

THE WORLD IS 'SEEING A LIE'
Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel dismisses unrest as regime mounts response
SEE PAGE 6



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



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the meat industry, after Bangladesh attained self-sufficiency in meat production.

The importer or its agent did not even submit to the customs authorities the bill of entry, a mandatory legal document on or before the arrival of a consignment.

After the failure of Plan A, which was to "manage" airport officials, followed a routine procedure -- seizure of the cows by customs officials and a three-week wait before auction.

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 American-breed cattle of Indian origin to its farm in Mohammadpur's Beribadh area.

Only about two months back, another

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



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.
PHOTO: BULBUL AHMED

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 Covid-19 rapid 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 test.

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,

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COVID VACCINATION

Govt to lower age bar to 30 years

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

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

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| VACCINE | AMOUNT |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| AstraZeneca (Japan) | 29 lakh (confirmed) |
| Moderna | 30 lakh (confirmed) |
| Sinopharm | 1.1 crore (confirmed) |
| Johnson & Johnson | 50 lakh (under process) |
| Sinopharm | 3 crore (Proposed) |

CROWDED CATTLE MARKETS

DGHS worried over violation of safety rules

225 more die of Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health officials have voiced concern over violations of the health safety rules at cattle markets as the country yesterday 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 Nazmul 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

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INDECISION ON RUNNING RMG UNITS

Uncertainty over workers' Eid trips

REFAJET 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 all-rounder, 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 yesterday.

Pilgrims stream out of Makkah

60,000 fully vaccinated Muslims begin hajj rituals



AFP, Makkah

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 scaled-down 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

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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 Sraban, 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.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Cattle sales yet to pick up steam

Buyers complain of high prices

HELEMI ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With only two days remaining before Eid-ul-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 year.

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.

They blamed the high price of food as the reason. Also, the price of meat went up, they added.

Nizam, who brought six bulls from

Faridpur at cattle market in Dholaiakhal, said, "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 was very poor.

"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 the picture is completely different as the government did not allow traders to bring camels from abroad.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



With the capital's cattle markets yet to draw customers, traders were seen lazing 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 will resume.

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8 killed, 49 hurt in road crashes

Five die in Rangpur alone

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed 49 were injured in road accidents in 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-year-old house help in the city's Topkhana Road area.

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

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sayeed passed the order after Shabbagh 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.

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BOLSTERING BILATERAL TIES

Kuwait proposes forming minister-level committee

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

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 Rohingya to Myanmar from Bangladesh.

Two leaders expressed their willingness to visit each other's country after the improvement of pandemic situation.

Currency counterfeiters on the prowl around Eid

SHARIFUL ISLAM

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 said.

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 crore 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 Kamrangchaur.

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."

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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 Tejgaon 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.

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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, Kojhuri, 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 added.

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 weak 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 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.



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-foot long bridge in 2018-2019 fiscal year spending over Tk 31 lakh.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

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

Date: 15/07/2021

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 notice | Description of the content | As per Tender Schedule Content | Amended Content |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 16 | Tender Last Selling date | 02/08/2021, Time-3.00 PM | 24/08/2021, Time-3.00 PM |
| 17 | Tender Closing Date & Time | 03/08/2021 Time-3.00 PM | 25/08/2021 Time-3.00 PM |
| 18 | Tender Opening Time | 03/08/2021 Time-3.40 PM | 25/08/2021 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 PM | The deadline for submission of Tenders is: 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 : Time & Date: 03/08/2021 at 3.40 PM | The deadline for opening of Tenders is : Time & Date: 25/08/2021 at 3.40 PM |

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

বাংলাদেশের স্বর্ণজয়ন্তী
Bangladesh

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন

মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার
উন্নয়ন-অর্থনীতি উন্নত হবে মুজিববর্ষ

বিএসইসি/প্রশাসন/১০:১৩/২০২০-২১

১৮ জুলাই ২০২১

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ 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 নিম্নের QR কোড স্ক্যান করুন।

জালাল উদ্দিন আহমেদ
উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

GD-1358

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.

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Corrigendum No: File-08.01.0000.067.82.001.20

Date: 15/07/2021

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 notice | Description of the content | As per Tender Schedule Content | Amended Content |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 16 | Tender Last Selling date | 02/08/2021, Time-3.00 PM | 24/08/2021, Time-3.00 PM |
| 17 | Tender Closing Date & Time | 03/08/2021 Time-3.00 PM | 25/08/2021 Time-3.00 PM |
| 18 | Tender Opening Time | 03/08/2021 Time-3.40 PM | 25/08/2021 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 PM | The deadline for submission of Tenders is: 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 : Time & Date: 03/08/2021 at 3.40 PM | The deadline for opening of Tenders is : Time & Date: 25/08/2021 at 3.40 PM |

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

(Zakia Sultana) 15/07/2021
Member (Customs: Audit, Modernization and International Trade)
National Board of Revenue,
Phone: 8391200

GD-1359

'Strenuously favours political settlement'

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

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada yesterday 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.

The announcement comes as 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 al-Adha.

"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 yesterday.

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 added.

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' captivity Ms Alikhil is under medical care at hospital," the statement said.

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



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.

PHOTO: REUTERS

No ban on sacrifice of 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.

G L Sharma, 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 festival.

"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.

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 a 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 by slim margins.

NEWS 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.

Syria'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 Marktshellenberg, 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.

PHOTO: AFP

HEAVY MONSOON RAINS IN MUMBAI

At least 34 killed in wall collapse, landslide

AFP, Mumbai

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

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 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.



JULY 19

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 Bosnia.

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

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, uncertainty, instability weakens democracy," the 74-year-old 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 as PM.

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

The world is 'seeing a lie'

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 discontent.

"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 anti-government 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 denied 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

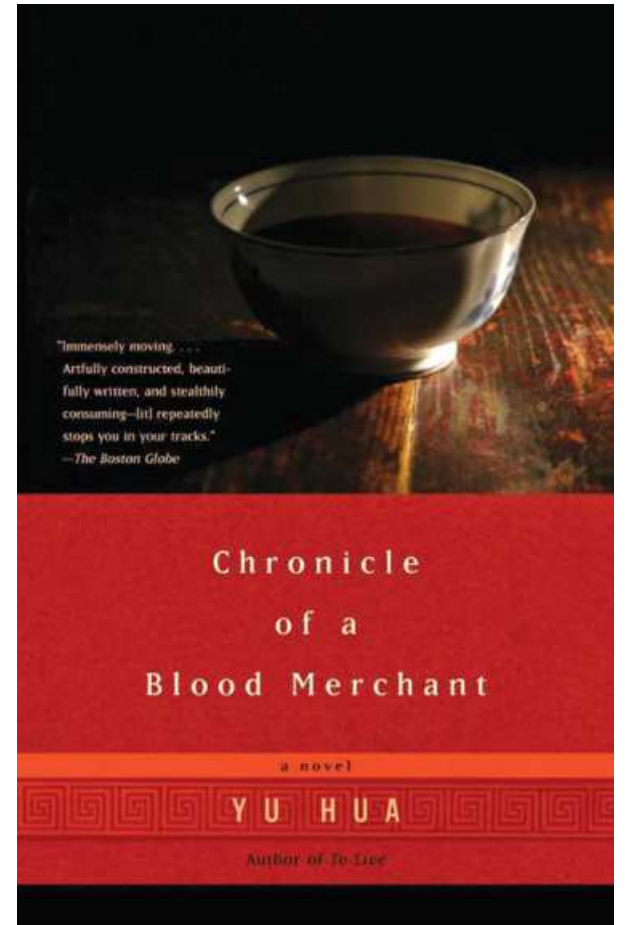
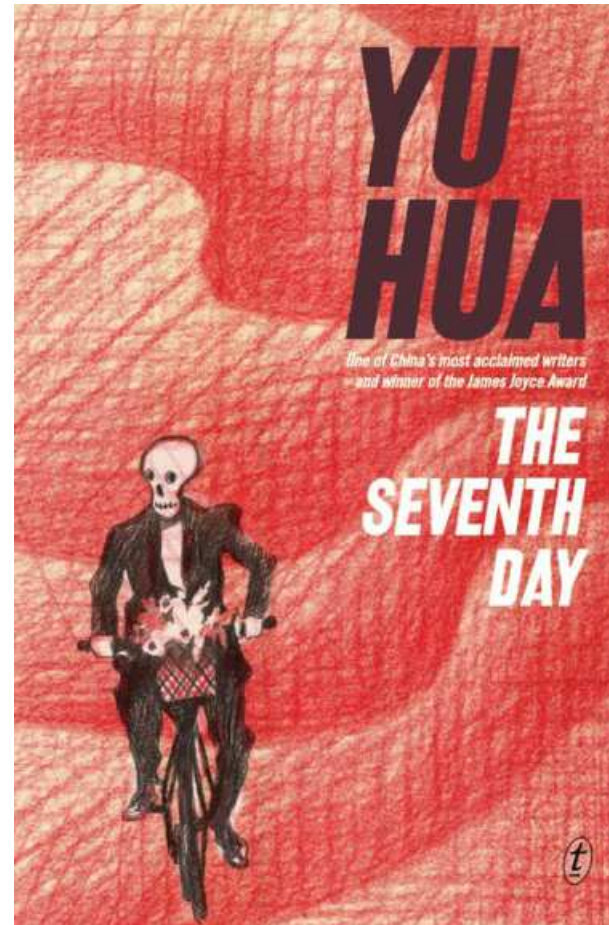
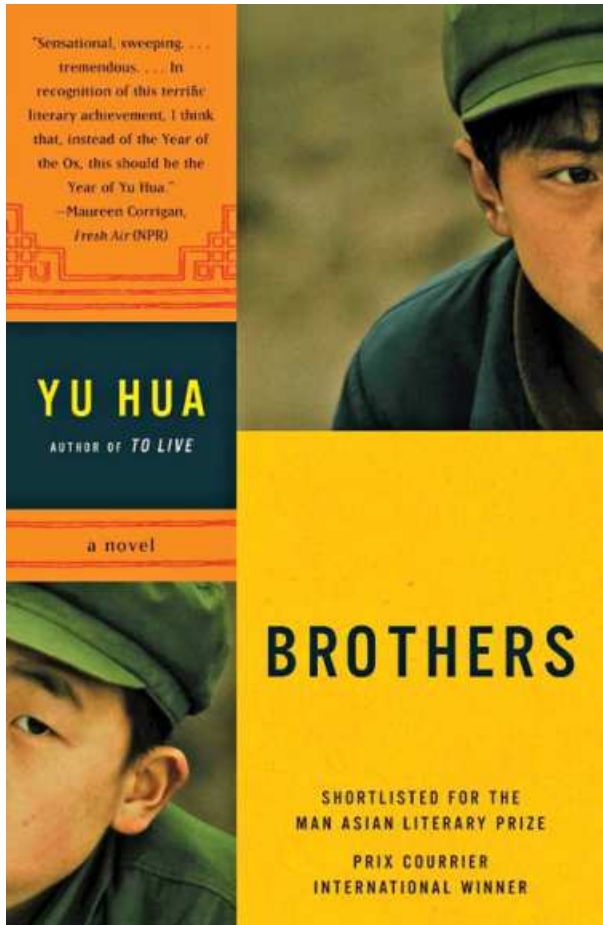
"immeasurable damage to the national soul."

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 so-called "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.



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 Xiao 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 socio-economic 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 weeping.'

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 frog-marching 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-tales 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 live-life-while-you-can kind of guy' who can turn even his notoriety (people start calling him Buttpeeper) to economic advantage. Everyone, from the policeman 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 devours 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 counter-revolutionary 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.

Li 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 profit-making 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.

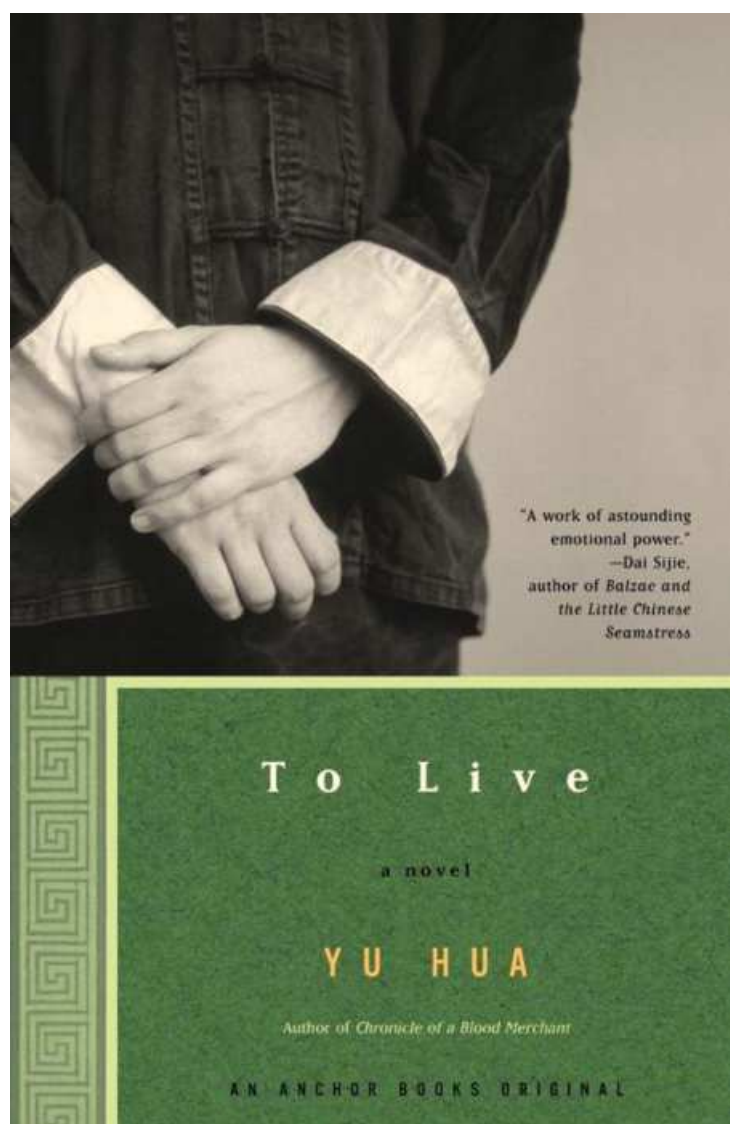
He wants his job at the Good Works Factory back, and when turned down becomes the biggest scrap dealer in the country. He visits Japan and returns with thousands of 'junk suits', which sell like hot cakes. He buys the Good Works Factory from the government and turns it into the Liu Town Economic Research 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 satirical 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 cat house. A note left by 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

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 19, 2021, SRABAN 4, 1428 BS

Mass death of animals in Katabon during lockdown

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

A 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 build-up 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 Katabon 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 purpose.

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 area.

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 cruel fate.

Cinema hall workers facing dire consequences

Government must come forward to save them

SINCE 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 kidneys to survive.

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 hall workers.

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



FAHMIDA KHATUN

IN the wake of 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

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

absorbing workers in new opportunities, and increase access to finance for self-employment.

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 conventions.

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.



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.

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

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An ode to Bangladeshi food



LAM-YA MOSTAQUE

AS an avid fan of 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 bharta* 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

From the very 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 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 to India".

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 bharta* 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 heart?

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



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

IN Bangladesh, we are missing a trick by failing to capitalise on a resource which could super-charge our RMG industry into a bold new era. 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 workers.

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 case.

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 ladder—could 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 Apparel Exchange (BAE).

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.

Combating the Coronavirus

The role of the elected representatives

BG SHARIF UDDIN AHMED (RETI)

IN 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 observing the 4 rules recommended 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.

PHOTO: STAR

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 the 4 rules.

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

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 to defeat the Coronavirus if we stand together.

Sharif Uddin Ahmed is a retired Brigadier General.

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.

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

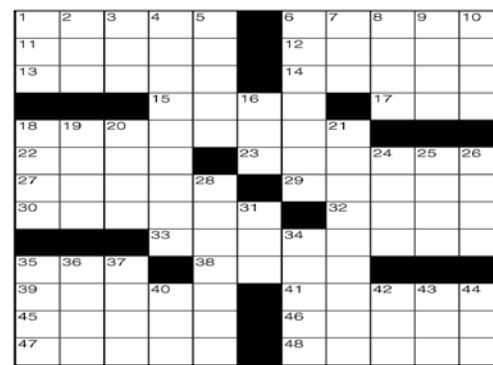
- 1 Half of a 1960s rock group
- 6 Writer Asimov
- 11 Wide awake
- 12 Numerical comparison
- 13 Door holder's words
- 14 Rust, for one
- 15 Knitting need
- 17 Toe count
- 18 Old gold coin of Spain
- 22 Singer Guthrie
- 23 Rio setting, to natives
- 27 Stately home
- 29 Steer clear of
- 30 Diner stack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

DOWN

- 1 Chum
- 2 Pub brew
- 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
- 43 Farm female
- 44 Lion's home



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



BEETLE BAILEY



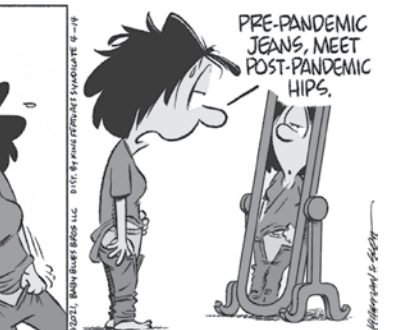
BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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



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 wicket.

“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.

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 Shoriful’s contribution the vital cog behind Bangladesh’s bowling success, but that would undermine the disciplined effort from Taskin 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 off-stump 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 region.

Taskin bowled five overs in his first spell, conceding 19 runs and picking up one wicket, while maintain a consistent line and often 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 not live up to the hype despite a magnificent entry to international cricket, Taskin needs to keep such focus and momentum to become a world-class bowler in the coming days.

A day of double upsets in BPL

SPORTS REPORTER



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 pass.

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

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 Sangsard 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 matches, respectively.



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”.

PHOTO: REUTERS

‘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-year-old 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.

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SHAH CEMENT

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 yesterday asked government officials to make sure that all, particularly the home-goers, 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 world.



"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 Bhavan.

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

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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.

PHOTO: 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, Md 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, bringing allegations of financial corruption against Bogura Sadar 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 money without paying

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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 since 2016.

In a letter to the CAAB on July 14, Kazi Wahidul Alam, chairman of United Airways's newly formed governing 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 years.

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.

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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

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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 have 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.

"There are over 400 patients in this hospital. The Covid-19 patients may spread the virus among

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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 warming.

"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

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Ex-UPDF member shot dead

SANJOY KUMAR BARRIA

A former member of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) was shot dead 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 area around 8:30am, said Mohammad Dulal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Panchhari Police Station.

We recovered the victim's body and sent it to Khagrachhari Sadar

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 19

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
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.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Vaccination rate now higher in EU than in US

Says EU; UK prepares to jettison most pandemic restrictions

AGENCIES

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

"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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