







SRABAN 4, 1428 BS

Your Right to Know



"Experts have warned that the situation may worsen unless the participation of all in building awareness is

DGHS SPOKESPERSON DR NAZMUL ISLAM ABOUT DENGUE OUTBREAK



"I am going to Delhi to discuss how quickly the [Covid] vaccine, manufactured in India, can be supplied to Bangladesh." INDIAN ENVOY TO BANGLADESH VIKRAM DORAISWAMI



"It is my fervent hope... Congress will finally provide security to all Dreamers, who have lived too long in fear." US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN PROMISES TO APPEAL IMMIGRATION RULING

# Crimes behind Brahman cows

Shady businesses manipulate system to dodge ban on import of the cattle breed, make hefty profits

RASHIDUL HASAN

Import ban, so what? There are ways to sneak those in, through the country's main airport even.

That's the case with 18 Brahman cows that were flown in from the US recently amid pandemic restrictions, with nobody showing up at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to receive those.

Importer Sadeeq Limited used fake livestock ministry documents for this import, and it already had other Brahman

cows, possibly from previous such imports, on sale at its farm, finds an investigation by

The Daily Star. Forged documents, copies of which this correspondent was able to obtain, were used to dodge the government's ban imposed in 2016 on import of the Brahman cows, one of the cattle breeds meant for





entry, a mandatory legal document on or before the arrival of a consignment. After the

the meat industry, after Bangladesh attained

self-sufficiency in meat

its agent did not even

submit to the customs

authorities the bill of

The importer or

production.

seizure of the cows by customs officials and a three-week wait before But if Plan B -- buying

up the cows at the auction -- or Plan C -paying a fine by the court -- worked out, the importer Sadeeq Agro Limited would still be able to get these giant Americanbreed cattle of Indian origin to its farm in Mohammadpur's Beribadh area.

of Plan A, which was to "manage" airport officials, followed a routine procedure

Only about two months back, another



Hundreds of traders and customers gather at the Tebaria cattle market in Natore ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. There is no evidence of social distancing while a majority of people are seen either without masks or not wearing them properly. Although many members of local administration were present at the market, no one was ensuring that Covid-19 safety protocols were being followed.

Antigen-Based Test

## 78 healthcare bodies given permission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday allowed 78 private healthcare organisations across the country to conduct antigen-based ovia-19 rapia testing.

The move, which has been demanded for long, was taken for expanding testing facilities and making those easily available.

The approval of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) came more than one and a half months after it sent a letter to the health ministry, detailing the cost and other issues regarding the rapid

Antigen tests are immunoassays that detect the presence of a specific viral antigen, which implies current viral infection. They are relatively inexpensive and can be used at the point-of-care.

The rapid tests in the private healthcare settings can be done for patients showing Covid-19 symptoms and those who came in close contact with Covid-19 patients,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

COVID VACCINATION

# Govt to lower age bar to 30 years

Vaccination to start at Karail slum after Eid, at Rohingva camps August 16

**VACCINE | AMOUNT** 

AstraZeneca (Japan) | **29 lakh** (confirmed)

Sinopharm | **3 crore** (Proposed)

**30 lakh** (confirmed)

**1.1 crore** (confirmed)

**50 lakh** (under process)

Moderna

Sinopharm

Johnson & Johnson

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has decided to lower the age limit to 30 years for Covid vaccination to bring more people under its inoculation campaign.

The decision came at a virtual meeting of the Covid Vaccination

Programme Committee yesterday as the country continues to see a surge in virus infections and deaths.

"We suggested bringing down the age limit to 18 years ... But the meeting decided to lower the age limit to 30 years from 35 at this moment and gradually bring it down to 18," a top government official told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

Asked, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, "We are working to implement the prime minister's decision to expand the vaccination SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

#### DGHS worried over violation of safety rules

CROWDED CATTLE MARKETS

225 more die of Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health officials have voiced concern over violations of the health safety rules at recorded 225 deaths from Covid, the third-highest toll in a day.

People have been flocking to cattle markets all over the country to buy sacrificial animals ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha to be celebrated on July 21.

"As cattle markets are supervised by the local government ministry, we know they too are monitoring the situation. We think awareness and sense of responsibility among both sellers and buyers are important," said Dr Nazmúl Islam, spokesperson for the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

He said the DGHS has already issued 'specific suggestions" to all civil surgeons in this regard.

"There are teams led by civil surgeons SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 INDECISION ON RUNNING RMG UNITS

# Uncertainty over workers' Eid trips

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Nizam Uddin, a sewing machine operator at a garment factory in Ashulia, cannot decide whether to go to his village in Mymensingh to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with his family.

The reason for his indecision is that he is unsure how long his Eid leave would be. Would it be for three days or 17 days?

Like him, thousands of garment workers are left in a state of suspense on whether the government would allow factories to run as normal during the fortnight-long lockdown starting July 23.

As things stand, factories would be shut during the lockdown, supposed to be the strictest yet amid the pandemic that began in March last year.

But garment and textile factory owners have been lobbying with the government since Wednesday to keep their plants out of the purview of the lockdown. In case that cannot be managed, they are also lobbying to resume production at their factories from August 1 instead of August 5, when the lockdown ends.

If they get their way, the workers would then have to report to duty on July 23, two days after Eid and on the day the lockdown sets off. They would then have to start from their villages on July 22, the day following Eid. In short, it would be too short a trip for it to be worthwhile.

If the workers have to report to duty on August 1, which is in the middle of the strict lockdown, they would have a problem getting to Dhaka from their villages in the absence of any public transport.

Fearing an unkind situation like they had faced last year, when they had SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



#### Shakib guides Tigers to series win

STAR SPORT DESK

Shakib Al Hasan played a match-winning knock of unbeaten 96 runs as Bangladesh clinched the three-match series 2-0 with a three-wicket victory against Zimbabwe in the second one-day international in Harare yesterday.

The 34-year-old allrounder, who was going through a lean patch with the bat since his reintroduction into international cricket following a one-year suspension by the ICC, came into his own and scored the winning boundary as Bangladesh chased down the 241-run target with five balls to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



With a pen in her hand and a smile on her face, three-and-a-half-year-old Dolon sits on the pavement near the capital's Moghbazar and listens to her mother Nazma's instructions on what next to write on the notebook open on her lap. Nazma sells masks on the side of the road while making sure that her daughter does not miss out on her education amid the ongoing closure of schools. The photo was taken vesterday.

# Pilgrims stream out of Makkah

60,000 fully vaccinated Muslims begin hajj rituals



Hajj pilgrims streamed out of the holy city of Makkah and into the Mina valley yesterday, launching the rituals of the great pilgrimage which Saudi Arabia is holding in a scaleddown form for a second year.

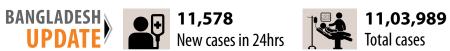
Only 60,000 fully vaccinated citizens and residents of the kingdom are allowed to take part, far from the vast crowds that descend on Makkah in normal times when the ritual draws some 2.5 million pilgrims.

Since Saturday, groups of pilgrims have been performing the "tawaf" at Makkah's Grand Mosque, circling the Kaaba, a large cubic structure draped in golden-embroidered black cloth towards which Muslims around the world pray.

After that, they have been making their way to Mina, where they will spend the night. Mina sits in a narrow valley surrounded by rocky mountains, some five kilometres (three miles) from the Grand Mosque, and is transformed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6











4,102,854



Shamsul Alam

# Journey home may worsen today

Closure of offices, garment factories to add to the rush

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With traffic congestion on the Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur highway and ferry terminals on Padma River already causing sufferings for holidaymakers, the situation may turn worse today after the closure of the garment factories and offices.

Although the number of homegoers was relatively less yesterday, transport service providers and officials involved in the sector said the number is likely to rise sharply today, leading to a deteriorating situation.

People who left Dhaka for the north and north-western districts yesterday, faced sufferings due to long tailbacks on both sides of the Bangabandhu Bridge during the first half of the day.

Although launch and ferry services on the Shimulia-Banglabazar route witnessed crowds during the first half

of the day, services on the Paturia-Daulatdia route were at almost the usual level, our district correspondents

Like previous days, physical distancing was largely ignored during the home rush. Many home-goers did not even wear masks, raising concerns over a rise in Covid-19 transmission in crowds at terminals and stations and on crowded transport.

The government relaxed the strict lockdown for eight days from Thursday for Eid, which will be celebrated on Wednesday. It made the move although many experts had warned that lifting the restrictions may lead to a spike in infections and

Some 16.93 lakh mobile phone users left Dhaka on July 15 and 16, according to data of Bangladesh SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A cow being guided off a train compartment at the Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Railway has been operating a special service to bring cattle to the capital from all over the country ahead of Eid-ul-Azha PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

#### DGHS worried over violation

and deputy commissioners [in all districts]. They are all supervising [the issue of following health safety rules .. If everyone played his or her due role, the health safety guidelines can be

maintained a little better," he said at a

virtual briefing yesterday. Hours later, the DGHS in its daily press release reported a spike in Covid-19 casualties and new cases in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

On July 11, the country logged the highest daily deaths -- 230. July 15 saw the second-highest death toll of 226.

With the latest count, the total number of deaths rose to 17,894, which is around 1.62 percent of the virus cases detected so far.

In the 24 hours, 11,578 people tested positive for the virus -- up from 8,489 the previous day. The positivity rate was 29.09 percent

yesterday. It was 29.06 percent the

The total number of Covid patients undergoing treatment stood at 154,087

Of them, 13,901 were receiving treatment at various Covid-dedicated hospitals across the country as of yesterday noon, according to the Covid-19 Dynamic Dashboard of the

As in the previous day, Dhaka such initiatives...

Division saw the highest 60 deaths from the virus, followed by 54 in Khulna Division.

Among other divisions, 40 Covid patients died in Chattogram, 20 in Rajshahi, 14 each in Sylhet, Rangpur and Mymensingh, and nine in Barishal. RAPID COVID TEST AT 9 CATTLE **MARKETS** 

Brac has launched antigen-based Covid-19 rapid tests at nine cattle markets yesterday, said a press release.

The initiative is being implemented with the help of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). The DGHS is providing necessary support to set up a Surokkha corner in each of these cattle

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the Government of UK is supporting BRAC and the DGHS in this effort.

DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam inaugurated it at the cattle market at ayeednagar in Bhatara area yesterday.

The service will be available from 8:00am to 8:00pm every day and will continue till July 20.

Speaking as chief guest at the inauguration, Atiqul said, "This is truly a praiseworthy initiative from Brac at this moment of crisis of the pandemic. We are calling on other organisations to come forward with

# 78 healthcare bodies given

individuals showing Covid symptoms are negative, their samples will be tested again using RT-PCR machine for confirmation, added the circular.

been fixed at maximum Tk 700.

a patient's home, he or she can be charged Tk 500 maximum as an additional fee.

This charge will be applicable once in every household irrespective of the

The 78 healthcare organisations have

to use the rapid antigen kits developed by two companies -- SD Biosensor of If the antigen test results of South Korea and Panbio of the USA.

On September 17 last year, the government first permitted antigenbased rapid testing at 36 public healthcare centres. The figure is now 457 across the country.

In the rapid antigen testing, a suspected patient will get the result within 30 minutes after the collection of samples.

For the detection of Covid-19, the RT-PCR test is considered the golden standard and is widely used in Bangladesh. It, however, takes at least 24 hours to get results.

The fees for a rapid antigen test have In case of collecting samples from

number of patients.

to walk tens of kilometres on foot in the absence of public transport for a movement control order to make it to their factories, many are staying put in Dhaka this Eid.

Nearly 30 percent of the garment workers will not go to their villages this time because of such confusing information regarding the lockdown and factory operations, said Towhidur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Workers Federation, a garment workers' platform.

"A clear and specific directive is needed to remove the confusion on such an important issue," Rahman said.

The workers will face a lot of trouble in going to their villages and coming back since all kinds of vehicles including buses, trains and launches will not ply during the lockdown, said Nazma Akter, president of Sammilito

Garment Sramik Federation. So, there should be an easing of lockdown rules for smooth transportation of workers if the

factories are kept open, Akter said. Transport is a major concern for workers, said Amirul Haque Amin, president of the National Garment

Workers Federation. If they do not find any transport, many workers will set off by foot from their villages to save their jobs, as they

did last year, Amin said. Unfortunately, many workers had walked even 50 kilometres last year because of such confusing information

on factory reopening." Those who did not want to put their body through the ordeal paid double or triple the fare for whatever transport they got to return to their workplaces, Amin added.

"We do not know when the direction from the government will come," said Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Both decisions can be finalised at the end of the negotiations with the

Uncertainty over workers'

"We are expecting the government will relax the lockdown but at the final stage, the government might not consider our application. So, nothing is clear yet," Hassan told The Daily Star over the phone.

However, the majority of the workers might not leave their workplaces for three reasons: transportation problems, fear of infection of the coronavirus that has spread to the hinterlands, and vaccination.

Mass vaccination for garment workers started from yesterday in two factories at Gazipur, Hassan said, adding that more than 12,000 workers

have gotten the jab. All the member factories have been asked to vaccinate the garment workers as soon as possible to keep the workers safe from infection, he said.

#### Shakib guides

FROM PAGE 1

Shakib's 109-ball innings featured eight boundaries as he mixed caution with aggression while losing partners at regular intervals. All-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin, batting at No 9, gave Shakib good company with an unbeaten 28 off 34 deliveries, the second highest score of the innings.

Earlier, Shakib contributed with the ball too, taking two wickets for 42 runs as Bangladesh restricted Zimbabwe to 240 for nine after being asked to field

The best performer for Bangladesh with the ball, though, was young pacer Shoriful Islam, the left-armer taking career-best figures of four for 46 in his 10 overs.

Bangladesh had won the first match of the series by 155 runs on Friday, courtesy of a Liton Das's century and Shakib's five-wicket haul.

The series concludes on Tuesday at the same venue.

#### Crimes behind Brahman cows Sadeeq Agro owner Imran said he

agro farm named Dairy Sun in Dhaka secured 30 Brahman cows with a nominal penalty and an apology to the

Contacted on July 8 and again on July 9, Mohammad Imran Hossain, proprietor of the Sadeeq Agro, gave different versions about the import documents and the reason for importing the cows: "no document was submitted", he was "not aware of forged document submission", "there were mistake", "cows were for research purpose", and the "cows were a gift" and so on.

Imran also insisted that this is the first time Sadeeq Agro imported Brahman cows.

But this correspondent, who went to the farm posing as a customer, was offered a two-year-old Brahman cow -a livestock official confirmed the breed upon seeing a photograph -- at Tk 15 lakh with an expected yield of 800kg Requesting not to be named, the

owner of another agro farm who had earlier imported Brahman cattle illegally from the US, said he spent about Tk 58,000 on each cow. Sources said Sadeeq Agro had earlier imported around 200 Brahman cows

in five consignments -- a claim denied Sadeeq Agro, established on two acres of land in Mohammadpur's Beribadh area, has around 3,000 cows of different breeds. Many portions of the farm were set up by occupying a canal, alleged locals.

PAPERS ALL FAKE The Daily Star obtained three documents, submitted by Sadeeq Agro, under which Turkish Airlines brought the Brahman cows in its cargo plane on July 5. A Turkish Airlines official said various other goods were transported to Bangladesh on the same cargo aircraft these cows were flown in.

The documents -- a no objection certificate regarding the cattle import, a letter from the Animal Quarantine Division of the Department of Livestock Services, and the cattle import authorisation from the US -- were found to be fake by customs officials.

Agro Trade International was mentioned as the exporter under the address 7020 Hwy 75, South Madisonville, Texas.

The Daily Star, on July emailed the US consigner Agro Trade International listed -- asking if they had sent those cows to Sadeeq Agro for research purposes as claimed by the owner. This correspondent hasn't received a reply yet.

All three documents submitted by the importer, dated May 25, were signed by "Dr Mohammad Omar Farqe, assistant director (quarantine)

AC, Department of Livestock Services When showed the three documents,

was not aware of submitting any such documents to the Department of Livestock Services or to the fisheries and livestock ministry.

The Daily Star found an official named Mohammad Omar Faruque, an upazila livestock officer, now on deputation at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport as veterinary pathologist of the livestock quarantine

Contacted, Faruque said he never signed any documents provided by

"Actually, I don't have the authority to issue such documents on behalf of the department. Sadeeq Agro didn't even spell my name correctly," he said.

The mobile phone number mentioned in the documents does not belong to Faruque. On calling the number through the Truecaller app, the name that appears is one SM Reza.
This correspondent repeatedly

called this number for several days, only to find it switched off.

Dr Shaikh Azizur Rahman, director general of the livestock department, told The Daily Star on July 9 that all three documents are forged as the department didn't provide any such documents to Sadeeq Agro.

He also confirmed that import of Brahman cows is banned since 2016 and said, "How dare Sadeeq Agro import those cows with all those forged

documents!' CONTRADICTORY VERSIONS

On July 8, Imran claimed that Agro Trade International sent the Brahman cows for research and development purposes to see whether Bangladesh's tropical weather "suits the Brahman cow"

Asked whether they had got the NOC from the ministry concerned, he said they were yet to get it though they submitted the necessary papers several months back to the livestock department and the ministry. "The Covid-19 pandemic delayed the ministry's process.

But, he claimed, the consignor had sent the consignment in the meantime. The supplier made some mistakes while sending those cows, he said, without elaborating what kind of mistakes.

He contradicted his own statements a day later, saying he didn't actually provide any documents to the livestock department or the ministry for an NOC -- presuming that importing cattle for research and development purposes would not require an NOC.

He then said, "As it was a gift from Agro Trade International, that's why we had thought NOC will not be required for receiving these gifts.

At one stage, Imran showed a paper to this correspondent titled "US Origin Health Certificate for Export of Cattle to the Bangladesh from the United

States". Surprisingly, the certificate issue date was written in Bangla. Imran, also president of the

Bangladesh Dairy Farmers Association, claimed they had submitted all other documents to the respective authorities including customs. Asked why customs officials had seized the cows then, he said they did it

because Sadeeq Agro hadn't submitted an NOC. Imran said two months an agro farm named Dairy Sun in Dhaka had imported 30 Brahman cows, which

vere seized by customs officials. That farm later got those cows back after giving some penalty money to customs following filing of a case with the High Court, he said, adding his plan was to take the same course if his

cattle were not released by customs. Masudul Islam Jesun, managing director of Dairy Sun, admitted that they imported 30 Brahman cows though the farm only had an NOC for

importing Australian Friesian cows. As officials filed a case, the High Court asked customs to hand over those cows after paying a penalty. "We had to pay Tk 35 lakh to customs to release those cows," he added. WHAT TURKISH AIRLINES SAYS

Asked why and how they carried a cargo consignment although Sadeeq Agro's documents were fake, a top official of Turkish Airlines in Dhaka said it is not their task to verify the

papers provided by the importer and

agent of the consigner specially when the imported items are not sensitive. "According to our airline's rules, will just have to be sure whether the imported items are suitable for freighter service," he said, requesting anonymity, earlier this month.

The importer sent documents of livestock ministry to the consignor in the US and his agent chose our cargo service," he added

The official said as no representative from Sadeeq Agro was found after landing of the cargo aircraft. "The customs officials wanted to see the documents from us and they later found those to be totally fake. Md

Moazzem commissioner of Dhaka Customs House at HSIA, said they seized the cattle imported by Sadeeq Agro and sent these to the custody of the Central Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm, Savar, as the consignee could not submit the bill of entry.

Asked about legal measures customs can take, he said, "From the day of arrival, the consignee will get 21 days to submit all documents and then we will assess these. If they fail to give the documents, we will go for legal action,"

he told The Daily Star on Saturday.

Queried as to what could be the possible punishment for importing with forged documents,

#### Moazzem refused to comment further.

#### Govt to lower age bar to 30 years FROM PAGE 1 from different sources, including 33 the refugees, added the sources.

campaign and lower the age limit to 18 years, keeping in mind the

educational institutions. He, however, did not elaborate. Meeting sources said the government will start vaccinating people living in slum areas of the

capital after the Eid vacation as part of

its efforts to bring those with limited

access to internet and technology under its vaccination programme. As per the decision, people living in Karail slum will be vaccinated right after the Eid-ul-Azha to be celebrated

on July 21. The government also plans to buy another three crore doses of Sinopharm vaccine from China.

So far, around four percent of the country's population has been inoculated. The vaccination campaign, which was stalled due to a dearth of supply of AstraZeneca vaccine jabs from Serum Institute of India, resumed recently with the arrival of Sinopharm, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

The government has so far received 1.79 crore doses of Covid vaccines lakh jabs as gift from India and 11 lakh shots from China. As of July 17, a total of 1.11 crore

them got both the first and second Yesterday's meeting also decided to inoculate Rohingya refugees aged 55 and above. According to government data, 47,240 Rohingyas will be vaccinated at 62 centres at the refugee

people were inoculated -- 43 lakh of

camps in Cox's Bazar. Vaccine doses and necessary accessories have already dispatched to Cox's Bazar Civil Surgeon's office, sources said.

The vaccination campaign at the Rohingya camps will be assisted by the UNHCR, which will also help in issuing vaccination cards to the targeted population, they mentioned. Vaccination at the camps is likely

to start on August 16 and continue till August 24. Those who will miss out during this period will be vaccinated on August 25 and 26. The authorities are yet to decide on

which vaccine will be administered to

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

Bangladesh administering the first dose on April 26. The inoculation of first dose resumed on a limited scale this month with the arrival of Sinopharm and Pfizer vaccines. But the administering of the second

India.

Covishield jab among around 15 lakh people hangs in the balance due to suspension of supply from Serum, the largest vaccine producer in the world. Bangladesh is supposed to get 6.8

crore vaccine doses this year under

Covax facility. Those could cover around 20 percent of the population. But the country has so far received 1.06 lakh doses of Pfizer and 25 lakh doses of Moderna vaccines from

Covax. It will receive 30 lakh Moderna

vaccine jabs tonight under the facility.

sworn in as state minister for planning

UNB, Dhaka

Shamsul Alam, Ekushey Padak-winning economist, sworn in as the state minister for

state minioc. planning yesterday. administered the oath of office to the new state minister at the Bangabhaban. Liberation war affairs, law, home, agriculture, education, local

government and planning ministers were present at the function. Cabinet secretary conducted the

Shamsul served as a member of General Economy Division (GED) at the Planning Commission since 2009

before retiring as a senior secretary. He joined Bangladesh Agricultural University as a teacher in 1974 and continued teaching until 2009. He obtained honours and master's degrees from the same university.

Born on January 1, 1951, at Matlab Uttar in Chandpur, Shamsul received his post-graduate degree from Bangladesh Agricultural University in

1973. In 1983, he achieved a postgraduate degree in economics from Thammasat University, Bangkok, and obtained his PhD in the same subject

from Newcastle University in 1991. Shamsul received Ekushev Padak in 2020 for his contribution in the country's economy.

COLLEGE STUDENT'S DEATH

#### Her elder sister loses job at private bank

KHALID BIN NAZRUL, Cumilla The elder sister of the college student

who was found dead in a Gulshan flat on April 26 has been terminated from her job at Padma Bank. She alleged that she was terminated for refusing to withdraw a case filed

Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir over abetting her sister's death by suicide. A Padma Bank official, however, said she was terminated because of

against Bashundhara Group Managing

14 she received the termination letter signed by Padma Bank's HR head M Aȟsan UÍlah Khan on July 13.

her performance. The victim's elder sister said on July

This correspondent obtained a copy of the letter. "My sister was murdered. It is clear as daylight. Since her killing, I have been receiving threats from different quarters to withdraw the case against Anvir," she told The Daily Star the day

she got the termination letter. 'Ēven the HR head of Padma Bank called me over Whatsapp around a month back and asked me to compromise with Anvir and withdraw the case, or face termination," she

alleged. M Ahsan Ullah Khan, who is also a senior executive vice-president of the

bank, refuted the allegations. Contacted yesterday, he said, "She has been terminated as she failed to perform consistently. The elder sister of the college

show-cause notice or reminder about her performance before termination. "If my termination was based only on a performance evaluation, why was no one else in my team terminated for

bad performance?" she asked.

student said she was not given any

was seven weeks pregnant at the time of her death. forensic doctor conducted the autopsy and the investigation officer of the case confirmed it to me," she said while

Earlier, she claimed that her sister

talking to this correspondent. She alleged that Gulshan police is trying to conceal the vital evidence of

her sister's murder. Contacted, Abul Hasan, the IO of the case and also the officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, refused to make any comment about the case.

Masud Salauddin, a lawyer of the complainant, said, "In the inquest report the victim's bloodstained perineum proved that she was pregnant. The result of the DNA sample will be vital evidence in the

On April 26, the victim's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan in the bedroom of a Gulshan flat.

#### Japan landslide toll rises to 15

Агр, Токуо

The death toll in a landslide that hit the Japanese resort town of Atami has risen to 15, a local official said yesterday, as hundreds of rescuers continued the search for over a dozen missing residents.

"Two more people were confirmed dead during the weekend, with the number of victims now totalling 15, disaster-management spokesman Yuta Hara told AFP.



It is in nature's essence to rejuvenate itself. Flowers that die are replaced by ones that bloom anew, the place of yesterday's fallen leaf is taken up by the one born today. As burflowers (Kadam) bloom to usher in Srabon, here's to hoping this spirit of regeneration graces a country ravaged by the cruelty of a virus and shortcomings of a faltering system. This photo was taken yesterday from Suhrawardy Udyan.

# 'We have to run our universities keeping up with 21st century'

... Former DU VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique

RASHIDUL HASAN

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, noted educationist, as the 27th vice chancellor of Dhaka University from 2009 till 2017. A mass communication expert, he was appointed chairman of the board of directors at Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

The Daily Star recently spoke to him on the occasion of the birth centenary of DU where he discussed issues including decline of the university's position in international rankings, politics, teachers' appointment and role of university administration and his expectation.

The Daily Star (DS): How do you evaluate the spectacular journey of DU?

Prof Arefin: The main task of a university is to turn students into trained manpower with necessary human qualities. In this context, I think DU has played its role properly. At the same time, this university has gifted this country an independent

flag. This is such a big achievement that DU cannot be judged on the basis of the generalised definition of a university. But it is also true that DU along with other universities of Bangladesh is lagging behind in different indicators of world rankings. Here, we should keep in mind the lack of adequate investment for the current

state of education of the country.

DS: What should be done to improve the education quality?

**Prof Arefin:** If we compare the allocation between the front ranking universities and our universities, we will be able to understand this matter. After the Bangabandhu government, we have seen that the autocratic and military government didn't give due importance to the education sector, which has created a gap. Time has come to fill that void. We will have to run our universities in light of the demands of the 21st century.

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# Cattle sales yet to pick up steam

Buyers complain of high prices

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With only two days remaining before Eidul-Azha, selling of sacrificial animals is yet to gain momentum at markets in Dhaka.

Though a good number of cattle is available at the markets, buyers said the price is still high compared to that of last

Visiting various markets including Dhupkhola, Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground, Kachukhet, open space at Eastern Housing and Gabtoli yesterday, it was seen that small and middle size cattle were in high demand.

"I purchased two bulls for 1.66 lakh. I paid Tk 20,000 more for the same size cattle compared to last year," said Saiful Islam, a resident of Gulshan, who visited Dhupkhola market yesterday.

He said they have decided to purchase early this time as they do not want to face any crisis such as scarcity of sacrificial animals like last year.

Meanwhile, traders said the price of a two to three-maund bulls now are Tk 10,000 higher this year while the price of a four to six-maund bull is Tk 20,000 to Tk 30,000 more.

up, thev added.

Nizam, who brought six bulls from

Faridpur at cattle market in Dholaikhal, "I purchased a bull (four-maund) for Tk 1 lakh from a local market two months back. I am planning to sell the animal at Tk 1.30 lakh.

Mohammad Milon, a trader from Kushtia, said he sold his 12 and 14-maund bulls to an industrialist for Tk 5 lakh.

He said as the number of customers is very poor as of yesterday evening, he had to sell two of his four bulls early without much profit.

"I will try to make some extra money by selling the rest two bulls on the last day," said a hopeful Milon, who started his farming business last year.

Md Shawkat, a trader of Chuadanga who brought six bulls to Dhupkhola market, said though there were sufficient cattle at the market, the number of buyers

"Hopefully, it will increase from Monday," he added.

Meanwhile, with adequate supply of bulls at the markets, the price of goats remained the same like last year, said Ramzan Ali, a goat trader in Gabtoli.

Besides, every year more than a dozen camels were seen at Gabtoli, but this year They blamed the high price of food as the picture is completely different as the the reason. Also, the price of meat went government did not allow traders to bring

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



With the capital's cattle markets yet to draw customers, traders were seen lazying away their time during the weekend. At Aftabnagar's cattle haat, buyers were nowhere to be found around Saturday noon. So these traders decided to sleep their time through the day's gruelling heat. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

#### Doraiswami to discuss prompt vaccine supply

Indian envoy off to Delhi STAR REPORT

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami has left for India to discuss quick vaccine supply to Bangladesh.

"Production of Covid-19 vaccines in India has increased. At the same time, demand for vaccine also went up. I am going to Delhi to discuss how quickly the vaccine manufactured in India can be supplied to Bangladesh," Doraiswami said, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

"I hope there will be something good soon," he told reporters at the Akhaura International Immigration Check Post through which he entered India at about

9am yesterday. He could not say for sure when the vaccine supply from India to Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# 8 killed, 49 hurt in road crashes

Five die in Rangpur alone

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed 49 were injured in road accidents n three districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Rangpur, five people were killed and around 40 injured in a head-on collision between two buses on Rangpur-Bogura highway in Mithapukur upazila. Abdul Matin (50) from Pirganj in Rangpur, Ahsan Habib

27) from Syedpur in Nilphamari, Abdul Khalil (50) from Dhamrai in Dhaka, Babli Begum (9), daughter of Md Babu from Sadullahpur in Gaibandha and Kabir Uddin (45) from Sundarganj in Gaibandha died on the spot, said police.

Police quoted witnesses as saying that a bus of Selfie Enterprise was moving towards Rangpur from Dhaka. As it arrived near Boldipukur village in Mithapukur around 7:30am, the driver suddenly lost control over the steering and collided with another bus of Joyana Paribahan.

All the deceased were travelling on Selfie Enterprise bus, said police, adding that its driver was among them.

SEE PAGE 4

#### Couple remanded for torturing minor

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed a lawyer and her husband on a one-day remand each in a case filed over torturing their 12-yearold house help in the city's Topkhana Road

The accused are advocate Nahid Jahan Akhi (28), and her husband Tanvir Ahsan Pavel (32). Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Abu

Sayeed passed the order after Shahbagh Police Station Sub-Inspector Jahangir Hossain, investigation officer of the case, submitted a seven-day remand prayer before the court.

In the prayer, the IO said the couple used to torture their house help on a regular basis over trivial matter. So, they need to be remanded to gather information.

On the other hand, defence for the couple, submitted a petition seeking bail along with cancellation of the remand prayer.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### BOLSTERING BILATERAL TIES

#### Kuwait proposes forming ministerlevel committee

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

will resume.

Kuwait has proposed of forming a joint committee at the foreign minister level with Bangladesh, as both countries seek to strengthen relations.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah made the proposal as he held a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on the sidelines of a connectivity conference in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on Saturday.

During the meeting, the Kuwait Foreign Minister also sought Bangladesh's assistance and cooperation in strengthening health institutions, food security, education, IT, and cyber security of both the brotherly countries.

Momen expressed his willingness to continue peacekeeping troops, establish a Forum of South-South Finance Development, while hoping that Kuwait recruits more Bangladesh skilled workers and create more favorable environment for Bangladesh businesspersons in Kuwait. Momen also requested Kuwait to assist Bangladesh under

Kuwait Development Fund. The minister expressed his gratitude to Kuwait government

for supporting resolution on Human Right Commission on the repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar from Bangladesh. Two leaders expressed their willingness to visit each other's country after the improvement of pandemic

# Currency counterfeiters on the prowl around Eid

Money counterfeiting gangs are active again ahead of Eid-ul-Azha as it is relatively easier for them to circulate fake notes in cattle markets, according to law enforcers.

About 10-12 such gangs having around 100 members are busy mainly in Dhaka and some other cities making fake notes to cheat cattle traders and shoppers, they

law enforcers said a good amount of fake notes are already in circulation.

Keeping this in mind, authorities have already taken initiatives to increase precautions including installation of fake note detection machines at cattle markets.

Law enforcers claimed that students, drug dealers, hospital brokers, smugglers, garment traders and various others are involved in this illegal activity.

In a drive in Dhaka's Badda on July 12, detectives arrested five members of a gang including garments trader Helal Khan along with counterfeit notes worth Tk 43 lakh and note-making equipment.

Police said the gang's target was to make over a crore fake note and spread those in shops and cattle markets.



A yaba trader and addict, Helal incurred loss in garments business and then hired fake note making expert one Abdur Rahim Sheikh, said Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Gulshan division) of DMP's Detective Branch of police.

He said they suspect around Tk 2 core worth of fake currency has already been circulated by the gangs.

In another drive on May 2, DB arrested three persons including Imam Hossain and Md Pias, who completed their diploma from a government polytechnic college, in connection with note forgery from Kamrangichar.

They joined hands with the leader of a note forgery gang, Jiban Hossain, who SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# 45pc DU students don't want online exam, finds survey

ASIFUR RAHMAN and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Around 45 percent students of Dhaka University don't want to take part in online exams because of network issues, lack of proper devices, and unfavourable domestic environment, a recent survey has revealed.

Of the rest, 52.7 percent of participating students stated they are willing to attend the exams while the others said they aren't sure yet. The Social Science Research Team of Dhaka University Research Society (DURS) conducted the survey. Conducted online from June 1 to June 15,

a total of 3,730 students participated in the survey. Meanwhile, those who are willing to take part in online exams said they don't want to take part in live video exams, the preferred method according to a recent DU guideline.

According to the exam guidelines, the university wants to hold its exams

through live videos, which very few participants were interested in. Only 4.2 percent of students said they want to take part in such exams. Meanwhile, 87.4 percent students preferred assignment-based exams, while other preferences included open book exam (21.1 percent), MCQ

(19.6 percent), and short quiz (19.4 percent). Tawhida Jahan, chairperson of the Communication Disorders department told The Daily Star, "The survey found that students want to attend the test by submitting assignments, but DU administration is not positive in this regard. They think it'll be difficult to assess students' merit through assignments.



Two days before the Eid holiday begins, yesterday saw the capital's roads packed with vehicles. As frequent traffic lights were the norm, yesterday was far removed from the relative calm of the strict lockdown days. This photo was taken from Teigaon flyover around noon. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

GRAFT CASE

#### Passport official, wife sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Md Motaleb Hossain, a deputy assistant director of Directorate of Immigration and Passports, and his wife Israt Jahan to jail after rejecting their bail petitions in two graft cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the orders after the couple surrendered before it seeking bail.

During the hearing, Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder told the court that his clients were implicated as part of a conspiracy to harass them. He prayed for granting their bail. Special Public Prosecutor Ruhul Amin

opposed the bail petitions, saying that Motaleb is an employee with a small salary while Israt is a housewife. But they earned huge amounts of money through illegal means. Their bail petitions should be rejected. Upon hearing both sides, the judge

turned down the defence pleas and sent the couple to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Former IGP AYBI Siddiqi no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police (IGP) and secretary to the government AYBI Siddiqi passed away early

He breathed his last at 1:03am at United Hospital in the capital where he

was undergoing treatment for cancer. He was 76, said a Police Headquarters press release.

AYBI Siddiqi was born in Sitakunda of Chattogram in 1945. He joined Bangladesh police as an assistant superintendent in 1970 and served as the IGP from September 27 in 1998 to June 7 in 2000 with efficiency and reputation, said the release.

In 1989, he was commander of the first civilian peacekeeping contingent from Bangladesh to a UN mission to Namibia. Subsequently, he served as head of Bangladesh High Commission to Namibia, having previously served at the diplomatic mission in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

He was also a renowned presenter and singer on TV.

He is survived by his wife Rehana Siddiqi, daughter Husna Siddiqi-Lawson, son-in-law Richard Lawson, son Lutfey Siddiqi and daughter-in-law Deborah Siddiqi, and grandchildren Aaryan, Ishaan, Shirin and Tulinn.

His first namaj-e-janaza was held at Rajarbagh Police Lines at 10:30am yesterday, attended by the IGP, top police officials and relatives. After a second janaza at his village home he was buried in his family graveyard.



16 factories recycling lead knocked down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday demolished 16 factories that were illegally recycling lead and aluminium and jailed 13 people in this connection at Konapara of Demra in the capital.

A team of DoE led by Syed Ahmed Kabir, deputy director (enforcement) of Dhaka (metro), conducted the daylong drive after locals alleged that those factories were being run at night and smoke from the factories was deteriorating the area's air quality.

Kabir said the factories have been operating for a few years without obtaining necessary clearance from DoE.

They used to melt expired batteries, resulting in smoke that poses serious health threat, he said.

# 45pc DU students whom use

"But given the students' inconveniences, they ought to reconsider," she added.

Among the respondents, 44.5 percent said they are currently residing in rural areas, 15.7 percent in small city areas, 19.3 percent in cities, and 20.5 percent are from metropolitan city areas. All of them are from different faculties and institutes of the university.

Some 56.4 percent of those who said they are unwilling to take part in online tests put unstable internet in rural households as the key reason.

36.1 percent also attributed powersupply failures, while 45.7 cited inconvenient environment at home. 22.2 percent blamed their lack of necessary digital devices while 16.6 percent cited their inability to afford such devices or mobile data.

Of them, 52.3 percent of students said they want to take part in in-person exams and 16.1 percent supported auto-promotion.

85 percent of the respondents said they took part in online classes by using mobile phones, 64 percent of

whom used mobile data. Among them, 26.4 percent applied to get a device or financial assistance from the university, but didn't get any. Only 3.4 percent said they had availed the aid from their respective departments.

Contacted, Pro VC (Education) of DU Prof Dr ASM Maksud Kamal told The Daily Star, "We have readied the specific guidelines for taking exams online. We told the departments to address the students' inconveniences and resolve them."

Meanwhile, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman told The Daily Star, "We have lots of limitations but there is no option but to hold online examinations."

"We have recommended different methods for the exams. Teachers can choose a method which fits their students' needs," he said.

The VC and Pro-VC didn't make any comments on the financial help issue. The Pro-VC said he didn't know any update while the VC said the university's accounts department is handling the issue.

Asked, Sohrab Hossain, director of accounts at DU, said they have finalised a list to provide soft loans to students.

ONLINE CLASS EXPERIENCE

Surveying students' experience of online classes, it also found that the academic syllabus of 53.7 percent of participants was incomplete. Only 2.7 percent of the students

said they are satisfied with the classes whereas 46.7 percent of them are highly dissatisfied.

On the other hand, 23.9 percent of the students said they are "satisfied" while only 2.8 percent were "fully satisfied" with their online classes.

DURS conducted the research under the supervision of Professor Muhammad Manjurul Karim of Microbiology department and Jahan, chairperson of Tawhida Communication Disorders department.

Tanbirul Muhammad Sumaiya Imtiaz, Md Atikuzzaman, Jawad Shams, Ragib Anjum, Sumaiya Ahmed, Omar Farukh and more also worked behind the survey.

## Couple FROM PAGE 3

Upon hearing both the sides, the magistrate turned down their pleas and placed them on remand.

Meantime, the victim yesterday gave a judicial statement to a magistrate where she narrated how she was tortured.

A police team rescued a 12-year-old house help Sweety after a neighbour of her employer shared her photographs on social media, which a journalist later forwarded to the police's official Facebook page on July 3.

Sweety was admitted to one-stop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College

Hospital for treatment. According to police, the girl has bruises in different body parts, including her face, and burn wounds on

#### Borno Chakroborty dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Musician Borno Chakroborty passed away with Covid-19 at a city hospital on Saturday. The 33-year-old singer tested positive for the virus earlier this month.

"Borno breathed his last at 10:41pm yesterday [Saturday] while being treated at Better Life Hospital," confirmed singer Fahmida Nabi.

Singer-songwriter and Composer Joy Shahriar said Borno had been undergoing treatment at the hospital since July 6.

Borno grew up in music from a young age. In addition to singing, he made music videos, tele-fictions, advertisements and documentaries. His first solo album, titled "Boka Pakhi", was released on April 9.

"We studied together in the film and media department at Stamford University; what a wonderful time we had together, what a wonderful privilege to have a great man like him as a friend," wrote guitarist and music director Emon Chowdhury on Facebook.

Various singers, composers, music directors and cultural personalities expressed deep shock at his death.

#### **Passport**

FROM PAGE 3

ACC Deputy Director Abu Bakar Siddique filed the cases with its Integrated District Office, Dhaka-1 on June 30.

According prosecution, it was alleged that Motaleb acquired wealth of Tk 41,23,389 illegally and concealed wealth statement of Tk 10,79,378 to ACC from 2004 to 2020.

Motaleb also bought 494 decimals of properties at his village home of Mirzaganj in Patuakhali district under his name even though he withdraws Tk 28,000 as salary per month.

According to prosecution, it was alleged that Israt acquired wealth of Tk 3.08 crore through illegal means and concealed wealth statement of Tk 99.98 lakh to ACC from 2009 to 2020.

#### Currency

used to pay each of them Tk 22,000 per month apparently.

"Some unscrupulous traders try to make fake currency targeting Eid, but we have increased our vigilance," Commander Khandaker Al-Moin, director, Legal and Media wing of Rab, told The Daily Star on

He said they have already conducted drives in Rajshahi and Jatrabari and Mohammadpur in Dhaka, and arrested several members of such gangs and seized

The Rab official said they have also set up camps with fake currency detection machines at important cattle markets. He said their members are also randomly checking notes with the detection machines at different places.

#### MOST HAVE ARREST RECORDS

Leaders and members of all most all the gangs had been arrested with fake notes and equipment before as law enforcers busted their factories, but they again started the illegal trade after getting out on bails, law enforcers said.

Take the example of Abdur Rahim Sheikh, and his wife Fatema Begum who were arrested with three others in the July 12 during the Badda raid.

Fatema was caught while making

counterfeit notes at a house in Hatirjheel area in 2019, but her husband Rahim escaped.

On June 28 in 2015, Rab busted a fake currency making factory in the capital's Banashree and arrested Rahim Sheikh, his first wife Fatema, second wife Rubina Khatun and two associates. Fake notes worth around Tk 1.05 crore and currency making materials were also seized from them.

"To my knowledge, most gang leaders and others involved had been arrested several times before. After getting out on bails, they again get involved in the illegal activities," said DB official Mashiur.

#### PRINTING TO CIRCULATION

Printing and circulation of fake notes take place in three phases, said law enforcers.

One group supplies special paper and prepare those with colour, watermarks and security thread while another prints the counterfeit notes. A third group circulates them, according to DB investigators who quizzed the criminals.

The production cost of fake notes worth Tk 1 lakh with Tk 1,000 note denomination ranges between Tk 5,000 to Tk 6,000.

They used to sell Tk 1 lakh in fake money to dealers and wholesalers at Tk 10,000. The wholesalers then sell those to retailers for Tk 15,000 to Tk 22,000, said officials.

#### Cattle sales

Cattle trader Amzad Hossain brought the lone camel to the market.

He said he reared it for around four years. "I bought five camels from abroad five years ago and had sold four already," said Amzad, who is charging Tk 25 lakh for the

Amzad also brought 11 buffaloes to the market for

"I've sold six ash buffaloes for Tk 6 lakh each and I'm waiting to sell the remaining two for the same price," said

He further said the price of a white buffalo is Tk 3.30 lakh as it is smaller than the ash one. He is also selling 20 butti (small sized bulls) bulls for Tk 40,000 to 50,000

A trader was also seen selling rams at Gabtali cattle market for Tk 2 lakh each. The two rams remained unsold till yesterday night.

The Indian government had gifted 3.03 lakh vaccines to

Bangladesh while the Serum Institute of India had supplied

only 7 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses in January and

February this year, though it was contracted to supply 30

India had halted export of vaccines in March with the

Bangladesh, meanwhile, has started receiving supplies

China, meanwhile, gifted 1.1 million Sinopharm

Japan has announced providing 2.9 million AstraZeneca

Bangladesh is also at the final stage of a deal to buy 1

Besides, Bangladesh is discussing co-production of

vaccines both with Russia and China. China recently said

it is waiting for Bangladesh government's nod for starting

vaccine production in a Bangladeshi vaccine manufacturing

from COVAX. Under it, US has supplied 2.6 million

vaccines and 3 million Moderna vaccines are scheduled to

vaccines and supplied 4 million of the contracted 15

and European Union will provide 1 million under COVAX

Doraiswami

million doses by June.

arrive today (Monday).

huge rise in infections in India.

#### university curriculum? **Prof Arefin:** We will have to think if we are creating new departments in coordination

job market, how should we formulate the

with the advancement of the country's industry. We will have to think whether we are giving practical education to our

We have to

DS: In view of the diversity in the current

students. For this, it's imperative to keep an internship system for students in collaboration with those who are involved with the sector. The time of only theoretical education is gone. The education at universities should be completed with both

practical and theoretical education.

One thing we should consider is that per head expenditure of Harvard or Princeton universities is far higher compared to our universities. Despite this, our students are doing well in the equivalent competition when they go to Harvard, Princeton or Yale.

DS: How should a modern and progressive university administration work?

Prof Arefin: Rabindranath Tagore said a student will respect his teacher and vice versa. This should be the relation between them. Rabindranath did not say affectionate relationship but a respectful one. The administration will have to show a liberal attitude while running the universities.

DS: How do you see the teachers' and students' politics in the university?

Prof Arefin: Politics is the driving force in today's world. It is impossible to run a country without having political knowledge. University students will lead the country in the days to come. But that politics will have to be based on patriotism. In the past, we have seen that student organisations took decisions and ran their activities on their own. But now we see that most of the student organisations are the front organisation of different political parties.

This culture was not in the universities

in the past. The then military government introduced that culture after the assassination of Bangabandhu. This has damaged student politics in many ways. I think the time has come for the political parties to take decision in unison to free their respective student organisations so that they can run independently. We need to bring student politics on the right track. Teachers will also do politics at the universities in such a way so that it does not impact students' thinking and conscience. Teachers should remain careful so that no student is affected academically or other way due to their politics.

DS: What should be the proper process for recruiting university teachers?

Prof Arefin: A teacher is the backbone of education. A teacher builds a student. We will have to turn back to Rabindranath as he said the main aim of education is to become a good human being. That's the responsibility of a teacher. That's why, while appointing a teacher, we will have to give importance whether s/he is a good human being apart from giving importance to their academic result. Besides, we will have to look into their research works and other related activities.

We are paying dearly now due to recruiting teachers only on the basis of academic results. We are now seeing that a bureaucrat or a teacher or any other professional after getting appointment only on the basis of merit are getting involved with corruption.

DS: What is the expectation from the university (DU) on the occasion of its 100year journey?

Prof Arefin: Dhaka University is the heart of Bangladesh. I hope DU will move forward in the next 100 years with more pace. I want our next generation and their next generation to become good human beings upholding the spirit of the country's Liberation War and the glory and heritage of Dhaka University.

Request for Proposal (RFP): Conduct Baseline, midline and endline study on Knowledge, Attitude, Practices, and Norms (KAPN) related to Violence Against Children (VAC), harmful practices affecting children including Children with disabilities (CwD).

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2021-9168617

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

The deadline to submit the proposal is Monday, 16 August 2021; Time: 11:00 Hrs

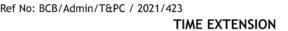
Pre-bid Meeting Date: Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation



# unicef lor every child

Invitation for ENLISTMENT



Bangladesh Cricket Board

Date: 19th July, 2021

This has reference to the Invitation for Enlistment advertisement published in the National dailies i.e. Daily Ittefaq, Bangladesh Protidin, Daily Star & Daily Kaler Kontho on 25th June 2021 (Ref: BCB / Admin / T&PC/376).

Please be informed that the last date for submission of Invitation for Enlistment has now been extended till Tuesday 31st August 2021.

As a result, the Invitation for Enlistment can be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh till the extended deadline of Tuesday 31st August 2021 and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board.

The BCB reserves the right to cancel or make any changes in the terms to the entire process at any stage and to accept or reject any application for enlistment at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Chief Executive Officer** Bangladesh Cricket Board Sher-E-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216 Tel: +880 2 8031001-4, Fax: 803 1199

#### 8 killed

crore Sputnik V from Russia.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot, rescued the injured and took them to different hospitals, including Mithapukur Upazila Health Complex and Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Mithapukur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Amirul Islam said the condition of six injured were stated to be critical.

Other injured were released after primary treatment, he said.

In Jashore, two people were killed and nine others injured as a truck, pickup and a private car collided in the town's Arabpur Dighirpar area in themorning.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Alim (35) from Mejerhuda village and Zahurul Islam (52) from Goalhuda village in Jibannagar, Chuadanga.

Two injured were admitted to Jashore General Hospital and the other seven took first aid, said police. In Faridpur, a man was killed as a truck being hit by a

bus from behind ran him over on Nuru Mia Bypass road in Sadar upazila. The deceased -- identified as Nunul Islam (60) from

Gatiapara in Sharsha upazila -- was a day labourer.



Agency

594864

#### Sylhet City Corporation Bandal Co Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet





Memo No. 46.07.0000.018.99.025.19.102

www.scc.gov.bd

Date: 18/07/2021

e-Tender Notice-02/2021-22

Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Co-Ministry/Division operatives. Sylhet City Corporation. Vertical Extension of Nagar Bhaban of Sylhet City Corporation. Budget and source of funds Name of the work Last date of tender submission

to 11th Floor) including Rainwater Reservoir and electrical works. Name, designation & address Engr. Md. Ali Akbar, Executive Engineer, Sylhet City Corporation, 0821-714036 This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website

Construction of Nagar Bhaban of Sylhet City Corporation (6th Floor

www.eprocure.gov.bd 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP

help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). **Executive Engineer** GD-1360

Sylhet City Corporation



Sudden erosion by the Jamuna river washed away at least 20 houses and a mosque in Sirajganj's Shahzadpur upazila on Wednesday.

PHOTO: **STAR** 

# Swelling Jamuna devours fresh areas in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 20 homesteads, one mosque and several other small establishments were rubbed away in a sudden erosion in the Jamuna at Pachil Shorifer More point in Sirajganj's Shahzadpur upazila on Wednesday.

Around a hundred establishments were destroyed this season in the upazila.

Kohinur Begum, one of the victims living in Pachil Shorifer More point, told The Daily Star that her tin-shed house was devoured in the Jamuna within half an hour. "I could not save most of my household things."

She also said, "Cracks formed around my home at noon and we started taking preparation to shift home.

"Suddenly the river started roaring and started devouring my homestead, within half an hour my house went into the Jamuna."

Like Kohinur Begum, devastating Jamuna has devoured over 20 residential homes and a mosque of 100-meter area at Shorifer More point.

The erosion continues devouring over 40 to 50 homesteads in the village. Most of the residents could not save their household things and took shelter in flood protection embankment.

Locals alleged that the WDB dumped

GO bags into the river a month ago, but the GO bags eroded and started devouring homesteads and river beds in the area.

"The erosion begins very quickly and we cannot save most of the things," Abdus Sattar, another victim, said.

"We have taken shelter here in the flood protection embankment, living inhumanly as most of us have no scope to create makeshift rooms again," he claimed.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shahzadpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shah Mohammad Samsuzzoha said, the river erosion continued over the last one month at the Pachil, Sharifer More, Koijuri, Jalalpur and adjoining areas in the Shahzadpur upazila.

Over a hundred people become homeless due to the ongoing river erosion, the UNO said.

We are giving them food support now,



and we have a plan to give more support for rebuilding their homes soon, the UNO

Talked to the Daily Star, Shafikul Islam, executive engineer of Sirajganj water development board (WDB), however, said the protection work is going in five places in Shahzadpur upazila.

"Riverside land of Shorifer More and adjoining areas is too week to keep homesteads. As the water level is increasing and decreasing the soil beside the river is eroding rapidly causes sudden erosion." Shafikul said, adding that most probably

it was once river land and the people make their homesteads as shoal awakened.

"We are working to protect the erosion but we don't run permanent protection work here at this moment. After removing flood water we will start permanent protection work." Shafikul added.

Meanwhile, over 30 to 40 homesteads, a mosque, a market, a community clinic and a few hundred acres of cultivated land at the Khaspukuria and Baghutia union of Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj have been devoured in the Jamuna river over the last couple of weeks.

Talked to The Daily Star, Chowhali UNO Afsana Yeasmin said the massive erosion remained active at Baghutia for the last couple of weeks.

Tangail water development board has started protection work here in the affected areas she claimed.

Talked with the Daily Star, Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Tangail WDB, however, claimed the erosion continues in the low laying areas.

They have started protection work to save from ongoing erosion, he added.

SMART HAAT

# Digital cattle market gaining popularity amid Covid surge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Smart Haat, an innovative digital cattle market in Moulvibazar, has started selling sacrificial animals online in an attempt to reduce the health risks of the buyers and sellers.

The digital platform is gradually gaining popularity among the local buyers and sellers.

Moulvibazar district administration has launched the online platform, with a hotline number, in all the upazilas of the district.

According to the district administration, detail information including description of the sacrificial animals, videos, still pictures, weight, prices and even names and addresses of the sellers or farmers are added in the website. Buyers and sellers will be able to complete their cattle

purchase from home using the website. Sobhan Mia, a farmer from Pachgaon village in Rajnagar upazila, said he sold one of his cattle in the online based

upazila, said he sold one of his cattle in the online based platform on Saturday without any hassle. Usually they have to stay with their cattle during the haat

day.

Humayun Ahmed, a retired college teacher in Kulaura upazila, said the ongoing coronavirus infection rates are so

high that managing sacrificial animal market is very risky.

Arranging such online cattle market is a timely taken initiative and also important to curb the public gathering and avoid health risks, Humayun added.

Like Sobhan and Humayun many locals said the innovative platform has made buying and selling of sacrificial animals much easier and risk free.

Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mir Nahid Ahsan said a buyer can avoid the crowds by visiting the website www.smarthaat.org and select his favourite animal from different types of sacrificial animals for sale.

Then he will be connected with the seller directly through the website admins, He said.

Besides, there will also be an upazila-based hotline number so that buyers and sellers can communicate with each other, the DC added.



Date: 15/07/2021



This bridge, built over Bedakhali canal at Tugholdia village in Faridpur's Saltha upazila nearly two years ago, lies unusable due to lack of approach roads on both sides. Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management built the 40-feet long bridge in 2018-2019 fiscal year spending over Tk 31 lakh.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS







#### বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন

বিএসইসি/প্রশাসন/১০:১৩/২০২০-৭২৭



১৮ জুলাই ২০২১

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্চ কমিশন এর ১৯ জুন ২০২১ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত সহকারী পরিচালক পদের লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইট www.sec.gov.bd এ প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে।

লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণ তাঁদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার প্রবেশ পত্র কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইট থেকে ডাউনলোড করতে পারবেন।

মৌখিক পরীক্ষার প্রবেশ পত্র ডাউনলোড এর জন্য নিন্মের QR কোড স্ক্যান করুন।



প্রাণ্ডিক জালাল উদ্দিন আহমেদ উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue (NBR)
Internal Resources Division (IRD)
Ministry of Finance

#### Corrigendum-4

**Tender Name:** Procurement of Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing of 6 units fixed X-ray Container Scanners, 12 Units of Radioactive Portal Monitors, 6 Units Weighbridge and Central Image Monitoring System and Regional Image Monitoring System and interfacing between Central and Local Image Monitoring System to the X-ray Container Scanner along with the weigh bridge and ASYCUDA World system and 5 years Operation, Maintenance and Service.

**Tender Number:** File-08.01.0000.067.82.001.20 **Corrigendum No:** File-08.01.0000.067.82.001.20

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender invitation notice published for "Procurement of Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing of 6 units fixed X-ray Container Scanners, 12 Units of Radioactive Portal Monitors, 6 Units Weighbridge and Central Image Monitoring System and Regional Image Monitoring System and interfacing between Central and Local Image Monitoring System to the X-ray Container Scanner along with the weigh bridge and ASYCUDA World system and 5 years Operation, Maintenance and Service." has been changed as follows:

Serial Number as per invitation	Description of the content	As per Tender Schedule Content	Amended Content
notice			
16	Tender Last	02/08/2021,	24/08/2021,
	Selling date	Time-3.00 PM	Time-3.00 PM
17	Tender Closing	03/08/2021	25/08/2021
	Date & Time	Time-3.00 PM	Time-3.00 PM
18	Tender Opening	03/08/2021	25/08/2021
	Time	Time-3.40 PM	Time-3.40 PM

Tender Schedule	Description of the content	Existing Content	Previous Amended Content
Tender Data Sheet, Page no-36	ITT 36.1	The deadline for submission of tenders is: Time & Date: 03/08/2021 at 3.00	The deadline for submission of Tenders is:
		PM	Time & Date: 25/08/2021 at 3.00 PM
Tender Data Sheet, Page no-36	ITT 42.2	The deadline for opening of Tenders is:	The deadline for opening of Tenders is:
		Time & Date: 03/08/2021 at 3.40 PM	Time & Date: 25/08/2021 at 3.40 PM

02. All other terms and conditions of the tender document will remain unchanged.



# 'Strenuously favours political settlement'

Taliban leader on Afghan conflict; daughter of Afghan envoy to Pak briefly kidnapped

The Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada vesterday said he "strenuously favours" a political settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan even as the hardline Islamist movement has launched a sweeping offensive across the nation.

announcement comes representatives of the Afghan government and Taliban insurgents sat down for a new round of talks in Doha over the weekend, stirring hopes that the long stalled peace talks were being resuscitated.

"In spite of the military gains and advances, the Islamic Emirate strenuously favors a political settlement in the country, Akhundzada said in a message released ahead of next week's Muslim holiday of Eid

"Every opportunity for the establishment of an Islamic system, peace and security that presents itself will be made use of by the Islamic Emirate," he added.

For months, the two sides have been meeting on and off in the Qatari capital, but have achieved little if any notable success with the discussions appearing to have lost momentum as the militants made enormous gains on the battlefield.

The two sides were due to talk again

The Taliban leader said his group remained committed to forging a solution to end the war but slammed "the opposition parties" for "wasting time".

'Our message remains that instead of relying on foreigners, let us resolve our issues among ourselves and rescue our homeland from the prevailing crisis," he Meanwhile, the daughter of Afghanistan's

ambassador to Pakistan was briefly kidnapped while on her way home in the capital Islamabad, the governments of both countries said Saturday. Silsila Alikhil was abducted for several

hours and "severely tortured by unknown individuals", Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. 'After being released from the kidnappers'

Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul was summoned to lodge a formal complaint, the ministry added.

captivity Ms Alikhil is under medical care at

hospital," the statement said.



Anti-government protesters march toward the Government House, demanding Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's resignation, mandatory vaccination policy and reform in the monarchy, in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. The kingdom is currently facing its worst-ever Covid-19 wave, registering record numbers of cases daily as hospitals buckle under pressure.

# animals in Kashmir

Say Indian officials

AP, Srinagar

Authorities in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Friday said there is no ban on the sacrifice of animals during the upcoming Islamic Eid al-Adha holiday, a day after the government asked law enforcers to stop the sacrifice of cows, calves, camels and other animals.

GLSharma, a senior government official, said the earlier communication was "misconstrued," and the government had been seeking proper transportation of animals and the prevention of cruelty during the Muslim

"The letter was sent to enforcement agencies to enforce the laws of the Animal Welfare Board and it is at the time there is mass slaughter of animals to prevent cruelty on animals," Sharma said, according to the local news portal The Kashmir Walla.

This is not a ban on slaughter and sacrifice."

A government communication addressed to civil and police authorities in the region on Thursday asked them to stop "illegal killing/sacrifices of cows/calves, camels & other animals," citing animal welfare laws.

Muslims traditionally mark Eid al-Adha, or Feast of Sacrifice, by offering special prayers and slaughtering livestock, usually a goat, sheep, a cow or a camel, to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim's test of faith.

The meat of the sacrificed animals is shared among family and friends and poor people who cannot afford to sacrifice animals.

# No ban on sacrifice of DACA ruling 'disappointing'

Says Biden, promises to appeal federal judge's decision on Obama-era immigration program, urges Congress to act

REUTERS, Washington

President Joe Biden on Saturday vowed to preserve a program that protects from deportation hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the United States as children, promising to appeal a judge's "deeply disappointing" ruling invalidating it and urging Congress to provide them a path to citizenship.

US District Judge Andrew Hanen on Friday ruled in favor of a group of states led by Republican-governed Texas that sued to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Hanen concluded that Democratic former President Barack Obama exceeded his powers when he created DACA in 2012 by executive action, bypassing Congress.

People protected under DACA are often called "Dreamers," based on the name of a proposed immigration overhaul that failed to pass Congress.



Biden said in a statement that the Justice Department will appeal Hanen's ruling. The Democratic president also said the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees immigration issues, will soon issue a new regulation intended to strengthen DACA's legal standing.

Hanen, a Texas-based judge appointed by Republican former President George W. Bush, found that DACA violated a federal law called the Administrative Procedure Act when it was created. Hanen said

that because large numbers of people are enrolled in the program - nearly 650,000 - his ruling would be put on hold temporarily, but suspended new DACA applications.

"Yesterday's federal court ruling is deeply disappointing," Biden said. "While the court's order does not now affect current DACA recipients, this decision nonetheless relegates hundreds of thousands of young immigrants to an uncertain future."

"But only Congress can ensure permanent solution by granting a path to citizenship for Dreamers that will provide the certainty and stability that these young people need and deserve," added Biden, who was vice president when Obama created DACA

The road to congressional action is complicated. Democrats control the Senate and House of Representatives

# in brief

#### Zuma graft trial to resume

despite S Africa protests

The dragging corruption trial of South Africa's jailed ex-president Jacob Zuma resumes today despite deadly violence that swept the nation after his imprisonment in an unrelated case. Zuma faces 16 charges of fraud, graft and racketeering related to a 1999 purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and military gear from five European arms firms when he was South Africa's deputy president, reports AFP. He is accused of pocketing four million rand (\$277,000) in bribes from one of the firms, French defence giant Thales. The trial started in May after numerous postponements and delays, as Zuma's legal team worked fervently to have the charges dropped.



#### Wildfires in US, Canada stretch firefighters' resources

With wildfires in the drought-hit western United States and Canada continuing to scorch vast areas, firefighting resources are being severely stretched, authorities said Saturday More than 2,100 firefighters were again

struggling to contain the vast Bootleg Fire raging in southern Oregon, near the border with California. Some were forced to retreat as the fire spread amid the fourth intense heatwave of the summer, reports AFP. California, hit by its own wildfires, vowed to send firefighters to help out in Oregon. And Canada was bringing in some 100 firefighters from Mexico to bolster their exhausted counterparts in northwestern Ontario, provincial authorities announced.

#### Svria's Assad takes oath after much maligned re-election

President Bashar al-Assad took the oath of office for a fourth term in war-ravaged Syria on Saturday, after officially winning 95 percent of the vote in an election dismissed abroad. It was the second presidential poll since the start of a decade-long civil war that has killed almost half a million people and battered the country's infrastructure. Shortly before the ceremony, rockets fired by pro-government forces killed six people including three children and a rescue worker in the country's last major rebel bastion of Idlib, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. An AFP correspondent in the village of Sarja saw men work hurriedly to remove bodies from the rubble of a collapsed home, before carrying one away in a red blanket.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Two men clear a street from the mud, next to the river Salzach after heavy rainfall and flood caused major damage in Marktschellenberg, South eastern Bavaria, Germany yesterday. German Chancellor Angela Merkel described the flooding that has devastated parts of Europe as "terrifying" after the death toll across the region rose to 184 as a district of Bavaria was battered by the extreme weather.

#### **HEAVY MONSOON RAINS IN MUMBAI**

# At least 34 killed in wall collapse, landslide

At least 34 people were killed after several homes were crushed by a collapsed wall and a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains in India's financial capital Mumbai, authorities said yesterday.

Rainwater also inundated a water purification complex, disrupting supply "in most of the parts of Mumbai", a megacity of 20 million people, civic authorities said. A falling tree demolished a wall in the eastern suburb of Chembur

during yesterday's early hours, burying nearby residents, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) said. Twenty-one bodies have been recovered from the rubble, it added late

yesterday after wrapping up search operations.

"In the adjacent house, I saw a small girl who was trapped in the debris. She was shouting 'save me, save me'," Firoz Khan, who was caught up in the downpour in Chembur, told AFP. "Her body was trapped in the mud. Somehow, I managed to pull her

Another resident, Manda Gautam Pradhan, said she had seen "rocks and mud... gushing down the hill along with the rainwater". In the suburb of Vikhroli in the city's northeast, 10 people were killed

out. She had injuries in her legs. I narrowly survived this collapse."

after a landslide hit five homes early yesterday, the NDRF added. Three other people were killed in separate incidents caused by the deluge, the Times of India reported. Mumbai has been hit by downpours since Saturday, with local transport services affected.

The city's civic body did not say when the water supply was expected to be restored, but advised residents to boil the liquid before using it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted his condolences and added that there would be financial compensation for victims' families.

# Nepal's new PM Deuba wins vote of confidence

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba won a crucial vote of confidence in parliament yesterday to cement his grip on power days after his predecessor was ousted by the country's highest court. Deuba, who was the head of the

opposition Nepali Congress, received 165

votes of support in the 275-seat lower house of parliament. "Continuous political confusion. instability uncertainty, weakens

the 74-year-old democracy," told parliament ahead of the vote. "So it is important we walk on the road of political stability."

Deuba was sworn in as PM on Tuesday following months of political turmoil sparked by former prime minister K P Sharma Oli battles with senior leaders of his party. Oli, who came into power in 2018, first tried to dissolve parliament in December, but that attempt was overturned



by the Supreme Court.

The 69-year-old tried again to dissolve parliament in May. But the top court reinstated the legislative body on Monday and removed him from his post.

Deuba secured a majority for the vote of confidence after lawmakers from Oli's party backed him. The vote was required to take place 30 days after Deuba was installed

If Deuba had lost, he would have had to call for fresh elections in the impoverished Himalayan nation.



Cuban president dismisses unrest as regime mounts response; Austria, US probe reports of 'Havana syndrome' among officials

AFP, Havana

Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Saturday denounced what he said was a false narrative over unrest on the Caribbean island, as the Communist regime vigorously pushed back against suggestions of historically widespread

"What the world is seeing of Cuba is a lie," Diaz-Canel said, speaking during a rally alongside ex-president Raul Castro and before thousands of supporters who had gathered on the Malecon, Havana's famed oceanfront boulevard.

The rally, and similar ones in other cities, constituted the regime's first public response to the antigovernment protests that unexpectedly brought thousands to Cuban streets last weekend.

Organizers described the event Saturday as one of "revolutionary



reaffirmation.'

Cries from the crowd -- "Down with the Yankees!" and "We were born to conquer, not be conquered!" -echoed the anti-imperialist language of the original Cuban revolutionary, former president Fidel Castro.

Diaz-Canel decried what he said was the dissemination of "false images" on social networks that "glorify the outrage and destruction of property.'

Those images, he said, had caused

"immeasurable damage to the

On July 11 and 12, thousands of Cubans took to the streets in 40 cities shouting "Freedom," "Down with the dictatorship," and "We're hungry."

Meanwhile, Austria and the US said Saturday they were investigating reports of US diplomats and other officials in Vienna falling sick with health problems similar to the socalled "Havana syndrome".

US senators in May said that the government was investigating an apparent increase in mysterious directed-energy attacks, amid new reports of potentially brain-damaging

incidents inside the US. The still unexplained attacks have caused sickness and even brain damage in US diplomats and intelligence officials in Cuba, China,

Russia and other countries.



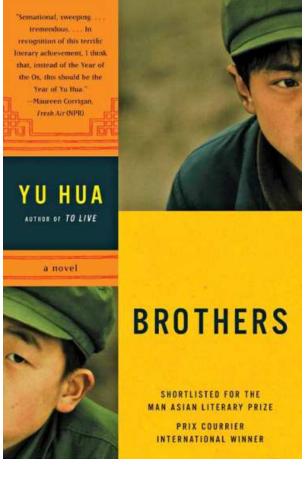
#### 1947 - Burma's effective

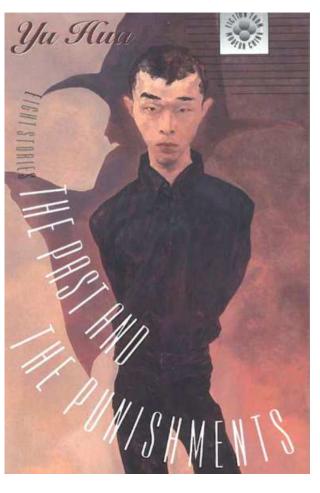
prime minister and independence leader U Aung San was assassinated along with six other ministers. 1996 - Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic resigned from public office to clear the way for post-war elections in

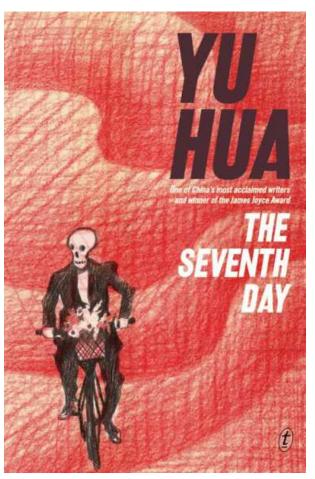
2001 - The British politician and novelist Jeffrey Archer was sentenced to 4 years in jail for perjury and perverting the course of justice.

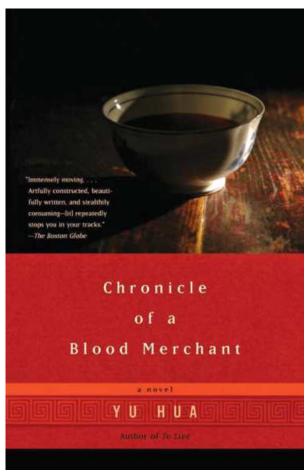
SOURCE: REUTERS

# Star infocus@thedailystar.net









# THE CHINA WAVE IN LITERATURE

#### KAISER HAQ

At the Hay Dhaka Literary Festival of 2012 the celebrated Indian writer Vikram Seth, after reading some of his fine translations of Chinese poetry, remarked that he found it odd that his fellow South Asians were incurious about the great civilization north of the Himalayas. It was late November. Just over a month earlier Mo Yan had been declared the Nobel laureate in literature. He wasn't the first Chinese author to get the award. In 2000 it had gone to Gao Xingjiang. But Xao was an émigré who had settled in Paris. Mo Yan was very much a part of the Chinese literary scene; in fact, he was Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Writers' Association. My curiosity was piqued

I read what I could find of Mo Yan – Red Sorghum; Pow!; Change -- and was impressed. If a powerful writer like him could function in China it was



Yu Hua (b. 1960)

Prize for Literature, which many regard as an alternative Nobel; in 2010 it went to the Chinese poet Duo Duo.

I had stumbled upon a new and exciting literary continent. As a lifelong student of literature I have come to believe that engaging with the arts and writings of other nations and civilizations may help defuse the belligerence that often bedevils international relations. I thought: why not write a series of articles on books by contemporary Chinese authors I found interesting? Readers might be induced to look up the books and judge their merits for themselves. The series title above alludes to Zhang Wei Wei's bestselling book China Wave: Rise of a Civilizational State.

Brothers by Yu Hua

I will start with *Brothers*, a novel by Yu Hua (b. 1960). First published in Chinese in two volumes (2005 and 2006), it became a popular success, and its single-volume English translation, published in New York in 2009 by Pantheon, was shortlisted for the Man Asian and won the French Prix Courrier International.

On the very first page, a piquant juxtaposition of wildly contrasting toilets imagistically captures the socioeconomic metamorphosis of China between the late sixties and the start of the new millennium. The opening paragraph shows the protagonist, Liu Town's 'premier tycoon', Baldy Li (thus nicknamed because his mother has his head shaved to save money), seated on a gold-plated toilet seat, contemplating a trip in a Russian spaceship that will cost him \$20 million.

We are then catapulted three decades back. The town has a communal pit latrine with a 'flimsy partition' to separate men and women squatting on a board over a common cesspool. Fourteen-year-old Baldy grips the edge of the board, bends over to peer under the partition and defying the toxic stench feasts his burning eyes on five female bottoms, or rather on the one belonging to the town beauty, Lin Hong. Baldy takes in every delectable detail of Lin Hong's posterior and bends down further to get a view of the pudendum. Just then an intruder grabs Baldy by the scruff of the neck, yanks him to his feet, and angrily lectures

him. The women flee, 'shrieking and weening'

The upholder of decency is the twenty-something Poet Zhao, one of the town's two 'men of talent'; his fame rests on the publication of 'a four-line poem' in the 'provincial culture centre's mimeographed magazine'. His friendly rival, Writer Liu, who has distinguished himself by placing a two-page story in the same organ, joins him in frogmarching the juvenile delinquent to the Police station, accompanied by an excited crowd. The literary men make a mildly comic duo with minor roles in Baldy's life-story. They tell everyone about Baldy's notorious act with the suavity of talk-show stars; the point that the media circus of the talk-show as well as literary pretentiousness is satirized need not be labored.

Blacksmith Tong, whose fat-arsed wife was one of the women in the latrine, promptly knocks out two of Baldy's teeth and makes "his ears buzz for the next 180 days", a detail that signals the novels' kinship to folk-takes and magic realism. Baldy's notoriety revives his mother Li Lan's old shame, which Baldy learns about now. Li Lan was heavily pregnant when her husband, playing peeping tom in the public latrine, bent over too far, fell, and drowned in excrement. The hero of the moment was a tall, strapping middle-school teacher, Song Fanping, who fished out the dead body through the cesspool opening and carried it to his home, just in time to see his wife collapse and give birth to Baldy Li. Five years later Song Fanping's wife dies, and the way is clear for the widower's romantic marriage with the widow Li Lan. Born out of the unlikely conjunction of cloacal humour and eroticism, the new family is exemplary in the bonding of its members. Baldy Li and his step-brother Song Gang, a year his senior, lend the book its title; the

story only ends when one of them dies. Even as a child Baldy is 'a livelife-while-you-can kind of guy' who can turn even his notoriety (people start calling him Buttpeeper) to economic advantage. Everyone, from the policemen who interrogate him to Poet Zhao and Blacksmith Tong, want to hear him describe the bottom of Liu town's 'resident beauty', and he is willing to oblige – for a price. From Poet Zhao, the most persistent inquirer (he claims this is research for a story he plans to write), he extracts bowls of delicious noodles that he devoirs with gusto. Thus, from the word go we are plunged into a zany, raunchy, perverse, freewheeling, Rabelaisian narrative; but its comic surge also carries along gruesome tragedy.

The Great Backward Somersault (my phrase, not the novelist's) of the Cultural revolution lands in Liu Town, just after Li Lan, who has been suffering from severe migraine, is sent for treatment to Shanghai. Everyone sports Mao badges, carries The Red Book, parades shouting revolutionary slogans; and one by one 'class enemies' are picked out and made to stand wearing dunce's caps, with placards hung from the neck announcing their counterrevolutionary crimes, while crowds jeer and jab and spit on them.

Song Fanping is at the head of a mammoth procession one day, waving a huge red flag; the next day he is in a dunce's cap wearing a placard declaring him a landlord: his father used to own 'a few hundred mu of farmland', which had long ago been distributed among the peasants, reducing him to an economic level lower than theirs, but the family's class background officially remains 'landlord'. Song Fanping is beaten to a pulp and locked up. When he is released, he makes his way to the bus stop to go to Shanghai and bring back his wife. Red Guards spot him and think he is trying to escape, beat him to death, and leave his body in the street, where it is discovered by the two brothers half a day later. (The author, we know, had witnessed such a mob beating in his boyhood.) Li Lan, after waiting forlornly for her husband, comes home alone to find out that she

is widow once again. Lin Lan can only afford a coffin that is too small for the tall corpse. The undertakers smash the knees to fold the legs into it. With incredible dignity Li Lan holds the hands of her sons as they follow the coffin amidst 'revolutionary' jeers. Sun Wei, who had been one of the brothers' 'revolutionary' tormentors, is next killed with a razor, and his father, denounced as a capitalist because he owned a shop, is tortured till, utterly crazed, he kills himself by driving a nail into his skull. Li Lan, who works in a silk factory, keeps Baldy locked up at home for safety. Song Gang lives with his grandfather for ten years, making occasional visits to Liu town; the brothers are reunited after the death of the old man. Not long after, Li Lan is mortally ill. Her deathbed wish is that Song Gang should look after his brother, a promise he solemnly makes.

Part II is set in the era of Deng Xiaoping's reforms, when Baldy comes into his own as an entrepreneur with a Midas touch, and takes on numerous fellow townsmen as associates and partners. But though widely admired by ordinary people and officialdom, he is spurned by Lin Hong, who finds his short, squat, thick-necked form unattractive, and is disgusted by his bizarre tactics of wooing, e.g. hiring street urchins to shout slogans declaring his romantic interest in her. His tall, handsome brother Song Gang refuses to join him in his wheeling and dealing, and does lowly jobs, but wins Lin Hong's love. Their marriage leads to an estrangement between the brothers, largely because of Lin Hong's antipathy to Baldy.

The narrative impetus goes into overdrive to keep up with Baldy's dizzying rise. He begins with a humble job like his brother, in the Good Works Factory, a losing charitable concern under the Civil Affairs Bureau. The factory 'has fourteen other employees: two cripples, three idiots, four blind men, and five deaf men, and unsurprisingly runs at a loss. Within six months Baldy turns it into a profitmaking enterprise, and soon becomes (virtually self-appointed) director. Profits skyrocket from year to year until he suddenly resigns, and raises capital to set up a garment factory. He goes to Shanghai to seek orders but comes back empty handed, the sole hiccup in his career.

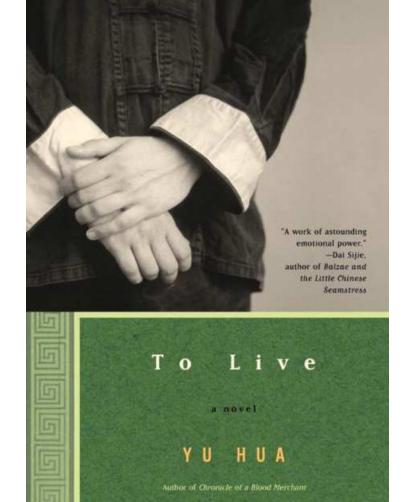
He wants his job at the Good Works Factory back, and when turned down becomes the biggest scrap dealer in the country. He visits Japan and returns with thousands of 'junk suits', which sell like hot cakes. He buys the Good Works Factory from the government and turns it into the Liu Town Economic Research Business Corporation, appointing the two cripples as corporation director and deputy director, and the remaining twelve as 'senior researchers'. The befuddled director and deputy director are told to study Chess, while 'The four blind men will study light and the five deaf men will study sound. But about the three idiots? Fuck, let them study evolution.' We are now in the realm of comic fantasy

It is pointless to try to capture the verve of such a novel through a summary. Its keyword is perhaps excess, essential for the success of a Rabelaisian tale. Episodes are drawn out with a voracious appetite for detail. Baldy exhibits unremitting satyriasis. Thirty women name him in paternity suits, unaware that after his great romantic disappointment he has had a vasectomy. The court case becomes a source of general merriment. Suddenly he comes up with the idea of a National Virgin Beauty Competition (a satiric take on the contemporary Chinese fascination with beauty pageants), which leads to a spike in hymen reconstruction surgery, and the sale of artificial hymens peddled by an 'itinerant charlatan' who inveigles Song Gang into joining him. Song Gang accompanies him to Hainan for a year, during which time Baldy finally succeeds in seducing Lin Hong in an epic love-making session.

When Song Gang finally returns to Liu Town and hears of his cuckoldry he lies down on the rail tracks and is nearly severed in two. Lin Hong's sexual liaison with Baldy not only makes her rich but also inculcates in her a shrewd business sense. She sets up a beauty salon, which is a front for a high class cathouse. A note left for Baldy goes: 'Even if we are parted by death, we will still be brothers'. Baldy retires from business and trains for his space trip. He will carry his brother's urn and put it in orbit: 'my brother Song Gang will be a space alien!'

The novel ends in 2004, when China ranked 6th in the world in terms of GDP. Brothers is a rambunctious epic of the first phase of China's economic transformation. Much has happened since then. The media is awash with statistics, but to grasp the human significance of the Chinese experience literature is a better guide. Reading Brothers led me to formulate the hypothesis that contemporary Chinese literature can offer better models than western literature to writers in countries like Bangladesh. Readers who join me in looking into Chinese authors will be able to test the hypothesis.

Kaiser Haq is a Professor at the Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)



logical to assume there were others; perhaps he was the tip of the proverbial iceberg. I set about finding out more, and to my surprise discovered that the range and vitality of contemporary Chinese writing was an open secret. The University of Oklahoma, which published the influential journal World Literature Today (WLT), had launched a sister publication in collaboration with the Beijing Normal University, Chinese Literature Today, both under the Taylor & Francis/Routledge imprint. Oklahoma University and WLT also awarded the Neustadt International

AN ANCHOR BOOKS ORIGINAL

8 | The Baily Star



LATE S. M. ALI

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#### Mass death of animals in **Katabon during** lockdown

It is high time to put a stop to such cruel conditions and practices

distressing report in this daily has brought to light the tragic consequences of the lockdown on the animals trapped in the pet shops in the city's Katabon area. Behind closed shutters, several hundred birds, dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, fish and guinea pigs were starved of proper lighting and air, which eventually lead to many of them dying from suffocation. Those that are still alive are also falling increasingly sick, as the buildup of heat and gas inside the stores are making matters worse. The deaths of all these animals, beyond being a cruel end to creatures that have spent their lives in cages, have also been a disastrous loss to shop owners whose livelihoods depend on this trade.

What could have been done to avoid this situation? According to the chairperson of animal rights group Obhoyaronno, during last year's lockdown, the Department of Livestock had introduced a system to keep the doors of these shops open. However, the measures taken this time were abysmally inadequate. According to the general secretary of Kataban Pet Shop Association, although some of the shops were allowed to remain open for two hours, this was dependent on the whims of the local police, and it was not enough time to provide the animals with adequate air, light and food. In light of their requests, from July 13, the government has now allowed the shops to be open for four hours a day for this

While this change might give the shop owners some more time to tend to the animals, we can no longer avoid the question—why does the Katabon pet hub exist at all, where animals are kept in such conditions that they can slowly suffocate and die? While shop owners have blamed the lockdown for what happened, animal rights activists have argued that the owners are just as culpable for keeping the animals in such hazardous conditions. Over the last few years, animal rights groups like Obhoyaronno have continuously pointed out that the breeding and selling of animals in cages in this way is now made illegal by the Animal Welfare Act 2019. In the past, we have also seen illegal wildlife being recovered from the Katabon

Under these circumstances, in the long run, it is imperative that the authorities take steps to shut down Katabon, once and for all, and ensure that animals are treated humanely and in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2019. Customers who access these shops are equally culpable, and they must be made to understand how their purchases perpetuate such cruel practices. In the meantime, we request the authorities to accept the assistance of volunteer organisations in caring for these animals, and do the needful in ensuring that the remaining animals in Katabon do not meet the same

#### Cinema hall workers facing dire consequences

Government must come forward to save them

○ INCE the Covid-19 pandemic started in March last year, the cinema halls all over the country have been shut down following the health guidelines. Since then, the employees of the cinema halls have been facing acute financial hardship. As they stopped receiving salaries due to the closure of halls, some cinema hall workers had to make ends meet by becoming rickshaw pullers or day labourers. A Daily Star report has found workers having to bear the burden of loved ones dying due to lack of medical treatment and others in such financial hardship that they were thinking of selling their

Last year, the government had provided Tk 2,500 to some cinema hall workers so that they could afford the basic amenities. But there has been no such monetary assistance this time. As the earning of a cinema hall depends solely on running of shows, the lockdown has left them empty of cinema-goers. In fact, the usual ticket sales right after Eid when cinema halls are usually full will not happen in line with the lockdown rules and so there will be no earnings during that time either. This will make life harder for these workers who are in desperate need of help. According to the General Secretary of the Film Exhibitors' Association, the cinema hall industry is dying as there have not been any good movies to run in the last two years. This means no new shows and no earnings for the cinema hall owners or their employees.

According to the Association, around 1,500 people work in a total of 140 cinema halls across the country. All of them are going through the same ordeal. While the Film Exhibitors' Association is saying that they haven't received any help from anyone till now, the General Secretary of Bangladesh Film Artists' Association is saying that they are ready to help but the exhibitor's association has to ask them first. This lack of coordination and absence of collective action by these organisations are proving to be really devastating for the lives of the cinema

The various film associations and organisations need to coordinate and take steps to save these cinema hall workers who are now left to starve. The government must also come forward and provide emergency food and cash assistance until the lockdown is lifted and the Covid-19 infections subside.

# Collaborative approach needed for a compliant apparel sector

**MACRO MIRROR** 

the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, global brands and buyers had either cancelled or postponed imports of apparel from Bangladesh. Later, towards August and September 2020, many

buyers reinstated their orders which helped apparel exports rise. Driven by ready-made garments (RMG), the export sector of the country bounced back to a large extent during the pandemic though it remained lower than the pre-Covid period. Recently, however, RMG exporters have expressed concerns as many buyers have once again cancelled their orders as the country went into lockdown to tackle the spread of coronavirus.

As the government has no choice but to go for a strict lockdown during this wave of the pandemic, worries over economic recovery continue. But lockdown is only a temporary solution and has a high cost. Therefore, vaccination of all eligible people at the earliest is the only solution to survive. Otherwise, the cycle of lockdown and opening up will continue for quite some time. This will cost the economy dearly. Various surveys have indicated a rise in unemployment and poverty as economic activities have shrunk. The cancellation of RMG export orders is indeed a great concern as the sector is a strong pillar of the economy. It is the source of about 3.6 million jobs and over 80 percent of income from exports. While the apparel sector has to think of overcoming the current challenges and staying afloat during the pandemic, there are also a number of important medium and long-term issues which need to be

> Compliance measures have helped in bringing more credibility to the RMG sector. But compliance is not a one-off initiative. It is an ongoing process and has to be pursued continuously for sustainable growth of the sector.

addressed parallelly. These are related to Bangladesh's new identity as a developing country, and stringent compliance issues and competition from other players in the global market.

As we recall, following the Rana Plaza tragedy in 2013, Bangladesh's apparel sector came under tremendous pressure for improving compliance and safety in its factories. Accordingly, the RMG industry made an important transition towards improved compliance in the sector. Major compliance measures were undertaken to ensure the safety of factories and workers through collaboration among Bangladeshi entrepreneurs, the Accord on Fire and Building Safety, the Alliance of Bangladesh Worker Safety, and the Partnership for Cleaner Textile. The labour law of the country was amended and the right to

competitiveness. This has been critical since the Accord and Alliance left in 2018; with their departure, monitoring safety issues in factories is to be continued with similar rigour by the entrepreneurs themselves.

Of course, higher compliance by the industry also means higher costs of production while entrepreneurs face stiff price competition in the global market. In such a situation, some may opt for reduced production capacity to make up for additional expenditure on compliance requirements. This is obviously not desirable as the sector plays a crucial role in the economy. One of the ways to make up for increased costs is through higher productivity and moving towards high value products in high-end markets. Higher productivity



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form trade unions in factories, including in the special economic zones, was approved. The minimum wage of RMG workers was raised in an attempt to make it comparable to other competing countries. These initiatives were useful in developing standards and ensuring transparency and compliance. These had also helped attain higher RMG exports though there were some periodic fluctuations.

Compliance measures have helped in bringing more credibility to the RMG sector. But compliance is not a one-off initiative. It is an ongoing process and has to be pursued continuously for sustainable growth of the sector. It is encouraging to note that a number of RMG entrepreneurs have accepted compliance as an integral part of their business. Many entrepreneurs have taken self-motivated initiatives to stay ahead of the curve and maintain

will require technological upgradation in the industry. There is, of course, a danger of labour displacement due to the adoption of technology. It is apprehended that several categories of jobs will be lost due to technological intervention during the fourth industrial revolution. The RMG sector will also experience such technological transformation. However, the issue of technology and labour market disruption is part of the overall policymaking process of the decision makers. The RMG entrepreneurs will have to make sure that workers are upskilled and re-skilled for new types of jobs which may be created in the sector. At the national policy level, the government will have to create an enabling environment for greater private and foreign investment for more employment generation, ensure better training and skills development for

absorbing workers in new opportunities, and increase access to finance for selfemployment.

The role of buyers as a major stakeholder cannot be overlooked in the case of improving compliance in the RMG industry. They have to collaborate with suppliers in improving productivity. Ironically, in a fiercely competitive market, brands and retailers are always on the lookout for the lowest prices. Many buyers source from Bangladesh to maximise their profits through low prices. Ethical buying and fair price are not always under the purview of profit-making brands. If that was so, then some other competing countries would have been dropped from their sourcing list. This emphasises the need for investing in higher productivity. Wages and labour rights related issues also have to be taken seriously into cognisance. If the sector can invest in safety, compliance, and technological upgradation, it can also increase labour wages. In the short run, an increase in labour costs will lead to higher production costs; however, in the long-run these costs can be internalised by higher productivity and efficiency.

Higher compliance in the sector has become all the more important as Bangladesh is going to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) category by 2026. There will be many challenges after graduation. One important challenge is the loss of preferential market access of Bangladesh products, including RMG products, in many countries. For example, as an LDC, Bangladesh gets duty-free quota-free access to the European Union (EU) market under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). The EU is a major destination of Bangladeshi exports. In these new circumstances, Bangladesh will have to compete with other countries to enter the global market by paying the existing tariff which will make the country less competitive. While there will be GSP+ opportunities during the post-graduation period, in order to avail these facilities, Bangladesh will have to ratify 27 core international conventions. Among these, 15 are human and labour rights related

Therefore, without adequate preparation from now on, fulfilment of stringent compliance issues could be difficult. This will require a comprehensive work plan by the government, which has to be implemented in a collaborative manner. The government, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), workers' associations and trade unions, buyers, development partners, civil society, and the media are all a part of this journey.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Views expressed in this article are personal.

# An ode to Bangladeshi food



Lam-ya Mostaque

S an avid Masterchef Australia, I have been following the show since it aired its second season (which means I am old enough to remember when Andy Allen was my favourite

contestant and not a judge like he was in the latest season). The show gave me the opportunity to explore the world through the lens of food. It is because of Masterchef Australia that I know how to make gnocchi (a type of pasta made using potatoes), what goes into bechamel sauce (butter, flour, milk), or what halloumi cheese is. It was because of the show that I was introduced to Mediterranean

Australian and still be proud of your own heritage. More than often, the contestants draw heavily on their cultural backgrounds and cook up fabulous dishes. The judges, too, do the same, as George Calombaris once drew on his heritage of Greek food. I would often watch Indian and Sri Lankan contestants update food from their cuisines and give it a modern twist. And I could not help but wonder what Bangladeshi food might look like, presented as fine cuisine.

Here, I have to confess, I hadn't thought Bangladeshi food could add much since many of the flavours we use would be too similar to those in Indian or Pakistani food. Isn't Dhakaiya kachchi just another variation of biriyani, in the end? But still, I was curious and craved to see the food of my country represented in a global forum so that it could be seen as a country and culture of its own—hoping that one day I would have to stop introducing

first moment I saw Kishwar Chowdhury walking into the Masterchef kitchen in the show's promotional clips, I could tell that there was something special about her. And over the course of the competition, I have not been proven wrong.

From the very first dish she cooked for the judges in her quest to be amongst the top 24, Kishwar made it a point to declare that she was on a mission to show absolute pride to see something so simple as paanta bhaat and aloo bhorta being served on such a significant international platform. The dish itself is integrated at the core of what it means to be a Bengali, to be a Bangladeshi. It is a dish that is loved by the hardworking farmers of Bangladeshi villages, who find solace in it after working in the scorching heat. It is the food that is served when there is nothing

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From the very first dish she cooked for the judges in her quest to be amongst the top 24, Kishwar made it a point to declare that she was on a mission to show the world what Bangladeshi cuisine is all about. PHOTO COURTESY: MASTERCHEF AUSTRALIA

flavours, to cooking in tagines (a kind of clay pot), or to the wide variety of noodle dishes that Southeast and East Asia have to offer (besides just the popularly known Japanese ramen).

Masterchef Australia does a beautiful job of representing the Australian food scene. It also shows how you can be

Bangladesh as "the country located close

My dream seemed to have come true when Rashedul Hasan got into Masterchef Australia's top 24 in 2017. Unfortunately, he had been the first contestant to be eliminated and could not show much of his skills. However, from the very

the world what Bangladeshi cuisine is all about. And throughout the subsequent episodes, she surprised not only the judges but also viewers like myself with how she put a modern twist to casual Bangladeshi food. Who would have thought that the beef patties usually sold by vendors on the streets of Dhaka could be elevated to become worthy of fine-dining, or that judges and food critics would be impressed by turmeric-salt sardines (maach-bhaja, anyone?). I was absolutely in awe when Kishwar's semi-final dessert made judge Jock Zonfrillo put the whole betel leaf in his mouth, looking like a true Bangladeshi uncle. Who knew that everyday paan could be served with ice cream to become an intricate dessert? That same dish was also termed by judge Melissa Leong as Kishwar's "love letter to Bangladesh".

But Kishwar had another true surprise in the bag for everyone. Undoubtedly in a bold move, Kishwar served smoked water with rice (meant to replicate paanta bhaat), aloo bhorta and fried sardines as her grand finale feast in Masterchef Australia. Throughout the competition, Kishwar had been criticised for many things. Some had commented on the repetition of curries. Others, including Bangladeshi viewers, stated that she was a little too teary for their liking. However, as Kishwar served up her last individual dish (where she was in charge of the menu), I was the one to tear up. As a Bangladeshi, it was a moment of

else available in the typical Bangladeshi home, and simple potatoes have to do. It is food that will rest your stomach when you have eaten too much of Mughal items like polao-korma. Once associated with poverty, rice-water (paanta bhaat) is now part of national celebrations like Pohela Boishakh—and Kishwar has now put it on the global stage. How could she not have pulled at the strings of my Bangladeshi

In the end, Kishwar did not win the title of Masterchef Australia; she secured the place of second runners-up. But if the stories of past contestants are of any indication, Kishwar can still use her experience and exposure to pursue her food dreams, and I have no doubt that she will. At a time when Bangladesh's own food scene is frantically obsessed with foreign food, Kishwar showed the world that Bangladeshi food itself is worth looking into, and that our dishes are gems hidden in plain sight. Kishwar Chowdhury has single-handedly put Bangladeshi food on the Australian food map. And on the global map, too, given the show's popularity worldwide. She has also successfully boosted Bangladesh's image among the global audience of the show. And, as a Bangladeshi, I have only two words to say to her: thank you.

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# Our apparel sector needs more female leaders



missing a trick by failing to capitalise on a resource which could supercharge our RMG industry into a What resource?

Female leaders and executives. Look at the world's most successful economies and you will find that one of the most defining features is the prevalence of females in positions of leadership and management. This rule also applies for the world's top businesses.

There is a wealth of research on this issue. A report by consultants McKinsey & Company in the UK found that for every 10 percent increase in gender diversity, earnings before interest and taxes rose by a glaring 3.5 percent. From this data, it was found that women leaders have a key measurable impact on an organisation's bottom line.

Meanwhile, in a major Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends survey, 2,250 adults ranked women better than or equal to men in seven of the eight primary leadership traits.

The key statistics from this survey outlined that half of the respondents ranked women as more honest than men, with just 20 percent saying men are more honest than women. In terms of intelligence, 38 percent said they viewed women as being smarter, with only 14 percent indicating men are smarter. In other cases, women were ranked for being more compassionate, outgoing and creative.

The evidence base shows that when

women become leaders, they provide a different set of skills, imaginative perspectives, and cultural differences which drive effective solutions.

There are many traits among female leaders which are particularly relevant to the Bangladesh RMG sector. Studies have shown that women demonstrate political leadership by championing issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare and, gender-equality laws.

These issues are becoming increasingly important for Bangladesh's RMG sector due to the heightened importance of CSR issues among our international customer base.

Despite the huge benefits that female leadership can bring to the table, Bangladesh's RMG sector is lagging in this area. Our RMG industry at present employs an estimated 4 million

In terms of the gender composition of workers in the RMG sector, information from the International Labour Organisation from 2018 found women represented 61 percent of the sector's workforce.

However, the ILO's research has also found that 84 percent of women workers in the RMG sector are in low grades, compared to 68 percent of men. More concerning, from 2010 to 2018, the proportion of surveyed women in most managerial positions declined, and their overall average representation in such roles remained low and unchanged between 2010 and 2018 (approximately 9 percent).

This indicates no improvements in enhancing women's representation in managerial and leadership positions in the RMG sector in the past decade.



Other sources reaffirm that sectoral leadership roles are male dominated. For example, a Better Work compliance review report found that men held 95 percent of line supervisor positions in the Bangladesh RMG industry.

We must do better than this or we risk being left behind by our international competitors. Given the earlier mentioned research on the powerful impact female leadership can have on the working environment, we have to ask ourselves how much is our industry being held back at present? Where might it be now if it had begun to embrace increased gender diversity a decade ago?

Of course, we must not look back, we can only think of the future—it is never too late to change.

At the national level, countries which have diverse workplaces have legislation in place to support women in their

career progression. This includes strict laws around maternity leave and pay as well as anti-discrimination laws to protect women in the workplace and ensure they are not penalised financially or career-wise when they have children.

Can our lawmakers do more to support the career progression of females? Surely it's time they looked at progressive countries in such areas, these being the Nordic countries— Norway, Sweden—which are true leaders in workplace gender diversity.

At an individual company level, we as business owners must also consider how we could do more to support women who aspire to leadership roles. If a business owner finds they have a workplace where senior positions are predominantly male dominated, they need to be looking at why that is the

What is holding women back and what more could they be doing to support the career progression of their female staff. It might simply be a case of practical issues such as a lack of "functional childcare", in which case an onsite creche facility is one possible solution.

Or there might be deeper, cultural issues in which a climate has been allowed to develop where women don't feel valued or do not have the confidence to put their names forward when senior roles are available. A lack of access to training and development programmes—vital to help young women rise up the corporate laddercould also be holding women back.

In the higher-ups of western fashion brands and retailers, women occupy a significant portion of the positions. In our country, even in the banking and telecommunications sectors, women in leadership positions are not uncommon. Then why not in our RMG sector?

The takeaway point here is that spending time and effort in creating an environment in which women are encouraged to flourish should not be seen as a burden by the apparel factories. On the contrary, all the evidence shows that companies which invest in workplace diversity perform better than their less progressive competitors. The evidence on this is overwhelming.

Far from being a burden, investing in female staff could be the smartest move our apparel factories ever make.

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

# Combating the Coronavirus

The role of the elected representatives

BG SHARIF UDDIN AHMED (RETD)

A report by

consultants

McKinsey &

Company in

the UK found

that for every

gender diversity,

earnings before

10 percent

increase in

interest and

taxes rose by

a glaring 3.5

percent.

N June, Bangladesh was hit with a second deadly wave of the ■ Coronavirus. The number of infections and deaths due to Covid has increased alarmingly. The new Delta variant is more virulent and wreaking havoc all over Bangladesh. Fortunately vaccination has resumed and the government is importing more vaccines. However, it will take a while till everyone is vaccinated—and during this waiting period they are more exposed to the virus.

For personal safety, people who are unvaccinated should protect themselves by the World Health Organization. The rules are: wear face masks, wash your hands with soap, inhale steam to destroy the virus lodged in the nasal labyrinth, and maintain social distancing. Not much is known yet about the new variant, therefore, it is safer to stick to the 4 rules even if you have been vaccinated!

The 4 rules have been developed and tested in different countries but the best practice has been observed in China. China has a very strict administrative system that is well knitted with the civil society. The citizens are obedient and motivated. Analysis of the Chinese way of treatment reveals that it is delivered from two directions; medicine and motivation. In Bangladesh, motivational activities are not visible and people neglect to follow the 4 rules. It has to be made clear to the population that a Covid victim carries a high risk of death that may be evaded if the 4 rules are followed as a lifestyle choice. But how can people be convinced and motivated to fight this virus together?

To succeed in this battle, the minds of the people must be clear about the danger the virus poses to them and their families. The main



People waiting to get tested for coronavirus in front of a tent on the premises of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. Testing facilities are again seeing queues of people as the number of new cases has recently been on the rise.

weapons are the 4 rules that must be observed by all. People can be motivated through education on the various aspects of Covid; recognition of tell-tale indications of an infected person, the damage it does to human organs leading to death. But how can this knowledge be transferred to the ordinary public?

TV channels are showing the damage and impact of Covid in different talk shows and discussions, these are of good quality and are laden with information but these are not seen by the common people, as many do not have TV. These shows are too sophisticated for an ordinary man to understand. The same message can

be shown through animation videos. These videos should be displayed at places that are easily visible, places like crossroads, bus-stations, bazars.

Persuading people verbally is also an effective tool. This is not a difficult task and can be achieved by the elected representatives as they are in routine communication with the people. The elected representatives can convince them of ways to save their own lives from Covid-19 by observing the 4 rules. The representatives should organise and reach out to people and convince them of the looming danger. Our nation had fought a glorious Liberation War when all citizens were united. Similarly, every citizen should be

aware of the danger and participate in the battle against Covid. Every citizen must become aware of the danger. The citizens of every constituency are in communication with their elected representatives and will listen to them readily. The elected representatives are: the members of the Parliament, upazila chairman, union council chairman and the ward member. The most important person in the team is the ward member because he is the only one in the channel of authority in the administration who is in direct communication with the people. How do we see the team working with the people in the field?

The team will engage the people

in the villages, in the towns and the island and hills. The team will also have paramedics who are posted at upazila and union level, they know the local people and can motivate them. The ward member must visit each homestead (Bari) and speak to each head of the household and have maximum numbers attending his talks.

A training video should be made for the team, showing the standard procedure on how to deliver the speech and have discussions with the people, and answer any question asked by the people. The team should meet at the DCs office for planning and execution of the task with the police the paramilitary and military representatives in attendance. The team should meet as often as the team leader wants.

For an operation like this to be successful, it is essential to maintain momentum and direction, for that additional human resources are needed. Fortunately, we have such resources.

The retired members of the public service, police service and the armed forces who receive pension can also be mobilised to motivate the citizens. It is suggested that the retired citizens be motivated to talk over the telephone with respected senior citizens in his village or bari and request them to ensure and enforce strict compliance of

Students of primary and high schools can also be educated in the ways to fight

Our people regularly meet violent natural disasters with courage and rise like a phoenix from the ashes. They fought unitedly for freedom with very little resources and against a formidable enemy and came out victorious. There is no reason why we should not be able defeat the Coronavirus if we stand together.

Sharif Uddin Ahmed is a retired Brigadier General.

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# QUOTABLE Quote



**ALAN TURING English mathematician** (1912-1954)

We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done.

#### **CROSSWORD** BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 1 Half of a 1960s rock group 6 Writer Asimov 11 Wide awake 12 Numerical comparison 13 Door holder's words 14 Rust, for one 15 Knitting need 17 Toe count 18 Old gold coin of Spain 22 Singer Guthrie 23 Rio setting, to natives 27 Stately home 29 Steer clear of

30 Diner stack

32 Christmas season

33 State of disorder 35 Cloth scrap 38 Fencing sword 39 Spanish resort isle 41 Out of style 45 Flu symptom 46 Deeply

47 Runs away 48 Rockies resort **DOWN** 1 Chum 2 Pub brew

impressed

3 Parrot or puppy 4 Heavy footwear 5 Real bargain 6 Smelter's need 7 Jazz horn 8 Fighting

9 Assistant 10 "Fargo" director 16 Hold up 18 Moist 19 Spoken 20 Arm bone 21 Cassoulet ingredients 24 Writer Bellow

25 Not busy 26 Sediment 28 Tries again 31 Tree's blood 34 TV, radio, etc. 35 Jazz bit 36 Cain's brother 37 Hand over 40 Last letter 42 Spigot

A M I L POWER OPERA A|L|E|T|S H E S S I A N E C L A I R BRAID ARENT BREADTH ORR 43 Farm female SENORA 44 Lion's home ROMAN GIANT WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com. ASTOR

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS







**BABY BLUES** 

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



#### A dozen patients

other patients. That is why we have sent them back to their homes.'

He added, "Our hospital has an isolation unit designated for new patients. If any new patient comes, we keep them in the isolation unit for 14 days and then we shift them to the main unit. But we don't have any facility to provide treatment to Covid-19 patients. So, we don't have an alternative to sending them back

Meanwhile, the hospital is providing guidelines for the families of the affected to take care of the patients while maintaining health

Apart from the patients, at least three doctors and seven nurses of the hospital tested positive for Covid-19 and they all are in home isolation.

#### Ex-UPDF

FROM PAGE 12

Hospital for autopsy. "The victim's brother filed a case while we are trying to arrest the

criminals," said the OC. Aongay Marma, the spokesperson of UPDF, said "Kholo was our former member.'

On June 26, another former UPDF member was abducted and stabbed to death in remote Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhri.

"The criminals are killing our former members to create a new situation in Chattogram Hill Tracts," said Aongay.

#### Vaccination rate

FROM PAGE 12

Finance Minister Rishi Sunak will both self-isolate in line with national guidance, abandoning heavily criticised plans to take part in a pilot scheme that would have allowed them to continue working.

The U-turn comes a day after Health Minister Sajid Javid said on Saturday he had tested positive for Covid-19 and at a time when the government's coronavirus response is under intense scrutiny.

Javid said he was self-isolating -- just as his government prepared to jettison most pandemic restrictions in England.

#### They lost

were shared during a virtual ceremony yesterday organised by Migrant Forum in Asia, a regional migrant rights platform.

Titled "South Asian Perspectives on Wage Theft and Access to Justice", the event also saw sharing of similar study findings from India and Nepal.

Disclosing the report on Bangladesh, BCSM Chair Prof CR Abrar said the amount lost by Bangladeshi returnees is "quite a staggering sum".

Covid-19 had taken a huge toll on the respondents, most of whom were gainfully employed during the pre-pandemic period, said Prof Abrar, also executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit

(RMMRÚ). He said the experiences of Bangladeshi migrant workers exposed the "systemic weakness" of the protection structure of migrant workers.

"Here, as we said, countries of destination, countries of origin, and private sectors in both countries everyone is culpable," he said, adding that the issue has to be addressed.

Seven BCSM member organisations, including RMMRU, conducted the survey in 45 districts between March 25 and May 6 this

The Bangladeshi migrants, 14.7 percent of whom are female, returned from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and

Aged between 20 and 49, they stayed in the countries of destination formore than five years. They were employed in various sectors, including construction, domestic staff, hospitality, and services.

The BCSM report says 83.9 percent returnees had valid contracts.

As reasons for return, 63 percent respondents said they were forced to return or stay back in Bangladesh at the instruction of their employers, with 28.5 percent having come back on vacation and then got stranded.

When asked whether they had registered a complaint regrading wage theft, 92 percent of respondents said they did not, according to the report.

As reasons, they cited lack of information about where to file the complaint, finding "no reason" to believe that recovery was possible, and fearing retaliation from employers, it savs.

The report recommended that all dues of migrant workers be cleared before repatriation.

In case of inability of the employers to clear such dues before the return of the workers, documents should be issued by the employers that can be presented in courts for settlement, it says.

Addressing the event, Andalib Elias, director general (multilateral economic affairs) of the foreign ministry, said lack of manpower in the Bangladesh missions abroad is a major challenge in providing required services to migrant workers.

However, the present government is fully aware and conscious of the problems, he said, adding, "We are taking all necessary steps that is possible in our periphery to address this issue.



Palestinian women argue with an Israeli security force member after brief clashes erupted between Israeli police and Palestinians at al-Aqsa Mosque over visits by Jews on the Tisha B'Av fast day to the compound known to Muslims as Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday.

#### Carry on efforts to improve the lot of people

Hasina reiterated her call to the people to maintain the health protocols to check further spread of the lethal

"I know, people like to go to their village homes [to celebrate the Eid-ul-Azha with their near and dear ones]," she said and asked the government officials to make sure that people, particularly the home-goers, use masks by making them aware about

The PM said her government has taken required measures so that no one remains out of the inoculation.

"We have started [mass] vaccination. More vaccines are coming. We will purchase whatever amount of jabs is required to bring all the people under crisis was ever seen before. We have vaccination," she added.

Describing the government the crisis. officials as the main driving force to pursue the country's development announced 28 stimulus packages spree, Hasina said, "You're those involving Tk 1,31,641 crore to keep

economy and quicken the country's amid the pandemic. development."

government officials for their brave role in tackling the Covid-19 onslaught, saying that the country's situation could have worsened during the pandemic if they did not perform their duties accordingly.

Hasina said her government has been able to move the country towards a developing nation as it is in power for the third consecutive term after the 2008 national election.

But she opined that the coronavirus becoming an impediment to Bangladesh's advancement, saying, "The coronavirus has plunged the entire world into a crisis. No such specified the work plan to overcome

The PM said her government who help run the wheels of the running the lives and livelihoods

She said her government has The premier thanked all the been giving topmost priority to ensuring socio-economic uplift of the grassroots people. Hasina said Bangladesh will

definitely advance towards the development following the spirit of the Liberation War as envisioned by the Father of the Nation overcoming all the hurdles, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

The premier mentioned that the government has introduced the method of APA in the 2014-2015 fiscal year for the public sector to ensure institutional transparency, accountability, proper utilisation of resources and, above all, enhancing the institutional efficiency.

This is for the eighth time that such an agreement has been signed between the cabinet secretary on behalf of the prime minister and secretaries of the

ministries concerned. Under the agreement, the also screened.

ministries will set their visions, missions and strategic goals in line with the development priorities of the government, take short- and long-term plans as per budgetary allocations.

On behalf of the prime minister, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque later distributed crests and certificates among the top 10 ministries and divisions in the FY 2019-20 APA performances and integrity awards among top three ministries following receipt of the APAs signed for the FY 2021-2022.

State Minister for Public Administration Ministry Farhad Hossain, MP, spoke at the function while Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam gave the welcome address.

A video documentary on the APA performance and its contribution to the country's overall development was

# Pilgrims stream

each year into a vast encampment for pilgrims.

Pilgrims were brought there resterday on buses which were only half-filled to respect social distancing rules, and authorities provided 3,000 electric cars to transport the elderly and those with limited mobility.

"We have applied social distancing inside the camps where there are four pilgrims in each room. We have put barriers between each bed to apply social distancing," tour operator Hadi Fouad told AFP.

"For the common areas at the camp, like the prayer area and the cafeteria, we have assigned a security company whose guards are spread throughout the camp to make sure there is no crowding."

**GOLDEN TICKET** In the high point of the Hajj, worshippers will climb Mount Arafat

Also known as the "Mount of Mercy", it is the site where it is believed that the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) delivered his final sermon. Worshippers will undertake hours of prayers and Koranic recitals there.

After descending the following day, they will gather pebbles and perform the symbolic "stoning of the devil".

The Hajj, usually one of the world's

largest annual religious gatherings, is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken by all Muslims with the means at least once in their lives.

This year's pilgrimage is larger than the pared-down version staged in 2020 but is drastically smaller than in normal times, creating resentment among Muslims abroad who are barred once again.

Participants were chosen from more than 558,000 applicants through an online vetting system, with the event confined to fully vaccinated adults aged 18-65 with no chronic illnesses. 'A PRIVILEGE'

I thank Allah that we received approval to come, even though we did not expect it because of the small number of pilgrims," said Abdulaziz bin Mahmoud, an 18-year-old Saudi.

Saddaf Ghafour, a 40-year-old Pakistani woman travelling with her friend, was among the women making the pilgrimage without a male "guardian", which was a requirement until recently.

"It is a privilege to perform Hajj among a very limited number of pilgrims," she said.

Saudi Arabia has so far recorded more than 507,000 coronavirus infections, including over 8,000 deaths. Some 20 million vaccine doses have been administered in the country of over 34 million people.

The Hajj Ministry has said it is working on the "highest levels of health precautions" in light of the pandemic and the emergence of new variants.

Pilgrims are being divided into groups of just 20 "to restrict any exposure to only those 20, limiting the spread of infection", ministry undersecretary Mohammad al-Bijawi

Scientists stunned

the convective heat needed to generate

Arctic faster than the rest of the world,

that's changing, scientists say.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 12 off the tracks by mines," it added.

The Pakistan army responded in

kind, the Weekly commented. After

guerrillas blew up a bridge north

of Dhaka, Punjabi soldiers put several neighbouring villages to the

torch, killing scores of residents and

taking others into custody, reported

account of the Pakistan army's

response to the assassination of a

pro-army official in Khulna named

morning after Sarwar was beheaded,

workers travelling to Khulna's jute

mills found seventeen dead bodies

lined up neatly in front of the railroad

station. Their hands had been tied

behind their backs and each man had

been shot. The army left the bodies in

view for a full 24 hours to make sure

diplomat in Dhaka who said, "It may

be too early to view the Mukti Bahini

as a serious military threat. But there is

no doubt that what we are witnessing

is the first stage of bloody, long-lasting

the military high command thought

they could terrorise the Bengalis but

the result has been just the opposite.

Sure the Bengali has been frightened.

But he has also been made to hate as

he never did before—and he realizes

that it is only through violence that he

The United States airlift of East

government, an American embassy

Four C'130's moved about 23,000

people from the eastern territory of

guerrilla warfare. ... Yahya Khan and

Newsweek quoted a Western

the population got the message."

Ghulam Sarwar Mullah:

He also provided a terrifying

Newsweek correspondent Jenkins.

But as climate change warms the

lightning storms.

# Journey home may worsen today from page 2 A total of 32,713 vehicles crossed vehicles still faced tailbacks on the in the garments sector, of which 70 Still Total Vehicles and set forms present are from Dhaka Narayangani

Telecommunication Commission (BTRC). Mustafa Jabbar, 6:00am and the authorities collected terminals. minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology, shared the information on his Facebook account vesterday. HEAVY TRAFFIC ON DHAKA-

TANGAIL-RANGPUR HIGHWAY

Like the previous two days, the highway -- a gateway to the northern districts -- witnessed heavy traffic of vehicles carrying home-goers and cattle-laden trucks yesterday.

As a result, a tailback of a large number of vehicles was created on both sides of Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail and Sirajganj early yesterday. Traffic congestion, however, started easing after 10:00am.

But a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a truck at Soratoil area in Kalihati upazila at around

4:00am, left 10 people injured. Although police and fire service members rescued the injured and sent them to Tangail General Hospital, vehicular movement on the busy highway remained halted for one hour, causing a long tailback there.

Tk 2.82 crore in tolls, sources said.

Meanwhile, the launch terminal for the Shimulia-Banglabazar route witnessed crowds in the morning and many of the launches were seen operating with more than the stipulated passengers, violating the health safety guidelines, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

The ferry terminal also witnessed tailback of private vehicles in the morning but which eased as the day progressed.

Visiting the Paturia-Daulatdia ferry terminal around 1:30pm yesterday, our Manikganj correspondent found ferry services at almost the usual PRESSURE LIKELY TO RISE TODAY

The five-day Eid holiday, including the weekend, will start from Tuesday but many people will leave Dhaka during the second half of today.

Romesh Chandra Ghosh, chairman of the Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association, said the number of

passengers was low yesterday but

Regulatory the bridge in 24 hours till yesterday Dhaka-Tangail highway and at ferry percent are from Dhaka, Narayanganj,

"Buses are running four to five hours behind schedule due to traffic congestion on this route. But we are fearful about what will happen once the holiday starts," he told The Daily Star yesterday. Asked about allegations of

overcharging by bus operators, he said many buses are being operated from outside the terminals and they have very little to do regarding those buses. Mosharref Hossain, general

manager of Hanif Paribahan, echoed Romesh.

He said buses returning from south and south-western districts via the Paturia-Daulatdia route faced delays while returning. Buses had to wait for hours at Daulatdia terminal to cross the river to give way for cattle-laden trucks and faced traffic jams on the Nabinagar-Gabtoli road due to a large cattle market at Gabtoli.

He said the situation may worsen

Dhaka from today. Around 40 lakh workers are involved

once the garment workers start to leave

and Gazipur. Meanwhile, Sadarghat Launch

Terminal saw a greater number of passengers yesterday as compared to Saturday. A total 95 launches left the country's

argest terminal on Saturday while 60 launches left till 7:00pm yesterday, said Zainal Abedin, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

"Forty more launches are likely to leave till tomorrow [Monday]," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The number of passengers is likely to increase today, he added.

Meanwhile, Masud Kamalapur station manager, said 34 inter-city and local trains were being operated from Dhaka to different districts.

"Although there is a crowd of passengers outside the station we are not allowing any passengers without tickets," he told this correspondent.

Meanwhile, several special trains carrying cattle reached Dhaka from different districts yesterday.

## United Air voices worry over sale of eight planes

FROM PAGE 12

The cargo village area apparently turned into a dumping place for these abandoned aircraft, which have occupied a large portion and is disrupting loading and offloading of goods at the main parking zone, airport sources said.

750 crores as outstanding bills, he "At least four to five cargo aircraft in the cargo village area could have been accommodated if the abandoned

Airways owe the CAAB around Tk

Of the total arrears, the CAAB is supposed to get around Tk 190 crore from United Airways.

planes were removed."

member high-powered committee, with AHM Touhid-Ul Ahsan as its convener to find out ways how to float tender to sell those aircraft.

Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, CAAB chairman, earlier told this correspondent that they have served several notices to the respective United Airways, GMG, and Regent authorities, asking them to remove those aircrafts from the airport premises and to pay the outstanding money.

"But we didn't get any response from them. That's why we have finally decided to confiscate those aircraft."

In February 2016, United Airways ceased flights without any announcement. The airline began operation on July 10, 2006, after The CAAB has formed a four-receiving approval from the CAAB in

Earlier in February, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) took the initiative to revive operation.

As part of this, BSEC reorganised the board of directors of the now defunct airlines with Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert and editor of the Bangladesh Monitor, an aviation and tourism based weekly magazine, as its chairman.

Tasbirul Alam Chowdhury was removed as the head of the board of directors of United Airways, which was listed with the BSEC in 2010. The company is listed with the BSEC but its transaction is now closed.

The airlines was the first private aircraft," the letter read.

airline listed with the stock exchange. In a letter, it urged the CAAB to allow the airlines' officials and its technical teams to visit their aircraft for technical audits and to take the next course of action.

The airlines also said they are hoping to relocate their aircraft

"We were informed that those planes are at least 50 percent capable of flying. That's why we are hopeful those can fly again after necessary maintenance," the airlines said.

"Apart from the owners, who hold 1.5 lakh of the shareholders, different banks have also invested in the airlines who are deeply concerned about the CAAB's initiative of auctioning off the

# Journo arrested over FB post on graft allegations

due honorarium to multipurpose

health volunteers. Shamima filed a complaint with

Bogura Sadar Police Station on Saturday night over the post. Police carried out an investigation and found that the Facebook ID was around 3:00am today. Hours later, a

Emran Mahmud Tuhin, inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of Police in Bogura.

Asked, Md Selim Raza, officer-incharge of Bogura Sadar Police Station, said, "A team of DB police arrested Akhtaruzzaman from his house operated by Akhtaruzzaman, said case was filed against him under the

Digital Security Act.

"In primary interrogation, he [Akhtaruzzaman] admitted that he uploaded the post from a fake ID on provocation from some multipurpose health volunteers."

Contacted, both Mishu and allegations and claimed that the electronic devices.

volunteers were honorarium as per rules.

Talking to this correspondent, Akhtaruzzaman's father Md Rafiqul Islam said, "A team of police along with Samir Hossain Mishu came to our Sabgram house around 3:00am Shamima refuted the corruption and took away my son and his

Pakistani refugees away the border areas of India ended yesterday at the request of the Indian

has a chance to free himself. US STOPS AIRLIFTING REFUGEES

IN INDIA

spokesman said

Tripura to Assam in the last four weeks. The spokesman said India had asked that the airlifts last a month and had not sought any extension. The reason given was that bad weather, which led to the cancellation of 44 flights, would become even worse and

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

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

#### **ZIMBABWE**

240 for 9 in 50 overs (Marumani 13, Chakabva 26, Taylor 46, Myers 34, Madhevere 56, Raza 30, extras 15; Taskin 1-38, Saifuddin 1-54, Miraz 1-34, Shoriful 4-46, Shakib 2-42)

#### **BANGLADESH**

242 for 7 in 49.1 overs(Tamim 20, Liton 21, Shakib 96 not out, Mithun 2, Mosaddek 5, Mahmudullah 26, Afif 15, Saifuddin 28 not out, extras 23; Jongwe 2-46) Result: Bangladesh won by three wickets. Man-of-the-match: Shakib Al Hasan.



Bangladesh ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan hit a magnificent unbeaten 109-ball 96 after taking two wickets during their second ODI against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club Ground yesterday as Bangladesh recovered following top order collapse to seal the series with one match in hand. PHOTO: TWITTER



# Bowlers feed off TASKIN'S EFFORTS

Mazhar Uddin





Genuine pacers generally tend to bank on extra pace and bounce alongside initial movement to make the most impact, but what

separates the average fast bowler from a quality one is the control and consistency to make things even more difficult for batsmen.

The renaissance of seamer Taskin Ahmed in recent times has been such a case, the tall pacer now starting to employ intelligence to great effect as the Tigers restricted Zimbabwe to 240 for nine in the second ODI.

Taskin may not have run through the order and, in fact, ended with just one wicket for 38 runs from 10 overs. But the impact that he made in the bowling department undoubtedly deserves appreciation. The damage was chiefly done by Shoriful Islam, who bagged four wickets, while Shakib Al Hasan followed up his fifer in the first game with two wickets in the second ODI.

Looking at the scorecard, many may consider region. Shoriful's contribution the vital cog behind Bangladesh's bowling success, but that would conceding 19 runs and picking up one wicket, not live up to the hype despite a magnificent undermine the disciplined effort from Taskin while maintain a consistent line and often entry to international cricket, Taskin needs to right from the start which led to rewards for those around him.



Taskin found success in the first over of the innings, tempting Zimbabwe opener Tinashe Kamunhukamwe by bowling around the offstump corridor consistently. The right-hander's patience finally broke and his eyes lit up when he saw a slightly shorter length delivery outside the off stump, but he could only scoop it to straight to Afif Hossain at the backward point

Taskin bowled five overs in his first spell, creating doubts in the batsman's mind. ODI Skipper Tamim Iqbal, perhaps realising Taskin's importance, then used him in shorter bursts, keeping the Zimbabwe batsmen quiet as wickets tumbled around them.

After reaching 33 for two inside six overs, the hosts tried to stage a comeback through Regis Chakabva and skipper Brendon Taylor, who added 47 runs for the third wicket.

On the other hand, after going for twelve runs in his first two overs, Shakib used his experience to take control of the batsmen with teasing deliveries. He provided the breakthrough as Chakabva's attempted drive missed an angled delivery from Shakib, which went through the gate and hit timber.

Shoriful also mixed it up with short bounces alongside length deliveries and Bangladesh assumed total control during the middle overs. All the members of the Bangladesh bowling department continued to complement each other until the end, with the final eight overs costing just 43 runs.

But among all the Tigers bowlers, it was Taskin's effort and discipline that stood out as further proof of the seamer's consistent improvement across formats. Although he could keep such focus and momentum to become a world-class bowler in the coming days.

# Shakib finds his batting form

SPORTS REPORTER

The old adage "when it rains, it pours" fit Shakib Al Hasan almost perfectly as the star all-rounder not only returned to form with the bat, but ensured Bangladesh clinch the three-match ODI series after hitting an unbeaten 96 to script a three-wicket win in the second ODI in Harare yesterday.

Zimbabwe fought till the last over in defence of a 241-run target, but Shakib stood tall and added an unbeaten match-winning partnership of 69 runs for the eighth wicket with Mohammad Saifuddin.

The experienced left-hander credited Saifuddin, who was not out for a 34-ball 28 and had shown a good deal of composure in the chase. Shakib added that the pitch was not easy to bat on compared to the track in the first game, which forced batsmen to take chances, sometimes at the cost of their

"Today I had to put my hands up. Very happy. A lot of credit to Saifuddin, he showed a lot of composure. Today the wicket was slower. If the bowlers were bowling straight into the wicket, you had to take chances, which is where we lost wickets," Shakib said during the post-match press conference.

Bangladesh lost skipper Tamim on 20 while Liton Das, coming off a century in the first game, fell for 21. With both openers gone, Shakib attempted to take responsibility as wickets continued to fall at the other end.

Mushfiqur Rahim's absence in the middle

order was sorely felt, with Mohammad Mithun failing to make an impact and walking back after scoring two. Mosaddek Hossain's run out shortly after left the Tigers struggling on 74 for four in 18 overs.

Mahmudullah Riyad then joined Shakib and the duo added 55 for the fifth wicket before the former departed for 26 and Shakib notched his 49th half-century. However, the situation required the champion cricketer to stay on till the end and the pressure began to mount to keep the run-rate within reach after Mehedi Hasan Miraz (6) and Afif Hossain (15) were unable to provide support.

But Shakib found a stable partner in Saifuddin and managed to guide the team over the line, playing 109 balls and smashing eight of them for four en route his 96.

"Restricting them to 240 was a decent job by the bowlers. We definitely had some plans, and as a batting team, we could have done better. The way Shakib and Saifuddin batted was nice to see."

> **TAMIM IQBAL** BANGLADESH CAPTAIN



Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor was his usual swashbuckling self, making 46 off 57 balls, but his innings came to a bizarre 'hit wicket' end as he swung his bat casually at a delivery from the most impressive Bangladesh bowler, Shoriful Islam (4-46), and it clipped the stump. His hit-wicket dismissal appeared to fall into a grey area in the laws of the game. The decision went up to the third umpire, and Taylor walked off looking miffed when the red light came on.

# A day of double upsets in BPL



League leaders Bashundhara Kings tasted season's first defeat when the defending champions suffered 1-2

to Chattogram Abahani in a contested encounter of Bangladesh Premier League at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian marksman Chinedu Mathew struck in either half to bring down the invincible Kings, who had been unbeaten for 30 matches.

Kings came into the game on the back of nine straight wins, although they struggled in their last two matches against Rahmatganj MFS and Mohammedan, but yesterday they fell to Chattogram Abahani in their league's 18th encounter.

Following kick-off, Abahani's national winger Rakib Hossain had repeatedly threatened Kings with his daunting runs and some powerful shots, but it was Mathew, who broke the deadlock in the 39th minutes with a shot from inside the six-yard box, assisted by Nasirul Islam's

After conceding the lead, Kings pressed harder for the equaliser and managed to earn a penalty in the stoppage time but matches, respectively.

Argentinian striker Raul Becerra squandered it from the spot.

With both sides pressing each other, Abahani were deprived of doubling the lead with a Mathew shot coming off the crossbar before Kings levelled the margin with Robson finding the net in the 87th minute with a skilful chip inside the box. Mathew restored the lead two minutes later with a solo effort that ended with a brilliant curling shot and that meant Kings' unbeaten run had finally come to an end.

The day's second match also witnessed an upset, with second-placed Dhaka Abahani suffering a humiliating 2-4 defeat against minnow Muktijoddha Sangsad under floodlight.

Ballo Famoussa of Ivory Coast struck a brace while his compatriot Ibrahim Dicko and substitute Sarwar Zaman Nipu netted one goal each to help Muktijoddha raise their points to 14. For Abahani, Sunday Chizoba converted a penalty in the first half and Faisal Ahmed Shitol scored in the extra time of the second-half which only helped reduce the margin of defeat in the end.

Despite the setbacks, Bashundhara Kings and Dhaka Abahani are on top two positions with 49 and 36 points from 18





Great Britain rowing team train at the Sea Forest Waterway in Tokyo ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, starting from July 23. Meanwhile, two athletes have tested positive for the coronavirus in the Tokyo Olympic Village after a team colleague was also infected, officials said on Sunday, raising fears of a cluster just days before the opening ceremony. The first cases involving athletes in the Village came a day after a member of their entourage returned the first positive test in the complex, which will house thousands of athletes. The three infections were revealed as competitors fly in from around the world for the pandemic-delayed Olympics, which are facing significant opposition in Japan due to their Covid risks. Games spokesman Masa Takaya said the three cases "were from the same country and sport".

# 'We should not dare to dream of winning a medal'

ANISUR RAHMAN



Archer Ruman Sana's direct qualification to 2020 Tokyo Olympics has seemingly fueled the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) to dream something big

this time around even though it has always been a token participation in the Olympics for Bangladesh since its first appearance at world's showpiece event in the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984

Ruman is the country's second athlete, after golfer Siddiqur Rahman, to qualify directly for the Olympics and the 26-yearold archer has been in focus among six Bangladeshi athletes participating in Tokyo Olympics. Ruman has come to this stage after achieving a lot of international successes over the years by winning gold and silver medals from Asian Grand Prix, Asia Cup, International Archery tournament in Kyrgyzstan, South Asian Games, ISSF Islamic Solidarity Archery Championships, South Asian Archery Championships, etc.

However, winning a bronze medal from the World Archery Championships in 2019 outshone all of his previous success as through this tournament he secured his place at Olympics by competing against the world-



class archers. Thus everyone now believes that Ruman can do something special in Tokyo for the nation which never won an Olympic medal.

Ruman shared his thoughts with The Daily Star before departing for Japan on Friday regarding his thoughts about the Tokyo Olympics and how he has prepared to face this mega challenge.

"Directly qualifying for the Olympics was a big dream for me and it has been the biggest achievement in my career I think. I still feel proud of myself as well as for the country. As everyone is expecting something from me, I will try my level best and I will really be happy with whatever I put up in the grand stage," said Ruman.

"Realistically, we can't win a medal from the Olympics without a long-term plan that grooms talented athletes who can qualify for the Olympics directly in good numbers and be capable of winning medals.

"Also, it is not possible to bring a medal from the Olympics only on the back of mental strength. Since we had always struggled to qualify for the Olympics, so I think, we should not dare to dream of winning an Olympic medal at this stage," the lad from Khulna opined.

Replying to a query about his preparations so far, Ruman expressed his frustrations.

"If you look at the Olympics preparation of South Korean archers who had set their sights on gold, they have been given a range of facilities, like having artificial wind and rain at their training arena. Comparatively, we did not receive any special training, food or incentive. And now looking back, if I ask myself- what rewards have I been given after qualifying for the Olympics, winning a bronze medal from the World Archery Championships and silver medal in mixed event from the World Cup? Well, it's nothing!'

Currently, Ruman and his team are in Tokyo and have begun training with all hopes of achieving a near miraculous success.







# Carry on efforts to improve the lot of people

PM directs officials to ensure compliance with health safety rules amid pandemic

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vesterday asked government officials to make sure that all, particularly the wear masks and follow other health guidelines, alongside continuing their efforts to change people's fate despite the fact that coronavirus has been rattling the

"We have nothing to do alone as it [coronavirus] is a global problem. Despite the fact, we're trying to check its spread and give protection to the people. We have to work for the people by keeping the wheels of the socio-economic advancement running alongside making sure that the efforts to change the fate of the people won't stop anyhow," she said.

The PM said this while virtually addressing a function on the occasion of signing the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of various ministries and departments for the FY 2021-2022 and distributing the APA performance and integrity awards from the Gono Bhaban.

The Cabinet Division organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Covid patient Jarina Begum, who had severe breathing problems, being shifted to another hospital from Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning as it could not provide her ICU treatment. The 60-year-old woman from Brahmanbaria was admitted to the hospital on Thursday.

**ANISUR RAHMAN** 

#### CASE UNDER DSA Journo arrested over FB post on graft allegations against official

Our Correspondent, Bogura

A journalist was arrested in Bogura early yesterday in a case filed under the Digital Security Act over a Facebook post on corruption allegations against a health official and his office assistant.

The arrestee, Akhtaruzzaman, is Bogura district correspondent for daily Banijjo Pratidin. He has also been working as a multipurpose health volunteer at a community clinic in Bogura Sadar

Upazila since last year. On Saturday, a Facebook post was uploaded from an ID named Aftab Ahmed, allegations of bringing financial corruption Bogura Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Md Samir Hossain Mishu, and his office's Head Assistant and Accountant Shamima Akter.

It alleged that Mishu and Shamima embezzled without paying SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ABANDONED AIRCRAFT

#### **United Air voices** worry over sale of eight planes

Writes to CAAB for amicable solution thru' discussion

RASHIDUL HASAN

United Airways has expressed concern over the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh's latest initiative to sell eight aircraft of the private air operator which remained abandoned at the Dhaka Airport

In a letter to the CAAB on July 14, Kazi Wahidul Alam, chairman of United body, earnestly requested the regulatory authority to reach an acceptable solution for the both sides through discussion.

The CAAB recently started the process of confiscating 12 aircraft of four private airlines, which have been lying abandoned at the cargo village area for two to eight

Of the 12, United Airways owns eight, Regent Airways two, while GMG and Avina airlines have one each. All four private airlines have not been in operation since during that time, said AHM Touhid-Ul Ahsan, executive director of HSIA and group captain.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

#### Bangabandhu will be put on trial very soon: Yahya

JULY 19, 1971

Shamsuddoza Sajen

YAHYA'S INTERVIEW WITH FINANCIAL TIMES Pakistan President Yahya Khan

in an interview published in The Financial Times today said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman would be put on trial "very soon".

The trial would be by a military court and in secret, he said. He did not give the precise charge, but he said it would carry the death penalty -- subject to confirmation by himself as president. THE BANGALEES STRIKE BACK

Newsweek, an influential American weekly, today wrote, "Throughout East Pakistan, the embattled Bengali resistance movement seemed more determined than ever to prove, that it was alive and well — and capable of making life extremely difficult for the heavily armed but thinly spread occupation forces of the Pakistani Army."

"All across Pakistan's ravaged eastern province, revitalized rebel units made their presence felt last week in no uncertain terms. Taking advantage of a crash training program and of weapons, and ammunition supplied by India, Mukti Bahini went on the offensive. Factories were sabotaged. Key bridges were toppled by well-placed dynamic blasts. Vital barge traffic was attacked from concealed machine gun emplacements. And railroad locomotives operating on the relatively few remaining open routes were blown

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Pabna Mental Hospital

#### A dozen patients test positive for Covid-19

Our Correspondent, Pabna

At least a dozen mental health patients in Pabna Mental Hospital tested positive for Covid-19 last week.

As the hospital does not have the facilities for Covid-19 treatment, the patients had to be sent home for isolation under their families' care.

The authorities ha introduced a new rule requiring Covid-19 tests before admitting new patients.

"At the first week of this month, we found Covid-19 symptoms among some patients. Then, we collected the samples of 63. Twelve of them were positive," said Dr Masud Rana.

patients in this hospital. The Covid-19 patients may spread the virus among

"There are over 400

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

#### Scientists stunned by rare Arctic lightning storms



REUTERS, Anchorage

Meteorologists were stunned this week when three successive thunderstorms swept across the icy Arctic from Siberia to north of Alaska, unleashing lightning bolts in an unusual phenomenon that scientists say will become less rare with global

"Forecasters hadn't seen anything like that before," said Ed Plumb, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Fairbanks, speaking about the

storms that started on Saturday. Typically, the air over the Arctic Ocean, especially when the water is covered with ice, lacks

#### **Ex-UPDF** member shot dead

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

A former member of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) was shot in Khagrachhari's Panchhari upazila yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Kholo Kumar Tripura, alias Sagor, 29.

A group of unidentified criminals shot Kholo dead on the spot in Moratila around 8:30am said Mohammad Dulal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Panchhari Police Station. recovered

victim's body and sent it to Khagrachhari Sadar SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15 JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

1.160 Gulf Returnees They lost Tk

#### 1.8 lakh each in wage, perks amid Covid

Says rights body report STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 1,160 Bangladeshi returnee migrants each incurred an average loss of about \$2,119, or Tk 1.8 lakh, in wages and other entitlements in six Gulf countries amid the pandemic, according to a new survey report.

Of the returnees, 67.7 percent said they did not receive due wages after February, 2020, says the report of Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants

(BCSM) The highest amount of loss a returnee migrant incurred was \$7,063 and

the lowest was \$35, it says. The average monthly income of the respondents was \$329 or about Tk 27,970, it adds.

Findings of the report "Addressing Systemic Challenges of Wage Theft: Bangladeshi Covid-19 Returnees from the Gulf" SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A railway police personnel using a megaphone to asks travellers to follow the health safety rules as people queued up yesterday to enter the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station to board the trains and reach their destinations to celebrate Eid with their dear ones.

ANISUR RAHMAN

# Vaccination rate now higher in EU than in US

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Says EU; UK prepares to jettison most pandemic restrictions

European Union leaders celebrated their coronavirus vaccination programme reaching a higher proportion of its people than in the US, which had outpaced the bloc

"We promised it and it's done. The EU this week overtook the US as the continent with the most first doses in the world," Commissioner Thierry Breton wrote on Twitter on Saturday evening.

Citing statistics website Our World in Data, France's Europe minister Clement Beaune wrote that the EU had now given 55.5 percent of people a first dose, compared with 55.4 across the Atlantic

Brussels' strategy for rolling out Covid-19 shots was widely criticised in early 2021, lagging Britain and the US for lack of supply.

But Breton, who runs a group working on boosting vaccine production and supply, said that the EU had now overtaken its transatlantic rival while "remaining #open and exporting half of our production to 100+ countries", hailing "efficiency and solidarity" on Europe's part.

At the height of the vaccine scheme's teething troubles, EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen had in February acknowledged mistakes by the Brussels authority. She nevertheless insisted that "the battle against the pandemic is not a sprint, but a marathon".

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and

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