am suggesting that we explore and embrace digital avenues in order to tap into potential new business opportunities.

The pace of change where the internet is concerned is rapid, and it can be bewildering at times trying to keep up with developments in our industry. This is certainly no place for the faint-hearted.

But the question I would ask of our industry leaders is not "can we afford to embrace digitisation?", but "can we afford not to?"

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

# Covid-19 recovery: Contexts and priorities in Bangladesh



SELIM RAIHAN

**A**ROUND a year and a half have passed since the onset of the Covid crisis. The Bangladesh economy and the global economy have certainly not

been able to go back to the pre-Covid state. Though there have been some signs of recovery for the Bangladesh economy, the recovery process has remained weak, fragile and uncertain. The effective recovery process also requires a better understanding of the Covid context and setting the priorities right.

The crisis we have seen with Covid for over a year is not just an economic crisis. There is also a big social crisis. Bangladesh has made great strides in the last few decades, especially in reducing poverty. But during Covid, there has been a high jump in the poverty rate. Surveys conducted by SANEM, and some other research organisations, have found that economic fallback, induced by the Covid disruptions, have increased the number of poor people quite considerably. Many have lost their jobs. Many, having lost their jobs, have returned to their villages from the cities, which led to some socio-economic impacts and put the rural labour market under additional pressure. A large part of our economy is informal, and more than 85 percent of the people in the labour market are working in the informal sector. The informal sector has been most affected during the Covid period. Many, who had various

small businesses, either have closed their businesses or are running their businesses at partial scales.

Many migrant workers have returned to the country, and the prospects of their returning to the destination countries appear to be bleak. New employment opportunities abroad are not encouraging as the destination countries are also struggling for their economic recoveries. At the same time, the domestic labour market sees the addition of a new labour force every year. One critical concern is that the pattern of economic growth in the last decade has not been at par with the objective of large-scale job creation. The problem has become more acute during Covid. There is also the big problem of a high degree of unemployment among the educated youth.

The Covid situation is getting worse again. With the imposition of stricter lockdowns, people's livelihoods are facing new challenges. The recovery we have seen in the economy in recent months is likely to be hampered by the new Covid outbreaks throughout the country and globally.

The uncertainty and instability in the global market will continue to affect the export sector and remittances. Until now, the remittances inflow, through the formal channels, remained encouraging. However, there are concerns that the total amount of the remittance inflows, if we consider both the formal and informal channels, may not have risen significantly. Also, in the case of the export sector, the recovery process has remained volatile and inconsistent. Nevertheless, just as the recovery of the export sector is crucial for the recovery of the overall economy, the recovery of the domestic economic sectors and their micro, small and

medium enterprises is critical too.

The Bangladesh government announced several stimulus packages soon after the onset of the Covid crisis. It is necessary to understand whether these stimulus packages have attained their intended objectives. Some evidence shows that the distribution, management and monitoring of the stimulus packages remained inadequate and weak. SANEM has

involved remained long and entailed many bureaucratic complications.

There is a common understanding that readymade garments and large firms have benefited the most from stimulus packages. However, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs have not been able to take advantage. Lack of initiatives, transparency, accountability and efficiency can undermine the whole objectives behind the stimulus

with the situation.

First, the availability of effective vaccines and the vaccination of mass people is critical for sustained recovery. At the same time, the enforcement of the rules and regulations related to hygienic practices is vital.

Second, the government's stimulus packages to revive the economy should be implemented more effectively and expanded if necessary. An assessment is needed to understand the challenges and constraints in implementing the stimulus packages to re-design and re-target these packages.

Third, the scopes and allocations of the government's social protection programmes for the old and new poor need to be expanded. The government must address the institutional challenges related to the design, allocation and disbursement of social protection programmes.

Fourth, it is necessary to take policies and strategies targeting the labour market. The government should introduce relevant social protection programmes in line with the ongoing labour market challenges, especially in urban areas.

Fifth, the economy requires some critical reforms in the policies and programmes. The country cannot achieve many developmental goals with a low ratio of tax-to-GDP. The financial sector also needs reforms, especially in the banking sector.

Finally, the current situation demands a departure from the conventional notions. The new reality requires an effective action plan for economic and social recoveries.

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A large part of our economy is informal, and more than 85 percent of the people in the labour market are working in the informal sector. PHOTO: STAR

been conducting quarterly surveys of 500 firms from 15 manufacturing and services sectors since June 2020. It appears from the four rounds of surveys, with the latest one in April 2021, that there is a high degree of heterogeneity among firms and sectors in terms of access to the stimulus packages. Many firms and sectors have been facing several challenges in getting stimulus packages as the processes

packages.

Micro, small and medium enterprises play critical roles in the supply chains of different sectors of the economy, and these have been severely affected by the Covid epidemic. Therefore, the resonant recovery of these enterprises is crucial for ensuring the strong upswing of the overall economy.

A few areas need priority to deal

## Remembering my teacher Shah Abdul Hannan

MD MAHMUDUL HASAN

**S**OMETIME in October 2001, I attended a discussion programme at Markfield Conference Centre in Leicestershire, UK. There was a lively debate on Islamic banking over lunch, involving Murad Wilfried Hofmann (1931-2020) and Shah Abdul Hannan (1939-2021). I had the opportunity to meet Murad Hofmann several times in the UK. I knew Shah Abdul Hannan for nearly 27 years and immensely benefited from his erudition, affection and encouragement.

In the debate, Murad Hofmann expressed misgivings about Islamic banking to which Shah Abdul Hannan responded, at times quite passionately. The rest of us were enthralled by the

passion for the Islamic banking system is understandable, as he was deeply involved in the Dhaka-based Islamic Economics Research Bureau which was at the forefront of the Islamic banking movement in Bangladesh. He served as the Chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited (IBBL) after retirement from government service.

Born in Mymensingh on September 23, 1939, Shah Abdul Hannan was a political science graduate of the University of Dhaka where he stood first in his master's degree exam in 1961. After a teaching stint and working as a journalist for some time, he joined the Civil Service and built a long career. Among the important positions he held are Director General of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (now renamed



Shah Abdul Hannan (September 23, 1939 – June 2, 2021)

and as one of the finest and most astute civil servants in the history of Bangladesh, tributes are often paid to him. However, the various important positions—both in government and the private sector—that Shah Abdul Hannan held and that brought him prestige and high repute are secondary to me. I knew him primarily as a good human being and my teacher.

When I first met him in 1994, I was a second-year university student, and he was a senior civil servant well known for his honesty, efficiency and sincerity and for his important roles in the government. I was not then (or now) an illustrious person. However, right from the beginning of my acquaintance with him till the end, he made me feel honoured as a human being and as his student. I had hundreds, if not thousands, of interactions with him—face-to-face or otherwise. I travelled with him in Bangladesh and in the UK; I spent long hours with him to learn from his immense knowledge and insight; and I attended his weekly classes (that he ran at his residence and elsewhere) and lectures that

he delivered at various events as an honoured guest. Not even on one occasion did he impose his views on me or stop me from expressing mine. I had first-hand knowledge of how respectfully he treated his subordinates in office and domestic helps at home.

He was a staunch promoter of bureaucratic honesty and efficiency. I remained awestruck by his uprightness, simplicity and humility. On February 15, 1998, he made a courageous and principled decision to resign from his positions as secretary to the government and chairman of the NBR. Upon retirement from government service, he was without a personal car or a house of his own. After living in a rented flat at Shegunbagicha for a number of years, he moved to his ancestral homestead in the capital's Uttar Goran which was his address till his death.

One day I went to see him in his office at NBR. An officer came to present a self-authored book to him. After receiving the book, he looked the man in the eye and said: *Lekhokra kokhono osot hoi na* (writers should never be corrupt). Later I came to know that the man concerned was involved in corruption cases, hence the remark.

Shah Abdul Hannan lived in a part of Dhaka where traffic congestion is a major problem. Travelling even a few miles in any direction from that part of the city took (still takes) hours. While traffic jam is a common excuse for delays, I never found him late for any appointment—social or work-related. He always anticipated traffic conditions and planned his journeys accordingly.

In Bangladesh, people are usually attracted to the power, pomp and outward glory of public servants. It is often their stature in society that sparks interest among university graduates in choosing Civil Service as their career. None of the various perks conventionally associated with

bureaucrats was salient in Shah Abdul Hannan. What attracted me to him was the depth of his knowledge, intellectual rigour and uprightness. Before meeting him, I had actually aspired to be a civil servant. It is an irony that a bureaucrat further ignited my urge for knowledge and motivated me to become an academic, and thus helped change the course of my life.

What I have described above is largely based on my personal interactions with Shah Abdul Hannan. There are innumerable people whom he influenced in public and academic life in a way that many of them remember and acknowledge. After his passing on June 2, 2021, many wrote and spoke to express their gratitude to him for what he did for them. In a personal communication, his long-time friend American economist Forrest Cookson wrote to me: "Even in my old age I am taking a little time to see how I can live closer to the ideals and standards that Shah [Abdul Hannan] set and stood for."

The sorrow over his death reached beyond me to all those who were blessed with his mentorship, advice and support. All of us miss his example and tutelage. Personally, I am deeply indebted to him for being a luminary and a role model for me as a dedicated learner and passionate teacher; and in so many other ways he remains a source of inspiration for me.

How much knowledge and scholarship other students of his weekly classes were able to receive from him depended on the degree of their intent and their receptive abilities. I can say with certainty that the knowledge and inspiration that I gained from him has been a great treasure in my academic life.

Md Mahmudul Hasan teaches literature at International Islamic University Malaysia. He is the editor of *Asiatic: IJUM Journal of English Language and Literature*.

*In Bangladesh, people are usually attracted to the power, pomp and outward glory of public servants. It is often their stature in society that sparks interest among university graduates in choosing Civil Service as their career.*

scholarly exchanges between these two seasoned bureaucrats and intellectual stalwarts. It was a debate between equals and a stimulating intellectual experience for the audience. When we reached the time limit, the host Manazir Ahsan intervened in a tongue-in-cheek manner and concluded the session.

After the informal session with Murad Hofmann, on the way to the guest room, Shah Abdul Hannan told me retrospectively that he was perhaps too strong in expressing his opinions. I assured him that it was fine. His

Anti-Corruption Commission), Deputy Government of Bangladesh Bank, Member of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Secretary to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Banking Division, Internal Resource Division (IRD) and concurrently Chairman of NBR. Two of his foundational professional contributions are structuring the value-added tax (VAT) system and reforming the banking sector. He authored dozens of books and regularly wrote for the media.

In addition to his widely acknowledged reputation for integrity

### QUOTABLE Quote



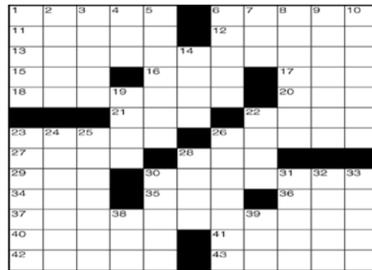
MIA FARROW (Born February 9, 1945) American actress and activist

*I learned that you can't truly own anything, that true ownership comes only in the moment of giving.*

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- |                             |                          |                             |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>               | 30 Nap                   | 7 Hoopla                    |
| 1 Buccaneers' city          | 34 Bed-and-breakfast     | 8 Empty of liquid           |
| 6 Mamas' mates              | 35 Dawn goddess          | 9 Put in order              |
| 11 "The Tempest" sprite     | 36 Kilmer of "The Doors" | 10 Some sofas               |
| 12 Revere                   | 37 Game site             | 14 Ditty                    |
| 13 Match site               | 40 Tire feature          | 19 Citi Field team          |
| 15 Stop                     | 41 Singer Lennox         | 22 Brutish one              |
| 16 "The Simpsons" bartender | 42 Oozes                 | 23 Nature lovers            |
| 17 Sewer rodent             | 43 Critic, at times      | 24 Magnetite, e.g.          |
| 18 Writer Chandler          |                          | 25 Bride-to-be              |
| 20 Low digit                |                          | 26 To date                  |
| 21 Major lang.              | <b>DOWN</b>              | 28 Role for Chris Hemsworth |
| 22 Olympics sled            | 1 Home run, in slang     | 30 Future flowers           |
| 23 Swell                    | 2 Sports site            | 31 News item                |
| 26 Carries                  | 3 TV's Kaling            | 32 Bulldogs fan             |
| 27 "Exodus" author          | 4 Writing tool           | 33 Tribal leader            |
| 28 Cal. column              | 5 Checks from an ex      | 38 Bean or beret            |
| 29 1949 film noir classic   | 6 Betrayed nervousness   | 39 "Not – million years!"   |

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



### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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

### BETLE BAILEY



### BY MORT WALKER



### BABY BLUES



### BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



## Havoc on rivers for faulty

FROM PAGE 1

Moreover, the alignments of two bridges -- Chawai Bridge in Panchagarh and another in Dinajpur's Parbotipur -- were found faulty, it added.

Pillars of some bridges have a 2.5 metre diameter that has shrunken the river flow. If the pillars had been built in an elliptical shape, instead of round, the river's flow area would have shrunken less.

The authorities should consider this before building bridges in the future, it added.

Under the Tk 2911.75 crore project, the RHD is building 82 bridges in 26 districts between October 2015 and June 2022. The IMED, in its report, feared that the project authorities may not be able to meet the revised deadline.

In November 2015, the government took up the Western Bangladesh Bridges Improvement Project to build 61 bridges aiming for safe, reliable and efficient transportation for people and goods. Japan will provide 65.43 percent of the total cost.

The project was scheduled to be completed under five packages between October 2015 and June 2020 at the cost of Tk 2,911.75 crore.

But in 2019, 22 more bridges were added to the project, resulting in an extension of the deadline till June 2022, a project official said.

However, the project cost remains the same as the construction of one major bridge in Narsingdi was dropped and its budget was repurposed for the 22 smaller bridges.

A total of 25 bridges, which were built under three packages, were inaugurated in March last year while works of other bridges under four other packages are now underway.

**WHAT THE IMED REPORT SAYS**  
A bridge with 80-metre span was built over Gabura Gorbheshwari river in Dinajpur's Rajapur upazila.

Citing field visit information, the report said the guide bank of the bridge partially occupied the river and as a result, the river in the upstream is drying.

Besides, an attempt was made to preserve the riverbed with cement concrete (CC) blocks but there has been no application in this regard, it mentioned.

About the bridge on Atrai River in Madarganj of Dinajpur, it said that not only was the guide bank occupying a part of the river, the alignment of the

previous bridge there was "perfect" but the alignment of the newly-built bridge appeared to be faulty. As a result, this is causing river erosion downstream, said the report.

An RHD engineer said a river usually changes its path and a bridge guide bank is built for river training so that water flows beneath the bridge and cannot damage the banks near the bridge.

**DELAY IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a programme in September last year said the authorities of this project have been able to save Tk 286 crores and also proposed building 10 more bridges under their ongoing project as they were able to save.

IMED, however, reported that project authorities may not be able to complete the project work within the deadline. Issues about new bridges were not mentioned in the IMED report.

In its report, IMED said the project authorities were supposed to use Tk 1855.36 crore by June 2020 (63.71 percent) of the total amount but was able to use Tk 442.69 crore till June last year.

The project saw 59.13 percent financial progress till April 2021.

As per the report, the construction of 25 bridges has been completed while 35 more are now near completion (98%). But construction of the rest has started and has seen only 20 percent progress.

"So, construction of the 22 bridges and other works would not be completed within June 2022," reads the report.

**WHAT THE RHD SAYS?**  
The RHD's Chief Engineer Abdus Sabur said they have been implementing the project following the feasibility study. "There is little to no scope for deviation [from it]."

Sabur was the immediate past project director.

The Daily Star could not reach the current project director, Khan Md Kamrul Ahsan, over the phone despite several attempts.

Asked about IMED's observations, Sabur said, "We had a meeting with them and we have already given our own observations."

About the fault in alignment, he said they had tried to adjust the approach road with the limitations.



Soldiers and police patrol on a beach to check people are following new measures to curb the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus in Seminyak on Indonesia's resort island of Bali yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Free media the answer to disinformation

FROM PAGE 12

is new is that digital technology has enabled pathways for false or manipulated information to be created, disseminated and amplified at scale by various actors for political, ideological or commercial motives.

"Diverse and reliable information, digital literacy, smart social media regulation and free, independent and diverse media are the obvious antidote to disinformation," the Bangladesh lawyer told the UNHRC.

Disinformation, interacting with political social and economic grievances in the real world, is undermining freedom of expression, polarising public debates, fuelling public distrust and endangering human rights, democratic institutions, public health and sustainable development, she said.

"The impact on individuals, communities and institutions is real and deeply disturbing. The imperative and urgency to address the problem is clear," she said, adding that the responses of the states are problematic.

Some states have resorted to disproportionate measures such as internet shutdowns and vague and

overly broad laws to criminalise, block, censor and chill online speech and shrink civic space, and compel social media platforms to remove lawful content without judicial process.

"Some governments have used these laws against journalists, political opponents and human rights defenders."

Not only are such measures incompatible with international human rights law, but they also do little to combat disinformation.

On the contrary, by discouraging the flow of diverse sources of information, they hamper fact-finding, feed rumours, foster fear and undermine trust in public institutions. By compelling social media platforms to police speech, they create a risk that companies will zealously over-remove material and undermine free speech.

Algorithms, targeted advertising and data harvesting practices of the largest social media companies are largely credited with driving users towards "extremist" content and conspiracy theories, undermining the right of individuals to form an opinion and to freely develop beliefs and ideas.

"Company responses to disinformation have been largely reactive, insufficient and opaque," she said, while calling upon the social media companies to review their business models and ensure that their business operations, data collection and data processing practices are compliant with international human rights standards.

She warned that "old ingrained sexist attitudes with the anonymity and reach of social media" were being used to launch gendered disinformation campaigns against women journalists, politicians and human rights defenders to push them out of public life.

She called on states and companies to ensure the safety of women online and offline.

Khan went on to call for proactive engagement of states, companies, international organisations, civil society and the media.

Tackling disinformation requires multidimensional multi-stakeholder responses that are well-grounded in the full range of human rights, she added.

## Bangladesh sends mangoes

FROM PAGE 12

"We are sending 2,600 kg of Haribhanga mangoes for Indian President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee," a foreign ministry official told this correspondent.

The mangoes were sent to Kolkata in trucks through Benapole Port yesterday. After leaving some for the West Bengal chief minister, the rest will be taken from Kolkata to Delhi by Rajdhani Express.

A diplomat from the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi said, "We are expecting the mangoes to arrive in Delhi by 10:00am on Monday. Then we will deliver Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's gift to the Indian president and prime minister."

Foreign ministry officials said they traveled to Rangpur, the city of the prime minister's in-laws, last week to ensure the best ones are picked and hygiene is maintained.

"This is a goodwill gesture from the prime minister. She discussed the matter in the last cabinet meeting," said Agriculture Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque.

In the past, Bangladesh sent Hilsa, a wildly popular fish in India, to the dignitaries of that country. This is the first time Bangladesh is sending mangoes to India, a foreign ministry official said.

This is happening at a time when the people in Bangladesh are not generally happy with India because Bangladesh's coronavirus vaccination programme had to be suspended in April despite rising cases of Covid-19 after India stopped exporting the vaccine doses.

The Serum Institute of India had a deal to supply 30 million shots of the Oxford vaccine to Bangladesh between January and June this year.

But supplied only 7 million in January and February before the Indian government restricted the export of vaccines. The Indian government earlier sent 3.3 million doses as a gift to Bangladesh. But 1.6 million people in

Bangladesh are still waiting to get their second shot of the vaccine.

Besides, a deal on the water of the Teesta river remains pending for a long time. It could not be signed due to last-minute opposition from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2011.

An Awami League leader said Prime Minister Hasina is willing to maintain warm relations with the neighbours and settle all issues amicably and diplomatically.

He added that the PM herself is fond of the Haribhanga mangoes, which can't be grown in India.

Foreign ministry officials said mangoes are also being packaged for Indian chief ministers Biplab Kumar Deb of Tripura, Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam, Zoramthanga of Mizoram and Conrad Sangma of Meghalaya.

"We are giving Haribhanga. As we continue to send mangoes as gifts to other countries, we may choose other varieties as well," the official added.

Himsagar, Lengra and Fazli are some of the varieties mostly grown in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Satkhira. These mangoes have a reputation across the world and are exported to Europe and the US.

On July 1, Bangladesh sent Haribhanga mangoes to the Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, a graduate from Mymensingh Medical College, who is fond of Bangladeshi mangoes.

Prime Minister Hasina will also send mangoes to Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Bangladesh also sent Haribhanga to Oman.

The Royal family of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan will soon receive the mangoes.

"We have a lot of people working in these Middle Eastern countries. We have warm relations with them all. The gifts are gestures of our friendship with them," the official said.

## Doctors find injury marks

FROM PAGE 12

court order.

Khurshid Jahan, head of the gynaecology department at the hospital, said a report was submitted to the court.

Hospital Director HM Saiful Islam said after examining the woman on Friday, the report was sent to the court in a sealed envelope on Saturday.

He said he didn't know what was in the report.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the report.

The report, signed by Prof Mohsena Akhter of the hospital, mentions that injury marks were found in four places, including joints of both hands and neck. The incident took place at 10:00am on July 1, the report added.

Maruf Hasan Khan, superintendent of Barishal police, said after receiving the court order, they formed a probe committee, led by Barishal range

Superintendent of Police Kazi Shoab Ahmed. The body would submit its report within the next three days, he added.

Earlier, investigation officer of the case Mainul, inspector of Ujirpur Police Station, denied the allegations brought against him.

On June 26, Ujirpur police recovered the body of vegetable vendor Basudeb Chakraborty in Jambari village.

The victim's brother Barun Chakraborty filed a murder case against the woman the next day.

Police arrested her on June 30 and produced her before a court that placed her on a two-day remand.

After her remand, she was again produced before the court on Friday and she then brought allegations of sexual harassment and torture during her remand.

## Production to start in December

FROM PAGE 12

he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He claimed that they have completed more than 80 percent work of the unit and are almost ready to commission the test run.

In 2016, the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of Unesco slapped a set of conditions on Bangladesh government, saying it should not proceed with any "large-scale industrial or infrastructure developments" in the country's southwest region before completion of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the zone.

It also cautioned that the World Heritage status of the Sundarbans could be cancelled if the government did not comply with the conditions. The WHC is going to review the overall situation at a meeting slated for July 20.

The Rampal power plant authorities want to start the test run before the WHC meeting if the Covid situation permits.

"We were supposed to start the test run a few months back but it got

delayed as technical support staffers who would help with the test run of machinery could not arrive from India due to the pandemic. They will be able to come after July 14 if the border opens," he said.

Asked about the import of 3,200 tonnes of coal from India, Kazi Absar said those will be used for constructing the floor of the plant's coal shade. Those will not be used for generating electricity. The power and energy ministry also issued a circular in this regard.

He said they will use only high-grade coal imported either from Indonesia or Australia, not any low-grade Indian coal.

Voicing concern over the development, environmentalists say the government was supposed to complete the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), not the plant, as per the conditions given by the WHC.

At its 44th session starting on July 20, the WHC is supposed to review the government's progress in completing the assessment, said Sharif

Jamil, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa).

"The government recently scrapped 10 coal-fired power plant projects. It should have also cancelled the Rampal power plant because the Sundarbans is our saviour. No project that could harm it should continue."

It carried on the construction of the Rampal power plant though it is yet to complete the SEA, he pointed out.

"And it is importing coal through the Sundarbans, making the vulnerable mangrove forest even more susceptible... Unesco should play a role in saving the Sundarbans."

Contacted, Deputy Conservator of Forest Zaheer Iqbal, who is overseeing the preparation of the SEA, said the Covid pandemic has hampered their work.

"We hope to complete the draft of the SEA by the end of this month. We will share it with different government agencies, environmentalists, members of the civil society and the media. It will take a few months to complete the assessment."

## Salam Salam Hajar Salam

FROM PAGE 12

Mohammad Ali Siddiqui, Rabindranath Roy and Apple Mahmud were amongst the few who gave voice to his lyrics.

Kamal Dasgupta, Azad Rahman, Subal Das, Abdul Ahad, Satya Saha and Deb Bhattacharya, among other music composers, worked with him throughout his illustrious career.

In 1963, Fazal-e-Khuda was listed as a lyricist for radio. After a year, he became a listed lyricist for television. He was also the regional director of Dhaka Betar.

In a 2006 survey by the BBC, his song "Salam Salam Hajar Salam", voiced by his dear friend Abdul Jabbar, made it to the 20 best Bangla songs of all-time.

Fazal-e-Khuda was renowned for his patriotic, modern, folk, and Islamic songs.

Some of his notable songs include "Je Deshete Shapla Shaluk Jhiler Jole Bhashe", "Bhalobashar Mullo Koto, Ami Kichu Jani Na", and "Kolshi Kaandhe Ghaate Jai Kon Rooposhi", among others.

Eminent singer Rafiqul Alam said, "He was a great man. I did many songs with him, among which 'Tomakey Jeno Bhuley na Jai' became very popular."

Elocutionist Ashrafal Alam, who is a Shadinata Purashkar awardee and Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste, spoke highly of Fazal-e-Khuda.

"He was extremely creative, and was always busy with his work," he said, adding that Fazal was the founding director of Shapla Shaluk, an organisation dedicated to children and teenagers.

"During his Betar days, Fazal alone published three magazines, among

which one was in English! I hope he rests in peace," Ashrafal further said.

Eminent Gono Sangeet artiste Fakir Alamgir posted his anguish on Facebook.

"We've seen many people achieve the Shadinata Award and Ekushey Padak, ones who were against our freedom in the first place," he wrote.

"It is extremely tragic that a dedicated artiste like Fazal-e-Khuda received neither of these awards. May he rest in peace."

Besides Fakir Alamgir, various cultural personalities expressed their condolences on the departure of the great artiste.

Fazal-e-Khuda is survived by three sons and his wife, who is also under treatment at a city hospital.

He was buried in the capital's Rayer Bazar Graveyard yesterday.

## 45 killed in Philippines

FROM PAGE 12

were seen jumping out of the plane before it hit the ground and exploded into flames, said Major General William Gonzales, commander of the Joint Task Force-Sulu.

It was one of the country's deadliest military aviation accidents.

"This is a sad day but we have to remain hopeful," Gonzales said in a statement.

"We enjoin the nation to pray for those who are injured and those who have perished in this tragedy."

Among the dead were 42 soldiers and three civilians, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Forty-nine military personnel and four civilians were also injured and taken to hospital.

Five members of the military are still missing.

Photos of the crash site released by the Joint Task Force-Sulu showed the damaged tail and the smoking wreckage of the fuselage's back section laying near coconut trees.

Images published by local media

outlet Pondohan TV on its Facebook page showed the wreckage engulfed in flames and a plume of thick black smoke rising above houses located near the site.

Armed Forces Chief General Cirilito Sobeyano said the aircraft was carrying troops from Cagayan de Oro on the southern island of Mindanao when it "missed the runway" as it tried to land on Jolo.

The plane tried to "regain power but didn't make it", he told local media.

## Locals come

FROM PAGE 12

became crueler for her.

The crematorium gate was shut and the heavens opened up all of a sudden.

To prevent her beloved husband's body from getting drenched in the pouring rain, she dragged the body by herself to the nearby Gopalpur Government Primary School, where she took shelter the whole night as thunder and rain provided the soundtrack.

At last, in the morning, she was able to perform the last rites of her husband -- thanks to the help of local Muslims.

"I somehow came to know that the woman was waiting with the body at the school balcony," Lincoln Biswas, Mirpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He straightaway called the municipal mayor and local councillor and requested measures to cremate the body.

Zahidul Islam, local ward councillor, rushed to the spot and without further delay arranged for the cremation of the body with the help of local Muslims.

"The victim's family members could not come as they all had Covid-19. And their other relatives did not come for fear of getting infected," Islam told The Daily Star.

Contacted, the victim's eldest son Ananda Karmakar said they could not go to the crematorium as they were infected with Covid-19.

## Man sets his

FROM PAGE 12

daughter three years ago.

He added that after their marriage, Shipon often had quarrels with Rahima. Shipon and his family members tortured her, he alleged.

His daughter came to his Haripur village to get away from her husband's torture seven months ago, the father said.

Shipon came to the house to see this child on Saturday. He poured petrol on Rahima in her sleep and set her on fire early yesterday. After the incident, Shipon went into hiding, the father said.

Jahangir Hossain Sardar, officer-in-charge of Barlekha Police Station, said police arrested Shipon on information.

Rahima's father filed a case with the police station.

## Dhaka's power

FROM PAGE 12

the British High Commission in Islamabad.

Statements by Britons and groups of Bangalee sympathisers living in London were directed toward fragmenting Pakistan, the note said.

Pakistan particularly complained of a speech delivered on June 21 by the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home, who said aid to Pakistan should be withheld pending a political settlement for East Pakistan.

**INDIRA GANDHI ASKS FOR END TO PRESSURE**

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi appealed today to other leaders of her Congress Party to stop pressuring her to recognise Bangladesh or to go to war with Pakistan over Bangladesh.

"It is not right for the government to be pushed into a position regarding the recognition of Bangladesh until it is convinced on its own," the prime minister told the 25-member executive committee of Congress Party members in the parliament.

For the second time in a week, Indira Gandhi also rejected a suggestion from some party members that India should go to war with Pakistan to help an estimated 7 million Bangladeshi refugees return home.

The prime minister also said she had no information that the Soviet Union had supplied arms to Pakistan following the outbreak of war in East Pakistan on March 25.

The right-wing Hindu nationalist Jana Sangh Party announced yesterday night that it would launch a mass civil disobedience campaign in New Delhi on August 1 if the government had not recognised Bangladesh by then.

**KISSINGER ARRIVES IN INDIA**

Henry Kissinger, US President Richard Nixon's security adviser, arrived in India today to discuss the "Bangladesh problem". He was greeted by assault on American policy which, according to Indian government opinion and informed public opinion, betrayed promises to New Delhi and violated basic moral principles by allowing military equipment to be shipped to Pakistan and leaving the door open to give it more economic aid despite the suppression of Bangladesh.

The Times of India said, "The sharp divergence now revealed between Indian and US viewpoints vis-a-vis the developments in East Bengal scarcely permits a meaningful dialogue."

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

## Regime shelling kills

### 9 civilians in NW

### Syria: monitor

AFP, Iblin

Seven children were among nine civilians killed by Syrian regime artillery fire Saturday in the northwestern rebel stronghold of Idlib, a war monitor said, as a UN agency condemned the "tragic" deaths.

The shelling also wounded around 15 others in several locations of the Jabal al-Zawiya area in the south of the stronghold, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.



PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'Messi surprises us day by day'

**1ST SEMIFINAL**  
July 6: Brazil v Peru, 5am (Tuesday), Olympic Stadium.

**2ND SEMIFINAL**  
July 7: Argentina v Colombia, 7am (Wednesday), Estadio Nacional de Brasília

**FINAL**  
JULY 11, 6AM (SUNDAY), MARACANÁ

\*ALL TIMES ARE BANGLADESH STANDARD



Lionel Scaloni's 18-game unbeaten run as Argentina coach (11 wins, 7 draws) equals Marcelo Bielsa as the second longest in the history of the Argentine national team. Only Alfio Basile has a longer unbeaten run: 33 games between 1991 and 1993.

Messi is the top scorer at the Copa America (4) and has scored 2 direct freekicks for the first time in a single edition of the tournament and he has also the most assists in the competition.

Goalkeeper David Ospina celebrated becoming Colombia's most capped player on Saturday by saving two penalties in a shootout to give his country victory over Uruguay and a place in the Copa America semi-finals. Ospina made a record 112th appearance in Brasília, moving clear of the previous national record he shared with the iconic Carlos Valderrama and was the hero after he saved spot kicks from Jose Maria Gimenez and Matias Vina. He dedicated the victory to his civil strife-torn country that would have been one of the twin hosts alongside Argentina before South American football's governing body CONMEBOL moved the tournament to Brazil over coronavirus pandemic concerns and social unrest in Colombia. "We just want to give joy to our country, a country we want to be full of peace, full of people sharing and enjoying, because we have a beautiful country," said Ospina.



PHOTO: TWITTER

AGENCIES



Lionel Messi scored one goal and created two others as Argentina beat Ecuador 3-0 in Goiania on Saturday to reach the Copa America semi-finals.

In last four match, the 14-time winners will play Colombia, who beat Uruguay on penalties earlier in the day.

Messi teed up goals for Rodrigo De Paul and Lautaro Martinez before firing home an injury time free-kick to cap a stunning individual performance.

The scoreline was harsh on Ecuador, who ended the game with 10 men after Pedro Hicapie's dismissal but had been competitive throughout. "The truth is it was a very tough match. We knew the difficulty of playing Ecuador, who work hard with players who are fast, physically strong, young," said Messi.

"It was a battle until we managed the (second) goal."

Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni has hailed Messi as "the best player of all time" after he match.

"Leo's game, I honestly don't know if he's going to get tired of being praised every day," Scaloni said at the post-game media conference. "The best thing that can happen for us football lovers is that the stars play until any age they can and we enjoy it."

"Messi is enjoyed even by opponents when they play against him. We are talking about the best player of all time. "It is difficult for a player to be at his level. Neymar may at some point be a similar player but because of what he has done, is doing and will continue to do, we must remember him for who he is."

"Messi surprises us day by day, he gets stronger and stronger and infects us all," said forward Nicolas Gonzalez. "He gives us confidence and joy. You have to continue down this path and enjoy it."

Inter forward Lautaro Martinez added: "We all follow Messi's leadership. Today we saw again how he makes a difference and we are all accompanying him."

Scaloni was content with an emphatic result. "Whoever believes that you can win every game 3-0 easily is wrong especially in this Copa America, which has conditions that are very different," he said.

"I don't know if it's the best moment for the team. I want to emphasize that in this Copa America any of these teams could push any team in the world," he said.

## Rampant England fire warning

AFP, Rome



England return to Wembley two wins from a first European Championship title after recording their biggest ever victory at the tournament with a 4-0 demolition of Ukraine in the quarter-finals in Rome.

Having successfully negotiated a trip to the Stadio Olimpico with a flourish, Gareth Southgate's team will have the support of some 60,000 fans when they take on Denmark for a place in the final Wednesday.

Three years on from a bitter World Cup semi-final loss to Croatia, England have the chance to move on from that disappointment and end a long wait for silverware.

With the remainder of the competition to be played in London and Covid-19 restrictions severely limiting travelling fans, they are unlikely to get a better opportunity of adding to the 1966 World Cup win. "Teams have to go on a bit of a journey and they have to go through some pain sometimes to progress," said Southgate.

"We've had some great nights over the last four years but we've also had some painful ones and that's definitely helped



**1ST SEMIFINAL**

July 7: Italy v Spain, 1am (Wednesday)

**2ND SEMIFINAL**

July 8: England v Denmark, 1am (Thursday)

**FINAL**

JULY 12, 1AM (MONDAY), WEMBLEY STADIUM

\*ALL TIMES ARE BANGLADESH STANDARD

us prepare for another tournament."

Unlike in Russia, where Harry Kane's hot start soon became a distant memory as England entered the knockout phase, the striker looks to have rediscovered his form at the perfect moment.

While the attack clicked into gear on another famous night in the Italian capital, 24 years after a goalless draw here secured qualification for the 1998 World Cup, the defence remains unbreached.

"They gave a fantastic performance, not only the players who started but the players who came into the game," said Southgate.

"The recognition in moments like tonight was that we didn't want to take a backwards step. We really wanted to grasp an opportunity. I thought the players were decisive and ruthless all night," he added. "We are on the right track for sure, but we haven't done nothing yet," said Kane.

"We have got a massive semi-final to look forward to now at Wembley. What an occasion, what a moment to be involved in. We have a vision of where we want to be, we are taking it step by step and so far so good, so we will recover now, take the confidence from this game but look ahead to a tough team in Denmark."



PHOTO: REUTERS

The UEFA EURO 2020 semi-final ties are confirmed following the completion of the quarter-finals. The semi-finals will both take place at Wembley Stadium in London.

**ITALY V SPAIN**

This is the fourth straight EURO in which Italy have played Spain. At UEFA EURO 2008, Spain won 4-2 on

penalties after a 0-0 quarter-final draw in Vienna. Four years later, they drew 1-1 in the group stage in Gdansk and then met again in the Kyiv final, Spain winning 4-0. Italy turned the tables with a 2-0 round of 16 win at Stade de France. In 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying, they drew 1-1 in Italy and Spain won 3-0 at home, and they have another semi-final lined up in October in the UEFA Nations League in Milan.

**ENGLAND VS DENMARK**

England and Denmark have met once at a EURO, a 0-0 draw in the 1992 group stage in Malmo. Ten years later, England won their World Cup round of 16 tie 3-0 in Niigata. More recently in the UEFA Nations League, it was 0-0 in Copenhagen in September 2020 before Denmark won 1-0 at Wembley a month later thanks to a Christian Eriksen penalty.

## Can Shakib reignite the spark in Harare?



MAZHAR UDDIN



In his illustrious international career spanning 15 years, there were rarely any instances when doubt could be cast over Shakib Al Hasan's ability to perform, in any department of the game.

And expectations from Shakib rocketed sky-high ever since the star cricketer returned to international cricket, after serving the one-year ban by the International Cricket Council, in October 2020.

However, following the much awaited comeback to competitive cricket, the 34-year-old somehow just could not rediscover his usual mojo, especially with the bat, and genuinely struggled to live up to his standards. And to make matters worse, his off-field antics have also contributed in keeping him in the limelight for all the wrong reasons.

Although it is still early days as the stellar all-rounder, since returning from the ban, has played no more than one Test match against West Indies, where he even scored a half-century.

The concerns over his game, since his comeback, have likely surfaced mainly due to his lack of form in the limited-overs format where he scored a mere fifty in six ODIs coupled with a poor run of form in the domestic circuit. Shakib's top score in eight games of the recently concluded Dhaka Premier League T20 competition was an unimposing 37 runs.

Thus, all eyes will once again be on this star cricketer during Bangladesh's tour of Zimbabwe where Shakib seems determined to make an impact with the bat, having quick-fired a seventy in the two-day warm-up game.

"As I have said previously, Shakib needed to return to international cricket through Test cricket since he was making a comeback after a big gap. When you return to cricket after such a pause and not batting well afterwards, your game is bound to be questioned," said his childhood mentor and prominent cricket coach Nazmul Abedin Fahim.

The Tigers will kick off the series with a lone Test match against the host from July 7. According to Fahim, it will be better for Shakib to patiently utilize his time in the middle and be in control over his decision-making process with the bat and allow Test cricket to inevitably let him bat at his desired pace.

"I think, Test format presents an opportunity to Shakib but I have observed that he was in an aggressive mood with the bat during the warm-up game. Maybe it's his current emotional state which is forcing him to prove to himself that he is still good enough but that's how some people may end up expressing themselves," Fahim added. "I am counting on this Test match and no matter how he plays overall, I want him to stay at the crease as long as possible against Zimbabwe."

The high standards which Shakib has set over the years have certainly made him a victim of his own success. And it remains to be seen if the Harare Sports Club creates the stage where the champion cricketer finally rekindles his old form.

## Denmark taking Eriksen inspiration to Wembley

AGENCIES

Denmark have reached the Euro 2020 semi-finals on the back of an unbreakable bond generated by Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest in the early stages of the tournament, coach Kasper Hjulmand said after Saturday's 2-1 last-eight win over Czech Republic.

Hjulmand found that out on Saturday, his mind wandering from the match even as his team was playing in the European Championship quarter-finals.

"I thought about him during the game and after the game," Hjulmand said.

"I still think about Christian every single day and that he should have been here." "We are happy



that he survived and we carried him in our hearts all the way to this match and to Wembley. The fundamental values of football came through in those seconds and those days and we all remembered why we started to play football.

"I keep thinking how amazing it would be to see him play (in the next match). He's still a big part of the team and he's a big part of our road to Wembley."

According to La Gazzetta dello Sport, Eriksen sent a WhatsApp message to his Denmark teammates after their win against the Czech Republic: "I am proud of you."

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## RAMPAL POWER PLANT Production to start in December



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid protests by environmentalists, Bangladesh-India Friendship Company Ltd has almost completed the construction of the first unit of Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant in Rampal, around 14 kilometres from the Sundarbans.

"Hopefully, we will start generating electricity in December and add it to the national grid," said Kazi Absar Uddin Ahmed, managing director of the company.

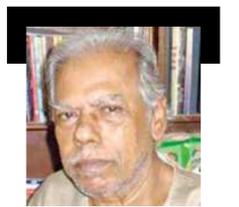
"We are supposed to get back-feed power through a 230-KV line in the second week of this month to test different types of machinery such as generator and boiler in phases,"

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An army personnel talking to a man who was without a mask near Naya Bazar police box in the capital yesterday. He was later fined Tk 200 by a mobile court for not maintaining one of the main health safety rules to prevent the spread of Covid infections.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Fazal-e-Khuda (1941-2021)

### 'Salam Salam Hajar Salam'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Noted lyricist Fazal-e-Khuda, best known for the legendary song "Salam Salam Hajar Salam", passed away yesterday.

He breathed his last around 4:00am at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital.

The 80-year-old artiste and his wife Mahmuda Sultana tested positive for coronavirus before his death.

Born in Pabna's Banagram on March 9, 1941, the lyricist penned more than 10,000 in his 50-year-long career.

Artists like Bashir Ahmed, Abdul Jabbar,

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## Locals come to helpless widow's help

She was unable to cremate her husband as all in her family had Covid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

One must not lose faith in humanity, Mahatama Gandhi, the leader of India's non-violent independence movement against British rule, once said. And events that transpired at Kushtia's Mirpur municipality in the early hours of yesterday bring to mind that saying.

On Saturday evening, Kalpona Karmakar had lost her husband, Prafulla Karmakar, to Covid-19 at Kushtia General Hospital.

The 60-year-old widow wanted to take the dead body to their home in the municipality's Purba Para, but her two sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren, who are also infected with the coronavirus, forbade her.

Out of option, Kalpona took the body in an ambulance to the Mirpur Municipal Crematorium at midnight.

The ambulance left after dropping off Kalpona and the dead body by the gate of the crematorium, after which the night

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

## Dhaka's power system crippled

JULY 5, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**POWER IN DHAKA REPORTEDLY CUT OFF** Bangladeshi freedom fighters knocked out the electrical power station in Dhaka. The city has been blacked out since July 3 night.

Several foreign newsmen were in East Pakistan, but no news of the attack came out of Dhaka. It was speculated that reports were being blocked by the authorities or that the cable office had been shut by the power failure.

Another major East Pakistani town, Comilla, had been without power for over a week, its power plant reportedly also knocked out by guerillas. Comilla, a key rail and road junction, had been a focus of increasing guerrilla activity against the Pakistani army.

Bangladeshi guerillas had vowed to step up activity as their response to Pakistan President Yahya Khan's speech to the nation on June 28 where he declared that martial law would continue even after a civilian government was established in East Pakistan.

The crippling of the Dhaka power plant was considered to be the most dramatic act ascribed to the guerillas since the Pakistani army seized control of the city in late March after killing several thousand civilians.

**PAKISTAN CHARGES BRITAIN WITH INTERFERING IN AFFAIRS** The Government of Pakistan disclosed today that it had lodged a protest with Britain charging that a concerted anti-Pakistan campaign was under way in London.

The Pakistani radio said the protest was delivered on July 3 to

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## Man sets his sleeping wife alight

She gets severe burns; he gets arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A woman was set on fire in her sleep allegedly by husband in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila early yesterday.

Victim Rahima Begum, 20, who suffered around 63 percent burns, was undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested her husband Shipon Ahmad, 25.

Faizul Islam, medical officer at Barlekha Upazila Health Complex, said Rahima's hands and face were burnt. As her condition was critical, she was referred to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, he added.

Victim's father Rafiq Uddin said Shipon, of Aregna village of Barlekha upazila, married his

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## Bangladesh sends mangoes to Asian friends



PORIMOL PALMA

As the pandemic continues to put people in misery the world over, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is sending sweet mangoes to India and several South Asian and Middle Eastern countries recognised to be friends.

The mangoes being sent currently are Haribhanga, a variety farmed in the northern districts of Rangpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon. The ones from Rangpur are the sweetest.

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## TORTURE IN REMAND Doctors find injury marks on woman

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Doctors found injury marks on the body of a woman, who stands accused in a murder case of Barishal's Ujirpur upazila.

On Friday, she told a Barishal court that the investigation officer of the case sexually harassed her and some other police personnel tortured her physically during her remand at Ujirpur Police Station.

Doctors of Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital conducted a health checkup on the woman after the court ordered the hospital's director to submit a report within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the superintendent of Barishal police yesterday filed a case against the police personnel and formed a committee to investigate the incident as per the

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## PLANE CRASH 45 killed in Philippines

C-130 with 96 onboard overshoots runway

AFP, Cotabato

At least 45 people were killed and dozens injured yesterday when a Philippine military aircraft carrying troops crashed and burst into flames after missing the runway in the country's south, officials said.

Nearly a hundred people, most of them recent army graduates, were on the C-130 Hercules transport plane which was trying to land on Jolo island in Sulu province around midday.

Some of the soldiers

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17  
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Amid rain, cancer patient Shahina Aktar being taken to a private clinic in Moghbazar in a van after her radiation therapy at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The 55-year-old and her son Babu reached the capital from Cumilla yesterday morning. The photo was taken near the Central Shaheed Minar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Free media the answer to disinformation

Says Irene Khan at UNHRC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The detention of cartoonists, bloggers and journalists under the Digital Security Act in Bangladesh has led to allegations of torture and death in custody, said a top diplomat at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed alarm at the sharp rise in the use of "false news" laws to clamp down on criticism of governments in the wake of the pandemic in many countries in Asia, said Irene Khan, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

She made the comments while placing her report at the 47th session of the UNHRC in Geneva from June 21 to July 13.

Responses by states and companies to disinformation have been problematic, inadequate and detrimental to human rights, Khan said, according to a statement of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

She called on states to uphold the right to freedom of expression as the primary means by which to fight disinformation.

"Although there is no universally accepted definition of disinformation, drawing broadly from international practice I have interpreted the concept to mean false or misleading information disseminated intentionally to cause serious social harm, and misinformation to mean the dissemination of false information unknowingly."

While disinformation is not a new phenomenon, what

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