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Pleas unheard, he suffers in silence

A hero who joined movement in the UK to strengthen 1971 Liberation War still not cleared of false fund misappropriation claim

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH

This year as Bangladesh celebrates its Golden Jubilee, Bangalee diasporas abroad, including in the UK, too are rejoicing while looking back at the country's independence movement. During the Liberation War of 1971, the UK Bangalee community played an important role by highlighting the atrocities taking place in Bangladesh, lobbying the British government and the international community, and raising funds for refugees and freedom fighters. Bangalee communities across the UK formed Action Committees in support of the liberation struggle. As concern grew for immediate family members and relatives left behind, meetings were held in towns and cities with a sizeable Bangalee population.



Gouranga Saha Roy

Bangalee communities in the UK have not been documented. Though a few, including Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury, special envoy of Mujibnagar government, writer Abdul Matin, community historian Yousuf Chowdhury, Swadhinata Trust, Central London Youth Development, community historian Faruque Ahmed, Sheikh Abdul Mannan of Steering Committee, Channel S and the Bangladesh Welfare Association, have attempted to document the history of the contribution of the Bangalee diaspora community.

A recent announcement by the liberation war ministry published on June 20, 2021 in the daily Samakal that only 12 UK activists from 1971 will be gazetted as freedom fighters to receive full benefits has shocked and offended many who had taken an active part in the Bangladesh movement here in the UK. A number of protest meetings both online and in person have taken place.

It is said that the money raised by the

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Family members of Zakir Hossain leaving the capital for their village on the back of a pickup truck along with their belongings. Zakir, not pictured as he was sitting in the passenger seat, said it had become impossible to pay rent on his furniture shop and his home in Mirpur amid closures and the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. So, they had decided to go back to their village in Laxmipur. The photo was taken near Kanchpur on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Positivity rate drops for 2nd straight day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate reported 241 deaths from Covid-19 and 13,817 new cases in the 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

This takes the official number of deaths to 21,638 and the total confirmed cases to 13,09,910. The death rate was 1.65 percent as of yesterday.

The overall positivity rate continued declining for the second consecutive day yesterday with 27.91 percent of the cases turning out to be positive, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of those reported dead yesterday, 125 were male and 116 female.

Ninety-three of them were in Dhaka division, 68 in Chattogram, 36 in Khulna, 15 in Rangpur, 12 in Rajshahi, seven in Mymensingh and five each in Sylhet and Barishal.

Of them, 18 died at their homes, one was brought dead to a hospital, while the rest died at hospitals across the country.

Of the total confirmed cases, 11,41,157 recovered from their illnesses, including yesterday's 16,112.

As of yesterday noon, over 6,500 Covid-19 patients were being treated in different hospitals across the country. Of

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Pakistan govt accuses AL of massacre

AUGUST 5, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PAKISTAN PUBLISHES WHITE PAPER

The Pakistan government today published a white paper containing explanation and description of the actions taken by the military government since the night of 25 March 1971.

A summary of the white paper said it "unfolds, for the first time, the story of mass massacres and brutalities; which assumed the character of a political genocide, by the Awami League cadres and the rebels of the East Bengal Regiment and East Pakistan Rifles against fellow Pakistanis in areas which came temporarily under their control."

The Pakistan government stated that the crisis "arose from the failure of the elected representatives of the people to reach a consensus on the essentials of a federal constitution, due to the attitude of the Awami League leadership which sought to escalate a mandate of autonomy into a move for secession."

Awami League's hardcore leadership sought to carry out its designs through constitutional contrivances, organised terror and Indian collusion, claimed the Pakistan government.

The white paper asserted that 100,000 men, women and children had died since March 1 in a "reign of terror unleashed by the Awami League".

It also accused Awami League of causing "incalculable damage

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MIGRANTS IN MALAYSIA

Over 11,500 returned since Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 11,510 Bangladeshi migrant workers have been repatriated from Malaysia under a special repatriation programme that began in November last year, Malaysian media reported on Tuesday.

A report run by The Star said a total of 88,034 foreigners have been repatriated as part of Malaysia's repatriation-recalibration programme. Malaysia's Immigration Director General Khairul Dzaimee Daud said 107,524 foreigners were enlisted in the programme as of August 1.

He said those sent home included 56,154 Indonesians, 16,194 Indians and 11,510 Bangladeshis.

"Some RM52 million in compounds was collected," Khairul Dzaimee told reporters after visiting the

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Neanderthals made Spanish cave art



AFP, Washington

Neanderthals, long perceived to have been unsophisticated and brutish, really did paint stalagmites in a Spanish cave more than 60,000 years ago, according to a study published on Monday.

The issue had roiled the paleoarchaeology community ever since the publication of a 2018 paper attributing red ochre pigment found on the stalagmitic dome of Cueva de Ardales to our extinct "cousin" species.

The dating suggested the art was at least 64,800 years old, made at a time when modern humans did not inhabit the continent.

But the finding was contentious, and "a scientific article said that perhaps these pigments were a natural thing," a result of iron oxide flow,

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PRESIDENT'S OATH

Bangladesh sends envoys to Tehran

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh, for the first time in history, has sent a delegation to Iran for attending the oath-taking ceremony of an Iranian president - a step that analysts say reflects Dhaka's approach of maintaining balance in foreign policy.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, head of the three-member delegation, yesterday arrived in Tehran, and would attend the oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday, foreign ministry officials confirmed.

The ceremony is going to be held at the Iranian parliament and will be attended by over 50 government or state heads, according to the Iranian embassy in Dhaka.

Iran, a country that has a bitter relationship with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Woman sues husband, 6 men for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police arrested four people after a woman yesterday sued her husband and six others for gang raping her at Nijhum Dweep of Noakhali's Hatia upazila.

The arrestees, including her husband, are Akher, 27, Haque Sab, 34, Sohel, 30, and Rashed Majhi, 42 -- all residents of Nijhum Dweep.

According to the case statement, the 25-year-old victim, of the same area, works at a garment factory in Chattogram.

On Tuesday evening, she was on her way home from Chattogram with her 16-months-old body.

After she reached the

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Migrant workers line up at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital to get vaccinated. Since they have been included and prioritised in the vaccine rollout, hundreds of them crowd public hospitals in the city every day to get their jabs. Social distancing and other health safety rules, however, are hardly maintained.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

COVID BOOSTER SHOTS

WHO calls for moratorium

AFP, Geneva

The WHO yesterday called for a moratorium on Covid-19 vaccine booster shots until at least the end of September to address the drastic inequity in dose distribution between rich and poor nations.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on the countries and companies controlling the supply of doses to change gear and ensure more vaccines to less wealthy states.

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আমরা শোকাহত
শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি

হাসেম ফুডস্ লিমিটেডের রূপগঞ্জ কারখানায় অগ্নিদুর্ঘটনায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত অধিকাংশ পরিবারকে ইতোমধ্যে আর্থিক ক্ষতিপূরণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে। আহত কর্মীদের আর্থিক ক্ষতিপূরণ প্রদানের পাশাপাশি চিকিৎসা ব্যয় বহন করা হচ্ছে। আহত কর্মী ও ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত প্রতিটি পরিবারের পাশে সর্বতোভাবে থাকতে আমরা অঙ্গীকারবদ্ধ। যেকোনো প্রয়োজনে সংশ্লিষ্ট পরিবারের সদস্যদের নিম্নোক্ত নম্বরে যোগাযোগের জন্য বিনীত ভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। ০১৭১৩০৫৮৯০১।

হাসেম ফুডস্ লিমিটেড

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15
JAMAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION