



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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**"This unplanned mass vaccination program could be a boomerang and Corona could spread more alarmingly due to the neglect of hygiene in the mass vaccination program."**  
 JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER



**"Hit on Padma bridge is tantamount to hit on our heart. We don't want our heart get hurt again and again."**  
 STATE MINISTER FOR SHIPPING  
 KHALID MAHMUD CHOWDHURY



**"The United States and South Korea will face a more serious security threat by ignoring our repeated warnings to push ahead with the dangerous war exercises."**  
 SISTER OF N KOREAN SUPREME LEADER KIM YO JONG

## MRP SERVER EXHAUSTS CAPACITY Passport delivery STUMBLES

Thousands of migrants left in uncertainty as DIP fails to act in time

PORIMOL PALMA and SHARIFUL HASAN

The passport authorities sat on upgrading the MRP server that had crossed the 30-million limit in early June, causing delay in reissuing passports to tens of thousands of Bangladeshis, mostly migrants in the Gulf and Southeast Asian countries.

It has left the migrants at risk of becoming undocumented or delayed their process to become regular, migrant workers and activists have said.

The issue came to the fore in the last couple of weeks as the migrants made numerous complaints about it -- at a time when they are facing joblessness and uncertainty over life and livelihood abroad amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) Director General Major



General Mohammad Ayub Chowdhury said the system for machine readable passports (MRPs) requires upgrades from time to time. "Steps have already been taken to upgrade the server and we will extend the contract with the Malaysian company concerned," he told The Daily Star on Sunday.

Passports against pending applications will be printed and delivered once the system is upgraded, he said, without giving any timeframe.

DIP Director Shihab Uddin Khan said they had a target of introducing e-passports within 2020, but their officials could not go to the Bangladesh missions abroad to put the e-passport systems in place due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"That's why the pressure on the MRP server increased and its limit of three crore applications crossed," he said on Monday.

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A huge crowd at a temporary Covid-19 vaccination centre in the capital's Jurain area forced the authorities to call for police help to conduct their vaccination activities. The photo was taken on Alimul Millat Madrasa premises yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## No first dose of Moderna from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to suspend administering the first dose of Moderna Covid vaccine from tomorrow.

Issuing a circular yesterday, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) instructed those vaccination centres, which still have Moderna jabs in stock for first dose, to administer those soon and make preparations for administering the second one.

It also said the administering of the second dose of Sinopharm vaccine will start all over the country on August 14. The Chinese vaccine jabs will be dispatched to different parts of the country on the basis of demand, mentioned the circular.

The government started inoculating people with Moderna vaccine in 12

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## Curbs relaxed amid fear of virus surge

Record-equaling 264 deaths in 24 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With most of the restrictions on movement of people and public transports lifted today, health experts warn of a further a surge in Covid deaths and infections.

Yesterday, the country logged 264 deaths, which matched a previous daily record on August 5, taking the virus death toll to 23,161.

The number of deaths in the first 10 days of this month was high -- more than 247 a day on average -- because of higher infection rates, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In the preceding 10 days, 218 Covid deaths were logged a day on average.

Experts fear that the lifting of the restrictions will lead to a further rise in virus transmission across the country.

Yesterday, 11,164 out of 53,462 samples tested positive for Covid, raising the total number of cases to 13,76,322.

The Covid positivity rate stood at 23.54 percent.

The World Health Organization last year advised governments to consider reopening only when the positivity rate remains below 5 percent for two weeks at a stretch.

"With the lifting of the restrictions, more

people will now go outside and get infected with the novel coronavirus. We will see more pressure on hospitals and a further rise in deaths in the days to come," Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist, told this newspaper yesterday.

"Despite the weak enforcement of restrictions, many people did not go outside. The suspension of inter-district bus services had a positive impact and helped check virus transmission," he observed.

Talking to this correspondent, Dr Mushtaq Hussain, consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said, "When social gatherings will increase, virus transmission will rise too. This may drive up infections."

Both the experts said the infection rate was in decline since August 2 as a result of imposition of the Covid restrictions by the government. These restrictions should have been in force for at least two more weeks.

DGHS data shows that the Covid positivity rate on August 2 was 29.91 percent, which continued to fall till yesterday.

A government circular on Sunday said public transports -- buses, trains

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



## Preserve all documents of '71 war

PM asks authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities to collect and preserve all documents related to the country's Liberation War that are scattered across the world.

Hasina gave the directive while ECNEC approved a Tk 63 crore project aiming to collect and preserve the audio-visual documents of the Liberation War from local and foreign sources, as well as strengthening the capacity of the Bangladesh Film Archive.

"The Prime Minister

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## ROUTE UNDER PADMA BRIDGE Heavy vehicles banned on ferry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to avert the risks of ferries ramming into pillars of the under-construction Padma bridge, the authorities yesterday decided that ferries will not carry heavy vehicles, like buses and trucks, between Shimulia and Banglabazar terminals as long as there is strong current in the river.

The decision came a day after a ferry rammed into pillar no. 10, damaging its pile cap, which was the third such incident in 20 days.

Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, state minister for shipping, made the announcement after a meeting with senior officials from the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to discuss the recommendations of an enquiry committee formed after previous incidents.

"We are embarrassed and saddened by the incident of [ferries] hitting the pillars of Padma bridge. This is a matter of concern for us. Hit on Padma bridge is tantamount to hit on our heart. We don't want our heart get hurt again and again," the state minister said.

Only cars, minibuses, ambulances and other lighter vehicles will be carried across the river via this route.

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## VACCINE IP RIGHTS Its waiver will help get global herd immunity

Say Prof Yunus, 5 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A temporary waiver of intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines is vital to increase supply, achieve global herd immunity, and advance global health equity, Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus and five others have said in an article published in the BMJ (formerly British Medical Journal).

By late June 2021, 46 percent of people in high-income countries had received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine compared with 20 percent in middle-income countries and only 0.9 percent in low-income countries, said the article.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



## Messi gets hero's welcome in Paris

REUTERS, Le Bourget

Six-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi received a hero's welcome after flying to France on Tuesday to join Paris Saint Germain (PSG) following his shock departure from Barcelona.

Wearing a T-shirt that read "This is Paris," Messi beamed and waved at scores of fans who had come to greet him at Le Bourget airport on the outskirts of the French capital after his flight from Barcelona.

Chanting "Messi, Messi, SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Bangladesh Railway staffs washing train carriages as those would be in service from today after a long break due to the lockdown imposed by the government to curb the spread of coronavirus. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## ALTERNATIVE TO HIGH-FLOW CANNULA OxyJet: the long road to approval



MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

From the drawing board to the approval stamp, it's been a long exhilarating process for OxyJet. But it isn't over yet.

A type of CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) device, OxyJet can supply pure oxygen at the rate of up to 60 litres per minute without any electricity, and shows a similar clinical outcome as high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) treatment.

On the upside, the whole set-up of OxyJet costs only Tk 20,000-25,000, whereas a high-flow nasal cannula costs Tk 4-5 lakh.

The idea began on the whiteboards of the biomedical engineering department of Buet last year and was led by Dr Taufiq Hasan, associate professor of the department.

Taufiq said, "My wife and many of my friends are doctors who shared horrific stories of deaths due to the shortage of high-flow oxygen supply. I spoke to doctors of several hospitals in Dhaka and learnt how Covid-19 patients were suffering due to a shortage of resources.

"We were previously involved with another research to SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

**BANGLADESH UPDATE**

**11,164**  
New cases in 24hrs

**13,76,322**  
Total cases

**23,161**  
Deaths

**12,34,762**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**4,322,361**  
Deaths

**204,509,677**  
Total cases

# Dengue, Covid Double Blow

DGHS starts training docs tomorrow

HEMUL ALAM

As a person's chance of being infected with both dengue and Covid-19 is rising, the health directorate has taken an initiative to train doctors involved in dengue treatment across the country tomorrow.

"We are going to hold an online training programme on August 12 for the doctors of public and private hospitals who are providing treatment to dengue patients. They will be trained on what to do when a person contracts both dengue and coronavirus," said Afsana Alamgir Khan, deputy programme manager (malaria and Aedes transmitted diseases) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Bangladesh Society of Medicine will conduct the training. In the event, doctors will be guided on what they should do when a patient carries both the viruses and remain in normal and critical conditions, she said.

"We don't have any data about the cases of carrying both the viruses, but we are informed by Bangladesh Society of Medicine that there are some cases like this. For this, we are going to hold the training," said Afsana.

According to the DGHS data, 226 people with dengue fever were hospitalised in the country in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday. Of them, 15 are from outside Dhaka.

With them, 4,979 patients have so far been diagnosed with dengue this year, of which only 214 are from outside Dhaka.

Among 4,979 infected, 2,321 were detected in the current month, while 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June and 43 were infected in May, according to the DGHS data.

There is a national guideline on dengue treatment, updated in 2021, which all the doctors and nurses of public and private hospitals follow. But there is no guideline about the treatment for a patient carrying both the viruses, said Afsana.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque is expected to inaugurate the training at Hotel InterContinental Dhaka around 11:00am tomorrow, she added.

Doctors from 137 public and private medical college hospitals, over 100 Sadar hospitals and 492 upazila health complexes will join the training from their institutes virtually, she said.

Afsana said they will make the link of the programme available in the DGHS website and Facebook page and if anyone wants to join the training, he or she can.

"We will also record the programme and upload it in DGHS website and anyone can watch it from there anytime," she said.

Experts opined that the recovery battle for patients infected with both the diseases -- considered life threatening -- could be difficult.

Abdul Rahim, consultant of department of medicine of DNCC Covid-19 dedicated hospital, said he got two patients suffering from both the diseases in the hospital during Eid-ul-Azha. The number of this type of patients are now increasing, he added.

Patients suffering from fever and pain have Covid or dengue test. If they are diagnosed with any of the disease, they do not usually go for the test of the other disease. But the patients should undergo both tests, he added.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said doctors will struggle to handle patients infected with both dengue and Covid-19.

"A dengue patient faces bleeding while a coronavirus patient faces blood clotting. We use an injection of anti-coagulation for coronavirus patients when it is needed to prevent blood clots. But we cannot do it when the same patient also carries dengue virus and his platelet counts remain under one lakh," he explained.

## DENGUE CORNER

Afsana said dengue corner has already been opened in all public hospitals.

"We are providing free NS1 testing at the dengue corner in all public hospitals and health complexes across the country and a patient will get proper advice after the test. They will be advised where to go for their admission or will be referred to go home with necessary prescription," she said.

Afsana said the government has already started their treatment in six hospitals dedicated for dengue patients and the service has started last week.

The hospitals are: Mitford Hospital, Lalkuthi Maternity Hospital in Mirpur, Kamalapur Railway General Hospital, Kamrangirchar 31-bed hospital, Aminbazar 20-bed hospital and Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master General Hospital in Tongi.



A stone-laden truck lies on its side in a canal in Shariatpur yesterday after the Bailey bridge, not designed to carry so much weight, collapsed. Most Bailey bridges were built on temporary basis with a standard load capacity of 7.50 tonnes.

PHOTO: STAR

# Passport delivery stumbles

FROM PAGE 1

Shihab said the DIP has already signed a new contract with the Malaysian company, IRIS Corporation, for an additional 60 lakh passports and the server will be upgraded at the soonest.

Sources in the home ministry and DIP, meanwhile, said the capacity of the server exhausted in early June but neither IRIS nor the DIP took initiatives to address it in time.

"No passports were printed in the last four weeks," a source said on Saturday.

The Bangladesh high commissions in Malaysia, Singapore, Maldives, and Lebanon even issued circulars saying there was a shortage of passport supply due to a technical issue in the MRP server.

On July 30, the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore issued a notice on its Facebook page, saying the renewed passports of those who had applied after June 8, had not reached the southeast country. It requested the passport seekers to wait until further notice.

The Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia on August 7 in a circular said a huge number of applications were in the pipeline as "the capacity of the server at the Department of Immigration and Passport has died out."

The high commission said this was beyond its jurisdiction and that the home ministry and the DIP were

trying to address it.

A Bangladeshi embassy official in Riyadh told The Daily Star that they wrote to the DG of DIP several months back, detailing the problems the migrants were facing for the delay in passport delivery and requesting a quick supply of passports, but there was no solution.

"MONTHS' DELAY" Against this backdrop, Bangladeshi migrants have expressed sheer frustration and anger.

They said more than one crore Bangladeshi migrants send home annually \$18 billion remittance, keeping the country's economy vibrant, but their concerns are not being addressed by the authorities on an urgent basis.

Waheed Nizam from Malaysia said it was taking four to six months to get passports while the migrants were passing days in uncertainty and in fear of detention by Malaysian police.

"With no timely passport delivery, many of us are not able to apply for work permit renewals. Some are even not being able to apply for the recalibration programme [amnesty] meant for the undocumented ones," he told The Daily Star by phone.

Rashidul Islam, a Bangladeshi in Singapore, said it was a matter of huge concern that they were not getting passports even three to four months after submitting applications.

# OxyJet: the long road to approval

FROM PAGE 1

development bubble CPAP for adults. Realising that we need a higher flow of oxygen, we took up a plan to develop a CPAP using a Venturi-mechanism [which speeds up flow of a fluid] for the treatment of Covid-19 patients.

"Using this technique, the device can generate high-flow oxygenated air at a normal hospital bed with central oxygen supply and without any electricity."

Usually, general hospital beds are equipped with one oxygen flow metre which can supply only up to 15 litres per minute.

With OxyJet, two flow metres can be used simultaneously -- one that gives 15 litres per minute while the other delivers 50 litres per minute. OxyJet is also fitted with a peep valve to regulate the CPAP pressure as required by the patient, Dr Taufiq said.

Besides, viral filters in the inlet and outlet of OxyJet prevent infection and contamination, he added.

Once the design phase was done, it was time for clinical trials.

Over three phases, OxyJet was tried out on 26 patients and researchers found the device to be clinically "non-inferior" compared to HFNC treatment.

Prof Dr Mohammed Robed Amin, spokesperson of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and who was involved in the clinical trials, said he found OxyJet very effective and "non-inferior" to HFNC.

"While using OxyJet, we could avoid mechanical ventilation of critical Covid-19 patients for more than seven days whereas with HFNC, the number was 6.5. The recovery rate with OxyJet is 38 percent and with HFNC was 27 percent.

"Patients requiring mechanical ventilation after using OxyJet is 38 percent whereas with HFNC, it is 59 percent. We did not find any toxicity after using OxyJet and HFNC as well," stated Prof Dr Amin.

On July 28, approval of the device was signed by the directorate general of drug administration (DGDA), which allowed the production of 200 units of OxyJet for use in hospitals on a limited scale.

But this approval came with conditions -- the researchers will have to monitor 200 patients for benefits, side-effects, and potential risks. The researchers also have to monitor how this device can be improved further.

"At present, we have sufficient equipment to produce 50 units. But

production of further 150 units, distribution of those to hospitals, and collecting all the data will take time," Dr Taufiq said.

The limited permission is valid under the condition that the device performs well during this interim period.

Permission for further production or emergency use authorisation of OxyJet will require another clinical performance trial through a contracted research organisation followed by ethical clearance from the Bangladesh Medical Research Council and the National Research Ethics Committee.

"Industrialists would have been more interested to fund this if there was less uncertainty regarding its future approval," observed Dr Taufiq.

Contacted, Md Salahuddin, deputy director of DGDA, said, "According to our rules, we have given some conditions to them and approved the limited use of OxyJet. If they fulfil these conditions, we shall proceed for its further production."

On the other hand, the researchers emphasise the importance of the device for patients in need.

"If this device can help the poor and the sick in this pandemic time, that is our success," said Dr Taufiq.

# Its waiver will help get global herd immunity

FROM PAGE 1

Five other authors of the statement are: Parsa Erfani, Fogarty global health scholar of Harvard Medical School; Agnes Binagwaho, vice-chancellor of University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda; Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, vice-president, Sierra Leone; Paul Farmer, professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; and Vanessa Kerry, associate professor, Division of Global Health Equity, Brigham and Women's Hospital.

The article was published on August 3. "This inequity has been driven by a global political economy that has permitted some countries to purchase more vaccine than they require while others have very limited supplies," it said.

The article said Canada, for example, has enough vaccines for 434 percent of its population, whereas Jordan, which has twice the incidence of Covid-19 only has doses for 6 percent of its people.

"As Covid-19 variants are already showing some ability to evade the current vaccines, it is evident that without global vaccine equity and immunity, our efforts against Covid-19

are in jeopardy.

"At the current global vaccination rate, it will take years to achieve the needed level of global immunity," said the statement.

The barrier to adequate vaccine supply today is not lack of vaccine options, nor even theoretical production capacity, but rather the intellectual property (IP) protection governing production and access to vaccines, said global health and poverty experts.

Without waiving such protections, there will not be enough vaccine fast enough to prevent the spread of variants, the avoidable deaths, and the continued choking of low and middle-income countries through poor health.

The experts pointed out that Covax is underfunded by vaccine scarcity and underfunding. The initiative which brings countries together to contribute vaccines aims to vaccinate 20 percent of the population in 92 low- and middle-income countries by the end of 2021, but had only shipped one-fifth of its projected estimates by the end of April.

In October 2020, South Africa and India submitted a proposal to the World Trade Organisation to temporarily waive

certain provisions of the TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement for Covid-19 health products and technologies, the article mentioned.

"The waiver would prevent companies that hold the IP for Covid-19 vaccines from blocking vaccine production elsewhere on the grounds of IP and allow countries to produce Covid-19 medical goods locally and import or export them expeditiously," the article said.

The authors declared that the manufacturing capabilities of such countries have been underestimated, even though many have the scientific and manufacturing capacity to produce complex Covid-19 vaccines.

An IP waiver is, however, only the first step, said the authors. "Originator companies must transfer vaccine technology and share know-how with WHO Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), transfer hubs, or individual manufacturers to help suppliers begin production," they added.

To date, none have shared IP protected vaccine information with C-TAP, established last year, said the authors.

# RMP ASI closed for sexually harassing woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

An assistant sub-inspector of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) was closed on Monday on charges of sexually harassing a woman at a police outpost.

Nibaran Chandra Barman, officer-in-charge of Boalia Model Police Station, confirmed the information to The Daily Star.

According to sources, on Friday, a woman called the police emergency service number 999 and sought help, informing that she was abused by her husband.

Quoting the victim's family, OC Nibaran said, ASI Shamim of Bospara Model Police Outpost, met the woman at her house right after the call.

Listening to her allegations, he asked her to meet him at the police outpost for further procedure.

On Sunday, the woman went to the outpost with her mother. At that time, ASI Shamim allegedly told the woman's mother to go out of the room and sexually harassed the woman.

Hearing the incident, the woman's family filed a written complaint with Boalia Police Station on that day.

Later at night, local Ward Councillor Arman Ali called the girl's family and ASI Shamim to settle the matter.

However, the victim's family denied settling the matter and met the police commissioner in Rajshahi to report about the incident on Monday.

According to the OC, once informed, he shared the incident with the senior officers.

"The police commissioner then withdrew the accused. We have already started an investigation. The accused was withdrawn so that he could not influence the investigation," he said.

Police would take further steps after investigation, he added.

# Curbs relaxed amid

FROM PAGE 1

and launches -- will be allowed to carry passengers at full capacity from today.

However, only half of any transport fleet will be allowed to ply the roads, raising concern over shortage of transports on weekdays.

All public, private and autonomous offices, banks and financial institutions will reopen.

Shopping malls, markets, shops and restaurants will be allowed to stay open from 10:00am to 8:00pm every day.

All restaurants will have to keep half the seats vacant. Earlier, those were allowed to offer only takeaway services from 8:00am to 8:00pm every day.

All mills and factories will be allowed to be reopened.

Earlier, the government allowed only export-oriented mills and factories to reopen from August 1 after nine days of shutdown from July 23.

In all cases, wearing of facemasks and adherence to the health safety guidelines issued by the DGHS have to be ensured.

The authorities concerned have to bear responsibility if there is any negligence in following the guidelines for public transport, offices and markets, and legal action will be taken against them, read the government circular.

The Supreme Court will give necessary directives regarding courts, it mentioned.

# Messi gets

FROM PAGE 1

Messi, the fans cheered and let off firecrackers.

Messi gave no details of the deal, which was reached days after Barcelona said it could not afford to keep the midfielder because of Spain's La Liga's fair play rules.

But his father, speaking to reporters at Barcelona's airport, confirmed reports by French newspaper L'Equipe and Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo that Messi had reached an agreement with PSG, which is owned by Qatar Sports Investment.

L'Equipe said the deal would be for two years. It also said Messi would have medical tests on Tuesday, and that a news conference to mark his arrival was likely on Wednesday.

# No first dose

FROM PAGE 1

city corporation areas last month.

Bangladesh received 25 lakh doses of Moderna vaccine under the Covax facility on July 2. Later, it received another 30 lakh doses.

So far, 19,08,549 doses of Moderna vaccine have been administered as first dose and 403 doses as second shot.

The country has also received 81 lakh doses of Sinopharm vaccine. Of those, 66,71,763 were administered as first dose and 1,72,322 shots as second dose.

The government launched a special vaccination campaign on August 7 to inoculate people in the rural areas to curb Covid deaths and infections. It had planned to administer one crore doses in six days but later revised down the target to 32 lakh.

# Preserve all documents

FROM PAGE 1

research opportunities for researchers, students, and filmmakers in specialised archives and film libraries, seminars, and symposiums on various Liberation War topics will also be held, reads the project proposal.

Additionally, a film museum will be established and Bangladesh Film Archive's technical capacity will be enhanced, according to the project proposal.

Mannan said that a total of 10 projects were approved yesterday involving about Tk 7,985.51 crore. Of the approved 10 projects, nine are new while one is a revised project.

While approving a project replacing existing bailey and other risky bridges at dilapidated, narrow and important points of Rangpur Zone with a cost Tk 861.39 crore, Mannan said the PM asked the authorities concerned to find out such dilapidated bridges across the country and for replacing those.

Mannan also said that ECNEC approved another project titled Madarganj 100MW Solar Power Plant at Solar Park, Jamalpur with Tk 1,511.79 crore.

He said that ECNEC had earlier proposed to name this plant after the name of the PM since it would be the country's largest and iconic solar power plant, but the premier opposed the proposal and asked to name it Madarganj solar power plant at Solar Park.

Organising regular exhibitions from the archives of audio-visual documents related to the Liberation War, expanding

asked the authorities concerned to collect and conserve all the War of Liberation related documents from various countries, especially from countries of Eastern Europe," Planning Minister MA Mannan quoted Hasina at the press conference after the meeting.

He said that government wants to preserve the documents related to Liberation War so that future generations can know about the real history.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) passed the three-year project to be completed by July 2023.

Under the project, audio-visual documents related to the Liberation War will be collected.

Other documents related to Liberation War will be collected for study and research purposes, if needed this will be reviewed and reprinted, reads the project proposal.

As part of the project, documentaries based on 400 heroic freedom fighters' interviews will be produced. Books, periodicals, publications, songbooks, posters, leaflets, photos, manuscripts, and other Liberation War-related materials will be collected and preserved.

Organising regular exhibitions from the archives of audio-visual documents related to the Liberation War, expanding

research opportunities for researchers, students, and filmmakers in specialised archives and film libraries, seminars, and symposiums on various Liberation War topics will also be held, reads the project proposal.

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# Heavy vehicles banned on ferry

FROM PAGE 1

previous ones, he said, "There is nothing to compare here."

Around 6:30pm on Monday, Bir Shrestha Jahangir was overtaking a boat between pillars 10 and 11 when the rear end of the ferry collided with the pillar as the master tried to avoid hitting the boat, which had four to five people on board.

Four or five people in a car on the ferry were injured, he said.

On July 20, the lower part of the ferry, Shah Makhdum, was damaged due to collision with a pillar of the bridge.

On July 23, the Shah Jalal hit another pillar and got damaged.

After the second incident, a probe committee recommended moving a ferry terminal. But the authorities did not find the recommendation viable, sources said.

The three incidents have been widely discussed and found traction in social media.

The 6.15-kilometre bridge being constructed at a cost of Tk 30,000 crore is expected to be open to traffic in June next year.

Heavier vehicles will be carried across the river via the Paturia-Douladia and Harina-Alubazar routes.

The decision was put into effect immediately, BIWTC Chairman Syed Tajul Islam told The Daily Star.

It's difficult to control large ferries with heavy vehicles during strong currents, he said, adding that the number of ferries on the two aforesaid routes will be increased.

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## Bangabandhu's life to be showcased at Times Square, NYC

UNB, Dhaka

The life sketch of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be screened at New York city's iconic Times Square on August 15 and 16.



Bangabandhu's digital portrait will also be screened 720 times at the place, a major commercial intersection, tourist destination, entertainment centre, and neighborhood in the Midtown Manhattan, at the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen made the disclosure yesterday, mentioning that mainstream media will cover the event.

He thanked Fahim Feroj, a Bangladeshi expatriate who has taken the initiative.

EXIM Bank and Bangladesh Finance came forward to help him implement it.

Fahim -- through his NY Dreams Production, a New York-based organisation -- has taken the initiative to showcase Bangabandhu and his

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Residents of Khulna city's Bastohara area have been wading through knee-deep, stagnant water for the last 15 days. Due to the city's dismal drainage system, just a little rainfall results in waterlogging, submerging many of the roads and alleys. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Informal workers in dire straits: speakers

Negligence of authorities blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers of the country, especially informal ones, are facing serious deprivation and negligence by the authorities during the coronavirus lockdown, which has pushed them into dire situation because of joblessness or low wages, said labour leaders, activists and academics yesterday.

At a webinar on labour rights organised by civic body Nagorik, they said 86 percent of the country's labour force is in the informal sector, and they have no job contracts and thereby a lot of them were arbitrarily terminated from jobs.

After Eid holidays, garment factories were declared open but the government had no announcement on public transport -- a situation that forced the workers from their homes to take whatever means they had to travel from their homes to workplaces in Dhaka or Chattogram, they said.

"The state had thought little of how the workers will follow health rules during the lockdown. Moreover, there is no minimum protection of their jobs during this time," said Jahangirnagar University professor Anu Muhammad.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front Central Committee Chairman Razekuzzaman Ratan said a good portion of the country's GDP comes from the tourism sector, but the hotel and tourism sector workers' situation is dire during the pandemic.

They neither have any wage board or framework nor are they recognised by the labour law. With the pandemic beginning last year, lakhs of hotel workers were jobless and went home. They are still jobless and are passing hard days, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Punish those who vandalised temples

Demand eminent citizens after Khulna incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday issued a statement, demanding arrest and trial of those responsible for vandalising and ransacking several houses, shops and temples of the Hindu community in Khulna's Rupsha upazila on Saturday.

"This is not an isolated incident. It's a shameful example of repression of minorities during the pandemic," they said in a joint statement signed by Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development.

"In recent years, repression of minority communities has increased. We have seen such incidents in Cox's Bazar's Ramu (2012), Pabna's Santhia (2013), Brahmanbaria's Nasimagar (2016), Bhola's Manpura (2020), and in Sunamganj's Shalla (2021)," they said.

"We have repeatedly urged authorities concerned to take necessary measures to avoid such incidents and demanded trial of the responsible persons," they continued.

"But still, investigations into the incidents have not been completed and the real criminals were never put on trial."

"Despite the local administration being aware of the chaotic situation in Rupsha, they did not take any action to stop untoward incidents, nor take any measure to ensure security of the minority community."

"We strongly protest such incidents of torture, harassment and human rights violation of members of the minority community at Shiyali village in Khulna's Rupsha upazila," they said.

"We demand the arrest and punishment of the criminals who were behind the incident," they further said in the statement.

"We also demand the government take steps to engage general people in preventing such incidents," they added.

The signatories include rights activist Sultana Kamal; Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director, Transparency International Bangladesh; Advocate Rana Das Gupta, prosecutor at International Crimes Tribunal; Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, senior lawyer at the Supreme Court; Dr Abul Barkat, professor at Dhaka University and Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive at Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

## BUYING OXYGEN CYLINDERS, HFNC LGRD ministry allocates Tk 10cr for 61 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) has allocated about Tk 10 crore for procuring oxygen cylinders, high-flow nasal canula and health safety materials for 61 districts of the country.

The ministry yesterday in a letter to the chief accounts and finance officer of Local Government Division (LCD), controller general of accounts, asked to release the first installment from zila parishad development assistance.

In the letter signed by LGD deputy secretary Mohammed Tanvir Azam Siddique, directives are given to the chief executive officers of the upazila parishads for spending the money for the said purpose only.

The letters show Tk 15.5 lakh each was allocated to 10 districts; Tk 16.5 lakh to 49 districts and Tk 17 lakh for Dhaka and Tk 18 lakh for Cumilla.

"The money should be spent for distributing health safety equipment including masks, hand sanitisers, high-flow nasal canula, oxygen cylinders and relief among the poor in the zila parishad areas," reads the letter.

The parishads must follow Public Procurement Rules-2008 and the respective authorities will be responsible for any irregularities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## SPECIAL MASS INOCULATION Seems like govt moving without plan: GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chaotic unfolding of the mass vaccination programme is making it clear that the government is progressing without any plan, alleged Jatiya Party chairperson and deputy leader of the opposition GM Quader.

"This programme is slowly turning out to be a boomerang that could lead to even greater spread of the virus due to the failure to maintain health guidelines at the centres," he said in a statement yesterday.

"Uncertainty, chaos, and lack of coordination are so visible that it is causing anxiety and panic among people."

According to media reports, the vaccination programme is turning out to be a disaster, as there is no physical distance at the centres, he said. In addition, allegations of nepotism and corruption are rife, which should be investigated immediately, GM Quader stated.

Yet, as the rise in Covid cases and deaths show no signs of abating, the only way to tackle the pandemic is to continue the



mass vaccination programme in a planned and proper way, he said.

The JP chief rued how vaccine-seekers, especially the older demographic, are having to stand in long queues, get burned in the sun, drenched in the rain, and sit through other forms of harassment for their doses. What's worse, even after getting their jobs.

On the other hand, the programme is under increasing risk of failure due to the inadequacy of vaccines, which is another cause of frustration for people, GM Quader said.

The JP chair said at least 27 crore doses of vaccine will be required to cover the 17 crore people of the country. In order to continue the programme, the government needs to secure more vaccines in an urgent basis.

"Every day, ministers are assuring people about purchasing the required number of jobs. But with no progress made, these empty words are only keeping people in the dark."

## Eka gets bail in drug case

Mou remanded again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A virtual court in Dhaka yesterday granted bail to film actress Semon Hasan Eka in a case filed against her for possessing narcotics at her residence in Dhaka's Hatirjheel area.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Atiqul Islam passed the order upon a bond of Tk 1,000 with two guarantors after her lawyer submitted a petition, seeking bail in the case, court sources said.

She, however, cannot walk out of jail as she was not granted bail in another case filed against her for torturing her house help, said an official of General Recording Office at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

She was sent to jail on August 2.

Police arrested Eka from her residence on July 31 on charge of torturing her house help. Earlier, locals had called 999 and complained of her torturing the house help.

Police also rescued house help Hazera Begum (30) and sent her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## It's condemnable, if found to be true

Says HC on language used by Viqarunnisa principal in leaked phone conversation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The words allegedly used by Viqarunnisa Noon School and College Principal Kamrun Nahar in telephone conversation with a representative of guardians are "condemnable and unexpected", if the conversation is authentic, the High Court said yesterday.

Making the observation, the HC asked the committee formed by the education ministry -- to probe the leaked telephone conversation -- to submit its report to the court by August 30.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order during hearing a writ petition that sought its directive on the authorities concerned to conduct a departmental inquiry into the alleged television conversation that went viral on social media on July 26.

The bench also fixed September 1 for further hearing and passing order on the petition, petitioner's lawyer Abdullah Harun Bhuiyan told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar told the HC bench that the education ministry has

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Writ petition seeks steps to stop eavesdropping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten Supreme Court lawyers yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its directive on the government to take necessary steps to prevent incidents of eavesdropping and recording of private phone conversation.

In the petition, they also sought a directive from the HC on the government to inform what necessary steps have been taken to prevent such incidents and to ensure right to privacy of telecommunication.

The lawyers said in recent years, they have come across numerous incidents of eavesdropping and recording of private telephone conversations from various reports published in national dailies, including The Daily Star.

As per its constitutional statute, Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is delegated with the responsibility of ensuring privacy of telecommunication and upholding the sanctity of Article 43 of the Constitution.

However, the newspaper reports demonstrate the continued failure of the BTRC in carrying out its constitutional duties. Such regular incidents of eavesdropping and recording of private telephone conversation show that BTRC is failing to take any necessary actions or preventive measures or carry out investigation to prevent such breach of privacy of telecommunication, the petition said.

The officials who have been mentioned as respondents in the petition are secretaries to ministry of posts, telecommunications and information technology, post and telecommunication division, information and communication technology division, and chairman of BTRC.

The lawyers who submitted the petition are Rezwana Ferdose, Uttam

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## 'Relocate hospital project from CRB'

Nagarik Samaj urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Nagarik Samaj Chattogram, a citizens' platform, yesterday demanded that the government relocate the hospital project from CRB area.

They said this at a press conference at Chattogram Press Club.

Convener of the organisation Prof Dr Anupam Sen, also vice chancellor of Premier University, Chattogram, said with the help of people, they would resist such project for the sake of environment.

CRB, the headquarters of Bangladesh Railway's east zone, is surrounded by hills, hillocks and valleys with a number of century-old trees. The area is considered the oxygen centre of the city. It is also a habitat for different species of birds and wild animals.

People go for morning and evening walks in the area; many others visit the place to take in fresh air, said Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury Babul, member secretary of the organisation.

"We urge the government to shift the hospital project to another area owned by Bangladesh Railway," said Babul, also vice president of Chattogram city unit of Awami League.

Mentionable, BR signed an agreement with a private company to build a hospital, a medical college and a nursing institute on six acres of land in CRB area on public private partnership basis.

## Man arrested over abduction, murder of five-year-old

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days after a five-year-old was abducted from the capital's Khilgaon area, police yesterday recovered the child's decomposed body from an under-construction building in the area.

Analysing CCTV footage, police arrested Md Selim (32), a rickshaw-puller, over the abduction and murder, on the same day.

Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner of Motijheel Division police, confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Ahad said Selim's wife was suffering from kidney disease, and he needed money for her treatment.

Selim then asked for financial support from his former landlord's family. But they refused to help him. So, Selim planned to blackmail the family, said the official.

On Friday, he abducted a random child, Jisanul Islam Akayed, from the street and took him to the building belonging to the former landlord, Babul. The place was empty, and he knew about it, as he worked for the landlord many times.

Then, he killed the child, left the body there and fled. He thought the landlord would get scared seeing the body and call Selim to dispose of it. At that time, Selim would blackmail him for money, said police, quoting Selim.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Regular commuters of the Dhaka-Narayanganj highway will have come across this bizarre sight near the Kanchpur Bridge. For this stretch of the road, fabric scraps bought from RMG factories are left to dry after washing. Once dried, they will be resold to small retailers. Although seemingly harmless, this sudden change in scenery could distract new drivers on the highway, while pedestrians are left with less space for walking. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

MITU MURDER

## Ex-SP Babul Akter denied bail, two others remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday rejected a bail petition of former Superintendent of Police (SP) Babul Akter over the murder of his wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shafi Uddin passed the order after a virtual hearing of the bail petition filed by Babul Akter's lawyer, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (Prosecution) Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed of CMP.

Meanwhile, another court of Metropolitan Magistrate Hasan Md Reza placed two other accused -- Wasim and Anwar -- on a three-day remand each after the investigation officer concerned sought remand for them in the case.

On June 5, 2016, Mitu was stabbed and shot dead while she was taking her son to his school bus stop at the port city's GEC intersection. After the murder, Babul filed a case against three unidentified men with Panchlaish Police Station.

Later, Police Bureau of Investigation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# Barishal city corporation announces budget with focus on infrastructure

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Without increasing existing rates or imposing any new tax, Barishal City Corporation has announced a budget of around Tk 416 crore for the year 2021-22.

Mayor Serbiabat Sadik Abdullah announced the budget from a virtual session yesterday afternoon.

BCC CEO Syed Faruk Ahmed said around 33 percent of the budget will come from the annual development Programme; 11 percent from government allocations -- bulk and special; while 21 percent will come from government and foreign aid projects. The city corporation plans to raise the other 35 percent on its own.

Among others, the budget has allocated Tk 264.21 crore for developing infrastructure -- including roads, bridges, and other constructions -- Tk 36 crore for waste management, Tk 41 crore for administrative and office management, and Tk 9.79 crore for health services.

Notable among these are the Tk 43 crore plan to construct and renovate city roads, Tk 10 crore to update the waste management system, and constructing children's parks for 30 wards.

Syed Faruk said though Tk 280 crore was allocated through government and foreign aid projects in last year's budget, only Tk 17.91 crore was received, which is six per cent of the total proposal. This made it difficult to complete planned development activities of the city.

He told The Daily Star that though no new taxes have been imposed this time, it is possible to raise enough revenues through a cutting-edge and corruption-free system.

He mentioned that the city corporation raised Tk 77 crore last year and plans to raise Tk 113 crore this year.

"The government is pushing the city corporation to become self-sufficient, and we have successfully completed 17 percent of our development work from our own coffers," Faruk said. "I think we'll be able to do most of our development activities this way in the near future."

Mayor Serbiabat said if the city corporation gets enough fund from the government, they can achieve the calendar year's targets.

"We have planned to increase revenue income by maximising tax realisation from a variety of existing sources," he said.

# Man arrested

FROM PAGE 3  
Meanwhile, the boy's father Abdul Malek filed a general diary with Khilgaon Police Station. After analysing CCTV of the area, the footage revealed that Selim was carrying Jisan on his rickshaw.

A kidnapping case was filed on Saturday.

Police said they recovered the decomposed body from the second floor of the building on Khilgaon's Nandipara Road around 10:30am.

Then police arrested Selim from Sabujbagh area, and the plan was revealed. A murder case was filed.

Police also seized the rickshaw and the weapon used by him to kill the boy, among other belongings.

# HC tells Viqarunnisa to admit 19 twins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College to immediately admit 19 twins to first grade, as their 19 fellow siblings have already been admitted to the institution through lottery.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman gave the directive following a petition filed by the twins' fathers.

Petitioners' counsel Tasmia Prodhan told The Daily Star that 19 pairs of twins (38 students) had applied for admission to first grade at the school in January.

Among them, single student from each of the 19 pairs were admitted to the institution through lottery, but the rest 19 were not admitted.

As a result, their guardians have been facing troubles, she said.

The lawyer also said the guardians of the twin candidates have also applied to the education ministry in this regard.

During the hearing, Barrister Tasmia told the HC that twins need to stay and study at the same place and institution for their mental development.

"I'm also a mother of twins. I have noticed that if such babies are kept detached or stay in separate environments, it has an adverse impact on them," the counsel further said.

Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar told The Daily Star that the High Court had earlier passed a similar order for admitting twin students to the same institution.

# ELECTRICAL, SOLAR TRADES UCEP, Schneider to train 15,000 youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Underprivileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP) Bangladesh and Schneider Electric Foundation will train over 15,000 underprivileged youths in electrical and solar trades across Bangladesh over the next five years.

The UCEP Bangladesh has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the France-based development organisation, whereby they will be establishing modern labs for vocational training for underprivileged youths in Bangladesh.

Schneider will help set up 19 labs on those trades in UCEP Bangladesh's 19 technical schools to train unemployed youths in the electrical and renewable energy field and assist them in upgrading their skills level.

The foundation will also develop the capacity of the UCEP Bangladesh trainers to provide vocational training through.

"We have launched this initiative with the aim of contributing to bridging the skill gap and enable underprivileged youth to gain access to the job market, further contributing to the country's socio-economic development in Bangladesh," said, Manisha Singh, Sr GM and Head CSR, South Asia, Schneider Electric.

# Bangabandhu's

FROM PAGE 3  
great political work and sacrifice in the international platform, marking National Mourning Day.

Dr Momen said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to visit New York next month to attend UNGA and it will be a good initiative ahead of her visit.

He said the government is trying to brand Bangladesh positively as it is now a land of opportunity with its vibrant economy.

# LGRD ministry

FROM PAGE 3  
"Unspent money should be returned to the government exchequer by June 30, 2022. Statement of expenditure is needed to be returned before the release of next

installment," reads the letter.

The government has allocated Tk 500 crore for zila parishad development assistance sector in the current fiscal.

# Informal workers

FROM PAGE 3  
Bangladesh Tea Workers' Union General Secretary Ram Bhajan Koiri said tea garden owners publicised that tea workers don't have coronavirus. It was included in the category of food sector, workers had to continue work without ensuring any health rules.

There is little effort to conduct Covid-19 test among the tea workers and there is no data on the infection in tea gardens, he said.

Writer and researcher Philip Gain said tea workers live in highly-congested housing facilities and there is a very high risk of infection, especially as Delta variant is highly contagious.

Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha Central Committee Joint General Secretary Prakash Dutta said workers have never been in good position because neither the employers nor the government truly cares for them, although they are at the heart of the country's economic wheel.

Most workers, whether in hotel, transport or shoes sectors, have no job contracts or guarantee. They hardly come under the government incentives. Anomalies were even found in incentives meant for the poorer section of the people, he said.

Speakers called for a stronger movement for ensuring rights of the workers of the country.

Dhaka University International Relations Prof CR Abrar presided over the discussion. Cultural activist Bithi Ghosh moderated it.

Bangladesh United Communist League General Secretary Mosharrif Hossain Nannu, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Barishal Branch Member Secretary Manisha Chakraborty, Bangladesh Tourism and Hotels Workers Employees Federation Joint Convener Farhana Yasmin, researcher Priscila Raj, and labour leaders Amina Akter and Taslima Akter also spoke.

# Eka gets

FROM PAGE 3  
During the drive, police seized five pieces of yaba, some cannabis, and half bottle of liquor from Eka's house.

MOU ON FRESH REMAND  
Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed model Mariam Akhter Mou on a two-day fresh remand in a case filed against her with Mohammadpur Police Station under the Narcotics Control Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sufiyan Md Noman passed the order after CID Inspector Probir Kumar Ghosh, also the case's investigation officer, produced her before it.

She was produced before the court on completion of seven-day remand in two phases in the case.

Detectives on August 1 arrested Mou from her Mohammadpur residence. They also seized 750 yaba pills and 12 bottles of foreign liquor from there.

# It's condemnable

FROM PAGE 3  
formed a committee to conduct inquiry into the matter, but the committee is yet to complete the probe.

On Monday, the bench wanted to know the authorities' stance on Principal Kamrun Nahar, whose alleged telephone conversation with Mir Shahabuddin Tipu, went viral.

Mohammad Morshed Alam, guardian of two Viqarunnisa Noon School and College students, filed the petition with the HC on

Sunday, also seeking its directive on the authorities concerned to restrain Kamrun Nahar from discharging duties as principal during the period of inquiry.

During hearing on the petition on Monday, petitioner's lawyer Harun Bhuiyan told the HC that Kamrun Nahar has no ethical right to hold the post of principal after her conversation went viral, as her obscene language will have an adverse impact on students.

# Ex-SP Babul

FROM PAGE 3  
took over the case from the Detective Branch of police and started investigation.

On May 11 this year, Chattogram PBI summoned Babul Akher to its office for interrogation.

He failed to give satisfactory answers to the investigators.

The following day, Mitu's father filed a

murder case against eight people, making Babul the prime accused.

The complainant alleged that Babul Akher is the mastermind of the killing and he murdered his wife over extramarital affairs.

PBI had submitted the case's final report before the court, mentioning Babul as the mastermind.

**To-Let**  
খানমন্ডিতে আকর্ষণীয় লোকেশনে ৬ ভলা ভবন ৩৬০০ বর্গফুট প্রতি ফ্লোর ভাড়া হবে। স্কুল এবং অফিসের জন্য আদর্শ।  
যোগাযোগ: ০১৭১২৯৪২৩২৭

**TIME EXTENSION**  
Reference to our recent advertisement, published in The Daily Star in 4th Page of 06th August 2021, Manusher Jonno Foundation wants to extend time for submission of job application for the position of Director (Programme) upto August 27, 2021. We have also extended the time in Bdjobs circulation.

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Applications are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals fulfilling the requisite Qualifications and experience for immediate appointment to the following posts:

Position	Department	Requisite Qualification
Professor to Assistant Professor	Radiology and Imaging	MD, MPhil, FCPS
Medical Technologist	Radiology and Imaging	Diploma in Medical Technology, Radiology and Imaging

Attractive salary, allowances, accommodation and other facilities (negotiable) will be provided. Interested candidates are requested to apply with 2 copies of pp size colour photographs and supporting papers on or before 31 August, 2021 to the following address:

Director, Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College & Hospital, Enayetur, PS-Enayetur, Upazila: Chauhan, District - Sirajganj Or E-mail: info@kymch.org

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**- Chief Coordinator for MOHFW Coordination Centre / SSA**

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

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Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

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গোপালগঞ্জ-৮১০০।

স্বাক্ষর নং: বসব/বিবিবি/বিজ্ঞ/২৬/২৯(২০২১)/৮৫১ তারিখ: ২৬ জানু, ১৪২৮  
১০আগস্ট, ২০২১

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজস্বাভ্যন্তর আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে বিবি মোতাবেক প্রদত্ত বেতন ও অন্যান্য আর্থিক সুবিধাসহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিম্নলিখিত হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা
১.	রেজিস্ট্রার	গ্রেড-৬ (৪৬০০-৯৪০০)	১
২.	সিইও/সিএসও	গ্রেড-৬ (৪৬০০-৯৪০০)	১
৩.	উপ-রেজিস্ট্রার	গ্রেড-৫ (৪৩০০-৯১০০)	১
৪.	উপ-পরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত)	গ্রেড-৫ (৪৩০০-৯১০০)	১
৫.	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (পূ.)	গ্রেড-৬ (৪৬০০-৯৪০০)	১
৬.	মেডিকেল অফিসার (১টি পুরুষ ও ১টি মহিলা)	গ্রেড-৯ (২৩০০-৫৩০০)	২
৭.	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল) (উপ-বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রকৌশলী পদের বিপরীতে)	গ্রেড-৯ (২৩০০-৫৩০০)	১
৮.	ব্রাদার	গ্রেড-১০ (২৬০০-৫৬০০)	১
৯.	সহকারী পরিচালক/সিএসও	গ্রেড-১০ (২৬০০-৫৬০০)	১
১০.	ক্যাটালগার	গ্রেড-১১ (২৯০০-৬০২০)	১
১১.	ড্রাইভার	গ্রেড-১৫ (১৯০০-২৪৯০)	১
১২.	ম্যোজিস্ট	গ্রেড-১৬ (১৯০০-২৪৯০)	১
১৩.	কম্পিউটার (মেশিন পদের বিপরীতে)	গ্রেড-১৬ (১৯০০-২৪৯০)	১
১৪.	মালী	গ্রেড-২০ (১২৫০-২০১০)	১
১৫.	সহকারী কুক (বেগ পদের বিপরীতে)	গ্রেড-২০ (১২৫০-২০১০)	১
১৬.	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী	গ্রেড-২০ (১২৫০-২০১০)	১

প্রতি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফর্ম (Prescribed Form), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা এবং নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট ([www.bsmrstu.edu.bd](http://www.bsmrstu.edu.bd)) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। যে পদে আবেদন করতে ইচ্ছুক সে পদের নাম অনুযায়ী খাতের উপর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ক্রমিক নং-১ হতে ক্রমিক নং-১৬ পর্যন্ত উল্লেখিত পদের জন্য ১২০০/- (এক হাজার দুইশত) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং-১৩ হতে ক্রমিক নং-১৬ পর্যন্ত পদের জন্য ৬০০/- (ছয়শত) টাকা অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের হিসাব বিভাগে নগদ জমা দিয়ে রশিদ অথবা অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক লিঃ এর যে কোন শাখা হতে বকর শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ এর অনুকূল হিসাব নং- ০২০০০০০১০১৫২৭২ এ নগদ জমা দিয়ে জমা রশিদ আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদন পত্রের হার্ট কপি (৬ সেট) সুরিয়ার সার্টিফিকেট/ডাক বিভাগ এর মাধ্যমে অথবা হাতে হাতে আশামি ২৯/০৮/২০২১ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫-০০ টার মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রার দফতর জমা দেয়া যাবে/পৌছাতে হবে। সুরিয়ার সার্টিফিকেট/ডাক বিভাগের বিলম্বের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনভাবেই দায়ী থাকবে না।

মো. আবদুর রউফ  
রেজিস্ট্রার

GD-1442

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Jail Super  
Sunamganj District Jail  
[www.prison.sunamganj.gov.bd](http://www.prison.sunamganj.gov.bd)  
Memo No. 58.04.9000.159.04.043.2021-  
Date: 10-08-2021

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
01	597317	Supply of Unnotamaner Mashur Dal Mota to Sunamganj District Jail for the period of October/2021 to September/2022	09-Aug-2021 12:00	25-Aug-2021 10:45
02	597318	Supply of Unnotamaner Cholar Dal to Sunamganj District Jail for the period of October/2021 to September/2022		25-Aug-2021 11:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 10:00 on 25th August 2021.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Nurshed Ahmed Bhuiyan**  
Jail Super  
BJ-02669000094  
Sunamganj District Jail  
☎ 0871-61173 (Office)  
jssganj@prison.gov.bd

GD-1446

**KOICA**  
Korea International Cooperation Agency

**World Friends Korea**

**Bid Notice**

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For Construction Works**

Date: August 11, 2021

1. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Bangladesh Office invites eligible Bidders to participate in bidding for the project mentioned below. The Project is to be constructed with the grant aid of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

**Description of Project**

- Bid Title: Building Renovation Works to improve sanitation environment and ability against COVID-19  
- Bidding No.: KOICA Bangladesh 2021-3  
- Duration: 3.5 Months from the effective date  
- Approx. Budget: USD 162,138 (VAT included)

2. Eligible Bidders.

① Legal Requirement

- Business License and General Contractor in accordance with laws applicable in construction industry in Bangladesh.
- ABC Electrical and Supervisory License.
- General Contractor registered in the Public Works Department (Bangladesh)

② The bidders who have submitted an EOI in a timely manner

3. KOICA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

4. Failure to furnish all information required by the bid documents or submission of a bid not substantially responsive to the bid documents in every respect shall be at the Bidder's risk and may result in the rejection of bid.

5. The KOICA Bangladesh Office requires that Bidders and Contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA:

(a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract.

(b) will recognize such a contractor as ineligible for a period determined by KOICA.

9. Point of Contact : KOICA Bangladesh Office

Address: Level 5N, Grand DELVISTAA, House CES(A) 1A, Road 113, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212  
Tel No. : +880-2-222284690, +880-2-2222-94552  
E-mail: [bangladesh@koica.go.kr](mailto:bangladesh@koica.go.kr)  
Attention: Mr. Fazole Rabby (Assistant Manager)

⑦ Opening of Bid: August 22, 2021, 14:30 at KOICA Office  
⑧ Post-Qualification Examination: August 22, 2021  
⑨ Language of Bid: English  
⑩ Name of Currency: USD

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

Ref. No. EDCL(Bogura)/PUR/DPSW/EOI/2021/296  
Date: 10/08/2021

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
(Appointment of Professional Organisation)

Essential Drugs Company Limited, 100% share owned by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is interested to appoint a professional organisation (third party) for destruction of Pharmaceutical Solid Waste by incineration/combustion process at EDCL, Bogura. (Detail scope of works as per Users Requirement Specification)

Interested related firms are invited for submission of offer with all relevant papers(i. Documents related to experience of similar types work in any Pharmaceutical industry in Bangladesh, ii. Copy of Approval/Environmental clearance certificate from Department of Environment of Bangladesh iii. List of technical professional employees in the firm(with bio-data And appointment letter), iv). Company profile & v. Necessary updated commercial documents like Trade License(if any), E-Tin certificate with current Income Tax payment certificate) VAT/BIN etc.with other related papers (if any).

Interested firms may be requested to collect tender schedule from the purchase Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka during office hours on all working days from 10.00 A.M. to 2-00 P.M. (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays).

The tenderers may drop their offer in the tender box kept at the purchase departments, EDCL, Dhaka office till 12.00 Noon on 31/08/2021 which will be opened on 31/08/2021 at 12.30PM in presence of the tenderers/their representatives (if any).

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**General Manager**  
Procurement Department.  
For : Managing Director

Size: 6 x 3

A YEAR OF DULALBARIR CHAR ASHRAYAN PROJECT

## Residents plagued by problems

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

About one thousand residents of Ashrayan project on Dulalbarir Char, a river island eight kilometres away from Mymensingh city, have been suffering from numerous problems since they were given free houses there by the government last year.

Most members of the low-income families, 240 in total, need to commute to and from the city every day to make a living. But a bamboo bridge made for them over Suti Khal, under the Ashrayan scheme, has become wobbly and hazardous within a few months.

Manik Mia, a grocer and a resident of the project, said many of the wooden planks on the rickety bridge broke down and made it extremely dangerous, especially for children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

The Ashrayan residents suffer the most when they need to cross the bridge in a hurry with a critically-ill patient, he also said.

The bridge is crucial for their livelihoods as their work is mostly in Mymensingh city, said Mohammad Giasuddin, another resident of Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan.

The Ashrayan residents do not have the financial solvency to raise necessary funds for the repair of the dilapidated bridge, he

also said.

Resident Chand Mia drives auto-rickshaw in the city. He said that over one hundred of the residents' children risk their lives while crossing the unsafe bridge on their own when their schools are open.

Third grader Rifat Mia and several other students of nearby Kalyanpur Government Primary School said they get scared every time they have to cross the broken bridge.

The second biggest difficulty the residents of Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan have been facing is the unavailability of adequate number of tube wells for its thousand residents.

Abdur Rahman, another resident, said there are only 24 tube wells available for all the residents, aside from the six new tube wells installed by a non-governmental organization.

An island in the Old Brahmaputra river, Dulalbarir Char, under Mymensingh Sadar upazila, is cut off from the mainland by Suti canal. The island therefore is flood-prone and embankments are necessary to protect its inhabitants and their property, said many of the inhabitants.

Waterlogging in the project area after even a moderate rainfall is another setback that is making their lives miserable, said Jomila Begum of the project.

Many residents alleged that the houses in the project did not have finished floors when those were handed over to them, while others complained of frequent power outages that sometimes last for several days.

Ever since they moved to their new address, their cost of commute rose by Tk 60 to 100 each day, said many residents.

Dolly Islam, a mother of two, said she used to work at a tailor's shop in the city, but the long distance from the city has forced her to quit the job and rely on meagre income of her husband, who is a restaurant worker.

Maharani Chowdhury, 75, said she used to work as a day labourer in the city's old Gudaraghat area, but she now has to depend on financial support from her children.

Asked about the waterlogging problem at the Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan, Mymensingh Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sinful Islam claimed that a proper drainage system, capable of dispersing water accumulated from moderate to heavy rainfall, was made under the project.

On the issue of the dilapidated bamboo bridge, the UNO said a proposal for a bridge, made by the Local Government Engineering Department, was sent to the higher authorities for approval.



In this recent photo, a few of the one thousand residents of the Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan project, in Mymensingh Sadar upazila, are seen crossing the ramshackle bamboo bridge over Suti canal.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Sona Ullah is seen controlling traffic at Rajarhat upazila town.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

## 73-year-old volunteers in traffic control in Kurigram for survival

Sona Ullah of Rajarhat upazila spent 45 years of his life peddling rickshaw now works daylong as a volunteer traffic controller for some Tk 150 a day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Sona Ullah, who has spent 45 years of his life peddling rickshaw in different parts of the country, now toils hard controlling traffic at Rajarhat upazila town in Kurigram from morning till evening.

Sona Ullah, now 73, has been working on the road as a volunteer traffic controller for the last seven years.

Sona Ullah, a resident of Putikata Mallirapar village of Rajarhat union under Rajarhat, has been working alongside the traffic police voluntarily. Drivers and locals are happy with the work of Sona Ullah, who discharges his duty with efficiency to ease the traffic movement on the busy intersection.

He does not receive any allowance from any department for this work.

However, the truckers give him Tk 5-10 tip for assisting them to pass through the often-gridlocked intersection.

Thus, he earns Tk 120-150 every day. He lives with his wife Nurjahan Begum (67).

His two sons -- Rafiqul Islam and Chan Miah-- live along with their own families elsewhere apart from their parents. Sona Ullah owns only two decimals of land and a small tin-shed house on it.

"Staying on the road spending busy time makes me happy and keeps me healthy," Sona Ullah said. He also said although he and his wife are old enough to receive old age benefits from the government,

but they have not been enlisted to the list of the beneficiaries.

Sona Ullah's wife Nurjahan Begum said that her aged husband earns a little despite toiling hard.

The family is going through a lot of hardships. Even if they want to eat fish and meat, they do not afford it. She feels sorry for her husband but she is also helpless.

Abul Kalam, a traffic policeman at Rajarhat town, said that Sona Ullah plays a very helpful role in reducing traffic congestion. He always cooperates with the work of traffic police.

"We support him personally," he added.

Trucker Nur Jamal, 45, said that they give Sona Ullah a tip of Tk 5-10 as he assists the truck drivers moving their vehicles through the

intersection.

Local businessman Bikash Chandra Roy Tarun told the correspondent that even at the age of 73, Sona Ullah is keeping himself busy with work which is phenomenal.

Pedestrians are also getting benefitted from Sona Ullah's volunteering work, he added.

Rajarhat Upazila Parishad Chairman Enamul Haque said that preparations have been made to pay old age allowance to Sona Ullah and his wife Nurjahan Begum.

The online application has been completed and they will come under this facility this year.

Sona Ullah's voluntary work is phenomenal and he has never come to me for seeking any relief, the chairman added.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director (ACE, RHD)  
Technical Assistance for Road Transport Connectivity  
Improvement Project Preparatory Facility  
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208  
[www.rhd.gov.bd](http://www.rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.2690.071.31.007.2020-040

Date: 09.08.2021

## Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI)

(Consulting Services for Feasibility Study on Improvement of 22 road sections (1480 km), Connecting Roads to 3 Logistics Facilities (ICT/ICD) and Road Safety - Firms selection)

Project Title: Loan 6030-BAN: Transport Connectivity Improvement Preparatory Facility (TCIPF)

Assignment: Consulting Services for Feasibility Study on Improvement of 22 road sections (1480 km), Connecting Roads to 3 Logistics Facilities (ICT/ICD) and Road Safety

Reference No.: SVC-P1 (CS-01)

- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan (Loan 6030-BAN) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for implementing the Transport Connectivity Improvement Preparatory Facility (TCIPF) and a part of the loan will be utilized for the Consulting Services for Feasibility Study on Improvement of 22 road sections (1480 km), Connecting Roads to 3 Logistics Facilities (ICT/ICD) and Road Safety at level crossings.
- The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") includes carrying out the tasks mentioned below:
  - upgrading about 1480 km or more of national highways, regional highways and zilla roads ("the project roads") to the standard width and quality and improving the roadway connectivity with the land ports of Bangladesh as would be recommended according to the feasibility study (4 lane, 6 lane etc. keeping a minimum provision of 4 lane with staged construction time frame for such recommendation) with provision for Slow Moving Vehicular Traffic (SMVT) lanes;
  - integration of road, rail and waterway modes of transport of 3 (three) ICT/ICD facilities to the connecting roads;
  - conflict mitigation & ensuring safety at level crossing of road network as would be recommended according to feasibility study.
- Expected date for commencement of the services is May 2022 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 18 (eighteen) months.
- The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) ("the Client") under Road Transport and Highways Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Government of Bangladesh now invites reputed eligible international Consultancy Firms ("the interested Consultant") for Expression of Interest (EoI) in English to provide the Services.
- The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) will conduct the short-listing of the interested consulting firms for the above-mentioned services. The firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The key qualifications and experiences of the Consulting firms required are as follows:
  - Technical Competence: general experience, specific experience in similar assignments (feasibility study/preliminary design of road/bridge in similar road/highway projects with comparable scale and technical specifications);
  - Geographic Experience: experience in similar geographic area;
  - Experience in working with Multilateral Development Banks - MDBs (i.e. ADB, WB etc.);
  - Management Capabilities: Financial (Annual Turnover); capability to retain the required No. of Key Experts who are preferred to be under permanent engagement with the consulting firms with adequate qualifications.
- A Consultancy Firm may associate with other firms to enhance its qualifications, clearly indicating whether the association is in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or a sub-consultancy. In case of a JV, all the partners in the JV shall be individually and jointly liable for the entire contract.
- The Consultancy Firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method following the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).
- According to the latest ADB procurement guidelines, the REoI for this Consulting Services has been published electronically in the ADB Consultant Management System (CMS) which can be accessed through the following link: [https://selfservice.adb.org/OA\\_HTML/adb/xxcrs/isp/ADB\\_CsmFwd.jsp?sel=171369](https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/isp/ADB_CsmFwd.jsp?sel=171369)  
The interested consulting firms are hereby advised to access the REoI through the above link. The Consultants shall have to submit their EoIs electronically through the ADB CMS by 11:59pm (Manila local time) on 09 September 2021.  
If any contradiction is found between CMS notice and newspaper notice, the information on CMS notice shall prevail.  
For technical inquiries/assistance, the interested consulting firms may seek advice by emailing to the following email address: [cmshelp@adb.org](mailto:cmshelp@adb.org).
- Offline submission of EoIs is NOT allowed.
- Further information can be obtained at the address of the undersigned given below during office hours from 9:00am to 5:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) preferably by email.
- The Client will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EoI.
- The Client reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason.

Riaz Ahmad Jaber

Project Director (ACE, RHD)  
Technical Assistance for Road Transport Connectivity  
Improvement Project Preparatory Facility  
Room-207, Level-02 (1st Floor), Part-01  
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208  
Mobile: +880-1313-092136  
E-mail: [pd\\_rtcipf.rhd@gmail.com](mailto:pd_rtcipf.rhd@gmail.com)

GD-1439



## The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Gazipur-1703

## Local e-Tender Notice

Website: [www.spubl.org.bd](http://www.spubl.org.bd)

## e-Tender No. 77/2021

Ref: 53.18.3300.019.07.02.2021

Dated: 10/08/2021

**NAME OF WORK:** Supplying Fitting and Fixing Mosquito Net on Window & Verandah Grill at Ground Floor of D-Type Residential Building at The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd (SPCBL), Gazipur-1703.

Electronic tenders (e-Tender) are hereby invited from the Contractor having experience of construction work in the departments of PWD/MES/other government, semi-government/autonomous organizations/bank/insurance organizations for the construction of abovementioned structures for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at the website [e-tender.spubl.org.bd/114.130.43.56](http://e-tender.spubl.org.bd/114.130.43.56). It is to mention here that this is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender the bidders need to register on [e-tender.spubl.org.bd](http://e-tender.spubl.org.bd). For more details please contact cell: 88- 01534002183 & 88-01534002184. Necessary information is given below:

- Price per e-Tender schedule : 500 (five hundred) Taka only
- Date of publish of e-Tender : 11/08/2021
- Last date & time for submission of e-Tender : 07/09/2021 up to 11.00am
- Date & time for opening of e-Tender : 07/09/2021 at 11.15am

Bidders may collect the e-Tender schedule from the abovementioned website. Bidders need to submit earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of the "Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd." along with the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of an Account Payee Cheque/Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to submit as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at above website. Offer(s) shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one Construction firm/bidder submitting one offer along with earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Maruf Ahamed

Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil)

Phone: 88-02-9205110-15, Ext.-266

GD-1441

## Youth sent to jail for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jashore court sent a youth to jail after he was produced before it on charge of raping a disabled girl in Sadar upazila.

Meanwhile, police arrested the alleged rapist Shahin Hossain, 35, of Chaulia village in the upazila, after mother of the 17-year-old victim filed a case with Jashore Kotwali Police Station accusing him on Sunday night.

According to the case statement, Shahin picked up the victim while she was returning home on Sunday evening.

He took the girl to one Rafiq's house and raped her there.

After returning home the victim disclose the matter to her parents, who informed the police of the matter.

Being informed, police went to the victim's house first and then admitted her to Jashore General Hospital for medical test, Officer in Charge of Kotwali Police Station Tajul Islam said.

NEWS IN brief

Myanmar junta says had 'nothing to do' with UN envoy plot

Myanmar's junta had "nothing to do" with an alleged plot to attack the country's ambassador to the UN Kyaw Moe Tun, who has defied the military and backed the pro-democracy movement, state-backed Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said yesterday.

US to review classified 9/11 docs for possible publication

US officials vowed Monday to review classified documents related to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks to see which could be made public -- a recurring demand of some victims' relatives. The FBI said in a letter to the US attorney for the southern district of New York that it "has decided to review" its prior privilege to not disclose certain sensitive documents and will "identify additional information appropriate for disclosure."

First West African case of Marburg virus detected: WHO

Guinea confirmed a case of Marburg disease, the World Health Organization said on Monday, the first recorded in West Africa of the lethal virus that's related to Ebola and, like Covid-19, passed from animal hosts to humans. The virus, which is carried by bats and has a fatality rate of up to 88 percent, was found in samples taken from a patient who died on August 2 in southern Gueckedou prefecture, the WHO said.



Prince Andrew sued in NY court for alleged sex abuse

Queen Elizabeth II's second son, Prince Andrew, was sued in a New York court on Monday for alleged sexual abuse of a woman who says she was "lent out" for underage sex by late US financier Jeffrey Epstein. The filing at the US district court in Manhattan said Virginia Giuffre was the plaintiff in the case against the defendant, named as "Prince Andrew, Duke of York."

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Save 'our very future'

Climate-vulnerable island nations call on world after damning climate report; China, Australia refuse to put forward more ambitious emissions targets

AFP, New York

Dozens of small island states most vulnerable to the effects of climate change have called on the world to save "our very future" after a landmark UN report said accelerating global warming and rising sea levels threaten their existence.

The call to action comes after the climate report warned that catastrophic global warming is occurring far more quickly than previously forecast, an assessment met with horror and hopefulness by world leaders and green groups.

"We have to turn this around," Diann Black-Layne, lead climate negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda, said in a statement late Monday.

"The stark fact is that if we keep warming to 1.5C we are still facing half a metre of sea level rise. But if we stop warming from reaching 2C, we can avoid a long term three metres of sea level rise. That is our very future, right there."

The group comprises 39 states including Cuba, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and the Maldives, the world's lowest-lying country.

It said the report confirmed that governments around the world must take critical action to cap warming to the 1.5C temperature goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, published on Monday, said the world is on course to reach that level around 2030, a decade earlier than predicted just three years ago.

That level of global warming will have devastating impacts on humanity, including more extreme weather events such as fires, typhoons, droughts and floods.

In its first major scientific assessment since 2014, the IPCC said by mid-century, the 1.5C threshold will



have been breached across the board, by a tenth of a degree along the most ambitious pathway, and by nearly a full degree at the opposite extreme.

Many world leaders reacted to the report by calling for immediate action to curtail the rise of the world's temperature.

But Australia's conservative prime minister rejected growing calls yesterday to adopt more ambitious emissions targets, while China insisted it was implementing its climate commitments and signalled no new policies despite the report's findings.

"Australia is doing its part," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. "I won't be signing a blank cheque on behalf of Australians to targets without plans."

Australia has one of the highest rates of emissions per capita in the rich world and is among the world's largest exporters of coal and natural gas.

Australia has suggested it will achieve net-zero carbon emissions "as soon as possible", and preferably by 2050, but has not made any commitments to do so.

Meanwhile, China yesterday insisted it was implementing its climate commitments, while signalling no new policies following the release of UN report. The Chinese government has set a target of reaching peak carbon emissions by 2030, and becoming carbon neutral by 2060.

Brazil indigenous group sues Bolsonaro at ICC for 'genocide'

A Brazilian indigenous organization asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) Monday to investigate President Jair Bolsonaro for "genocide" and "ecocide," accusing him of persecuting native peoples and destroying their homelands. The Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) alleged in a case filed with the Hague-based court that the far-right president has led "an explicit, systematic and intentional anti-indigenous policy" since taking office in 2019.



"We believe there are acts in progress in Brazil that constitute crimes against humanity, genocide and ecocide. Given the inability of the justice system in Brazil to investigate, prosecute and judge these (crimes), we denounce them to the international community," the group's legal coordinator, Eloy Terena, said in a statement. Bolsonaro, 66, has presided over a surge of destruction in the Amazon rainforest, slashed environmental protection programs and pushed to open indigenous reservations and other protected lands to agribusiness and mining.

Kim Jong Un's sister condemns 'perfidious' Seoul over drills with US

The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday called Seoul authorities "perfidious" over the South's joint military exercises with the United States, and demanded Washington withdraw its forces from the peninsula. Kim Yo Jong's latest remarks come despite a surprise thaw on the Korean peninsula, prompted by a series of personal letters between her brother and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.



The two sides last month restored cross-border communications that were severed more than a year ago, announcing their leaders had agreed to work on improving ties. But Kim Yo Jong -- a key adviser to her brother -- condemned South Korea for holding "dangerous" joint military drills with the United States this month, which the North has long considered rehearsals for invasion. She expressed her "deep regret at the perfidious behaviour of the south Korean authorities" in a statement released by Pyongyang's official KCNA news agency.

SOURCE: AFP

Turning sewage into ultra-clean water

AFP, Singapore

Giant pumps whirl deep underground at a plant in Singapore that helps transform sewage into water so clean it is fit for human consumption while reducing ocean pollution.

The tiny island nation has little in the way of natural water sources and has long had to rely principally on supplies from neighbouring Malaysia.

To boost self-sufficiency, the government has developed an advanced system for treating sewage involving a network of tunnels and high-tech plants.

Recycled wastewater can now meet 40 percent of Singapore's water demand -- a figure that is expected to rise to 55 percent by 2060, according to the country's water agency.

While most is used for industrial purposes, some of it is added to drinking water supplies in reservoirs in the city-state of 5.7 million people.

And the system helps reduce maritime pollution, as only a small amount of the treated water is discharged into the sea.

This is a contrast to most other countries -- 80 percent of the world's wastewater flows back into the ecosystem without being treated or reused, according to UN estimates.

"Singapore lacks natural resources and it is limited in space, which is why we are always looking for ways to explore water sources and stretch our water supply," Low Pei Chin, chief engineer of the Public Utilities Board's water reclamation department, told AFP.

One key strategy is to "collect every drop" and "reuse endlessly", she added.

'Hours on a footnote'

Scientists felt joy, frustration in making UN climate report

REUTERS, Geneva

After spending hundreds of hours in virtual meetings to complete this week's major UN climate report, scientists Piers Forster and Joeri Rogelj celebrated in a way their peers could not: by hugging.

Britain-based Forster had been weary of the isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic and invited his co-author to work alongside him in his Harrogate kitchen as they worked with other scientists around the world to trash out the final version of the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Being together for the last stretch of a three-year effort "made it more fun," said Forster, a climate physicist at the University of Leeds.

Specialist scientists, all 234 of them working for free, reviewed more than 14,000 scientific studies published since 2013 to draft the latest version of what has now become the established science on climate change, before coming together -- virtually -- for two weeks of final checks and negotiations.

Despite travel restrictions and national lockdowns that delayed the report's completion for several months, organisers say they pulled off



the effort with no notable technical glitches to meet their revised deadline. For most of the scientists, the effort came with a personal cost. "You put a lot of yourself in it," said ETH Zurich climate scientist Sonia Seneviratne, who had to skip a family holiday to help finish the report.

Completing the politically sensitive "Summary for Policymakers" section, which 195 governments must approve by consensus, presented a particular challenge. Each word of each sentence

needed to be scrutinized and debated.

"We spent sometimes hours on a footnote," said co-chair Valerie Masson-Delmotte, a climate scientist at the University of Paris-Saclay who described work on the report as a "marathon."

But Masson-Delmotte also said the chance to work on pioneering climate research with so many scientists around the world was "one of the biggest joys of my professional life."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
এডিশনাল ইন্সপেক্টর জেনারেলের কার্যালয়
সিআইডি, ঢাকা
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২/২০২১-২০২২খ্রিঃ
নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকার রেশন স্টোরে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর, নভেম্বর, ডিসেম্বর/২০২১খ্রিঃ) এর জন্য মন্ত্র ডাল (উন্নতমানের, ছোট দানা), সয়াবিন তেল, জ্বালানি কাঠ ক্রয় ও গম পেয়াই করা, রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবহন কাজ, কুলি/সেবা নিয়োগ এবং বিক্রয়যোগ্য মালামাল বিক্রয় এর নিমিত্ত সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রয়োজনীয় দরদাতাগণের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

COVER STORY

# CHORKI - FILM FUN FOORTI

*Chorki, one of the largest video streaming platforms in Bangladesh, launched on July 12, 2021. Redoan Rony noted filmmaker and CEO of Chorki, along with director Giasuddin Selim, Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, Shihab Shaheen, and Robiul Alam Robi, sat for an interview with Rafi Hossain. In this interview, the directors shared their thoughts on Chorki.*



**REDOAN RONY**

Chorki is a Bangladeshi video streaming platform, and its journey began recently from July 12, 2021. It serves as a one-stop platform for passionate directors who want to bring forward their best works, stories of Bangladesh, and Bangladeshi originals and cater to avid movie or series lovers all over the world. I am also a director, and I always felt the need for a platform where I could regularly work. Even the directors before me and the rising directors who have the passion to present good stories required a platform to connect and represent their stories globally. And from this thought and requirement, Chorki was created. We were concerned about whether or not the Bangladeshi audience will subscribe and pay to watch content. To our surprise, the projection or target we predicted for a month came in within three days of launch. We were amazed to observe that audiences are subscribing, paying to watch Bangladeshi content, sharing on social media platforms, and even leaving feedback for us regarding the contents or any technical difficulties. The



expected profit ratio from the Bangladeshi audience is already covered. However, I did not expect that the platform would also receive subscriptions with dollars and foreign currencies in such a short time. It is a great achievement that Chorki and its contents are recognized not only

in Bangladesh but around the world. The process of commissioning occurs through two stages of pitching. The primary pitch is presented to our content team, who finalizes the stories from a pool of submissions. We follow a format for the pitch, which includes, story ideas, treatment plan, director's philosophy, budget plan, and so on. The pitch format aims to provide a basic idea to our team to understand the director's vision. The second pitch is presented to our commissioning committee. The committee members are a combination of employees of Chorki, film enthusiasts, young professionals and so on. In this final pitch, when the committee agrees to create the project, it is handed over to the purchasing committee. Then the purchasing committee finalizes the commercials and commissioning. Even I will be going through this process if I want to release anything on Chorki. Just because I am the CEO does not mean I will be treated differently. We are trying to improve the standard of this process, and in the future, we believe we can take it to an international level.



**GIASUDDIN SELIM**

I believe Chorki stands out because it was thoroughly developed with great care over a long period of time. OTT platforms must appeal to the right audiences. In Bangladesh, it is usually telecom companies that run such platforms with their agendas. The groups behind Chorki consist of passionate individuals who want to bring forth something new. As someone who knows a few of them, I would say they are very transparent and honest businesspeople. They are experienced and well renowned in the entertainment field as well. Needless to say, they would have done quite well even if they worked with television platforms. Then again, this is the age of OTT platforms. Especially with the ongoing pandemic, it is a great time to introduce Chorki, and I believe it will be successful. Adding to it, I want to talk about the language of our content. For many OTT platforms, it becomes tough to promote films that are not in English. Usually, the dubbing process takes up a long time. However, Chorki's primary target is Bengali audiences. They can put their focus on local shows and do not have to allocate too much time for foreign content. There is always the question of whether these platforms will replace television. I do not think so. The reason television channels in our country are declining in popularity is because their owners lack vision. Television platforms in India and other Western countries are thriving because they have better adapted to modern times. OTT platforms also affect the way shows are produced. I have experience with most contemporary entertainment platforms. So, I know that it is not just the production style that changes with the platform it will be released on primarily. For example, when I am producing a television show, it would also depend on what channel will broadcast it. All in all, I hope Chorki finds success in our country because I have seen the effort put into it. It will greatly support independent filmmakers who have good stories to tell. That is why I encourage everyone to support them and other platforms that strive to bring quality entertainment to your screens!

**SHIHAB SHAHEEN**

Our country was missing a full-fledged Bangladeshi OTT platform, and Chorki fulfills that void. With the help of Rony's communication, this platform gives importance to directors and help them achieve recognition in the industry. From my experiences working for both local and international OTT platforms, I never found any of them so well-planned and orderly as Chorki from the very beginning. Now talking about the relevance of television, I feel the industry will remain prominent. Cable television and content released on television is easily accessible to the mass public in Bangladesh. It is mass media which is why I feel it will remain relevant for the coming years. On the other hand, OTT or web platforms viewership is still a niche market in Bangladesh. Finally, I would request our audiences to subscribe and support our projects by streaming rather than downloading through torrents. I am hopeful for Chorki; they have an amazing line-up of projects to be released.



Rakaat Sharif, Photo: Collected, Transcribed by Rakaat Sharif.

**AMITABH REZA CHOWDHURY**

When it comes to OTT platforms, content curation is crucial. It is like exquisitely arranging a shelf because there are so many different genres of films and series. When you are providing your audience with such an overwhelming number of choices, they all have to be up to a certain standard. Many other platforms do not have such strict curation. Rony is one of the biggest assets they have. He has been in the industry for a long time, and I know that he will act responsibly when it comes to picking the projects out of a diverse pool. I also think many OTT platforms do not value their content creators as much as they should. The creators and filmmakers along with their work must be respected for these platforms to thrive in the market. Chorki has these creators at the forefront, and I think that is amazing. As for whether televisions will stay relevant,

I would say they definitely will. I agree with Selim bhai. Owners of entertainment channels need to have a unique vision. They need to stand out. Instead, in our country, these channels have more political agendas. It will not work when their primary goal is to provide entertaining content to the masses. Similarly, I believe for a filmmaker it is important to know the main platform for their works. Of course, they can have it on multiple ones. However, the production process would be quite different for each. If it was to be released in cinemas, for example, it would be designed for a huge screen with appropriate sound design. Shows primarily released on OTT platforms try to be more engaging and dialogue-focused. Before signing off, I would like to thank all the fans and supporters of OTT platforms in our country. As long as we can provide a decent story made with heart, they are always very appreciative.



**ROBIUL ALAM ROBI**

A platform creates identity through its programming and curation, and Chorki is well-organized in this part. As Rony is a filmmaker and has prominence in the cultural industry, Chorki is organized and maintained properly. My experience working with Chorki for my series was wonderful. As a filmmaker, I had creative freedom and the space to share my ideas. My ideas were appreciated and valued by Rony and Chorki's content team. I got positive vibes and good energy from them. The OTT platforms booming in the market has many contents released, and Chorki being a brand new podium has limited web series or films released right

now and still has time to grow. I feel at this stage, Chorki is still new to be evaluated and compared with other platforms. As for the relevance of television, I also feel there is no reason for the market to fall. Currently, cinema and drama are merging into OTT platforms as web films and series. Before, movies were watched in cinema halls and dramas on television. Now, OTT platforms have made it possible for audiences to enjoy a different type of content in one place. So, I feel television is not losing its value, rather the contents are merged into web platforms. My final thoughts for this discussion ends on a positive note. I hope Chorki will continue to be a platform to not only audiences but also filmmakers like us.



## Disaster lies at humanity's doorstep

*Urgent measures have to be taken to address global climate change*

A new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report titled "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis" released on August 9, shows dire consequences for the planet unless we act now. According to it, the Earth's average surface temperature is estimated to hit 1.5 or 1.6 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels around 2030 in all five of the greenhouse gas emissions scenarios—ranging from highly optimistic to reckless. Just three years ago, the IPCC had predicted that such a scenario would arise nearly a decade later. But the new report projects that humans have less time to act than earlier thought.

One of the reasons for this changed projection is the degradation of natural carbon sinks such as forests, soil and oceans that had absorbed around 56 percent of all the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that humanity has chucked into the atmosphere since 1960. But these natural allies of ours are showing signs of becoming saturated, which means they might soak up less carbon from the atmosphere in the coming decades.

The estimates are particularly grim for Bangladesh, as the report predicts that the country is likely to face more frequent and intense heavy rainfalls, flooding, and cyclones due to global climate change in future. Moreover, the frequency of category 4 and category 5 cyclones may increase, which could badly affect coastal areas. Last year, Bangladesh suffered its longest and second-worst flood since 1998, and the IPCC report suggests that the likelihood of such a scenario persisting is quite high. The increased frequency and intensity of rainfall that the report forecasts could also pose a massive danger for agriculture and food security in the long run.

According to environmentalists, the frequency of flood and cyclones has already increased in Bangladesh in recent years. And unfortunately, according to the IPCC, most of these impacts are irreversible, and hence cannot be remediated even if greenhouse gas emissions decline dramatically. Along with that, it also said heatwaves and humid heat stress over South Asia in general will increase and be more severe during the 21st century. This illustrates how this issue extends beyond borders and ultimately concerns everyone.

Even though, collectively, humans may not be able to reverse some of the damage that has already been done, the majority of what is to come can still be prevented. But for that, as the report suggests, humanity must act sooner rather than later. Global leaders, as a result of the pressure that has been exerted upon them by people from all continents, have often made lofty promises to address climate change. However, all too often, we have seen them failing to act accordingly. This is where people must stay relentless. Only the general public's persistent pressure can make global leaders stick to their words and address this grave danger that is now at humanity's doorsteps. If our civilisation is to survive, we must not shy away from this great responsibility of protecting our planet and our species—we must face it head-on.

## Justice must be served for Narayanganj fire victims

*Probe body finds negligence of DIFE and factory owner*

ONE of the probe bodies formed after the devastating Hashem Food and Beverage factory fire in Narayanganj last month has finally finished their job and submitted their findings, putting the blame on the government's factory inspection department as well as the factory owner for their negligence and lack of compliance with safety rules respectively. The result was, 57 innocent lives were lost, including that of several children. We were loath to call it an accident then, and wouldn't sanctify the killing by labelling it a mishap. The probe report has validated our opinion. In several editorials following the gruesome incident, we had averred that government agencies responsible for exercising oversight must share the blame for the fire and the deaths.

It is because of their acts of omission and commission that factories like the Hashem Food and Beverage in Narayanganj manage to cut corners in matters of safety and wellbeing of the workers. Eventually, the lacunae are exposed but at the cost of precious lives of the workers, as has happened in this instance, and in many other similar instances before.

We had particularly pointed our fingers at the line agency responsible for monitoring safety measures in workplaces, i.e. the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE). It is shocking and utterly unacceptable that the DIFE had visited the factory, according to our report, a month before the fire, but did not check its safety measures. What they did do was see whether the workers were following Covid-19 safety guidelines. If they had taken the trouble to spend a few minutes there, they would have discovered that nothing inside the factory was going right as far as the safety of workers was concerned. This cannot be explained away as happenstance. Every single rule was being violated, including the fact that the factory was operating illegally, without the clearance of the DoE and the UNO. How could such glaring truths escape their attention?

It is shameful that most of the violations are done in connivance with those that are entrusted to check these violations. We have been crying hoarse about manpower shortages in the DIFE. But even the few personnel the department has do not do their jobs properly. They turn a blind eye to the shortcomings, but not for nothing though. Meanwhile, tragedies keep happening. It is time for the authorities to stop giving lip service to workers' safety and do something substantive about it. Apart from beefing up the operation of DIFE with proper manpower, we believe the errant officials should face severe punishment for their failure to do their duty. The only thing that would be more reprehensible than their criminal negligence is if they, as well as the factory management, escape justice, and if proper checks are not instituted to ensure no such violations take place in the future.

# Should Bangladesh be worried about Vietnam's apparel performance?



MUSTAFAZUR RAHMAN

Vietnam has outperformed Bangladesh and emerged as the second-most important exporter of apparel in the global market in 2020. Should Bangladesh be concerned by this? What signals does this transmit for the medium-term prospects of Bangladesh's export-oriented apparel sector?

The recently published WTO Trade Statistical Review 2021 revealed that Vietnam ranked second in terms of export earnings from apparel in 2020, pushing Bangladesh to the third position. Bangladesh's share in the global apparel market has come down to 6.3 percent in 2020 from 6.8 percent in 2019, whilst that of Vietnam has gone up from 6.2 percent to 6.4 percent over the corresponding period. However, this should not come as a surprise. Since 2010, Vietnam has been

in 2020 dipped by eight percent compared to 2019, with global apparel exports coming down by about nine percent. Both Bangladesh and Vietnam experienced falls in export earnings, by 15 percent and seven percent respectively. A large number of enterprises in Bangladesh had to suffer frequent stoppages in production during April to June, 2020. Orders were cancelled, leading to loss of potential export earnings, and significant discounts were asked for, resulting in lower export earnings. Some of the orders that required relatively short lead time were shifted to enterprises in Vietnam, since during this time, enterprises there were operating in full swing. It took some months for Bangladesh's RMG sector to revert back to pre-pandemic levels of production.

As Bangladesh started to recover from the worst impacts of the first wave of the pandemic, towards the end of 2020, the situation gradually got better and orders started to pick up. Over the past few months of 2021, enterprises in Bangladesh have been receiving more orders from major brands and buyers. The situation has indeed been reversed—because of the

that of about seven percent for Bangladesh. Thus, the recent performance of Vietnam did not emerge out of the blue; success was built over the years, by creating and expanding on a number of advantages. Almost three-fourths of Vietnam's apparel destined for the global market is produced by foreign companies, with close ties with foreign buyers, brands and markets. This has allowed the enterprises to be more tuned in to the shifting demand structure

*What is also to be noted in this connection is that over the past years, Vietnam has been quite aggressively pursuing bilateral and regional trade agreements.*



A woman works in a garment factory in Dhaka, on May 3, 2020.

PHOTO: REUTERS/MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN

moving strategically to consolidate its position in the global apparel market. Key elements of this strategy included moving up the value chain, and product and market diversification, implemented through targeted policy interventions and actions—and the country has achieved impressive success in pursuing this over the past decade. Vietnam's emphasis on productivity and skills enhancement, and on intra- and extra-apparel diversification, has meant that it has been able to reduce its dependence on apparel while also significantly raising its earnings from apparel exports. The apparel sector in 2020 accounted for about one-fourth of the country's total export earnings of USD 281.4 billion, whereas in Bangladesh, apparel counted for more than four-fifths of total exports of USD 42 billion. Higher productivity and better prices have also allowed the country to pass some of the benefits from entrepreneurs to workers in the form of higher wages. Average wage in Vietnam's apparel sector is about 1.5 times more than that of Bangladesh.

The above should nonetheless be considered with a caveat—2020 was no normal year. The world merchandise trade

resurgence of Covid-19 in Vietnam and its adverse impacts on the economy, some of its orders are being shifted to Bangladesh. Consequently, it is highly plausible that Bangladesh will be able to supersede Vietnam in 2021 and regain its ranking as the second largest exporter of apparel in the global market, a position that it had held for more than a decade.

The question is, should Bangladesh be complacent in view of this likely outcome in 2021? In the context of the above mentioned fluctuating fortunes of the apparel sector, the issue that merits serious assessment is whether Bangladesh will be able to sustain the momentum of the past years over the medium-term future, and whether it will be able to consolidate its position as the second largest exporter of apparel by withstanding the increasing competitive pressure from Vietnam, as well as other challengers like India, Cambodia and Turkey, which are competing in some of the same market segments.

Vietnam's global export market share in 2010 was about 2.9 percent, when the same for Bangladesh was about 4.2 percent. Since then, Vietnam has been able to post an average growth of 11 percent as against

of the global apparel market. One example of this is the structural change in the supply capacity of non-cotton-based apparel. Vietnam's apparel exports are increasingly being dominated by manmade fibre-based items, export of which is experiencing a relatively faster rise in the global market. Vietnam is also gradually moving into fashion and design-based components of the market where prices are higher and domestic value addition is larger. Its emphasis on development of backward-linkage textile sector, complemented by connectivity with foreign direct investment (FDI) driven forward linkages, provides its apparel sector an added advantage. One issue that is not given due attention, but should merit consideration, concerns net domestic value addition from the export of apparel. Strong backward and forward linkages have meant that domestic value addition in Vietnam has been on the rise in recent years.

What is also to be noted in this connection is that over the past years, Vietnam has been quite aggressively pursuing bilateral and regional trade agreements. These will provide the country preferential market access in the EU thanks to the Vietnam-EU Free Trade Agreement, in the Canadian market by taking advantage of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and in the markets of Japan, Australia and China on account of being a member of the recently concluded Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). All these will provide Vietnam with a significant competitive edge over Bangladesh, particularly in view of Bangladesh losing preferential market access as a result of its graduation from the LDC group in 2026 (the EU preferential access will continue till 2029).

However, Bangladesh has the potential capacity to compete with Vietnam from a position of strength if the required homework is carried out in full measure during the run-up to LDC graduation over the next five years. Over the past years, Bangladesh's apparel entrepreneurs and workers have demonstrated their capacity to learn and grow in the highly competitive

## Latest IPCC climate report shows time is running out to save the planet



SALEEMUL HUQ

THE science of climate change is assessed every six or so years under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was set up several decades ago by the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)—and it consists of the governments of all UN member states.

The IPCC does this assessment by inviting leading scientists from around the world to study scientific literature and assess the latest developments in the science of climate change. It is important to note that the IPCC does not do new research itself, but rather assesses the existing body of scientific research and gives its assessment to the governments, who have the responsibility of approving the final Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) based on the underlying scientific report.

It is also important to explain that the IPCC is divided into three Working Groups of which the first (WG1) assesses the status of climate science, the second (WG2) assesses the status of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, while the third (WG3) assesses the status of actions to tackle climate change by mitigation as well as adaptation.

The IPCC is currently reporting its sixth assessment report and, last Monday, the final report of WG1 was released with much fanfare. I had the privilege of being a lead author of the IPCC's third, fourth and fifth assessment reports and have been closely associated in contributing to the IPCC's WG2 for many years. As

such, I am sharing my take on the major outcomes of the recently released WG1 report of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

The first message is the clear and unequivocal statement that human-induced climate change, due to the emissions of greenhouse gases over nearly 200 years, has now definitely raised global mean temperature by over one degree Celsius and that this has already caused

change. These scientists are now able to make these attributions more quickly, as was demonstrated in the last couple of weeks with the heatwave in north-west US and Canada, as well as the wildfires in Greece and Turkey and floods in Germany and China.

In fact, it is probably correct to say that from now on, every record-breaking extreme weather event can be reasonably attributed to having been exacerbated by



Human-induced climate change has already caused many extreme weather events that are much more severe than they otherwise would have been. PHOTO: STAR

many extreme weather events such as heatwaves, wildfires, floods and cyclones that are much more severe than they otherwise would have been.

This is a significant breakthrough in the attribution science for severe weather events, which in the past took a lot of time after the event was over for the scientists to give their verdict on whether they were indeed made more severe because of human-induced climate

change. This is in effect ushering in a new era of loss and damage from human-induced climate change for the foreseeable future for all of humanity.

The second major finding of the AR6 is that the global temperature goal of staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius is slipping away rapidly, and unless drastic actions are taken immediately, we may cross that key threshold within a decade. This means

global apparel market. This is owed no less to the policy and financial support provided by successive governments. For many brands and buyers, when they say "China plus one", they consider Bangladesh as the "plus one" country for purposes of sourcing. However, in order to take advantage of this, a renewed effort must be made to improve Bangladesh's performance in several areas.

Bangladesh will need to build industrial parks and RMG clusters with common services and required infrastructure. Policies must be geared to encourage changes at the enterprise level, in such areas as technological upgradation and adoption of advanced technologies, improvements in managerial and management capacities, skills enhancement and raising of productivity. Since many services are embedded in merchandise trade, quality of services, including financial services and digital platform-based services, ought to also be significantly improved as part of raising overall competitiveness of the apparel sector. A time-bound structural shift to cater to the fast growing non-cotton segment of the market must be taken through appropriate changes in the incentive structure and with assistance from funds.

While one of the key strengths of Bangladesh's export-oriented apparel sector is that it has been overwhelmingly a domestic entrepreneurship-driven sector, going forward, Bangladesh should take necessary steps to attract more FDI. A number of initiatives are being taken now in this respect, including establishment of special economic zones. These need to be significantly fast-tracked. To note, FDI flow to Bangladesh was USD 3.6 billion and USD 1.6 billion in the pre-pandemic years of 2018 and 2019 respectively, compared to USD 16.1 billion and USD 15.5 billion for Vietnam. Keeping in mind the upcoming LDC graduation, with consequent loss of preferences for exports, including for apparel, Bangladesh should, as has been the case with Vietnam, aggressively pursue the goal of signing FTAs and Closer Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) with important trading partners. There should be a focus on developing production networks and value chains with regional partners, and with important trading partners such as Canada, Japan and others bilaterally, and also possibly with RCEP, to ensure preferential market access. These will enable Bangladesh to opt for both product diversification and market diversification in RMG. However, this will call for careful preparation, domestic policy reforms, and formidable negotiating skills since, unlike the case for LDCs, such partnerships will entail significant measures of reciprocity and exchange of both offer and request lists.

Bangladesh does have the capacity to face the growing competitive pressure and emerging challenges in the global apparel market, from Vietnam and others, if the past performance of our export-oriented apparel sector is anything to go by. However, at the same time, one should also concede that the future is not going to be a mere progression of the past. It will be what we make of it.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman is Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

we must enhance the urgency of action in moving away from fossil fuels like coal, petroleum and natural gas as quickly as possible to renewable energy in every country. This means that the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which all countries have submitted or are still about to submit, needs to be truly ambitious to ensure that the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold is not crossed.

The third and perhaps most important message is the possibility of irreversible changes in the physics of the global atmosphere, such as the complete destruction of the Atlantic conveyor system or the release of methane from below permafrost regions like Siberia. These will be such game-changing shifts that the results are completely unpredictable.

The above messages are part of the SPM, while the 4,000-page underlying report has more details of what are the possible climate change related impacts in every region of the world, including in South Asia and Bangladesh. One of the innovations introduced in this sixth assessment report is that location specific impacts data are now available for scientists in each country, including Bangladesh, to delve into. The impacts for the Ganges Brahmaputra river delta show the likelihood of more intense precipitation in the monsoon season, leading to more severe floods, while there could be less precipitation during the dry season, leading to more severe droughts.

The bottom line from the IPCC AR6 is that time is running out and actions have to be stepped up urgently by everyone, especially the governments who will be meeting at COP26 in Glasgow in November this year. There is not a moment to lose.

Dr Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh.



# Citizens' participation in formulating health policies can be a game changer



SHAGUFTA HOSSAIN

**I**N the olden days, in the city best known as a democratic city-state, where, arguably, the concepts of citizenship and democracy emerged, there was something called Ecclesia. Here, eligible citizens would gather to have the final say on legislation and the right to call magistrates to account after their year of office. Unlike a parliament, the Ecclesia's members were not elected, but attended by right when they chose. Although these assemblies weren't always inclusive (i.e. of women, rural people or the poor), I suppose it is a reasonable assumption that at least in certain matters, such as public health, the participation on these platforms would be meaningful.

The healthcare system in Bangladesh is presently battling what Al Jazeera recently referred to as "a double blow", with a sharp spike in dengue cases coupled with the worsening coronavirus crisis in the country. In addition, it was recently reported that mental illness is taking a silent toll on healthcare workers. However, while we are all battling the same storm, we are not all in the same boat. In 2015, the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies published a report that identified inequitable access to health services between urban and rural areas, including variable health financing mechanisms, as a key challenge. One wonders if the response, or at least part of the response, to this challenge might involve greater citizen participation in policymaking.

While ancient Athenians would probably readily agree, we could, maybe, start with asking three questions. Firstly, would a more participatory process help the healthcare system in Bangladesh, especially in the time of this global health crisis? And secondly, how doable is it? And thirdly, if it eases the burden and is feasible, how much of an active effort exists to ensure that the health policymaking in the country is participatory?

To attempt to answer the first question, we have to clarify what we mean by citizen participation. Citizen participation implies the concept of citizen responsibility, right and governance, making full use of intelligence, knowledge and information in formulating policy. It can ensure that the policy represents the views that are shared by the majority.

Now, to answer the question, does a participatory process help the healthcare system in Bangladesh? Theoretically, the

in public policy can outweigh the costs by helping reduce the gaps of power to decide over policies, which affect them and their communities. This will eventually result in a reduction of inequities in services and might, in turn, reduce the cost burden on the health system.

Now, to answer if it is doable, citizens' participation doesn't necessarily mean that people have to gather in assemblies to give their opinion on policies. Participation is not

the country is participatory. Policymaking in Bangladesh is virtually in the domain of the bureaucracy. In a report published by the Bangladesh Health Watch, Dr M Atiqul Haque, Associate Professor at the Department of Public Health and Informatics of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), examined citizen participation to identify principal actors and factors based on views of representatives from states, health service providers and the citizens.

unwillingness and ignorance of government stakeholders. The citizen stakeholders, therefore, are purely ceremonial, and not truly valued for their engaged, constructive participation. Without clarity, or even a definition of which citizens are engaged in stakeholder consultations, citizens are only engaged to tick off boxes.

Now that we have discovered that there is room for improvement in terms of engaging citizens more effectively in policymaking, let's ask a fourth question. How do we ensure a more participatory process in decision-making? Looking to others might help. In Thailand, for example, the National Health Assembly (NHA) was first convened in 2008 after which until 2019, 85 resolutions from 12 assemblies have been implemented, including resolutions on Thailand's Global Health Strategies antibacterial resistance, illegal advertisement of drugs and health products, daily cycling, waste management, health, and housing, to name a few. Despite learning and adopting from the World Health Assembly, the exemplary Thailand National Health Assembly is often cited for its inclusive participation from the government, academia, professions and people throughout the process.

But like any relationship, the relationship between the state and its citizens is a two-way process. What can we do as citizens? Maybe we can start with asking questions. Questions like, how effectively has civil society organised itself over the years? How familiar are those who have the privilege of literacy and knowledge, with the policies that currently exist in Bangladesh? And if there was such a thing as an Ecclesia in Dhaka, Khulna or Rajshahi, how many of us would be able to make meaningful contributions to policies that have direct bearings on our lives? And if we were making meaningful contributions, how prepared is the state to listen to us and take on board citizens' voices? And until the state and the citizens find an equilibrium where they are both ready to listen to each other, how will things improve?

Shagufta Hossain is a freelance consultant and the founder of Leaping Boundaries.



**Inequitable access to health services between urban and rural areas, including variable health financing mechanisms, are a key challenge.**

PHOTO: STAR

answer would be yes. Experts agree that effective engagement and a comprehensive pledge from relevant key stakeholders from the very onset are crucial to ensure the development and implementation of effective national policies and strategies. Without the participation of citizens, facilitation and the execution of policy might prove difficult, and multi-sectoral stakeholder involvement is proven to accelerate the process of any political commitment. While ensuring greater citizen participation can be a costly process, the benefits of including citizens' perspective

limited to decision-making. It can include monitoring, and evaluating results and the impact of social policies. So, even if citizen participation in policymaking is difficult, setting up monitoring and evaluation cells led by citizens can improve the quality of health services. And by that definition, it can be made more feasible than, say, gathering people in monthly assemblies to get their feedback on every policy that was proposed in the parliament.

Now, let's investigate whether there are active efforts to ensure that policymaking in

*While ensuring greater citizen participation can be a costly process, the benefits of including citizens' perspective in public policy can outweigh the costs by helping reduce the gaps of power to decide over policies.*

The findings of the study were that although stakeholder engagement and communication are theoretically cited as important for ensuring transparency, accountability and effectiveness of public health policies and events, there is very little practical action being taken to ensure that there is active public consultation in the decision-making process. Government officials take it as their responsibility to develop policies and so they do it, but only half-heartedly, by making incremental improvements over something that already exists.

So, the participation of civil society or citizens in policymaking is controlled by bureaucrats and is often challenged by the

## Why the world needs healthcare that cares for all living beings



RUNA KHAN

**T**HE health of a community is dependent on the health of its environment and its ecosystem. Each and every living being in that ecosystem needs to be healthy, and only then a healthy environment for people can be created.

These systems tend to work in silos—human health, animal health and environment. Healthcare systems typically focus on human health, wellbeing, mental health, prevention and cure, often ignoring the ecosystem of life around them of animals, plants and the environment, and often ignoring spiritual health as well.

A pandemic or a climate disaster wakes us up to the links between human, animal and environmental health. One Health, a movement to include the health of all living beings in global healthcare systems, first emerged in the early 2000s and gained worldwide influence after the H5N1 influenza outbreaks, and later, the H1N1 (swine flu) pandemic. More understanding set in, but not always was more action taken towards this being implemented.

The study of linkages between human and environmental health is as old as the field of medicine itself. Hippocrates wrote about it extensively in his work titled *On Airs, Waters and Spaces* in 400 BC. We get our food from plants and animals in our environment. Their health gives us ours. The air we breathe, and the conditions of our environment, are crucial to our survival. A change in temperature or air quality, noise, the amount

of greenery around us, for example, can have a pronounced impact on a community's health.

Scientists began studying the passing of infectious diseases from animals to humans at least as early as the 1800s. The 14th century bubonic plague, the 1918 influenza pandemic, malaria, dengue, HIV/AIDS and Ebola are other examples of public health emergencies originating from animals. The Covid-19 pandemic is also suspected to have emerged from our nonhuman neighbours.

When these health emergencies strike, traditional healthcare systems are swamped and overwhelmed, unable to cope with the sheer numbers of patients. Scientists have shown that ending the destruction of the natural environment can stop pandemics more cheaply and effectively than scrambling to cope with their implications.

Economic aspirations push industries and human dwellings to take over habitats of other species. Thomas Gillespie, associate professor of Emory University, has been studying how shrinking natural habitats cause viruses to jump from animals to humans. Coronavirus, he says, is the tip of the iceberg. "We cut the trees; we kill the animals or cage them and send them to markets," writes David Quammen, author of *Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Pandemic*. "We disrupt ecosystems, and we shake viruses loose from their natural hosts. When that happens, they need a new host. Often, we are it."

Covid-19 has also shown us that unless all countries of the world have adequate healthcare systems, none of us are safe. Even one unaddressed person can spread the disease, bringing economic and health disasters. Today, decent healthcare is concentrated in a few privileged populations.



**Scientists have shown that ending the destruction of the natural environment can stop pandemics more cheaply and effectively than scrambling to cope with their implications.**

PHOTO: AFP/SAEED KHAN

Only 0.3 percent of Covid-19 vaccines administered to date have gone to people in low-income countries. But unless all of us are safe, none of us are safe. It is the same for our ecosystem. If animals and environment are not given their space with respect, this imbalance may continue in our world.

The need for healthcare that addresses all living beings, regardless of economic disparities, and gives space and respect to every living being we share our world with, is what brought together the likeminded individuals who began the One Sustainable Health (OSH) Forum. OSH is a global,

multidisciplinary effort to address human health in unison with environmental and animal health, led by Secretary General Benoit Miribel; the French doctor, diplomat and historian Jean-Christophe Rufin, who first chaired the Council of Strategic Orientation; and myself, with others who truly believed in this concept.

The forum is supported by the World Health Summit in Berlin, the Geneva Health Forum, and the One Sustainable Health for All Foundation in Lyon. In July 2021 we launched six international working groups to help develop an integrated approach without

borders in favour of One Health. The working groups bring together scientists, academics and practitioners who will put together concrete recommendations of new operational actions and public policies in favour of universal health. These actions and recommendations will be closely linked to changes in the economic, social, energy and ecological paths that will take effect to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development goals.

The six working groups will address the following topics: mitigating the impact of environmental pollution, climate change and pressure on biodiversity to reduce diseases, towards sustainable food and nutrition, adapting human-environment paradigms for better human and planetary health, equitable access to quality healthcare, global levers of change to foster OSH, and developing OSH practices and resilience within indigenous and other local communities.

"The health of humans, animals and ecosystems are closely intertwined," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, in a recorded message at the launch event. "The emergence of Covid-19 has underlined the need to strengthen the one health approach. Working together, we can build the safer, healthier and greener world we all want."

Human health is interlinked to all life. We all have a right to this planet. Humans need to accept this respectfully. We need to consider the ecosystem of all needed elements for survival, so that health is not an element to be addressed dramatically when crises arise, or in isolation—rather, a healthy life can become an outcome of our way of life and living.

Runa Khan is the founder and executive director of the social purpose organisation Friendship.

### ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**ALBERT CAMUS**  
French philosopher  
(1913 – 1960)

*The evil that is in the world almost always comes of ignorance, and good intentions may do as much harm as malevolence if they lack understanding.*

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Important times
  - 5 Original
  - 10 Jeans material
  - 12 Math comparison
  - 13 Meet up
  - 15 Building wing
  - 16 Doc for dogs
  - 17 Braying beast
  - 18 Think appropriate
  - 20 Poker payment
  - 21 Uses a towel
  - 22 Neptune's domain
  - 23 Fire remnants
  - 25 Blast of wind
  - 28 Conspicuous
  - 31 Creative work
  - 32 Rip again
  - 34 PC connection letters
  - 35 Middle: Abbr.
  - 36 Dallas sch.
  - 37 Brawl
  - 40 Carl's wife in "Up"
  - 41 43-Across-to-be
  - 42 Winter weather
  - 43 Future flower
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Borders
  - 2 Staggered
  - 3 Elk feature
  - 4 Plop down
  - 5 Worry
  - 6 Sewer rodent
  - 7 Flammable gas
  - 8 Midday break
  - 9 Stable group
  - 11 Multiplex offerings
  - 14 Travolta film
  - 19 Decrees
  - 20 Good quality
  - 24 Extremely
  - 25 Makes deep cuts
  - 26 Try to induce a bigger purchase
  - 27 None too obvious
  - 29 Save
  - 30 Tex-Mex snack
  - 33 Held power
  - 35 Trumpeter
  - 38 Bakery choice
  - 39 Hosp. hookups

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).



### MONDAY'S ANSWERS

B A S E A M A S S  
E L L A F A L T E R  
A P E R F L E E C E  
S H E R B E T P T A  
T A P I O C A S I L  
D R U G S B E N N Y  
R E P S S A T  
I T S S T R U D E L  
V I C C A N N O L I  
E R A S E R I N T O  
R E L E N T A N O N  
S E A T S S A N S

### BETLE BAILEY



SO THERE'S SANTA AND HIS REINDEER, AND RUDDOLPH HAS A...



...FLASHLIGHT? FLAMETHROWER.



INTERESTING MOTHER'S DAY CARD.

SHE WON'T GET ANOTHER ONE LIKE IT.

### BABY BLUES



Y'KNOW WHAT I HATE ABOUT LT. FUZZ? HE'S SO...



SHHH, SIR, HERE HE COMES



WELL, LEAN OVER AND I'LL WHISPER IT TO YOU...



HE'S SO...

GREG + MORT WALKER

### BY MORT WALKER

### BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

## RU teacher

FROM PAGE 12  
his family members, the complaint said, adding that the plaintiff wanted justice.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Golzar Hossain ordered the company commander of Rab in Natore to investigate the case, said Inspector Aminul Islam of the court.

## Indian mission

FROM PAGE 12  
government lately approached the Indian authorities to resume an air bubble, which was in operation before a lockdown in April.

"The governments of the two countries are in talks about starting the air bubble again," an official concerned said.

Asked whether the land borders would open for people's movement, the official said the governments would consider it in consultation with the health authorities.

## Inoculation

FROM PAGE 12  
Mahbubur Rahman, senior officials of law enforcement agencies, other government and NGO officials, among others, were present there.

Contacted, the RRRRC office's health coordinator Dr Abu Toha MR Bhuiyan said, "We have a plan to vaccinate around 700 Rohingya daily. A total of 58 vaccination centres have been set up in all the 34 camps."

The vaccination programme will start at 9:00am and end at 3:00pm every day and it will continue for a week, Titu Chandra Shil, Teknaf upazila health and family planning officer, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, the vaccination programme has drawn a good response from the Rohingyas.

"We are very much interested in taking the vaccines," said Hafez Jalal Ahmed, a Rohingya community leader in Kutupalong camp.

This correspondent talked to around a dozen Rohingyas, who got vaccines yesterday at Hilna Nayapara camp of Teknaf upazila. All of them expressed their happiness and gratitude to the government for arranging vaccines for them.

## China demands recall of Lithuanian envoy over Taiwan recognition

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday demanded Lithuania recall its envoy to Beijing, after Vilnius allowed Taiwan to set up an office under its own name in a move seen as provocative by the Chinese government.

The self-ruled island, which China considers part of its territory, last month said it was setting up a representative office in Vilnius under the name "Taiwan" as opposed to "Taipei", an act interpreted by Beijing as a diplomatic insult.

An outraged Chinese foreign ministry yesterday said it had "demanded the Lithuanian Government recall its Ambassador to China" and would also withdraw the Chinese envoy to Lithuania.

The decision by Vilnius to allow a Taiwanese Representative Office "severely undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and "brazenly violates" the ground rules of diplomatic relations between China and Lithuania, the ministry said in a statement.

Beijing claims Taiwan as its own and has vowed to one day retake it -- by force if needed.

China tries to keep Taipei isolated on the world stage and refutes any official use of the word "Taiwan" in case it lends the island a sense of international legitimacy.

The Chinese foreign ministry yesterday urged Lithuania to "immediately rectify its wrong decision" and "not to move further down the wrong path".

Lithuania's foreign ministry responded by saying it "regrets this move by China".

"While respecting the principle of one China, (Lithuania) is determined to develop mutually beneficial relations with Taiwan," the ministry said in a statement.

The opening of the Vilnius office is the latest sign that some Baltic and central European countries are seeking closer relations with Taiwan, even if that angers China.

In May, Lithuania announced it was quitting China's 17+1

cooperation forum with central and eastern European states, calling it "divisive".

It has since pledged to donate 20,000 coronavirus vaccine doses to Taiwan.

And in 2019, Prague cancelled a sister-city agreement with Beijing and signed one with Taipei, while a high-profile visit to Taiwan last year by Czech senate leader Milos Vysrtil infuriated China.

China cut official contact with Taiwan and ramped up diplomatic pressure after the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen.

Tsai, who won re-election by a landslide last year, rejects Beijing's stance that the island is part of "one China" and instead views Taiwan as a de facto sovereign state.



Mortuary workers remove unidentified bodies from a freezer container to be taken for a Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test at the Judicial Medical Officer's premises in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## DGHS orders closure of 7 pvt facilities

FROM PAGE 12  
During the inspection at Prime Orthopedic General Hospital and Digital Diagnostic Centre, the team found no doctor certified by BMDC, a sufficient number of nurses and Lab technologists on duty at the institution.

The team also found evidence of charging more than the government fixed charge for different medical tests from patients.

While inspected Dhaka Healthcare Hospital, the team found evidence of immoral practice by keeping patients at the ICU though they did not need the support and overcharging patients.

The requisite number of doctors and nurses were also not found in the hospital.

The inspection at Remedy Care Limited revealed that the hospital was operating without renewal of its licence.

The ICU-based hospital made for business interest is running with the help of brokers and has a very unsatisfactory waste management and infection prevention system, the order

mentioned.

The order mentioned that during the inspection at Life Care General Hospital no physician or nurse was found at the hospital while its waste management and infection prevention system was very unsatisfactory.

About the irregularities of Jamuna General Hospital, the health directorate order said both Covid-19 and non-Covid patients were being treated at the ICU.

Besides, it was found overcharging oxygen bill and the hospital's waste management and infection prevention system were very unsatisfactory.

The inspection team did not find the requisite number of doctors and nurses on duty at Royal Multi-Care Specialty Hospital and Diagnostic Centre during the visit.

It also charged patients for different tests, at rates much higher than those fixed by the government and found unsatisfactory waste management and infection prevention system.

During the visit to the blood bank,

the inspection team did not find an MBDC certified MBBS doctor.

It also did not find any nurse, technologist and lab attendant, according to the order.

Earlier on July 31, a DGHS team inspected three hospitals in the capital's Uttara and found widespread irregularities, including treating Covid-19 patients without permission and that too with insufficient equipment and shortage of trained doctors and nurses.

The hospitals inspected were Shin Shin Japan Hospital, Uttara Al-Ashraf General Hospital and Radical Hospital.

## 6 policemen

FROM PAGE 12

from the port city and was stopped at the DB police check point near Star Line Filling Station in Feni on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The six DB officials searched the businessman and looted 20 gold bars worth Tk 1 crore 27 lakh, said the official.

## Thousands flee homes in north

FROM PAGE 12

Envoys from hosts Qatar, Britain, China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, the United Nations, and European Union were also due to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, a source told AFP.

But even with a new round of talks in the works, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said it was down to the Afghan government and its forces to turn the tide, and there was "not much" the United States could do to help.

Meanwhile, India has asked its nationals to leave Afghanistan yesterday on a "special flight" from Mazar-i-Sharif - the country's fourth largest city - amid intense fighting with the Taliban.

"A special flight is leaving from Mazar-e-Sharif to New Delhi. Any Indian nationals in and around Mazar-e-Sharif are requested to leave for India in the special flight scheduled to depart late today evening," the Indian consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif tweeted.

**POSSIBLE WAR CRIMES**  
The UN human rights chief yesterday urged an end to the Taliban offensive on Afghan cities and said her office was receiving reports of possible war crimes.

"The Taliban must cease their

military operations in cities. Unless all parties return to the negotiating table and reach a peaceful settlement, the already atrocious situation for so many Afghans will become much worse," Michelle Bachelet said in a statement.

"We know that urban warfare results in scores of civilians being killed. We have seen it before, too many times."

The Taliban have appeared largely indifferent to peace overtures, and seem intent on a military victory to crown a return to power after their ouster 20 years ago in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

As fighting raged, tens of thousands of people were on the move inside the country, with families fleeing newly captured Taliban cities with tales of brutal treatment at the hands of the insurgents.

"The Taliban are beating and looting," said Rahima, now camped out with hundreds of families at a park in the capital, Kabul, after fleeing Sheberghan province.

In the northern city of Kunduz that was captured by the Taliban over the weekend, residents said shops had begun to reopen in the centre as insurgents focused their attention on

government forces who had retreated to the airport.

The UN's International Organization for Migration said yesterday that more than 359,000 people have been displaced by fighting this year alone.

"We urge all parties to the conflict and neighbouring countries to do everything they can to ensure that border crossing-points remain open, and humanitarian workers are able to access vulnerable populations in the border areas," the agency said in a statement.

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**'ATROCIOUS SITUATION'**  
The Taliban earned notoriety during their first stint in power from 1996-2001 for introducing a harsh interpretation of Islamic rule that barred girls from education and women from work.

Crimes were punished by public floggings or executions, while a host of activities -- from playing music to non-religious TV -- were also banned.

## Haiti chooses judge to probe president's assassination

AFP, Port-Au-Prince

After weeks of struggling to fill the job, a senior magistrate in Haiti on Monday announced that a judge has been named to lead the probe into the assassination of president Jovenel Moise.

The dean of the Court of First Instance in Port-au-Prince, Bernard Saint-Vil, said that Judge Mathieu Chanlatte was chosen for the job.

Chanlatte "will not be intimidated," said Jean Wilner Morin, president of the National Association of Haitian Magistrates.

"It is an investigation that will take time. We also hope that the authorities will put all the necessary resources at the disposal of magistrate Chanlatte and will also ensure his safety," Morin said.

A hit team burst into the presidential residence on July 7 and shot Moise dead. His wife Martine was wounded but survived.

Human rights defender Pierre Esperance said he hoped that Chanlatte would treat the case "with the law as a compass, without falling into political persecution."

Minister of Justice and Public Security Rockefeller Vincent said that his ministry would take all measures necessary to guarantee the safety of judges as well as courtroom evidence.

Police say they have arrested 44 people in connection with the killing, including 12 Haitian police officers, 18 Colombians who were allegedly part of the commando team, and two Americans of Haitian descent.

The head of Moise's security detail is among those detained in connection with the plot allegedly organized by a group of Haitians with foreign ties.

Moise had been ruling the impoverished and disaster-plagued nation by decree, as gang violence spiked and Covid-19 spread.

## Indira calls upon nations

FROM PAGE 12

**INDIA, RUSSIA WANT POLITICAL SOLUTION**

The Soviet Union and India today called for a political solution of the Bangladesh issue. In a joint statement issued after four days of discussion, both countries demanded that the following actions should be taken to resolve the crisis: 1) stoppage of military atrocities by Pakistani troops, 2) stopping of the exodus of people from East Bengal to India, and 3) creation of conditions for safe return of refugees from India.

**KENNEDY VISITS REFUGEE CAMP**  
Senator Edward M Kennedy today visited Kolkata hospitals jammed with Bangladeshi refugees to see what could be done to treat children suffering from severe malnutrition. The Massachusetts Democrat had planned to end his refugee camp tour today and go to Pakistan for two days, but Pakistan yesterday abruptly cancelled permission for him to visit Dhaka and Rawalpindi.

**RUSSIA HAS SIGNED A PACT OF**

**AGGRESSION: BHUTTO**

The Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples' Party ZA Bhutto bitterly criticised the Soviet Union for what he called the signing with India of a "pact of aggression." The pact could embolden New Delhi to launch an aggression against Pakistan and China, he added.

**UN SEEKS FUNDS TO SHIP AID TO PAKISTAN**

UN Secretary General Threat appealed today for more money to help send relief to East Pakistan. A statement issued by his office said also that the first United Nations aid personnel had reached East Pakistan, with the main object of seeing "that all supplies, reach their destination, the people of East Pakistan". The statement today indicated that the United Nations cash receipts were less than a tenth of the amount estimated as necessary for the first phase of relief work.

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

## Navalny allies face fresh criminal charges in Russia

AFP, Moscow

Two exiled aides of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny were slapped with new criminal charges for helping to finance organisations that have recently been labelled "extremist", Russian investigators said yesterday.

Navalny's movement is facing unprecedented pressure in Russia as his main groups have been de-facto banned in the country, while the opposition leader is serving two and a half years in prison on old fraud charges.

President Vladimir Putin's most vocal domestic critic was sent to jail in February after returning to Russia from Germany following a near-fatal poisoning attack that he blames on the Kremlin.

Russia's Investigative Committee said on yesterday that it had launched a criminal case against Navalny allies Leonid Volkov and Ivan Zhdanov over the "collection of funds and provision of financial services deliberately intended to finance an extremist organisation".

The charges carry a maximum penalty of eight years in jail.

Volkov, 40, was in charge of Navalny's disbanded network of

regional offices. Zhdanov, 32, headed the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) that publishes investigations into the wealth of Russia's elites.

The organisations were labelled "extremist" in June for allegedly plotting an uprising with support from the West.

"Knowing that these organisations were recognised as extremist, Volkov and Zhdanov announced the continuation of their illegal activities and organised a fundraiser," investigators said in a statement.

Both Volkov and Zhdanov reside outside Russia and are wanted by Moscow on other criminal charges.

"I've already lost count of the number of criminal cases that have been launched against me," Zhdanov wrote on his Instagram yesterday.

Navalny's close allies still in Russia are under close law enforcement supervision, some under house arrest.

Last week, Navalny's brother Oleg was handed a one-year suspended sentence for breaching coronavirus rules by calling on Russians to attend an unsanctioned rally. Key ally Lyubov Sobol was sentenced to a year and a half of restricted movement in the same case.

## Pori Moni, Dipu placed

FROM PAGE 12

detained Pori Moni and Raz after raiding their houses on Wednesday night. They seized foreign liquor and narcotics from there.

Dipu and Sabuj were also detained during those drives and later shown arrested.

In its forwarding letter yesterday, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) told the court that Pori Moni and Dipu have given vital information about some "masterminds" of the drug trade.

So, the investigation agency needs more time to glean information from the arrestees about those involved in drugs trading and their illegal earnings.

During the remand hearing yesterday, Pori Moni was seen crying standing inside the dock. At the time, her lawyer Mojibur Rahman said, "An actress has been in the same outfit and same mask for 122 hours. She is a heroine. She has a lifestyle."

At the time, Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah Abu said, she did not change her clothes on purpose. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debabrata Biswas passed the order, by granting a two-day remand of Pori Moni and Dipu.

During the remand hearing yesterday, Pori Moni was seen crying on the dock. Her lawyer Mojibur Rahman said, "An actress has been in the same outfit and same mask for 122 hours. She is a heroine. She has

a lifestyle."

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**CID INTERROGATING PEOPLE OF VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS**  
Although the CID is mostly investigating cases under the Narcotics Control Act, they said they have interrogated people of various backgrounds who "have links" with the actor and models arrested recently.

"We have called and questioned several people. More will be called if necessary. However, their names should not be published in the media until their involvement is proven," CID Chief Barrister Mahbubur Rahman told reporters at his office in Malibagh yesterday, without specifying their background and involvement with the arrestees.

He said six vehicles of the arrestees have been seized so far including one of Pori Moni, two of Raz, two of model Piasha and one of her associate Mishu Hasan.

"The CID is not looking just at drug cases. In addition to this, their income and expenditure accounts, sources of funds ... everything is being investigated," said the CID chief.

## Plant that

FROM PAGE 12

that cannot die". The naming is apt: Welwitschia grows only two leaves -- and continuously -- in a lifetime that can last millenniums.

"Most plants develop a leaf, and that's it," says Andrew Leitch, a plant geneticist at Queen Mary University of London. "This plant can live thousands of years, and it never stops growing. When it does stop growing, it's dead."

Some of the largest plants are believed to be more than 3,000 years old, with two leaves steadily growing since the beginning of the Iron Age, when the Phoenician alphabet was invented and David was crowned King of Israel.

By some accounts, Welwitschia is not much to look at. Its two fibrous leaves, buffeted by dry desert winds and fed on by thirsty animals, become shredded and curled over time, giving Welwitschia a distinctly octopus-like look. One 19th-century director of Kew Gardens remarked, "It is out of the question the most wonderful plant ever brought to this country and one of the ugliest."

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Roads & Highways Department  
Office of the Superintending Engineer  
Road Circle, Moulvibazar  
E-mail: serhdmoulvibazar@gmail.com  
Phone: 02-41110074

Memo No. 35.01.5800.07.07.86.21-1333

Date: 10/08/2021

### 3rd Addendum of Tender Document

This is for the information of all concerned tenderers that due to unavoidable situation the following amendment has been made of the tender document for "Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System of Rustompur Toll Plaza at 193rd KM of Dhaka (Katchpur)-Bhairab-Jogodishpur-Shaistaganj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong Road (N-2) Road under Haganj Road Division during the year 2021-22", vide Issue No. 35.01.5800.07.07.86.21-1199; Date: 06/07/2021. **This addendum shall be an integral part of the tender document.**

Reference	As in 2nd Addendum	Amended (3rd)
Tender last selling date and time	11/08/2021	22/08/2021 and 5:00pm
Tender closing date and time	12/08/2021 and 12:00pm	23/08/2021 and 12:00pm
Tender opening date and time	12/08/2021 and 12:15pm	23/08/2021 and 12:15pm

**A. K. Shamsuddin Ahmed**  
Superintending Engineer, RHD  
Road Circle, Moulvibazar  
GD-1447

## 'MESSI, MESSI, MESSI'

Six-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi received a hero's welcome after flying to France on Tuesday to join Paris Saint Germain (PSG) following his shock departure from Barcelona. The agreement to sign the 34-year-old Argentine is a major coup for wealthy PSG. Wearing a T-shirt that read "This is Paris," Messi beamed and waved at scores of fans who had come to greet him at Le Bourget airport on the outskirts of the French capital after his flight from Barcelona. Chanting "Messi, Messi, Messi," the fans cheered and let off firecrackers. "It's going to be mad. After all, it's a legend who is arriving," said Florent Chauveau, a PSG fan. Reuters



Lionel Messi waves to chanting PSG fans from the window of the Paris airport yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## PSG reunite Messi and Neymar

AFP, Paris

The prospect of seeing Lionel Messi team up again with Neymar will have many football fans around the world salivating.

A team, PSG, that missed out on the Ligue 1 title last season but who in the last two campaigns reached a Champions League final and semi-final, now appear well set to land a first European Cup.

The model is the Barcelona team of 2014/15 which won the treble with Messi scoring 58 goals and Neymar 39. The third man, then, was Luis Suarez who added 25 goals.

Now the third man is Mbappe. It is over to Pochettino, Messi's compatriot, to accommodate them all, and Angel di Maria, and find the right balance to make a team of champions as well as a modern-footballing version of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Not all of fans will rejoice. Many will struggle to come to terms with Messi leaving Barcelona. Others would have preferred to see him go to a club where he really could have a transformative impact, like Diego Maradona at Napoli.

But modern football is now dominated by a narrow elite financed by mega-rich owners, state wealth in the case of Qatar-backed Paris Saint-Germain and Abu Dhabi's Manchester City.

Add in Roman Abramovich's Champions League winners Chelsea and even the likes of Barcelona and Real Madrid can't keep up. It is another bitter blow for Barca, who in 2017 were powerless to stop Neymar going to Paris for a world record 222 million euros (\$264m), setting off the chain of events that led to Messi heading the same way.

Barca ruined themselves in the transfer

market trying to replace Neymar to the extent they could not keep their greatest ever player due to La Liga's financial fair play rules.

PSG are not immune from the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic, but they are better placed to survive the economic downturn. PSG lost 124.9 million euros before tax in the 2019/20 season which was curtailed by the pandemic. Last season's figures are likely to be far worse, reportedly



around 230 million euros, with PSG almost entirely deprived of gate receipts as games were played behind closed doors while French TV revenue went off a cliff after the collapse of a record deal with Mediapro.

Yet they have splashed out in the transfer market, spending 60 million euros (\$71 million) on Inter Milan right-back Achraf Hakimi and signing several big-name players who were out of contract in Sergio Ramos, Georginio Wijnaldum and Gianluigi Donnarumma. Wijnaldum was snatched from under the noses of...Barcelona.

PSG can do it because their Qatari owners are there to cover the losses and because, for now at least, French league rules do not stop clubs having a wages to income ratio of almost 100 percent, as it was in 2019/20.

## What direction do Tigers take now?

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The historic 4-1 series win against Australia was the Tigers' most significant series win in the T20 format, considered to be Bangladesh's Achilles heel. It will be a massive confidence boost ahead of the T20 World Cup, especially for a side missing a few key players, but in terms of preparations with two months to go until the tournament, how the latest series win adds up remains to be seen. And with the New Zealand series on the horizon, what should be Bangladesh's intention going forward?

The Tigers found lots of value as a number of young players displayed the character, attitude and confidence required in international cricket.

Facing Australia's skill with the ball, there

ever T20I score.

The balls kept low, the new batsmen from both sides found going tough and even after spending time at the crease, failed to play their shots.

Bangladesh's batsmen, used to such surfaces, consistently fell 10-15 runs short when batting first and that should be concerning as the rub of the green -- a very literal one in this case -- will not favour the Tigers' away from home, where the batsman will again have to adjust.

"The team winning is the most important, although on this slow, low, turning wicket, batsmen will probably not score many runs," ace all-rounder Shakib said after the series win.

The question now is whether the think-tank will think about another series win on low, turning tracks against New Zealand or give some much-needed focus on the



Batsmen from both Bangladesh and Australia found going tough in low, slow and turning wickets in Mirpur during the just concluded five-match T20I series.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

were many intense scenarios that played out in this series. Handling pressure situations has always been a worry for the Tigers and in that regard the just concluded series will breed necessary belief.

In essence, Bangladesh arguably gambled that the team would succeed in executing its plans. The team think-tank was reliant on the fact that Bangladesh bowling would fare better than their counterparts and although four of the five T20Is were close contests, it was largely the bowlers that made the difference, using the conditions to their fullest potential in tight situations.

Ultimately, discussions around those conditions are a different issue altogether. In terms of winning the series, there would not have been better conditions anywhere else to pull off a feat of the magnitude. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had insisted on playing matches in different venues and not just Mirpur but Australia, keeping the pandemic in mind, opted for just one venue.

On these wickets, neither team's scores exceeded the 131 runs that Bangladesh posted in the first T20I. In their 144-year history, Australia produced their shortest innings in any format, plummeting to 62 all out in the final T20I. It was also their lowest-

batsmen's room for improvement.

With Bangladesh not scheduled to play any more T20Is after the New Zealand series, the focus ideally should be to play on pitches that resemble conditions in UAE, where the World Cup will be played. Shakib will probably get an opportunity to play in the IPL leading up to the tournament and can use that opportunity to adapt to the wickets, but the same cannot be said of the others.

Australia skipper Matthew Wade said that the pitches in the West Indies were better suited to gauging their performances, reiterating that conditions in ICC tournaments would not be similar to those in Bangladesh. In fact, the conditions in Bangladesh were extreme, especially for the T20 format.

Ahead of the 2015 World Cup, the Tigers, went to Australia under coach Chandika Hathurusingha early to prepare and acclimatise to conditions. They lost warm-up matches to Ireland and Pakistan, but those defeats did not hinder the experience gathered from such matches. Even at the expense of losing the upcoming series, should the Tigers prepare better tracks against the Kiwis to properly gauge themselves and prepare for the tournament?

## A brief window to sate yearning for loved ones

NABID YEASIN



"Bhai, do it quickly. Take the wicket so that we can go back home after such a long time away." Those were the words the stump mic picked up wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan

Sohan saying to Shakib Al Hasan in the 14th over of Bangladesh's fifth and final T20I against Australia in Mirpur on Monday.

Shakib duly obliged, scalping the final Aussie wicket of Adam Zampa to wrap up Bangladesh's five-match T20I series with an astounding 60-run thumping of Australia, finally allowing the 'hosts' to reunite with their loved ones.

Nurul's urgency for home comforts cannot be downplayed as it has been a long time since the cricketers have had a respite. The harsh realities of the Covid-19 pandemic forced the cricketers to leave one bio-secure bubble only to enter another, compelling them to stay away from their families even when living in the same city.

Prior to the series against Australia was a tour of Zimbabwe for a full series, starting from July 7. But instead of going back home after returning from Harare on July 29, the Tigers entered a bio-secure bubble at the Hotel InterContinental straight from the airport for the Australia series.

However, in spite of all the obstacles, Nurul said the cricketers had one objective in mind and never strayed from it.

"When we went to Zimbabwe, we knew it would be a long tour. We had been talking about the Australia series even when we were in Zimbabwe. We were mentally prepared to focus on the Zimbabwe series and give our best in the series against Australia as well," Nurul said.

"We had to stay at the hotel [to quarantine]



**Bangladesh T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad on Monday reached home to a lovely surprise from his son -- a drawing and a message that read 'welcome home'. It has been over three months -- with just a few visits in between -- that the Tigers have been away from their families, fulfilling their duties for the national team. Despite being away from their loved ones, the Tigers have not been timid, portraying mental steadiness while maintaining strict Covid protocols and quarantine as they completed two back-to-back successful series -- a series sweep across formats away to Zimbabwe last month and their first-ever bilateral series win against Australia.**

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

even after arriving in Dhaka from Harare. But we had that mental preparation and we had one objective -- to stay focused till we complete the mission. That's what happened and we were very lucky that we played well," he added, also mentioning that his family had been enduring a bit of a crisis due to his wife's being unwell and that he was relieved to finally be back home.

Even before the month-long tour of Zimbabwe, the cricketers had been engaged in the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League, for which they had to quarantine for about a month. Prior to that, touring Sri Lanka for two Tests followed by the Lankans' visit for three ODIs kept the Tigers busy and away from their loved ones. With the stress of maintaining health protocols and undergoing numerous Covid tests, the Tigers had to soldier through long stretches of time away from family with just a few visits in between and their yearning to return home was not only understandable but natural.

With that said, Bangladesh's future assignment is already set. Mahmudullah Riyad's men are scheduled to host New Zealand for a five-match T20I series from September 1 to 10. For that, according to what the Bangladesh Cricket Board informed, the Tigers will start individual practice from August 15. The BCB also mentioned it was contemplating putting players in quarantine for the series from August 24, the same day the Kiwis are set to arrive in Dhaka.

The Tigers may now be deservedly enjoying a brief period away from cricket, but they certainly know what they need to do when they resume. At least Shakib, according to Nurul, made sure during his speech in the dressing room after Australia series win that the Tigers understand the need to 'keep up this momentum' when they face New Zealand next month.

## Race for second spot heats up

SPORTS REPORTER



With the title of the Bangladesh Premier League already decided, the battle for the runners-up spot heated up as Federation Cup runners-up Saif SC, struggling giants Mohammedan SC and rejuvenated Chattogram Abahani notched victories in their respective matches yesterday.

Saif maintained their unbeaten record in the professional league against Sheikh Russel KC after handing them an emphatic 4-2 defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, which also saw Chattogram Abahani beat Bangladesh Police 4-1 under the floodlights.

Away at the Bangladesh Army Stadium in Banani, Mohammedan beat relegation-threatened Brothers Union 2-0.

With their 11th win in 20 matches, Chattogram Abahani moved to 37 points, two behind Sheikh Jamal DC, who however have a game in hand. Mohammedan, meanwhile,



raised their tally to 36 points from 20 outings, staying just ahead of sixth-placed Saif, who now have 32 points from 19 matches.

On the rain-soaked pitch at the BNS, Saif SC put the pressure on Sheikh Russel from the outset and the early pressure led to the opening goal in the 10th minute when Sheikh Russel defender Asaduzzaman Babul struck the ball

into his own net while attempting to clear a rebound, with John O'koli's shot coming off the crossbar.

Sheikh Russel reacted quickly to equalise with a fine strike from Obi Moneke four minutes later.

Saif, however, went to the break with a comfortable 3-1 lead after Kenneth Ikechukwu Ngwoke drove an Abid Ahmed cross home in the 27th minute before O'koli made it 3-1 with a nod off a Ngwoke header in the 40th minute. Ikechukwu widened the margin in the 52nd minute after letting loose a 25-yard drive past keeper Ashraful Islam Rana.

Obi Moneke pulled another goal back in the 63rd minute but could not help Sheikh Russel avoid their fourth defeat in six league matches against Saif SC.

At the Army Stadium, Shahed Mia broke the deadlock to give Mohammedan a 41st-minute lead against Brothers Union before Suleymane Diabate wrapped up the victory in the 83rd minute.



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## IRREGULARITIES IN HEALTHCARE DGHS orders closure of 7 pvt facilities

All hospitals, diagnostic centres, blood bank located in single building in Mohammadpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate yesterday ordered seven private hospitals, diagnostic centres, and a blood bank in the capital to close down all activities after it found widespread anomalies in those establishments during a recent inspection.

The seven establishments are Prime Orthopedic General Hospital and Digital Diagnostic Centre, Dhaka Healthcare Hospital, Remedy Care Limited, Life Care General Hospital, Jamuna General Hospital, Royal Multi-Care Specialty Hospital, Diagnostic Centre, and Rajdhani Blood Bank and Transfusion Centre.

All seven institutions, located at the Muktijoddha Tower in Mohammadpur, were inspected by a DGHS team on July 28, according to the order.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) also issued show-cause notice as to why licences of those institutions would not be cancelled.

DGHS Assistant Director Mohammad Habib Ismail Bhuiyan and Medical Officer Mahmud Ullah signed the order with approval from the director general.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Failing to get an ICU bed at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, family members of Covid patient Nasima Akter are taking her to a private hospital. The 60-year-old from the capital's Dhanmondi, who was admitted to DMCH Covid unit for around a week, needs ICU support as she developed acute breathing problems yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Pori Moni, Dipu placed on 2 more days' remand

She was in tears during hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed actor Pori Moni and her associate Ashraf Islam Dipu on a fresh two-day remand in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act.

Meanwhile, the same court placed Raz Multimedia owner Nazrul Islam Raz, also an actor and director, and his associate Md Sabuj each on a fresh two-day remand in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act.

The court also placed them on four-day remand each in another case filed under the Pornography Control Act, court sources said.

On August 5, Pori Moni and Nazrul Islam Raz were shown arrested in two separate cases filed by the Rapid Action Battalion under the Narcotics Control Act. The previous day, members of the elite force

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## 6 policemen held for robbing gold businessman

They allegedly robbed him at a highway check point; 15 gold bars recovered from suspects

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Police yesterday detained an inspector, three sub-inspectors and two assistant sub-inspectors of the Detective Branch of police for their alleged involvement in a robbery case.

The arrestees are Inspector Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Feni DB police, Sub-Inspectors Mizanur Rahman, Motaheer Hossain and Nurul Haque and Assistant Sub-Inspectors Avijit Roy and Masud Rana, said Khandakar Nur-Un-Nabi, superintendent of Feni district police.

They were arrested following a written complaint lodged by Gopal Kanti Das, a Chattogram-based gold businessman, said Nur-un-Nabi, adding that 15 gold bars were recovered from their possession.

Later, it became a robbery case, said Nizam Uddin, officer-in-charge of Feni Model Police Station.

SP Nur-un-Nabi said on August 8, Gopal Kanti Das was travelling to Dhaka

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

**ROAD TO FREEDOM**  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Indira calls upon nations to save Bangabandhu

AUGUST 11, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**APPEAL BY INDIRA GANDHI**  
India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi appealed to 23 heads of government around the world to use their influence to save Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In messages sent yesterday and made public today, she said India feared the trial of Bangabandhu "will be used only as a cover to execute him".

US President Richard Nixon, UN Secretary General Thant, Soviet Premier Aleksei N Kosygin, Yugoslavia President Josip Broz Tito and Germany Chancellor Willy Brandt were among those to whom the appeal was sent.

In her letter to President Nixon, Indira said, "The Government and people of India as well as our Press and Parliament are greatly perturbed by the reported statement of [Pakistan] President Yahya Khan that he is going to start a secret military trial of [Bangabandhu Sheikh] Mujibur Rahman without affording him any foreign legal assistance. We apprehend that this so-called trial will be used only as a publicity to execute Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This will aggravate the situation in East Bengal and will create a serious situation in India because of the strong feelings of our people and all political parties. Hence our grave anxiety. We appeal to you to exercise your influence with President Yahya Khan to take a realistic view in the larger interest of the peace and stability of this region."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## RU teacher, pro-AL leader sued by Natore MP

Claims they called his father Razakar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A Rajshahi University teacher and a Swachhchasebak leader of Natore were accused yesterday in a defamation suit for terming a local MP's father Razakar.

Sajidul Islam Sagar, younger brother of MP Shafiqul Islam Shimul, filed the case with a Natore court.

According to the complaint, Shafiqul Azam Swapan, general secretary of Natore Swachhchasebak League, at a press conference on July 25 called MP Shimul's father Hasan Ali Sardar a Razakar, quoting a book on the history of Natore written by RU teacher Sujit Kumar Sarker.

This has tarnished the image of MP Shimul and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Plant that 'can't die' reveals its genetic secrets



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The longest-lived leaves in the plant kingdom can be found only in the harsh, hyperarid desert that crosses the boundary between southern Angola and northern Namibia.

A desert is not, of course, the most hospitable place for living things to grow, let alone leafy greens, but the Namib Desert — the world's oldest, with parts receiving less than 2 inches of precipitation a year — is where Welwitschia calls home.

In Afrikaans, the plant is named "tweblaarkanniedood," which means "two leaves

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## NON-TOURIST VISA Indian mission resumes taking applications today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

All Indian Visa Application Centres (VACs) in Bangladesh resume operations today as the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions have been eased.

"We are back!" said a Facebook post from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday. Applicants do not need to take any appointment or permission to apply for visa at the VACs, it said.

All applications except for tourist visa will be accepted, it added.

Currently, the usual travel between Bangladesh and India remains suspended, but Bangladeshi travellers can visit India with special permission from its government for emergency purposes, including medical and education.

The Bangladesh SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## COVID SHOTS Inoculation of Rohingyas begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Mass inoculation against Covid-19 began at the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Syed Rezwana Hayat formally inaugurated the vaccination campaign at the Kutupalong camp in Ukhiya upazila around 11:00am.

Initially, around 49,000 Rohingyas, aged 55 and above, will be vaccinated, he said while addressing the inaugural function.

The district's civil surgeon Mohammad

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

**PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 11**

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:25	12:45	4:45	6:41	8:00
JAMAT	5:00	1:15	5:00	6:44
				8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Makeshift fruit shops on a street in the capital's Karwan Bazar hamper smooth vehicular movement, causing traffic congestion. Pedestrians also face difficulties crossing the area. This photo was taken around 1:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## AFGHANISTAN WAR Thousands flee homes in north

UN warns of possible war crimes as another city falls to Taliban

AGENCIES

The Taliban seized another Afghan provincial capital yesterday -- the seventh in less than a week -- as tens of thousands of people fled their homes in the north for the relative safety of Kabul and other centres.

A provincial lawmaker told AFP the insurgents had taken Farah city, capital of the same-named province in western Afghanistan, while a Taliban spokesman posted pictures of fighters walking casually past the gates of the police headquarters and governor's office.

Shahla Abubar, a member of Farah's provincial council, said local security forces retreated towards an army base outside the city.

Five of the other provincial capitals to have fallen since Friday are in the country's north with the insurgents setting their sights on Mazar-i-Sharif, the region's biggest city.

Its fall would signal the total collapse of government control in the traditionally anti-Taliban north.

Government forces are also battling the hardline Islamists in Kandahar and Helmand, the southern Pashto-speaking provinces from where the Taliban draw their strength.

The United States -- due to complete a troop withdrawal at the end of the month and end its longest war -- has all but left the battlefield.

However, Washington's special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad is now in Qatar to try and convince the Taliban to accept a ceasefire.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2