DHAKA MONDAY JULY 26, 2021





following Eid holidays.' HEALTH MINISTER ZAHID MALEQUE

SEE PAGE 6

"The number of Covid cases has increased five to six times

"The living standards of about 15 percent of the country's people, or about 2.45 crore, have fallen below the poverty line during the one year of the Covid pandemic." JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER



"In terms of whether or not it will stop the Taliban, I think the first thing to do is to make sure that they [Afghan forces] can slow the momentum." US DEFENSE SECRETARY LLOYD AUSTIN ON AFGHAN CONFLICT

Hospitals stare at tougher time

Govt wary of full-blown medical crisis in coming weeks as Covid infections, deaths remain high despite lockdown

ZYMA ISLAM and MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

The Covid pandemic has entered a phase where hospitals across the country are being pushed to their limits.

General beds are scarce, while it requires days of queues and lobbying to get critical care beds.

With more and more Covid patients needing admission, hospital Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said

the healthcare system is overwhelmed. "There will be no space in hospitals for patients if the novel coronavirus infections continue to rise," he told journalists.

Yesterday, three out of every 10 samples tested positive for Covid. About one-third of the hospitals

providing Covid treatment had bed occupancy rate of more than 75 percent over

ICU BED SITUATION

GOVT HOSPITALS IN DHAKA

40 vacant out of **393**

PVT HOSPITALS IN DHAKA

89 vacant out of **505**

HOSPITALS IN DHAKA

129 vacant out of 898

COUNTRYWIDE

232 vacant out of 1,321

yesterday.

to government data. General of Services (DGHS).

all of these hospitals are filled to capacity.

country was 87 percent

Talking to journalists, Zahid said, "To bring down the number of Covid patients, we have to reduce infections."

during the ongoing lockdown to reduce Covid cases, he noted.

Mentioning that virus infections have SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

There are 336 Coviddedicated hospitals in the country, and 24 of those are at full capacity with no empty bed, shows data from the Directorate Health The intensive care units (ICUs) in almost

The ICU bed occupancy rate at hospitals across the

Everyone has to abide by the restrictions

the past week, according

Linde

Tanker trucks are being filled with oxygen from the special train, Oxygen Express, on the western side of the Bangabandhu Bridge in Sirajganj yesterday. This is the first time railways have been used to import oxygen from India.

рното STAR

FERRY RAMS BRIDGE Probe body asks for terminals to be moved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A probe committee of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has recommended shifting the current locations of the ferry terminals on the Shimulia-Banglabazar route to avoid

Govt wakes up to oxygen crunch

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has asked providers to boost oxygen supplies and made plans to reign in excessive wastage of the life-saving gas in hospitals and install Pressure Swing Absorption oxygen generators in facilities with no central oxygen system. The health ministry has also opened a central dashboard for officials to constantly monitor the state of oxygen supplies across the country. The moves come amid runaway infections of coronavirus and the ever increasing number of hospitalisations with Covid-19. This has also caused a spike in the demand for oxygen at the hospitals. On Saturday, the demand for liquid oxygen was 230 tonnes. The average daily demand for liquid medical oxygen was between 210 and 220 before the Eid holidays, according to DGHS data. The numbers indicate that experts were right in fearing that the lifting of coronavirus restrictions around the Eid would bump up new cases of Covid-19 which would eventually result in increased demand for medical oxygen.

- Oxygen suppliers asked to ramp up their capacity
- Wastage of oxygen in hospitals to be minimised

Dengue may add to health crisis

Says health minister; govt mulling designated treatment facilities; record 105 in hospital in 24hrs

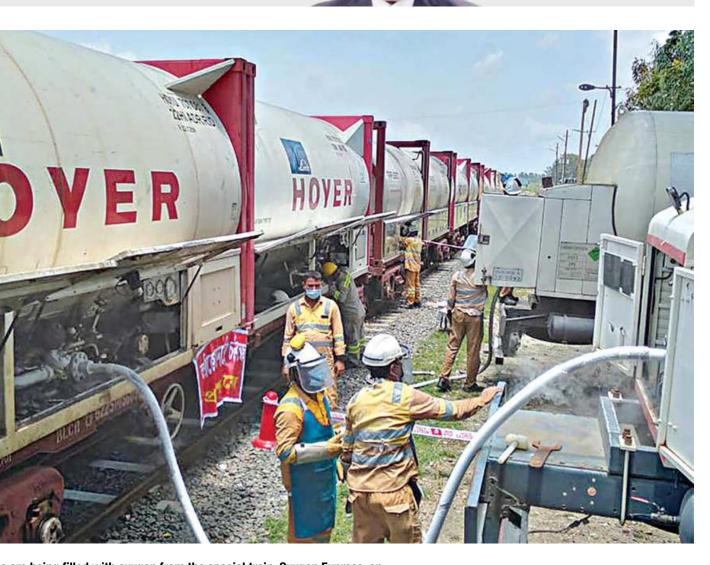
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque fears that the country may face a new health crisis as the number of dengue patients ontinues to rise along with Covid case The government is planning to designate hospitals for dengue treatment, considering the current situation, he told journalists yesterday after visiting a field hospital at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). His comments came as at least 105 people with dengue got admitted to hospitals across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday -- the highest in a single day this year. At least 104 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals in the previous 24 hours.



ignore **BB** objection

Four state-owned commercial banks (SCBs) have disbursed hefty amount of incentive bonuses to their employees, ignoring the Bangladesh Bank's



further collision between the vessels and the Padma bridge

The four-member panel, which was formed after a ferry rammed into a pillar of the long-cherished bridge on Friday, found the acting master and the helmsman of the vessel responsible for the incident.

The master gives directions to the helmsman, who holds the wheel of the ferrv

The duo did not take the velocity of the current and wind into consideration when they attempted to cross the Padma river en route to Shimulia of Munshiganj from Banglabazar of Madaripur through the gap between the 16th and 17th pillar of the bridge.

Strong current made the vessel named SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

"Apprehending a possible surge in cases, we told oxygen producers and suppliers that we will

👩 Central dashboard opened to monitor supply situation

Govt to encourage local oxygen production

provide the support they need for ensuring proper oxygen supply," ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health ervices (DGHS), told The Daily Star yesterday.

DGHS officials held a meeting with the oxygen suppliers before Eid and requested them to ramp up the production and supplies.

Besides, a committee headed by DGHS Director Samiul Islam has been formed to coordinate the supply in government and private Covid-19 dedicated hospitals.

On the newly launched dashboard, officials will be able to have live updates on the situation SEE PAGE 10 COL 2 A total of 1,679 people have so far been diagnosed with dengue this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of them, 1,307 cases were recorded in July, indicating a fast-rising trend in dengue infections. In June, 272 cases were recorded and the number was 43 in May.

The viral disease, spread by Aedes mosquitoes, seems to be largely concentrated in the capital as only 47 cases were SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

recommendations. The central bank requested the finance ministry on June 20, to bar the SCBs -- Sonali, Janata, Agrani and Rupali Bank -- from paying incentive bonuses given their poor financial health. Sonali provided four incentive bonuses while Agrani gave three and a quarter and Rupali and Janata disbursed three bonuses to every employee. Every incentive bonus is equaled to the basic salary of the employees.

STORY ON B1

Soumya guides Tigers to series win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh registered their secondhighest successful run chase



in the shortest format of the game to stamp their dominance on their tour of Zimbabwe, beating the hosts by five wickets in the series-deciding third T20I in Harare yesterday.

Soumya Sarkar's allrounder performance -- two wickets with the ball and a second fifty of the series – along with young all-rounder Shamim Hossain's big-hitting (31 not out off 15 balls) helped Bangladesh chase down a 194-run target with four balls to spare.

With this victory, Bangladesh clinched all three titles on their tour, having earlier won the lone Test and inflicting a 3-0 whitewash of the hosts in the ODI series.

It was also Bangladesh's fourth win in a bilateral SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Long queues of people waiting to be inoculated against coronavirus in front of Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital yesterday morning. The resumption of mass vaccination has been a relief to people and those willing to travel abroad constitute a major part of the queue.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

LPG Cylinders **Consumers suffer** as govt fails to enforce prices



Akanda Muhammad Jahid

People are having to pay higher than the prices fixed by the regulator for buying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) because of non-compliance by sellers.

For a 12kg cylinder, retailers are charging Tk 1,050-1,100, which is Tk 150-200, around 23 percent, higher than the price set by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), many consumers said.

On June 30, the commission set Tk 891 as the retail price for a 12kg LPG cylinder for the month of July to ensure a win-win situation for both consumers and marketers, as the demand for the fuel has been growing over the last decade.

Currently, LPG use stands at over 12 lakh tonnes, up from 47,000 tonnes in 2009, said industry stakeholders.

At the moment, more than four lakh consumers use LPG by buying from the market. And until recently, consumers SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

11,64,635

NEWS

19,274

Deaths

4,172,796

● 🕂 194,684,187 Total cases

Schoolboy builds low-cost oxygen concentrator

BANGLADESH UPDATE 11,291 New cases in 24hrs 11,64,62 Total cases

Hopes it will help during Covid-19 pandemic

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Watching his father die without oxygen support while suffering from a cardiac condition last year, young Taher Mahmud Tarif resolved to build a device to prevent any more such tragic deaths.

Tarif's determination and tireless efforts paid off as the ninth grader of Ishwardi Sara Marwari High School has succeeded in producing an oxygen concentrator machine, mainly using local parts.

He has already received appreciation from medical professionals and experts after demonstrating his invention at the Ishwardi upazila nirbahi office and Pabna Medical College Hospital. Recently, he also demonstrated his device before top-level officials of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

"They appreciated my machine and asked me to develop it as a portable one and make a few other technical developments," Tarif told the Daily Star, adding that the device will be tested at Buet soon.

"About 90 percent oxygen [concentration] can be generated from my oxygen concentrator machine. This machine can provide high-flow oxygen supply too," Tarif added.

An oxygen concentrator takes in air and removes nitrogen from it, leaving oxygen-enriched gas for use by people needing medical oxygen.

Many Covid-19 patients experience low oxygen levels in their blood, with demand for oxygen concentrators among other medical equipment shooting up during the recent surge in cases.

Tarif said that his father's tragic death due to a lack of oxygen was the driving force for him to build the device.

"Capturing ambient air through a compressor, the machine separates oxygen from other gases using zeolite and gives output of oxygen," said Tarif.

Zeolite is the only imported material that he needed to build and operate the machine, he added.

He said that a locally made oxygen concentrator like his costs situation," the UNO said.

approximately Tk 65,000 whereas an imported one costs over Tk 2 lakh.

He hopes his invention during the pandemic might be helpful for Covid-19 patients struggling to get medical oxygen, if it is approved by the authorities.

"This is obviously a good invention for oxygen generation. It is capable of producing high-flow oxygen so it can be used for patients or refilling oxygen cylinders," said Dr Md Sirajul Islam, assistant professor of the anesthesiology department of Pabna Medical College Hospital.

"It can be very handy in local areas with no scope of getting oxygen support," Dr Siraj added.

He, however, said that more lab and other examinations are needed before using the machine as medical



his oxygen concentrator works.

Imrul Kayes, Ishwardi upazila attention of government high-ups.

Covid-19



9,98,923

Recoveries

GLOBAL

Cars and other private vehicles cause congestion on DIT Road at Rampura in the capital on the third day of the "strict lockdown" amid surging cases of Covid-19.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Consumers suffer as govt fails to enforce

bought import-based LPG at prices determined by market players.

Since April, the BERC started fixing prices, which were below the rates offered by the marketers.

Consumers, however, said they are having to pay extra to get LPG cylinders as importers, dealers and retailers have not been complying with the BERC rates, adding that the commission failed to implement its price in the market.

At least three dozen consumers from different parts of the country said they were yet to buy LPG at the price fixed by the commission. They also said BERC was just doing

its routine work and setting the price rate, while importers, dealers and retailers are taking advantage of its inactivity, and charging additional money from helpless people during the Covid-19 crisis.

Seeking anonymity, a teacher of a non-MPO secondary school, said recently he bought a 12kg LPG cylinder at Tk 1,050. "I know the governmentfixed rate is Tk 891. But I was compelled to pay an additional Tk 209.

There is a regulatory body but it has completely failed to play its due role. Is there no one else to see the injustice?" the teacher, who has not

one year due to closure of his school during the pandemic, said. Abul Kalam, another consumer,

said, "If the regulatory commission cannot implement the price rate, then why would they take the responsibility to fix it? This is ridiculous."

Barkat Ali said he cannot afford the soaring prices of daily essentials, adding that he too had to buy an LPG cylinder at Tk 1,050 from a retail shop in Dhaka's Dohar upazila.

Speaking to this correspondent, a retailer in Dohar said he bought a 12kg cylinder from a Jamuna LPG dealer in the upazila's Maghula Bazar at Tk 970 and was selling it at Tk 1,050.

"We know the government-set rate but what should we do if the dealers charge more money than the stipulated price," he said, requesting anonymity.

Contacted, Azad, a dealer of Jamuna LP Gas in Maghula Bazar, cut the call just after hearing the questions related to the price.

Ghulam Rahman, president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said it is seen that no one is abiding by the prices set by the BERC

The BERC has the power to take legal action to enforce the price of been getting his salary for the last LPG and it also has the power to take

action against companies who are not complying, said Rahman, also the former BERC chairman.

Maqbul-E-Elahi Mohammad Chowdhury, member (gas) of the BERC, said the price was somewhat implemented initially, but now traders are not abiding by it.

"We have written to the authorities concerned, including the deputy commissioners, through the ministry concerned, seeking their help in implementing the price. But we are not getting any cooperation for that either," he added.

He said it was not possible to implement the price without cooperation of all -- traders, consumers, government agencies and the media.

Azam J Chowdhury, president of the LPG Operators' Association of Bangladesh, said the BERC has not fixed the price logically.

For example, the BERC has fixed Tk 20 as transportation cost for dealers, which actually costs at least Tk 50, he said, adding that it is not possible to implement the prices by harassing sellers and dealers. The commission will have to determine the price logically first.

He said they will sit with the stakeholders concerned, including the BERC, to settle the issue soon.

There are 230 beds at the hospital

In 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday,

The number of Covid deaths in the

At least 11,291 new infections were

Meanwhile, the health minister

'We have calculated that we will get

He claimed that the facilities are

Zahid also said the government

Arrangements are being made to

can currently store at a time 30 lakh

vaccine jabs that need to be kept at

increase the capacity to one crore, he

administer one crore Covid vaccine

21 crore doses and we are planning

there to store eight crore doses at a

228 people died from Covid, said the

country stood at 19,274 till yesterday

with a death rate of 1.65 percent.

which had to take in 478 patients.

DGHS.

jabs a month

time

added.

according to that."

ultra-low temperature.

3 held for gangrape of teen with challenges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Three youths were arrested yesterday on charge of gang-raping an intellectually challenged girl in Gazipur's Tongi.

Police said around Saturday noon, the 15-year-old victim was sitting near her home when Rafigul Islam, 19, lured the girl away with food. Rafiqul was a friend of the girl's elder brother.

Rafiqul then took the girl to a room in Tongi's Nandu Mandal Road area and gang-raped her with his cohorts Nayeem Sheikh, 19, and Monirul Islam, 18.

All of the accused live in Kathaldia Kalabagan area under Tongi West Police Station.

Hours later, the girl was released.

After returning home, the victim shared the incident with her family members.

Police arrested the accused after the victim's father filed a case against the three, said Sha Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Tongi West Police Station.

Probe body asks FROM PAGE 1

Shah Jalal swerve as the helmsman lost control, hitting the 17th pillar of the bridge, reads the probe report that was submitted to the BIWTC chairman yesterday.

At least 20 people on board the ferry were injured. At the time, 33 vehicles and about 500 to 600 were on board the ferry, which was relaunched recently after maintenance work.

The incident could have been avoided had the master and helmsman crossed the bridge through the 12th and 13th pillar, found the committee led by SM Ashiquzzaman, general manager of commerce of BIWTC.

Citing their report, a member of the committee said there can be a repeat of the incident if ferries cross the river through the Padma bridge due to the strong current in the monsoon season.

"So, we have recommended changing locations of the present terminal to avoid crossing the bridge," he told The Daily Star wishing not to be named.

Subsequently, shifting of the Banglabazar ferry terminal to Majhikandi or the Shimulia terminal to the old Mawa terminal has been solicited.

With the view to shortening the distance, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) had shifted the ferry terminal to Banglabazar last year from Kathalbari.

The ferry terminal from Mawa was shifted to Shimulia in 2016 after river erosion endangered the previous site. The travel time will remain almost the same after the change of terminals, said the committee member. The committee also recommended operating the ferries in between the 4th and 12th pillars of the bridge as the velocity of current is relatively low there. It also suggested operating relatively speedy ferries amid strong current and keep the slow-speed ferries out of operation during the monsoon, when the velocity of current tends to be high. Abdur Rahman, the acting master of the ferry, was suspended on the day of the incident, while Saiful Islam, the helmsman of the ferry, was suspended yesterday after receiving the report, BIWTC Chairman Syed Md Tajul Islam told The Daily Star. Departmental action would be aken against the two following due procedure, he said.

Hospitals stare at tougher time

Nobel laureate physicist

Taher Mahmud Tarif explaining how

equipment.

nirbahi officer, said Tarif's oxygen concentrator device had caught the

"We have talked with the authorities concerned about getting a patent for Tarif's machine. If his invention gets approved, it will be a great achievement during this alarming

Steven Weinberg dies

FOX NEWS ONLINE

Physicist Steven Weinberg, who won the Nobel prize in 1979 with two other scientists for their separate contributions unlocking mysteries of tiny particles and their electromagnetic interaction, has died at 88, the University of Texas at Austin said Saturday.

A professor at the university since the 1980s, Weinberg died Friday in Austin, Texas, according to his

wife Louise, said UT spokesperson Christine Sinatra. The physicist had been hospitalized for several weeks, but a cause of death was not released, according to Sinatra.

"The passing of Weinberg Steven is a loss for The University of Texas and for society,' UT President Jay Hartzell said in a statement.

"Professor Weinberg unlocked the mysteries of the universe for millions of people, enriching humanity's concept of nature and our relationship

to the world," Hartzell added. In 1979, Weinberg shared the Nobel prize in physics with scientists Abdus Salam and Sheldon Lee Glashow. Their work improved the understanding of how everything in the universe relates, according to a UT statement.

The work helped physicists unify two of the four forces of nature, subatomic forces known as nuclear forces, said Sean Carroll, a theoretical

Bangladesh kept themselves in the

hunt right from the start of the chase

despite losing opener Mohammad

Naim early on as man-of-the-series

Soumya looked solid at the other end.

FROM PAGE 1

away from home.

Soumya guides Tigers

T20I series, three of those coming to add 63 runs for the third wicket,

Shakib Al Hasan also started off in a Burl smashed some lusty blows too

positive manner before perishing for as the hosts posted 193 for five in 20

a 13-ball 25. Skipper Mahmudullah overs after electing to bat.

physicist at the California Institute of Technology.

"It's all about understanding the laws of nature at a deep level. We're curious creatures and we want to know how the universe around us works," Carroll said.

Weinberg's work built on the work of Albert Einstein, according to Columbia University string theory physicist Brian Greene.

"The idea was that all forces of nature might actually be the same

force ... it was this dream Einstein had, that it all might be whole," Greene said. "He drove this idea forward. He pushed this idea forward by showing (two forces) were the same force." Weinberg, Salam

and Glashow working separately - were

honored "for their contributions to

the theory of the unified weak and electromagnetic interaction between elementary particles, including ... the prediction of the weak neutral current," according to the Nobel Prize website.

A New York native, Weinberg was a researcher at Columbia University and the University of California, Berkeley, earlier in his career. He then served on the faculty of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before joining the UT faculty in 1982, teaching both physics and astronomy.

Weinberg is survived by his wife and a daughter. Funeral services were not announced.

Riyad then paired up with Soumya

giving Bangladesh the platform for

second highest total in T20Is riding on

a half-century from opener Wessley

Madhevere. Regis Chakabva and Ryan

Earlier, Zimbabwe posted their

the late onslaught.

FROM PAGE 1

been rising in many places, the minister said the hospitals are under immense pressure due to rush of Covid patients.

"If Covid infections continue like this, there will be no place in the hospitals.

...There is no alternative but to follow the health safety rules."

At least 24 districts are especially at risk as they had Covid infection rate above the national average of 30 percent and three-quarters of the hospital beds full, according to DGHS data.

The situation is alarming, given that many of these districts have only one or two Covid-dedicated hospitals, meaning patients are left with nowhere to go for treatment.

For example, the Covid positivity rate was 51 percent in Barishal. But it has only two Covid-dedicated hospitals and both are completely occupied.

The rate was 53 percent in Rajbari which has only one Covid-dedicated hospital. And 92 percent of the beds

OCCUPANCY RATE IN HOSPITALS ICU beds | HDU beds | General beds **87**% 84% **66**%

there was occupied yesterday.

recorded in the 24 hours. A total of Chattogram saw virus positivity 37,587 samples were tested during rate of 40 percent. It has 13 Covidthe period. dedicated hospitals, three of which said the government is planning to were at full capacity and the rest threequarters full.

Talking to The Daily Star, Brig Gen SM Humayun Kabir, director of Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said, "We already increased the number of beds for Covid patients to 300 from 100. As of today [yesterday], 304 Covid patients are receiving treatment here. The rush of patients is increasing every day."

In Mymensingh, the positivity rate was 23 percent, lower than the national average, but Mymensingh Medical College Hospital had to admit patients twice its capacity.

Dengue may add to health crisis FROM PAGE 1 19 274 lives and infected 11 64 635 district a

reported from outside the city.

Though most of the patients, who were hospitalised, have been released, at least 460 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in the capital, and six outside it, the DGHS data shows

The dengue infections are further complicating the Covid situation.

In 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, 228 people died from the novel coronavirus and 11,291 got infected. Covid has already claimed at least

19,274 lives and infected 11,64,635 people since the first cases were reported in Bangladesh in March last

Prof Md Nazmul Islam, director (Communicable Disease Control) at the DGHS, yesterday called upon all not to neglect dengue and made a request for taking cautionary measures.

In a virtual health bulletin, he said the government has adequate stocks of antigen kits for testing dengue at public medical college hospitals, and

district and upazila sadar hospitals. Tests at public facilities are free now, he said, urging people to go for tests early if there are symptoms of dengue.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection causing a severe flu-like illness. It can be fatal. The Aedes aegypti mosquito is the main vector that transmits the virus.

Destroying the breeding grounds, especially places and pots with clean water, is an effective way to fight dengue, experts say.

AFP, Algiers

Algeria will manufacture the Chinese coronavirus vaccine Sinovac locally, the government announced Saturday, in a country hit by rising cases and constrained by a patchy inoculation rollout.

Chinese experts arrived Friday to inspect equipment destined for a factory in Constantine, in eastern pharmaceutical industry ministry said

Sinovac will be the second coronavirus vaccine to be produced in Algeria, with the Russian vaccine Sputnik V to be produced locally from September, according to authorities. The Pasteur Institute of Algeria

announced on Saturday that it had received 2.4 million doses of Sinovac,

Algeria, a statement from the bringing the total number of doses of all vaccines received so far by the country to nearly six million.

The figure also includes Sputnik Sinopharm and AstraZeneca V. upplies.

But barely 10 percent of Algeria's population of 44 million has so far been inoculated against Covid-19, nearly six months into its vaccination campaign.

The committee has given several recommendations and those have been forwarded to the shipping ministry and the authorities concerned for implementation, Islam added.

Shafiqul Islam, project director of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, told The Daily Star after the incident on Friday that no damage was apparently done to the pillar, but the officials were investigating.

But three days earlier, another ferry had hit another pillar of the bridge, which damaged the ferry.

Two similar incidents within a space of three days centring the long-cherished bridge that is being constructed at a cost of Tk 30,000 crore created huge discussion in social media and top government officials visited the spot on Saturday.

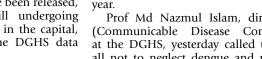
Meanwhile, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the collision by the ferry did not cause any damage to the pillar, reports BSS.

Whether the collision was an accident or it is carried out as part of a purpose-oriented conspiracy is being ooked into.

The weight of the ferry that hit the oillar was 1,284 tonnes. But as per the design of Padma bridge, every pillar can withstand a brunt of a 4,000 tonne-vessel going at 30 nautical miles speed, the minister added.

The 6.15-kilometre-long bridge is expected to be open to traffic in June next year.

Algeria to produce Chinese Sinovac vaccines







CEC served legal notice to postpone by-polls to Sylhet-3

Five Supreme Court lawyers yesterday served a legal notice on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) KM Nurul Huda, requesting him to postpone the by-election to Sylhet-3 constituency scheduled to be held on July 28, due to the ongoing pandemic.

Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir sent the notice on behalf of the lawyers to the CEC through email, saying that holding the by-election on July 28 is contradictory to the ongoing lockdown, which has been enforced by the government.

In the legal notice, the lawyers said there is no constitutional obligation for the election commission to hold the by-election on July 28. They said if the CEC does not postpone it, they will move to the High Court for necessary directives to this effect.

Citing the legal notice, lawyer Shishir Manir said the CEC has reportedly said on Saturday that the by-polls to Sylhet-3 will not be postponed due to constitutional and legal obligations, which is not a correct statement.

The deadline for the by-election is September 7 this year according to article 123 (4) of the constitution.

The article says an election to fill the seat of a member of Parliament which falls vacant otherwise than by reason of the dissolution of Parliament shall be held within ninety days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

Provided that in a case where, in the opinion of the CEC, it is not possible, for reasons of an act of God, to hold such election within the period specified in this clause, such election shall be held within ninety days following next after the last day of such period.

Shishir Manir said holding the by-election to Sylhet-3



The Bally Star \mid 3

Mysterious fires gut buses, car in the capital STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four buses and a private car were gutted in two separate fires in the capital's Motijheel and Kamalapur areas on Saturday and yesterday.

Two of the buses and the car were burnt when a garage behind Motijheel's Modhumita Cinema caught fire at 11:05am yesterday, said Ershad Hossain, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defense headquarters.

After around 45 minutes of efforts, six fire fighting units doused the fire, he added.

He also said an investigation was initiated to determine the cause of the fire.

Earlier on Saturday, another fire had damaged two buses of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) parked at its Kamalapur depot at 6:28pm.

One of the buses was burnt completely, while the other was partially damaged before four fire units doused the fire at SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Firefighters spray jets of water inside a burning bus at a garage at Gopibagh's Sadek Khan road in the capital. The fire originated at the garage and spread to five other garages, and gutted two air-conditioned buses and a private car. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bastuhara canal on deathbed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Locals blame waste dumping, encroachment



For long stretches of the canal, water has been replaced by hyacinths, bushes, and grass. Locals said they use the grass to feed their cattle. The same locals rue the chance to use the canal as a pathway to important destinations within Khulna city.

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Once a 4km long waterbody flowing through Khulna city, today the Bastuhara canal is headed towards virtual extinction, thanks to years of indiscriminate garbage

dumping and illegal occupation.

"The city corporation had excavated the canal six years ago, but they didn't do it properly and now it has become a breeding ground for mosquito," he added.

What's worse, the situation at Bastuhara can only be considered a

Ensure food for poor: GM Quader **U**NB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday urged the government to ensure food security of poor and jobless people during this lockdown, by making an unbiased list of them

"Families of unemployed people are going through serious ordeal amid coronavirus," he said in a statement.

Referring to a recent study by PPRC and Brac, the Jatiya Party chief said living standards of about 15 percent of the country's people -- or about 2.45 crore -- have fallen below the poverty line anew during the one year of the Covid pandemic.

He said there are now nearly 3.5 crore poor people in the country with the new ones.

GM Quader, also the deputy opposition leader in parliament, said the number of poor people in the country will increase further due to the lockdown enforced by the government to tackle the second wave of the coronavirus.

He said many people have lost their sources of income due to the lockdown. "There's no food at the homes of those who live from hand to mouth."

Quader said many families of unemployed poor are SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

LINKS TO 'CHAKRIJIBI LEAGUE' Helena Jahangir loses AL post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businessperson turned politician, Helena Jahangir, has been relieved from ruling Awami League's subcommittee on women's affairs over her activities in social media. "She [Helena] has been

relieved from her membership of the Awami League's subcommittee on women's affairs as her recent activities in social media are against the organisation's policy," said a press release signed by AL's women affairs secretary Meher Afroz

Chumki yesterday. Helena, the founder and CEO of Jayayatra Television, became a member of the AL's Central Sub-committee on Women affairs on January 18.

Earlier, she became a member of the advisory council of Cumilla (north) unit of AL

Helena recently came into discussion after an announcement on a Facebook post to form "Awami Chakrijibi League" and claiming herself as the organisation's president.

She also announced that presidents and general secretaries will be appointed in the district, upazila and overseas units of the organisation in her post that

Obaidul Quader yesterday said, "As per the constitutional provision of Awami League, it has associate bodies and sub-committees. Apart from recognised bodies, there is no scope for any organisation to get engaged with the party by adding words like 'League' or 'Awami' with its name."

In his regular press briefing, Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said when a party stays in power, different groups of opportunists and "cuckoos of spring" make such evil attempts to engage with the party and different "parasites" also get engaged, reports BSS. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Accused placed on A university office that keeps missing deadlines three-day remand



went viral on social media. Mentioning the issue, AL general secretary

of this dumping comes in the form of untreated industrial waste and chemicals from the Khalishpur industrial area, said locals. In the meantime, the negligence of the authorities concerned has made way for another major menace -- encroachment, they added.

"Lack of proper maintenance and mindless dumping of garbage is gradually filling up the canal and polluting its water," said Tapon Kumar Das, a resident of Pabla under ward-6 of Khulna City Corporation.

"Besides, influential people have built illegal establishments occupying land on both sides of the Bastuhara canal," he added.

"I used to go to my paddy field at Paschim Bilpabla using the canal. But in the last ten to twelve years, the canal has turned into a garbage dump," said Abdur Rob, a resident of nearby Bastuhara colony.

case study of the state of most canals of Khulna city.

There was once a time when the city was blessed with water flowing from over 50 canals. Over half of these waterbodies are gone now.

Of the remaining, 22 are struggling for survival -- due to encroachment, mindless dumping of waste, and the sheer negligence of the authorities concerned.

Among the canals, Nirala, Mohirbari, Labonchhara, Mandar, Khudier, Nabinagar, Khetrokhali, Gallamari (north), Batkamari, Arongghata, Deana Chowdhury khal, Bastuhara, Taltola, Kaderer Khal, Chorichhara, Kholabaria, Narkelbaria, Harintana, Motiakhali, Mohirbari, and Mathabhanga are all facing existential threats due to the rampant pollution and encroachment. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

A Dhaka court yesterday placed an accused on a three-day remand in a case filed over murder of trader Shahinuddin in the capital's Pallabi.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dhiman Chandra Mondol passed the order after Syed Iftekhar Hossain, inspector of Detective Branch of police and also investigation officer of the case, produced Babu Hasan with a five-day remand prayer, court sources said.

The IO said Babu is an FIR-named accused and he admitted his involvement. He was directly involved with the murder, so he needed to be remanded to get further information.

A team of Pallabi police on July 24 arrested Babu, 22, from Pallabi area and handed him over to DB police.

On May 16, a group of miscreants led SEE PAGE 4 COL 3 Delay in issuing documents frustrates students at JU MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Mohammad Selim (not his real name), a student of economics department at Jahangirnagar University (JU), desperately needed a temporary certificate of his examinations to apply for a scholarship.

On March 7, he came to the university's Office of the Controller of Examinations to collect the certificate but was told that it would take at least 21 days, if he wanted it through the regular process, which would cost Tk 200.

Selim did not have much time, as the application deadline was March 28. To his relief, he was informed that there was an "emergency" service by which certificates are provided in seven days at the cost of Tk 400.

Selim went for it, depositing the required money to the bank that day, and kept waiting.

Meanwhile, deadline for submission of the scholarship application was extended till April 15. However, he did not get the certificate even a month

after availing the so-called emergency service. In the end, Selim could not apply.

"It's utterly frustrating," he said. Selim's case is not an isolated one, as the office of examination controller takes an unnecessarily long time to provide certificates and other necessary documents to students, depriving them of many opportunities.

A number of students expressed frustration over the delay, alleging that university authorities charge an additional Tk 200 for "emergency" service but nardly ever meet the deadline.

They said the controller office takes a long time to even provide students' grade sheets or transcripts. Authorities claimed that they cannot issue certificates until the syndicate allows it.

Sources, however, said one of the reasons for the delay is lack of manpower and absence of automation, which makes the job dependent on SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Facebook post prompts action from cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police have re-opened a mobile repairing shop that was shut down allegedly by extortionists in Chattogram, following a Facebook video post by the shop owner.

Ershad, a physicallychallenged youth from Hathazari posted the video, saying his shop was shut down by miscreants over extortion, said a press release signed by AIG Sohel Rana yesterday.

Hathazari police were assigned to verify the incident and take action.

The incident occurred on June 23 at Hathazari's Burma Colony. That day, the youth at a press conference in Chattogram Press Club said extortionists demanded Tk 20,000 from him. When he refused to pay, they ransacked and closed the shop. The press release said

police opened the shop in the presence of local UP chairman and others concerned, and warned to take action if there is any further allegation.



Shutters down, gates locked, there's no one at most of the capital's markets these days. But this also means there's an increased chance of break-ins and theft, and to thwart them, security personnel are on their toes, tirelessly guarding their spots all day. Of course, until the fatigue kicks in and one falls back on their chair in slumber. This photo was taken yesterday from the capital's Patuatuli area.

Campaign against trafficking launched STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh UN Network on Migration has launched an eight-day social media campaign from Saturday to promote activities against and increase awareness on human trafficking through online platforms, marking the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2021.

For this, an event page "Observing World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2021" has been created on Facebook. International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Bangladesh is the secretariate and coordinating body of BDUNNM.

According to details of the event page, its activities aim to promote the content and message of the day and promote content against human trafficking and on safe migration.

It stressed need for comprehensive awareness campaign using social media in fight against human trafficking.

As part of the campaign, a webinar to commemorate the day and organised by the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Technical Working Group (CTIPTWG) under BDUNNM is scheduled to take place on Wednesday.

Different civil society and migrant rights groups have also been part of the campaign which will continue till July 31.

Alongside Facebook, activities of the awareness campaign will be promoted and shared on other social media platforms including twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

According to details of the event page, Bangladesh is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and child victims of human trafficking while the Covid-19 pandemic has had a variety of effects on people's vulnerability to human trafficking. The theme for the World Day Against Trafficking in

Persons 2021 is "Victims' Voices Lead the Way".

BDUNNM was launched on July 7, 2019 to ensure coordinated, effective, and timely support to Bangladesh government in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

ROHINGYA CRISIS Japan to grab any opportunity to resolve it: envoy

Unв, Dhaka

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Naoki Ito has said Japan will seize the opportunity to find a "long-term and lasting solution" to the Rohingya crisis with the Myanmar side, noting that the issue is very relevant to the future stability of the entire region.

"What we can say right now is Japan will seize the opportunity to raise this very, very important issue with the Myanmar side and its military whenever appropriate," he said, adding that his country will do its best to create an enabling environment for the early repatriation of Rohingyas and will continue to raise the issue with the Myanmar side.

He was responding to a question at a virtual dialogue titled "Bangladesh-Japan Relations: Prognosis for the Future" where he delivered the keynote speech.

Cosmos Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Cosmos Group, hosted the dialogue as a part of its ongoing Ambassador's Lecture Series.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Cosmos Foundation Chairman Enayetullah Khan. The session was chaired by Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Md Abul Kalam Azad, special envoy, Climate Vulnerable Forum; Hayakawa Yuho, chief representative, JICA Bangladesh Óffice; Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor, Bangladesh Bank; Masaaki Ohashi, professor, University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo; Manzurul Hug, columnist, writer and academic; Prof Takahara Akio, dean, Graduate School of Public Policy, the University of Tokyo; and Ambassador (retd) Tariq A Karim, honorary advisor emeritus, Cosmos Foundation, comprised the panel of discussants.

M'singh hospital struggles amid surge in Covid cases MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Medical College Hospital is struggling with the rising number of Covid-19 patients. The number of patients started increasing from early July, according to hospital officials.

Even though they have increased the number of Covid unit beds at the hospital from 210 to 500, the hospital's 20 ICU beds remains at capacity due to the onrush of critical patients, said MMCH Deputy Director Dr Md Wayezuddin Farazi.

According to hospital sources, Covid-19 positive patients and people with symptoms are thronging the hospital from Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Sherpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj and Gazipur.

They said due to the increasing number of Covid patients, treatment of general ones is also being hampered. On an average, 2,000 patients remain admitted against the accommodation capacity of 1,000 beds at MMCH.

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Moon, focal person of MMCH coronavirus unit, said the number of admitted patients at Covid-19 was 222 on July 1 but it rose to 478 on July 25.

A total of 143 Covid-19 positive and 217 suspected patients died from July 1 to July 13 at the hospital, said



the doctor. The number of positive case up a 50-bed Covid-19 unit already in was zero on July 1 and 2 but it rose to 309 on July 25, he added.

Prof Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Mymensingh unit, said if the present trend continues, the hospital's lone oxygen plant will not be enough. A new oxygen plant has to be installed at the hospital soon, he added.

Demanding more ICU beds at MMCH, he said a field hospital should be set up to tackle the present situation. Contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr

Md Nazrul Islam said Community Based Medical College and Hospital Bangladesh in Mymensingh has set symptoms throng the antigen test booth at Mymensingh **Medical College** Hospital. The photo was taken

PHOTO: STAR

this regard.

Mymensingh Divisional Director (Health) Md Shah Alam said, "We are also planning to set up 100 new Covid beds at Tarakanda Upazila Health Complex. The number of isolation beds in each 30 upazila health complexes in Mymensingh division has been increased to 20 from five."

Besides, 100 Covid beds are available at Combined Military Hospital, Mymensingh while Ghatail CMH in Tangail has 200 beds, he said. According to the health department in Mymensingh, 342 deaths have been reported in the division so far since the pandemic.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazmul Haque, an assistant teacher at Firoza Bashar Ideal School and College in the capital's Mohammadpur, is on the verge of losing everything. After his wife Swapna Mahmuda suffered a stroke in

2014, the family had to spend around Tk 25 to 30 lakh for her treatment as she kept falling deeper into more health complications.

Swapna became partially paralysed for about six months after suffering the stroke, after which spinal problems started developing. She was eventually diagnosed with thalassemia.

Since her treatment in Bangladesh was not successful for almost three years, she was taken to CMC Hospital in Vellore, India in 2017.

But her operation could not be done there too, due to the persistence of her thalassemia.

Four years on, she is currently suffering from ulcer and liver and lung diseases, in addition to her thalassemia and brain and spinal problems.

A low-earning teacher, Nazmul can bear it no more. "I have had to borrow around Tk 9 lakh, even after selling my assets," he said.

"Currently, I have to spend around Tk 15,000 to 20,000 every month for her medical treatment beside our living cost," Nazmul said.

Farid Ahmed, principal of Firoza Bashar Ideal School and College, said, "We try to support him financially as much as we can. However, it's not nearly enough to meet the medical expenses of his wife and the daily expenses of the family.

Mired in the situation, Nazmul Haque has sought the assistance of the government and affluent people of the society to come forward and help him save his wife.

Help can be sent to -- Nazmul Haque, Dutch Bangla Bank Limited, Account No. 25815125111, and on his mobile financial service account -- Bkash (personal) --01876337900

CEC served

constituency of 3.52 lakh voters is against the government's lockdown policy.

The constituency fell vacant after parliamentarian Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury died of coronavirus on March 11.

Ruling Awami League candidate Habibur Rahman Habib, JP candidate Mohammad Atiqur Rahman, Bangladesh Congress candidate Junayed Mohammad Miah and BNP rebel candidate Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury are contesting the by-polls.

The five lawyers who served the legal notice on public interest are Mohammd Mujahidul Islam, Al-Reza Md Amir, Md Jobaidur Rahman, Md Zahirul Islam and Mustafizur Rahman.

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) House # 6, Road # 23/C, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-01 (Camp) Date: 25 July, 2021

1st Corrigendum Notice

It is hereby notified to all concerned that under unavoidable circumstances the Tender Notice for the works of (i) Supply, installation & commissioning of Fire Detection & Protection System and (ii) Supply, installation & commissioning of lifts for CEGIS Office Building at Plot No. F-14/E, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-1411, Date: 29/06/2021 is to be amended

	as follows:	
SL. No.	As mentioned in	To be Revised
	Original Tender Notice	
Tender Notice Sl. No. 12	Date and time of Pre-tender meeting: 27/07/2021, 10:30 a.m.	Date and time of Pre-tender meeting: 4 th day from the day of starting of the Offices as per Govt. Circular, 10:30 a.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 8	Last Date of Selling Tender: 03/08/2021 by 05:00 p.m.	Last Date & Time of Selling Tender: 7 days after the pre-tender meeting, 05:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 9		Last Date & Time of receiving Tender: 8 days after the pre-tender meeting, 01:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 10	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 04/08/2021, 03:00 p.m.	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 8 days after the pre-tender meeting, 03:00 p.m.
	s and conditions of the or my date newly considered,	

A university

FROM PAGE 3

Mysterious

officer

Fire Station, told The Daily

Several buses were

Faisalur said the reason

behind the fire could not

be known immediately.

"It will be known after

investigation," he said.

No casualties

reported in the fires.

parked in the depot during

of Ramna

were

FROM PAGE 3

the inferno.

Star.

manual systems. The university has been in talks for automation but could not initiate the process vet.

"A group of automation specialists visited the controller office a few months ago, but authorities could not finalise any contract, citing high costs." said an official of the office.

Currently, to get any document, students need to fill out a prescribed form, which has two options: general and emergency. But in the form, there is no mention of the days it will take to provide a document. Officials verbally mention that emergency services take seven days.

"That's why we can't hold the office responsible when they fail to rovide documents in seven days," said a master's student.

During a recent visit to the two-storied office building, this correspondent found a stack of important documents lying scattered on the floor. Many students were waiting to receive their documents with only two persons serving them.

Admitting the delay, JU Exam Controller Prof Farid Ahmed said they need a syndicate meeting to approve results, which is why they cannot issue main certificates on time.

"We are spending too much time ensuring exact results of students, as we manually check the records. But we normally issue other documents as early as possible," he told this newspaper.

He, however, did not give any direct answer when asked whether there was any written rule of syndicate approval for issuing certificates.

Prof Farid said things would have been much easier and faster if utomation could be introduced.

"We have already talked to teachers of Computer Science and Engineering department and Institute of Information Technology to develop automation software for reducing the hassle. But this initiative has been halted due to the pandemic," he said.

"We hope that a meeting will soon be held in this regard," he added.

Helena FROM PAGE 3

Bastuhara

FROM PAGE 3

'Shortage of water and pollution in rivers and canals mean locals find it hard to access usable water. It also affect fish stocks," said Bastuhara colony resident Julfiker Ali.

"Cultivation is hampered since there isn't enough water for irrigation as the canal beds do not contain much water," he added.

Visiting the Bastuhara canal last week, this correspondent saw the almost 50-60 feet wide canal in a state akin to a plain agro-field.

Beneath Karikorpara bridge, there is no water in the canal. Around two kilometers from there to Khudiar khal, the entire canal bed is full of hyacinths, bushes, and grass. In some places, taro plants, banana trees, and other big and small saplings are growing. Locals said they collect grass for their cows and goats from the canal bed.

Back in the days, villagers of Rangpur, Saluya, Arongghata, Purba Bilpabla, Paschim Bilpabla of Dumuria upazila used to come to Khulna city's Boyra, Bastuhara, Pabla, Khalishpur, and Daulatpur areas through the canal, said Samsuddin Ahmed Prince, local councillor (ward-

As the water has run dry, it has made life very difficult for farmers from these villages, he added. The canal was excavated once in 2014-15, but lack of maintenance meant it got filled up again, he said.

"We need immediate steps to excavate the canal in an urgent basis for its natural water resources,"

he also said.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali, secretary general of Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Samannay Committee, said, "Due to encroachment and lack of proper drainage systems, waterlogging has become a major problem for the city."

Contacted, Nuruzzaman Talukdar, estate officer of KCC and member secretary of a committee to mark illegal grabbers, said they have listed 460 grabbers and 382 illegal structures on 26 canals. The list was later handed over to the deputy commissioner, he informed.

"The sub-committee listed around 47 canals crisscrossing the city and its adjacent areas. Of them, 31 are under KCC areas," he said.

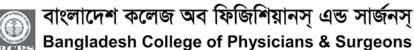
Khulna District Administration is the custodian of these canals, while KCC works as a supervisor, ne said.

A top official of the administration, seeking anonymity, said it is KCC's responsibility to maintain and preserve the waterbodies. "We assist the city corporation during demarcation or eviction drives. But, KCC has to take the initiative first," he said.

Contacted, KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said recovering canals from grabbers was part of his election manifesto. "We will start a drive soon to recover the remaining 22 canals including Bastuhara," he said.

"After taking charge, I have initiated a Tk 823 crore project to resolve the city's waterlogging issue and free the canals," he added.

6:50pm, Faisalur Rahman, As per the party president's announcement, if anyone



working day will then govern. This Corrigendum Notice and the previous Tender Notice are also given in the CEGIS Web site and will be part and parcel of the Tender.

> Manaheat Project Director, CEGIS Office Building Construction Project



Expression of Interest For prequalification of 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. # WFPCXB-EOI-NGO-27-07-2021

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) invites Non-Government Organizations (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 assistance 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 NGOs, WFP is also working in various sectors, including 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 and long-term sustainability
- 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 and expertise locally with Government, United Nations and NGOs with reliable reputation

Prequalification Application Process:

Interested 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/:f:/s/ReportsCXB/Eng7invvRBRBrTRUmK-c-wwB2p0BZDT2IZw-Qh2Zmd4LGw?e=Vi8Bpn), 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 9mb total size of attachment. Local NGOs are highly encouraged to apply.

inside the party is found directly or indirectly involved with such acts, immediate organisational actions will be taken against them, he said.

The AL general secretary said administrative steps will also be taken against those who will make evil attempts to serve interests of individuals by using party name.

If any controversial person entered the party or if questions arise over activities of anyone, written complaint can be lodged to election tribunal at the party president's political office as per the party constitution, he said.

Accused placed

FROM PAGE 3

by Sumon Bepari stabbed Shahinuddin to death in front of his seven-year-old son at Mirpur-12 over a land dispute with former lawmaker from Lakshmipur MA Awal.

The next day, Shahinuddin's mother, filed a case with Pallabi Police Station against 20 named people including Awal, and 13 to 14 unnamed accused.

Earlier, six including, Sumon Bepari, gave confessional statements before the magistrates on different dates. Two accused -- Monir and Manik -- were killed in a "gunfight" with law enforcers earlier.

Police have so far arrested 12 people including Awal in connection with the murder.

Ensure food

facing a disastrous situation for lack of food, life-saving drugs and baby food during the lockdown.

"Under such a situation, we demand the government make a proper list of the poor and strengthen the social security programme to ease their sufferings," he added.

বিসিপিএস নং-৭৭৬/২০২১/১৬৫১৩

২৫ জুলাই, ২০২১খ্রিঃ



এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, করোনাভাইরাসের সংক্রমণ বৃদ্ধির কারণে সারাদেশে লকডাউন বিরাজমান থাকায় বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর জুলাই-২০২১ সেশনের পরীক্ষা শুরুর তারিখ ০১ আগষ্ট, ২০২১খ্রিঃ এর পরিবর্তে নতুন সম্ভাব্য তারিখ ০১ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২১খ্রিঃ নির্ধারণ করা হলো। পরীক্ষার পূর্ণাঙ্গ সময়সূচী পরবর্তীতে জানানো হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, কোভিড পরিবর্তিত পরিস্থিতিতে পরীক্ষার নির্ধারিত নতুন তারিখ পরিবর্তনযোগ্য।



অধ্যাপক মোঃ বিল্লাল আলম

অনারারি সচিব

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস এন্ড সার্জনস (বিসিপিএস)

জিডি-১৩৬৭

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgao

A motorcyclist was killed in a collision between a pickup and his bike on Dinajpur-Ranshia road at Boirchuna village in Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon yesterday.

Biker killed in

road accident

The victim was identified as Akhtaruzzaman Dablu (40) from Jadurani village in Haripur upazila.

Pirganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Prodip Kumar Roy said a Ranshiamango-laden bound pickup van collided headon with the motorbike at an intersection around 11am, leaving the biker dead on the spot.

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting innovative proposals for two activities under two categories: 1) Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement for Business and Human Rights in Bangladesh and 2) Research Study on Workers' Rights in the Construction Sector of Bangladesh, as response to this IFP from interested NGOs/CSOs/Organizations for Business and Human Rights (B+HR) in Asia Project, UNDP, Bangladesh.

The solicitation format along with other relevant information and documents for submission are available in the link at: UNDP | Procurement Notices - 80999 - Invitation for Proposal-Low valu

Bidders may submit their proposals for one or both categories.

Submission of IFP document: The letter of submission should clearly mention the subject "Application for Low Value Grant for ______" (number of the category and title of the assignment to be clearly mentioned in the blank space), with the necessary documents as per instructions specified in the "solicitation document" available in the link above.

The deadline for submission of Proposals (as per given template in the IFP) and a cover letter under organizations' letter head should be sent to bd.procurement@undp.org by 08 August 2021, Sunday, 4:00 pm local time.



generate 30 megawatts of solar power on the Teesta river bed at Char Sholmari village in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Running ramshod across the river

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Flouting rules, a private company is constructing a road on the Teesta river bed in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila, posing a risk of severe floods and river erosion upstream.

Although the illegal road construction on river land has been going on in full swing on the occupied river land, the administration is only now saying they will investigate the matter.

The company, Intraco Solar Power Limited, is setting up a plant to generate 30 megawatts of solar power on 110 acres of land at Kaliganj's Char Sholmari village. It aims to start operations by December this year or early next year, said company officials.

1.7-kilometre-long and 4.5-metrewide road, which include 18 culverts and two steel bridges, at an estimated cost of around Tk 4 crore, they said.

But the construction has evoked outrage among villagers as they fear the road may cause severe floods and river erosion upstream which, in turn, may potentially harm their homes and land.

"The flow of water will be disrupted if the road is constructed. As a result, severe floods and erosion may occur upstream," said Soleman Ali, a farmer in Sholmari Char.

If river erosion takes a severe turn, many families in the area will lose their homesteads, he added.

However, the project's adviser the company is constructing a to facilitate movement of the road is constructed.

villagers.

The 18 culverts and two steel bridges will be constructed on the road so that water flow is not obstructed, he said, also claiming that the construction works do not require permission from the Water Development Board (WDB) because they are not taking place "in the river' Lalmonirhat WDB Executive

Mizanur Engineer Rahman however dismissed this claim, saying the construction of any structures on the river or the river bed requires permission from WDB. The company does not have any permission in this matter, he stated.

Terming the construction "illegal", he also echoed the In order to connect the Ashikur Chowdhury claimed that villagers' worries over severe floods project area with the main road, they are constructing the road and river erosion upstream if the

However, he said, the WDB does not have any jurisdiction to take legal action which falls under the purview of the local administration

"We have visited the spot and already submitted a report to the deputy commissioner's office with recommendations to take action," he told the Daily Star earlier this month.

Contacted, the district's DC Abu Jafor said he had received the WDB report and subsequently, formed five-member probe body to investigate the matter.

"But the investigation now remains halted due to the lockdown. We have verbally asked the company to stop the road construction works."

Further steps will be taken after investigation, the DC added.

Tangail hospital fire: Burned ICU yet to be restored after eight days

Probe body submits report, blames non-stop use of high flow canula behind the fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Tangail General Hospital, damaged after catching fire, has yet to resume functioning eight days into the incident.

As a result, critical corona patients have been being shifted to other places since the day.

On the other hand, as the ICU is yet to become operational, tension was prevailing among the corona infected patients, their relatives and district residents.

Asked about the matter, Dr Abul Fazal Mohammad Shahabuddin, civil surgeon in Tangail, said that the workers of the Public Works Department have already completed the repairing works of the electrical wiring of the damaged ICU unit.

"Later, a technical team from National Electro Medical Equipment Maintenance, Workshop, and Training Center in Dhaka came to the hospital a day before the Eid and worked on other issues including oxygen supply. It will be possible to reopen the ICU after a team of experts from there comes by tomorrow (Saturday) and gives the green signal after checking everything," he added.

Dozens of patients were whisked off Tangail General Hospital by their panicstricken relatives on July 15 after a fire broke out at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The patients had to take shelter beside a road near the hospital. Some critical Covid patients gasped for air without adequate oxygen support.

One of them died after suffering a cardiac arrest.

The next day, one of the patients, discharged from the ICU, died and five were sent to other hospitals. On the same day, a five-member committee headed by Additional District Magistrate Sohana Nasrin was formed to probe the fire incident and directed to submit the report within three days. The committee investigated the incident and submitted a report to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) within the period.

DC Dr Ataul Gani said that the investigation report stated as a standard protocol a high flow cannula needs break to function normally but it was used non-stop, got overheated and caught fire.

To avoid such accidents, the probe committee made a number of recommendations, including engaging skilled and trained manpower to run the ICU. "We have already sent the investigation report and recommendations to the concerned departments, including the Ministry of Health," he added.

Dr Khandakar Sadequr Rahman, assistant director of Tangail General Hospital, said that as per the recommendation of the investigation committee, he and several other doctors and staffers of the hospital have already been taking the training.

Notably, the prime minister on April last year directed to set up 10-bed ICU at all district hospitals and later the ICU unit was inaugurated at the hospital on May 2 this year.



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



Local Re-Press Tender Notice

Tender ref.: EDCL (KELP)/PUR/LT/DTW/2021/272

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.১৫৪১.৪০৮.১৪(২).০০১.২১-৩০৭০

Dated 25/07/2021

EDCL invites sealed tenders from the WASA Enlisted Experienced Contractors / well experienced Contractors enlisted with Deptt. of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) for supply & Installation of Deep Tube Well at Khulna Essential Latex Plant (KELP) which as details below:-

Name of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening	
--------------	---------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------	--



Construction work of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project, the country's first nuclear power plant, is going on in full swing and expected to be completed within the schedule time. PHOTO: STAR

40pc of Rooppur Nuke Power Plant project completed

No work suspension amid pandemic

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic is showing no sign of stopping, there has been remarkable progress in the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, with nearly 40 percent of its construction work being completed.

A reactor is likely to be set up in the first unit building by September 16, Yafes Osman, minister of Science and Technology, told The Daily Star.

During the pandemic over the last one year, the power plant project has seen a remarkable progress as per the schedule, the minister said while visiting the site recently.

Alongside the first unit, work on the second unit is also progressing smoothly, the minister said.

The reactor pressure vessel, complete with a nuclear reactor and steam generator -- the key components of the first unit of arrived on October 20 last year.

to bring all of the employees of the programme," said Yafes Osman.

The Russians working at the project are getting Russian vaccine "Sputnik while its Bangladeshi officials and engineers are also getting the same the work as per schedule." vaccine with the help of Russia, the minister said.

Shawkat Akber, project director of to the highest safety measures. Unit-Rooppur nuclear power plant, said 1 is scheduled to be commissioned over 30,000 workers -- including in 2023 while commissioning of over 25,000 locals -- are working for the project everyday. The project authority is strictly following hygiene rules for all of them.

"For workers' safety, we have opened observation and isolation of Russian Federation, signed an centres at the project site," said the agreement with the Bangladesh project director.

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant -- had every worker's health twice a day. If anybody is infected or found with "Since the start of the pandemic, any symptom, they and those around Rooppur nuke plant's work has them are taken to the centres. They been running following health are also provided with necessary December, 2015.

guidelines... We have taken steps medical support," he added.

Dr Shawkat said they are not project under vaccination pausing the project even as the pandemic worsens. "We have already completed 38 to 40 percent of the country's biggest development project and are expecting to complete

Two units of 1,200 MWe VVER each are to be built at Rooppur under Talking to this newspaper, Dr the Russian design, giving priority the second unit is slated for 2024 to produce 2,400mw of electricity from the two units.

In February, 2011, Rosatom, the state atomic energy corporation government to build the nuke plant "We are regularly monitoring at Rooppur in Pabna's Ishwardi. It will be the country's first nuclear power plant.

The initial contract for the project worth of \$12.65 billion was inked in

Supply & Installation of Deep Tube Well System	@2.5% of total	Tk. 1000.00/set	Closing :24/08/2021
with Submersible Pump at Khulna Essential	Quoted Amount.	Non-refundable	at 12.00 PM
Latex Plant (KELP).			Opening :26/08/2021
(Details as per BOO, Drawing & Time/Work Schedule).			at 12.15PM

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

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

The interested bidders may drop their offer along with relevant papers to the tender box kept at the purchase Department of EDCL, Dhaka & KELP, Khulna till 12.00PM on 24/08/2021, which will be opened on 26/08/2021 at Dhaka office at 12.15PM (Subject to receive of offers from KELP) in presence of the bidders/their representative (if any).

General Manager Procurement Deptt. For : Managing Director

Size- 5 x 4 col.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়

চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম

ফোনঃ ০৩১-২৮৬৩২৩২

Web: rhd.chittagong.gov.bd

তারিখঃ ২৫/০৭/২০২১খ্রিঃ

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, চউগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চউগ্রাম কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে প্রতিক্ষেত্রে ৫০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ) লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত প্রাক্তলিত মূল্যের অভ্যন্তরীণ ক্রয়কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ কার্যালয় অথবা উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম/সীতাকুন্ড/ফকিটছড়ি/১ম সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয় হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ এর অনুকুলে জমা প্রদান করে অথবা মানি রিসিপ্ট মাধ্যমে ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা পরিশোধকরতঃ আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিকভাবে পূরণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ২৩ আগষ্ট ২০২১খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা করতে হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি-৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ দরপত্র আহ্বান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না।

> পিন্টু চাকমা পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২১৯ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম E-mail: eechi@rhd.gov.bd

জিডি-১৩৬৮

INTERNATIONAL

Iraq doesn't need US combat troops: PM AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Iraq's prime minister has said his country no longer requires American combat troops to fight ISIL, but a formal timeframe for their redeployment will depend on the outcome of talks with US officials this week.

Mustafa al-Kadhimi said in an interview with The Associated Press news agency that Iraq will still ask for US training and military intelligence gathering, but will seek a timeline for the withdrawal of combat troops, which was announced in April amid ongoing talks between Washington and Baghdad.

"There is no need for any foreign combat forces on Iraqi soil," he said in the interview published vesterday before a planned trip to Washington, where he is slated to meet President Joe Biden on



Monday for a fourth round of strategic talks.

Al-Kadhimi will visit the White House amid growing pressure, particularly from Shia political groups, for a reduced US role in the country.

Meanwhile, the threat of an ISIL resurgence remains ever-present in Iraq, with al-Kadhimi careful to stress Baghdad is not seeking a full withdrawal.

"What we want from the US presence in Iraq is to support our forces in training and developing their efficiency and capabilities, and in security cooperation," al-Kadhimi said.

Previously, former President Barrack Obama had withdrawn US forces from Iraq in 2011, creating a security vacuum that aided the rise of ISIL. US troops were redeployed in 2014.



PHOTO: REUTERS

A firetruck is seen on the foreground of a wildfire in Douglas County, Nevada, US, in this screen grab obtained from a social media video recorded on July 23. As greenhouse emissions accelerate, heatwave-caused wildfires flared recently across the globe destroying forests vital to prevent global warming.

Four nations threat to climate goal

Warn scientists as 51 nations meet in UK ahead of crucial Cop26

AGENCIES

Ahead of a key climate meet in London, scientists have warned that only four leading G20 nations' climate targets would lead to disastrous global warming.

The warning comes as Britain yesterday hosted climate and environment ministers from 51 countries for "critical" climate talks ahead of November's Cop26 summit in Glasgow

British minister Alok Sharma, President of COP26, will lead the two-day meeting, which London said will address "key issues that require resolution" at the summit.

Environment and climate ministers from the US, India and China will be among those taking part in the closed-door meeting, which will include both virtual and in-person attendance.

According to The Guardian, the scientist said that China, Russia, Brazil and Australia all have energy policies associated with 5C rises in atmospheric temperatures, a heating hike that would bring devastation to much of the planet.

The analysis, by the peer-reviewed group Paris Equity Check, raises serious worries about the prospects of key climate agreements being achieved at the Cop26 summit in Glasgow in three months. The conference - rated as one of the most important climate summits ever staged - will attempt to hammer out policies to hold global heating to 1.5C by agreeing on a global policy for ending net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

The EU and UK have outlined emission activist network Avaaz. pledges that could bring the world close to these

deep division over the energy and environment sheets would result in dangerous sea-level rises. policies of the world's richest nations.



"Without more ambition from China, Brazil, Russia and Australia, Cop26 will fail to deliver the future our planet needs," warned Tanya Steele, chief executive at WWF.

The stark difference between the climate plans of different G20 nations - who together are responsible for 85% of all global carbon emissions - was underlined last week in Naples, when a meeting of member states' energy and environment ministers ended with the group failing to agree on a package of commitments to tackle climate change.

"The G20 is failing to deliver," said the online

A world that would be 5C hotter than it was were "nowhere close" to meeting the Paris goals.

aspirations. However, those of China, Russia, before the Industrial Revolution, when fossil-fuel Brazil and Australia – which remain reliant on burning began in earnest, would be one in which continued fossil-fuel burning - would trigger a quarter of the global population would face temperature rises of 5C if followed by the rest of extreme drought for at least one month a year; the world. This dramatic discrepancy reveals a rainforests would be destroyed; and melting ice

In addition, loss of reflective ice from the poles could cause oceans to absorb more solar radiation, while melting permafrost in Siberia and other regions would release plumes of methane, another pernicious greenhouse gas. Inevitably, temperatures would soar even further.

By contrast, scientists say that if temperature rises can be kept below 1.5C, then the worst impacts of climate change could be prevented - though they also point out that temperatures have already risen 1.2C, leaving the world facing very tight margins to avoid the worst impacts of global warming over the next 30 years.

The extent of the climate crisis has also been highlighted this month with extreme weather events causing devastation across the world: deadly floods have swept through Germany, Belgium and China, while massive wildfires have gripped the US and Siberia. Global warming has been implicated in every case.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nearly 200 countries committed to submit new climate plans every five years with a goal to limit global warming to well below 2C, aiming at 1.5C, compared to pre-industrial levels. However, earlier this year, the United Nations issued a "red alert" over current climate plans, warning they

Macron pushes for Israeli

probe into spyware concerns

IN brief

Landslide kills nine in northern Indian state

Nine people were killed by a landslide in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradeshin yesterday as boulders fell and hit the vehicle they were travelling in, news agency ANI reported. The vehicle was carrying 11 people and the two others, as well as a passer-by, were injured, ANI, a partner of Reuters, said, citing Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). ITBP teams rushed to the spot near Badseri village in the Kinnaur district of hilly Himachal Pradeshin state to conduct a rescue operation, ANI reported. In the western state of Maharashtra, at least 125 people died in the last two days after torrential monsoon rains sparked major landslides and flooding there.

Seventh presidential hopeful arrested in Nicaragua

Another presidential candidate was arrested in Nicaragua on Saturday, police said -- the seventh potential contender detained by Daniel Ortega's government in the lead-up to elections on November 7. Noel Vidaurre was put under house arrest, accused of "undermining the sovereignty" of the country, police said, in the latest of a series of arrests condemned by the United States and European Union. Nicaragua's long-term leader Ortega will seek a fourth consecutive presidential term at the November 7 elections, a senior ally said last week.



60 Cubans prosecuted so far over protests: official

About 60 Cubans have been prosecuted so far for participating in unprecedented demonstrations against the government earlier this month, a senior official said Saturday. The cases were over minor charges, and the total number of people detained has not been released amid complaints from relatives seeking information about loved ones. On July 11 and 12, thousands of Cubans took to the streets, shouting "Freedom," "Down with the dictatorship" and "We're hungry" in the biggest protests since the revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959. Hundreds of people were arrested and many face charges of contempt, public disorder, vandalism and propagation of the coronavirus epidemic for allegedly marching without face masks.

RCE: AFP, REUTERS



1945 - Britain, China and

the United States issued

the Potsdam Declaration

threatening Japan with

"prompt and utter

destruction" if it did not

surrender unconditionally

to end World War Two.

1965 - The Maldive

Islands in the Indian

Ocean became



Demonstrators hold up placards, one of which reads as 'Freedom - No to the pass' during a protest against the vaccination and the compulsory health pass called for by the French government, in Toulouse, France, on Saturday. Despite the protests, lawmakers from France's upper and lower houses of parliament were yesterday seeking to agree a deal to allow the adoption of legislation making vaccine passports vital for French daily life.

Emmanuel Macron has reportedly spoken to the Israeli prime minister, Naftali Bennett, to ensure that the Israeli government is "properly investigating" allegations that the French president could have been targeted with Israeli-made spyware by Morocco's security services.

In a phone call, Macron expressed concern that his phone and those of most of his cabinet could have been infected with Pegasus, hacking software developed by the Israeli surveillance

firm NSO Group, which enables operators of the tool to extract messages,

photos and emails, record calls and secretly activate microphones from infected devices. The leaked database at the heart of the Pegasus project includes Macron's mobile

phone number. NSO has said Macron was not a "target" of any of its customers, meaning the company denies he was selected for surveillance using Pegasus. The company says that the fact that a number appeared on the list was in no way indicative of whether that number was selected for surveillance using Pegasus.

The Pegasus project could not examin the mobile phones of the leaders and diplomats, and could therefore not confirm whether there had been any attempt to install malware on their phones.

The Pegasus project - a consortium of 17 media outlets, including the Guardian revealed last week that government clients around the world have used the hacking software sold by NSO to target human rights activists, journalists and lawyers.

The investigation has been based on

has become clearer, the diplomatic pressure

on Israel is mounting. On Thursday, Israeli

MP Ram Ben-Barak - a former deputy head

of the Mossad spy agency - confirmed

that the Israeli defence establishment had

"appointed a review commission made up

of a number of groups" to examine whether

policy changes were needed regarding

forensic analysis of phones and analysis of a **THE PEGASUS PROJECT** leaked database of 50,000 numbers, including that of Macron and those of heads of state and

independent after senior government, diplomatic and military 78 years as a British officials, in 34 countries. protectorate. As the mammoth impact of the disclosures

2016 - Hillary Clinton becomes first female nominee for President of the United States.

2016 - Solar Impulse plane completes first fuel-free flight around the globe.

Slow Taliban's momentum

Suggests Pentagon chief as thousands of Afghan families flee fighting in Kandahar

AGENCIES

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has suggested that the Afghan security forces' first job was to make sure they could slow the Taliban's momentum before attempting

to retake territory, as Afghan forces plan to consolidate forces around strategically important parts of the country.

reported Reuters Afghanistan's military overhauling its war strategy against the Taliban to concentrate forces around the most critical areas like Kabul and other cities,

border crossings and vital infrastructure. "They are consolidating their forces around the key population centers," Austin told reporters during a visit to Alaska.

"In terms of whether or not it will stop the Taliban, I think the first thing to do is to make sure that they can slow the momentum," Austin said, speaking as the U.S. military is set to end its mission in Afghanistan on Aug. 31, on orders from President Joe Biden.

Austin added that he believed the Afghans had the capability and the capacity

to make progress, but "we'll see what happens.

The politically perilous strategy appears to be a military necessity as over-stretched Afghan troops try to prevent the loss of provincial capitals, which could deeply

fracture the country.

Taliban insurgents are gaining control of more and more territory, which the Pentagon estimated on Wednesday now extends to over half of half Afghanistan's district centers.

On the ground, more than 22,000 Afghan families have fled from their homes to escape fighting

in the former Taliban bastion of Kandahar, officials said yesterday, as authorities arrested four suspected insurgents over this week's rocket attack on Kabul.

Local authorities had set up four camps for the displaced people who are estimated to be about 154,000.

Kandahar, with its 650,000 inhabitants, is the second-largest city in Afghanistan after Kabul. The southern province was the epicentre of the Taliban's regime when they ruled Afghanistan between 1996 to 2001.

Typhoon drenches flood-hit China

AFP, Ningbo

Typhoon In-Fa uprooted trees and drenched communities in knee-deep water in parts of eastern China, but there were no reports of major damage as it made landfall yesterday.

Sea, air and rail traffic had been shut down across a swathe of the coast centered on the major shipping port of Ningbo, where the weakening typhoon rumbled ashore around midday packing winds of up to 38 metres per second, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

Response teams in Ningbo cleared away fallen trees in the city centre, while residents in some neighbourhoods waded through floodwaters and merchants piled up sandbags in front of their businesses to keep out water.

The typhoon hit as the central province of Henan was still cleaning up after torrential downpours dumped a year's worth of rain in just three days last week. Government officials yesterday added another five dead to the toll from the freak flooding in Henan, raising the total to 63.

In-Fa's effects were also felt in the metropolis of Shanghai, China's largest city, with strong gusts of wind and steady but not heavy rainfall. All inbound and outbound flights were cancelled yesterday for the city's two international airports, as were dozens of scheduled trains, while activity at the ports of Shanghai and Ningbo -- two of the world's largest -- was also shut down.

The meteorological administration said that after landfall In-Fa would weaken but continue to hover over a wide expanse of eastern China for days, ringing itself out and bringing heavy rainfall.

DECADES OF NUKE TESTING IN FRENCH POLYNESIA Macron urged to apologise

AFP, Papeete

French President Emmanuel Macron faced pressure to apologise for the devastating impact of decades of nuclear testing as he kicked off his first official trip to French Polynesia.

sensitive cyber exports.

During his four-day visit, Macron plans to address the legacy of nuclear testing from 1966 to 1996 as France developed atomic weapons, as well as discuss the South Pacific territory's strategic role and the existential risk of rising seas posed by global warming. Residents in the sprawling archipelago

of more than 100 islands located midway between Mexico and Australia are hoping Macron apologises and confirms compensation for radiation victims.

The tests remain a source of deep resentment, seen as evidence of racist colonial attitudes that disregarded the lives of islanders.

French officials denied any cover-up of radiation exposure at a meeting earlier this month with delegates from the semiautonomous territory led by President Edouard Fritch.

The meeting came after French investigative website Disclose reported in March that the impact from the fallout was



far more extensive than authorities had acknowledged, citing declassified French military documents on the 193 tests.

Only 63 Polynesian civilians have been compensated for radiation exposure since the tests ended in 1996, Disclose said, estimating that more than 100,000 people may have been contaminated in total, with leukaemia, lymphoma and other cancers rife.

"We're expecting an apology from the president," said Auguste Uebe-Carlson, head of the 193 Association of victims of nuclear tests.

Patrick Galenon, the former chairman of the territory's CPS social security system, said female Polynesians aged 40 to 50 "have the highest thyroid cancer rates in the world.



Star The Dhaka Muslin Industry

The subject of this paper is the old muslin industry of Dacca [Dhaka] and its neighborhood. I shall not deal in this article with the Muslins produced here with British yarn. Comparatively speaking, these are coarser stuffs and their problems are somewhat different. Though wellknown muslin is rather difficult to define scientifically. The distinction between it and ordinary cotton goods called 'calico' has never been accurately stated. The difference between the two is a matter of degree only as regards the fineness of texture. ..

The etymology of the word does not help us in this matter. 'Muslin", as is well known is derived from Mosul, a town in Mesopotamia where clothes of gold and silver were called Mosolins. The term had therefore originally a quite different meaning from what it has now.

The industry at Dacca came into prominence when this town became the capital of Bengal at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Before this period Dacca does not appear to have been a place of any political or commercial importance and naturally, we do not come across any reference to the muslin industry of this place prior to the reign of Jehangir. But the muslin of Eastern Bengal in general, dates from remote antiquity, at least two thousand years from today.

remonstrated in her justification that she had seven jamahs or suits on; and another, that in Nabob Allaverdy Khawn's time a weaver was chastised and turned out of the city of Dacca for his neglect, in not preventing his cow from eating up a piece of *abrooan* which he had spread and carelessly left on the ground."

What were the causes of this excellence of the Dacca muslins? According to some writers, it was due to the superior quality of the Dacca cotton. ...

Some writers like Sir Chalres D'oyly have remarked that muslin cotton grew on the low lands subject to annual inundation. But the majority of writers are of opinion that the land selected for this cotton was "high and dry". With regard to the tract where it grew there is also difference of opinion. Mr. [Joseph] Bebb , the East India Company's Commercial Resident at Dacca, says that the finest was grown to the north and east of Dacca. [Illegible] and that the cotton grown to the south were considered inferior. Mr. Taylor the author of the Topography and Statistics of Dacca also writes that "The northern division of the district produced the best cotton and, in the situation, specially the portion of it bordering upon the Megna and Berhampooter, in Sunergong, Capasia, Toke and Junglebaree in which this article was chiefly cultivated in former times.

But in his paper, " On the supply of Cotton



A woman in fine Bengali muslin; Dhaka, 18th-century

J.C. SINHA

that of any other variety of Indian cotton. But it was certainly inferior to American cotton as regards the length of the staple and the fineness of fibre. The staple of the Sea Island cotton has more than double the length of the best Dacca cotton and the filaments of the latter were considerably thicker. The shortness of the staple of the Dacca cotton, though quite suitable for spinning the most delicate handspun yarn, was unsuitable for machine spinning. The Dacca spinners, on the other hand, failed to spin yarn out of the best American cotton. In 1811, the Commercial Resident sent a certain quantity of the Sea Island cotton to the different manufacturing stations connected with the Dacca factory. But the spinners could not work it into thread and claimed that the local fibre was superior for that purpose. This appears to have been due to the greater elasticity of the fibres of the Dacca cotton, which was capable of receiving more twists or turns in the process of spinning than the American cotton. One special quality attributed to the Dacca cotton by Mr. Bebb was that the thread made from it, did not swell after bleaching. But this was due more to the quality of the water used in bleaching, rather than to any special property of the cotton. The yarn spun at Dumroy [Dhamrai] which was reported by Mr. Bebb in

1788 to swell very much was in Taylor's days found to swell the least, if bleached at Dacca. "but the reverse if the water of Dumroy" was used in the process. In fact, the excellence of the Dacca muslins was due not so much to the special qualities of the cotton used as to the superiority in spinning and weaving. The process of spinning was somewhat different from that followed in the case of ordinary handspun thread. In the case of cotton to be spun to muslin yarn, the dallun *cathee* and not the *cherkee* or gin, was used for separating the seeds from the wool. The former instrument was simply an iron rod rolled upon a [flat] wooden board. It was said to injure the fibre less than the gin. The next step as to tease the cotton with a small bamboo [bow] with a string made of catgut or mooga [silk]. The cotton used for the finest thread was carded with the dried jaw-bone of the Boal fist before it was teased. After these processes of carding and teasing, the cotton was spread upon the smooth surface of the dried skin of Cheetul or Cuchia fish and rolled up into a small cylindrical case. This was held in hand during the process of spinning. Coarser yarns were spun on the spinning wheel or Charka as they are done now but fine yarns from 100 counts and above were spun on the tukua or spindle. The tukua ws not thicker than a stout needle, from ten to fourteen inches in length. There was attached near its lower point a small ball of unbaked clay to give it sufficient weight in turning. A certain degree of moisture, combined with a temperature of about 82 degrees, was the condition of the atmosphere best suited for the carrying on this operation. The spinners generally worked from early dawn to 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning and from 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon till half an hour before sunset. The finest yarn was spun early in the morning before the rising sun dissipated the dew on the grass. When the air was unusually dry, it was spun over a shallow vessel of water. The evaporation from the water imported the necessary moisture to the cotton to enable the spinner to form it into thread. The spinning of the finest yarn required such a delicacy of touch that it was confined to the women of a few families of Dacca and its neighbourhood. These female spinners had acquired skill through the hereditary continuance of this particular occupation for generations. About fifty years ago, the finest thread was made at Dhamrai. Mr. Wise wrote in 1883 that the few katanis or female spinners of muslin yarn in East Bengal, were to be found at that time only at Dhamrai. Fifteen years later, Mr. N. N. Banerjee remarked in his Monograph on the Cotton Fabrics of Bengal, "it is reported. though not with certainty that there are only two

persons at Dhamrai still living who can spin fine thread which was formerly used in the manufacture of muslins." I have made recent enquiries and it appears that the generation of women who spun the yarn of the finest fabrics has passed away.

About the fineness of the Dacca yarn, it is sufficient to say that a skein measured in the presence of Mr. Taylor in 1846 was upwards of 250 miles to the pound of cotton, i.e., the yard was of more than 520 counts. Even as late as 1883, as reported by Mr. Wise, 1 rati or 2 grains of the finest thread spun at Dhamrai measured 70 yards. Thus, the yarn was of 290 counts. It may be observed that the yarn used in an ordinary *dhootee* of 5 yds X 44 inches, manufactured in the Bombay mills, the retail price of which would now be about Rs. 2-8 as is from 20 to 24 counts only. Dacca yarn was at least 20 to 25 times finer.

It is often believed that our handspun yarn was finer than any ever produced by machinery even in England. This however is controverted by many who base their objection merely on the number of counts. The finest Dacca yarn did not exceed 550 counts but the machine-spun varn of a piece of power-loom-woven muslin which was exhibited in the International Exhibition of 1862, was stated to have been of 700 counts The manufacturer of this piece however admitted that his varn "was too imperfect

The lack of uniformity of thickness of the handspun thread was however not wholly a disadvantage as the transparency of the Dacca muslins was ascribed to this factor. In fact, the real disadvantage of the handspun yarn was that it was so costly and involved so much trouble in procuring the thread of a certain quality. Taylor writes that two-thirds of the time occupied in preparing fine muslins, were spent in searching for suitable thread in the different marts of the district. Considering the time and skill required in spinning very fine yarn, it is but natural that it was so costly. According to Taylor the maximum quantity of very fine yarn which a spinner could make in one month, devoting the whole morning to the spindle, was only 1/8 a tola or 90 grains (troy). This gives a daily output of 3 grains only. In spite of the rude appliances used, this infinite patience taken and the delicacy of touch were the real causes of the excellence of the Dacca yarn which machine-spun thread has failed to attain even to this day with the same quality of raw material.

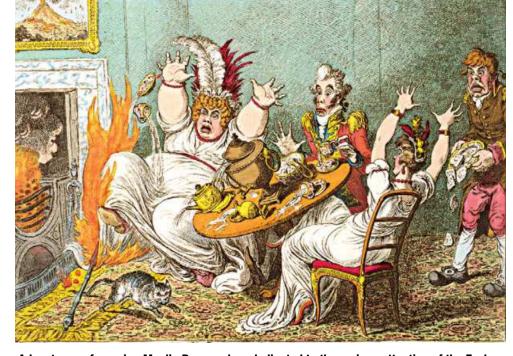
The Daily Star

DHAKA MONDAY

JULY 26, 2021, SRABAN 11, 1428 BS

The same causes were responsible, in addition to the fine quality of the yarn used, for the fame of the "wind-woven" fabrics of Dacca. Contrary to what is generally supposed, the actual processes of weaving the Dacca muslins and the appliances used were much the same as those used in the case of the fine handloom products of today. In the manufacture of fine muslins, the shuttle used was however considerably lighter. Not far off from the Nawabpur Road in this town, I found the weavers carrying out practically all the processes of weaving described by Taylor more than seventy year ago. It is not therefore necessary to describe all these processes. There is only one point that deserves mention, viz., that a certain degree of atmospheric moisture was necessary for weaving fine muslins. When it rained heavily and the air was very moist, a slow fire was kept under the loom. In very dry and hot weather, it was sometimes necessary during the operation of weaving, to place beneath the extended yarns of the warp of the loom, a few shallow vessels of water. The evaporation imparted the necessary moisture to the yarn and prevented them from breaking. This practice gave rise to the erroneous notion that Dacca muslin was sometime woven under water. ...

It is true that there were many subsidiary causes, both external and internal, which affected adversely the muslin industry of Dacca The British tariffs of the eighteenth and the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the outbreak of the French Revolution, the Milan and Berlin decrees of Napoleon, the Industrial Revolution in England, the general insecurity of this country after the death o



Advantages of wearing Muslin Dresses ! --- dedicated to the serious attention of the Fashionable Ladies of Great Britain Js. Gillray, 1802

The earliest apparent reference is in Kautilya's Arthasastra which alludes to the fine cotton fabrics of Vanga or Eastern Bengal. The muslin called Gangitiki in the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, an anonymous publication of the 1st century A.D. most probably came from East Bengal. Sulaiman, the Arab traveller who visited India in the ninth century, seems also to refer to the fine muslins of Eastern Bengal when he remarks that "cotton fabrics made in the Kingdom of Rahmi (which has been identified with East Bengal) are so fine and delicate that a dress made of it, may pass through a signet ring". In Marco Polo's days (A. D. 1294-95), the chief centres of cotton Weaving in India were Gujrat, Cambay, Telengana, Malabar and Bengal. Ralph Fitch the English traveller who visited India three centuries ago (1583) describes Sonargaon, which about 13 miles south-east from Dacca "as a town where there is the best and finest cloth made in all India". About the same time, Abul Fazl writes "the Sarkar of Sonargaon produces a species of muslin very fine and in great quantity". But the muslins of this part of Bengal did not yet attained the world-wide celebrity which they later on enjoyed. Their subsequent development was mainly due to the patronage of the Imperial and Vice-regal courts and the increased demand for them by the European traders. ... The English first exported the Dacca muslins in England about the year 1666 and by the year 1675 the fashion of wearing these fine stuffs, whether the costlier fabrics of Dacca or the cheaper muslins from other parts of the country became pretty general in England. We learn from the Diaries of Streynsham Master (1675-1680) that besides Dacca, muslin was produced at that time at Santipur, Maldah and Hughli. But this industry was not confined to the province of Bengal alone. Even at the beginning of the seventeenth century, very fine cotton goods were produced at Agra, at Sironj in Malwa, at Broach, Baroda and Navsari in Gujrat. But the finest and best muslins were certainly produced at Dacca which received such poetic names as ab-e-rawan or running water (because if placed in a stream it could scarcely be seen), baft hawa or woven air (because if thrown in the air it would fly like a cloud) and shabnam or evening dew which took its name from the fact that when spread on the ground it could scarcely be distinguished from the dew on the grass. ... "The Hindoos" writes Bolts (in his Considerations on India Affairs, 1772 A. D.) "amuse us with two stories as instances of the fineness of this muslin i.e. ab-i-rawan. One, that Emperor Aurangzeb was angry with his daughter for showing her skin through her clothes whereupon the young princess

from British India (1827)," Mr. George Tucker remarks that the favourite site of the muslin cotton "seems to be high banks of the Ganges and its tributary stream." In the midst of such conflicting evidence it is difficult to point out the exact region where Muslin cotton grew, but in any case, it was certain that it was

entirely the produce of the Dacca District. Even the vernacular name of this cotton it well-nigh forgotten. Mr. George Tucker and a host of other writers have spoken of the finest



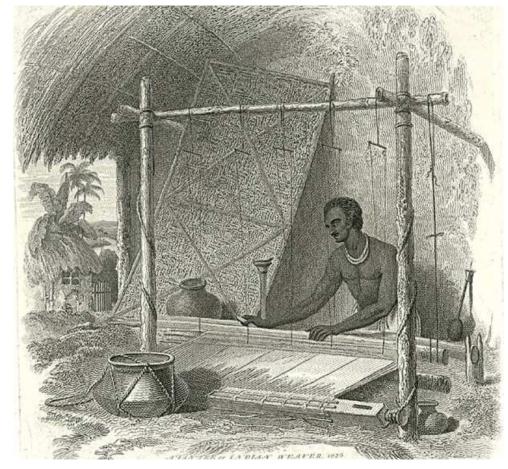
Portrait de Joséphine (ca. 1801) by Baron François Gérard. Dhaka muslin was a favourite of Joséphine Bonaparte, the first wife of Napoleon.

of Dacca cotton as bairati kapas, but Mr. Bebb calls it photee. Mr Krishna Kumar Basak, now an old man of eighty [1925], of Lalchand Mukim's Lane, Nawabpur, Dacca who himself wove muslin in his younger days told me that photee was the name of muslin cotton. ...

We learn further from the letter of the Commercial Resident of Dacca dated the 30th November, 1800 that this cotton plant was an annual one and that two crops were raised, one in April-May and the other in September-October. The former yielded the finest produce. The seeds of the cotton were kept with the wool on them during the rainy season and in order to preserve them from damp, they were put into an earthen jar, smeared inside with ghee or oil. This vessel, with its mouth closed up, was generally hung from the roof over the spot where the fire was kindled. All authoritative evidence is against the view that Dacca cotton was a long-stapled tree cotton. In fact, all the early writers like Buchanan-Hamilton, Bebb, Tucker, Roxburgh and Taylor allude to the Muslin cotton as a short-stapled annual plant. One of its special characteristics was that the wool adhered "most tenaciously to the seed.".

Wherein lay the superiority of the Dacca cotton? As might be expected, its staple was in fact longer and its fibre finer and silkier than

for any purpose, except to fix the limits of fineness at which" machine-spun yarn could Aurangzib, the oppression on the weavers and monopolistic control under early British



A Tantee or Indian weaver (1827). This etching was taken from plate 16 of Charles D'Oyly's "Antiquities of Dacca".

be woven by the power-loom. Regarding another such specimen of machine-made muslin of 440 counts, Forbes Watson remarked that a comparison of this with a piece of Dacca muslin of which the yarn was calculated to have been of 406 counts only, it was clear, though it may sound paradoxical, that the Dacca piece was finer. The average diameter of the yarn of the former piece was .00222 inch while that of the latter was .001526 part of an inch. This must have been due to the fact that the Dacca threads spun by hand, received more twists in the process of spinning and was more compressed than machine-spun yarn. The greater number of twists received per inch of yarn explains also the superior durability of the Dacca muslins.

It has also been said by many writers that handspun yarn had another special quality, viz., that it became stronger and finer after bleaching, whereas the reverse was the case with regard to machine-made yarn. But the latter had two advantages. It was cheapest and of more uniform thickness.

rule, the Great Famine of 1770, the artificial encouragement of English manufactures by low import duties with the right of entrance to the furthest part of India free from any transit duty and the heavy transit duty on Indian manufactures with no drawback of such duty on their export all these factors have been partly responsible for the decline of the muslin industry. But the real cause at work, especially in the case of the finest fabrics of Dacca, was the lack of patronage of the imperial and vice-regal courts. With the advent of British rule this patronage came to an end and the muslin industry naturally declined.

J.C. Sinha was the Chairman of the Economics Department at the University of Dhaka from 1925 to 1935.

This is an abridged version of an article with the same title published in Modern Review (April, 1925). It was the transcript of a public lecture delivered by J.C. Sinha at the Dhaka University on February 26, 1925.

EDITORIAL



FOUNDER EDITOR LATE S. M. ALI DHAKA MONDAY JULY 26, 2021, SRABAN 11, 1428 BS

A good initiative goes awry

A case of haste makes waste

P ICTURES of newly built tin shed low-cost houses, crumbling pathetically so soon after construction is an extremely good example of extraordinary bad planning and unnecessary haste. The houses were constructed to put in effect the prime minister's laudable objective of giving low-cost houses to the poor, about 70,000 by January this year in the first phase and another 50,000 by June 20, as a Mujib Borsho gift to the indigents. But the praiseworthy intention has, unfortunately, suffered a blemish. Nothing can be more embarrassing for the administration than to see systemic inefficiency so blatantly exposed.

Everything with the project that had to go wrong went wrong, everything that one must avoid, every limitation in terms of location, land and environment, that should have been corrected and removed, was left unaddressed. Even the costing, was flawed. Every brick house which consisted of two rooms, a kitchen and a toilet and a running porch were allocated Tk 1.7-1.9 lakh. That amount, by even the most conservative estimate seems to be woefully inadequate. And this is not from one single location. As of now, complaints have been received from 22 upazilas in 24 districts where the project was undertaken.

It seems that haste has played the most dominant factor in this very embarrassing debacle. And the blame must go directly on the shoulders of the planners as well as the project implementation committee (PIC). We wonder what was the hurry to finish construction in such quick time. Even the most incorrigible ignoramus would know that construction of a building requires a particular period of time. There is no point in the government engineers saying now that there was mishap at every step. Was there no engineer in the planning committee? By whom, we ask, was the PIC made up of? We cannot believe that there was no one in that committee who could tell the PMO that the nature of the soil would levy more time in construction than initially planned. What should we make of the statement of the chairman of the PIC that the houses were built on shifting soil? Our question is, if this was a known fact, why was the construction allowed to proceed?

Our gut feeling is, money was allotted first and then the rest of the actions followed. The coat was cut according to the cloth provided. And the cloth was not enough. The result was that hopes and dreams of the poor recipients have been dashed. We would hope that the investigation by the PMO would not only be able to identify the flaws, but also those responsible for the embarrassment. After all, the money belongs to the people and no one should be allowed to play around with it. Those in the administration who care little for public money should be taught a good lesson that tinkering with poor people's money comes at a cost.

Addressing the accountability challenge of e-commerce

I N recent years, Bangladesh has seen a rise in electronic commerce along with other countries around the world. Many young entrepreneurs have come up with various digital

products and services for customers. The availability of the internet and convenience in terms of saving time spent in traffic have helped this growth. However, the sector is yet to reach its full potential. Several challenges hinder its further expansion. Given the significance of the sector both in terms of business potential, employment generation and customer service, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised a webinar on Digital Platform Economy in Bangladesh recently. The keynote presentation and experts highlighted how the e-commerce sector can be expanded to serve more customers and also detailed which policy supports are needed for it to become an efficient sector.

MACRO

MIRROR

FAHMIDA KHATUN

A couple of days before the CPD webinar, the e-commerce sector in Bangladesh came to the limelight in connection with a huge scam of certain e-commerce ventures. Customers paid advances but the companies failed to deliver their products and refund their payments. Even before this revelation, there were red flags regarding the integrity of some online businesses which have been conducting e-commerce. The quality and price of products, delay in delivery of products to customers, difficulty in returning products, risk of not getting refunds, and overall quality of customer service have been the common complaints against a number of companies. The most talked-about company among the lot seemed to have performed every trick to cheat its customers and siphoned off a large amount of money by not refunding customers' advance payments, even though they failed to deliver goods for a long time.

This whole episode of huge fraud by a widely promoted e-commerce platform even by some of the country's respected media has shaken not only the integrity of the company itself, but also of those which have been advertising the services of the company. Of course, in a welcome move, a reputed financial transaction company has immediately disassociated itself with this fraudulent e-commerce platform.

At a time when there is a growing demand for e-commerce in Bangladesh, such irregular practice has destroyed the

URING the

Covid-19

lockdowns,

performing

men have been

more care work

than any other

time in recent

history. This was

confirmed through

trust of consumers greatly. E-commerce is performed between businesses and customers based solely on trust as there is no face-to-face interaction between them. Customers rely on the e-commerce entities and pay for whatever product is displayed on the screen. Once the trust is gone, the sector will lose its customers. Retrieving the trust will require a lot of hard work and dedication. Even many large global e-commerce establishments have failed to survive once their reputation was at stake.

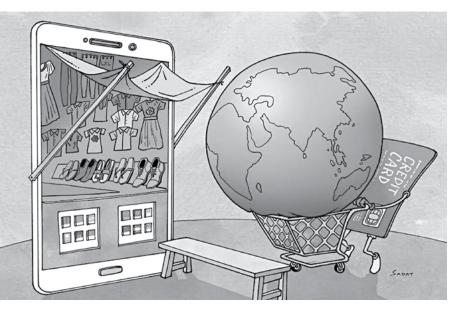
Of course, in our country there is a section of people who wants to thrive using only unfair means. Unfortunately, this number is increasing every day and not just in the e-commerce sector. The financial sector is another example where incidences of even bigger irregularities are unearthed regularly. The number of wilful bank defaulters is increasing. Additionally, dealing with occurrences when people are taking out money from banks and non-bank financial institutions through deceitful ways is also a major challenge for the financial sector. One of the reasons for irregularities with public money is that wrongdoers are rarely punished as they have connections with powerful people. Besides, these new rich with ill-gotten money are adored by society. A section of our society appreciates their wealth, gives them special attention and tries to follow their path in order to earn a luxurious lifestyle just like them. The definition of success to them is to possess wealth by any means and to flaunt the illegal wealth shamelessly.

The case of e-commerce is of course different from other established sectors. This is a new sector in Bangladesh. Regardless, during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the e-commerce sector has flourished significantly. Sales through digital platforms increased by 70 percent in 2020 compared to the previous year, according to the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh. But the size of the sector is still small. Besides, if one goes by the strict definition of "e-commerce", many businesses will not qualify to be e-commerce entities at all. It is not only about having a license to operate the business. The e-commerce company should also have proper policies about shipping, delivery, returns and refunds. Full disclosure on the product and also on the company about its assets and liabilities is a must. Besides, privacy policy on customer information is also an essential requirement for conducting e-commerce. Since many e-commerce companies do not fulfil these preconditions, the customers are being deprived of having value for their money and even being cheated by not receiving either the product or a refund.

The absence of a regulatory framework for the e-commerce sector has helped dishonest people to take the opportunity and commit fraud. Many digital commerce operators do not have license or a Tax Identification Number. Recently, the Ministry of Commerce has launched Digital Commerce Operations Guidelines 2021. The guideline instructs that the maximum number of days for the delivery of products will be five days once an advance payment is made by the customer. There are also details on when a company would hand over the ordered product for delivery and what will be the penalty if products are not delivered on time. It also instructs companies to inform customers about order updates through mobile text messages, emails or telephone calls. In case of failure

to work on e-commerce policies further to remove their limitations. Without a holistic e-commerce framework that ensures highest governance practices, the confidence of consumers cannot be regained easily.

The other requirement is the improvement of digital and physical infrastructure and skills. Though the number of digital commerce operators is increasing fast, the demand for e-commerce is growing faster since the population is large in Bangladesh. The existing infrastructure is not capable of meeting consumer demand. Acceleration of internet access and faster internet speed will be useful for enhancing the services. Besides, small and new e-commerce companies need financial and fiscal incentives. Companies also



to comply with the guidelines, the government can close down the company. Consumers can also lodge complaints with the Consumer Rights Protection Department and relevant courts.

Though experts have pointed out that the guidelines should have more details on consumer rights and business policies for the sector, the commerce minister reassured that this would be amended and improved if needed. In fact, this guideline is a first step towards formal measures by policymakers. If these guidelines are implemented, it will help improve the transparency and accountability of the mushrooming e-commerce operators by a large extent. But policies and guidelines cannot be static, their implementation has to be a dynamic process. With an evolving scenario, policies have to be changed and modified. So, this is a starting point and while applying these policies, the loopholes will become evident. Policymakers should have an open mind lack adequately skilled human resources. Complying with workers' rights is also an issue in case of e-commerce.

Increasing customer literacy on digital business is also very important. Due to lack of awareness, customers fall prey to the businesses' tricks which ultimately leave them in distress. Consumer rights associations and media can help such consumers by providing regular information on which companies they should be careful of and how to protect themselves from being cheated.

Finally, we will certainly see further acceleration of digital commerce in the future. It will have impact on governments, industries and consumers as it will unleash new ways of conducting business and providing services. How much we can benefit from this transformation will depend on how we prepare ourselves for its challenges.

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

Help stranded

migrant workers to re-migrate

Govt must make special provisions to quicken the process

report published by Brac Migration Programme last April shows that among 417 I migrant workers who had returned home amid the coronavirus epidemic, 72 percent want to re-migrate. Among them, 89 percent are from rural areas, 84 percent are young people in their 20s and 47 percent have no income source right now. According to the head of Brac Migration Programme, most of the respondents in the survey without an income source put re-migration as their "first choice". Also, many who came home on vacation and were subsequently stuck here amid the pandemic or came home after losing their jobs, were contacted by their previous employers. So, they want to re-migrate now. As we have reiterated many times before, the government must help these migrant workers go back overseas in a legal way so that they do not fall victim to unscrupulous agents.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided some reasons why people migrate in its report published in August, 2020. They include absence of job opportunities, particularly in the formal sector; insufficient income, financial problems, and a lack of social services and limited social protection systems. The report found if there were better job opportunities in Bangladesh, 99 percent of potential migrants would choose to stay in the country. Bangladesh is the sixth largest origin country for international migrants in the world, with 7.8 million Bangladeshi migrants living abroad as of 2019. Over 2.2 million young adults join the labour force every year, but the domestic labour market is unable to absorb all these job seekers. As per Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (Bmet) data, 1.95 lakh Bangladeshis took up new overseas employment this year.

Remittances from migrant workers are one of the two biggest drivers of economic development, and hence the government must make the process of migration legal, easy and quick. The government has to make getting passports, visas, air tickets etc. easier for migrant workers who are stuck here due to Covid-19. Vaccinating them before anyone else must be the top priority of the government. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment must take effective steps to make sure that those migrant workers who have been left stranded because of the pandemic are able to go back as quickly as possible. The reality of thousands of young people who can neither go back to their overseas jobs nor get any employment at home will ultimately take an economic and social toll on the country.

LAILA KHONDKAR

surveys with women and men in 47 countries across various regions, and highlighted in the fourth "State of the World's Fathers" report (launched on June 15, 2021). The report was produced by Promundo, co-coordinator of MenCare: A Global Fatherhood Campaign (active in over 55 countries) and includes data from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey, the ILO, UNICEF, and UN Women.

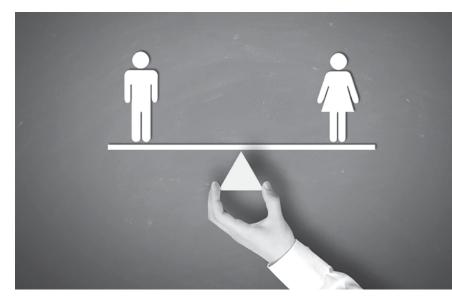
According to the report, despite men's increased participation at home during the global pandemic, the world is at least 92 years away from achieving equality in unpaid care work between men and women. Moreover, no country in the world has achieved equality in unpaid care, and no country has a policy or target date to achieve it.

Societies will not be able to function if women stop performing caregiving responsibilities. Still, this work is seriously undervalued. Even when many women perform all the responsibilities of domestic life—raising children, taking care of sick family members-there is a perception that they are not "working"! Don't all of us know some Bangladeshi woman who could not enter the job market or had to leave their job after getting married and having children? Many women cannot pursue higher education or professional development opportunities due to their role as caregivers, which means they are not able to realise their full potential.

When fathers take on their fair share of unpaid care work, it can alter the nature of the relationships between men and women and children. Both fathers and mothers will have more time for their children, women are released from some

of their "double burden", and fathers get to experience the joys, satisfactions, and stresses of caring for their children. Performing the role of caregiver also offers men the opportunity to begin to break free from the narrow concepts of manhood and fatherhood, which provides their sons and daughters with positive role models and higher hopes for the future. In addition, fathers with close connections to their children live longer,

labour force participation or income generation is viewed as men's work. This has been reinforced by centuries of policies, workplace norms, the media, and educational curricula. This has not changed even when women are increasingly part of the paid labour force. Due to these inequitable norms and power dynamics, governments and families prioritise men's incomes and paid work at the expense of women's



Involve men in caregiving to achieve gender equality

have fewer health problems, and are more productive and generally happier. Men's equitable participation in caregiving bring benefits to men themselves, to their partners, their children, and to societies.

The Helping Dads Care data featured in the "State of the World's Fathers" 2019 report showed that on average, across seven middle- and higher-income countries, 85 percent of men said they would "do whatever it takes to be very involved" in the early stages of caring for a newborn or adopted child.

Why is it not possible for men to take care of their children and participate fully in domestic work? Economies and economic policies value financial growth and profit over equality and undermine the importance of care work. Unpaid care work is mostly known as women's and girls' responsibility and participation in the labour force and undermine all forms of care work.

Well-designed leave policies for fathers have the potential to transform gender relations and benefit all concerned. A study from Sweden showed that every month that fathers took paternity leave increased the mother's income by 6.7 percent, as measured four years later, which was more than she lost by taking parental leave herself.

The recent "State of the World's Fathers" report provides seven recommendations—(1) Put in place national care policies and campaigns that recognise, reduce, and redistribute care work equally between men and women; (2) Provide equal, job-protected, fully paid parental leave for all parents as a national policy; (3) Design and expand social protection programmes to redistribute care equally between women and men; (4) Transform health sector institutions to promote fathers' involvement from the prenatal period through birth and childhood and men's involvement as caregivers; (5) Promote an ethic of male care in schools, media, and other key institutions in which social norms are created and reinforced; (6) Change workplace conditions, culture, and policies to support workers' caregiving and mandate those changes in national legislation; and (7) Hold male political leaders accountable for their support of care policies, while advocating for women's equality in political leadership.

Even though the survey did not include data from Bangladesh, the recommendations of the report are relevant for the country. We must address the current lack of men's and boys' equitable participation in caregiving. The Bangladesh government should adopt and implement policies that specifically encourage and support fathers' involvement in early childhood development, care, and education. Employers will have to ensure that workplace policies enable both men and women to perform their caregiving responsibilities. Policy decisions will have to be supported by campaigns to bring changes in social attitudes. The media can play an important role in this regard by not disseminating gender stereotypes, promoting messages/images that show both men and women in caregiving roles, and celebrating women's academic and professional achievements. Parents should raise boys and girls equally so that they do not feel confined by societal expectations, and can grow up to realise their full potential.

Covid-19 has given us an opportunity to reimagine a more caring, gender equitable, environmentally sustainable, liveable, and economically just world. Let us be brave and achieve true gender equality by revolutionising the lives of men and boys, which includes their full participation in domestic life.

Laila Khondkar is an international development worker.

OPINION

100 years of Dhaka University

Achievements of the past and challenges of the future

FAKHRUL ISLAM

HAKA University was born out of a struggle by the people of east Bengal for asserting their regional identity. It reached its apotheosis through its leading role in the struggle for Bangladesh's nationhood. The year 2021 is significant for both Bangladesh and the University of Dhaka as both the entities will turn 50 and 100, respectively.

The proud history of Dhaka University's various political movements is intertwined with the history of opposing oppressors. The role of the university in 1952, 1969, 1971 and 1990 are examples of that. During these years, Dhaka University rarely departed from its commitment to scholastic standards, where advancement remained merit based. But now, most of its student bodies are dancing to the tune of the ruling party.

We have to understand that a university is a place of pursuing academic excellence. It is a place that is supposed to create new knowledge, store that knowledge and disseminate it. As proud students of the country's premier university, its students cannot stay insulated from the national agenda or politics, but over-politicisation has surely created many impediments when it comes to nurturing talent. It is now a common phenomenon for most university students to become obsessed with government administrative jobs. They now start studying for the BCS and other competitive exams from their university years. This is because the incentives of government service have increased manifold in the last few decades. In earlier years, students used to aim for academic excellence and try to excel in their respective subjects. The number of academic disciplines has increased, but the question remains whether their curricula have been updated.

The fact is that students of DU are not getting familiarised with the most up-to-date knowledge. Most employers in the competitive private sector are saying that they are not getting DU graduates with appropriate skills for the job market. A large chunk of people from the surrounding countries of Bangladesh are now capturing lucrative positions in Bangladesh's private sector.

The result is pretty evident, as we have seen Dhaka University rank very poorly in various World University rankings: i.e., QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking, THE (Times Higher Education) Ranking, CWUR (Centre for World University Ranking). In economics, there is a theory called Gresham's Law. It states that "bad money drives out the good money". Similarly, it means, if a system allows something bad to grow, then eventually it will drive out the good from the system. Dhaka University is suffering from something very much like that. But the university still produces a number of meritorious students—although the university

> As proud students of the country's premier university, its students cannot stay insulated from the national agenda or politics, but over-politicisation has surely created many impediments when it comes to nurturing talent.



A university is a place of pursuing academic excellence. It is a place that is supposed to create new knowledge, store that knowledge and disseminate it.

itself perhaps no longer playing a big role in that.

Dhaka University—once an embodiment of Bangladesh's dream—a hundred years after its emergence is a mere shadow of its glorious past. If we look at the history of Dhaka University, we will notice that every few years it produces at least a few teachers of international calibre. Even today, there are very good scholars who are coming out from DU and publishing in the best journals and university presses and taking part in state of the art research. Of course, teachers could do better in terms of publishing their work internationally. And a committee should immediately be set up to find out why the more qualified teachers from DU are currently underperforming. Certainly, many Dhaka University students are still in high demand. IBA graduates are doing exceptionally well both in our country and abroad. Many students from English, Economics, Sociology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering departments are also doing fairly well. Students from various departments of the biosciences, the applied sciences and pharmacy faculties are also working both at home and abroad. So, there are quite a lot of success stories as far as employment goes.

PHOTO:

STAR

Dhaka University's most significant contribution in the last 50 years or so has been to accept students who cannot afford to pay even a fraction of the tuition fees charged by private universities. Dhaka University and the other public universities are doing a fantastic work in educating people who would otherwise not have been able to pursue higher studies. Many of these students go on to have successful careers and hold high-level positions. People who criticise Dhaka University most often ignore this point. However, there are valid arguments for tuition fees to be raised slowly over time and marginally. But what we have seen in the past is that every time the tuition fee is raised, the move tends to attract the wrath of the students, resulting in the administration often having to withdraw their decision to raise fees.

People have high expectations from Dhaka University, and rightly so. It has always strove to provide the best possible service to the country. It has also played an important role at key junctures of the country's history. But it must continue to do so and not compromise as far as quality is concerned. At the end of the day, quantity without quality is a sure prescription for disaster.

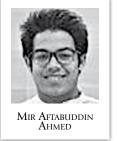
Nevertheless, we cannot simply dwell on the past. DU has come a long way in the last 100 years, but much more needs to be done if it is to live up to its reputation as "the Oxford of the East". The university has to evaluate its own performance on a regular basis and make changes when and as they become necessary in order to stay on top and become a much better university in the future.

With the Fourth Industrial Revolution right around the corner, it is time for DU to once again play a pivotal role in leading the country when it comes to state of the art technologies and subject areas. In order to achieve vision 2041, we have no other option but to adopt the latest technologies that are out there, and DU must play a key role in leading the country in that department.

Fakhrul Islam is a Director at UGC, Bangladesh. Email: fakhrulugc@yahoo.com

Storytelling through food

Kishwar's rendezvous with Bengali cuisine



B ENGALI cuisine in its most primitive form is perhaps a paradoxical phenomenon worthy of deeper sociocultural research. On one end, our food traditions have inherent roots ensuing

from everyday social activities such as the neighborhood adda-defined through punchy subtle, tangy and spicy finger foods that complement that elusive cup of chai. On the other end of the spectrum, the khandani rich textures present across Mughal food represents the yesteryears of an elite class of individuals and their historical ties with Nawabi rule. The kind of food we eat often depicts the tale of the people who cook and consume it, in the case of Bengalis, it comprises of a history of survival, subsistence and simply buckling up and getting on with it—especially for the likes of labourers, farmers, fishermen or street vendors, versus another parallel history of the privileged Zamindars, landowners or a minority of educated professionals of a very different era. So how important is reflecting on this history when it comes to discussing our cuisine? The answer is pretty obvious-well of course it is important! The convergence of these two strands of history has resulted in the development of a niche combination of flavour, spice, subtlety and richness-creating a unique but highly undervalued Bengali cuisine. Aficionados of different cuisines attest to this notion. Mobilising a conversation around this cuisine and its subsequent promotion by Bangladeshi diasporas internationally, is therefore a necessary step needed to truly pay testament to the idea of "Brand Bangladesh". MasterChef Australia finalist Kishwar Chowdhury has donned the role of doing exactly that—and for this, she deserves nothing but our unwavering gratitude. Some have argued across social media that the non-resident Ms Chowdhury tried to leverage

makes you see the funny side of a tragedy.

patriotism and emotion to drive her food to the very top of the ladder—well, I say good for her. As a society, are we seriously going to criticise a lady for tapping into the one sentiment that we as Bengalis have a history of misusing? But there is a bigger tale here each of the dishes Ms Chowdhury presented in coherence with her personality, represented an itemised tale of the holistic Bangladesh story. And for specifically making this effort to be a narrator through her food, she won

that it was. Whether it be *Paanta Bhaat* or *Paan*, these are items which one is likely to see (albeit in a more rustic form) across villages and households that are often struggling to make ends meet—by giving power to the value that such individuals bring to the Bengali story, she presented these dishes in what is surely one of the most coveted culinary competitions in the world. Her other dishes such as *Jao Bhaat* and Mutton *Rezala* brought to light crucial strands

cuisine, and in fact the foundations of all things that make us Bangladeshi, we need to reconcile ourselves with the indigenous populations of our country and pay tributes to their history. Their story is often untold and shamelessly sidelined—both by the state and citizens alike. Kishwar's *Rangamati Barramundi Curry* was an informed chef's homage to the capital of the Bangladeshi Hill tracks and home to the indigenous people of Bangladesh. How wonderful it was to see netizens have a genuine conversation in reaction to this dish, regarding the culture of indigenous groups in the country and what they bring to our story?

Residing in Canada I have often tried to seek inspiration from Bangladeshi immigrants who are making a credible impact and truly representing Brand Bangladesh here—there is little doubt that expats owe an immense gratitude to their motherland. And yes, when I see pockets of restaurants opening up in Toronto such as "Gharoa" or "ADDA Bengali Kitchen & Catering" and proudly labelling themselves as promoting Bangladeshi food, I perhaps feel the same sense of pride which the owners and chefs do-but in more ways than one, a deeper sense of comfort perhaps. Comfort in knowing that if I miss home cooked food, I can always run over and feel at home. Comfort at knowing that if I want to give my non-Bangladeshi friends a glimpse of our local delicacies, I can take them there. For decades, Bangladeshi expats have been restaurateurs in immigrant hubs such as London, New York and Toronto-yet there was a seeming sense of discomfort in labelling their food as Bangladeshi. We preferred to market our restaurants as Indian or Pakistani-in a way this was perhaps a manifestation of how we undervalued ourselves as a society or a reflection of the hesitancy to respect our achievements. Or perhaps, it was simply a way to avoid explaining to the average person where and what Bangladesh is. Today, our country can and should be proud of where it is—and I think it gives leverage to our citizens to be bolder and brighter in wearing that badge of pride more adeptly. Do not get

BEETLE BAILEY

me wrong, our governments of the past and the present have been quick to jump on the development bandwagon and take credit for the modern image of Bangladesh as a thriving middle-income economy. Nevertheless, they forget to shine appropriate light on the daily achievements of regular citizens and expats alike-the true carriers of the story of Bangladesh. What Kishwar Chowdhury has done and the traction she has received during her time at MasterChef Australia, does in my opinion, provide a segue for us as a society to celebrate the successes of civic power and regular citizens-and in turn, inspire others, and importantly mothers and home cooks, to take ownership of playing their role in building Brand Bangladeshand investing in their skills.

The New York Times carried a report way back in 2000 titled "The Star of Bangladesh; In New York, Don't Take Indian' Food Too Literally"—indicating that around 85 to 90 percent of Indian restaurants in New York were in fact Bangladeshi. More recently in 2019, the BBC ran several reports stating that 87 percent of Indian restaurants in the UK were run and owned by British-Bangladeshis. So, when it comes to entrepreneurship and the culinary arts, Bangladeshi expats have invested time, money and effort in different communities across the aisle. With Kishwar Chowdhury's success, one hopes that Bengali cuisine gets further limelight internationally and is depicted as a vessel for telling the story of a history of a people, whose roots are as diverse as is their food. Soft power via civic power is often more impactful than political power-and in the Golden Jubilee year of our independence, Kishwar Chowdhury may just have nudged our cuisine in a direction where it can cumulatively play the role of being a platform to promote Bangladesh globally, while staying true to our roots. We wish her the best and hope to read her cookbook soon! You do not have to be in Bangladesh to be an ambassador of Bangladesh—and this principle I take to heart deeply. And I hope Kishwar does too.



The kind of food we eat often depicts the tale of the people who cook and consume it, in the case of Bengalis, it comprises of a history of survival, subsistence and simply buckling up and getting on with it.

my heart.

The Panta Bhaat and Aloo Bhorta dish was bound to hit the core of our sentiments—such a simple yet heartwarming representation of the very fundamentals of Bengali cuisine! The story behind the history of this dish—that of poverty, struggle, oppression and famine is one that needs to be expressed. Kishwar's take on Mishti Paan on the other hand, resulted in the judges deeming it her love letter to Bangladesh—and in examining the thesis of our cuisine—and she made it a point to elaborate on the story behind each item to the judges, for which she deserves applause.

There was one dish in particular however which truly blew me away. In our collective quest to celebrate the independence struggle of 1971 and the spirit of freedom, we often fail to reminisce, recollect and reflect on the fragile journey of the ethnic populations of our country. To comprehend the roots of our

Mir Aftabuddin Ahmed is Toronto-based banking professional and a contributor for *The Daily Star*. Email: aftab.ahmed@alum.utoronto.ca

BY MORT WALKER

	CROSS	NORD BY THOMAS	JOSEPH	1 11	2	3	4
QUOTABLE Quote		201	((13	-		t
Quote	ACROSS	30 Leafy vegetable	6 County separators	15			1
~	1 TV grouch	33 Clinic cost	7 Phone button	18			
	6 Titus Welliver	34 Joplin piece	letters	21			2
P. Million	series	36 Boston team, for	8 Baseball position		28	25	Ļ
a second states	11 Flower girl, often	short	9 Friday finder	33	28		L
20 -	12 Met work	37 Blow up	10 Reviled	37			3
	13 "John Brown's	39 Ram's mate	17 Work unit	40		-	-
	Body" poet	40 Crest	22 Family	43	+		╀
Collar Tra	14 Do further	41 Oven feature	24 Penguin's	45	+	-	╞
	editing work	43 Staggering	cousine		_	-	-
And the second second second	15 Gallery fill	44 Defeatist's words	26 OPEC units	YES	TFRſ)AY'	S
An In Control Review Million Control	16 Token of love	45 Parliament	28 "Raging Bull"	_			
ZOHRA SEHGAL	18 Rage	members	star	S		R	1
(27 April 1912 -10 July 2014)	19 Smelter supply	46 Looks after	29 Crone	A	\vdash	A	-
Indian actress	20 Signal of		31 Cheap	Ĥ	K	A B	
indian acticity	approval	DOWN	32 Brings to bear			Б	-
Life becomes drudgery	21 Escapade	1 Out during trial	33 Wild	А	1	В	ì
if you don't have a	23 A+, for one	2 Rugged range	35 "Under stand?"	В	ō	0	ī
	25 Little lie	3 Baseball position	38 Like some	E	G	ŏ	
sense of humour. A	27 Long lunch	4 Top pitcher	cheeses		E	M	(
good sense of humour	28 Alice's cat	5 Fashionably dated	42 Bar rocks				-
makes you see the	20 AILES Cal	5 rasilioliably ualeu	42 Dai TUCKS	—	•		

5 rushionabiy duted	12 Dui Tocks	
ITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINIO dsopinion@gmail.com		



'ESTERDAY'S **ANSWERS**

I L J										
S	Р	Α	Ζ			С	Α	S	Т	Е
L	Т	R	Α		Ν	0	\sim	Е	1	Ν
А	С	Α	Т		Е	L	0	Р	E	D
Т	Α	в	L	E	S	Α	Š			
			G	L	Α	S	S	J	Α	W
Α	L	в	υ	М	S			Е	L	I
в	0	0	Ν	S		в	R	Α	Ι	Ν
Е	G	0			Ρ	L	Α	Ζ	Т	S
L	Е	М	0	Ν	L	Α	V			
			S	Ο	U	Т	н	Р	Α	W
Т	Α	L	С	U	М		Ι	0	W	Α
0	С	E	Α	Ν	S		D	0	0	R
Р	E	E	R	S			Е	L	L	S



NO, IF I HEREBY GRANTAND CONVEY TO YOU ALL INTEREST, CLAIMS AND TITLES TO SAID MELON, TOGETHER WITH ALL RINDS, SEEDS AND JUICE, WITH ALL RIGHTS SAY... TO CUT, BITE AND CONSUME IT, REJECT-ING ANY CLAIMS TO SAID ITEM NOT WITH-STANDING... HERE, I SURRENDER COLE



City

Bombs had been exploded in

The New York Times further

postage stamps would be issued

on July 29. These stamps were to

Karma-Sahavak Foundation (PKSF)

for low-interest loans towards job-

The Finance Division official said

the banks are given this money as

a grant for lending at a subsidised

interest rate of four percent, which

will be distributed through different

To help businesses in the tourism

sector pay workers' wages, Bangladesh

Bank is preparing a guideline to allocate Tk 1,000 crore for loans to

the business owners at a subsidised

interest of four percent. This guideline

will be prepared and distributed to

stakeholders of the sector by August

said they have a Tk 5,000 crore special

fund for such allocations and a further

Tk 5,000 crore from funds saved

from reducing foreign trips and car

the ultra-poor and destitute families

and will be able to provide more if

necessary as we have Tk 10,000 crore

'We have given Tk 3,200 crore to

An official of the Finance Division

creation activities in rural areas.

NGOs in rural areas.

4, he said.

purchases by half.

in funds," he said.

Actions included the

Suspended FROM PAGE 12

The DSHE director, however, said that the assignment activities of SSC and HSC examinees of this year would continue following health guidelines.

SSC and HSC batch of this year have only a little time for taking preparation. So, we would continue their assignment activities," he added.

On July 15, Education Minister Dipu Moni said the government wanted to hold the SSC and its equivalent examinations in the second week of November and the HSC and its equivalent tests in the first week of December.

As part of the exams, SSC candidates will have to submit 24 assignments in three optional subjects in 12 weeks whereas the HSC candidates will have to submit 30 assignments in 15 weeks.

Students were required to submit two assignments per week.

The distribution of assignments, to be prepared on shortened syllabuses for SSC candidates, begun on July 18. For HSC candidates, it will begin on July 26.

The government, in April, started giving assignments to students for its submissions in late April this year. The assignment activities for SSC and HSC candidates of 2022 started in June.

The government introduced assignment activities as it closed all the educational institutions on March 17 last year, around a week after the first cases of coronavirus were detected in the country.

The closure has been extended multiple times since then.

According to the latest announcement, schools and colleges

will remain closed until July 31.

Power plant FROM PAGE 12

The lawyer said SS Power I Limited has given the money in compliance with a directive issued by the HC on May 4.

SS Power I Limited has also given Tk 50,000 to each of the 16 victims, who were injured in the incident, for treatment, he said.

Also, Tk 2.5 lakh has been given to a severely injured victim for better treatment, he added.

Lawyer Rouf said the HC was yet to fix any date for hearing the issue.

Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar, assigned to the HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim, told this correspondent that he did not know whether SS Power I Limited had submitted any compliance report to the bench.

He, however, said the state has earlier taken time from the HC bench for submitting the probe reports of the committees led by the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Chattogram as the inquiries are ongoing.

During hearing two separate writ petitions, the HC bench, on May 4, directed SS Power I Limited to immediately give Tk 5 lakh initially to

each of the families of the dead victims. Seven workers of the SS Power I Limited, an under-construction coalfired power plant, were killed and at least 21 were injured during a clash with police in Banshkhali on April 17.



Hundreds of protesters rally in the Tunisian capital Tunis yesterday demanding the government step down after a spike in Covid-19 cases that has aggravated economic troubles. PHOTO: REUTERS

Over 17 lakh get govt cash support helpline provides information on

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 12

lakh after scrutiny of the list of ultrapoor and destitute across the country. The target beneficiaries included rickshaw-pullers, day labourers,

construction workers, farmers, people working at small businesses, and transport workers. This time, they have selected 17

akh most vulnerable persons from that list, said an official of the Finance Division.

Meanwhile, the government also started additional open market sale (OMS) centres across the country from yesterday to help low-income people in urban areasbuy essentials at a subsidised price. These will continue till August.

At least 813 OMS centres will be operated across the country and the government has allocated another Tk 150 crore from the relief package for this, said the official.

Allocations were made for 20,000 tonnes of rice and 14,000 tonnes of flour -- rice will be sold at Tk 30 per kilogramme and flour at Tk 18 per kg. They are providing a Tk 17 and Tk 10 to the national helpline 333. The

subsidy respectively per kg of rice and per kg of flour, he added.

Last year, however, rice was sold at a subsidised price of Tk 10 per kg in OMS

OMS operations have been scaled up in the capital in light of the strict lockdown, said Food Secretary Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum. An additional allocation has been made for this OMS, she added.

Nazmanara said they have included every municipality in the country under the OMS programme this time and are distributing stocks based on the requirements of the district administration offices. Previously, OMS sales only took place in city corporation areas, she added.

Every municipality will get at least two tonnes of rice and one tonne of flour, she said.

The government has also already disbursed Tk 100 crore to thedeputy commissioners (DCs) to provide food assistance to the poor in their respective districts based on requests

government services and can be used to report social problems. Pirojpur DC Abu Ali Md Sazzad Hossain told The Daily Star that his

office has received Tk 1.15 crore in funds and already distributed Tk 70 lakh to all the upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) for their areas.

Any person who is in need will get Tk 500 worth of food assistance -- 7kg rice, 1kg lentil, 1kg potatoes, a halflitre of soybean oil, and a half kgof salt -- if they call 333 after verification

DC Satkhira Mohammad

An official of the Finance Division said they set the fund allocation for

Another Tk 1,500 crore of the

saw a similar scene on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway. crowds at the kitchen markets of

Meanwhile, hundreds of people, on motorcycles, cars and microbuses travelled across the Padma on ferries between the Daulatdia and Paturia and the Bangla Bazar and Shimulia lockdown, terminals.

Officials said the travellers wer allowed to board the ferries on Hossain, noted rights activist; Khushi humanitarian grounds. Kabir, Out of 19 ferries, only eight Shaheen Anam, executive director were operating on the Bangla of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Dr Bazar-Shimulia route. Physical Iftekharuzzaman, executive director, distancing could not be maintained Transparency International Bangladesh; and Rasheda K Choudhury, executive on the crowded ferries, reports our director of Campaign for Popular Munshiganj correspondent.

replace the Pakistan postage stamps hitherto overprinted 'Bangladesh'. The Bangladesh government authorised the international distribution of these stamps. The first series would be issued for internal mail as well as for external postage. The eight separate designs for this series depicted the struggle for independence of Bangladesh. The designs are the work of Biman Mullick. The stamps were printed by lithographic process on white-coated

security paper. RECOGNITION WHEN IT WILL BE IN OUR BEST INTEREST: INDIRA

At a closed-door meeting today Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi told leaders of opposition parties in parliament that the Bangladesh government would be given recognitions as soon as the government of India was convinced that this would be in the best interests of India and the cause of Bangladesh. Most opposition leaders urged the prime minister that recognition be accorded without further delay. Some of them said that recognition would strengthen the freedom struggle.

SN Mishra, a Congress leader, suggested adoption of a resolution expressing concern at the failure of the United Nations to prevent genocide in Bangladesh. The suggestion was rejected by the government and the leaders of other parties.

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

We're concerned

FROM PAGE 12

and slander and harassment targeted at the plaintiff, and the free movement of Anvir were aimed at swaying the nvestigation.

"In this context, there is adequate coom for doubts as to whether the case has been properly investigated."

They urged the government to launch fresh investigation and ensure that the police impartially analyse the important lues like the woman's diaries.

"We are also requesting the zovernment to look into whether the plaintiff in the case was fired by the Padma Bank authorities under any pressure. At the same time, we demand that the propaganda against the victim and the harassment of the plaintiff stop and that she and her amily be provided security.

"We believe that a proper investigation and appropriate trial... is essential in the interest of maintaining people's confidence in the rule of law.

The government's sincere adherence to the policy to prevent violence against women can only be proved through an impartial and fair investigation when the accused is a powerful and wealthy individual.

"We look forward to an active role from the highest level of the government to ensure an impartial, air investigation into the incident...

Serajul Islam Choudhury, Dhaka Iniversity professor emeritus; Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Gonoshasthya Kendra trustee; Sultana Kamal, noted rights activist; Hossain Zillur Rahman, economist and Executive Chairman, PPRC; Ali Imam Majumder, former abinet secretary: Dr Hameeda

coordinator, Nijera

Education, are among the signatories to

the statement undersigned by eminent

the charges brought against him. An officer investigating the case

filed a probe report with the Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of

Police recently cleared Anvir of

lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

Kori;

were tough at some of those places. Many mentioned medical purposes, A mobile court, accompanied by while some said they had emergency the BGB, fined at least 20 people for

not wearing masks in Mirpur. work. If someone fails to provide satisfactory answer, we are slapping Police in Dhaka yesterday detained 587 individuals for being outdoors fines," said Traffic Inspector Dulal without valid reasons.

Amid the rising cases of Covid-19, Mobile courts fined 233 individuals and shops Tk 1 09 lakh while DMP's traffic division fined 521 motorists Tk 12.72 lakh.

shops and tea-stalls open. In the morning, there were

lentils, sugar and oil.

Despite

Karmasangsthan Bank, and Palli Dhaka streets see more cars and crowds

by their UNO, the DC said.

Humayun Kabir said his office has

received Tk 1.70 crore for distressed people in the district and has already started distributing the food assistance

to the poor. food assistance in each district based

on the number of unions in it. Tk 3,200 crore packagehas been allocated to Palli Sanchay Bank,

Ancient

FROM PAGE 12

Destroyed and sunk along with a wide area of the Nile delta by several earthquakes and tidal waves, Thônis-Heracleion was rediscovered in 2001 in Abu Qir bay near Alexandria, now Egypt's second largest city.

The military vessel, discovered by an Egyptian-French mission led by the European Institute for Underwater Archaeology (IEASM), sank when the famed temple of Amun it was mooring next to collapsed in the second century BC.

A preliminary study shows the hull of the 25-meter flat-bottomed ship, with oars and a large sail, was built in the classical tradition and also had features of Ancient Egyptian construction, Egypt's tourism and antiquities ministry said.

In another part of the city, the mission revealed the remains of a large Greek funerary area dating back to the first years of the 4th century BC, it said. "This discovery beautifully

illustrates the presence of the Greek merchants who lived in that city," the ministry said, adding that the Greeks were allowed to settle there during the late Pharaonic dynasties.

CPM seeks

FROM PAGE 12

by Paris-based media non-profit Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International that was shared with a host of publications around the world, including The Wire In India, for a collaborative investigation.

The petition was filed by CPM MP from Kerala John Brittas.

Quoting The Wire report on the issue, Brittas said among the numbers is one that was registered in the name of a sitting Supreme Court judge and this amounts to interfering with the administration of justice and is unprecedented and shocking.

The petition says the government has neither accepted nor denied whether the spyware was bought and used by its agencies.

The government, in a statement, has maintained that there has been no unauthorised interception by its agencies, adding that allegations regarding government surveillance on specific people has no concrete basis or truth associated with it whatsoever.

he government announced another lockdown, which bans operations of trains, domestic flights, river traffic, and personal vehicles, from Friday after an eight-day break for the Eid. There is, however, no restrictions on freight services.

Hossain at Gabtoli checkpoint.

The lockdown will end on August 5 midnight.

Border Guard Police, Rab, Bangladesh and army personnel

Indonesia has become Asia's Covid-19

epicentre with hospitals deluged,

particularly on the densely populated

island of Java and on Bali, where

for their understanding and support

for the curbs that have been effective

for 23 days," the president, known as

Jokowi, said, adding that infections

and hospital bed occupancies had

'I'd like to thank all Indonesians

oxygen supplies are running thin.

In areas like Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Pragati Sarani and Badda areas, the check posts caused heavy traffic, hampering the movement of office-goers.

At some other places, the check posts seemed to have loosened up and people were seen moving freely.

Visiting some alleys in Mirpur, vesterday set up check posts at different Mohammadpur and Adabor, this points in the city and the law enforcers correspondent found a number of

declined, without specifying by how

previous curbs, Jokowi said the

government would gradually adjust

some restrictions on "some activities",

while allowing traditional markets

and restaurants with outdoor areas to

laundries to vehicle repair shops, are

Some businesses, from salons and

open, with some limitations.

Considerably looser than the

holidaymakers were returning to the capital yesterday through the entry points at Gabtoli, Tongi and Jatrabari.

Mohammapur Town Hall and Karwan

Bazar, while long lines had formed

behind TCB trucks selling subsidised

the

They took detours and walked to their destinations and many of them faced police questioning.

Our correspondent in Gazipur reported that passengers were changing vehicles before every check post and got on another one after crossing it to come to Dhaka and neighbouring districts.

In Manikganj, our correspondent

Our Manikganj correspondent reports there were fewer passengers on Daulatdia-Paturia route yesterday, compared to the previous two days.

straight, a Reuters tracker shows.

who oversees the Covid response on Java and Bali, said on Saturday that "deaths have risen due to a patients admitted with low saturation, or dying unmonitored in self-isolation", adding that ICUs would be added in areas which have

Senior Minister Luhut Pandjaitan, number of factors: full hospitals, reported the highest number of deaths.

Dhaka on July 19. The court set July 29 to decide whether it will accept the report. The 21-year-old victim's elder sister who filed the case said she will file a no-confidence petition against the probe report. On April 26, police recovered the college student's body hanging from the ceiling fan of her bedroom in a Gulshan

flat. Her feet were touching the bed and both knees were a little bent. Two days after the incident, Sudip Chakrabarty, the then deputy commissioner (Gulshan division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said that six diaries of the college student contained crucial evidence supporting the allegations brought against Anvir.

"The victim's utter frustration and mental breakdown are reflected in her diaries that we have seized. Her writings will be important evidence, the DC told reporters at his office.

Ethiopia's Amhara boss urges residents to fight Tigray rebels AFP, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's Amhara region yesterday called on all armed residents to mobilise for battle against rebels from conflict-hit Tigray, calling it a "survival campaign", state media reported.

Amhara borders Tigray to the south, and the two regions are embroiled in a decades-old land dispute that has become central to the eight-monthold war in Tigray.

Yesterday's statement from Amhara regional president Agegnehu Teshager echoes a call made Friday by the president of Ethiopia's Afar region just east of Tigray.

Govt wakes up to oxygen crunch

Indonesia readies more ICUs

much.

FROM PAGE 1 in hospitals and take steps where needed, the DG said.

Samiul Islam said central supply systems that use liquid oxygen tanks are used in 85 hospitals across the country and officials are working to get the system installed in 25 other hospitals. Oxygen cylinders are being supplied to 353 upazila-level hospitals.

The current daily capacity of liquid oxygen supply is 245 tonnes, 70 percent of which is locally produced, health officials said.

The government is assisting Linde, a major supplier, to import 240 tonnes a day using rail. Officials are also supporting Spectra to import oxygen from Singapore using ships.

"But our focus is on local production. We are trying to encourage the industrialists to set up their own plants in the country," Samiul said. The DGHS has asked the suppliers

to set up refilling stations close to public hospitals in every district.

Linde Bangladesh, a key supplier for public hospitals, yesterday imported 200 tonnes of medical oxygen by rail from India for the first time.

Ten tankers of the Oxygen Express arrived from Jamshedpur, India, via Benapole.

now allowed to open.

Oxygen is normally imported from India by road.

A Linde India spokesperson said the Oxygen Express was an initiative that Linde India worked on with the government of India.

The company will continue importing medical oxygen by rail to supplement local supplies.

Linde produces around 90 tonnes of liquid oxygen per day at its two plants in Bangladesh, according to inde officials.

Spectra also supplies around 90 tonnes every day to public and private hospitals. To meet the growing demands, Spectra officials told the government that they would bring oxygen from Singapore by ships.

Chattogram-based steel producers Abul Khayer Group and GPH Ispat have also been producing liquid medical oxygen since last year.

"We are producing around 30 tonnes of medical oxygen a day now," Imrul Kader Bhuiyan, senior manager of Abul Khayer Group's plant, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The plant can increase its daily production to 50 tonnes in two months, he added.

GPH Ispat, on the other hand,

is producing 25-30 tonnes a day. Nazmul Islam, head of GPH Ispat's oxygen plant, said the daily production capacity can be boosted to 40 tonnes.

Officials of the two companies said they were not selling directly to government hospitals yet.

Meanwhile, KSRM, another steel producer, launched a plant on July 18, capable of producing around 24,000 cubic metres of oxygen to be used in cylinders.

WASTE OF OXYGEN

"The main issue is the lack of rational use of oxygen. In the high flow nasal cannula, the amount wastedis huge," Shamiul said, adding that the government is considering the use of Continuous Positive Airway pressure (CPAP) to lower the waste.

"If we use oxygen rationally, the pressure on the oxygen reserve will be low and the supply will be uninterrupted. The government is also encouraging the use of breathing masks to lower waste," Shamiul said.

"Besides, oxygen released in the air of a room may cause fires. We have seen such accidents in Dhaka and Tangail," he added.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque if people do not maintain health recently said that the use of CPAP guidelines.

record-high deaths on four separate days, the last of which was 1,566 deaths on Friday, bringing cumulative deaths to more than 83,000.

Total infections have climbed to more than 3.1 million, though health experts say both deaths and case numbers have been undercounted.

The average number of Covid-19 deaths reported each day in Indonesia has been increasing for 10 days

Indonesia last week reported

can save up to 100 tonnes of liquid

oxygen a day. He also urged people

not to use oxygen without consulting

a physician because it is risky to store

of the Department of Critical Care

at Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship

Hospital in Dhaka, said, "Doctors and

nurses have to be trained to operate

the equipment. When the patient's

physical condition is not stable, the

machines need to be adjusted from

time to time. CPAP can be used, but

A CPAP machine increases air

The government will set up oxygen

"We are going to receive 29

generators at different hospitals

where a central supply system is not

machines from the Global Health

Fund and the authorities are

purchasing another 40. But installing

the machines will take time," he said.

the efforts would not bear much fruit

The health officials, however, say

pressure in the throat so that the

airway doesn't collapse when one

there is no alternative to training."

Regarding the use of CPAP,

Asaduzzaman, head

oxygen cylinders at home.

Muhammad

breathes in.

available.

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA MONDAY JULY 26, 2021, SRABAN 11, 1428 BS



Bangladesh opener Soumva Sarkar whacks one during his 68-run knock in their third and final T20I against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday. PHOTO: TWITTER



Tigers clinch T20I series to stay perfect

next series.'

SPORTS REPORTER



getting the perfect finish in the T20I series to ensure that they scooped all three trophies on the tour by chasing their second-highest target, a formidable 194 posted by the hosts in third and final T20I in Harare yesterday.

Left-handed opener Soumya Sarkar struck his second fifty of the series and top-scored with 68 off 49 balls with nine fours and a six as Bangladesh won by five wickets. Young left-hander Shamim Hossain also showed his ability as a finisher once again, remaining unbeaten on a 15-ball 31, having smashed six fours

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad played a crucial innings of 34 from Mahmudullah said after the win. 28 balls to keep the Tigers in the

assignment against Australia. The boys showed character, everybody contributed. In the end, Shamim played a crucial knock and all in all it was a good show by the

run across the formats, having previously won the lone Test and batting unit. When you chase these big totals, you need partnerships securing a whitewash in the threeto keep the score ticking over, and match ODI series



at least a boundary every over,"

Earlier, Zimbabwe posted their

forward to the next bubble and the

With a win in the T20I series,

Bangladesh completed their fine

second-highest total in the shortest "I think Soumya is a useful all- format by putting 193 for five on the scoreboard. **Openers** Tadiwanashe Manumari and Wesseley Madhevere gave the hosts a flying start, adding 63 runs ahead of a tough upcoming home adding with a laugh: "Looking in the first six overs. Marumari was added 23.

communications meltdown on Sunday.

own world record and helping take the sting out of a

disappointing first day of finals in the pool. The quartet of

McKeon took 0.36 seconds off their previous best of 3:30.05

set in April 2018, with a world record of 3:29.69. Canada took

sisters Bronte and Cate Campbell, Meg Harris and Emma

silver, 3:09 seconds behind the winners while the United

South Korea won a ninth consecutive gold medal in

the women's team archery event at the Tokyo Olympics on

Sunday, tying the record for the longest gold medal streak in

Singapore was eliminated from the equestrian dressage

qualifiers on Sunday after Caroline Chew's horse Tribiani was

end to the country's first foray into the sport at the Olympics.

found to be bleeding from the mouth, bringing an abrupt

>> Japan's Naomi Osaka powered through her opening

match at the Tokyo Games on Sunday as world number one

Ash Barty stumbled out of the tournament after a lacklustre,

Japanese judoka Uta Abe triumphed in the women's

52kg category in Tokyo on Sunday, hours before her brother

Hifumi took gold in the men's 66kg final, making history as

the first siblings to win gold medals on the same day.

States came in third for the bronze medal.

Olympic history.

error-strewn performance.

PHOTO: REUTERS

dismissed on 27 off 20 balls after hitting two sixes and two fours but Madhevere was in terrific touch, striking five consecutive boundaries off pacer Taskin Ahmed to take 20

runs in the fourth over. The right-hander, who struck his fourth T20I fifty off 31 balls, was eventually dismissed by Shakib Al Hasan after scoring 54 off 36 balls with six fours.

Regis Chakabva then took charge, striking three sixes in an over off left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed which cost 21 runs. Nasum gave away 37 runs from his three overs and remained wicketless on comeback.

Soumya Sarkar provided the breakthrough with the ball in the form of a double-blow, first dismissing Chakabva for 48, which saw Naim Sheikh and Shamim take a brilliant relay catch at the boundary line. Zimbabwean skipper Sikandar Raza was then bowled for a duck as Bangladesh

BAKI'S PERFORMANCE leaves a lot to be desired

Live from 8:00 pm

Trent Rockets vs

Northern Superchargers

Live from 11:30 pm

Men's

SPORTS REPORTER

T SPORTS The Hundred

Women's

SCORES

IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE 193 for 5 in 20 overs

(Marumani 27, Madhevere

54, Chakabva 48, Myers

23, Burl 31 not out, extras

9; Saifuddin 1-50, Shoriful

1-27, Shakib 1-24, Soumya

2-19)

BANGLADESH

194 for 5 in 19.2 overs

(Soumya 68, Shakib 25,

Mahmudullah 34, Shamim

31 not out, extras 18;

Muzarabani 2-27, Jongwe

2-42)

Result: Bangladesh won

by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match

and man-of-the-series:

Soumya Sarkar

Trent Rockets vs

Northern Superchargers

American and Chinese shooters have thoroughly amazed everyone with their TOKY0 2020 improved skilful display by grabbing all three medals in the 10m Air Rifle event of Tokyo Olympics. However, Bangladesh's experienced shooter Abdullah Hel Baki failed to live up to the expectations of the shooting fraternity and ended up finishing 41st among 47 shooters at Asaka Shooting Range yesterday.

20-year-old William Shaner of the United States, who played only seven international tournaments at senior level from 2018 to 2021, bagged the gold with an Olympic record score of 251.6 out of 261.6 in the final round. The silver medal was won by 16-yearold Lihao Sheng of China with a score of 250.9 in his first ever international appearance through the Olympics. Haoran Yang of China secured bronze with a score of 229.4 after breaking the Olympic record in qualification round with a score of 630.2 out of 654

Interestingly, Yang had underperformed in the Rio Olympic Games with a 31st finish among 50 shooters whereas Baki had stood in 25th position with a score of 621.2 but this time the 31-year-old could not match neither the position nor the score of Rio Olympics.

Before leaving the country, Baki had expressed his desire of displaying his own performance by transforming his practice session scores into the competition as he had been scoring in between 625 to 627 and often going beyond 630-mark.

However, the double silver medallist of Commonwealth Games, who already has the vast experience of playing more than 20 international tournaments, broke down once again at the international stage. When it comes to big occasions, his questionable mental strength has been a recurring theme of his career so far.

TEN 2 & SONY SIX

Games

am (Tuesday)

Tokyo 2020 Olympic

Live from 8:30 pm & 3:30

"Actually I have nothing to say about his performance in Tokyo because he got off to a fine start in every series but failed to carry the momentum in the latter parts and during which he scored below 10 in



almost twice in every series. So, it was not possible to recover from those low scores in the end," coach Golam Shafiuddin Shiplu told The Daily Star from Japan.

"I asked Baki about those shots and he had no explanation after having scored well in yesterday's training to make 52.5 and 52.5 in every five shots," Shiplu added.

"I wanted him to replicate his own performance but it didn't happen. Whatever he scored in the training doesn't matter if he can't carry it into the competition and today's performance showed he hasn't improved."



hunt after losing a few wickets in rounder. When I gave him the ball, the middle. The T20I skipper also believed that the series win in the team needed him to stand up Zimbabwe would help the Tigers with the bat, he did it," Riyad said,

he got me two wickets and when

made inroads.

Left-hander Ryan Burl also played a part, remaining unbeaten on a 15-ball 31 while Dion Myers

Gold medallist William Shaner of the United States celebrates with silver medallist Sheng Lihao of China and bronze medallist Yang Haoran of China after the 10m Air Rifle events yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO WINDOW

IPL to resume on Sept 19 REUTERS

The remaining matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which was suspended in May due to COVID-19, will resume from September 19 in the United Arab Emirates, the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) said on Sunday.

The IPL was suspended on May 4 with 31 matches left to play after several players and backroom staff tested positive for the coronavirus amid a devastating second wave of COVID-19 in India.

The BCCI announced in May that the remaining matches of the popular Twenty20 tournament would be held in the UAE in September and October.

The IPL will resume with the Chennai Super Kings playing the Mumbai Indians on Sept. 19 in Dubai, before the Kolkata Knight Riders face Royal Challengers Bangalore in Abu Dhabi the following day.

Sharjah will host its first game on Sept. 24 when Bangalore face Chennai.

The first qualifier is scheduled for Oct. 10 in Dubai, while the eliminator (Oct. 11) and second qualifier (Oct. 13) will be played in Sharjah.

Dubai will also host the final, which is due to be played on Oct. 15.

The eight-team IPL, with an estimated brand value of \$6.8 billion, is the richest Twenty20 league and attracts many of the best players from around the world to cricket-crazy India.



> A Japanese skateboarder claimed a piece of Olympic history as the host nation enjoyed a gold rush on a day of upsets at the Tokyo Games on Sunday. The second full day of competition saw 18 gold medals up for grabs, including the first ever in skateboarding, one of several new sports introduced in Tokyo as part of an International Olympic Committee drive to attract younger fans. A perfectly scripted final saw Japanese world champion Yuto Horigome strike gold in a tense street competition. The 22-year-old, who grew up just a stone's throw from the Olympic venue, landed three huge tricks in a row to eclipse American favourite Nyjah Huston, who finished seventh

>> No matter how many times Olympic athletes are told they should be proud of their silver medals, for many of them, second best can never be good enough. American Chase Kalisz knew he could do better than his silver in the 400m medley at Rio but he had to wait five years for the chance to prove it. On Sunday, he did just that. The 27-yearold took the gold on the opening day of the medal events at the Tokyo Aquatic Centre with a swim of 4:09.42, leading an American one-two with Jay Litherland collecting silver.

Australia won the 4x100 women's freestyle relay Olympic gold for the third time in a row, beating their

'It's a dream and it became true'

these Olympics and the past, in my

opinion, is that every single person in

the final has a chance of winning gold

- it doesn't matter if you are in lane

"I believe it when I touched the wall

I was so surprised I didn't accept

that," Hafnaoui told a news conference.

"I dedicate (the gold) to all my family,

my mum, my dad, my sisters, I wish

they are proud of me."

one, eight or four, everyone is close."

Agencies

Tunisia's Ahmed Hafnaoui was so shocked to see his name in the gold medal position for the 400m freestyle on Sunday he did not believe his eyes but after letting his stunning win at the Tokyo Olympics sink in he said he hoped to have made his family proud.

The 18-year-old, who finished ahead of Australia's Jack McLoughlin and U.S. swimmer Kieran Smith, said he was surprised even to be in the final, where he swam in the outside lane after being the slowest in qualifying.

Michael Phelps hailed Ahmed Hafnaoui for his "unbelievable swim", saying the 18-year-old Tunisian's shock victory was a great example of how swimming at the Tokyo Games is likely to have a series of wide open races.

Hafnaoui was the slowest qualifier but, from lane eight, held off fancied Australian Jack McLoughlin and American Kieran Smith for a huge upset.

"Unbelievable swim, I think he knocked almost five seconds off his pb (personal best), Phelps told reporters in Tokyo. "The difference between





His gold medal is only the fifth won by a Tunisian athlete at the Olympics, but their third in swimming.

Letting out a scream when he realised he had won, he pumped his first and pointed at the electronic score board. "I just can't believe it. It's a dream and it became true. It was great. it was my best race ever," he said.

Hafnaoui will race in the 800m freestyle on Tuesday.

France staged a remarkable comeback and got their Olympic campaign back on track as Teji Savanier netted a stoppage-time winner in their 4-3 victory over South Africa. Meanwhile, hosts Japan moved within touching distance of qualifying for the men's soccer knockout stages with a 2-1 win over Mexico while defending champions Brazil were held to a goalless draw by lvory Coast. Argentina responded to a shock 2-0 loss to Australia in their opener with a 1-0 victory over Egypt.

PHOTO: REUTERS





City

Dealing with Pandemic Fallout Over 17 lakh get govt cash support

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and HELEMUL ALAM

The government recently distributed cash support worth Tk 450 crore to around 17.24 lakh day labourers, transport workers, and small traders, as part of its recent announcement of a Tk 3,200 crore relief package for the ultra-poor and destitute. It also increased allocations for OMS in urban areas and for food assistance in rural areas through the district administration offices.

On July 13, the government announced the relief package to provide financial support and food assistance for these segments that were dealt a fresh blow by the latest round of strict lockdown to contain Covid-19 cases.

Finance ministry officials said they have already disbursed Tk 2,500 each to 14.37 lakh day labourers, 2.35 lakh transport workers, around 50,000 small traders, and 1,603 transport workers two days before Eid.

As the country entered another two weeks of strict lockdown from July 23, the latest package will provide some relief to the poor who were hit the hardest by the pandemic, they said.

Earlier in April, the government provided cash assistance to nearly 35 lakh poor families facing income losses and hardship amid the nationwide lockdown. This was the second time these families received this cash support of Tk 2,500 after one transfer last year. The list of beneficiaries was initially around 50 lakh but was whittled down to 35 SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Hundreds of people wait for transport near Jatrabari Bus Terminal in the capital. Yesterday was the first weekday during this spell of lockdown enforced after Eid holidays to stem the spread of Covid-19. There were more people and vehicles on the street than the previous two days.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

LOCKDOWN: 3RD DAY Dhaka streets see more cars and crowds STAFF CORRESPONDENT

vehicular Public and movement increased on the streets of Dhaka and elsewhere yesterday on the first weekday after the Eidul-Azha holidays and the third day of the countrywide lockdown.

Banks, stock exchange and several emergency services reopened yesterday amid the 14-day strict lockdown.

people went Manv to offices on rickshaws, motorbikes and private cars, while many walked long distances to reach their destinations.

In the capital, this correspondent visited Farmgate, Gabtoli, Mirpur, Shahbagh, Panthapath, Mohammadpur, Shyamoli, Ring Road, Adabor and Dhanmondi and found that the number of pedestrians, rickshaws and private cars increased on the roads compared to the first two days of the lockdown.

"People are giving various excuses for being out.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

BANSHKHALI MAYHEM Power plant tells HC it paid families of deceased STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SS Power I Ltd, a concern of S Alam Group, at Banshkhali in Chattogram, has provided Tk 5 lakh to each of the families of the seven victims killed in police firing on April 17 this year.

The company informed the HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim of this through submitting an affidavit a few weeks back its lawyer Mohammad

Arshadur Rouf told The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Daily Star yesterday.

COLLAGE STUDENT'S DEATH We're concerned and outraged

Say 51 eminent citizens about Bashundhara MD being cleared of charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-one eminent personalities yesterday expressed resentment and concern over the exemption of Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir from the charges of abetting the death of college student by suicide in a Gulshan flat in April.

The distinguished personalities in a oint statement demanded re-investigation

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY Dhaka residents asked to evacuate



School Assignments Suspended for class-IV to -XII

2021 SSC, HSC examinees have to do it STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities have suspended all assignment activities for students from grade VI to grade IX and candidates of SSC and HSC of 2022.

As the government imposed stricter lockdown to curb further spread of coronavirus, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) issued separate circulars regarding this, said DSHE Director

Ancient 'sunken city' discovered in Egypt



into the case.

"Recently... Bashundhara Group's accused Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir was acquitted and the police submitted a final report to the court. We express our concern and outrage at this,' reads the statement.

"We do not have any information that police took him to a police station for interrogation, let alone arresting him after filing of the case," it adds.

On the contrary, it seemed that the obstruction of a citizen's gathering seeking justice, and the dissemination of misleading information about the victim,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

JULY 26, 1971

Shamsuddoza Sajen

GUERILLAS ASK PEOPLE TO FLEE DHAKA

Handbills prepared by Bangalee guerrillas were distributed in Dhaka asking the population to begin evacuation of the city in preparation for a campaign against the Pakistan Army, reported The New York Times.

The handbills appeared in the Moghbazar neighbourhood of the city. The warning, signed by the Mukti Bahini, advised residents to move out by 6:00pm.

The public was also warned that traffic, including taxis and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Belal Hossain yesterday.

In line with the restrictions announced by the Cabinet Division, the weekly assignments for students would remain suspended until further notice, read a circular.

The circular also asked regional deputy directors, district education officers, upazila- and thana-level education officers and headmasters to take necessary measures.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



CNN ONLINE

Divers have discovered rare remains of a military vessel in the ancient sunken city of Thônis-Heracleion -- once Egypt's largest port on the Mediterranean -- and a funerary complex illustrating the presence of Greek merchants.

The city, which controlled the entrance to Egypt at the mouth of a western branch of the Nile, dominated the area for centuries before the foundation of Alexandria nearby by Alexander the Great in 331 BC.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING JULY 26 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PEGASUS SPYWARE CPM seeks SC -monitored SIT probe in India NDTV ONLINE

Snooping is against the fundamental rights of citizens and runs foul of the privacy judgment, the CPM said, seeking immediate Supreme Courtmonitored probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the Israeli-made Pegasus spyware after reports of its use in India emerged this week.

More than 300 phone numbers in India appeared on the list as potential targets of Israeli spyware Pegasus, which is sold only to governments.

Evidence of attempted hacking has been found on the phones of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, poll strategist Prashant Kishor, two sitting union ministers, a former election commissioner, family members of Mehbooba Mufti, Delhi-based Kashmiri journalists, among others.

The report into the spying scandal is based on a leaked database accessed SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Relatives of Abul Hossain are in tears as his body is being put into an ambulance in front of the Covid unit of DMCH yesterday. The 48-year-old Covid patient was admitted to the hospital on Eid day with chest pains and breathing difficulties.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Indonesia readies more ICUs

Extends Covid curbs by a week; big protests mark global anger at virus restrictions

Agencies

Indonesia is preparing more intensive care units after logging several days of record-high Covid-19 deaths last week, while President Joko Widodo yesterday announced an extension of restrictions by a week to August 2 to try to curb infections.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



হাসেম ফুডস্ লিমিটেডের রূপগঞ্জ কারখানায় অগ্নি দূর্ঘটনায় ক্ষতিগ্রন্ত অধিকাংশ পরিবারকে ইতোমধ্যে আর্থিক ক্ষতিপূরণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে। আর্থিক ক্ষতিপূরণ এখনো পায়নি এমন পরিবারের সদস্যদের নিম্নোক্ত নম্বরে যোগাযোগের জন্য বিনীত ভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছেঃ

৫ ০১৭১১২৯৮৯১৮ হাসেম ফুডস্ লিমিটেড

EDITOR & PUBLISHER : MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 9117796, Fax: 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, for Advertisement: 01711623910, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net, advertisement@thedailystar.net