

SC stays

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forcibly took her to an orchard and raped her. As she cried for help, they strangled her to death. Relatives found her body from the orchard the following day.

Following a case filed by Eti's father with Mathbaria Police Station, police arrested Swapan, who is Eti's cousin, and Sumon.

After interrogation, the two confessed to committing the crimes.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 on January 31, 2016 convicted and sentenced Swapan and Sumon to death.

On June 30 this year, the HC acquitted both of them on the ground that the lower court had no jurisdiction to hold the trial as Sumon was 16-year-old, a minor, at the time of the incident while Swapan was convicted based on Suman's confessional statement.

Khulna Division

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to treat the increasing surge of patients due to insufficient beds, doctors and nurses.

Health services at KMCH were in disarray, as the rush of patients from nearby districts rose significantly, said Suhash Ranjan Halder, resident medical officer of KMCH and key member of the Covid-19 unit there.

"In the last two months, the Covid-19 unit was full of patients, and we have been trying our best to provide treatment," he said.

On average, 180 to 200 patients are being admitted there per day, he added. At least 163 patients were receiving treatment at the KMCH's 130-bed Covid-19 unit yesterday. There are only 14 doctors and 67 nurses to look after them.

Besides, the hospital is facing a shortage of high-flow oxygen support, alleged some patients' relatives, seeking anonymity, even though the new 10 kilolitre-per-second central plant began operation from Sunday.

In 24 hours till 8am yesterday, the Covid-19 positivity rate was 40 percent in Khulna district.

Contacted, Jashim Uddin Hawlader, health director of Directorate General of Health Services in Khulna, said, "The overall situation is still under our control, as we are trying our best to give services to patients."

"Without active participation of all, it will not be possible to curb Covid-19 infections," he said.

Even though there are 255 Covid dedicated beds in the city in total, 316 patients were taking treatment at various hospitals as of yesterday.

In the first 19 days of this month, at least 70 people died with Covid-19-like symptoms in Khulna district, while the unofficial figure was 48, shows data from Khulna civil surgeon's office. In the previous month, the number of deaths from Covid-19-like symptoms was 31, while the official toll was 27.



Every Eid is an occasion for epic dishes. But of the two, perhaps it's more true for Eid-ul-Azha, whose beefy recipes bring delight to dining tables. However, to spice up said dishes, one needs a lot of spices. Thankfully, retail spice traders have stepped up ahead of the Eid, operating open shops in many areas of the capital. This photo was taken yesterday from Motijheel.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Rebeka Walie's 15th death anniversary

CITY DESK
Tomorrow is the 15th death anniversary of Rebeka Walie, wife of late ATM Walie Ashraf, who was a freedom fighter, lawmaker of Brahmanbaria-6 and founder editor of Janomot Newsweekly, London.

Rebeka played an important social role in London, fighting for the cause of the Liberation War, says a press release.

Prayers and a milad-mahfil will be held at her grave in Bancharampur, Brahmanbaria and her Mayakanan residence. Families, friends and well-wishers are asked to pray for her departed soul.

Workers victim

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workers, the highest 63 cases were reported mentioning Saudi Arabia as the host country.

The report showed 50 of the cases involving Bangladeshi workers were in domestic sector, 24 cases in construction, 12 cases in sanitation, and 8 cases in other sectors.

Bangladeshi workers have also reported wage theft from the hospitality sector, manufacturing, transport and retail, said the report.

BCSM co-chair Saiful said the 115 cases have been documented with "evidence".

Besides, there are over 1,000 cases of verbal claims against wage theft which have been collected by BCSM member organisations and are under the verification stage, he said.

Mentioning about 5 lakh Bangladeshi migrant workers have returned home amid the pandemic, he said they were yet to reach most of the returnees to know if they have a similar claim.

He urged the expatriates' welfare ministry to address the issue bilaterally.

Besides, the foreign ministry through the Bangladesh missions abroad can negotiate and reach out to the companies in the host countries and support migrant workers get compensations, he said.

OVERALL SCENARIO
The latest MFA report is the second volume under its "Justice for Wage Theft" series.

The report found a total of 1,113 wage

theft cases reported by migrant workers between January and May this year from five countries of origin -- India, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Philippines.

It said migrant workers faced wage theft mainly in nine countries of destination -- Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Malaysia, Philippines, Bahrain, Qatar, China, and Oman.

Out of the 1,113 cases, 753 were experienced by documented workers and 359 by undocumented workers (32.2 percent), said the report.

Among the cases, there were 22 group cases and 175 individual ones.

In the first report, a little over 1,000 cases for the period of November 2019 to January 2021 were recorded.

BACKGROUND
According to the latest MFA report, on June 1, 2020, a coalition of civil society organisations and trade unions launched an appeal to governments to establish an "Urgent Justice Mechanism" that addresses the plight of millions of migrant workers whose wages have been unjustly withheld by their employers.

Subsequently, the coalition released four more appeals focusing on concerted action to be taken by the UN bodies, governments, and businesses in engaging with existing cases of wage theft and lack of justice as well as the creation and maintenance of effective mechanisms for continued progress.

Hold govt

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That is why deadly accidents are occurring again and again, they said, demanding judicial investigation into the matter.

A 35,000 square-foot building was built as a warehouse. Then suddenly it was being used for production, with no minimum fire safety. Each of the floors was packed with flammable objects. There, we found child labourers and they were caged by iron netting inside the building. It's a sad state that there are several inspection bodies to monitor these factories. A factory needs every such authority's permission to set up. What happens is -- there are no follow-up inspections after giving approval," said Iqbal Habib.

He added that there are Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE), Fire Service and Civil Defense, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha and so on.

"They should be made liable too. If any one or two of them get punished, the scenario will change... After 50 years of Independence, if you say that there is shortage of factory inspectors, then it's fraudulence," Iqbal said.

On July 8, a deadly fire razed Hashem Foods Limited in Rugganj of Narayanganj, killing at least 51 workers and staffers of the factory.

Prof Dr Md Abdul Alim, member of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, said a food factory should not be situated in a six-storied building. It should be a one-storied building.

"Media reports say the six-storied building has only two stairs instead of four. The 34,000 square-foot floor should have more than four stairs. Each floor should have separate fire exits," Dr Alim said.

Hafizul Islam said that the factory hired children, defying rules and regulations.

"In this coronavirus situation, many poor children are left out of school. The company took the chance and hired many of them for low wage," he said.

Shasthya Andolan joint convenor Farida Akhter presented the keynote paper at the webinar.

She said officials from DIFE visited the Hashem Group factory on June 8, 2021, and issued a notice for use of child labour. But Hashem Group did not take note of it. The accident happened within a month.

She added that a 2019 report by BSTI found the food products of 26 companies to be substandard, including Kolson Semai of Hashem Group.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman said this is not a mere accident, but a murder when so many manmade factors are involved.

"After the Rana Plaza incident in 2013, most RMG factories became compliant after pressure from buyers and Accord/Alliance. The government should focus its attention similarly on the non-RMG industrial sectors to improve workers' safety situation in the country," he said.

He added that the country will soon exit from the LDC category. "But what happens to the rule of law? The workers must get justice," he said.

The webinar was presided over by former IEDCR director AM Zakir Hossain and anchored by Bapa member-secretary Bidhan Chandra Pal.

'Bhalo' bridges gap

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cannot get the best value for money due to lack of product awareness, said Subrata, who used to work in the development sector before becoming a social entrepreneur.

"In terms of credit, microfinance offers loans but asks for weekly repayment, which does not match small cattle farmers' production cycle. Even after getting the required money, they lack the knowledge to make the best use of the credit to yield a good return," he explained.

Big companies of these products face challenges to reach small farmers because of the higher cost involved in sales, distribution, and promotion of their products, he said, adding "This is the gap we want to bridge."

BHALO SERVICES
The services of bhalo come in different bundle packages. The bundles comprise of high-quality agro-inputs curated for various farming needs, necessary credit facilities with a flexible payment plan, farming advisories to use the inputs, and additional farming services.

If one wants to buy a four-month bull fattening package at Tk 11,260, it will include a nutrition package at Tk 1,100, ready feed at Tk 4,160, wheat bran at Tk 5,000, and a service charge of Tk 250 per month.

This apart, the farmer will get a full-cycle farming advisory and required consultation or treatment if needed and a micro health insurance for the farmer or their spouse.

The organisation has already connected high-quality farm input suppliers for

livestock and financial service providers and farmers using a network of just six sales agents and two logistics hubs.

The sales agents, known as "Bhai-jaan" (brothers) to farmers, visit the villages to promote, sell, advise and manage transactions with farmers while the logistics hubs process and complete the orders.

"Since our journey began, our partner input suppliers have witnessed 5 times growth in farm inputs sales where bhalo operates. We've generated around Tk 1.9 crore revenue and 17 percent gross margin with excellent credit recovery," said Subrata.

"Our sales agents have earned an average monthly income of Tk 16,200."

END GOALS
The organisation aspires to expand its activities for 8,000 farmers of 40 unions of two districts within the next year.

"By 2027, we want to cover almost half of the country and eight lakh smallholder farmers with our products and services to help the farmers," said Subrata.

Sabina Begum of Buraburi union is one such beneficiary farmer.

The 40-year-old took a package for two of her dairy cows. Now she is earning two times more profit than before by selling milk. She is preparing to take the fattening package for two other bulls.

"Apart from the profit, I can save around Tk 2,000 per week," she said.

Dr Md Tunvick Zahan, a veterinary surgeon of Ulipur upazila in Kurigram, said if this initiative is expanded, farmers will be greatly benefitted.



St Jacob School arranged food distribution programme yesterday on the school premises in the capital. Students donated Eid gift bags with 10kg rice, 2kg lentils, 1 litre oil, vermicelli, sugar and two cotton masks. Principal Watson Halder and teachers were present.

Multi-sector

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Andrew Mccartor, vice president of Pure Earth, said over the last three decades, deaths caused by lead increased in Bangladesh while it declined elsewhere. Bangladesh now sees fourth highest death rate from lead exposure, he said.

The economic cost of productivity loss from lead exposure is US 16 billion US dollars, which is roughly half the income from apparel and textiles, he estimated.

Dr Anwar Sadaat, director (planning, monitoring and research) of Directorate General of Health Service, said some 35 million children in Bangladesh have high blood lead level (6.83 ug/dl). The standard level is 5 ug/dl.

Dr Sadaat identified seven hotspots of lead across the country including Dhaka, Gazipur, Tangail, Bogura, Mymensingh, Khulna and Magura, emphasising the need to enhance capacity to monitor the situation.

Dr Shahriar Hossain, general secretary of Environment and Social Development Organization, said high level of lead has been detected in rice and vegetable. A recent study by revealed presence of one or more heavy metals including lead in five out of 16 food groups, he said.

He stressed on the enforcement of existing law, forming a national framework and imposing a ban on using lead.

Md Ashraf Uddin, director general of DoE, chaired the event.

Abul Hashem

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The other accused are four sons of Hashem, the factory's Chief Operating Officer Shahan Shah Azad, its Deputy General Manager Mamunur Rashid and head of administration Salahuddin.

All eight were arrested hours after the case was filed.

After a four-day remand, the accused were produced before court on July 14. On that day, the court granted bail to Abul Hashem's two sons Taosib Ibrahim and Tanzem Ibrahim. The other six were sent to jail.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization for Organizational Assessment of agencies under the MoEWOE to address future demand. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO Dhaka website under **Procurement Notices** at https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/informationresources/WCMS_814684/lang--en/index.htm

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, by 04:30 PM (BST time).**

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following positions under following contractual modalities:

- National Consultant - NCD / SSA
- Administrative Assistant / SSA
- National Consultant / Consultant

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. RFP/BAN/2021/008: Short term technical assistance for HRIS data quality improvement and development of a related eLearning platform.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 05 August 2021.

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in separate attachments electronically as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents.

WFP
wfp.org

Expression of Interest
For prequalification of I/NGOs for WFP's
"2022 Partnership cycle (1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022)
To Implement Humanitarian Assistance Programme in Cox's Bazar
To Enhance Food Security and Nutrition"
Ref. # WFP/CXB-EOI-NGO-27-07-2021

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) invites I/Non-Government Organizations (I/NGOs) with experience as per requirements to submit an Expression of Interest for the implementation of the "Humanitarian Assistance program to enhance food security and nutrition."

About the Programme:
The work of WFP in Bangladesh over the period of WFP's Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2022 – 2026), to be approved by the end of 2021, will support the country on its path to end hunger and reduce malnutrition by 2030 through four strategic outcomes:

- Strategic outcome 1: Populations affected by crisis in Bangladesh are able to meet basic food, nutrition and other essential needs during and after crises.
- Strategic outcome 2: By 2026, the nutrition needs of women, children and vulnerable groups in Bangladesh are met through national institutions that have enhanced capacities to design and implement gender- and nutrition-sensitive social safety net programmes.
- Strategic outcome 3: By 2026, vulnerable communities in Bangladesh are more resilient to shocks and natural disasters owing to enhanced national disaster management capacity and flexible nutrition- and gender-sensitive social safety net programmes.
- Strategic outcome 4: Vulnerable crisis-affected populations in Bangladesh benefit from enhanced coordination and improved common services during and after crises.

In Cox's Bazar, WFP, through its partners, provides humanitarian to around 860,000 Rohingya refugees and 400,000 vulnerable host communities. In collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, other UN agencies (e.g. FAO, UNHCR, IOM, etc.) and in partnership with I/NGOs, WFP is also working in various sectors that include Food Security Nutrition and Site Management. In the most vulnerable host communities and the camps, WFP will continue to: i) Provide humanitarian food assistance to the Rohingya population every month through E-Voucher and fresh food corner activities; ii) Self-reliance support through income-generating and skills development activities; iii) Learning centre support and school feeding; iv) Nutrition activities on prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition targeting children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women; v) Strengthening Community Resilience and Safety Net Systems (Government project funded by the World Bank); vi) Livelihood support to vulnerable host communities; vii) Building the Resilience of Camps and Host Communities through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities; viii) SMEP - Innovative effort to support Rohingya Refugee Communities for emergency preparedness, response, and rehabilitation & maintenance of critical camp infrastructures.

Conditions for entry:
The applicant must have:

- Legal status (valid registration number with NGO Affairs Bureau and Social Welfare Department)
- Appropriate organizational strength
- Physical presence in the area for which it applies
- Past exposure of implementing food and cash transfer based programme, livelihoods programme
- Organization's strategic objectives fit with WFP's strategic priorities
- Basic resource capacity (financial and human)
- Financial strength to conduct the required activities supported by an audited financial statement
- Good relationships with the local administration, relevant local and regional institutions
- Work experience with Government, United Nations and Other International NGOs with reliable reputation

Prequalification Application Process:
Interested I/NGOs need to submit a two-page Expression of Interest and an Organizational Profile in English (template for Organizational Profile & factsheet can be found at: <https://wfp.sharepoint.com/:/Forms/Reports/CXB/Eng7InvvRBRBRTRUmK-c-wvB2p0BZDT2IzW-QhZ2md4LGw7e-V-i8Bpn>), along with the copies of the Certificate of Registration with the NGO Affairs Bureau and Social Welfare Department marked with the reference number by 27 July 2021 (05:00 pm) in the following email address: bangladesh.flataskforce@wfp.org. Please note that you can send only up to 9 mb total size of attachment.