

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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Your Right to Know

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'IT ISN'T OVER'
WHO warns against easing
Covid restrictions too soon as
UK, Germany move to lift curbs
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"Only hanging [execution of death sentence] cannot protect the society."
CHIEF JUSTICE SYED MAHMUD HOSSAIN



"Lebanon is a few days away from the social explosion. The Lebanese are facing this dark fate alone."
CARETAKER PM HASSAN DIAB URGES DONORS TO SAVE LEBANESE FROM ECONOMIC CRISIS



"It's always challenging to play away matches, but in terms of preparation, I am hopeful that if we play better cricket over five days..."
BANGLADESH CAPTAIN MOINUL HAQUE AHEAD OF TEST MATCH AGAINST ZIMBABWE

Nasal cannula crisis now proving fatal

Most district hospitals don't have life-saving high-flow cannulas to treat Covid patients with acute respiratory issues

ZYMA ISLAM and MOUIDUD AHMED SUJAN

The deaths of at least 16 Covid-19 patients at hospitals across the country last week, reportedly due to shortage of oxygen, shone a light on the extent of the oxygen crisis.

Doctors say there is a very simple explanation for major district hospitals like Khulna Medical College Hospital or Rajshahi Medical College Hospital always being so overwhelmed -- the other hospitals in such districts are totally ill-equipped to deal with critical coronavirus patients who need high-flow oxygen.

At the moment, all districts except Panchagarh and Faridpur have central oxygen plants, but those are massively underutilised as most hospitals do not have life-saving high-flow nasal cannulas.

"Patients, who need more than 15 litres of oxygen per minute and have a stressed respiratory system, require supply from high-flow nasal cannulas," said Muhammad

DIVISION WISE HIGH FLOW NASAL CANNULA DISTRIBUTION

DIVISION	% OF TOTAL
Mymensingh	1.87
Rangpur	3.03
Sylhet	3.62
Barishal	6.18
Khulna	6.18
Rajshahi	6.53
Chattogram	10.79
Dhaka	61.79

Asaduzzaman, head of the Department of Critical Care at Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Hospital in Dhaka.

It is a known fact that the health facilities in Dhaka division are the country's best when it comes to treating critical patients, but what does the disparity look like?

Data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) shows that 1,714 high-flow nasal cannulas were being used at health facilities across the country yesterday.

Of the cannulas, 1,059 were being used by facilities in Dhaka division alone, leaving 655 cannulas for the other seven divisions.

Dhaka division's lion's share of high-flow nasal cannulas are being used by 72 hospitals.

This leaves districts which do not have a medical college hospital with meagre crumbs.

At least 56 hospitals across the country have less than five high-flow nasal cannulas

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Police detain people in front of the Rajuk Bhaban in the capital's Dilkusha yesterday for violating "strict lockdown" rules. The detainees could not give valid reasons for being out. Law enforcers made them aware of complying with the rules before releasing them on assurance that they won't flout the rules again.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Daily Covid cases climb to new record

11,525 more infected, 163 die in 24 hours

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh logged 163 deaths from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of Covid deaths now stands at 15,392 and the death rate is 1.59 percent.

During the 24 hours, 11,525 new infections were reported, a record in the country.

With this, the total caseload went up to 9,66,406, said the release.

On Monday, Bangladesh saw 9,964 new cases and 164 deaths.

The current positivity rate is 31.46 percent and the total positivity rate stands at 14.22 percent.

A total of 36,631 samples were tested across the country in the 24-hour period.

At least 5,433 Covid patients recovered during the same period.

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Serum silent yet Dhaka 'hopeful'

DELIVERY OF 2.3CR DOSES OF VACCINE

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The Covid-19 situation has improved remarkably in India but there is no sign yet from the neighbouring country of resuming supply of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine Covishield, abruptly held up for own use.

Serum Institute, the vaccine manufacturer in India, has remained tight-lipped despite repeated communications from the Bangladesh government for the doses it paid for.

Serum Institute has not sent a single dose after February, putting the country's vaccination campaign in jeopardy, and more pressingly leaving around 15 lakh people -- waiting for the second doses -- in limbo.

It has supplied 70 lakh doses of Covishield in two instalments from the three crore doses Dhaka procured. According to the contract, Serum was supposed to send 50 lakh doses each month between January and June.

Bangladesh's inoculation drive, which began on February 7 and revolved mainly around Serum's supply, came to a grinding halt after New Delhi suspended vaccine exports in the last week of April due to a massive surge of Covid-19 infections in India.

In terms of coronavirus cases, India is one of the worst-hit countries in the world with the pandemic claiming 4,01,050 lives and 30,502,362 people getting infected there.

However, as the situation in India has improved significantly over the

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Five officials OSD for graft, negligence

HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS

RASHIDUL HASAN

Five government officials have been made Officers on Special Duty, considered a punishment position, after some houses built for the homeless as a gift from the prime minister either collapsed or became uninhabitable days after the beneficiaries moved in.

Everyone involved in irregularities and negligence in the Ashrayan Project, an initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will face investigation and subsequent action, top officials said.

The wobbly and flimsy houses have embarrassed the Prime Minister's Office, they said.

Shafiqul Islam, one of officers made OSD, is also facing departmental proceedings. He was the UNO of Kazipur, Sirajganj, during implementation of the project.

The four other officers are UNO of Barguna's Amtali, Asaduzzaman; former UNO of Bogura's Sherpur, Liaquat Ali Sheikh (now additional

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Fan out across the country

Govt asks 1,239 doctors at medical college hospitals to join Covid units by today; doctors outraged by the decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid a surge in Coronavirus patients, the government has directed 1,239 doctors working at medical colleges to join Covid units at public hospitals and upazila health complexes across the country.

The decision was part of "the government efforts to tackle the Covid pandemic properly and ensure healthcare services".

In multiple circulars on Sunday and Monday, the Health Services Division (HSD) instructed the doctors to join their newly-designated work stations by today.

However, the transfer orders would not be applicable to the doctors already involved in RT-PCR Covid test or those working in Covid-dedicated hospitals, according to another HSD circular issued yesterday evening.

A doctor who is the only teacher available in a department at a medical college is also exempted from such orders, it mentioned.

Besides, the HSD suspended the transfer orders that contain wrong information about the current workplaces of a number of doctors.

It has asked the authorities concerned to send to the health ministry lists of these doctors by tomorrow.

The government decision has triggered outrage among doctors who said the reshuffle was made in an "unplanned" way without any discussions with them.

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SSC, HSC EXAMS Pros, cons of alternatives being weighed

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is looking for alternative ways to evaluate SSC and HSC examinees this year as uncertainty looms over holding of the major public exams if the Covid situation does not improve significantly.

However, students and guardians are worried as no concrete decisions on holding of the exams have been made yet.

Education officials said they would try their best to hold the Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and their equivalent exams. But they are also considering some alternatives like evaluating students based on their results in previous public exams and assignments.

Officials are also thinking of taking the exams reducing the number of subjects and total marks.

"Nothing is final. We are working on several options,

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Patients wait in three ambulances for hours outside Khulna Medical College Hospital yesterday to get admitted. The 130-bed Corona unit of the hospital is already well beyond capacity as the Khulna division sees a huge surge in Covid-19 cases.

PHOTO: COURTESY BY HABIBUR RAHMAN

LOCKDOWN AID FOR POOR Not reaching the targeted

Experts fear Covid risk increasing as the poor defy restrictions to earn living

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Nazim Uddin did not have any other choice.

A small vendor who earns his living by selling children's garments in front of Gazipur's Sreepur Upazila Parishad, he came out of home yesterday amid the lockdown because he ran out of stock of daily essentials.

But this time, he was selling facemasks.

"Police will fine me if I sell clothes. That's why I'm selling masks. If I could get some money, I'll be able to buy food for a day," Nazim said.

He said he would not have to leave his home if the government provided him with assistance, be it food or money. Like Nazim, a large number of poor and marginalised people in various parts of the country, who became jobless due to the ongoing lockdown, have been in dire straits without any government support.

Three days before the lockdown started on July 1, the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) disbursed Tk 23.6 crore for the poor, insolvent and jobless people of the 64 districts through the district administrations. The money was supposed to be distributed among the people by July 3.

The Daily Star correspondents spoke to people and local representatives of union parishads of 17 districts in eight divisions and found many had not gotten the aid.

In some districts, the local administration is yet to begin the distribution as they are still preparing the list of people in need.

The disaster ministry on Sunday allocated another Tk

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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BANGLADESH UPDATE



11,525
New cases in 24hrs



9,66,406
Total cases



15,392
Deaths



8,39,082
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



4,004,983
Deaths



185,192,807
Total cases

PFIZER SHOTS

Outbound migrants face trouble registering

JAMIL MAHMUD

A number of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait bound migrant workers yesterday failed to register with Surokkha app for Covid vaccine, even though they said to have completed the prerequisite Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training registration.

The workers said they faced problems regarding passport "verification", which is required for further progress during the vaccine registration. Some also lacked technical knowledge.

The government made Surokkha app, developed for nationwide Covid-19 vaccine registration, available for migrant workers from Monday afternoon, incorporating a new feature in it for them.

Md Mamun, a Kuwait-based migrant worker who returned home on vacation in January, said for BMET registration, he submitted required documents to the Dhaka District Employment and Manpower Office housed on the capital's Prohashi Kalyan Bhaban on Sunday.

He said upon submitting the documents, officials assured him that they would further process the documents and that he would be able to register with Surokkha app later.

Mamun said he himself tried to do the registration via mobile phone yesterday but failed. Later, he went to a nearby computer shop in the city's Shanir Akhra to complete the registration.

"However, an operator there took my passport number and date of birth and he later said the [registration] process was not working at this moment," he added.

He added that two of his fellow migrant workers outside Dhaka also tried to get registered with Surokkha but failed.

Nazrul Islam, Saudi Arabia-based worker who came home in February, said he registered with the BMET through Ami Prohashi app on Saturday.

The expatriate said he could not complete his registration despite attempting several times from Monday afternoon to night.

After giving passport number and

date of birth, a message appeared citing the "verification" is not completed, he added.

He said his visa will expire after July 13, while his flight date is on July 10.

"Thinking that getting vaccine will be impossible within this short time, I have already confirmed hotel booking in Saudi Arabia for quarantine," he added.

He further said other migrant workers known to him also could not complete their registration with Surokkha app yesterday.

Asked, Debabrata Ghosh, assistant director at Cumilla District Employment and Manpower Office, said both the BMET and Surokkha app registration processes are linked to the server of the passport authorities.

There is a possibility that the process can show "pending" if data is not generated from the passport database, he said.

It could also happen that such migrant workers' BMET registration have not been completed yet, he told this newspaper by phone.

Under the BMET registration process, about 20,000 to 21,000 migrant workers have registered between Saturday and Monday, according to the expatriates' welfare ministry.

On the other hand, health authorities said they would inoculate up to 1,400 migrant workers, who are waiting to travel to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with Pfizer vaccine shots each day at seven hospitals in the capital.

Meanwhile, Quazi Md Rashid Un Nabi, director of Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH), yesterday said they would start administering the workers with the jabs from today.

He said they got the names of over 250 eligible migrant workers for Pfizer vaccine doses.

The vaccination centre at SSMCH is one of the seven centres in the capital where migrant workers can get Pfizer vaccine jabs.

The government decided to vaccinate Saudi Arabia and Kuwait bound migrant workers with Pfizer shots as it is one of the four vaccines approved in the Middle East countries.



Construction workers wait for work in the capital's Baridhara around noon on Monday. They come to this area early morning every day, but hardly find any work amid the ongoing "strict lockdown". The workers are now struggling to make ends meet.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Not reaching the targeted

FROM PAGE 1

11.7 crore and 23,630 tonnes of rice for the people hard hit by natural disasters and Covid-19.

Experts fear that people may come out of their homes by any means if the government fails to feed those in need.

"The failure to feed people will have two impacts. They will get angry and lose faith in the government," said Prof Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of disease control at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"Secondly, they will violate the lockdown which may turn out to be disastrous for the country," he told The Daily Star.

Pointing to the worsening state of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, he cautioned that there would be a severe disaster if the government fails to keep people at home.

"We needed to chalk out the execution plan beforehand. But we did not do that. You cannot expect good results from a half-hearted initiative," Prof Be-Nazir added.

SITUATION IN DISTRICTS

Low-income groups, including petty traders and day labourers, have been badly affected as they became jobless due to the nationwide lockdown, which began on July 1 and has been extended until July 14.

Take the cobblers of Brahmanbaria as an example.

About 700 cobblers, who struggle to earn a living by mending shoes, live in Bhadughar of Brahmanbaria municipality area. After last year's prolonged countrywide shutdown, they had attempted to rebound but their business was hurt after Hefajat-e-Islam's mayhem in late March this year, which led the authorities to shut down the

railway station in the district.

The ongoing lockdown is now adding salt to their wounds.

"I used to make about Tk 500 to Tk 700 per day mending and polishing shoes of people at the train station. Now I'm completely jobless," he said, adding that they are yet to get any aid from the government.

"I can't describe how I feel when I look at my hungry children and parents' faces," he said in a choked voice.

A well-known dhak player, Raj Kumar Wrishi of Mymensingh city's Wrishipara area said he is almost starving along with his family of seven.

He claimed that he was not enlisted for any relief during this lockdown.

The state of Ranjit Biswas, a 58-year-old saloon worker in Mymensingh's Naumahal area, was similar.

Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Enamul Haque on Saturday said they received the government's relief and were preparing a list of beneficiaries.

Violating the stay-at-home order, Md Polish, a roadside teastall owner at Kalitola area under Dinajpur municipality, had opened his shop, but a magistrate closed it down eventually.

"I have not earned a single taka for over a week. How do I feed my family? We don't have savings to survive, and neither do we have any government support. It is not possible to bear family expenses without the support now," Polish said.

In Dinajpur, the local administration imposed a lockdown on June 15.

Liakat Ali, 65, who runs a small betel leaf shop in Kalitola area, said his family is facing hardships after as his shop has been closed for more than two weeks.

"I have lost the only means of earning after the lockdown. I took a loan to feed

my family members."

He said he received support from many people last year but this year he had not seen any such activities.

Abdur Razzak, a day labourer of Pirojpur, said he has been jobless for around a month after he fractured his leg in an accident.

"But I have not gotten any help yet," he said.

Golam Sarwar Babul, chairman of Parerhat union parishad in Pirojpur's Indurkani upazila, said the support they had gotten from the government was at best 20 percent of the demand.

"So, it becomes difficult for us to help all who are in need," he said.

Enamul Haque, secretary of Gabtoli union of Bogura, said they gave Tk 500 each to 250 people on Thursday.

"A family could hardly run daily expenses for two days with Tk 500. They will have to come out of home on the third day," he said.

Dalim Shikdar, member of Khondakata union of Bagerhat, said the incidents of theft has increased recently in their area.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sharif Ahmed Linkon of Rajshahi's Bagmara said they are yet to get allocation from the Tk 23.6 crore disbursed by DDM.

Asked why many people did not get the aid yet, State Minister of the disaster management ministry Enamur Rahman said, "Everyone [those needing the aid] will get it. We've increased the amount of aid."

If the lockdown is extended, the government will allocate more, he added.

[Our Correspondents from Brahmanbaria, Dinajpur, Mymensingh, Pirojpur and Gazipur contributed to the report]

Nasal cannula crisis

FROM PAGE 1

and 15 hospitals have zero high-flow nasal cannulas, as per the DGHS data. This is the situation even though almost all hospitals have supply from central oxygen plants.

On July 2, six Covid patients died at Bogura's Mohammad Ali District Hospital. The hospital had only two high-flow nasal cannulas against its eight Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds.

On that day, the hospital's superintendent told our correspondent in the district that there were many patients requiring high-flow oxygen support. "We are using over a hundred non-rebreather masks. But elderly patients are suffering due to the shortage of high-flow oxygen support," the superintendent, Nuruzzaman, said.

After the news of the deaths spread, the hospital received 17 new high-flow cannulas from private donations.

Munshiganj General Hospital has zero high-flow nasal cannulas, meaning it cannot take care of critical Covid-19 patients. It has a central oxygen plant which can carry up to 5,600 litres, but no way the hospital can deliver it to critical patients.

The hospital's Covid-19 unit's coordinator Md Jobayer Islam told our district correspondent that last week they had to refer four patients to Dhaka as they needed high-flow nasal cannulas, even though they had the oxygen.

"We also know that many patients come to the hospital and then choose to go to Dhaka themselves, but we do not know what that number is," said Jobayer Islam. "But only providing us with high-flow nasal cannulas will not be enough, we also need an ICU and physicians who can give critical care."

Nilphamari District Hospital has one nasal cannula and 181 patients were admitted to the hospital, reported our correspondent yesterday.

The hospital has a newly-built central oxygen supply system with a tank capacity of up to 5,600 litres of oxygen that can be catered to 200 patients.

Our correspondent reported that on July 5, 171 people were tested, and 68 were found positive, putting the positivity rate of the district at 39 percent -- much higher than the national rate.

The three CHT hospitals of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati have a total of five high-flow nasal cannulas.

"Even though we installed an oxygen supply system in January, there is only one high-flow nasal cannula in Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital," said its Resident Medical Officer Ripon Bappi.

Similarly, Bandarban Civil Surgeon Aung Swi Prue Marma said although there was a central oxygen supply system installed in the district, there are only three high-flow nasal cannulas.

Rokibul Alam, resident medical officer of Thakurgaon District Hospital, for example, said in the hospital patients were having to take turns in using six high-flow nasal cannulas.

"Out of 200 beds, 145 beds are currently filled. Critical patients are being sent to Dinajpur and Rangpur. We can be in trouble any moment," he told our correspondent in the district.

Since Khulna's surrounding districts do not have adequate critical care services, Khulna Medical College Hospital has to bear the brunt.

Before the Covid-19, we had to refill our oxygen tank once every 15-20 days. Now we have to refill it every two days. Even after that we find that the oxygen pressure drops around dawn," said KMCH's RMO Shubhash Ranjan Halder.

Meanwhile, with growing consumption of oxygen at the hospitals has caused pressure on the supply chain.

During the past several days, the daily demand for medical oxygen has increased to 210 tonnes from the normal-time demand of 100 tonnes, according to the DGHS.

Linde Bangladesh Ltd, a private oxygen producer which supplies around 90 percent of the usual national demand, has two liquid oxygen production plants—one in Narayanganj's Roopganj and the other in Chattogram's Sitolpur.

These two plants can produce around 90 tonnes of liquid oxygen daily.

Saiqa Mazed, spokesperson for Linde Bangladesh, told The Daily Star yesterday, "Earlier, we used to send our tankers to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital once a week. We are doing it twice a week now as the demand has gone up."

"Although we have kept backups to meet more demand, it will be tough if the demand grows even further. Because, transportation with safety is always an important issue," she added.

Prof Mohammed Atiqur Rahman, chairman, Respiratory Medicine Department and Treasurer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "More high-flow nasal cannulas are needed but oxygen plants also need to have the capacity to cater to them. Private companies should come forward to resolve the crisis."

As the hospitals were running out of medical oxygen during March and April, the health officials said they would buy 40 mobile oxygen generators to meet the rising demand during the crisis.

Later on May 19, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs okayed a proposal from the Central Medicine Store Depot (CMSD) to buy those generators in a direct procurement method.

Yet, when the country continues to reel from another surge of Covid-19 and patients are dying due to the shortage of oxygen, the CMSD officials said they have ordered three generators from Europe which will reach the country by the first half of August.

Meanwhile, the health ministry has formed a technical committee to decide the procurement protocols on the price and other issues on the remaining 37 generators.

"We expect to get three generators by the first week of August. To decide about the other 37 generators, the technical committee will sit in a meeting soon," Abu Hena Morshed Zaman, director of the CMSD, told The Daily Star on Saturday.

He also said, "We have been getting many requests from hospitals for high-flow nasal cannulas and we try our best to help them. But the thing is that unless they have ICUs, they should not need these cannulas."

[Our Bogura, Munshiganj, Nilphamari, Bandarban and Khulna correspondents contributed to this report]

Fan out across the country

FROM PAGE 1

They also alleged that there were some anomalies in the transfer orders.

For example, Dr Jibesh Kumar Pramanik, who worked at Bogura's Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, died from Covid in January this year. But his name was on the list which showed he was transferred to the 250-bed Mohammad Ali Hospital.

The HSD, however, amended the list later and issued a revised circular, excluding the names of three doctors including Jibesh.

"This will create chaos in the country's healthcare system because the transfers were made in an unplanned way," said Dr Ehteshamul Haque Chowdhury Dulal, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

"The transfer orders were issued

without mentioning designations and service code numbers," he told this newspaper yesterday.

"We fail to understand the reason for stirring up a new trouble in the healthcare system in such a situation when doctors across the country are working hard to deal with Covid patients."

Criticising the ministry officials, he said, "They [ministry officials] have no idea about the rules of business of a professor at a medical college or any other healthcare officials."

The ministry could have talked to the health directorate and the medical education directorate before making such a decision, he observed.

Dr Rezaul Karim, director in-charge of Cumilla Medical College Hospital, thinks such sudden transfers would hamper healthcare services.

Pros, cons of alternatives being weighed

FROM PAGE 1

including holding of SSC and HSC exams. Right now we are not in a position to talk in details about the alternatives, but we will announce it soon," said Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE).

Usually, SSC, HSC and their equivalent exams take place in February and April each year. But the education boards cannot hold the exams this year as all educational institutions remain closed since March 17 last year due to the pandemic.

The closure has been extended till July 31 in phases.

Around 20 lakh students sat for SSC and its equivalent exams and 13 lakh for HSC and its equivalent exams in the last few years.

The government had thought of holding this year's public exams on shortened syllabuses. It had planned that SSC and HSC exams would be held after conducting in-person classes for 60 days and 84 days respectively.

But conducting in-person classes became uncertain due to the worsening Covid situation. Against this backdrop, the DSHE last month started the process of giving SSC and HSC examinees assignments. It asked students to submit those to schools.

On June 13, Education Minister Dipu Moni said the government was considering alternatives to SSC and HSC exams if those could not be held on shortened syllabuses due to the pandemic.

Officials at the education ministry, DSHE and Dhaka education board said they were thinking about the pros and cons of several alternatives. They said there are possibilities that SSC and HSC candidates would be evaluated based on their results in previous public exams and assignments.

The HSC results can be prepared after coordinating 50 percent of the SSC, 25 percent of Junior School Certificate (JSC) and 25 percent of assignment results.

The SSC results might be prepared after coordinating 50 percent of JSC and 50 percent of assignment results.

Officials said they were also considering reduction of subjects in exams. For example, examinees might be allowed to take one paper each from Bengali and English subjects carrying 100 marks each. Candidates usually take two papers from each of the subjects.

Dhaka education board Chairman Prof Nehal Ahmed said they were working on conducting exams and alternatives keeping in mind the Covid situation.

"For example, a doctor, who is a professor at our medical college, is also serving as the in-charge of the ICU at our medical college hospital. But now he has been transferred elsewhere to work in a Covid unit. How will we operate our ICU unit now?"

Contacted, Dr Sheikh Md Hasan Imam, director (admin) at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said the health ministry officials might have made the decision, thinking that the doctors working at medical colleges only teach students.

"But the reality is that all the doctors, who work at medical colleges, simultaneously discharge duties at medical college hospitals. Such transfers will create problems in providing healthcare services," he pointed out.

Iran says Saudi talks progress but time needed to resolve disputes

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran yesterday reported "good progress" in talks with regional rival Saudi Arabia but said some of their disputes are complex and may take time to resolve.

Saudi Arabia and Gulf allies continue to pressure Iran, which backs the opposite side in conflicts in the region, over its nuclear programme, which Tehran says is entirely peaceful, its ballistic missiles, and its support for militant groups.

Iran has criticised the Gulf Arab states' close ties with Tehran's long-term foe Washington and moves by some of them to normalize relations with Israel, a country that Iran - which supports the Palestinians - does not recognise.

Five officials OSD

FROM PAGE 1

deputy commissioner); former UNO of Munshiganj Sadar, Rubayet Hayat; and Assistant Commissioner of Munshiganj Sheikh Mezbah-ul-Saberin.

Actions are being taken by the public administration ministry following a directive from the Prime Minister's Office.

Mahbub Hossain, project director of Ashrayan Project-2, told a TV reporter that his department was aware of questionable construction work in 36 upazilas of 22 districts.

"We are investigating each and every case. Departmental actions as per the service rules will surely be taken against the officials found guilty," he added.

He said the allegations against certain officials include bribery and the use of poor-quality building materials that resulted in cracks on the walls and flooded floors only after moderate rain.

The action may include termination from the job or no annual increment, he added.

On June 25, twenty-one houses built in Sarishabari, Jamalpur, got flooded after moderate rain. The 21 landless families who moved in to the houses only about six months ago were forced to leave. The houses were constructed at a cost of Tk 35.70 lakh.

In May in Bogura's Sherpur, seven out of 22 houses built under the Ashrayan Project-2 partially collapsed after moderate rain.

The houses on the bank of Burigara canal cost Tk 38.50 lakh. They were handed to 22 homeless families in January as gift in Mujib Borsho.

Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the prime minister, told Somoy TV that upazila-level officials implemented the project.

"Failure in such a project... means our failure. This is embarrassing. We would show zero tolerance. There is no reason to show leniency," he added.

"We repeatedly said that we will not tolerate sloppiness. Unfortunately, such incidents have taken place in many areas."

He said certain officials implemented the project without examining what infrastructure should have been there at the outset.

"In some cases, we have found lack of attention. We are not showing leniency towards the people who didn't pay attention or have been sloppy," he was quoted as saying.

Show-cause notices have been issued in some cases against the deputy commissioners who allegedly didn't pay the attention the project deserved.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 20 handed over 53,340 homes and land ownership documents to homeless and landless families across the country under the second phase of the Ashrayan Project.

Local government representatives and public servants, on behalf of the prime minister, handed over the documents of the houses on two decimals of land.

On January 23, 70,000 such houses along with documents were given to homeless and landless people under the first phase of the project following the PM's announcement that there would be no homeless and landless people in Bangladesh.

After reports of poor build-quality of the houses, officials at the PMO became disappointed, sources said.

The PMO directed deputy commissioners concerned to investigate into the allegations in districts including Madaripur, Gazipur, Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Cumilla, Pabna, Bogura, Sirajganj, Natore, Kurigram, Barguna, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Jamalpur.

The deputy commissioners later formed committees to probe the allegations.

Besides, a team of officials from the PMO visited all the sites and found that irregularities and negligence in construction work.

The DCs were asked to submit their probe reports to the PMO, sources said.

Daily Covid cases

FROM PAGE 1

The total number of recoveries now stands at 8,44,515 and the recovery rate is 87.39 percent.

Among the 163 deceased, 98 were men and 65 women. Of them, five were within 21-30 years old, 11 were aged between 31 and 40, 27 between 41 and 50, 29 between 51 and 60 and 91 were aged above 60 years.

RAJSHAHI MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

High-flow oxygen, ventilators elusive

Hospital director says they've the support, but need more trained staff to operate those

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The cries could be heard even from outside the gate of ward-15 of Covid-19 unit at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Sunday.

It was 1:45pm, and none seemed perturbed by the ceaseless sound.

"Probably someone died. Death has become a normal occurrence here....," said a patient's attendant.

He was right. At the other corner of the ward's balcony, sitting beside her mother, Shampa Akter was wailing.

The tenth grader was repeatedly pushing her mother's body, lying still on a hospital bed with an oxygen mask on her face. At times, Shampa was carefully touching her face in an attempt to get a response.

But her mother Rawshan Ara (38) lay motionless.

Slowly, the harsh realisation that she is longer with them sank in.

Beside Shampa, her father Shahidul Islam was standing with his eyes full of tears. "She passed away moments ago. I couldn't save her," said Shahidul of Raninagar upazila of Naogaon.

Rawshan, a Covid-19 patient, was asymptomatic until Saturday when she

started having breathing congestion at her home.

She was taken to Atrai health complex that night and given support of cylinder-supplied oxygen there, Shahidul said.

Her condition did not improve in three hours. Doctors advised the family to take her to RMCH for better treatment as the cylinder-supplied oxygen at the health complex was not sufficient for her, Shahidul said quoting the doctors.

He took her to RMCH around 4am on Sunday when her oxygen saturation level went down to 70 percent.

But the ward where Rawshan was admitted had no high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) in place for supporting critical patients. There was only the hospital's central oxygen supply line and some oxygen concentrators, said the ward's staff members.

"We came for better treatment, but here too my wife received similar treatment," said Shahidul.

Like Rawshan, at least 40 percent of Covid-19 patients have been coming to RMCH in critical condition with their oxygen saturation level around 65 percent, said doctors and staffers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



HUNGER HITS HARDER THAN FEAR ... With Trading Corporation of Bangladesh resuming their fair-price sales of essentials across the country, low-income people -- who have been hit hardest economically because of the lockdown -- are flocking to the TCB trucks to get the best value for money. Social distancing was the furthest thought on their mind as hundreds waited in jam-packed lines in the capital's DIT Road yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

32 more dengue cases reported

UNB, Dhaka

Amid a gradual spike in dengue cases, following the trend of previous years during monsoon, Bangladesh reported 32 new cases in the last 24 hours until yesterday morning.

The recent spike in cases has become a cause of concern when the country continues to grapple with the devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

A total of 124 patients diagnosed with dengue are currently receiving treatment at different government and private hospitals across the country as of Monday morning, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Thirty-two new patients were admitted to different hospitals in Dhaka in 24 hours until yesterday morning, and no one was reported to be hospitalised outside Dhaka during the period.

So far, 536 patients have been admitted to different hospitals with dengue since January, and of them, 412 have been released after recovery.

Health authorities reported 1,193

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Involve flat owners' associations in anti-mosquito drive: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday urged all DSCC councillors to incorporate all flat owners' associations in the anti-mosquito drive to make it more effective.

The mayor made the call at a virtual meeting on "Review of anti-mosquito drive at field-level to prevent dengue virus" with relevant officials and employees of the corporation.

"Talk with flat owners' associations of different buildings; ask their presidents and general secretaries to allow city corporation workers to spray adulticide and larvicide. We are observing that different containers, including plastic bottles and pots that remain at different places of a building, are playing a good role in spreading Aedes mosquitoes," the mayor said.

He said it is important to clean small open spaces in between buildings and spray insecticide there, as many discarded bottles, pots and other containers are turning into breeding grounds during this rainy season.

Aedes mosquitoes breed in the water of those containers within a few days, he said.

He also urged people to observe places at the rooftop and window ledges, where rainwater remains stagnant.

Calling upon women ward councillors, Taposh said, "You can enter any house easily. You will make scope for drive workers to enter houses that have a large number of flower tubs or rooftop gardens."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Hasina greets Raushan, GM Quader for Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted opposition leader in parliament Raushan Ershad and Jatiya Party chairman and deputy leader of the opposition GM Quader on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.



GM Quader received his card from PM's protocol officer-2 M Abu Jafar Raju at his Uttara residence, according to a media release issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Raju handed over the card for Raushan to her private secretary AKM Abdur Rahim Bhuiyan at Raushan's Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban office, the release added.

Lockdown even more relaxed on sixth day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of vehicles and people increased on the city streets and elsewhere of the country yesterday -- the sixth day of the 14-day countrywide strict lockdown, defying government's instructions to stay home amid an alarming surge of Covid-19 cases.

More people were seen on the main streets as well as in the alleys compared to the past few days.

Besides, people were seen gathering at kitchen and grocery markets, disregarding health rules of wearing face-masks and maintaining social distance.

Police, Rapid action Battalion (Rab) and army personnel, deployed to enforce the strict restrictions, were seen checking movement of people and vehicles at different points of the capital.

A traffic inspector told The Daily Star that the number of vehicles is higher than Monday, as many offices dealing with emergency services remained open.

A number of people have been detained by law enforcers yesterday, as they failed to show valid reasons. Besides, more cases were also filed for flouting lockdown curbs.

Traffic congestion was seen in some

places of the capital. The presence of rickshaws and cars increased on different streets too.

People also thronged different areas including Agargaon, Bosila, Mohammadpur, Asadgate, Farmgate and Karwan Bazar. Many passengers had to pay higher rickshaw fares.

SM Bazlur Rashid, assistant commissioner (traffic) of Motijheel zone, said, "We are checking and taking legal measures against vehicles and drivers coming out without valid reason."

In Chattogram, the number of commuters and private vehicles has been on the rise in the port city roads since Monday. Movement was little in the first four days of the lockdown.

People were seen going out without any necessity or by giving excuses. Many were seen without face-mask. Although the administration and law enforcers are apprehending and fining many daily, it did not prove to be enough to keep people at home.

Under this circumstance, the district administration announced a joint drive yesterday, which would continue till Wednesday.

Mominur Rahman, deputy

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

TOWARDS A CRIME FREE SOCIETY

Capital punishment can't be the only solution: CJ

SC commutes death sentence of two convicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday said the society cannot be made crime-free by only giving rigorous punishments like death sentence and life imprisonment.

"Only the hanging (execution of death sentence) cannot protect the society," he said while presiding over a full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for virtually hearing and disposing of appeals in connection with some murder cases.

"The law and order situation of our country is not worse than that of India in any manner. A total of 121 death sentences took place in India in 2019 and 327 death

sentences took place in Bangladesh in that year," the chief justice said.

He also said, "Death sentence or life imprisonment are being given to husbands for killing wives in around 80 percent cases here (Bangladesh). Did the offence of killing wives reduce here? So, it's a wrong idea that the society will be free of crimes by punishments."

The chief justice, however, did not disclose any suggestion for making the society crime free.

With making the observation, the Appellate Division led by the chief justice commuted death sentence of a convicted husband to life imprisonment in a case filed for killing his wife and commuted

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BNP: Govt trying to obstruct Khaleda's treatment abroad

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday alleged that the government is deliberately trying to obstruct the advanced treatment of its ailing chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"Our leader Khaleda Zia is seriously ill. When her family members submitted an application to send her abroad in last May, the law minister said Khaleda Zia's travel abroad was possible only if the conditions under which she was released were revised," said party organising secretary Syed Emran Saleh Prince.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP's Naya Paltan central office, he said the law minister's remarks were published in various international media, including BBC and Al-Jazeera, and also in the local media.

But now he (the law minister) is saying it's not possible to make a U-turn. It shows that the government is deliberately obstructing the treatment of our leader, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Carrying passengers on motorbikes is prohibited during the lockdown, but these two sitting on the back were going to Mawa from Sonir Akhra yesterday. This was not an isolated case. Many are hiring bikes for up to thrice the regular fare to go to village homes ahead of Eid. The two had paid Tk 1,200 for the rather risky ride.

MOGHBAZAR BLAST

Death toll now 12 as another injured dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death toll from the Moghbazar explosion rose to 12 as another injured died in a Dhaka hospital on Monday night, nine days after the incident.

Subhas Chandra Saha (62) breathed his last around 10pm while undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost.

Saha was sitting in a bus when the explosion took place on June 27.

With injuries in different parts on his body, he was admitted to the hospital on that day. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the ICU, said Bachchu.

Accumulated gas was behind the massive explosion, officials and experts said after primary investigation.

Police filed a case against unidentified people for deaths caused due to negligence on Tuesday but none were arrested yet. Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of DMP is now investigating the case.



Bamboos protrude out of a gap on a major thoroughfare in the capital's Jatrabari, that sees heavy vehicle traffic ply. These have been here apparently for weeks, according to locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ABDUCTING, EXTORTING BUSINESSMAN

PBI to press charges against 6 constables

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) is going to press charges against six suspended police constables of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) who were arrested for extorting money after abducting a businessman in Anwara upazila.

Investigators said arrested constable Md Masud, former bodyguard of a deputy commissioner (DC) of CMP, is the mastermind of the crime and they did it to embezzle the gambling money of victim's younger brother.

Police officials also said they found evidence against the former police personnel after recording deposition of witnesses and circumstantial evidence while investigating the case filed with Anwara Police Station.

Earlier, Anwara police arrested constables -- Abdul Nabi, Md Eskandar Hossain, Md Monirul Islam, Md Shakil Khan, Md Masud, and Morshed Billah -- after the six allegedly picking up a contractor named Abdul Mannan from his house on February 4 night and extorted money from him.

Inspector Mohiuddin Selim of PBI, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star, "We are wrapping up the investigation. We have recorded depositions of around 15 persons who witnessed the incident."

"While investigating the incident and analysing evidence, police found that Masud plotted the crime while five others assisted him to carry it out," said inspector Selim.

PBI sources said Abdul Mannan's younger brother had amassed huge sums of money through online cricket gambling, and constable Masud had learned of the information.

Masud hatched a plot to embezzle the money by picking up Mannan's younger brother, but he was outside of home coincidentally that day.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Khulna journo, arrested under DSA, gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to a local journalist of Khulna, MA Sabur Rana, in a case filed under the controversial Digital Security Act (DSA), clearing the way for him to walk out of jail.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan granted the bail to Sabur, Khulna's Rampal Press Club, until further order following a bail petition filed by him.

There is no legal bar for Sabur to get released from jail following the HC order, his lawyer Sheikh Mohammad Zakir Hossain told The Daily Star.

He said the HC bench granted bail to Sabur as the principal accused of the case, Abu Tayub Munshi, was granted bail by another bench earlier.

Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy told this correspondent that the higher authorities concerned are yet to decide whether any appeal will be moved before the Supreme Court challenging the HC order.

On April 20, Talukdar Abdul Khalek, mayor of Khulna City Corporation, filed the case against journalists -- Sabur and Munshi, Khulna correspondent of NTV -- under DSA for posting statuses on their personal Facebook accounts against him. Munshi was arrested the very night of filing the case and got bail after serving 21 days in jail.

On June 3, Sabur appeared before the Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate Court-1 to seek bail in the case. But, Judge Shahidul Islam sent him to jail after rejecting his bail petition.

32 more

FROM PAGE 3

dengue cases and three confirmed dengue-related deaths in 2020.

According to official figures, 1,01,354 dengue cases and 179 deaths were recorded in Bangladesh in 2019.

Dengue fever was first reported in Bangladesh in 2000, when it claimed 93 lives. The infection took a serious turn again in 2018, infecting 10,148 people and killing 26.

Capital

FROM PAGE 3

death sentence of a convicted father to 10 years' imprisonment for killing his four-year-old son in Barishal.

The apex court commuted death sentence of Md Mamun of Charchat upazila in Rajshahi in a case filed for killing his wife Nahar Begum in 2004.

Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed told The Daily Star that Mamun (28) strangled his wife Nahar (22) to death in a family feud over dowry on December 6, 2004.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 on July 21, 2008 convicted and sentenced Mamun to death. On November 25, 2013, the High Court confirmed the death sentence.

He then filed two appeals with the Appellate Division. After

holding hearing on those, the apex court commuted his death sentence.

Besides, the apex court yesterday commuted the death sentence of Md Jashim Rari of Barishal's Mehendiganj upazila to 10 years' imprisonment in a case filed for killing his son in 2007.

The top court also ordered the jail authorities to immediately release Jashim from jail if he is not arrested in any other case as he has been in jail since 2007.

It delivered the verdict after hearing an appeal filed by Jashim, challenging the HC judgement that confirmed his death sentence handed down by a trial court.

Defence lawyer Helal Uddin Mollah argued for Jashim while DAG Bishwajit Debnath represented the state.

Lawyer Helal Uddin said the apex court commuted the death

PBI to

FROM PAGE 3

PBI sources told the newspaper that failing to get Mannan's brother, the six -- along with two police sources -- picked Mannan introducing themselves as DB police, and took him to Vellapara Bridge area of Patiya. There they extorted money from the businessman's family keeping him hostage.

"A boy, a staffer of a tea stall who witnessed the ransom handover incident, also identified the six constables in his deposition. After picking him up, they took Mannan in front of the tea stall," said a PBI officer, seeking not to be named.

Mohiuddin Selim said, "The six police constables were remanded but did not give their confessional statements under Section 164 in connection with the case."

Police arrested the six constables on February 7 after Mannan filed a case with Anwara Police Station over abduction and extortion, in which he said a total of eight persons including two civilians picked him up from his house. Later, PBI was asked to investigate the case.

Following the incident, a number of police personnel of different ranks were transferred from CMP to other units.

BNP

FROM PAGE 3

He also criticised the information minister for his remark that the government needs to rethink about taking Khaleda back to jail, saying the minister issued such a threat as BNP is raising voice in favour of people at this difficult time of the country.

Prince alleged that law enforcers keep arresting BNP leaders and activists in different districts, including Chattogram, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, and Bagerhat, amid the countrywide strict lockdown.

He alleged that the government is not providing necessary relief assistance to the poor and urged the government to ensure adequate food and financial assistance for those affected by the lockdown.

Refuting the ruling party leader's comment that many BNP leaders are trying to join Awami League, he said AL is now a "sinking" ship.

"No one wants to get on a sinking ship. Those who are its passengers are making such comments to hide their failures. You'd see in future how many people are jumping off that sinking ship to save themselves."

HC on November 14, 2013. 'COVID SITUATION NOT GOOD' Meanwhile at another hearing yesterday, the chief justice said the pandemic situation in the country is very bad now.

He said this while presiding over a full bench of the Appellate Division for virtually hearing and disposing of cases.

During the proceedings, SCBA secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal requested the CJ to resume functions of some HC benches for quick hearing and disposing of more cases.

He rejected the request, saying, "Do you have any information? The (Covid-19) situation in the country is very bad."

He also mentioned there is a Covid-19 testing booth on SC premises for judges, lawyers and court officials.

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Lockdown even

FROM PAGE 3

commissioner of Chattogram, during a briefing to journalists at Chattogram Circuit House yesterday acknowledged that many people in the city could not be kept at home, despite the strict stance of administration and law-enforcers.

Financial institutions, including banks, remained closed till Sunday, and presence of people and vehicles was little till that day, he said, adding that when the institutions opened on Monday, people were seen on roads with different excuses.

The administration conducted mobile courts and fined those who violated the lockdown, but yet, people could not be made conscious, he added.

The DC said a total of 16 executive magistrates would lead the joint drive, while police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Ansar and Rab personnel would assist them.

He said if any shop or restaurant stays open, violating lockdown instructions, they will be sealed off.

Strict actions will be taken against those who will come out without valid reason. Under the present Covid-19 situation, there is no scope to spare any violators, he added.

Involve

FROM PAGE 3

"If necessary, you have to take the initiative of conducting drive at a house or its rooftop," he said. Urging everyone to speed up anti-mosquito activities, he said, "The number of dengue patients is increasing. So, your supervision at ward level will have to increase."

DSCC Chief Executive Officer Farid Ahmed and Chief Health Officer Dr Sharif Ahmed were also present there.

High-flow oxygen

FROM PAGE 3

Their only hope for survival is if they are given immediate support of high pressure oxygen using ventilators that are capable of providing 100 percent oxygen per minute or the HFNC that supports 75 percent oxygen per minute, they said.

But most of these patients were being treated with the hospital's central oxygen lines, oxygen cylinders and concentrators that are capable of providing not above 15 percent oxygen per minute.

As a result, most of the deaths are occurring at the Covid unit, according to senior doctors and officials of the hospital.

The hospital data shows that 18 patients died at the Covid unit in 24 hours till Monday morning, raising the death toll to 82 in the first five days of July.

In June, 354 patients died while the number was 124 in May. The hospital was treating 495 patients with bed capacity for 405 in 13 wards of its Covid unit yesterday, with 70 patients admitting daily on average.

Doctors estimated that 40 percent of critical patients (at least 198) need ICU or HFNC support.

But RMCH has only 20 ICU beds that have been remaining full from June 1 while at least 90 patients await an ICU bed.

The hospital was also provided with 69 HFNC which at present are not sufficient to meet the rising demand.

While sharing her experience, a doctor of the hospital told this correspondent that her 32-bed ward had only one HFNC a week ago. She had to ration the use of the lone machine among patients.

On June 29, she had four patients aged between 32 and 42 requiring the HFNC support at her ward. "I had to limit its use to three hours each. Can you imagine how cruel the decision was?" she said.

"When I was taking away the machine from one patient to give it to another, the patient's son cried out and requested me not to remove the machine from his father. I had to hold my tears at that time, but I had no choice," the doctor said. Her ward was provided with two more HFNC the next day.

At the ward on Sunday, patients' attendants told this correspondent seven patients were sharing three HFNC.

This newspaper also visited seven wards out of total 13 in the Covid unit on Monday and found two wards -- 15 and 14 -- without any HFNC in place.

This correspondent also learnt ward-16 has no HFNC where at least seven patients have died in 24 hours till Monday morning.

At ward-15, where Shampa's mother died, eight patients died in the last 48 hours.

Contacted, RMCH director Brig Gen Shamim Yazdani declined to acknowledge

the HFNC or ventilator crisis.

He said the 69 HFNC are sufficient for the hospital, and 10 more have been sanctioned. They were yet to receive those, he added.

"Out of the 69 HFNC, 57 are in use... What we lack is trained manpower to run those," he said, adding that operating an HFNC requires special training.

He said the 48-bed HDU wards of the Covid unit have the highest 20 HFNC and patients insist doctors to admit them there.

Other wards were provided with more than two HFNC, but not all the wards have trained staff, he said.

"Even at Rawshan Ara's ward (no-15), two HFNC were available," the director said.

"In case of necessity, trained staffers from other wards go to the wards to help run those machines. But the trained staffers hardly get any call as staff members at most wards are not even aware of the machines," the director said.

"We're training the staff, but that needs at least ten days," he said, adding that they got a supply of 1,600 non-rebreather masks to ensure that oxygen pressure is above 20 litres per minute.

A non-rebreather mask is a medical device that helps deliver oxygen in emergency situations. It consists of a face mask connected to a reservoir bag that's filled with a high concentration of oxygen.

Apart from its stock of 183 oxygen concentrators and 1,122 oxygen cylinders, the hospital authorities have also got a supply of 12 BiPAP machines to support patients with BiLevel positive airway pressures.

Like other ventilators, BiPAP machines use pressure to push air into one's lungs, improving the level of oxygen in the blood. These machines are called "BiLevel" because they have two air pressure settings. When a patient breathes in, it delivers more air pressure and when a patient breathes out, it reduces the pressure.

The RMCH director said, "We have enough oxygen stock. Against a requirement of 6,000 litres of oxygen for Covid wards, we've a 10,000-litre oxygen tank and a standby 14,000-litre oxygen tank carrying truck."

"What we need is trained staffers to operate the available machines," he said.

The director, however, acknowledged that the number of critical patients with very low oxygen saturation was around 60 percent a week ago. But it has decreased now, he said.

"It is happening as most patients are from rural areas and they don't understand the initial lowering of oxygen saturation. Once they comprehend that, they delay more to manage money for coming to the hospital, or face difficulties in finding a vehicle during the lockdown," he said.

Office of the Monirampur Pourashava
Monirampur, Jashore

Memo No. Moni/Pouro/02-1/2020-370 Date: 4/07/2021

e-Tender Notice: 04/2020-2021
Ref. Memo No. 46.00.0000.064.15.092.18-2025 Date: 17.06.2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following work described below:

SI No.	Package No.	Name of scheme	e-TID No.
01	MONI/GOB/2021/1	Construction of Pouro Bhabon Type B, at Monirampur Pourashava	593381

- 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to **29 July '2021, Time: 17.00.**
- Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shaikh Sayadul Haque
Executive Engineer (In-charge)
&
Chairperson
TEC
Monirampur Pourashava, Jassore
Phone No. 01715218717

GD-1314

Lockdown even

FROM PAGE 3

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DSCC Chief Executive Officer Farid Ahmed and Chief Health Officer Dr Sharif Ahmed were also present there.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Manikganj PWD Division
Manikganj
www.pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 02 Date: 05/07/2021

Corrigendum
e-Tender Notice e-GP-Tender (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

S.L No.	Tender ID & Reference No.	Name work	last selling date & time	Opening date & time
1	583880, Office of the ACE Memo No. 1759/1 dt. 17/05/2021	Establishment of Colonel Malek Medical College & 500 Bed Hospital at Manikganj. (Sub-head: Construction of Auditorium Building including Civil, Sanitary, Internal Electrification Works) Financial year 2020-21.	11-Jul-2021 17:00	12-Jul-2021 11:30

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 <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered bank's branches within due time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or (Email: ee_manik@pwd.gov.bd) and call to 02-7710401). Interested person can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Md. Abu Zafar
Executive Engineer
Manikganj PWD Division
Manikganj
E-mail: ee_manik@pwd.gov.bd

GD 1323

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road
Chattogram

Corrigendum
Invitation for Local Re-Tender for Supply of 1000 Metric Ton Cold Rolled Steel Sheet in Two Sizes

This is to notify for all concerned that due to pandemic situation, caused by Corona Virus (COVID-19) and accordingly government has issued circular on 30th June, 2021 for overall activities/movement restriction for specific period, above subject tender, published on 24th June, 2021 in The Daily Star, The Daily Financial Express, The Kaler Kantho and The Daily Azadi, have been amended as mentioned below:

Tender Ref. No.	SI	Description	Existing	Amended
28.03.0000.041.01.004.20 (CRSS-29) Dated: 23rd June, 2021	13	Tender last selling date	07-07-2021	01-08-2021
	14	Tender closing date and time	08-07-2021 Time: 1200 Hours (BST)	02-08-2021 Time: 1200 Hours (BST)
	15	Tender opening date and time	08-07-2021 Time: 1205 Hours (BST)	02-08-2021 Time: 1205 Hours (BST)
	16	Offer validity time	04-08-2021 Time: 1700 Hours (BST)	31-08-2021 Time: 1700 Hours (BST)

All other terms & conditions with remain unchanged.

GD-1321

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ভাড়ার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিমান ভবন, ১০০ মতিবিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা এর ২য় তলায় প্রায় ১২,০০০ বর্গফুট, ৩য় তলা হতে ৬ষ্ঠ তলা পর্যন্ত প্রতি তলায় ২০,৫০০ বর্গফুট, ৭ম তলায় ২,৪৭৫ বর্গফুট, ৮ম এবং ৯ম তলায় ২,৩০৫ বর্গফুট করে স্থান ভাড়া প্রদান করা হবে।

আগ্রহী সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বাধীনভাবে প্রতিষ্ঠান, স্বনামধন্য দেশি-বিদেশি কোম্পানি/প্রতিষ্ঠান, এনজিও এবং দেশি-বিদেশি ব্যাংক/বীমা কোম্পানি (ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি ব্যতীত) থেকে ভাড়ার প্রস্তাব আবেদন করা যাবে। বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ওয়েবসাইট www.biman.gov.bd এবং www.biman-airlines.com-এ পাওয়া যাবে।

মো. হামিজ উদ্দিন
ব্যবস্থাপক সম্পত্তি ও সাধারণ সুবিধা
জিডি-১৩২০

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Bids are hereby invited from the Contractors for Construction of Public Toilet at Kamalapur Railway Station, Dhaka, Bangladesh

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by contractor/construction firms having preferable 3-5 years working experience in civil construction works with budget of minimum Tk. 50 lacs or more in a single Work Order. Bidding Documents may be purchased at an amount of Tk. 1000 through online on any working day from 7th July 2021 to 26th July 2021. Interested tenderer need to pay this amount through NAGAD platform to 0177773089 (use "merchant pay" in payment option in nagad app), send the transaction ID to procurement@sajida.org and in reply mail he will receive a link to download the tender document. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond equivalent of amount Tk. 100,000 (One lac only) in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of "SAJIDA Foundation" and must be dropped in the tender box at SAJIDA Foundation, Level 5, Otobi Center, Plot#12, Gulshan South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 on or before 04:00 pm on 2nd August 2021. Bids will be opened on the same day (2nd August 2021) at 05:00 PM in presence of the Bidders (if any).

For more information, please communicate:

Sajida Foundation	WaterAid Bangladesh
Md. Shafiqul Islam Sr. Coordinator-WASH Sajida Foundation Contact Number: +880 177772551	Md. Tanjil Hasan Programme Officer-Engineer WaterAid Bangladesh Contact Number: +880 177736797

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা
www.dscc.gov.bd

স্মারক সংখ্যাঃ ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০৩.২১০৬.২০০৫-৩৫৮

২য় কারণ দর্শানোর নোটিস

আপনি জনাব এস.এম. আমিনুল ইসলাম, নিরাপত্তা গ্রহণী-কাম-উষধ বহনকারী, স্বাস্থ্য শাখা, অঞ্চল-৪ (সংযুক্ত ঢাকা মহানগর জেনারেল হাসপাতাল), ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন গত ২১/১২/২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে কর্তৃপক্ষের বিনামূল্যে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত রয়েছেন। অনুপস্থিতির কারণে স্মারক নম্বর- ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০৩.২১০৬.২০০৫-৪১৭, তারিখঃ ১৩/০৫/২০১৯খ্রিঃ মাধ্যমে আপনাকে কারণ দর্শনা হই। কারণ দর্শানোর নোটিসটি আপনি গ্রহণ না করায় সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখা হতে ক্ষেত্র পাঠানো হয়। এ অবস্থায় একই বিষয়ে ১৪/০৭/২০১৯খ্রিঃ তারিখের ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০৩.২১০৬.২০০৫-৫৭৮ নম্বর স্মারকে পুনরায় কারণ দর্শানোর নোটিস আপনার বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানায় রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করা হয়। উভয় ঠিকানায় আপনাকে না পাওয়ার নোটিসটি ক্ষেত্র অফিস হই।

২। যেহেতু আপনার এহেন কার্যকলাপ ঢাকা পৌর কর্পোরেশনের কর্মচারী চাকুরী বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৯ এর বিধি ৩৯(ক), (খ) ও (গ) অনুসারে যথাক্রমে দায়িত্ব পালনে অবহেলা, অসদাচরণ ও পলায়নের সামিল এবং শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ;

৩। যেহেতু ঢাকা পৌর কর্পোরেশনের কর্মচারী চাকুরী বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৯ এর বিধি ৩৯(ক), (খ) ও (গ) অনুসারে যথাক্রমে দায়িত্ব পালনে অবহেলা, অসদাচরণ ও পলায়নের অভিযোগ আনন করে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে বিভাগীয় মামলা নম্বর-০২/২০১৯ (সং-৩) রুজু করা হয় এবং একই চাকুরী বিধিমালার বিধি ৪০(১)(খ)(ঈ) মতে কেনে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে উপযুক্ত শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে না- তার সন্তোষজনক জবাব ১০ (দশ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে দাখিল করার নির্দেশ দিয়ে বিভাগীয় মামলার অভিযোগনামা ও অভিযোগ বিবরণী ০১/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখের ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০৩.২১০৬.২০০৫-৪৫৩ নম্বর স্মারকে আপনার বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানায় রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করা হয়;

৪। যেহেতু আপনার বিরুদ্ধে রুজুকৃত বিভাগীয় মামলায় আনীত অভিযোগের বিষয়ে আপনি অদ্যাবধি কোনো জবাব দাখিল করেননি এবং কর্মস্থলে কোনোরূপ যোগাযোগ না করে গত ২১/১২/২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে অদ্যাবধি নিজকর্তমে অনুপস্থিত রয়েছেন;

৫। এক্ষেত্রে, সেহেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের বিনামূল্যে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত থাকার কারণে ঢাকা পৌর কর্পোরেশনের কর্মচারী চাকুরী বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৯ এর বিধি ৪০(১)(খ)(ঈ) অনুসারে অনুপস্থিতির তারিখ অর্থাৎ ২১/১২/২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখ থেকে আপনাকে চাকুরী হতে বরখাস্ত করার প্রাথমিক সিদ্ধান্ত গৃহীত হলো। কেনে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে প্রস্তাবিত দণ্ড চূড়ান্তভাবে আরোপ করা হবে না- তার লিখিত জবাব এ নোটিসটি সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশের/নোটিস প্রাপ্তির ৭ (সাত) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে দাখিল করার জন্য আপনাকে নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হলো।

জনাব এস.এম. আমিনুল ইসলাম
নিরাপত্তা গ্রহণী-কাম-উষধ বহনকারী
স্বাস্থ্য শাখা, অঞ্চল-৪ সংযুক্ত ঢাকা মহানগর জেনারেল হাসপাতাল
স্থায়ী ঠিকানাঃ পিতাঃ আঃ রহমান সিকদার, সাং-মাঝামা, পোঃ চরামদি
থানাঃ বাথেরগঞ্জ, জেলাঃ বরিশাল
বর্তমান ঠিকানাঃ ১১৭/১, উত্তর মুগদাপাড়া, ঢাকা-১২১৪

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
০৫/০৭/২০২১
আকরামুজ্জামান
সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৩৫০৭

ডিএসসি/পিআর/ডি/০৫/২০২১-২২ জিডি-১৩২২



Without any member of law enforcers or the local administration in sight, not even a single person was found to be wearing a face mask properly in this jam-packed market of sacrificial animals in Janatbazar area under Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj. The photo was taken on Saturday. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

'Strict' on paper, reality suggests otherwise

MINTU DESHWARA WITH FIROZ A MUZAHID

When the death toll due to the highly infectious Delta variant of Covid-19 has been on the rise across the country, the largest weekly livestock market in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj continue to be arranged without ensuring any health safety rules.

Law enforcers or members of the local administration were nowhere in sight this Saturday when the market, near Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Janatbazar area, was teeming with hundreds of traders and buyers who did not wear any face covering, let alone maintain safe social distancing.

Requesting anonymity, several members of law enforcers and upazila administration said that instead of enforcing rules of "strict lockdown", they had been looking the other way, as religious sentiment might be hurt if they took any action against violations at the market where mainly sacrificial animals are being sold ahead of the Eid-ul-Adha.

According to locals, the Janatbazar livestock market has been operating from Saturday through Monday every week at the same location for a long while.

But on July 1, when the government declared a nationwide "strict lockdown", the upazila administration or the law enforcers did not convey any rules or guidelines on how to operate the market, they also said.

While visiting the market, the handful of people who had face masks were seen moving around with the masks pulled down below their nose or chin. While some of them were trying to put their masks on after sensing a journalist, many others said they always carry their masks in their pockets so they can save themselves from "harassment by law enforcers".

Asking people to maintain social distancing in the market would be quite unrealistic, as its conventional

layout has no separate entry and exit ways and markings or signage to direct human traffic.

Taking advantage of the lax monitoring of the administration, the market authorities did not even bother to set up hand washing stations in or outside the market.

Najmul Islam, a retired school teacher and a resident of Janatbazar area, said from people from different districts have been coming to the market to buy or sell sacrificial animals amid the ongoing "strict lockdown".

But this crowded market can turn into a pandemic hotspot as no one there has been complying with any

This correspondent could not reach Imdadul Rahman Mukul, president of the Janatbazar livestock market managing committee, for his comments, as he was in jail in an unrelated legal case.

Asked how such a crowded marketplace was being allowed amid the ongoing nationwide lockdown, Gajnapur Union Parishad acting chairman Mahbub Ali Nuru said the lockdown circular of the government has no specific instruction on whether or not a sacrificial animal market would be allowed amid lockdown.

When the attention of Nabiganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sheikh Mohi

While visiting the market, the handful of people who had face masks were seen moving around with the masks pulled down below their nose or chin. While some of them were trying to put their masks on after sensing a journalist, many others said they always carry their masks in their pockets so they can save themselves from "harassment by law enforcers".

health safety or social distancing rules, the senior citizen added with dissatisfaction.

Cattle trader Zakir Mia, from the same area, said he brought to the market two cows that he had been rearing for about a year now.

He had to bring the cows to the market despite the lockdown because he needed to sell the cows to pay off loans that he took for buying those.

Asked why he was not wearing a mask, he pointed at others and said, "No one's following the health rules, why should I?"

"We have to buy an animal to sacrifice in the name of Allah every year and that's why, despite an ongoing lockdown, we have to come to the livestock market," said Saddam Mia, a buyer and a resident of the area.

Uddin was drawn on the violations at the market, he said they would allow the market to operate till 5:00pm only if health safety rules were completely maintained there.

He also said the government circular on the lockdown did not specify about the sale of sacrificial animals at markets ahead of the upcoming Eid.

The Janatbazar livestock market, where no health rules are being followed, might turn into a major source of spreading coronavirus in the region, said Mukhlisur Rahman, deputy civil surgeon in Habiganj.

Since this is a dangerous time we are passing right now, an alternative to the traditional markets should be adopted for the sale of sacrificial animals, he also said.

Patuakhali dist admin acquires centuries-old Rakhine village in Kalapara

Delay in payment of compensation alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali district administration has acquired an entire Rakhine village for the development work of Payra sea port.

The Rakhine village of 'Chaanipara', which was founded in 1784 in Tiakhali union of Kalapara Upazila of the district, is now on the verge of extinction.

Hundreds of Rakhine families used to live here back then. However, there are only 68 families left now with total population of 30 including 18 men, 10 women and 2 children.

The district administration has acquired the whole village covering an area of 5.50 acres of land for the development work of Payra sea port. The village also has a Rakhine temple and the people of these six families are in the service of this temple.

According to Rakhine custom, those who are in the services of the temple do not own land. They only own immovable properties such as houses and trees on the land.

The district administration has also fixed the value of the movable property of these families at Tk 91.46 lakh. Ching Chamo or Damo Rakhine, leader of the village has also submitted an application to the deputy commissioner to get the money. They also demanded rehabilitation.

Damo Rakhine said, "The district administration has acquired 5.50 acres of land in our 'Chaanipara' and a letter has been given to each of us determining the value of our houses and trees. We have not yet received the compensation money. We also need rehabilitation. A meeting was held with the district administration on Monday

regarding our demands. The administration has also assured us that immediate steps would be taken to implement our demands."

Umme Habiba Majumder, assistant commissioner, land acquisition unit of Patuakhali District Administration said, "We have acquired land in favor of the Payra Port. The houses, trees and fish of the Rakhine families living

presence of the Payra Port officials on Chhanipara issue."

"I have heard their demands which are very logical. They will get the compensation soon. And they will be rehabilitated wherever they want. However, as long as the rehabilitation cannot be done, they will be able to stay in the place of their choice. If necessary, the rent will be borne by the port



A view of the Rakhine village of 'Chaanipara' in Kalapara's Tiakhali area. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

in Chaanipara have been valued at Tk 91.46 lakh. We also gave a notice on June 5 to pay this money.

Meanwhile, on June 8, a man named Sadequr Rahman lodged a complaint against the payment of compensation. The complaint is scheduled to be heard on July 15. I believe it will not be too complicated."

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Kamal Hossain said, "A meeting was held in my office today (Monday) in the

authorities. The Rakhine leader has also agreed to that end," the DC said.

Mahmudul Hasan, assistant director of the Payra Port Authority, said on his mobile phone on Sunday, "I have no authority to talk about this. Talk to the secretary or chairman of the port."

Later, this correspondent tried to reach the chairman of the port Commodore Humayun Kallol for his comment but he didn't receive the call.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
ROADS & HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
ROAD CIRCLE, MOULVIBAZAR
e-Mail: serhdmoulvibazar@gmail.com
Phone: 02-41110074

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division		
2	Agency	Roads & Highways Department		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar		
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present		
5	Procuring Entity District	Moulvibazar		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of physical service		
7	Invitation Ref No	35.01.5800.07.07.86.21-1199		
8	Date	06/07/2021		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	NCT & OTM		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget & GOB		
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	N/A		
13	Project Name (if applicable)	N/A		
14	Tender Package No.	01/Tender/PSN/Rustompur Toll/MRC/2021-22		
15	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System of Rustompur Toll Plaza at 193rd KM of Dhaka(Katchpur)-Bhairab-Jogodishpur-Shaistaganj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong Road (N-2) Road under Habiganj Road Division during the year 2021-22.		
16	Tender Publication Date	07/07/2021		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	04/08/2021		
	Date	Time		
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	05/08/2021		12:00 pm
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	05/08/2021		12:15 pm
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address		
	-Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Moulvibazar		
	-Selling Tender Document (Others)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Habiganj		
	-Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar		
	-Opening Tender Document	Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh As per requirements specified in TDS & TOR 		
22	Brief Description of Services	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System of Rustompur Toll Plaza at 193rd KM of Dhaka(Katchpur)-Bhairab-Jogodishpur-Shaistaganj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong Road (N-2) Road under Habiganj Road Division.		
23	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	4000 TK		
24	Package No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
	01/Tender/PSN/Rustompur Toll/MRC/2021-22	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System	Habiganj	34,00,000/-
25	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings. This notice will be available on RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd and CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd .			

(A.K Shamsuddin Ahmed)
Superintending Engineer, RHD
Road Circle, Moulvibazar

GD- 1316

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড
বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী
সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd, Email: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ফাইল নং: ০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.০৭.১৯৪.২১.১৬ তারিখ: ০৫ জুলাই ২০২১

অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে বিভিন্ন সেবামতাদীন ও নবনির্মিত জাহাজ ও পল্টন ডকিং-আনডকিং এবং সলিং করার জন্য রেলগাইস সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/উৎপাদনকারীর নিয়োগকৃত ডিলা/আমদানীকারকের নিকট হলে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উল্লিখিত তারিখে খোলা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	ক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড।
০২।	ক্রয়কর্তব্য মালামাল	রেলগাইস (সংযুক্ত ড্রয়িং অনুযায়ী)।
০৩।	দরপত্রের নথি নং	০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.০৭.১৯৪.২১.১৬
০৪।	তারিখ	০৫ জুলাই ২০২১।
০৫।	ক্রয়ের প্রক্রিয়া	খোলা দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে।
০৬।	উৎস	নিজস্ব তহবিল।
০৭।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১৭ জুলাই ২০২১ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	১৮ জুলাই ২০২১ বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা।
০৯।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৮ জুলাই ২০২১ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১০।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড।
	ক। দরপত্র সংগ্রহের স্থান	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড।
	খ। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড।
	গ। দরপত্র খোলার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।

১১। দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র ও আনুষঙ্গিক জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে

(১) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি (বিপাত ৬ মাসের স্টেটমেন্টস), পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ কপি (তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদারদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
(২) তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/উৎপাদনকারীর সীমিত দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে সম্পূর্ণ মূল্যের শতকরা ৩ ভাগ (৩%) আনুষঙ্গিক হিসেবে পেমেন্ট/আনুষঙ্গিক ড্রাফট "ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড" এর নামে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।

১২। টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য

১৩। যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম

১৪। বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড।
পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

UP member hacked to death in Monohorganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A union parishad member was hacked to death allegedly due to previous enmity yesterday morning. Abdur Rahim, 38, was the son of Zayed Ali of Dhikchanda of Jhalam union of Monohorganj upazila.

The OC said the body was sent to Cumilla for an autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge Mahabubul Kabir of Monohorganj Police Station said, "Rahim's neighbour Rahmat Ali, 57, had a feud with Rahim over the lease of a pond. At one stage Rahmat attacked Rahim with a scythe. Rahim died within minutes."

A mob detained Rahmat and gave him a beating. He was then taken to Monohorganj upazila health complex.

The OC said the body was sent to Cumilla for an autopsy.

RUSSIA PLANE CRASH

All 28 on board die

REUTERS, Moscow

There are no survivors after a plane carrying 28 people crashed in the far east of Russia yesterday, Russian news agencies cited rescue officials as saying.

The Antonov An-26 twin-engined turboprop was en route from the regional capital Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to Palana, a village in the north of the Kamchatka peninsula, when it lost contact with air traffic control, the emergency ministry said.

Citing sources, Interfax reported that the plane was thought to have crashed into a cliff as it was preparing to land in poor visibility conditions.

Russia's civil aviation authority confirmed that the plane's crash site had been found after the emergency ministry dispatched a helicopter and had deployed teams on the ground to look for the missing aircraft.

There were 22 passengers and six crew on board, the ministry said. Olga Mokhiteva, the mayor of Palana, was among the passengers, the TASS agency quoted local authorities as saying.

The weather in the area was cloudy at the time the plane went missing, Russian news agencies reported.

TASS said the aircraft involved had been in service since 1982.

Russian aviation safety standards have improved in recent years but accidents, especially involving ageing planes in far-flung regions, are not uncommon.

The Soviet-era plane type, still used for military and civilian flights in some countries, has been involved in dozens of deadly crashes since it entered service around 50 years ago.

An Antonov-28, a similar plane, slammed into a Kamchatka forest in 2012 in a crash that killed 10 people along the same route. Investigators said both pilots were drunk at the time of the crash.



Congress Party activists shout slogans next to an effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C), Home Minister Amit Shah (L) and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan during a protest against the recent hike of fuel in Kolkata, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS
IN brief

Child sex racket: Maldives, Lanka politicians arrested

A former Maldives minister and several politicians from Sri Lanka's ruling party were among dozens of people arrested after a child sex racket was busted, police said in Colombo Monday. Sri Lanka Police said two websites were used to sell underage girls for sex, adding that they found the phone records of at least one 15-year-old who was allegedly repeatedly raped. The owners of the two websites, as well as the Maldives' former state minister for finance and treasury, Mohamed Ashmalee, were detained. Others arrested included a ruling party politician in Sri Lanka's north-central region, a Buddhist monk, a prominent gem dealer and a merchant navy captain. Those arrested have yet to be charged by police.

Russia backs Asean plan on tackling Myanmar crisis

Russia strongly supports the Southeast Asian diplomatic effort to end the crisis in Myanmar and has conveyed similar messages to the country's military leadership, its foreign minister said yesterday. The five-point consensus agreed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc should be the basis by which the situation can be resolved, Sergei Lavrov said during a visit to Jakarta. Lavrov's comments are significant and come amid deepening engagement between Russia and Myanmar's military, as major global powers sanction its businesses and top leaders and call for a global ban on arms sales to the country. Myanmar has been in crisis since the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government on Feb. 1.



Modi greets Dalai Lama on his 86th birthday

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi let the world know yesterday that he had rung Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to wish him a happy 86th birthday, disregarding any potential disapproval from China, who regards him as a dangerous "splittist", or separatist. "Spoke on phone to His Holiness the @DalaiLama to convey greetings on his 86th birthday. We wish him a long and healthy life," Modi tweeted. Chinese troops seized Tibet in 1950 in what Beijing calls a "peaceful liberation", and the Dalai Lama fled into exile in 1959, following a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Pandemic 'isn't over'

WHO warns against easing Covid restrictions too soon as UK, Germany move to lift curbs

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned governments around the world against easing Covid-19 restrictions too soon, saying countries that did so risked paying a heavy price for rushing back to normality.

Speaking at a press briefing on Monday, the UN health agency's top emergency expert Mike Ryan said a new wave of infections could be round the corner and noted that for much of the world, the pandemic was just getting started.

"All of the countries of the Americas, we still have nearly one million cases a week," he said. "And the same in Europe...with half a million cases a week. It's not like this thing has gone away," Ryan added. "It isn't over."

Last week, the WHO's Africa director had warned that "the speed and scale" of the continent's third wave "is like nothing we've seen before".

In Russia, meanwhile, coronavirus deaths hit another daily record yesterday, with authorities reporting 737 more fatalities. The daily tally of confirmed infections has more than doubled in the past month, soaring from about 9,000 in early June to more than 23,000 this week.

The warnings come amid renewed concerns over the new coronavirus Delta variant, first detected in India in April. The new strain, which is considered to be the most transmissible variant yet, has now spread to nearly 100 countries worldwide.

Experts say more than 80 percent of a country's



- » Russia again posts record coronavirus deaths
- » Germany relaxes curbs on travellers from UK and India
- » Israel data shows Delta variant can bypass vaccine
- » Experts say at least 80pc of population needs to be vaccinated to contain pandemic

population would need to be inoculated in order to contain it – a challenging target even for nations with advanced vaccination programmes. The variant is now responsible for more than 90 percent of all new infections in the United Kingdom and about 30 percent in the United States.

On the same day the WHO issued its warning, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that most Covid-19 restrictions in the country will be lifted in two weeks.

The prime minister acknowledged there will be more

infections, but people need to learn to live with the virus.

However, the British Medical Association (BMA) has expressed concerns about removing all coronavirus-related curbs on July 19 given the surge in the Delta variant and a 74 percent increase in infections in the last week alone.

Experts in Israel, which led the way in mass vaccination against the coronavirus, expressed concern Monday that rising cases there suggested the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine might be less effective in preventing mild illness.

The Israeli health ministry said Monday that their analysis suggested the vaccine's efficacy had dropped to 64 percent during the time the Delta variant had spread across the country. But it was still 93 percent effective in reducing serious Covid illness and hospitalisations, it added.

Germany, meanwhile, has begun easing restrictions, including softer quarantine rules, on travellers from India, Nepal, Portugal, Russia and the UK after the country's public health institute declared these five nations are no longer areas of "variant of concern".

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Germany should lift all remaining coronavirus-linked social and economic curbs as soon as everyone has been offered a vaccine.

About 56.5 percent of people in Germany have received at least one dose and almost 39 percent are fully vaccinated, according to health ministry data.

CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-TERRORISM LAW IN INDIA

Outcry as activist-priest dies in custody

REUTERS, New Delhi

A top UN human rights official has deplored the death in custody of an 84-year-old Indian Christian priest who campaigned for the rights of tribal people and was detained under an anti-terrorism law and denied bail.

Father Stan Swamy was arrested last year on suspicion of ties to a banned radical leftist group that police accused of instigating violence in Maharashtra state in 2018.

Swamy, who suffered from Parkinson's and also contracted Covid-19 while in prison, died in a Mumbai hospital on Monday.

"The news from India today is devastating. Human Rights Defender & Jesuit priest Fr Stan Swamy has died in custody, nine months after his arrest on false charges of terrorism," UN special rapporteur for human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, said on Twitter.

"Jailing HRDs is inexcusable," she added, referring to human rights defenders.



The National Investigation Agency, which was pursuing the case against Swamy, did not respond to requests for comment. The federal home ministry and the foreign ministry also did not respond to a request for comment.

The government has previously in court hearings denied accusations of mistreatment of Swamy and said the law must be allowed to take its course. Swamy was the oldest of a dozen

people, most of them academics and human rights activists, accused of violence in 2018 and imprisoned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, which allows for prolonged detention for questioning.

His death will revive criticism of the increasing use of the anti-terrorism law under Modi's government. Opponents of the law say it is used to unfairly hound people critical of the government.

Swamy, who denied any links to any outlawed group, had repeatedly asked for bail, recently telling the court in a video conference his health had deteriorated in prison and that he would soon die.

A leader of the main opposition Congress party, Jairam Ramesh, criticised the government for the death of "such a passionate crusader for social justice".

"Who in the apparatus of the Indian state will be held responsible for this tragedy? Make no mistake — it is the Indian state that killed Fr. Stan Swamy," Ramesh said.

Twitter loses immunity over user-generated content in India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Twitter Inc no more enjoys liability protection against user-generated content in India as the US microblogging giant has failed to comply with new IT rules, the Indian government said in a court filing.

The statement is the first time Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has officially said Twitter has lost its immunity after repeatedly criticising the company for non-compliance.

The dispute and the public spat has raised concern that American firms will find it difficult to do business amid a more stringent regulatory environment.

India's IT ministry told the High Court in New Delhi that Twitter's non-compliance amounted to a breach of the provisions of the IT Act, causing the US firm to lose its immunity, according to the filing dated July 5.

The filing came in a case filed by a Twitter user who wanted to complain about some allegedly defamatory tweets on the platform, and said the company was not complying with the new law that requires appointment of certain new executives.

Twitter declined to comment. The company has previously said it was making all efforts to comply.

India's new IT rules which became effective end-May are aimed at regulating content on social media firms and making them more accountable to legal requests for swift removal of posts and sharing details on the originators of messages.

KASEYA RANSOMWARE ATTACK

Hackers demand \$70m

AFP, Paris

Hundreds of Swedish supermarkets remained shut yesterday after a major cyberattack that has crippled hundreds of companies worldwide for the past four days, with the perpetrators demanding \$70 million in bitcoin to undo the damage.

Kaseya, the Miami-based IT company at the centre of the hack, said late Monday that up to 1,500 businesses had been affected by Friday's attack, which has been blamed on Russian-speaking hackers.

Experts believe this could be the biggest "ransomware" attack on record -- an increasingly lucrative form of digital hostage-taking in which hackers encrypt victims' data and then demand money

for restored access. The Kaseya attack has ricocheted around the world, affecting businesses from pharmacies to gas stations in at least 17 countries. Kaseya provides IT services to some 40,000 businesses globally.

Revil, a group of Russian-speaking hackers who are prolific perpetrators of ransomware attacks, are believed to be behind Friday's assault. A post on Happy Blog, a site on the dark web associated with the group, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had infected "more than a million systems".

The group was responsible for around 29 percent of ransomware attacks in 2020, according to IBM's Security X-Force unit, looting an estimated \$123 million.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Heatwave hits Nordic countries

34C recorded in Arctic; New Zealand sees warmest June

AFP, Stockholm

Meteorologists across the Nordic countries have registered near-record temperatures over the weekend, including highs of 34 degrees Celsius (93.2 degrees Fahrenheit) in some places, news agencies reported Monday.

The latest figures came as New Zealand yesterday recorded its hottest June on record as temperatures continued to soar in a pattern consistent with global warming, a government scientific agency said.

Finland's national meteorological institute also registered its hottest temperature for June since records began in 1844. Kevo, at the far north of Finland, recorded heat of 33.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the hottest since 1914 when authorities registered 34.7 degrees Celsius, said the SIT agency.



Several parts of Sweden also reported record highs for last month. At a national level, June 2021 was the third-hottest ever recorded in Sweden.

And Norway's meteorological institute registered 34 degrees Celsius in Saltdal, a county near the Polar Circle. That is the highest temperature measured in the country this year, and just 1.6 degrees Celsius short of Norway's all-time record.

Several parts of the world have already experienced crushing

heatwaves this year.

Canada is battling a string of forest fires in the western province of British Columbia after sweltering under temperatures of up to 49.6 degrees Celsius, a new national record.

On Thursday, the United Nations confirmed a new record high temperature for the Antarctic continent -- measured last year -- of 18.3 degrees Celsius.

In New Zealand, daily temperatures averaged 10.6 Celsius -- 1.9C above average despite a cold snap late in the month, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) said.

"It's huge. There's only been 13 times since 1909 that we've had such an anomaly," NIWA scientist Chris Brandolino told public radio. "What's alarming is that over the past 10 years that's happened six times."

Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd.			
Bangladesh Navy			
Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj			
Phone: 880-02-7661480, Fax: 8802223303501			
E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd, www.dewbn.gov.bd			
Ref: 06.02.6758.165.07.193.21.35 Date: 06 July 2021			
Invitation for International Tender			
01	Procuring entity name	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, BN, Narayanganj.	
02	Invitation for	Diesel Generator (DG) Industrial Canopy type (Auto Start) 54 KW, 67.5 KVA, 415VAC±10%, 50Hz, 03 Phase 04 Wire, 01 (one) complete set Brand New.	
03	Procuring method	Open tender.	
04	Budget & source of funds	Own finance.	
05	Tender selling date	06 July 2021 to 08 August 2021.	
06	Tender closing date and time	09 August 2021 Time: 12:15pm.	
07	Tender opening date and time	09 August 2021 Time: 12:30pm.	
08	Name & address of the office:	Cash Section, Account Department, Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj or Account Name: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bank name: Trust Bank Ltd, Account No. 00350320000056, Branch: Narayanganj, deposit slip submitted by tender document. (If tender schedule document download from website).	
	a. Selling tender document	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj.	
	b. Receiving tender document	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj.	
09	c. Opening tender document	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Tenderers and their authorized representative are allowed to attend.	
	Price of tender document	Tk 800.00 (Taka eight hundred only) (non-refundable).	
10	Contact details official	Mobile: 01769719887 Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd	
11	Eligibility and tender	1. Tenderer must be OEM/distributor/local agent. 2. Experience of supply, supply of goods as mentioned. 3. Document required: a. Trade license b. TIN certificate c. VAT registration d. Bank statement e. Experience certificate if any.	
	Earnest money	All bidders must submit earnest money 03% (three percent) of the actual quoted total value of the stores either by Bangladesh currency or equivalent to any international trading currencies favoring the Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, in Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee/which will be issued by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. (Not applicable to enlisted suppliers).	
	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any part of the tender prior to acceptance without showing any reason.	
GD-1319		For Managing Director	



'Barir Naam Shahana' is director Leesa Gazi's debut feature film produced under the banner of Komola Collective. The film encapsulates the journey of a woman who goes through several obstacles posed by her family and society to take a stand for herself. In this special discussion, the five ladies of Shahana Bari, Mugdhoti Morshed Wriddhi, Aanon Siddiqua, Naila Azad Nupur, Kazi Ruma, and Kamrunnahar Munni share their experiences working on this project.



LEESA GAZI

"The story Barir Naam Shahana revolves around the lead character, Deepa, and as the film follows her journey, other characters blend in to complete the narrative. I wrote this story in 2011, and Aanon and I wrote the screenplay for the film together. I feel that working with Aanon on this was one of the advantages for me. I think it is one of my successes that everyone in this discussion is commending my directorial approach. When an actor is preparing themselves, it is essential to let them use their creative freedom to understand, envision and embody their roles. It is an achievement for me that they felt comfortable and confident after working on this project. Apart from the five ladies present here, team Barir Naam Shahana cast includes Amirul Haque Chowdhury, Lutfur Rahman George, Iresh Zaker, Joyanto Chattopadhyay, among others. And every member of the cast and crew gave their one hundred per cent effort. As a director, I am grateful to all of them. I also consider myself a fortunate director to have such a dedicated and hardworking team. We all worked together for nineteen days, with seventeen days for shooting and two days break. We shot in extreme heat and got stuck in storms. We all went through intense shooting, but nobody backed out. Their persevering approach kept me motivated. Someone once told me, when crew members discuss their scenes and characters with each other. It shows that they have connected with the story by heart. The team started relating the roles of the film with women from their neighbourhood or surroundings. They started reflecting the attributes of those women in the storyline. And this inspired me. As a director, I wanted this story to connect with everyone, and I feel the team as a whole echoed my vision through their outstanding work. We just started the journey with this project, and we still have thirty per cent of the shooting left to complete in London. So, we hope to release the film by the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023."



KAMRUNNAHAR MUNNI

"The first day I went for the live audition after the online audition. I was given the script for some scenes. In my writings, I try to talk about women's struggles in society and how they deal with them. So, when I went through the script, I thought that it tells a wonderful story about how these four female characters came together to help establish the character of Deepa. As such, I believed that I was perfect for the role of Zulekha. I was confident with my audition because I thought that I got everything about my character right, from their emotional aspects to their mannerism. During my third audition, when I visited the set, I met the other actors, and the fact that I was working with someone who wrote such an amazing story made me quite nervous. Over time, however, I got very familiar with everyone and the characters as well, since we owned our roles. Indeed, I had become a part of Shahana Bari. I am so grateful to Leesa for granting me this opportunity. As Aanon mentioned, it is especially tough for women. I have also seen that even when some women in the industry do have the opportunity to tell their story, they only tell it from their point of view and do not consider other women. They should consider the women in their audience as well. Nowadays, several people deal with personal crises. I believe we must be compassionate during these times. People do not often want to talk about their struggles. It is important to recognize when they need help and try our best to be with them. I feel that even the methods of portraying social settings may change in the future because of the pandemic as people are getting used to our new way of living, and consider it the norm."



AANON SIDDIQUA

"It is the very first time I am working on a screenplay. Leesa is an award-winning, published writer but I, on the other hand, have never even published or submitted my work anywhere before. When she was discussing the original story with us, I was sharing my thoughts in the script. Later, we realized that by the end of it, we had already written five scenes. Then, by the end of the day, when we noticed the progress we had made, Leesa asked me to work with her. I told her that I was not a screenwriter, but she insisted, convincing me that we had indeed come very far working together already. If she had not encouraged me, I do not think I would ever take up such a big project. I am very grateful for this project. I feel out of all the creative collaborations I have worked on before it is the first time I have felt so engaged with the characters, and the story resonated within me so much. It is also pleasant to see a film with the main characters and the creator being women. Not just in the film industry, but I think generally, we see a lack of women in prominent positions. We see this especially in Southeast Asian societies, where women have to put in even more effort to stand out and earn respect in their respective industries. In the film industry, for example, screenwriters, including women, are often not given enough freedom or financial incentives to portray their characters the way they want. That makes it even harder for us to achieve recognition. The films are also often created in ways to cater to the male gaze, while female characters are written by men. These portrayals become so deeply ingrained in both men and women that they make their way into screenplays unintentionally, and it limits the number of roles a woman can play in films."



MUGDHOTI MORSHED WRIDDHI

"I loved working with everyone on this film. During the shoots, Leesa aunty would guide me through the scenes. Everyone was like a big family. We had an off-day, so we all went for a picnic and enjoyed ourselves a lot. Overall, my experience was wonderful, and I loved being part of this project. On a different note, this pandemic situation has made things difficult for many of us, but I am hopeful for a better future. I hope to meet my friends again, spent time at school studying and also playing with them. Even though I have online classes and exams, but I miss the feeling of going to school. I miss going outside."

KAZI RUMA

"It is not my first work with Leesa. I think two to three years back, I worked for one of her short films. However, she was not present at that time to provide direction. I did not get the opportunity to work under her directorial approach or meet her in person. So, when Leesa called me and told me that she wants me to be part of Barir Naam Shahana, I said yes to her. As I have worked with her before, I was happy to agree on this project. Later, when I read the script, I was astonished. I was honestly shocked because I have not worked for a while, and Leesa decided to cast me for a role like this. We often talk about



feminism, and this story depicts women rights or feminism in a different dimension. It is narrated in a sophisticated and polite manner. The film introduces five women, and each of the characters delivers the message of

feminism from different angles. The philosophy of this film is diverse, and this is what I loved about the project. When I went for the shooting, I was anxious because I was working with such great personalities. So, after rehearsing and preparing myself, I headed for the shoots. I got a very different and positive vibe while working on this project. I overcame my uneasiness and grew confident as the direction was amazing, and the entire team was like a family. I brought back many learnings and experiences from this film. I am grateful to Leesa for this opportunity, and I feel I am confident to work on more projects now."

NAILA AZAD NUPUR

"The way everything was organized for the shooting, I could tell everyone in the team was eagerly waiting to start working. Every single person regardless of how they were contributing to the film was on the same page. As Munni said, I think everybody owned the project and had a wonderful experience. I would say it was a necessary experience considering the individualistic mindset we often see in the film industry. I think this mindset that we see is also destructive to the industry itself. Nowadays, advertisement agencies are taking over the production of films, and I think that is a product of this individualism. Fortunately, we see none of that here. During the production, all of us communicated



and added to each other's ideas. We all knew one another personally as well. Everyone was so engaged with their work that it felt like we had all become one. It was a fantastic example of an ensemble. Since the team was fully engaged, they gave it their one hundred per cent. As for myself, the whole experience was

very comfortable, and I thoroughly enjoyed the sets and the shootings. Nevertheless, it was still a bit challenging to play my character since I do not speak in their regional dialect. But since my role was relatively small, I think I handled it well. I applaud everybody who has worked on the film, but I would like to give a special shoutout to Aanon. The amount of effort she has put in is truly commendable. The women working in this film are indeed very inspirational. The Bangladeshi film industry, in particular, is unique, and the struggles women face here will be different from any other country. I believe more focus must be put on our country and society specifically."

Transcribed by Rakaat Sharif
Photo: Collected

Public servants should not cross their remit

UNO penalising lockdown violators?

It is not very uncommon to see one branch of the state exceeding its defined responsibility and stepping into the territory of the other branch. However, sometimes the executive, particularly those that are at the field level, carry it too far by becoming judge, jury and executioner at the same time, forgetting the bounds of their duty. In a blatant display of such an action, a UNO recently fined a doctor for “violating” lockdown orders. However, two days after that incident, the said UNO, of Satkania in Chattogram, has been withdrawn and made officer on special duty. Although the Divisional Commissioner was evasive of the question regarding whether the posting had to do with the officer’s fining a doctor, it would be a fair surmise that it was indeed so.

In this instance, it was not only the executive arrogating to itself judicial authority—penalising a doctor, a frontline soldier in the fight against the pandemic, also betrayed a dismal lack of common sense of the UNO. As the chief executive, he should have known the details of the lockdown orders, more so the fact that a health worker’s services fall within the category of essential services and hence are outside the purview of lockdown. Such an imprudent action was also replicated in Habiganj, where an executive magistrate of Ajmeriganj upazila fined a doctor for violating the lockdown. Later, good sense prevailed and the money was returned.

We would hope that our public servants, particularly those in charge of the administration at the ground level, should not only be more judicious but more humane and sensible in enforcing government orders. They should also not assume such authority or power which, by the Constitution of the country or by its rules and procedures, does not devolve on them.

Abandoned planes to be confiscated and sold off

High time cargo village area got cleared up

AUTHORITIES at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport have finally decided to confiscate and auction off 12 airplanes that have been occupying a large part of the cargo village for years, disrupting the loading and unloading of goods. It is a much awaited initiative that should have been taken years ago by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab).

The cargo village has essentially been turned into a graveyard for planes, with United starting this practice way back. And the Caab’s inaction against United prompted other rogue airlines to follow suit. Out of the 12 planes, eight were abandoned by United Airways, two by Regent Airways, and one each by GMG and Avina. According to the airport’s executive director, these airplanes have not been in operation for one to eight years.

United, Regent, and GMG owe Tk 750 crore to Caab in different unpaid charges. Of the total sum, United owes Tk 190 crore, GMG Tk 360 crore, and Regent Tk 200 crore. Caab has written to these companies multiple times to remind them of these unpaid fees, but never got any response. Additionally, the abandoned planes have been taking up space that could have been used by four or five additional cargo planes, allowing Caab to earn more.

These airplanes have finally been de-registered, clearing the way for them to be sold off. And according to a report published by this newspaper on July 6, officials will soon call for tenders from parties interested in buying them.

We hope the authorities have done their homework when it comes to the legal and other hurdles in selling off these abandoned planes. They have been taking up cargo space for long enough and have caused the Caab to incur enough losses. It is high time the authorities sold them off and freed up airport space.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Raise Covid-19 awareness in rural areas

Coronavirus cases have been on the rise, not only in cities but also in rural areas. However, the level of awareness is higher in urban populations compared to rural ones. People in the countryside don’t take Covid-19 symptoms seriously. They also do not follow health guidelines properly. Although they sometimes wear masks, many of them do not know how to use them properly. It is important to raise awareness in rural areas in order to curb the pandemic.

Mst. Zely Khatun, Kurigram Government College



Can we be doing more to ensure vaccine equality in Bangladesh?



SHUPROVA TASNEM

BDANGLA-DESH is facing one of its worst weeks since the Covid-19 pandemic first hit the country in March last year. On Monday, we saw the highest daily death toll since the pandemic began (164 lives lost) and yesterday, we had the highest number of new Covid-19 infections detected over 24 hours (11,525 new cases). Yesterday was the third day in a row where the daily death toll went over 150. The positivity rate is currently at 31.46 percent.

Amidst this worsening situation, the only silver lining is that we finally have vaccines in store, ready to be distributed across the country. A consignment of 106,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine under Covax, the global vaccine alliance, reached Dhaka on May 31, and 11 lakh doses of the Sinopharm vaccine were gifted by the Chinese government at around the same time. Early this month, 25 lakh Moderna vaccines provided by Covax and another 20 lakh shots of Sinopharm vaccines bought from China, also arrived. According to reports, Bangladesh will be purchasing seven crore Johnson & Johnson vaccines from Covax as well.

After the sudden vaccine drought faced by the country when Serum Institute of India failed to deliver its promised shipments to Dhaka, the resumption of the vaccination programme is a light at the end of what often feels like an endless tunnel. The government has recently announced that the vaccination registration process will be open to the general public from Thursday, with anyone from 35 years of age being able to register.

While this is good news indeed, we must remind ourselves that only a meagre 3.5 percent of the country’s total population has been vaccinated so far. According to Prothom Alo, we have received 1.6 crore doses of vaccines since the pandemic began. To reach the government’s target of vaccinating 80 percent of the population, we require over 25 crore doses. With limited resources and with the very real issue of global vaccine inequality still looming large—according to Our World in Data, only one percent of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of the country, a situation that WHO Director-General termed as “vaccine apartheid”—what steps can be taken to make vaccine access more equitable within Bangladesh?

If we look at DGHS data on the vaccination campaign that began on February 7, before grinding to a halt on April 26, there already exist a few glaring disparities. The most obvious is the gender divide—out of the 58 lakh people who have received the first dose of the vaccine, only 38 percent were women.

It also comes as no surprise that the most vaccines have been administered in Dhaka division, where over 18 lakh

have received at least one dose, and over 15 lakh received both. While this might have made sense in February, the current situation in other divisions gives us every reason to regret this lack of foresight. Barishal division, for example, is experiencing positivity rates up to 54 percent, but only 1.8 lakh people there have received both vaccine doses. This excessive centralisation of the public health system has not only affected people outside of Dhaka in terms of vaccine uptake, but in all aspects of the Covid-19 crisis. Already, there are growing concerns of limited oxygen supplies, a lack of ICUs in many district hospitals, as well as basic equipment such as high flow nasal cannulas—not to mention the dearth of Covid testing facilities (according to a recent report in this daily, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Barishal have only two RT-PCR labs in each division, compared to Dhaka division’s 88).

While there is no specific data available on those who have received their first vaccine dose so far, it would not be unfair to assume that the digital registration process can create significant difficulties for the digitally illiterate, or for people on the wrong side of the digital divide. Even of the 46 million internet users in Bangladesh (which in itself is less than a third of the population), being online does not necessarily demonstrate digital literacy. A 2019 survey conducted by the BRAC

Including widows in the vaccine list would also be a step towards bridging the gender divide in vaccine uptake, as would the efforts to bring vaccine registration to the doorsteps of marginalised populations.

Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) on 6,500 rural households found that, of the 40 percent of respondents who had regular internet access, only about 13 percent were able to navigate the homepage of the Department of Immigration and Passports, where the information is clearly marked in Bangla, in order to retrieve information for passport applications. BIGD research associate Maria Matin, in an article in *The Daily Star*, detailed how it also took the respondents “two to three minutes per information, which should be a matter of seconds for anyone with some digital literacy.”

In this context, how do we ensure that it is not just the urban, tech-savvy groups who continue to register for and receive vaccines? Last month, it was announced that migrant workers, medical students, residential students of government universities and law enforcers will receive vaccines on a priority basis. According to Prothom Alo, the government will also target farmers, industrial workers and transport workers, and the relevant ministries have been asked to prepare

It must be mentioned here that urban areas do not have a version of community healthcare centres and union digital centres. So where can the urban poor go to receive assistance in registering for the vaccine? If there are any such centres, are its target groups aware of its existence? While the most recent announcements have prioritised formal workers, we are yet to see a similar push to vaccinate urban, informal workers who have been most affected by lockdowns



Fulmoti, 75, lost her job as a cooking assistant during the pandemic. Although she is in the vulnerable age group, women like her are far less likely to get vaccinated.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

a list of recipients. Targeting workers in specific sectors is a commendable step, and one that must be taken urgently. I would request the authorities to also include the city corporations in this initiative, so that the sanitation workers, garbage collectors and cleaners who have silently kept our cities functioning throughout the pandemic are given adequate protections.

However, if previous experience (especially with disbursement of Covid-19 relief funds) is anything to go by, the preparation of such lists can be slow, laborious and often, flawed. Since anyone above the age of 35 will be able to register online for vaccines soon, the authorities can take some immediate steps to ensure elderly, rural and digitally illiterate populations are included in the vaccine uptake.

The most obvious one is a mass public awareness campaign, coupled with efforts to bridge the digital divide. After low vaccine registration rates in February, the government decided to engage community healthcare centres and union digital centres in helping people to register. What is stopping representatives from these centres from going to the more remote locations and registering people door-to-door? We are all familiar with the auto rickshaws/vans with loudspeakers that make an appearance during every election season. Can we not treat this awareness campaign with the same enthusiasm that manifests during election campaigns? Why not reach out to student leaders, NGOs and volunteer organisations from across the country, and engage them in helping members of their communities to register?

and the resultant economic downturn. Door-to-door registration in urban slums, or setting up of centres to assist with registration in nearby areas, should be a priority for the authorities—whether done via government actors, or with the help of NGOs.

Finally, although we are seeing a push to vaccinate workers to keep the economy running, we must remember that the majority of Covid-19 deaths are happening in populations aged over 65. Since the Department of Social Services already has a list (though incomplete) of people receiving elderly and widow allowances, it would not be difficult for the authorities to reach out to them and ensure they are vaccinated. Including widows in the vaccine list would also be a step towards bridging the gender divide in vaccine uptake, as would the efforts to bring vaccine registration to the doorsteps of marginalised populations.

The attempts to take our education system online have already demonstrated the digital divide that exists in the country. When it comes to a major public health issue like mass vaccinations, we cannot allow this divide to create vaccine inequality in the country, where marginalised populations who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic end up falling through the cracks. Bangladesh’s past successes with mass immunisation programmes show that we have the capacity to make the vaccine campaign more equitable—all we need now is effective planning and management to see it through.

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

Bangladesh needs to invest in climate diplomacy

POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

AS Bangladesh aims to graduate out of Least Developed Country (LDC) status over the next few years and become more intimately involved in various international activities and

issues, we need to make tackling climate change a national and diplomatic priority as well.

This means that every new Bangladeshi diplomat should have a basic understanding of what climate change is, how Bangladesh is tackling it, and how we can share our knowledge and experience with other countries. Fortunately, the Foreign Service Academy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has had an arrangement with the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) to provide a short course on climate diplomacy for each new batch of Foreign Service officers these past few years. Hence, our new diplomats now have a basic understanding of the main climate change-related issues that the country is facing, and on how to share information with other countries and international institutions.

At the same time, as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken over the chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) for a second two-year term, it is now incumbent on all Bangladeshi ambassadors and high commissioners in different countries to raise their voices on climate change-related issues, at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

For example, the Bangladeshi High Commissioner to the United Kingdom has already initiated and set up a group of CVF ambassadors in the UK in anticipation of the upcoming COP26, which the UK will host in Glasgow this November. The Permanent Missions of Bangladesh in Geneva and New York have also set up CVF ambassadors’ fora in their respective cities. Bangladesh is increasingly recognised as a significant player in the global climate change arena,

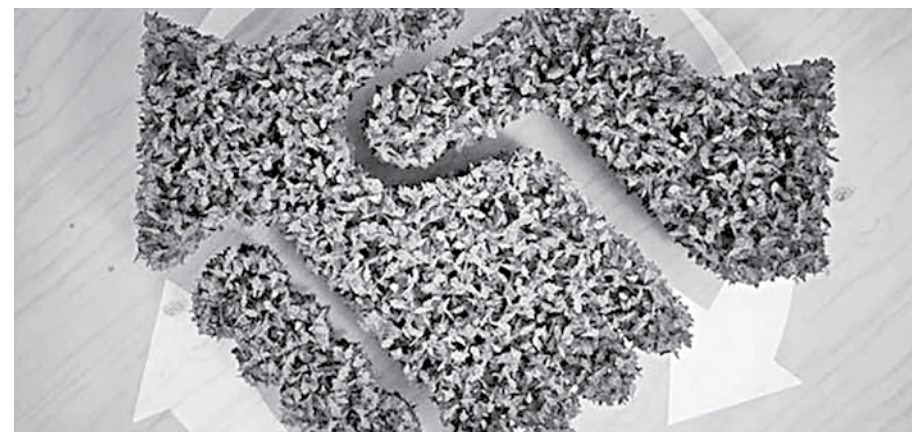
includes 48 countries), and the Economic Resources Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance has an important role to play in helping the V20 Finance Ministers implement their own work programmes to make their countries more resilient as well as prosperous. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) continues to hold the lead role on behalf of the country at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings,

to the newest batch of Bangladeshi diplomats when I spoke to them this week. Wherever they are posted over their upcoming careers, whether to another country or to an international agency, they will be expected to know something about climate change and what Bangladesh is doing about it. This is because Bangladesh has already earned itself a global reputation as a climate vulnerable developing country. However, the task of our diplomats is now to change the narrative from emphasising our vulnerability to climate change impacts to our resilience in the face of those impacts, and indeed towards becoming prosperous despite them. This shift in narrative from vulnerability to resilience to prosperity is outlined in the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, currently being finalised. At the same time, they need to offer to share Bangladesh’s experiential knowledge and learning in locally led adaptation to climate change with other developing countries in a South-South knowledge sharing, as well as with developed countries in South-to-North knowledge sharing.

There is a very important upcoming summit event on climate finance, chaired by the Prime Minister with the UN Secretary General as well as other heads of government of the CVF and Finance Ministers of the V20 countries, being held virtually on July 8, which can become the springboard for enhancing Bangladesh’s climate diplomacy globally.

Bangladesh has a golden opportunity to enhance its image in tackling climate change and getting globally recognised for this achievement in the years to come.

Dr Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh.



as we don’t only represent one country but nearly 50 vulnerable developing countries. This is certainly one of the reasons why we received visits from President Biden’s climate envoy John Kerry, as well as the COP26 President-designate Alok Sharma, in the last couple of months. These are in recognition of Bangladesh’s growing role at the global level on climate change issues.

Another important development is that the Bangladesh Finance Minister is now chairing the V20 Group of Finance Ministers of the CVF (this actually

such as the COPs. All three, namely the MOEFCC, MOFA, and ERD, have very important international roles to play on behalf of Bangladesh on the global stage.

In addition to the government ministries, civil society, youth, the media and the private sector have significant roles to play in tackling climate change, with an added international dimension. This will enable Bangladesh to speak at many different international forums with a whole-of-society voice on tackling climate change.

Finally, let me end with my message

ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS

Putting the pieces of the puzzle together

LT GEN MD MAHFUZUR RAHMAN (LPR)

ONE of the most puzzling questions that has yet to be answered is, how did the Myanmar Army get away with such large scale atrocities against the Rohingyas? To solve this conundrum, one needs to go back to the military's deliberate and planned strategy that led to the horrific clampdown that forced thousands of Rohingyas to flee the place they called home.

The dominant elite in Myanmar's polity share the belief that the Rohingyas are recent migrants, and therefore, are not part of Myanmar's ethnic citizenry. The majority population is therefore hostile towards them. They are seen as a community that has a high fertility rate and are resented for intermarrying with ethnic locals. An accepted narrative is that the presence of the Rohingyas will result in large scale Islamisation from the west border. Such notions have shaped the collective perception of Rohingyas being a security threat that justifies military operations to "free Myanmar" of them.

In 2011, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing took over as Chief of Defence, Myanmar. In one of his strategic directives, he categorically mentioned, "We have an unfinished job". Following his takeover, hate speech against the Rohingyas increased. Myanmar's media started demonising the Rohingyas and building aggressive public opinion against them, saying that they were Bengalis who had migrated to Rakhine state in the recent past. Some Buddhist militant monks, under the leadership of Ashin Wirathu and the 969 (Anti-Muslim) movement, rekindled the issue by professing that in the future, there will be Islamisation in Myanmar from the west (Rakhine/Bangladesh).

In 2014, a group of our senior officers from Bangladesh was attending a strategic level international course in Beijing, and in one of the discussions, a very senior Chinese General asked one of our officers about the importance of the Rohingyas in Bangladesh's domestic politics. If there is a situation, was Bangladesh serious enough to go into armed conflict with neighbours on the Rohingyas issue? (We know the answers to both these questions).

In 2013-14, the Myanmar-China gas pipeline was commissioned from Kyaukphyu (Sittwe-Rohingya dominated area in Rakhine) to Kunming (China). China has spent billions of dollars for this project. Energy is the "Centre of Gravity" for China, so energy security is very

important for the rising state (there was a similar situation in Yadana Gas Pipeline from offshore of Myanmar in the south overland to Thailand. In that episode, thousands of Karen were tortured and expelled by the Myanmar military from around the gas pipeline site—they were either internally displaced or took shelter in refugee camps in Thailand). Along with the gas pipeline, a multi-billion dollar oil pipeline project in Rakhine was under construction and completed in 2014-2015 awaiting commission.

In 2016, in the name of a "clearing operation" in the hills of Rakhine, Myanmar Security Forces carried out atrocities on Rohingyas civilians, and around 90,000 Rohingyas refugees took shelter in Bangladesh. As I understand, this was a preliminary operation to observe the reaction and study the pulse of world bodies, and especially Bangladesh.

In April 2017, two Myanmar senior generals came to Dhaka for a discussion with their defence wing at their embassy in Dhaka. They kept it low key.

In May 2017, the oil pipeline—the more important of the two pipelines—was commissioned (running parallel to the gas pipeline). In July 2017, information of a military build-up in Rakhine state was coming to our intelligence community. Bangladesh's security concern was expressed to Myanmar. Myanmar's government was also reminded of the 2016 incident during which, in the name of clearing operations, Rohingyas civilians were targeted and there was an influx of refugees into Bangladesh. However, in the second week of August 2017, it was confirmed from the Myanmar counterpart that there would be a security forces operation on the Mayu Range against dissident groups and insurgents. It was also mentioned that it had nothing to do with civilians and there would be no repetition of the 2016 situation.

In June 2017 and July 2017, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Russia and India respectively, meeting with strategic leaders and holding discussions on various issues.

The Myanmar military build-up was completed by the third week of August 2017. The Kofi Annan Commission Report was published on August 24, 2017. A number of issues related to the Rohingyas were addressed in the report. It included how the Rohingyas were waiting for decades for their civil and political rights to be recognised. Despite this positive development,

Myanmar claimed that the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) carried out attacks on over 30 security forces camps simultaneously in the early morning of August 25, 2017, where some members of the security forces were killed. Following this, Myanmar Forces, who were already concentrated there, carried out massive "ethnic cleansing" campaigns against Rohingyas civilians in the name of operations against Islamist terrorists. There are four issues that arise from this so-called ARSA attack.

Firstly, why did ARSA wait to attack Myanmar Security Forces' camps till their full build-up had been completed?



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN/REUTERS

Rohingya refugees helping each other after cross the Bangladesh-Myanmar border after fleeing the Myanmar military's atrocities.

Secondly, why did ARSA launch its attack against well equipped regular forces' positions with machetes and locally made guns (ARSA weapons were exhibited by Myanmar Security Forces in the media)?

Thirdly, Myanmar claimed they had a number of casualties. However, it was never followed by military funerals. The media did not cover such events in Myanmar at the time (in April 2021, the media covered a customary military funeral ceremony of casualties from the Myanmar Security Forces inflicted by a Karen group in the Thailand border).

Fourthly, ARSA conducted attacks very early in the morning of August 25, 2017, and the Myanmar military conducted their large scale coordinated operation in the same morning of August 25, 2017 (in the military, we understand such a large scale operation

takes quite some time for planning, preparation and logistics build-up). After this so-called ARSA attack on the morning of August 25, Myanmar was very quick to come on record saying, "Since, the situation is unstable in Rakhine, so Kofi Annan Report cannot be materialised now". At the same time, they convened a national committee to prepare their own report.

In the first week of September 2017, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Myanmar. He appreciated Myanmar for measures taken towards peace and national reconciliation, and also expressed concern about the various incidents of terrorism and

This is a positive gesture, but we have to remember, the UG is offering this under the present circumstances and in exchange of support from Muslim countries, as well as the secular communities of the world. We also need to remember who is calling the shots in Myanmar. As long as the two permanent members of the UN Security Council support the junta in Myanmar, they are going to continue there. Bashar al-Assad in Syria is a case in point. In the foreseeable future, it will not be surprising that when the dusts settle down in Myanmar and the junta is stable, the remaining Rohingyas (may be 400,000 to 600,000) in Myanmar, especially in Rakhine State, shall be expelled in due course.

So what can Bangladesh do to prevent this? At the outset, we need to remember that we are dealing with a very smart and cunning set of professionals, and an organisation like the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces). We cannot treat the Rohingyas issue as a routine matter. We need to activate unified political, economic, diplomatic and military lines of operation to prevent the junta from expelling the rest of the Rohingyas population.

Being a student of Security Studies and a follower of the Structural Realism school of thought, I understand that the international system is quite anarchic, and it is imprudent to entrust one's security in others. From that perspective, here I would like to discuss only a part of the preventive military line of operation. We need to develop a credible deterrence force, with appropriate punitive power to deter potential threats. When we say a credible deterrence force, besides other things, some of the equipment used should be more effective than that of the potential adversary. I want to end by citing Singapore's example. When President Lee Kuan Yew was developing Singapore, his number one agenda was "stability, development, economic emancipation and better life for people". Same as ours. However, Lee Kuan was also developing a credible deterrence through the armed forces. People questioned Lee Kuan's strategy as being contradictory for a small developing country like Singapore. Lee Kuan answered, "If we have a credible deterrence force, we would be left alone, and if we are left alone, then we can go ahead with our number one agenda." In August 2017, we (Bangladesh) were not left alone.

The writer is Lieutenant General (LPR).

An accepted narrative is that the presence of the Rohingyas will result in large scale Islamisation from the west border. Such notions have shaped the collective perception of Rohingyas being a security threat that justifies military operations to "free Myanmar" of them.

The Kissinger-Yahya plot against Bangladesh's liberation

BRIG R P SINGH, VSM (RET) and HITESH SINGH

THE Pakistan Army's genocide in Bangladesh, launched as part of Operation Searchlight on the night of March 25-26, 1971 was supported by US President Richard Nixon, whereas the media and majority of Congress were critical of the administration's stand on the issue. US Ambassador in Islamabad Joseph S Farland was supporting Yahya, whereas his assistant Archer Blood had to sacrifice his job for telling the truth openly. India tried its best, diplomatically, to pressurise Nixon to compel Yahya Khan to stop atrocities on innocent Bangladeshis and hand over power to people's representatives at the earliest. But all this did not make the US President see reason.

Against this backdrop, in July 1971, US National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger visited India before going to Pakistan and secretly flying to China from there. Indira Gandhi invited Kissinger for breakfast on July 7. The previous night, she personally telephoned Indian Army Chief General SHFJ Manekshaw, asking him to join her for breakfast, and specifically asking him to wear his military uniform. Manekshaw reached the PM's house at the appointed time. After some time, Henry Kissinger arrived.

At the breakfast table, Indira Gandhi told Kissinger to tell President Nixon to prevail upon Yahya Khan to stop genocide in Bangladesh and hand over power to Sheikh Mujib without delay. But he was quite circumspect in his response. She insisted again and again for the US President to exert pressure on Yahya Khan, but Kissinger was evasive. After failing to get a satisfactory response from him, Indira Gandhi said that if the US did not do anything, she herself would do something. Ironically, Kissinger asked what she intended to do. Indira Gandhi got up from her chair and said if the US President could not control the situation, then she was going to ask General Manekshaw, pointing at him decked out in his

military attire, to do the same. There was apparently pin drop silence in the dining hall. Everyone was surprised by her candid statement and Kissinger said to have believed her.

From New Delhi, Kissinger went on to Islamabad. Though he gave the impression that he and Yahya Khan would discuss the Bangladesh issue, that was a farce. On July 8, he had dinner with Yahya, where Kissinger apparently told him that for a dictator, he ran a lousy election. After dinner, false information was spread that Kissinger had fallen ill and doctors had



Henry Kissinger with President Yahya Khan in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. PHOTO: AP

advised him two days' rest. Kissinger then apparently went to Nathiagali, a hill station near Islamabad, and rumours were engineered that he would meet Kamal Hossain, close confidant of Sheikh Mujib, lodged in a nearby jail, to reach a settlement in East Pakistan. But Kissinger was driven off in a car incognito to Rawalpindi Airport and flew to Beijing, where he held extensive discussions with Chinese PM Zhou Enlai from July 9-11. This was the first visit by a high-up US official to Beijing after the installation of a communist

regime on Mainland China on October 1, 1949, when the Kuomintang Government led by Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan after losing the American-assisted civil war against the communists led by Mao Zedong. The US had not recognised the Communist Government in Beijing and maintained its diplomatic relations with the KMT Government of Taiwan, terming it the only legitimate Chinese government. It accordingly had a seat as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

After capturing power, Mao had very

cosy relations with the USSR till Stalin's death in 1953. Thereafter, differences started emerging between the two countries' communist parties, till they finally broke off in 1964. Tension kept building up, which led to the 1969 border skirmishes between the USSR and China over the Ussuri River, when Moscow threatened to use nuclear weapons and Chinese leaders had to function from underground shelters. The US saw a golden opportunity to woo China, as Nixon wanted to use the China card to bargain with the USSR.

On the other hand, Mao was keen to use the US card against the USSR to avoid danger on its borders.

The US tried different channels to get in touch with Chinese leadership. Ultimately, Nixon and Kissinger found the best option would be to utilise Yahya Khan's close connections with Beijing. The plan was chalked out during Yahya's visit to the US in October 1970. In November 1970, Yahya visited Beijing, where he discussed the proposal with Mao. After getting the green signal, he told Kissinger to go ahead with his plans. Kissinger undertook a tour to many countries of Asia, including India and Pakistan, under a secret plan codenamed Operation Marco Polo-I in July 1971 to quietly slip off to Beijing from Islamabad.

During Kissinger's China visit, both sides discussed a variety of issues. Kissinger found Zhou Enlai, who had studied in France and Germany from 1920 to 1923, to be a very articulate person who could converse even in German, Kissinger's mother tongue, with ease. Both leaders agreed on recognising Communist China as the only China and allotting a permanent seat in the UNSC to Beijing instead of Taiwan. The situation in the Indian subcontinent was discussed in detail, on which they had similar views, with both expressing their unwavering support to Pakistan. Zhou briefed Kissinger about the Indo-Chinese border skirmishes and blamed India for provocations. Both leaders had complete convergence of views on Yahya's stand on the Bangladesh issue. Kissinger flew back via Paris and reached Washington on July 13. On July 15, 1971, a mutually decided date by Kissinger and Zhou, US President Richard Nixon announced to the world the diplomatic coup accomplished by his National Security Advisor.

The KMT regime in Taiwan was enraged over Nixon's announcement and the Indian government was aghast at this unimaginable development. The Sino-US détente had caused a fundamental change in international

strategic equations. Its impact on the Indian subcontinent was more immediate and tangible. There was euphoria in West Pakistan, people were jubilant over the master stroke of their President in facilitating Sino-US rapprochement. Yahya Khan was now fully convinced that he could bulldoze his way into Bangladesh after winning the gratitude of both China and the US. The Sino-US détente had grossly undermined India's position in the region. President Nixon called a meeting of the National Security Council on July 16. Kissinger briefed the council on his Asian trip and his parleys with Zhou Enlai and Indira Gandhi. Nixon also told the council that he wanted to help his friend Yahya Khan on the Bangladesh crisis.

On October 25, 1971 the People's Republic of China was admitted to the UN as a permanent member of the UNSC in place of KMT's Taiwan. The most interesting outcome of the Sino-US friendship was witnessed when the PRC's delegation was ushered into the UN. The permanent representative of PRC fired the very first salvos on the "American imperialists and their running dogs". However, this was not taken seriously and termed as "firing by empty cannons". The Taiwanese were unceremoniously escorted out of their permanent seat at the UNSC. An old friend was sacrificed by the Americans at the altar of the Sino-US détente.

During the December 1971 Indo-Pak war, both the US and China had jointly tried to stall the liberation of Bangladesh through UNSC resolutions, and also worked against the interests of India and Bangladesh. New Delhi then went into over-drive to neutralise the effects of the newly formed US-China-Pakistan axis. However, none of their machinations could stop the eventual establishment of the independent nation of Bangladesh.

Brig RP Singh, VSM, is a retired Brigadier of the Indian Army. He is a veteran of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, in which he was involved in different capacities from day one till the surrender of the Pakistan Army on December 16, 1971. Hitesh Singh is a defence scholar and analyst.

The US tried different channels to get in touch with Chinese leadership. Ultimately, Nixon and Kissinger found the best option would be to utilise Yahya Khan's close connections with Beijing. The plan was chalked out during Yahya's visit to the US in October 1970.

Back to roots to set up agro farm

FROM PAGE 12

Against all odds, Sumi did not stop. She and her 30-year-old sister Shamima Begum took various initiatives to become agro-entrepreneurs, but they were initially unsuccessful.

Later, the sisters started producing vermicompost, a technology by which fertiliser is made from cow dung (or other organic matter) and earthworms, with eight kilograms of earthworms in 24 concrete rings in May last year.

They named their project Shamima Agro Farm and after seeing success, the sisters set up another 17 concrete beds (larger than the rings).

In October last year, Sumi and several others in the village participated in a training on vermicompost by an organisation called Sabuj Paribahan.

Sumi then involved 10 villagers struggling to get by and formed a community organisation "Chetonayon". They all now receive profits from the vermicompost project collectively.

"We are now getting a lot of orders to supply vermicompost to Dhaka, Cumilla, and other parts of the country. But we can't supply this demand as we have low production due to less investment," said Sumi.

Regardless, the others who learned the business from Sumi are happy to sell vermicompost and earn some extra money

from their small farms.

Zamshed and Rasheda Mondol of the village said they had been struggling to get by with their work in the fields. After Sumi involved them in learning how to set up a vermicompost farm, they were able to recently sell around 100kg of vermicompost as well as some earthworms, said Zamshed.

Fifteen-year-old Saida Binte Shahinur of Goriapara village said, "Sumi aunty taught me how to cultivate vermicompost at home."

She started recently with five rings and has already made profits. "I sold vermicompost three times till now and 1kg of earthworm for Tk 3,000."

Md Al Muzahid Sarker, Shibganj upazila agriculture officer, told The Daily Star that what Sumi is doing after completing her master's degree at DU is praiseworthy. "Modern agriculture needs more highly educated youth like Sumi."

Demand for vermicompost is increasing day by day as chemical fertilisers reduce soil fertility, he said.

"Sumi sometimes visits our office for advice. We are trying to help her by providing training and market access," said the agriculture officer.

Sumi urged the government to provide loans at a low interest rate to small vermicompost entrepreneurs so they are able to expand their businesses.



Covid-19 Taskforce officers wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) spray disinfectant on the road to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease in Solo, Central Java Province, Indonesia yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Indian PM to announce

FROM PAGE 12

Special focus will be on each state and even region in states, the sources said. Most importantly, the changes are likely to factor in polls in five states next year and the 2024 national election.

Some of the probable ministers, who have arrived or are heading to Delhi, include Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sarbananda Sonowal, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP)'s Pashupati Paras, Narayan Rane and Varun Gandhi.

Former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who agreed to give up the chief minister's post in Assam for Himanta Biswa Sarma after the BJP's reelection, is also set to be a Union Minister.

So is Pashupati Paras, who led the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) coup in Bihar against ex-Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan's son Chirag Paswan.

Others camping in Delhi are Anupriya Patel (Apna Dal), Pankaj Chowdhury, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Ramshankar Katheria, Lallan Singh and Rahul Kaswan.

The Union Cabinet, which can have 81 members, currently has 53 ministers. This means 28 ministers can be added.

Before the exercise, PM Modi carried out a month-long review of ministers' performance, especially during the second wave of Covid in April-May, which had the government facing unprecedented criticism in the country and abroad.

One evacuee every second

FROM PAGE 12

armed forces.

Senator Church did not elaborate on how he had made the estimate of \$35 million in additional military equipment awaiting shipment to Pakistan. Qualified sources said, however, that this was the total value of outstanding licenses issued by the State Department's Office of Munition Controls before the programme of military sales was suspended on April 6.

These sources said the State and Defense Departments had prepared a memorandum listing the outstanding licenses and recommended to the White House that they be cancelled.

But, they said, Nixon ruled that the shipments be maintained.

WAR INEVITABLE, SAYS PAKISTAN LEADER

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, West Pakistan Chief of the Pakistan Democratic Party, said today in Lahore that war with India

was inevitable and the country should prepare to fight. He claimed India was trying to bleed Pakistan white and said the situation was now more dangerous than in 1965 when India and Pakistan fought a three-week war.

MALAYSIA WILL NOT INTERFERE IN PAKISTAN'S AFFAIRS

Malaysia will not interfere in the conflict between East and West Pakistan as it was an internal matter, Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak said in parliament today. He hoped that the problem would be settled amicably and peacefully between the parties concerned. On the aid given by Malaysia for the relief of the refugees, the prime minister said this was channelled through the United Nations in response to UN appeal by the UN Secretary General U Thant.

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

Afghan forces vow to retake

FROM PAGE 12

on securing major cities, roads and border towns in the face of the Taliban onslaught, launched as US and Nato troops pressed ahead with their final withdrawal in early May.

The militants' rapid gains have spurred fears that Afghan forces are facing a spiralling crisis, particularly now vital US air support has been massively curtailed by the handover of Bagram Air Base.

Mohib acknowledged that the Afghan air force was stretched and largely unable to support bases that were in remote districts.

But he said the air force was now being reorganised and would offer the needed back-up support to troops on the ground.

"We had some glitches as a result of the (US) retrograde... (that put) additional pressure on the Afghan air force, he said.

On Monday, more than 1,000 Afghan troops fled into Tajikistan, forcing the neighbouring country to bolster the frontier with its own soldiers.

Several hundred Afghan troops had already crossed into the country in recent weeks, in the face of an advancing Taliban.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon has ordered "the mobilisation of 20,000 reserve troops to further strengthen the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan", a statement from the presidency said late on Monday.

"We had to abandon our base because there was no coordination or interest among our commanders to counter the attack," said Mohammad Musa, a soldier who had fled to Tajikistan after his base in Kunduz province fell to the Taliban last week.

The fighting in the north has also forced Moscow to close its consulate in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province and one of Afghanistan's largest urban centres near the border with Uzbekistan.

"The situation is changing rapidly. The Afghan forces, as they say, have abandoned too many districts. This logically creates nervousness," Moscow's envoy to Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov told the state-run TASS news agency on Monday.

Mohib said the soldiers who fled were returning and rejoining the security forces.

"They may have abandoned their posts because they ran out of ammunition or they ran out of supplies, but by no means has anyone defected to the Taliban," he said.

'TRYING OUR BEST'

The speed and ease of the Taliban's effective takeover of swathes of areas in Takhar, Badakhshan and Kunduz represent a massive psychological blow to the Afghan government.

The area once served as the stronghold for the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance during the gruesome civil war in the 1990s and was never routed by the militants.

A psychological war has also been taking shape online.

The Taliban has marshalled its forces on social media, with insurgent-affiliated accounts providing live updates of the fall of districts and posting numerous videos of Afghan soldiers surrendering and handing over weapons caches and equipment to the group.

The Afghan government in turn has been releasing its own footage on social media -- mostly grainy black and white videos of airstrikes obliterating alleged Taliban positions, while boasting of inflicting heavy casualties on the jihadist group.

Back on the ground, Afghan commander General Mirassadullah Kohistani, who is now in charge of Bagram Air Base following the US exit last week, put on a brave face when asked about the insurgents' rapid advances.

"We are trying to do the best and as much as possible secure and serve all the people," he said.

South Korean general arrested for sex crime: official

AFP, Seoul

A South Korean two-star army general has been arrested for sexually harassing a female subordinate, officials said Tuesday, in the latest high-profile sex crime to rock the country's military.

The case comes just a month after the country's air force chief resigned over

the suicide of a master sergeant who was sexually assaulted by a colleague.

She reported the case higher up the chain of command, only to have her complaints ignored, and took her own life in May.

That sparked a national outcry in South Korea, which maintains a conscript army to defend itself against the nuclear-armed North.

BR to run cattle

FROM PAGE 12

fisheries and livestock ministry to provide safe and cost-effective services amid travel restrictions imposed because of the pandemic.

But this year's restrictions on transport services are enforced more rigorously as the government imposed a "strict lockdown" amid rising numbers of new cases of Covid-19 and deaths from the disease.

The special train would leave Dewanganj Bazar at 3:00pm and reach Dhaka at 6:00am the next day. Each train would carry up to 400 cows.

Such service was first provided in 2008.

Eid-ul-Azha is likely to be observed on July 20 or 21.

Malaysia extends

FROM PAGE 12

implemented from November 16 last year to June 30 this year, Bernama reported.

Dahlan said that as of July 1, 248,083 illegal immigrants registered under the plan.

Of them, 97,892 got registered under the Return Recalibration Programme to return to their countries of origin and 149,889 under the Labour Recalibration Programme to get regularised, he added.

Dead, retired

FROM PAGE 12

by the ministry's Senior Assistant Secretary Sharmin Sultana, was issued on July 4.

The third row of the list had the name of Ferdous Ara Sheikh, assistant professor of the gynaecology department at Rangpur Medical College. She died on February 26.

Meanwhile, Momotaz Begum, who went into retirement four months ago, was also promoted by the concerned ministry, with her name in the fourth row.

She was an assistant professor in paediatric department.

AKM Nurunabi Lyzu, principal of Rangpur Medical College Hospital, confirmed the death of Dr Ferdous Ara and added that it was a mistake made by the health ministry.

Smart foam gives

FROM PAGE 12

material, especially in robotics and prosthetic devices, where robots need to be a lot more intelligent when working around humans," explained lead researcher Benjamin Tee.

To replicate the human sense of touch, the researchers infused the material with microscopic metal particles and added tiny electrodes underneath the surface of the foam.

When pressure is applied, the metal particles draw closer within the polymer matrix, changing their electrical properties. These changes can be detected by the electrodes connected to a computer, which then tells the robot what to do, Tee said.

"When I move my finger near the sensor, you can see the sensor is measuring the changes of my electrical field and responds accordingly to my touch," he said.

Timeline Extended

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England vs Denmark

Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & 2
Wimbledon
Quarterfinals
Live from 4:00 pm



PHOTO: REUTERS

ENGLAND AIM FOR BREAKTHROUGH but Danes stand determined

REUTERS, Manchester

England have the chance to reach a first major final since their 1966 World Cup triumph when they take on Denmark at Wembley in Wednesday's Euro 2020 semi-final, but they will need to banish a history of stumbling at this stage.

Gareth Southgate's side were impressive in their 4-0 dismantling of Ukraine in Rome on Saturday, heralding a wave of euphoria in the country as media showered the team in praise.

England fans need no reminder, however, that their team have lost four major semi-finals since Alf Ramsey's team's title.

Southgate has been keen to keep the burden of history out of his team's thinking. If he needs a way to bring his players back down to earth before the semi-final, he does not have to look back far for a warning against complacency.

An England side containing ten of the current squad faced Denmark at Wembley in October in a Nations League match and lost 1-0 to a Christian Eriksen penalty.

Kasper Hjulmand's side, who beat the Czech



Republic 2-1 in their quarter-final, will be largely the same as the one which left London with three points eight months ago. With Harry Kane back to scoring form with three goals in the two knockout stage games, England look to be peaking at the right moment.

Denmark's performances in this tournament, where they have responded to the Eriksen trauma in such inspiring fashion, should also keep England focused.

The Danes got out of Group B with a rousing

HIGHLIGHTS

- **England have beaten the Danes in 12 of their 17 encounters (Draw-5, Lost-4), although they haven't recorded a competitive win since 2002.
- **Southgate's team failed to beat their semi-final opponents in the Nations League last autumn, drawing 0-0 in Copenhagen and losing 1-0 at Wembley.
- **The two teams last met at a major international tournament in 2002, with England hammering Denmark 3-0 on the Japanese island of Niigata in the last 16 of the World Cup.

4-1 win over Russia in Copenhagen before thrashing Wales 4-0 in Amsterdam. In the quarter-final they beat a well-organised Czech side 2-1 in the heat of Baku.

Hjulmand's team have a clear structure and method to their play which has earned them their place in the last four.

Unbeaten England though start as clear favourites with a stronger squad and home advantage and the fear that has gripped them in previous campaigns refreshingly absent so far.

'Brazil will win the final'

AGENCIES



the semifinals of the Copa America on Monday and delivered the only goal in a 1-0 victory.

Brazil star Neymar was quick to sing his team mate's praises and said there was more to come. "Paqueta is a great player, he's getting better with each game. He had a great season with his club and here he is showing that he can be a very important player for Brazil."

It was yet another performance from Brazil where they were wasteful in front of goal as Peru's Pedro Gallese made seven fine saves, but it was more than enough to advance in Copa America final.

Neymar said he hopes Argentina will be their opponents in the Copa America final and has no doubts that the hosts

Lucas Paqueta did it again. Brazil's super substitute, who scored the winner in the quarterfinals against Chile, earned the start against Peru in

would come out on top against their fierce rivals.

"I want Argentina, I am cheering them on," Neymar, who missed Brazil's Copa America triumph on home soil two years ago but inspired them to the 2013 Confederations Cup as well as Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, said with a smile. "I have friends there and in the final Brazil will win."

Brazil have won the Copa America every time they hosted the tournament and in the early part of Monday's match showed exactly why they are favourites to do so again.

The last time the two sides met in a Copa America final was in 2007, when Brazil won 3-0 in Venezuela, and a title match between the arch rivals would be a treat for the neutrals.

It would not only pit the tournament's only unbeaten teams against each other it would also be a showdown between two of the best No. 10s in the game, former Barcelona team mates Neymar and Lionel Messi.

Both players have had an exceptional tournament so far, with Neymar recording two goals and three assists, while Messi has four goals and four assists.



Brazil midfielder Lucas Paqueta celebrates his all-important goal with Neymar, who created the chance with a moment of magic that took three Peruvian defenders out of the game before setting up Paqueta for a left footed finish.

PHOTO: REUTERS



PHOTO: BCB

Tigers prioritise on hunting as a unit

SPORTS REPORTER



Followed by recent times

performances in the longest format of the game, Bangladesh will be desperate to return to winning ways against host Zimbabwe as the Tigers begin their African safari today with the one-off Test match at the Harare Sports Club Ground.

And with the Zimbabwean ground staff having barred the visitors from inspecting the surface until the day before the Test match, the Bangladesh think-tank is forced to agonisingly wait till the last moment to finalise their game plan.

"Last time when I played here seven-eight years back, we witnessed the pacers being dominant. However, in the last two series, both Zimbabwean spinners and pacers played a

crucial role. But to be honest, it's difficult to comment (on the game plan) without having a look at the surface," Mominul told the media ahead of the Test match yesterday.

The visitors will also wait for Tamim Iqbal as the left-hander is still in doubt to recover from his knee injury while another experienced player Mushfiqur Rahim is expected to play today.

Mominul was questioned as to whether he is feeling the pressure of captaincy and also about the Tigers' approach towards the Test format to which the 29-year-old replied: "It mostly depends on the conditions as we tend to pick more spinners whenever we play at home, and whereas in abroad, we prefer having more batsman and seamers in the line-up."

"Conditions also decide whether we feature five or four bowlers or six to seven batters. Regardless, we have to prioritise

playing as a unit. And as far as captaincy is concerned, I don't feel pressurised by it, rather I take it as a privilege and try to enjoy the role."

There were additional doubts on whether the Tigers had enough time to adjust to the red-ball cricket since the cricketers had participated in the domestic T20 competition prior to this tour. However, according to Mominul, they had sufficient time to adapt and the two-day warm-up game certainly helped them to prepare accordingly.

On the other camp, Zimbabwe's stand-in captain Brendon Taylor banks on the home advantage and expects a competitive game.

"I think we were a bit rusty and not up to the mark in Test matches recently but we have done our homework. We look better prepared to stamp our authority with the bat to give something for our bowlers to fight," said Taylor.

Could Harare Test be Tigers' step in the right direction?

NABID YEASIN



For a long time, Bangladesh have been struggling to find the blueprint for a Test culture with a suitable mindset and approach towards the game's elite format. In fact, even in the 21st year of their Test journey, Bangladesh are unfortunately yet to take a single step in the right direction in this regard.

The Tigers could potentially set the tone for their approach towards upcoming Test hurdles in the lone Test against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club today. Although the fixture is not a part of the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC), it could still be Bangladesh's first step towards making amends for mistakes in previous editions of the competition, due to which they were left sulking at the bottom of the table with no wins and one draw from seven games.

The fact that the game against Zimbabwe is not a part of the WTC could well work in the Tigers' favor as they prepare for upcoming WTC commitments. A win must be the sole target but with little at stake in terms of the outcome, this could be the perfect opportunity to figure out what has caused Bangladesh to lose focus at crucial junctures on their previous WTC journey, resulting in unexpected defeats.

BANGLADESH V ZIMBABWE IN TESTS

Match	Win	Lose	Draw
Head to head (in Zimbabwe)	7	1	5
Overall against Zimbabwe	17	7	7

Complacency had clearly gotten the better of Mominul Haque's troops as they lost 2-0 at home to a depleted West Indies side earlier this year, with the Tigers failing to salvage even a single point despite the opportunity to enter the top five in the WTC standings. That equation may also have impacted the unexpected outcome.

As is the case before nearly every series, there has been talk of playing a particular

HIGHLIGHTS

**Bangladesh played two Tests during their last tour of Zimbabwe in 2013. Tigers suffered a thumping 335-run defeat in the opening Test before salvaging some pride in the final Test with a 143-run win. Both Tests were played at Harare Sports Club.

**The average first innings total in the last three Tests in Harare was 325 runs.

**Zimbabwe lost the last two Tests against Pakistan and managed to draw a Test against Sri Lanka in the last three Tests played in Harare.

'brand of cricket', 'keeping the process right' or 'having patience' ahead of the Harare Test as well. Although the team management has never been able to clear any ambiguity surrounding these statements, it is about time at least some of their ploys bear fruit and set a standard and approach for the future as well.

That could start with the team management relaying a set of objectives to each player about the role they are expected to play while putting up the right man for the right job and not making short-sighted changes tailor-made to the purposes of one fixture only.

In his ninth match in charge of the Test squad, Mominul should also go into the game with a lot of lessons learned from mistakes made in previous fixtures. When things are not going his way, Mominul should now know better than to stick to the usual and instead surprise the opposition by thinking outside the box, something that he failed to do during the Chattogram Test against the West Indies.

Medvedev falls to Hurkacz in 5-set thriller



REUTERS, LONDON

Poland's Hubert Hurkacz ousted second seed Daniil Medvedev after the pair returned on Tuesday to finish their rain-hit match and reached his maiden major quarter-final where he will meet eight-time Wimbledon winner Roger Federer.

World No.2 Medvedev was leading Hurkacz by two sets to one on Monday with the fourth set on serve when play was cancelled for the day because of rain after the players had spent two hours and 25 minutes on Court Two.

But the 24-year-old Hurkacz, seeded 14th, looked a completely different player when the match restarted under the closed roof of Centre Court, triumphing 2-6, 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

"Playing on this unbelievable court, probably the best in the world, with an amazing crowd is really special," Hurkacz said in his on-court interview.

"Daniil is an unbelievable player. We battled so hard on Number Two Court. So to win is incredible... I knew I needed to get off to a strong start today and I think I did a pretty good job."

Hurkacz could not have hoped for a better start as he broke Medvedev immediately after the resumption with the Russian double-faulting on break point. The Pole then held serve to level the match at two sets each.

Medvedev took a comfort break at the end of the fourth set having just played two games but things did not change when he returned to court.

The Pole broke the Russian's serve to love at the start of the deciding set to continue his ascendancy before a second break sealed the fate of the contest with Medvedev finding the net with a low forehand volley on match point.

Next up for the world number 18 will be the 39-year-old Federer, the 20-time major winner, who defeated him in their only previous meeting in 2019 at Indian Wells.

"Roger, what he does, the titles he has won, is a real inspiration," Hurkacz said about the Swiss great. "I will be hoping to get a little bit of support tomorrow."

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Back to roots to set up agro farm

DU graduate stops chasing jobs in cities, returns to village to make vermicompost

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

It is expected that a student graduating from a reputed university would want a good job in the big city.

A female Dhaka University graduate in Bogura, however, broke the stereotype to become an entrepreneur, finding success in cultivating vermicompost and helping her fellow villagers learn the business.

Twenty-six-year-old Razia Sultana Sumi, of Goriapara village in Shibganj upazila, completed her honours and master's degrees in social welfare at DU in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

"Like every student of DU, I also dreamed of being a BCS [Bangladesh Civil Service] cadre or getting a good job in a reputed organisation but the urgency of life returned me to the village."

While many fellow graduates were



CHANGE MAKER

preparing for exams and struggling to land government jobs, Sumi said she did not want to waste time.

"After finishing my master's degree with good results, I came straight back to my village and started helping my father in the fields," said Sumi.

Her journey was not easy. She was initially shamed and verbally insulted by neighbours and villagers, mostly boys and men, while harvesting paddy in the fields with her father and sister last year.

They said that a girl who graduated from Dhaka University harvesting paddy in the fields was such a shame -- that she had wasted her parents' money and efforts, Sumi recalled.

"Every profession is great if you take it to heart. Agriculture is my father's profession. I wanted to find greater success in agriculture," said Sumi.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Amid heavy rain, people queue up and wait for a TCB truck so that they can buy essentials at reduced prices. After a few days break, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) started selling essential commodities from their trucks. The photo was taken in Chattogram city's Jamal Khan area around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Dead, retired doctors get mistakenly promoted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The name of a doctor, who recently died, was found in a list, prepared by the health ministry, of promoted medical workers posted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

They are supposed to join their new workplace today.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry promoted the doctor, along with 64 others, posting them to the hospital to increase the workforce and deal with the surge in Covid-19 patients in the division.

However, due to a mistake it turned out that one of the doctors, who was even notified to join her new workplace today, had passed away months ago.

Another such promoted doctor has already retired.

A letter with the list of promoted doctors, signed

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Smart foam gives robotic hand ability to self-repair



REUTERS, Singapore

Singapore researchers have developed a smart foam material that allows robots to sense nearby objects, and repairs itself when damaged, just like human skin.

Artificially innervated foam, or AiFoam, is a highly elastic polymer created by mixing fluoropolymer with a compound that lowers surface tension.

This allows the spongy material to fuse easily into one piece when cut, according to the researchers at the National University of Singapore.

"There are many applications for such a

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Indian PM to announce 'youngest-ever' cabinet

NDTV ONLINE

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mega cabinet reshuffle, the first in his second term, will be announced today at 6:00pm. The new cabinet will be the youngest ever in India's history, top government sources told NDTV.

The average age will be the lowest ever after the revamp, there will be more women ministers and special representation will be given to those who have administrative experience, sources said.

"Overall two dozen OBCs (Other Backward Class) will be represented. The plan is to involve the smaller communities," they said.

The average education will also be higher, with "PhDs, MBAs, post-graduates and professionals", the sources

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

One evacuee every second

JULY 4, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CANADIAN MPS PREFER AUTONOMY TO RECOGNITION

A three-man Canadian parliamentary delegation was convinced that autonomy in Bangladesh was preferable to recognition, and a situation should be created where the elected representatives of the people would be allowed to fulfil their duties.

The delegation told newsmen today in Calcutta that they had no doubt that the 6.5 million evacuees were forced to flee their homes only because of a violent military action. Having returned from a trip in the morning to three refugee camps, they said they were deeply moved by the human tragedy.

BANGLADESH REFUGEE CRISIS

India was receiving one evacuee from Bangladesh every second according to an official report. Everyday some 100,000 people are driven out from Bangladesh to the India side of the border. The cost of food and shelter for each evacuee was estimated at four rupees a day.

NIXON CRITICISED BY SENATOR ON AID TO PAKISTAN

Senator Frank Church, Idaho Democrat and a member of the senate foreign relations committee, charged in a Senate speech today that \$35 million worth of military equipment was still in the "pipeline" for delivery to Pakistan.

He said President Richard Nixon "refuses to stop the flow" despite recommendations from the "bureaucracy" for the cancelling of outstanding licenses for equipment destined for the Pakistani

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CHANCE TO REDEEM Malaysia extends it for illegal workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia has extended its recalibration programme till December 31 this year for illegal migrants living in the country.

The programme consisting of two schemes -- return recalibration and labour recalibration -- is expected to help many undocumented Bangladeshi workers get regularised in the Southeast Asian country.

Under the schemes, an illegal migrant worker gets the opportunity to become regularised or return to his or her home country without facing any legal action.

According to Malaysia's national news agency Bernama, the country's cabinet agreed to extend the Recalibration Plan to support the implementation of the "National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme" till December 31 or until the vaccination programme ends.

In a statement on Monday, Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz, secretary general of Malaysian home ministry, said the decision came at a cabinet meeting on June 23.

The meeting also agreed to expand the Recalibration Plan to Sabah and Sarawak, subject to the approval of the respective state governments.

The Recalibration Plan was initially

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BR to run cattle trains ahead of Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will again operate "special cattle trains" to bring sacrificial animals to Dhaka from different regions ahead of the Eid.

Between July 17 and 19, the special trains will bring the animals from Dewanganj Bazar, Jamalpur, to Dhaka, said Shariful Alam, senior information officer of Railways Ministry.

BR will also arrange cattle trains from Khulna and Chapainawabganj, if there is demand from the cattle traders, he added.

Similar arrangements were also made last year following the request of

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 7

Fajr 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



People of 10 villages of Satmera union in Panchagarh's Sadar upazila suffering immensely as a wooden bridge that is regularly used by the villagers partially collapsed last Saturday due to heavy flow of water.

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

TALIBAN ASSAULT IN NORTH Afghan forces vow to retake all districts

Authorities deploy commandos to counter the insurgents' offensive

AFP, Kabul

Afghan authorities yesterday vowed to retake all the districts lost to the Taliban as hundreds of commandos deployed to counter the insurgents' blistering offensive in the north after more than 1,000 government troops fled into neighbouring Tajikistan.

Fighting has raged across several provinces, but the insurgents have primarily focused on a devastating campaign across the northern countryside, seizing dozens of districts in the past two months.

Last week, all US and Nato forces left Bagram Air Base near Kabul -- the command centre for anti-Taliban operations -- effectively wrapping up their exit after 20 years of military involvement that began in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

"There is war, there is pressure. Sometimes things are working our way. Sometimes they don't, but we will continue to defend the Afghan people," National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib told reporters.

"We have plans to retake the districts," he added.

Troops and pro-government militiamen were deployed in the northern provinces of Takhar and Badakhshan where the Taliban have captured large swathes of territory at lightning speed, often with little resistance.

Afghan defence officials have said they intend to focus

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