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Data sovereignty or data control?

With a new law, govt plans to compel social media platforms to store data inside country

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and ZYMA ISLAM

The government is drafting a bill to make social media surveillance stricter and legal.

The purpose of the bill is seemingly benign -- protection of data generated within the country. Experts and social media users, however, fear that it will be less about protection and more about intervention into user data.

"There are a lot of restrictions in holding offline dissent on the internet became the place where people started coming to, but the small venue where people could express their opinions will not be there anymore. The law will dissuade me from participating in conversations to build my own country," said Dr CR Abrar, an academic currently operating as a part of Nagorik, a platform that works with civic rights and freedom of expression.

Most major social movements in recent

times all began by mobilising online, before hitting the streets.

It is in this climate that the new data protection act is being formulated. One of the main features of this new law will be data localisation, meaning data about citizens collected by major tech companies will have to be stored nationally.

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak confirmed to The Daily Star that they are indeed drafting such a bill. The ICT division is making it.

"The new data protection act will have legislation which states that foreign internet companies have to build data centres nationally and store user data inside the country," said Palak. "This will help us identify and take legal action against those spreading rumours and abusing the internet."

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A Taliban fighter walks past a beauty saloon with images of women defaced using spray paint in Shar-e-Naw in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bashundhara bosses, four editors sued

Whip Shamsul of Ctg files the defamation lawsuit against 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jatiya Sangsad Whip Shamsul Haque yesterday filed a Tk 500-crore defamation case against 11 people, including Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan and its Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir, over publication of "fake, fabricated and baseless" news items in various newspapers and a TV channel run by the Group.

Lawyer Dipak Kumar Shil lodged the case with the Joint District Judge's Court in Patiya on behalf of the Awami League Lawmaker from Chattogram-12.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Secys to blame in event of graft

Warns PM at Sachib Sabha

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Reiterating her stance against corruption, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned secretaries that they will have to shoulder all responsibilities if any corruption takes place in their respective sectors.

Hasina came up with the warning while participating in Sachib Sabha (secretary-level meeting), conducted by Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, at the capital's NEC Conference Room. She joined the meeting virtually from the Gono Bhavan.

"Secretaries are the principal accounting officer of their respective ministries. So they will have to take the responsibility if any graft happens in their ministries," a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Protests test Taliban's promise for peace

Three killed over flag protests; world urges actions on Taliban pledges as outline emerges of new Afghan govt

AGENCIES

At least three people were killed in anti-Taliban protests in the Afghan city of Jalalabad yesterday, witnesses said, as the Islamist group moved to set up a government and Western countries ramped up evacuations from a chaotic Kabul airport.

The Taliban have offered a pledge of reconciliation, vowing no revenge against opponents and to respect women's rights --

but there are huge concerns globally about the Taliban's brutal human rights record and tens of thousands of Afghans are still trying to flee.

A protest in Jalalabad, 150 km from Kabul on the main road to Pakistan, was an early test of that commitment.

Two witnesses and a former police official told Reuters that Taliban fighters had opened fire when local residents tried to install Afghanistan's national flag at a

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"This new law is being drafted to make sure that citizens' data will stay inside the country."

ZUNAI AHMED PALAK
STATE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



"We have no laws to take action against social media companies. We have no laws on data protection and nothing to protect the privacy of people... It is our ultimate goal to make social media companies follow the laws of Bangladesh."

MUSTAFA JABBAR
MINISTER OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATION



"We have known cases, prominent cases where private conversations came out into the open. There are reasons to believe that these were not private organisations executing these leaks. National security is an important issue, but this is often capitalised upon to serve partisan interests."

DR CR ABRAR
DHAKA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR



অভিভাবক হারিয়ে মোহাম্মান আনোয়ার পরিবার

বাংলাদেশের অন্যতম বৃহৎ শিল্পগোষ্ঠী আনোয়ার গ্রুপ অব ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান, লালবাগ এলাকার সাবেক সংসদ সদস্য, প্রথম প্রজন্মের বেসরকারি ব্যাংক সিটি ব্যাংকের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান আলহাজ্ব আনোয়ার হোসেন মৃত্যুবরণ করেছেন। ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন।

সারাজীবন মানুষ ও দেশের জন্য নিবেদিতপ্রাণ ছিলেন আমাদের প্রিয় অভিভাবক। আমরা আনোয়ার গ্রুপের পক্ষ থেকে মরহমের আত্মার শান্তি ও মাগফেরাতের জন্য সকলের কাছে দোয়া প্রার্থী।



Unilever AGI 00121

ALHAJ ANWAR HOSSAIN
30th October 1938 – 17th August 2021

BRIGHT STAR GLOWS FOREVER

We deeply mourn the passing of an icon – Alhaj Anwar Hossain, a founder and erstwhile Chairman of City Bank; founder Chairman of Anwar Group of Industries and a former Member of the Parliament. He was a visionary entrepreneur who left behind a strong mark in a wide number of industries – garments, textiles, spinning, cement, jute, automobiles, financial services, real estate and so on.

He leaves behind a pioneering legacy in shaping up the private sectors of Bangladesh.

He will be an inspiration for us forever.

Unilever 21

7,248
New cases in 24hrs



14,40,644
Total cases



24,719
Deaths



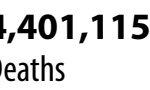
13,27,028
Recoveries



4,401,115
Deaths



209,779,184
Total cases



209,779,184
Total cases

More areas flooded as Padma, Jamuna swell

STAR REPORT

Fresh areas of the country are being inundated as two major rivers -- Padma and Jamuna -- continue to swell due to a combination of onrush of water from upstream and heavy downpours.

Low-lying areas of at least two districts -- Faridpur and Tangail -- have been submerged. Vast tracts of cropland have gone under water while houses and roads have become inundated, causing much hardship for people in the affected areas.

Officials of Water Development Board (WDB), however, have ruled out any chances of long-term flooding.

Meanwhile, a bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday forecast that the water level in all major rivers, except the Surma, were rising.

The 24-hour forecast was released at 9:00am yesterday.

"The flood situation in low-lying areas of Rajbari and Faridpur districts may deteriorate," it said. "The Teesta river may rise and remain close to the danger level at Dalia [in Nilphamari] point."

Our correspondents from different districts yesterday reported on the flood situation.

In Faridpur, some 3,000 families of 25 villages in Sadar upazila were marooned because of floodwater from the Padma.

The river was flowing 16cm above the danger level at Goalanda Ghat Point in Rajbari yesterday morning, according to WDB officials.

"We are going through untold suffering as most roads of our area have been submerged," said Abdul Rajjak Sheikh, 32, of Mujaffar Dangi village in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

A farmer, Jalal Sheikh, 52, of Tajuddin Mollar Dangi village in the same upazila, said, "I cultivated Aush paddy on around 1.5 bighas of land, but I was forced to cut all of my crop before it reached maturity as floodwater entered the land."

Juleka Begum, 41, a homemaker of Sultankhar Dangi village in Sadar upazila, said, "Water is increasing rapidly in our area. Our toilet has gone under water -- we are facing immense hardship."

The local administration has arranged relief for the flood-hit people, said Masum Raza, Sadar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

In Tangail, low-lying areas have gone under water as water level of Jamuna, Dhaleshwari river and a few other branches of the Jamuna continued to rise.

Besides, river erosion has impacted different places in Sadar, Bhuanpur, Kalihati and Nagarpur upazilas. Many people were seen relocating because of it.

The water level of the Jamuna has risen by 23cm in 24 hours preceding 6:00am yesterday, although it was still below the danger mark, said WDB officials.

Contacted, Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of WDB in Tangail, said the Jamuna may continue rising for the next two or three days, but there is no possibility of flood in the mainland.

Besides, necessary measures have already been taken to check river erosion, he added.

In Sirajganj, the water level of Jamuna has increased, but WDB officials ruled out any chances of flooding.

"Water levels have been rising since August 13 -- increasing by 25cm to 30cm each day. The water level is expected to rise further in the next two or three days," said Md Nasir Uddin, sub-divisional engineer of Sirajganj WDB.

But the water level is still below the danger level, he added.

The onrush from upstream combined with heavy downpour has caused a quick rise in the water level of the Jamuna, Nasir said, adding that despite the rise, there is no immediate fear of flooding.

[Our correspondents in Faridpur, Tangail and Sirajganj contributed to this report.]



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

FOOTPATH OR ROAD? Two rickshaw-pullers with passengers pedal their vehicles past a parked car on a footpath of the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. It is illegal for vehicles to get on a path that by its very name denotes that it is meant for pedestrians, but such rule violations are a common sight in the capital.

Data sovereignty or data control?

FROM PAGE 1

Palak said this new law is being drafted to make sure that citizens' data will stay inside the country.

Apart from tech companies, foreign financial institutions will also have to establish data centres in Bangladesh and will be brought under this legislation, he said.

"They will be obliged to follow the law, or else they will not be allowed to operate in Bangladesh," said Palak. "We are formulating this law in order to make sure that the data of the people stay within the country."

Mustafa Jabbar, minister of Post and Telecommunication, said this law is being drafted to fulfil three major gaps. "We have no laws to take action against social media companies. We have no laws on data protection and nothing to protect the privacy of people."

"It is our ultimate goal to make social media companies follow the laws of Bangladesh," said Mustafa Jabbar.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's tracker, Bangladesh is one of the 25 countries in the world with no laws on data privacy and protection, so experts recognise the need for legislation in this area.

But experts fear that the new legislation is not focusing on the right thing.

"What the government is trying to do is called data localisation," said advocate Md Saimum Reza Talukder, a senior lecturer at Brac University who specialises in law, privacy and digital technologies.

Data localisation means that the physical device in which a person's data is contained, has to be located within the borders of the state that the person belongs to. Experts call this a double-edged sword.

"It is not clear whether the new draft will contain provisions for the government to get access to such physical devices or not. The worrying aspect of this is that if proper checks and balances are not described in the new draft, the government will have a chance to get access to personal information," said Talukder. He added that it is also not clear in the proposed law whether the government is allowed to seize the physical device where the data is stored.

"The government thinks that data is the biggest wealth of the future, and it is to protect this data that we are making this law," Palak argued.

Experts insist that the law should be about protecting user data from anyone -- including state actors.

"Data about me should be my property-- no law recognises this," said

Talukder.

"We have known cases, prominent cases where private conversations came out into the open. There are reasons to believe that these were not private organisations executing these leaks. National security is an important issue, but this is often capitalised upon to serve partisan interests," said Dr Abrar.

"What we want are formal laws that ensure this privacy from the state," he said.

The dire need for a law that protects data from anyone can be understood if the existing Data Privacy and Protection Regulation 2019 -- which is not a law -- is scrutinised.

Experts say that in the regulation -- which provides a guideline for the application of the Digital Security Act's (DSA's) section 60 -- there are not enough checks and balances to protect data from state actors.

The regulation defines how citizen's personal data can be obtained, stored and used, but in many cases also exempts state agencies from complying with them.

For example, Section 21 (b) of the guideline allows government agencies to share private information among one another to investigate cyber incidents and identify individuals.

"There should be a judicial scrutiny to obtain such access," opined Talukder.

Talukder also pointed out, "The definition of the words 'national sovereignty', 'integrity', 'national and digital security' mentioned in Section 15 (a) needs to be given; otherwise these remain vague terms."

After all, vaguely defined terms have been part of the pitfalls of the DSA. During the formation of the law, it was repeated over and over that the law will not be abused to target journalists and dissenters, but the reality is fairly different.

"Governments are pushing for data localisation under the guise of boosting the economy, tackling online harms, or protecting privacy. But the laws often do the opposite while making it easier to conduct surveillance. In countries that have poor standards of cyber-security, judicial independence, and data protection, data localisation presents a risk not only to privacy, but to the full spectrum of human rights," said Adrian Shahbaz, the director for technology and democracy at Freedom House, a Washington DC-based think-tank, which published a report last year called "User Privacy or Cyber Sovereignty?"

An example of a strong data protection law is the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. Not only does it regulate how data can

be accessed and who can access the data, but it also gives citizens the right to know what data is being collected about them, what will be done with it, how it will be processed, and finally, empowers the citizens to withdraw consent at any point in time.

India recently clamped down on Mastercard Inc and earlier, American Express, for not complying with local data storage rules. The Reserve Bank of India wanted data on Indian card payments to be stored inside India only. In July, Russia fined Google \$40,000 for refusing to localise users' data.

The law that will force tech companies to store data locally comes at a time when the Bangladesh government has made the highest number of requests to both Facebook and Google for user data.

In 2013, the government had made only one request to Facebook for user data. Last year, that amount had risen to 541. As many as 76 of those requests dealt with criticism of the government.

For the past four years, the social media giant had given data for at least half of the requests.

Last year, only a little over half the requests made by the government followed the "legal process" while the rest were made under the category of "emergency disclosure".

The social media platform defines emergency requests as, "In emergencies, law enforcement may submit requests without legal process. Based on the circumstances, we may voluntarily disclose information to law enforcement where we have a good faith reason to believe that the matter involves imminent risk of serious physical injury or death."

Similarly, in 2014, the government had made only one request to Google regarding content, citing defamation, issues of national security and government criticism. Last year, that number was 87. A vast majority -- 74 of them -- dealt with criticism of the government.

The government will not just stop at formulating a data protection act -- they are also going to bring crucial changes to Bangladesh Telecommunications Act 2001 to widen the net for those involved in "anti-state activities", Mustafa Jabbar said.

The law will be amended so as to legally prosecute those participating in "anti-state" activities stationed abroad, in such a manner as if they are located inside the country. The DSA already allows for this under Section 4.

"However, this is still in draft stage and has not even gone to the law ministry," he said.

Court slaps travel ban on 5 people of eorange

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a travel ban against 3 officials and two former owners of e-commerce platform eorange in a case filed for embezzling around Tk 1,100 crore by not delivering their products.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order, following an application submitted by the case's investigation officer, court sources said.

The five people are eorange's former owners Sonia Mehjabin, her husband Masukur Rahman, Amanullah, Bithi Akter, and Kausar Ahmed.

Earlier, Md Abubakar Siddique, Dhaka's additional chief metropolitan magistrate, sent Sonia and Masukur to jail after the couple surrendered before court, seeking bails in the case.

On Monday night, Md Taherul Islam, a customer, filed the case against the five with Gulshan Police Station over embezzling nearly Tk 1,100 crore, alleging the platform was not delivering products purchased since April 28 this year, said Aminul Islam, inspector (investigation) of the police station.

In the case statement, the complainant said the products were supposed to be delivered within an agreed period, but it did not happen, adding that the customers were not getting assurance whether they would get their money back.

"Confusions have been created over a change in ownership [of the company]," said Taherul, who was accompanied by several other eorange customers when the case was filed.

Six held in Joypurhat for 'making porn'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rab arrested six people for their alleged involvement in producing and marketing porn in Joypurhat's Khetlal upazila on Tuesday night.

They are Mehedi Hasan of Salukdubi village, Faruk Hossain of Ikargara village, Akram Hossain of Salban village, Sujana Haldar of Namapara village, Ekhasur Rahman and Shahinur Rahman of Baniyapara village of the upazila.

The arrestees are aged between 24 and 35, said Rab.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-5 in Joypurhat held them from different places of the upazila in the overnight raid.

After a case was filed under the pornography act, Rab handed them over to police yesterday. Later, the six were sent to jail by a court.

Lt Toukir Ahmed, commander of Joypurhat Rab camp, said the arrestees were members of porn production and marketing racket in the district, and the youths were their potential customers.

Several electronic items, including a computer, were seized from their possession, the Rab official said.

Bashundhara

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The other accused are Bangladesh Pratinid Editor and News24 TV CEO Naem Nizam; Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haq Milan; The Daily Sun Editor Enamul Haque Chowdhury; Bangladesh Pratinid reporters Saidur Rahman Rimon, and Mohammed Selim; and its Chattogram Bureau Chief Reaz Hyder Chowdhury; Kaler Kantho reporter SM Rana; and the editor of Banglanews24.com.

Dipak said the court accepted the case and fixed September 23 for hearing.

According to the case statement, using their media outlets, Akbar Sobhan and his son Anvir, also managing director of East West Media Group Ltd, published fake, baseless, and fabricated news reports out of personal enmity, bringing false allegations of corruption and unlawful activities against Shamsul and his son Nazmul Karim Chowdhury Sharun.

The publication of more than a hundred such news reports harmed the social status and political reputation of Shamsul and his family, affecting the lawmaker mentally, physically and financially, it mentioned.

Lawyer Dipak said his client filed the defamation case for compensation, showing respect to law.

Citing from the case statement, the lawyer said, "The accused published fake, baseless and fabricated news reports one after another in their media outlets out of personal enmity with my client and his son, tarnishing their personal, social and political image."

"Several notices were sent to them over this [publication of the news items] but they did not respond. My client said he has no enmity with the journalists of the media outlets under Bashundhara Group but he had no choice but to go for a legal battle," said Dipak, also senior vice president of Patiya Lawyers' Association.

Protests test Taliban's

FROM PAGE 1

square in the city, killing three people and injuring more than a dozen.

Al Jazeera later reported that the protests had expanded beyond Jalalabad to several other provinces.

Meanwhile, the Taliban yesterday gave hints at how the future government in Afghanistan may look like.

The new government may take the form of a ruling council, with Taliban supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada in overall charge, a senior member of the group said.

But Afghanistan would not be a democracy, Waheedullah Hashimi told Reuters: "It is sharia law and that is it."

The power structure that Hashimi outlined would bear similarities to how Afghanistan was run the last time the Taliban were in power from 1996 to 2001. Then, supreme leader Mullah Omar remained in the shadows and left the day-to-day running of the country to a council.

Akhundzada would likely play a role above the head of the council, who would be akin to the country's president, Hashimi added.

"Maybe his (Akhundzada's) deputy will play the role of 'president'," Hashimi said, speaking in English.

The Taliban's supreme leader has three deputies: Mullah Yaqoob, son of Mullah Omar, Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the powerful militant Haqqani network, and Abdul Ghani Baradar, who heads the Taliban's political office in Doha and is one of the founding members of the group.

Many issues regarding how the Taliban would run Afghanistan have yet to be finalised, he added.

On Tuesday, Mullah Baradar returned to Afghanistan for the first time in more than 10 years. Reports said that he is expected to head any future government.

It also comes as a Taliban commander and senior leader of the Haqqani Network, Anas Haqqani, yesterday met former Afghan president Hamid Karzai for talks to form an "inclusive government", a Taliban official said.

Karzai was accompanied by the old government's main peace envoy, Abdullah Abdullah, in the meeting, said the Taliban official, who declined to be identified. He gave no more details.

The talks came as president Ashraf Ghani -- who fled Afghanistan as the insurgents closed in on Kabul at the weekend, sealing their return to power -- said from the United Arab Emirates that he supported those negotiations and was in talks to return home.

The Taliban took effective control of the country on Sunday when Ghani fled and the insurgents walked into Kabul with no opposition. It capped a staggeringly fast rout of all cities in just 10 days, achieved with relatively little bloodshed, following two decades of war that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

The rout was paved by US President Joe Biden decision to troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. Yesterday, British lawmakers harshly criticized him calling Afghanistan's collapse into Taliban hands a failure of intelligence, leadership and moral duty.

Despite the dovish tone of Taliban, thousands of Afghans, many of whom helped US-led foreign forces in the two decades since an invasion ended

the Taliban's 1996-2001 rule, are desperate to leave the country.

About 5,000 diplomats, security staff, aid workers and Afghans have been evacuated from Kabul in the last 24 hours and military flights will continue around the clock, a Western official told Reuters.

But chaos remained around the airport.

Taliban commanders and soldiers fired into the air to disperse crowds outside Kabul airport, a Taliban official said. "We have no intention to injure anyone," he told Reuters adding they were trying to bring order to chaos.

The United Nations said it had begun moving up to 100 international staff to Kazakhstan but said the measure was temporary and stressed it is "committed to staying and delivering in support of the Afghan people in their hour of need". The UN has about 300 international staff and 3,000 local staff in Afghanistan.

ACTIONS NOT WORDS
The Taliban have suggested they will impose their laws more softly than during their former harsh rule, and a senior official yesterday said that the group's leaders would be less restrictive than in the past.

In Taliban's first news briefing since their return to Kabul, the group's spokesperson said the new regime would be "positively different" from their 1996-2001 stint, which was infamous for deaths by stoning, girls being banned from school and women from working in contact with men.

Biden's administration gave a non-committal response to the Taliban's pledges of tolerance.

"If the Taliban says they are going to respect the rights of their citizens, we will be looking for them to uphold that statement and make good on that statement," State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

Russia and China have quickly signalled their willingness to work with the Taliban but remained skeptical of their promises.

"We'll see what they do, whether it will be according to the pronouncements that they made," Russia's UN Ambassador Vasily Nebenzia told reporters.

Echoing that comment and those of other Western leaders, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the Taliban would be judged on their actions.

"We will judge this regime based on the choices it makes, and by its actions rather than by its words, on its attitude to terrorism, to crime and narcotics, as well as humanitarian access and the rights of girls to receive an education," he told parliament, recalled from summer recess to debate the crisis.

The EU, US and 19 other countries issued a joint statement yesterday saying they were "deeply worried about Afghan women and girls", urging the Taliban to ensure their safety.

Many Afghans are sceptical of the Taliban promises. Some said they could only wait and see.

"My family lived under the Taliban and maybe they really want to change or have changed but only time will tell and it's going to become clear very soon," said Ferishta Karimi, who runs a tailoring shop for women.



FROM PAGE 1

meeting insider quoted Sheikh Hasina as saying.

Usually, secretary-level meetings are held randomly and the PM remains present once a year. But this time, the PM joined the Sachib Sabha after about four years. The previous Sachib Sabha was held in 2017.

Standard practice is that the PM holds Sachib Sabha immediately after formation of a new government, to inform various government policies to the highest-level bureaucrats.

But yesterday's meeting was the first meeting after the incumbent Sheikh Hasina-led government assumed office in 2019. The PM, however, had visited several ministries after the government was formed.

Hasina told the secretaries that the government was providing all benefits to them, so she would not tolerate any corruption. She threatened to take tough actions against corrupt public servants, said sources.

The PM also warned that she would not accept any misuse of power and public money, the sources said.

At the meeting, Hasina said agricultural land was being lost to different development work and asked secretaries to take new development plans only after saving agricultural land.

She called upon the secretaries to make their highest efforts in inviting

foreign investments to their respective sectors, said sources. Besides, the PM emphasised on establishing good governance.

At the meeting, the education secretary informed the premier of his ministry's preparations for reopening educational institutions, which have remained closed since March last year due to the pandemic.

The PM then asked the secretary to make sure that the Covid situation and the number of vaccinated students, aged 18 and above, are taken into consideration before the reopening, said sources.

In her introductory speech, the PM emphasised the need for reopening of the educational institutions and asked the authorities concerned to make a quick move regarding this, reports UNB.

"Not only universities, but also



Milon, who is suffering from Covid-19, had been receiving treatment at a private hospital for the last few days, but after further health complications were detected, authorities referred him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Yesterday, after luckily getting a bed, Milon's loved ones were busy carrying him from the ambulance to the DMCH building.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BANGABANDHU

The leader, the idealist, the pragmatist

Noted politicians, economists remember the Father of the Nation at virtual discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a man of his words, lived his life among the common people and worked towards building a society that is egalitarian and free of any form of exploitation, his close accomplices said yesterday.

While remembering the Father of the Nation's contributions in an online commemorative event, noted politicians and economists, who worked closely with him, highlighted that betterment of the country's people was Bangabandhu's first and foremost agenda.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) arranged the discussion titled "Bangabandhu Kache Theke Dekha: Remembrance by



He [Bangabandhu] was different from those leaders who would say things but act differently after coming to power.

PROF. REHMAN SOBHAN



Bangabandhu had sacrificed his life for a country free of exploitation, inequality and communalism. But his dream could not be fulfilled, even 50 years after liberation.

DR. KAMAL HOSSAIN



People were Bangabandhu's first and foremost concern. He showed no discrimination based on someone's political ideology. He always respected opposition.

TOFAIL AHMED

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TALIBAN: REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

A game-changing event

In conversation with Prof Shahab Enam Khan

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The Taliban's assumption of power in Afghanistan has sent global and regional politics into a spin. How things will unfold in the coming days is now being discussed across the world. In this context, The Daily Star recently talked with Prof Shahab Enam Khan of Jahangirnagar University's Department of International Relations to get a picture of the whole situation.

The Daily Star (DS): Why couldn't the Afghan Defence Force form any resistance against the Taliban?

Shahab Enam Khan: The Taliban used multi-pronged strategies, ranging from military to non-military tactics and diplomatic efforts. Moreover, the Afghan national security forces were incapable of dealing with even low-intensity conflicts without support from international forces. Reports earlier published by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction indicated that there were no qualitative changes in the Afghan Defence Force. That's why when the Taliban regrouped, they did not face any obstruction either from the defence force nor from the people.

DS: Is there any difference between the incumbent Taliban and the one that ruled Afghanistan before?

Khan: The Pashtun community dominated the Taliban force before they entered a dialogue process in 2014 to rebrand themselves as an all ethnic entity by getting Tajiks, Shias, Hazaras and others on board. That's why people from different ethnic groups are in leadership positions of the Taliban force.

But the biggest concern for the Taliban is to maintain unity among the different ethnic groups within its hierarchy.

DS: With the Taliban in power, what

does the future hold for the Afghan people?

Khan: If the Taliban sticks to its pledges to Beijing or Washington (during negotiation) and to the Afghan people, there can be stability. But, if they back out from promises and resort to pre-2014 extremist ideology, it won't be good for the region, let alone the Afghans. We have to wait a few more weeks to see how things unfold in Kabul.

Till date, there has been no alarming bloodshed in Kabul. The incident at the airport took place centring mob control. Some Taliban were entering houses to ask whether there were any arms and government vehicles. But we are yet to get any evidence of strong retaliation from the Taliban against pro-Ghani or pro-Western people. This situation may change though. There might be some looting or robbery, which sometimes happen during a transition. Nonetheless, the fear of returning to extremism is very much real among the Afghans.

Women's rights is also a big concern with the return of the Taliban in power. This is something that has to be monitored. Without women's empowerment, no development will be real.

DS: How will this event impact global and regional politics?

Khan: This is a game-changing incident because two different trios have been formed. One is Beijing-Kabul-Islamabad and the other is Tehran-Ankara-Kabul. Besides, Delhi is a big factor and so is Dhaka.

Bangladesh has a key role to play in this situation. Since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the senior most political leader in South Asia, she can reactivate Saarc. It's a big opportunity

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Bangladesh has a key role to play in this situation. Since PM Sheikh Hasina is the senior most political leader in South Asia, she can reactivate Saarc. It's a big opportunity for the South Asian countries to resume regional cooperation centring Kabul. Bangladesh is a firm believer of multilateralism and regional stability, which is required to contain extremism, so it can take the lead.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

4 more die of dengue, 306 hospitalised

STAR REPORT

Four more patients have died of dengue, while 306 more were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 30 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. All recorded deaths have been in July and August.

Twelve people died in July, while 18 have died in August so far. Among the 306 new cases, 33 are from outside Dhaka, according to the DGHS.

The total number of dengue patients this year has reached 6,956. Of the total infected, only 386 are from outside Dhaka. Among the 6,956 infected, 4,298 were diagnosed in August.

At least 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, and 43 were infected in May, according to DGHS.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,193 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals across Dhaka, and 83 outside the capital, the DGHS data shows.

DGHS WORRIED

Meanwhile, DGHS yesterday expressed concern over the current dengue situation, reports UNB.

"We all witnessed how hard the dengue situation hit us

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

'A five-layered narcotics syndicate'

Detectives bust 'meth, yaba smuggling gang', arrest 9 members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From Myanmar to Dhaka, expensive crystal meth, along with pink yaba tablets, are pouring into the country through the border.

This was discovered when detectives busted an organised syndicate that smuggles crystal meth, after nine members of the group were arrested on Tuesday, claim law enforcers.

They smuggled the narcotic consignment containing the drug -- popularly known as "ice" -- to Dhaka, targeting its high-end user base, police's Detective Branch (DB) disclosed the details yesterday.

Ice or crystal meth is a drug rich in pure methyl amphetamine and is extremely expensive, police said. It is possible to make several hundred pieces of yaba with

only one gramme of crystal meth.

After primary interrogation, detectives also discovered a five-layered strategy employed by the syndicate. Detectives are calling it the "cut-out" strategy.

Within the syndicate, each layer has its own chief. Only the "layer boss" knows the identity of the previous layer's chief, and no one in the syndicate knows all members of the whole group. It is called the "cut-out" system, as the layers are cut off from one another.

In case the consignment got seized by law enforcers, the "cut-out" strategy makes sure the ringleader remains out of touch.

The arrestees are Nazim Uddin, Abbas Uddin, Nasir Uddin, Sheuli Akter, Kohinur Begum, Sanjit Das, Hasan Ali, Rashida Begum, and Mousumi Akter.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



As far as the eyes can see, this makeshift bazaar takes up this area from the capital's Jurain to Kutubkhali. It sprang up right on top of the Kamalapur to Narayanganj rail track after authorities cleared the area to construct elevated expressways on both sides of the track. As the rail service was shut off during the pandemic, the bazaar only kept getting bigger, even earning a name for itself: Boubazaar. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HEALTH COVERAGE FOR WORKERS

Nationwide initiative a must: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Introducing a national initiative regarding health insurance coverage for readymade garment workers and wage earners of other sectors, in collaboration with government and private entities, is crucial, said Md Mujibur Huq MP, chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Labour and Employment Ministry, yesterday.

He also asked the public insurance companies to offer health insurance for low-income earners.

The lawmaker was speaking at a virtual roundtable titled, "Health Insurance for RMG Workers in Bangladesh: Designing Policy and Management Structure".

It was organised by Health Economics Unit (HEU) of Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Institute of Health Economics (IHE) of Dhaka University,

Brac, Netherland-based development organisation SNV and the Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

HEU director general Dr Md Shahadat Hossain Mahamud said the RMG sector already has a systematic and formal structure in collaboration with BGMEA, BKMEA, and Labour and Employment Ministry's Central Fund, which enables the sector to be the initiator of institutional health insurance policy for workers' wellbeing.

Other sectors' workers could be brought under health insurance in phases, he added.

Brac Climate Change and Urban Development programmes director Dr Md Liakath Ali said the country should introduce health insurance for wage-earners, adding that the RMG sector is ready to introduce it, which can be scaled up in other sectors after success in RMG.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

RAPE, MURDER OF GIRL IN KUSHITIA SC confirms death for one, 3 get life term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday affirmed the death penalty of a convict, Shukur Ali, and commuted death sentences of three others to life imprisonment in a case filed for abduction, rape and killing of a 13-year-old girl in Kushtia in 2004.

The Appellate Division of the SC also asked the jail authorities to shift the three lifers -- Nuruddin Sentu, Azanur Rahman and Mamun Hossain -- to normal cell from the condemn one.

A five-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain delivered the verdict after hearing separate appeals filed by the convicts challenging the High Court judgement that confirmed their death sentences.

On March 25 in 2004, Sabina, daughter of Abdul Malek Jhonu from Lalnagar village under Kushtia's Daulatpur upazila, went to a neighbour's house to watch television at night. The convicts abducted her while she was returning home. They took her away to a tobacco field. Later, they raped and killed her there.

The following day, her father filed a case with Daulatpur Police Station.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Hospitals need to have contingency plans

Say speakers on disaster management preparedness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hospitals of the country need to be brought under contingency plans to face natural disasters, like earthquake, said speakers at a webinar held on Tuesday.

"Hospitals are a sensitive space as they house vulnerable people. This is why disaster management preparedness is extremely important for them," deputy director (humanitarian) of Save the Children in Bangladesh Nazmun Nahar said at the webinar.

Titled "Paving Resilience through City Governance", the session was hosted by The Daily Star, while Plan International Bangladesh organised it. Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) partnered with Save the Children in Bangladesh to execute it.

Nazmun Nahar said five hospitals in Dhaka and one in Narayanganj are under

contingency planning but similar plans should be in place for all hospitals, in line with the national policy.

As per the contingency plan, resource management and holding frequent mock drills are very important, she mentioned.

She spoke of the project being implemented in this regard. Titled "Strengthening institutional systems and governance mechanisms for improved earthquake preparedness and disaster response", it is funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

Disaster risk management specialist Rezaul Karim said the hospital disaster management plan and hospital disaster guideline were prepared in 2009, while the government also prepared a contingency plan for nine medical college hospitals afterwards.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Helena Jahangir confesses to magistrate

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Businessperson-turned-politician Helena Jahangir confessed to a magistrate yesterday that she illegally possessed foreign liquor and currency at her residence.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dhiman Chandra Mondol recorded her statement after DB Inspector Shafiqur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, brought her to his chamber, court sources said.

After recording her statement, the magistrate sent her to jail.

She told the magistrate that she also kept a deer skin at her house, which is illegal.

Besides, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim yesterday rejected Helena's bail petition in a fraud case.



THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE RISKY... As the port city's streets return to near-normalcy following the lockdown, what has also returned is its traffic congestions and blatant disregard for road safety. Just on Tuesday morning, the city's Colonel Hat was witness to multiple instances of traffic safety violations -- from overboarded rickshaws and indiscriminate lane change to risky road-crossing with infants in tow.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN



Lokman Hakim NO MORE

CITY DESK

Lokman Hakim, founder director of Meghna Bank Limited, passed away at National Hospital, Chattogram on August 17. He was 65, said a press release.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, two sons, family members and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Meghna Bank family expressed profound sadness at the demise of Lokman Hakim.

Hakim was a prominent business personality and proprietor of Ziri Subader Steel Re-Rolling Mills. He was also involved in various social and development initiatives.

A five-layered narcotics

FROM PAGE 3

The DB team also recovered 88,000 yaba pills and 500 grammes of crystal meth in separate drives from Dhaka's Mohammadpur and Jatrabari areas, Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB (Gulshan Division) police, told The Daily Star.

"We have seen similar strategies in militant outfits, but this is the first time we have witnessed a narcotics syndicate applying a similar scheme," he said.

First layer members maintain relations and smuggling operations from Myanmar to Cox's Bazar. Consignments are then handed over to the second layer, which is responsible for the Cox's Bazar-Chattogram route, the DC said.

The third layer oversees consignments till they reach Chattogram, from where the fourth layer takes over and brings them to Jatrabari, he said.

The fifth layer is in charge of taking the drugs to the end-users, said the official.

With the nine arrestees, police have only managed to arrest fourth- and fifth-layer members, but those in the top tier are still on the run, Mashiur said. During primary interrogation, the arrestees said they transported the yaba and ice from Chattogram to Cumilla in a large truck, which was mainly used to carry LPG gas cylinders from Chattogram to Mongla port.

DC Mashiur Rahman said the arrestees threatened the truck driver into taking them on the journey, but then paid him money for the work. Later, the syndicate brought the consignment to Jatrabari and Mohammadpur by private car.

DC Mashiur Rahman said, "We have primarily come to know that the ice and yaba have come from Myanmar. We are gathering information of other syndicate members and trying to arrest them."

AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "Ice users are usually from the affluent class residing in upscale Dhaka areas."

Detectives claimed they have managed to seize the consignment before its items began selling in the capital.

Addressing a briefing at DMP's media centre, Hafiz said as the drug business was seeing a downward trend due to the lockdown, they syndicate brought in the consignment to revitalise business after the lockdown was lifted.

The leader, the idealist

FROM PAGE 3

His Contemporaries". Dr Kamal Hossain, Gono Forum president and a top leader of Jatiya Oikyafront, who was law and foreign minister during 1972-75, said Bangabandhu had sacrificed his life for a country free of exploitation, inequality and communalism. But his dream could not be fulfilled, even 50 years after liberation.

"We need to find out why, in all these years, we could not establish the values for which he sacrificed his life," he said.

He proposed a convention of all parties, economists and others within three months to address the issues.

Noted economist and member of the first planning commission, Prof Rehman Sobhan, said Bangabandhu was definitely a man of his words.

"He [Bangabandhu] was different from those leaders who would say things but act differently after coming to power. This is a unique quality," he said.

Bangabandhu was a strong believer of an equitable society. One can get a clear idea about his ideals from reading his memoirs and prison diaries, he noted.

One would realise that Bangabandhu lived his life among citizens and he was concerned about the working class and common people. He understood the true nature of the exploitation of farmers and workers, he added.

Veteran Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed, who was political secretary to Bangabandhu, said, "People were Bangabandhu's first and foremost concern. He showed no discrimination based on someone's political ideology. He always respected opposition."

Eminent economist Prof Nurul Islam, who served as deputy chairperson of the first Planning Commission of Bangladesh, in a video speech, remembered his time with Bangabandhu.

He was a humanitarian who was greatly distraught by the starvation of people in 1974, Prof Islam said.

M Syeduzzaman, who served as planning secretary during 1973-75, said Bangabandhu was a pragmatic leader who could recognise people's needs and priorities. "The country faced three crop failures in 1972 and 1973, which led to food scarcity. Aside from a little help from abroad, there were virtually no resources coming from domestic or external sources," he remembered.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor M Farashuddin, who was private secretary to Bangabandhu, said Bangabandhu paid attention to political allies as well as political opponents.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim, who was vice president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union for 1972-73, said Bangabandhu was an extraordinary leader and all should judge him objectively.

"We should know, study, understand and practise his ideals," Selim said.

Planning Minister MA Mannan, who presided over the event, said it is true that disparity still exists in the country. "The highway of development we have chosen due to different reasons is increasing inequality... but if we go ahead with more initiatives, inequality could be diminished."

Dr Binayak Sen, director general, BIDS, moderated the discussion.

Hospitals need

FROM PAGE 3

As per the instruction of the prime minister, the government is now in the process of preparing an emergency management guideline with the pandemic in consideration, he added. The government will start its work within the next couple of months, he said.

Stressing the need for more attention on risk reduction and contingency planning for disasters like earthquake, Manik Kumar Saha, acting Dhaka and country portfolio manager of Plan International Bangladesh, said, "Though Bangladesh is known as a disaster management champion globally, most of our expertise comes in dealing with disasters like flood and cyclone."

"We lag far behind when it comes to urban disasters like fire hazards, chemical pollution, or earthquakes," he said.

Emphasising the need for inter-agency coordination, Manik said there are 42 to 45 government organisations involved with service providing works but

communication gap among them prevents service efficiency.

Action Aid Bangladesh's Morium Nesa said though policies are in place in the country, they need proper implementation to bring results.

"Hospitals need to safeguard themselves against disasters because they are the ones who will have to take care of people affected by the disasters," she pointed out.

The tri-session webinar was moderated by Yasna Rahman, project manager of Plan International Bangladesh, and Shah Nawaz Whara, manager-coordinator, Urban Resilience Project, Save The Children in Bangladesh.

Among others, Dr Mahbul Alam, population Services and Training Centre; Prof Shuchita Sharmin; Prof Mahbuba Nasrin; Mostafizur Rahman, humanitarian and resilience manager of Plan International Bangladesh; and Shuvashish Roy of The Daily Star addressed the programme.

Nationwide initiative

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh Diabetic Association chairman AK Azad Khan suggested that health insurance should be tax-free.

In the Keynote, HEI Professor Dr Syed Abdul Hamid said different NGOs operate various pilot health insurance projects to safeguard RMG workers.

"Research found that participation in the health insurance ease healthcare cost and increase productivity of RMG workers," he said.

"Although most of the projects' timeline is near the end, no policy or management framework has been developed yet to advance the project or undertake

permanent initiatives," he added.

Therefore, it is crucial to establish a social health insurance management unit in collaboration with all stakeholders including the government, factory owners and the workers, he further added.

Central Fund DG Dr Selina Akter, HEU's research director Dr Md Nurul Amin, ANM Saifuddin from BGMEA, Mohammad Hatem from BKMEA, Progati Life Insurance CEO M Jalaul Azim, Gonoshasthaya Kendra's Dr Rejaul Huq, and Bangladesh Garments Workers' League president Sirajul Alam Rony, among others, spoke at the roundtable, facilitated by Prothom Alo's assistant editor Firoz Choudhury.

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FACULTY SEARCH

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4 more die of dengue

FROM PAGE 3

In 2019. We are on the brink of similar situation this year," said DGHS spokesperson Md Nazmul Islam.

However the imminent disaster can be avoided if the concerned authorities including the city corporations speed up their anti-mosquito drives and people remain careful, he said.

If someone suffers from fever they should immediately undergo dengue test alongside Covid-19 one.

Besides, this test is free at government hospitals of the country, he added.

Meanwhile, the authorities concerned have urged all to be careful so that water cannot remain stagnant for more than three days at pots, flower tubs, rooftops, or containers.

SC confirms

FROM PAGE 3

On February 4 in 2009, Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal of Kushtia sentenced the five accused -- Shukur, Sentu, Azanur, Mamun and Kamrul -- to death in the case.

Following this, the convicts filed separate appeals with the HC. The HC in 2014 confirmed their capital punishment.

In the meantime, convict Kamrul died in jail, said defence lawyer Raghob Chowdhury.

The defence lawyer said they placed the arguments before the apex court that convict Shukur Ali was 23 and the three others were around 15 at the time of the incident.

A game-changing

FROM PAGE 3

to resume regional cooperation centring Kabul. Bangladesh is a firm believer of multilateralism and regional stability, which is required to contain extremism, so it can take the lead.

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Memo No. 46.02.5200.000.07.030.21-1531 Date: 17/08/2021

e-GP Tender Notice No. 03/2021-22

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the work listed below:

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | Name of work | Last selling date & time | Closing date & time | Tendering method |
|---------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 598504 | FDR/Lal/ 21-22/ CW-25 | Construction of 2x4.50x2.50m RCC Box Culvert on Jogetber UP-Kadur Bazar Road at Ch. 2000m [Road ID No. 152703015] under Patgram Upazila, District Lalmonirhat. | 06/09/21 17:00 | 07/09/21 13:00 | LTM |
| 598503 | FDR/Lal/ 21-22/ UZR-27 | Rehabilitation of Dhorla Bridge-Awliar Hat GC Road from Ch. 4500m-5500m & Ch. 6500m-10600m [Road ID No. 152702002] under Patgram Upazila, District Lalmonirhat. | 19/09/21 17:00 | 20/09/21 13:00 | OSTETM |

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 and registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Ashraf Ali Khan
Executive Engineer
Phone: 0591-61393
E-mail: xen.lalmonirhat@lged.gov.bd

GD-1489

World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization Emergency Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh invites proposals/bids using "Two-envelope system" from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. CXB_RFP/2021/014 : To enter into a Long Term Agreement for Translation Services for Health Emergency Response in Cox's Bazar
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Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 31 August 2021.

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from:
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Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Emergency Sub-Office, Hotel Sea Palace Ltd (western wing-1st floor), Kolatali Road, Cox's Bazar-4700, Bangladesh. Or Bidder may submit their Proposal in two separate file (Technical and Financial) by email sebanx procurement@who.int

She speaks through tears

50-yr-old Roy Kishori spends three decades on the streets after being segregated from family

MIRZA SHAKIL

When all the lights of a buzzing shopping mall in Tangail town go off in the midnight, a woman in her fifties can be seen weeping alone at the corner of the mall, who has reportedly been leading such reclusive life on the streets for the last 30 years after being segregated from her family.

Roy Kishori Paul was found sitting in front of a shopping mall in the Old Bus Stand area of the district town. When asked why she was crying, she remained silent keeping her head down.

"We don't really know who she is. For the last few years, we have been seeing her sitting in front of the shopping mall with a blanket and a bottle of water at the night," said a local resident Durjoy Hode Shuvo.

The night guards of the shopping mall said that a rickshaw drops her every night and takes her away in the morning. The guards do not tell her anything for humanitarian reasons.

It was found out later the woman sits on the sidewalk in front of a grocery shop at the corner of Bindubasini Government Girls' High School at the day time. The shop owner, Krishna Saha, picks up her in a rickshaw in the morning and drops her off in front of the shopping mall every night.

Krishna said, "Her name is Roy Kishori. About five years ago, I saw her sick and lying roadside and brought her to near my shop. Since then she has been living on the footpath beside my shop. As there is no scope on the sidewalk for saving her from rains or other natural phenomena, I ask rickshaw pullers to drop her in front of the



Roy Kishori Paul sits in front of a shopping mall in Old Bus Stand area of Tangail town. She has been leading such reclusive life on the streets for the last three decades.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Kishori was born in a poor Hindu family at Bailya village in Tangail Sadar upazila. Her father Gendu Paul was a potter and like many others the family used to make a living by making earthen pots and other utensils.

shopping mall where she sleeps at night. Later, I take her back here in the morning."

Krishna's wife Aarti Saha said Roy Kishori sits on the side of the road all the daylong. Kind people give her money or

food. But she does not want anything from anyone. She also does not want to eat most of the foods and give these to others. The money given by the people is also taken away by the drug addicts and street boys.

"She hardly talks. The only way she expresses her emotion is shedding tears in silence. Leaving the shop in my hands for a while, my husband occasionally feeds her, bathes her, cuts her hair and nails, or lights up mosquito coils."

Aarti also said an attempt was made to take her to a shelter but she refused to go anywhere.

"She cried when we insisted. Once a wealthy man tried hard to take her to the old home but failed.

Nowshad Rana Sanve, a young rights

activist in the town, said that he has gathered some information about Roy Kishori doing some background check.

Sanve said Roy Kishori was born in a poor Hindu family in Bailya village in Tangail Sadar upazila. Her father Gendu Paul was a potter by profession. Like other families at the village, the family used to make a living by making earthen pots and other utensils.

Of the three sons and one daughter of Gendu Paul, Roy Kishori was the youngest. Amid the poverty of the family, Roy Kishori was growing up with joy and laughter. But later the death of her parents made her life uncertain.

Quoting the locals, Sanve said after the death of her parents, Roy Kishori's three

elder brothers-- Gupeshwar Paul, Nagen Paul and Naresh Paul-- sold their ancestral lands to local Muslims and moved to India with their family in 1990, during the unstable political situation in the country. They also took Roy Kishori with them. But a few days later, she returned.

There are two accounts among the locals about her return. Some of them say that the brothers left Roy Kishori in the border area while leaving the country. Few others say that she returned on her own.

After her return, helpless Roy Kishori worked as a house help for the people at daytime taking shelter at night on the veranda of a structure at Bailya Bazar.

However, no one could say when and how she came to Tangail town from there.

Swelling Teesta floods vast areas in Nilphamari

Villagers fear fresh erosion in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Vast croplands and many homesteads in low lying areas of 15 river basin villages in two upazilas of Nilphamari have been flooded due to sudden rise of water level in the Teesta river.

The swelling Teesta took a devastating turn on Sunday night.

As a result, water level crossed the danger mark at Dalia point on Monday morning and was flowing 10 centimetres above the danger level, flooding many shoal areas in Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas.

Locals said due to the sudden rise in the water level in the Teesta around 15 thousand people of different villages under the two upazila have been marooned and passing miserable time.

The situation got worsened due to nonstop rainfall in the last 24 hours and onrush of water from the upstream.

Tepa Kharibari Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Moynul Islam said about 3,000 inhabitants of Paglir Bazar, Tapur Char, Ekotar Bazar, Char Kharibari, Char Purbo Kharibari and Char Dakkhin Kharibari villages under his union are the most affected.

People of those villages have been passing days under waist deep water and facing acute food and water crisis, the UP chairman said.

Alamgir Kabir, 28, of Dakkhin Kharibari village, said they were passing days in panic as water from upstream kept entering fresh areas and the river might continue swelling further.

Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Joyashree Rani Roy said they were monitoring the situation closely and also asked the UP chairmen's of the affected unions to make list of the affected people so that they can get relief materials in time.


Away in Rangpur, many homesteads and huge croplands in the river basin Saudpara village in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila are facing erosion threat since the block-pitching on the right side of the Teesta river protection dyke washed away on Friday night.

Due to the collapse, the water level in the Teesta river also sees a sudden rise as water from the upstream entering the area through broken portion of the dyke.

Hafizul Islam of Saudpara village said due to high current in the Teesta around 50-meter portion of the dyke at Saudpara village washed away on Friday night.

Soudpara Islamia Bohumukhi Alim Madrasa and a local post office building and several hundred houses are on the verge of collapse due to the fresh flood, locals said, adding that Water Development Board (WDB) already started dumping Geo-bags in the damaged part on the dyke.

Moreover, high currents washed away around 50-metre of another protection dam at Binbina Char in the upazila, flooding two villages including Binbina and Tushbandar, Hafizul said.



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১

প্রধান কার্যালয়

ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৫২/২০২১

তারিখঃ ০২ ভাদ্র, ১৪২৮

১৭ আগস্ট, ২০২১

পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক সিসিটিবি অপারেটর এবং সিসিটিবি টেকনিশিয়ান পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে ০৬ অক্টোবর, ২০১৯ তারিখে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৪২/২০১৯ এর আওতায় চলমান নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিলপূর্বক বর্ণিত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্যানেল প্রকৃতির জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাধীনে পুনরায় দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- ১। পদের নাম : সিসিটিবি অপারেটর।
- ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা : স্নাতক পাসসহ কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞানে ডিপ্লোমা/সরকারি অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে 'হার্ডওয়্যার ও সফটওয়্যার' বিষয়ে অন্যান্য ০৬ (ছয়) মাস মেয়াদী সর্ট কোর্স সম্পন্ন।
- খ) অভিজ্ঞতা : সিসিটিবি ক্যামেরা স্থাপন, ক্যাবল ফিটিং, ক্যামেরা স্থানান্তর, সমস্যা সনাক্তকরণ ও সমাধানের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ সিসিটিবি পরিচালনা ও পর্যবেক্ষণে কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।
- গ) বেতন স্কেল : জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ এর আওতায় ১৬তম গ্রেডের স্কেল (টাঃ ৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০) এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।
- ঘ) পদের সংখ্যা : ২৬ (ছাব্বিশ)টি (কম/বেশী হতে পারে)।
- ২। পদের নাম : সিসিটিবি টেকনিশিয়ান।
- ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা : এসএসসি (ভোকেশনাল) অথবা মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (এসএসসি) বা সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ সরকারি অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে 'ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল' বিষয়ে অন্যান্য ০৬ (ছয়) মাস মেয়াদী ট্রেডকোর্সে উত্তীর্ণ।
- খ) অভিজ্ঞতা : সিসিটিবি ক্যামেরা স্থাপন, ক্যাবল ফিটিং, ক্যামেরা স্থানান্তর, সমস্যা সনাক্তকরণ ও সমাধানের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ সিসিটিবি পরিচালনা ও পর্যবেক্ষণে কমপক্ষে ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।
- গ) বেতন স্কেল : জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ এর আওতায় ১৯তম গ্রেডের স্কেল (টাঃ ৮,৫০০-২০,৫৭০) এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।
- ঘ) পদের সংখ্যা : ০৩ (তিন)টি (কম/বেশী হতে পারে)।
- ৩। উভয় পদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স : ক) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থী ব্যতীত অন্যান্য প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর।
খ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর।
- ৪। ০৬/১০/২০১৯ তারিখের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৪২/২০১৯ এর মাধ্যমে 'সিসিটিবি অপারেটর' ও 'সিসিটিবি টেকনিশিয়ান' পদে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য বিবেচিত যথাক্রমে ৭০০ জন এবং ৫৭৭ জন প্রার্থী নতুন নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির আওতায় পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন। তাদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
- ৫। আঞ্জলী প্রার্থীদেরকে আগামী ১৬/০৯/২০২১ তারিখের মধ্যে শুধুমাত্র বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ৬। দরখাস্ত করার সময় ফরম পূরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী erecruitment.bb.org.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।
- ৭। ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্রের নির্ধারিত স্থানে প্রার্থী তার স্বাক্ষর ও সন্দ্যতোলা Formal রঙিন ছবি আপলোড করবেন। স্বাক্ষর এবং ছবির ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড অবশ্যই সাদা হতে হবে।
- ৮। O' Level ও A' Level এর ক্ষেত্রে এ দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate), বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে প্রাপ্ত ডিগ্রীর ক্ষেত্রে দেশী সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/উপযুক্ত কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের তথ্য প্রদান করতে হবে।
- ৯। Online Application Form এ পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- ১০। Online এ আবেদন করার পূর্ব CV Identification Number, Tracking Number ও Password যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র Download করা এবং পরবর্তী বিভিন্ন কাজে বর্ণিত তথ্যসমূহ প্রয়োজন হবে।
- ১১। প্রার্থীদেরকে লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।
- ১২। প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের আবেদনে উল্লিখিত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি সহ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দলিলাদির সঠিকতা যাচাই সাপেক্ষে তাদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে।
- ১৩। চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীগণ তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বানুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের অনাপত্তিপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে না।
- ১৪। আবেদনের সময় উল্লিখিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/মোটরিক পাবলিক কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে জমা দিতে হবে। বিবাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে যদি স্বামীর ঠিকানা ব্যবহার করেন সেক্ষেত্রে সনদপত্র উক্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে হতে হবে।
- ১৫। অসম্পূর্ণ/ভুল তথ্য সম্বলিত আবেদন কোনো প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল করা হবে।
- ১৬। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা ও অন্যান্য বিধিবিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- ১৭। কোন ক্ষেত্রে কাগজপত্রাদির ঘাটতি থাকলে বা পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতার ঘাটতি পাওয়া গেলে বা দুর্নীতি, অসত্যা তথ্য প্রদান, কোন জাল সনদ দাখিল, অসদৃশ্য অবলম্বন, প্রতারণার আশ্রয় নিলে বা আবেদনপত্রে গুরুত্ব (Substantive) ক্রটি বা ঘাটতি দেখা গেলে বা প্রদত্ত তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যে কোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে।
- ১৮। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রার্থীদের কাউকে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-২৩৭১

তারিখঃ ১৮-০৮-২০২১

“মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার
দেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার”

ব্যর্থক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হরনির শিকার হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
মোঃ গোলাম মোস্তফা
মহাব্যবস্থাপক

জিডি-১৪৯২


Strong current halts ferry service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshigangj

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) suspended operation of ferry services on Shimulia-Banglabazar route, on the Padma river yesterday due to strong current.

The operation will remain suspended until further notice, SM Ashiquzzaman, director (commerce) of BIWTC, said.

BIWTC officials said five ferries were operating since morning and around 80 vehicles were waiting at the ghat to cross the Padma river around 3:00pm.



Jamuna Oil Company Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad, Chattogram

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2021-22

Memo No. 28.24.0000.250.10.016.21 Date: 16.08.2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works.

| Tender ID | Name of works | Tender document last selling date & time | Tender closing date & time | Tender opening date & time |
|-----------|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 597915 | Renovation of Storage Tank No. 02 at Chittagong Terminal. | 14.09.2021 17:00 hrs | 15.09.2021 12:00 hrs | 15.09.2021 12:00 hrs |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

G.A.A. Mueyed
GD-1491 DGM (Engineering & Development)

THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD.

GAZIPUR.

Web site : www.spclb.org.bd

LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL e-TENDER/RE-e-TENDER.

Electronic tenders (e-tenders) are hereby invited from the competent local/international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the following items for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. e-Tender/Re-e-tender documents showing terms and conditions with specifications will be available at web: <https://spclbtender.bb.org.bd> It is to mention here that this is online tender where only e-Tender/Re-e-tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-tender/Re-e-tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender/Re-e-tender bidders need to register on e-Tender <https://spclbtender.bb.org.bd> For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

| Sl. No. | Name of the items | Nature of e-Tender | Date of publishing e-Tender | Last date and time for submission of e-Tender | Date & time for opening of e-Tender | Value/set of e-Tender Schedule (non-refundable) |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Supply of 6,000 Kgs Castor oil | Local/ International e-tender | 19.08.2021 | 22.09.2021 upto 11.00 A.M | 22.09.2021 at 11.15 A.M | Tk. 400.00 |
| 2. | Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Programmable High Security Precision Fully Automatic 02(two) Nos. Paper Cutting (Guillotine) Machine. | Local/ International Re-e-tender | 19.08.2021 | 22.09.2021 upto 11.00 A.M | 22.09.2021 at 11.15 A.M | Tk. 1,000.00 |

Bidder may collect e-tender/Re-e-tender schedule from the aforementioned website. Earnest money @ 3 % (three percent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur alongwith the price of e-Tender/Re-e-tender schedule in the form of a separate 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/Re-e-tender. In the case of international tender, Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given as earnest money from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-tender/Re-e-tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender/Re-e-tender shall have to be submitted as per e-Tender/Re-e-tender guidelines mentioned at the above website. Offer(s) will be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender/Re-e-tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer against each item alongwith earnest money and price of e-Tender/Re-e-tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-tender/Re-e-tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

(Rashid Ahmed)
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)
Phone: 88-02-9205103.

GD-1486

MORE NEWS

IAEA: Iran ups uranium enrichment to 60pc

Iran yesterday insisted that its nuclear activities are peaceful and conform to safeguard obligations after the UN nuclear watchdog accused Tehran of accelerating production of highly enriched uranium. International Atomic Energy Agency director Rafael Grossi informed IAEA member states that Tehran was boosting such capacity at its Natanz enrichment plant. The agency verified on Saturday that "Iran had configured a new operational mode for the production of U-235 enriched up to 60 percent U-235," Grossi said in a statement to AFP. Tehran had started in mid-April to enrich uranium to 60 percent. The move takes Iran closer to the 90 percent purity level needed for use in a nuclear weapon.

Haiti earthquake death toll rises to 1,941

The death toll from a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti has risen to 1,941 with more than 9,900 wounded, the Caribbean nation's civil protection agency said on Tuesday. More than 60,000 homes were destroyed and 76,000 damaged, while many public buildings were also damaged or collapsed in Saturday's quake, the agency said. The powerful tremor struck about 100 miles (160 kilometers) to the west of the capital Port-au-Prince. Thousands of people left homeless in the disaster faced more misery as Tropical Storm Grace lashed the impoverished country with up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain. Still recovering from a massive 2010 tremor that devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti was already in shock from its president's assassination last month when the disaster hit.



'I fear for my Afghan sisters'

Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai on Tuesday wrote "I fear for my Afghan sisters" in an op-ed published in The New York Times in the wake of the Taliban's stunning takeover. "We will have time to debate what went wrong in the war in Afghanistan, but in this critical moment we must listen to the voices of Afghan women and girls. They are asking for protection, for education, for the freedom and the future they were promised," Yousafzai, 24, wrote. "We cannot continue to fail them. We have no time to spare." On Tuesday a Taliban spokesman sought to dismiss concerns that women would be barred from education. Yousafzai, who survived a Pakistani Taliban assassination attempt when she was just 15 years old, remained skeptical. "Given the Taliban's history of violently suppressing women's rights, Afghan women's fears are real," she wrote.

Hong Kong students arrested for 'advocating terrorism'

Four student leaders from Hong Kong's top university were arrested yesterday for "advocating terrorism," police said. A controversial student union statement following a lone wolf attack on a police officer last month sparked the arrests, according to senior superintendent Steve Li, from the city's national security police unit. On July 1, a man stabbed and wounded a police officer in a busy shopping district before taking his own life in what authorities called an act of "domestic terrorism." Shortly afterwards, the University of Hong Kong's (HKU) student union released a statement expressing "deep sadness" over the attacker's death and appreciation for his "sacrifice." The statement proved hugely controversial even as the union retracted the statement and apologised for its wording.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



People pray in a vigil for Afghanistan outside the West LA Federal Building in Los Angeles, California, US, on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Culmination of series of mistakes' US lawmakers to launch probe as Biden's ratings plummet on Afghan debacle

REUTERS, Washington

Members of the US Congress, including many of President Joe Biden's fellow Democrats, said on Tuesday they were increasingly frustrated with events in Afghanistan, vowing to investigate what went wrong.

"The events of recent days have been the culmination of a series of mistakes made by Republican and Democratic administrations over the past 20 years," Senator Bob Menendez, Democratic chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement.

"We are now witnessing the horrifying result of many years of policy and intelligence failures," Menendez said.

Menendez said his committee would hold a hearing on US policy toward Afghanistan, including negotiations between former Republican President Donald Trump's administration and the Taliban and the Biden's administration's execution of the withdrawal.

Committee Republicans said they wanted Secretary of State Antony Blinken to testify, "to understand why the State Department was so ill prepared for the contingencies unfolding before us," according to a letter sent to Menendez.

"Updates from the State Department have been inconsistent, lacked important detail, and not been responsive to Members and the American people," the Republicans wrote.

The date of the hearing was not immediately announced. Meanwhile, Biden's approval rating dropped by 7 percentage points and hit its lowest level so far, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll.

The national opinion poll, conducted on Monday, found that 46% of American adults approved of Biden's performance in office, the lowest recorded in weekly polls that started when Biden took office in January.

It is also down from the 53% who felt the same way in a similar Reuters/Ipsos poll that ran on Friday.

Biden's popularity dropped as the Taliban entered the capital, Kabul, wiping away two decades of US military presence that cost nearly 1 trillion taxpayer dollars and thousands of American lives.

However, a majority of both Republican and Democratic voters said the chaos was a sign that the United States should leave.

A separate Ipsos snap poll, also conducted on Monday, found that fewer than half of Americans liked the way Biden has steered the U.S. military and diplomatic effort in Afghanistan this year. The president, who just last month praised Afghan forces for being "as well-equipped as any in the world," was rated worse than the other three presidents who presided over the United States' longest war.

Ashraf Ghani is in UAE

AFP, Abu Dhabi

The United Arab Emirates yesterday said that it is hosting former Afghan president Ashraf Ghani "on humanitarian grounds", after he fled his country amid a Taliban takeover.

"The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation can confirm that the UAE has welcomed President Ashraf Ghani and his family into the country on humanitarian grounds," it said in a brief statement.

Ghani fled Afghanistan on Sunday as the Taliban closed in on Kabul, before the insurgents walked into the Afghan capital unopposed.

In a Facebook post, Ghani said the "Taliban have won" and that he fled to avoid a "flood of bloodshed".

His whereabouts were unknown until yesterday, with speculation that he had fled to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan or Oman.

UAE has a history of accepting former leaders in trouble. In 2017, the emirate of Dubai hosted former Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra, who was sentenced in absentia to five years in prison. Spain's king Juan Carlos went into self-exile in the UAE in August last year, and the UAE was Benazir Bhutto's home during her eight years in exile.

The UAE is one of three nations, including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, which recognised the previous Taliban regime.



WHO'S WHO IN TALIBAN LEADERSHIP

The Taliban movement's inner workings and leadership have always been largely shrouded in secrecy, even during their rule of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. Here is a rundown of what little is known about its leadership.

HAIBATULLAH AKHUNDZADA

Haibatullah Akhundzada was appointed leader of the Taliban in a swift power transition after a US drone strike killed his predecessor, Mullah Mansour Akhtar, in 2016.

He is widely believed to have been selected to serve more as a spiritual figurehead than a military commander. Akhundzada worked as head of the Sharia Courts in the 1990s. Akhundzada is believed to be in his 60s and has lived most of his life in Afghanistan. As the group's supreme commander, Akhundzada is in charge of political, military and religious affairs.

MULLAH YAQOOB

The son of the Taliban's founder Mullah Omar. Mullah Yaqoob heads the group's powerful military commission, which oversees a vast network of field commanders charged with executing the insurgency's strategic operations in the war. His lineage and ties to his father -- who enjoyed a cult-like status as the Taliban's leader -- serves as a potent symbol and makes him a unifying figure over a sprawling movement.

SIRAJUDDIN HAQQANI

The son of the famed commander from the anti-Soviet jihad, Jalaluddin Haqqani. Sirajuddin doubles as both the deputy leader of the Taliban movement while also heading the powerful Haqqani network. The Haqqani Network is a US-designated terror group that has long been viewed as one of the most dangerous factions fighting Afghan and US-led Nato forces in Afghanistan. The



group is infamous for its use of suicide bombers and is believed to have orchestrated some of the most high-profile attacks in Kabul over the years. The Haqqanis are believed to hold considerable sway over the Taliban's leadership council.

ABDUL HAKEEM

In September 2020, the Taliban appointed Abdul Hakeem as the new head of the Taliban negotiating team in Doha. He reportedly ran a madrassa in Quetta, Pakistan. Many senior Taliban leaders reportedly took refuge in Quetta, from where they led the group. But Islamabad has denied the existence of the "Quetta Shura". Hakeem also heads the Taliban's powerful council of religious scholars and is believed to be one of the people closest to the supreme commander, Akhundzada.

MULLAH BARADAR

Abdul Ghani Baradar was raised in Kandahar -- the birthplace of the Taliban movement. He was believed to have fought side-by-side with the one-eyed cleric Mullah Omar. The two would go on to found the Taliban movement in the early 1990s amid the chaos and corruption of the civil war that erupted after the Soviet withdrawal. Arrested in Pakistan in 2010, Baradar was kept in custody until pressure from the United States saw him freed in 2018 and relocated to Qatar. This is where he was appointed head of the Taliban's political office and oversaw the signing of the withdrawal agreement with the Americans. Today, Abdul Ghani Baradar is the main political leader of the Taliban.



SOURCE: AFP, BBC

Credit Ratings

WE ENSURE SECURE BANKING THROUGH MAINTAINING STRONG REPAYMENT CAPACITY & VERY LOW CREDIT RISK OVER THE YEARS

| Ratings | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Long Term | AA+ | AA+ |
| Short Term | ST-1 | ST-1 |
| Based on Audited Financial Statements | 31 Dec 2020 | 31 Dec 2019 |

RATING DESCRIPTION

| LONG TERM | AA+ (DOUBLE A PLUS) | Very strong capacity for timely servicing of financial obligations offering high safety. |
|------------|---------------------|--|
| SHORT TERM | ST-1 | Strongest capacity for timely payment of financial obligations. |

Rated by National Credit Ratings Ltd. (NCR) on 27 July 2021 and valid till 26 July 2022

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PUBALI BANK LIMITED



'Times have changed' Some Afghan women defiant as Taliban promises equal rights

REUTERS

Afghan women and girls who have won freedoms they could not have dreamt of under the last Taliban rule that ended 20 years ago are desperate not to lose them now the Islamist militant movement is back in power.

Taliban leaders have made reassurances in the build-up up to and aftermath of their stunning conquest of Afghanistan that girls and women would have the right to work and education, although they have come with caveats.

Some women have already been ordered from their jobs during the chaos of Taliban advances across the country in recent days. Others are fearful that whatever the militants say, the reality may be different.

"Times have changed," said Khadija, who runs a religious school for girls in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban are aware they can't silence us, and if they shut down the internet the world will know in less than 5 minutes. They will have to accept who we are and what we have become."

That defiance reflects a generation of women, mainly in urban centres, who have grown up being able to attend school and university and to find jobs.

On Tuesday, a Taliban spokesperson said women would have rights to education, health and employment and that they would be "happy" within the framework of sharia.

Afghan girls' education activist Pashtana Durrani, 23, was wary of Taliban promises.

"They have to walk the talk. Right now they're not doing that," she told Reuters, referring to assurances that girls would be allowed to attend schools.

Some women have said that one test of the Taliban's commitment to equal rights would be whether they give them political and policy making jobs.

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সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের ক্রয়-কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য নতুন ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি ও ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরের আওতায় জেলা ও উপজেলা পর্যায়ে এলজিইডি বিভিন্ন উন্নয়নমূলক কাজ বাস্তবায়নের নিমিত্তে পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৫৩(৩) মোতাবেক সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের ক্রয়-কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য নতুন ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী সকল আবেদনকারীকে আগামী ৩০/১০/২০২১ইং তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তর হতে আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদিসহ জমা দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, আবেদন ফি বাবদ বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসীলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, ফেনীর অনুকূলে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। এছাড়া পিপিআর ২০০৮ এর সংশোধনী বিধিমালা ৫২(৩) (ঙ) উপবিধি অনুযায়ী স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরের আওতায় ফেনী জেলার সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের নবায়ন ফি ১৫% ভ্যাটসহ ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে যথাক্রমে [কোড নম্বর-১-৩৭৩১-০০০০-১৮৫৪] তে ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা এবং কোড নং-১-১১৩৩-০০৪০-০৩১১ তে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা প্রদান করে আগামী ৩০/১০/২০২১ইং এর মধ্যে তালিকাভুক্তি লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। নবায়নকৃত তালিকাভুক্তি বহি ব্যতিত কোন দরপত্রদাতা সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না। অন্যান্য সকল তথ্যাবলী এলজিইডি, ফেনীর দপ্তর হতে জানা যাবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদনকারীর আবেদন কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

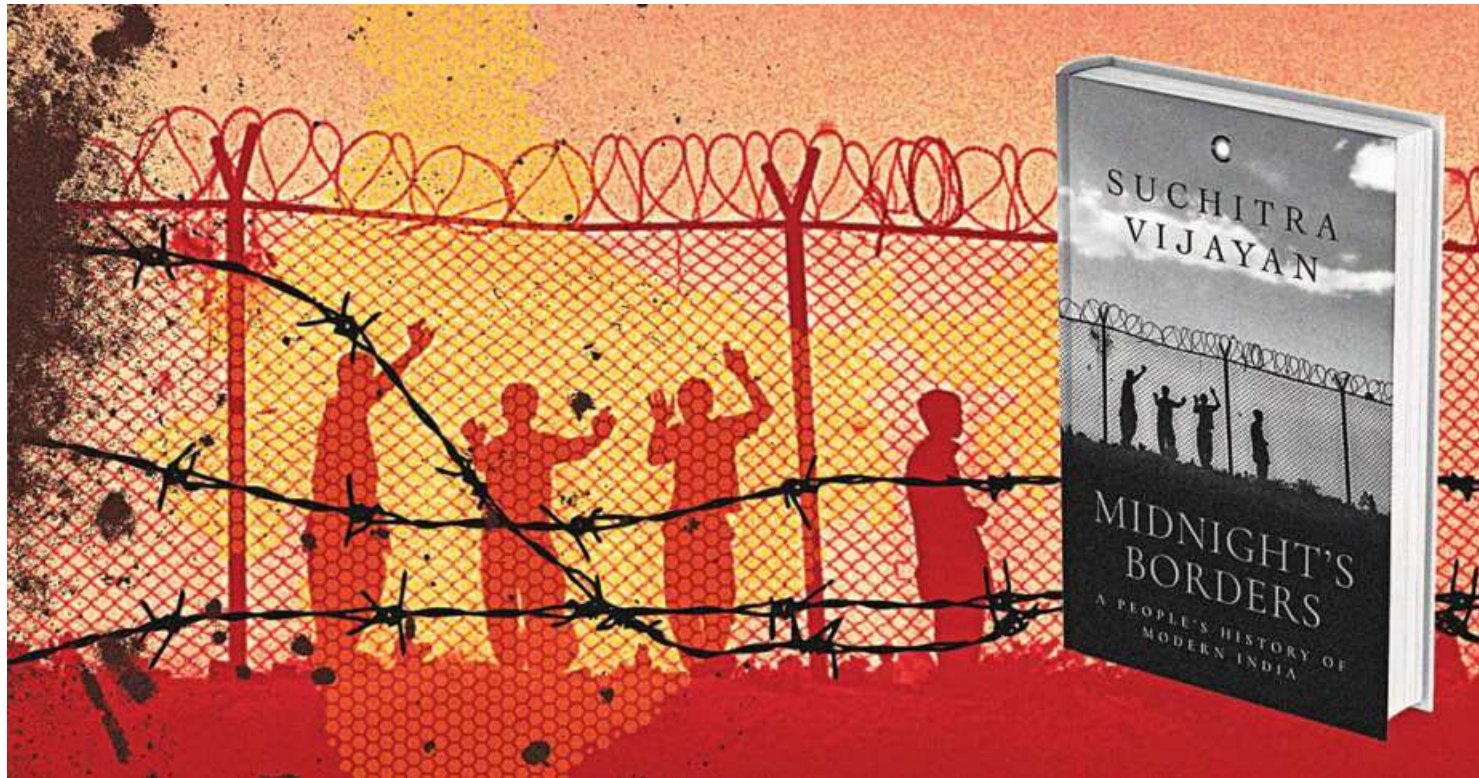
In Suchitra Vijayan's new book, borders are as arbitrary as history

SARAH ANJUM BARI

"What is the difference between a border and a frontier? Upon assuming control over India in 1858, for 190 years, the British Crown would segregate a syncretic subcontinent along the faultlines of religious differences, stoking unrest between its Hindu and Muslim communities. These 300 million 'colonial subjects' would never be given the right to self govern, or vote across the religious divide. Famines, failed mutinies, and conscription of civilians as pawns in the West's power plays would go on to colour this history. As the hour of freedom from colonial rule approached, frontiers are what the newly independent nation deserved and hoped for—frontiers in the sense of boundaries that promised security and potential.

But the 15th of August, as we know, caused a different kind of unleashing in 1947, transforming some 17.9 million civilians into migrants scurrying across the Indian subcontinent, divided now into India and East and West Pakistan. In *Midnight's Borders* (Westland Publications, 2021), author and photographer Suchitra Vijayan travels the 9,000 miles of India's borders to understand what Partition did to individual lives and communities, and how it continues to incite violence, displacement, prejudice, and trauma among those who live in the border regions. Vijayan treats these regions as frontiers, using them as points from which to reach into each area's internal (and historical) conflicts as they were triggered by the Partition.

She interviews militants, soldiers, border guards, and civilians—children who play cricket along the Bangladesh-India border, families who have lost a child or a spouse. For this book, she groups the interviews into chapters demarcating each of India's borders with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, and Pakistan, the latter expectedly touching upon the most contested issues relating to Kashmir and Rajasthan. If the first chapter on Afghanistan begins from the initial stirrings of colonial ambition in the 18th century, when the geopolitical expanse of Russia threatened the British into



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

demarcating the Durand Line, her last chapter in Amritsar circles back to another epoch-making event of history when, on April 13, 1919 in Jallianwala Bagh, British brigadier general Reginald Dyer ordered the massacre of unarmed civilians who had gathered to celebrate Baishakh. Between these bookends, history churns in the form of trauma in this text, each killing, each misinformed policy begetting death, disappearances, orphanhood, emotional and physical abuse, enforced prostitution and cultures of smuggling, and deliberate amnesia among generations of those affected.

The most fundamental action of the Partition—the drawing of the lines—occurred under famously irresponsible circumstances. When British lawyer Cyril Radcliffe landed in the subcontinent on July 8, 1947, he

had seven weeks to complete the cartography of a region he had never before visited, whose mosaic of languages, cultures, and communities he was unfamiliar with; the maps and census data he consulted were out of date. Vijayan quotes an interview given by Radcliffe to Kuldip Nayar, in which he admits, "If I had two to three years, I might have improved on what I did". But, as she highlights, this was not the first time. The Durand Line drawn in 1893 sliced through the Pashtuns, Baloch, and other ethnic communities residing in the Pash-tun-Balochistan regions; the McMahon Line descends from an agreement between Britain and Tibet that continues to be contested by India and China today.

The history that Vijayan very cleanly, but briefly, recounts in her book would be more

insightful for an audience unfamiliar with the subcontinent's past. For those of us who have lived and descended from it, the individual stories she unearths can be more jarring.

Near the river of Mahananda which divides Bangladesh and India—600 yards away from the town of Tetulia and another 40 miles east—Vijayan talks to a man named Ali who lived near a pond through which Bangladesh-India's zero point runs. When India constructed a border fence 150 yards from the zero point in 2007, Ali was stuck in the accidental no man's land. A local leader convinced him to sign papers testifying that he would be okay with the floodlights being installed close to his home. Its orange beam blasted through his house. Ali could no longer sleep, fatigued and depressed, fainting at

work, slurring speech, facing panic attacks and mild paralysis in his left arm. Following a complete mental breakdown, he plastered up every surface of his home and took to living in complete darkness, sequestered from regular living.

In her mining of these stories, Vijayan reveals a thorough grounding in the ethics of retelling others' experiences. She addresses the questions asked and the refused answers. The images she was requested not to share. And the different versions to the same event narrated by each party, from a traumatised mother to the border guards and officials on either side. "The people in this book are eloquent advocates of their history and their struggles. My role, then, and this book's role, is to find in their articulations a critique of the nation state, its violence and the arbitrariness of territorial sovereignty", she writes.

At the beginning of the project, which spanned seven years, Vijayan was an attorney who had worked for the United Nations War Crimes Tribunals for Yugoslavia. Her interest in the testimonies of victims and survivors, even if driven by compassion, seemed purely intellectual. Over the course of the journey, however, the author lost her father and gave birth to her first child, and the heightened, urgent need for a safer world seeps through her writing as she uncovers each patch of India's borders for us. Her censure for the arbitrariness of its violences grows more pronounced.

In one of the later chapters, Vijayan stands atop the "air tight" fences separating India and Pakistan, but the cadences of an *azaan* waft across both regions. A border, not a frontier, is a cage. The project of this book—and of remembering the legacy of Partition—is at least partly about "realising its porousness."

Sarah Anjum Bari is editor of Daily Star Books. Reach her at sarah.anjum.bari@gmail.com.

WORTH A RE-READ: FICTION

A portrait of a time and a man

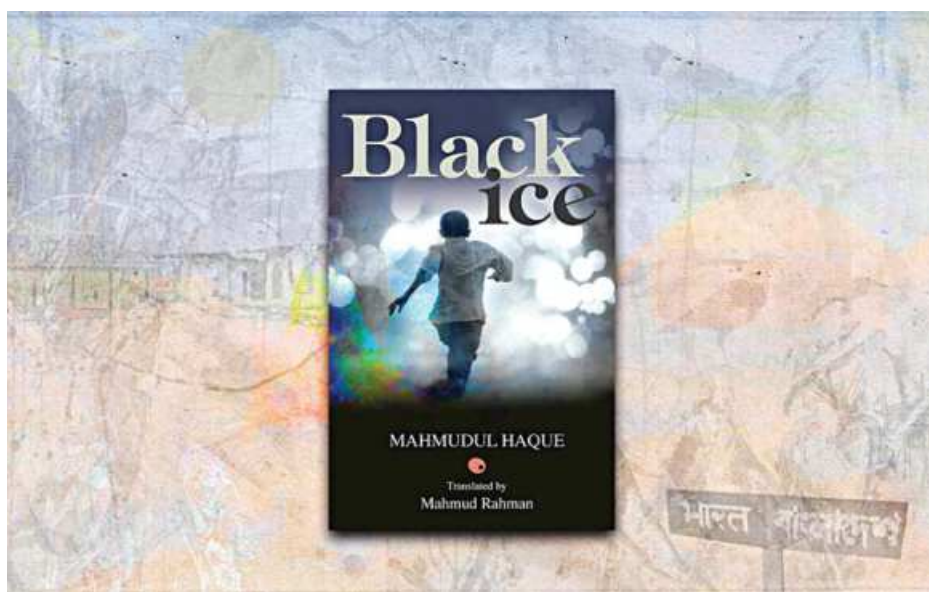
MEHRUL BARI

Born in 1940 to a Muslim family in West Bengal, Mahmudul Haque saw his childhood punctuated and perforated by the 1947 Partition of India. His father was the first to make the move to what would soon be East Pakistan. "After Baba left, our position there became fragile, everyone began to look at us with suspicion. It reached a point where they stopped mingling with us, and communal tensions became so intense that we were compelled to leave. Now tell me, can there be love for a birthplace that forces a child to flee?" Haque later recalled in a 2006 interview with Ahmad Mostofa Kamal—three decades removed from his retirement from a writing career that took root in the early 1950s.

The interview is reprinted in the back pages of *Black Ice* (Harper Perennial), a 2012 translation of Haque's 1977 novel *Kalo Borof* by Mahmud Rahman, as is a short biography quickly detailing the singular life of the late author. What these accompaniments do is enrich the novel, peeling back the layers of fiction affixed to the text, and in the process revealing the autobiography submerged deep in its heart. "That's not based on my life. I am not there in it", Haque asserts, though soon the interview is to come to a pause, prompted by a tide of emotions that besets the author to a point of momentary despondency. The protagonist of *Black Ice*, teacher Abdul Khaleq, was hit by the same wave.

The novel tracks the childhood of Abdul Khaleq, which comes back to the man every sleepless, teary-eyed night. His wife, Rekha, is awake next to him, but he doesn't notice and she doesn't force him to. As his tears dry, he makes for the pen and paper, and he jots down whatever he can of a past he barely seems to speak of in the present.

The chapters alternate between these recollections—taking residence in rural 1940s Kolkata—and the now, where schoolteacher Khaleq repeats a daily Sisyphean routine in newly christened-



DESIGN: ZAREEN TASNIM BUSHRA

Bangladesh. From the very start, the former takes up more and more pages and the latter less and less until the two coincide in a breathtaking final chapter, which is among the finest top-to-bottom chapters to come out of the subcontinent.

Haque's prose here is bare and lightning-sharp. Throughout the novel, he creates an air of both peace and unease, which no doubt defined his boyhood looking back. Mahmud Rahman's translation does well to preserve the flow, and his approach to speech conversion, near-directly replacing Bangla words for English, is an interesting, often endearing choice. Bangla speakers can hear in their minds the words that originally might have been in several different occasions. In one instance, a doctor growls, "Do I know magic that I can cure him overnight?"

This creative choice does, however, on a few instances misfire. On some lines, I found the syntaxes clashed, forcing re-readings on my part and slight confusion. I must stress, though, the negligibility of these errors, which are more than balanced out by the numerous joys of

reading everyday Bangali life captured so intimately.

As for *Black Ice*'s premise, it may sound familiar to readers, and indeed it keeps to a tradition as old as the novel of "bored professor abandons his family for an obsessive search for identity", à la midlife crisis. Mahmudul Haque nonetheless circumvents the tired mould with his sensitive treatment of characters, animals, nature, and a time. In a pivotal moment of the story, Abdul Khaleq stands before a huge ashwath tree which has died and decayed several ages ago but has stood in place "as a matter of habit". The scene is a touch heavy-handed but the author's limning of it is so careful, so serene, that the moment is nothing short of beautiful. That is what *Black Ice* is when you put the book down. A beautiful work that has earned its status as a cult novel.

Mehrul Bari S Chowdhury is a writer, poet, and artist. His work has appeared in Blood Orange Review, Kitaab, and Sortes Magazine, among others. He is currently the intern at Daily Star Books.

FRESH OFF THE PRESS: FICTION

Love in the time of Partition

YAAMEEN AL-MUTTAQI

Partition holds a strange place in our memories. For Bangladeshis, it may be far overshadowed by the more recent memory of the Liberation War, but across the Radcliffe line, it is recalled in families as a scar to forget, and in film as a reason to remember and to hate. And outside of the subcontinent, it is overshadowed by the precipitation of WWII, the start of the Cold War, and the behemoth propaganda machine of England. As a diasporic Bangladeshi, I constantly search for books that help explain my conflicting identities and the intergenerational trauma we carry in our blood. So when I find a book that talks specifically about Partition, how it can shape our identity as *desis*, and how the scars are carried across oceans and generations, it automatically gets fast tracked to the top of my To Read pile. Anjali Enjeti's *The Parted Earth* (Hub City Press, 2021) was the latest of these tales.

The debut novel begins with Deepa, a 16-year-old, well-to-do Hindu girl living in Delhi in 1947, whose romance with the Muslim boy Amir is tragically ripped apart by the growing hatred of their communities. Decades later, a different family tragedy launches her granddaughter Shan, who has all but scrubbed the brown out of herself, into a quest for answers. She picks up the pieces of her shattered family history and seeks to reconcile her identity and story. From this summary, it promised to be a story in the vein of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* or *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, but for a South Asian demographic.

Stories surrounding Partition do not lend themselves to a young adult demographic—to truly capture the horror of the time requires the room to evoke visceral emotions. To her credit, Enjeti makes a strong attempt at doing so within the limited medium, though I am unsure if the young adult tone was intended. Seeing Partition through Deepa's eyes is truly harrowing—as the anxiety and confusion builds around her, we too feel the walls close in. We understand her denial, her grief, and when her world goes up in flames, so do our hearts. All the while, Enjeti juggles this with the giddy rush of being a 16-year-old in love,

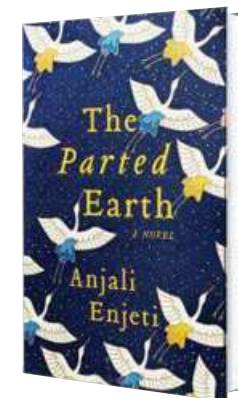
the all-consuming nature of such romances, and how in such dark times, we will cling to any hope we can.

But these moments are only so vivid because they are situations that are near universally relatable, or deeply traumatic, and the rest of the book does not keep pace with the emotionally poignant beginning. Indeed, upon closer inspection, the beginning unravels too. The epicentre of it all is the rather amateur prose. It is beautiful, mind you, but often to its own detriment. Enjeti weaves descriptions with great care and detail, but without regard for their need in the moment or plot. It draws the reader in once, twice, but by the third time, one's eyes glaze over as they skip ahead in desperation for some development.

The cost of such overabundant descriptions are the characters themselves. Amidst all the flowery prose, their relationships are rushed and the characters are never allowed to stew and develop. When Enjeti is not describing, there is plot happening, exposition is being thrown into dialogue, emotions are dialled up to an 11, and characters are left as hollow shells carrying out tasks for the plot to progress. And with such a short book, it is a wonder as to why a few hundred more pages weren't allotted to letting the characters flesh themselves into more organic beings.

The role of Partition stories in literature cannot be overstated. While this novel can be very accessible to a wide audience, that is both to its strength and detriment: for fans of young adult romances, *The Parted Earth* may be a compelling foray into the time period, but for those seeking deeper characters, development, and understanding of intergenerational trauma, it might not deliver.

Yaameen Al-Muttaqi works with robots and writes stories of dragons, magic, friendship, and hope. Send him a raven at yaameen3112@gmail.com.



Evacuate Bangladeshi citizens trapped in Afghanistan

We must be vigilant about wider repercussions of the events unfolding in Kabul

AS the situation continues to evolve from day to day, it is becoming increasingly difficult to assess the current climate of Afghanistan. However, despite the seemingly restrained tone taken by the Taliban spokesperson during their first press conference since taking control of Kabul, it is safe to say that the country's current status is still a highly volatile one. As such, there is a pressing need for the government of Bangladesh to ensure that the Bangladeshi citizens who are currently in Afghanistan are safe, and are able to return home if they so choose.

This Monday, we witnessed chaotic scenes at Kabul's airport, and at least three Afghan civilians were killed as people desperately scrambled to get onto the departing planes. This resulted in a cancellation of all commercial flights leaving from the airport, making it almost impossible for anyone to book passage out of the country. According to a recent report in *The Daily Star*, almost all of the 21 Bangladeshi citizens known to be in the country have expressed an interest in returning home. Of them, eight were working for telecom companies, six for Brac International, two for the sewerage department and one who got out of jail. The eight engineers were scheduled to return Monday evening and the six Brac officials have secured air tickets for today. But since commercial flights have not yet resumed, it is unclear when they might actually be able to travel. We urge the authorities to ensure that this is done as soon as possible. Other countries, including India, have already taken steps to evacuate their citizens using their own airforce's planes—this is an option that we should also explore, as well as the possibility of evacuation via land borders.

At the same time, we also hope the wider repercussions of the upheavals in Afghanistan on our country will also be taken into account most seriously. In a recent interview with *The Daily Star*, the chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit and additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said the authorities will be vigilant about any Taliban supporters within our borders who may take inspiration from what is happening in Afghanistan and plan subversive activities in Bangladesh. Given that Bangladesh has already been victim to terrorist attacks by militants who had returned to the country from Afghanistan—and even in recent times, the authorities have arrested two militants whose conversation involved plans to travel to Afghanistan—this threat cannot be taken lightly at all.

Stop victimising the passengers

Row between Biman and its online ticket sales partner has to be sorted

THE ongoing row between Biman Bangladesh Airlines and its online ticket sales partner is causing untold sufferings for hundreds of intended passengers. For almost a week now, passengers have been unable to buy tickets online—which is more convenient and also safer during the pandemic—from Biman's website or from other online platforms that usually sell its tickets. Instead, they are having to physically go to Biman sales centres to buy tickets, which is both time-consuming and risky as crowding may lead to the passengers contracting the coronavirus.

The disagreement between Biman and Travelshop Limited—the exclusive service provider to Biman for selling its tickets online—has led to the latter suspending Biman's services. According to the managing director and CEO of Biman, since being hired on a temporary basis in 2019, Travelshop has "repeatedly failed at various stages in the full implementation of the expected activities." Finally, from August 10 this year, the company stopped providing relevant services to Biman "in a completely unreasonable and unethical manner", while creating "confusion in people's minds".

Contradicting his statement, the chief operating officer of Travelshop said that the company had sent at least 20 letters to Biman in the last 17 months to get their dues, worth Tk 37 lakh. Not only did Biman not pay the dues, but it neglected to even respond to the letters—which is what led to the current situation of the suspension of Travelshop's services.

Whatever the reason may be, the fact that intended passengers of our national flag carrier are being victimised in this row is completely unacceptable and humiliating. And for that, whoever is responsible must be held accountable. The authorities need to urgently investigate the matter and find out who is telling the truth here and which side is spouting lies—or if both sides are at fault. Moreover, while that is being done, passengers cannot be made to suffer like this, nor should they be forced to risk their health and safety by physically buying Biman tickets. Therefore, we suggest that some sort of an alternative arrangement be made for Biman tickets to be sold online on a temporary basis, while all this is being sorted. At a time when the e-commerce sector of the country is flourishing and nearly every transaction can be made online thanks to digital services, continuation of this situation cannot be tolerated.

Chattogram desperately needs guardian angels

THE GRUDGING URBANIST



ADNAN ZILLUR MORSHED

IT is impossible these days to not notice Chattogram's spectacular urban decline. Go around the port city and you will only experience a place plagued by anemia, chaos, a collective greed to commercialise every open space, and overall, a curious lack of aspiration. I only find three things now in this city of my childhood: traffic congestion, incessant storefronts, and the tyranny of mediocrity. What kind of city does Chattogram want to be? The impression one gets on the streets is of a city that has no guardians to ask this question and address it. Chattogram feels abandoned and confused. Even the country's maiden tunnel under a river doesn't seem enough to boost the spirit of the city.

It is a sad deterioration for a city that has so much history, character, and potential to advance the national mission. But nobody seems to be worrying about preserving its rich history and geographic character, and harnessing its full potential. There seems to be no concern to steward its urban agenda on the national stage. The city has been caught in a downward spiral. But, why? Is it a lack of leadership? A weak civil society? A failure to groom and attract local talents? An ill-conceived notion of development? Dhaka's

The use of negative before a verb in chatgaiya, Chattogram's local dialect, is another instance of Arabic contribution to the culture of the port city.

overwhelming primacy? All of the above?

It is unfortunate because Chattogram has all the ingredients—or "imageabilities," to use the American urban planner Kevin Lynch's term—to become a livable and inspiring city. The uniqueness of its geography, its urban origin, its local dialect, its complicated "melting-pot" racial history, its multi-faith social amalgamation, its role in anti-British movements and the Liberation War, its *Porto Grande* global attraction through the ages—all seem to have vanished in a rotting commercialisation of its soul.

Who could tell that a rich kingdom by the name of Harikela thrived on the bank of the Karnafuli River more than a millennium ago? Who could possibly relate today to how the Muslim Moroccan explorer Ibn Battuta described this city in c. 1346: "The first town of Bengal

which we entered, was Sudkawan; it was a great city situated on the shore of a vast ocean." The famous Nalapara site of Rabindranath Tagore's civic reception in 1907, Kamolbabu's Theater (established in 1906; later renamed as Bishwambhar Hall and then Lion Cinema Hall) has been razed to create an unsightly apartment building. Until recently, the historic site of Bangabandhu's declaration of the Six-Point Movement in 1966—Lal

and resisted.

Legend has it that the Buddha came to a vihara or *chakrashala* located in Patiya, a southern town of greater Chattogram, employing his miraculous powers for disembodied travels. According to some historians, Buddhism spread to Chattogram during the time of the Buddha himself, over 26 centuries ago, when Socrates was not yet born, and the Parthenon was not yet built in Athens!

seafarers, British colonialists, anti-British revolutionaries, Western development experts, wealthy industrialists, national leaders, and globally-known entrepreneurs. When history becomes a jigsaw puzzle of people, events, places, and narratives, myths thrive, and a city becomes *interesting!* This is why we love to go to Rome, Paris, Athens, Krakow, New York, Kyoto, Siem Reap, Lucknow, Udaipur, and Kolkata, among other cities.



Yes, 75 percent of the country's total export and 80 percent of the total import occur through Chattogram. But what is the state of urban public health in the city?

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Dighi Maidan—was a minivan parking lot with the covert approval of the city administration!

Yes, 75 percent of the country's total export and 80 percent of the total import occur through Chattogram. But what is the state of urban public health in the city? If there is not a single public place where people can go to take a stress-free stroll in the late afternoon and breathe fresh air, what is the point of "75 percent of the total export"?

It doesn't have to be this way for a city with so many stories to tell. Uncharacteristic mountainous terrain in a predominantly flat deltaic country has always been an essential part of Chattogram's mythology. The Chinese traveler poet Hsuan Tsang's 7th-century depiction of the city as "a sleeping beauty emerging from mists and water" was no doubt a reference to Chattogram's hilly idyll.

The epitome of that idyll—Central Railway Building or popularly known as CRB, a picturesque hilly area with centuries-old Albizia Lebbeck or *shireesh* trees—has now been selected for a 500-bed hospital, as if this is the only space available in the entire city for a commercial healthcare facility. This unconscionable intrusion into a rare, oasis-like ecosystem is the result of an entrenched mercenary culture, one in which understanding a city and its history, its geographic personality, its mythologies is not only not valorised, but also ignored

The presence of many viharas in the city lends credence to the suggestion that the name of Chattogram comes from *chaitiya* (a Buddhist vihara).

Within a century after Islamic forces, under the leadership of Tariq ibn-Ziyad, crossed Gibraltar in 711 CE to colonise most of the Iberian Peninsula, Arab sailors began to arrive on the shores of Chattogram. They left enduring marks in the port city's life and local dialect. Names of places, such as Alkaran (*Al Qarn*) and Sulak Bahor (*Sulukal Bahar*), demonstrate Arabic influence. The use of negative before a verb in *chatgaiya*, Chattogram's local dialect, is another instance of Arabic contribution to the culture of the port city.

Portuguese explorers in the 16th and 17th centuries frequently called it the "City of Bengala." Duarte de Barbosa, one of the earliest Portuguese writers to offer a geographical account of the African and Indian coasts in the early 16th century—almost a century before the Mughal subahdar Islam Khan Chishti's arrival in Dhaka—described Chattogram as a natural attraction for traders, missionaries, and fortune-seekers from far-flung places.

This is not a place to belabour a chronological history of Chattogram, except to say that the port city's history is richly crisscrossed by actors of all sorts: Buddhist mendicants, Arab traders, Arakanese kings, Hindu landlords, Mughal governors, European

This interest itself is a driver of economy and culture.

Thus, to imagine Chattogram's future, one must first learn to negotiate its stories. The city's *genius loci* is found not just in its people, hills, *dighis*, rivers, and sea, but also in its stories, myths, fables, and allegories. The fantastical tales of the Buddha's divine voyage to Chattogram, and a Muslim dervish's lighting of a *chati* on Cheragi'r Pahar to drive away demons, are as important as the city's life-giving river, Karnaphuli. These stories are phenomenologically ingrained in its geography. They propel how the people mentally map their city and weave their *monojagot*.

But today, the city is a muddled blob of generic and unrelatable development projects. Indiscriminate commercialisation of land is championed as progress. Empty flyovers (prime sites for mugging in the evenings) hovering over Chattogram are the embodiment of the city's urban vision bankruptcy.

Planning a city is more than creating a "master plan" on the privileged tables of executives, bureaucrats, and planners. It requires the courage and patience to deliberate on a city's complex evolution, geographic pulse, and future potentials.

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WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

The climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis, for women and girls in particular



BJÖRN ANDERSSON

AS we mark the World Humanitarian Day today, we need to take urgent action to engage in climate adaptation, build climate resilience and prepare all the better for the escalating disasters, displacement and cycles of vulnerability that the climate crisis is creating—a crisis that is proving particularly devastating for the health and wellbeing of women and girls.

We know that 80 percent of disaster-related displacements worldwide have occurred in the Asia-Pacific region over the past decade. We also know that women and girls make up more than half of the displaced population globally. The intensification of extreme weather is also creating a crisis for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and for gender-based violence. There is no doubt that the climate crisis is gendered, and the evidence is increasingly coming to bear.

Globally, there were 300 extreme weather events triggered by natural hazards in 2019. This is six times the number of disasters since the 1970s. In 2018, climate and weather-related disasters caused 108 million people to need life-saving assistance, and we can expect this number to continue to increase.

The climate crisis, now compounded as well by the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic, is disrupting the positive trajectory of upholding human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 3 on good health and wellbeing and Goal 5 on gender

equality.

In Asia and the Pacific, a region already reeling under the climate crisis, strategically investing in resilience-building at the national, institutional, community and individual levels is critical to achieve sustainable development, enable equal access to services and realise the rights for women and young people of all backgrounds.

Governments must commit to

Civil society organisations have a key role to play in sharing their skills and knowledge with governments and in shaping gender-responsive and inclusive climate policies. They must be empowered with the resources and opportunities they need to engage with governments to build resilience, boost preparedness and to cope with the challenges coming ahead speedily.

Beyond the network of committed



Governments must commit to including women and young people of diverse backgrounds in discussions on climate change and allocate sufficient budget to carry forward the work.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

including women and young people of diverse backgrounds in discussions on climate change and allocate sufficient budget to carry forward the work. Engaging and empowering women and young people in climate action is a prerequisite for more just, equitable, sustainable and climate-resilient societies.

government and civil society leaders, UNFPA brings decades of experience, innovations and best practice to the discussion on climate change. Lessons about how to use technology to engage young people, and key learnings about the role women and young people play in climate action and humanitarian response

will help ensure sustainable and inclusive outcomes through localised action.

In the Pacific, for example, UNFPA is supporting young people's leadership in climate action to better safeguard the future for the youth of today. In the Maldives, UNFPA is working with women to voice issues that matter to them, weaving gender equality within the fabric of climate policy. And in Bangladesh, UNFPA supports national disaster preparedness efforts by advocating for a gender-inclusive and transformative approach, including ensuring the presence of female volunteers on the frontline.

The lessons we continue to learn from the Covid-19 crisis demonstrate what is possible when we all work together. The world has developed medical solutions like vaccines in record time that have saved millions of lives. We have seen the power of collaboration for the global good. We have also seen the inequities caused by the significant gaps that persist in resource acquisition and allocation between nations, as well as the damaging impacts of unilateral, non-collaborative action. These lessons—reflecting both challenges and opportunities—can also be applied to tackling the climate crisis.

This is truly a transformational time for people on the front lines. Women, men and young people of all backgrounds involved in shaping climate policies, strengthening preparedness or responding to disasters save lives and improve the health, protection and wellbeing of people living the reality of climate change.

Let us use the momentum for reimagining and innovation to better handle the extreme events that lie ahead together—benefiting generations to come.

Björn Andersson is the Asia-Pacific Regional Director for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency.

86TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF ZAHIR RAIHAN

Zahir Raihan and the making of Jibon Thekey Neyya



NAZNIN TITHI

BEING someone who is keen on watching films that were made on our Liberation War in the early seventies—and the films that made an impact on our nation's movement for freedom—for me, Zahir Raihan is a legend. And whenever there is any discussion on Zahir Raihan—who had an unparalleled passion for films and documentaries alike—I make it a point to talk about Jibon Thekey Neyya. As an ordinary viewer, I think this particular film was meant for all the people of Bangladesh. Such is this film's speciality.

When Jibon Thekey Neyya, the last feature film directed by this legendary filmmaker, was released on April 10, 1970, it took the whole of East Pakistan by storm. The people of East Pakistan knew beforehand that a film was being made which spoke of their story, their struggles, and their dreams. They had a feeling that the film might not get clearance from the censor board and so they brought out a procession protesting any such move. Finally, the film was released. But on the day of its release, the then military government banned it. The next day, the censor board again arranged for its screening, where Major General Rao Forman Ali himself was present and watched the whole film. Although the film got clearance from the censor board after the screening, Rao Forman Ali warned Zahir Raihan, "... I will see you."

Why this warning? The film narrates the story of a middle class family headed by an autocratic elder sister. Other members include her two younger brothers and her husband. But nobody in the family has a say in any matter of the household and everything is decided by the elder sister. Her husband is not even allowed to sing inside the house. In such a suffocating environment, to end her autocratic rule, the two brothers get married hoping that their elder sister would not be able to dictate everything in the family anymore. The members of the family paste posters on the wall against her dictatorship. In the end, the oppressed members win and the autocratic elder sister lands in jail. Although it seems like the ordinary story

of a family, it symbolises the dictatorial regimes of Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan. The whole family's struggle against one woman symbolises the struggle of the people of then East Pakistan. The film drew inspiration from the Language Movement of 1952 and



Zahir Raihan

political consciousness of the characters in the film encouraged, and added to, the nationalist movement of that time. I still find it hard to believe that this film, which challenged state power and echoed the hopes and aspirations of the people of then

East Pakistan, was actually made in 1969, the year of the mass uprising. During the shooting of the film in FDC, some army men came to the spot. They said they heard an anti-Pakistan film was being made by Zahir Raihan. They picked up Raihan and actor Razzak for interrogation, and only let them go after Raihan signed a bond which said if the law and order situation in the country deteriorates after the film's release, Zahir Raihan would be held accountable. A film like Jibon Thekey Neyya was a big

huge success and got Zahir Raihan international recognition. But he wanted to move away from making popular and commercially successful films and wished to make political films instead. This came about with Jibon Thekey Neyya. He made it in a way so that ordinary people could easily relate to the story. Amzad Hossain and Zahir Raihan jointly wrote the screenplay. Afzal Chowdhury did the cinematography, while Khan Ataur Rahman gave the music direction. The combination of the four was extraordinary and thus, we got an extraordinary film. During our Liberation War, this film was a hit in Kolkata and had earned a lot of money, all of which Zahir Raihan donated to the Liberation War fund. Ask any ordinary person to name a film from the 1970s that they remember watching; the answer would definitely be Jibon Thekey Neyya. I remember watching this film with my parents when I was a child. I particularly loved the song Ey Khacha Bhangbo Ami Kemon Korey, which Khan Ataur Rahman sings a number of times in the film but is never able to finish singing. Khan Ataur Rahman later said that the song was never finished in the film because people's struggle to break free from the shackles of oppression never ends—it's a continuous process. This is also true for Zahir Raihan, who, in his short lifetime, struggled continuously for realising his dreams. He struggled through his films and writings. He struggled for a country where there would be no place for war criminals. He was the first person after our independence to form a commission to investigate the killings of intellectuals. His lifelong struggle ended with his disappearance on January 30, 1972.

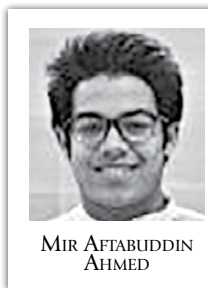
Naznin Tithi is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star. This article was originally published on August 19, 2017 in The Daily Star.



Poster for Jibon Thekey Neyya (1970).

challenge for Raihan in every aspect of its making. Prior to this, he had made quite a number of feature films among which were Kokhono Asheni, Kacher Deyal, Behula, Anowara, etc. All of these were much acclaimed by film critics. Kacher Deyal was a

Why is Trudeau taking Canada to the polls?



MIR AFTABUDDIN AHMED

IN a bid to secure a parliamentary majority and strengthen his position as Canada's principal political architect, a confident Justin Trudeau is taking his country to the voting stations on September 20 this year. On August 15,

Trudeau met with Governor General Mary Simon—the representative of Canada's Head of State Queen Elizabeth II—and advised her to dissolve parliament. This commenced a month-long period of election campaigning amidst what health experts are terming a fourth wave—with an increasing prevalence of the Delta variant. One may ask—why now? The answer is pretty simple: timing.

The scheduling of the elections is pitch-perfect for Trudeau to attain the consent of his electorate to govern and to acquire the elusive parliamentary majority that he is enthusiastically looking to get—the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) predicts Trudeau's party to attain roughly 35 percent of the national vote, followed by the Conservative Party trailing at 29 percent. The centre-left Liberals have been leading the country in a minority government for the past couple of years—meaning Trudeau's legislative schemas are often based on his party's cooperation with other actors, such as the left-leaning New Democratic Party (NDP). Following the 2019 elections, Trudeau lost significant footing in parliament—with 33.12 percent of total votes, the Liberals had formed a single-party minority government with the lowest vote share for any party in power in Canadian history. In fact, they lost the popular vote, meaning more Canadians voted in favour of a Conservative government and for ousting Trudeau from office.

Nevertheless, Canada's electoral system dictated otherwise—the candidate with most votes in an electoral riding wins a seat in the House of Commons or the Canadian

Parliament, representing that riding as its MP. Essentially, the Liberals had more elected MPs in parliament, even though the total votes cast for the party were lower than that for their primary opponents, the Conservatives. In a nutshell, Trudeau today is looking towards voters for an unambiguous and definitive mandate to govern—something which his party had from 2015 to 2019.

During the 2015 electoral campaign, Trudeau was marketed by his party as Prince Charming in a suit. Dashing, youthful, and

having a discontent yet agreeable electorate backing him.

Trudeau has made no secret of his ambitions for a bigger and bolder role for the federal government. His regime has taken a much broader systematic approach towards consolidating policy programmes that have traditionally been under the purview of provincial or regional governments—in many ways contradicting Canada's decentralised system of governance, termed "federalism". In fairness, this was an acknowledgement of the



Dashing, youthful, and apparent heir to his father Pierre Trudeau's legacy, Trudeau was deemed by the international media as the poster boy for Western liberalism.

need for immediate responses to counter the socio-political implications of the pandemic. However, Trudeau's increasingly authoritarian tendencies (as his opponents put it) have been widely criticised in regions where his party's political influence remains fragile—oil-rich Alberta and francophone Quebec continue acting as his primary Achilles' heel. As expected, the pandemic recovery plan moved beyond the realms of traditional policymaking and included a Liberal agenda, which saw large-scale investments in social safety nets—stimulus packages in the form of CAD 2000 monthly Canadian Emergency

Response Benefit (CERB) payments to the population were, to Trudeau's credit, widely applauded across the country. The long-term implications on the Canadian balance sheet are, however, a cause for concern. It took the country over 150 years since its inception to amass a national debt of USD 721.4 billion, and one year after the pandemic, that debt burden grew by a staggering 66 percent. While the federal government's mass vaccination campaign and procurement strategy have been hotly debated, it is Trudeau's prerogative to claim that he has managed enough vaccines for each and every individual in Canada. More than 71 percent of eligible Canadians are fully vaccinated, with over 82 percent receiving at least one dose. An extended lockdown in varying forms over the past year and a half, which stifled small businesses and decelerated economic activity, has finally been lifted across all parts of the country. Even though provincial governments had the final say in deciding mobility restrictions, the message from the top has been to vaccinate first and open up later. Therefore, the government's handling of the pandemic has been deemed a relative success by observers, giving Trudeau the chance to seek a stronger mandate from voters.

the direction Canada will take in the post-pandemic world.

The story does not end there. Trudeau's tenure has witnessed his previous pick for Governor-General, Julie Payette, put the Canadian government at the heart of a workplace harassment scandal. Accusations of sexual abuse against the military leadership were sidelined by the PM's Office. As a result, Trudeau faced heat from local media. He was obliged to oversee a period where Canada was put to shame over the discovery of mass graves of indigenous people across the country—increasing existing tensions regarding land rights, water access, and the very idea of reconciliation between indigenous groups and government agencies. Internationally, Canada's diplomatic ties with China, USA and Saudi Arabia have faced a myriad of economic and political challenges. Therefore, to suggest that all is well for Trudeau would be inaccurate. His insistence on tapping into a federal carbon pricing policy—in line with his macroeconomic aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030, and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050—is not popular amongst many of voters whose support he desperately needs in order to attain his prized majority.

Nevertheless, Trudeau has achieved a stoic reputation of investing towards realistic stated interventions to support the Canadian middle class. The establishment of a national childcare plan, with the aim of decreasing costs for parents down to CAD 10/day per child within five years, forms a key segment of his electoral manifesto. Resonating with new immigrants, people of colour and traditional Liberal voters, such programmes continue making Trudeau Canada's strongest candidate for the post of prime minister. His primary challenge will be to ensure that these voters are not swayed towards the rising NDP. The fundamental argument is that Liberals will push for stability—and stability in uncertain times is, without a doubt, a lucrative option for voters.

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QUOTABLE Quote JEANNETTE RANKIN (1880 – 1973) American politician You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 1 Chocolate substitute 6 Splinter groups 11 Kitchen come-on 12 Benefit 13 Alma - 14 River part 15 Strut 17 Mover's truck 18 Put away 19 Steering clear of 22 Numbered rd. 23 Bar stock 24 Like Loki 25 Mercury, for me 27 Joplin tune 30 Old warship 31 Timetable abbr. 32 Sturgeon eggs 35 Agassi of tennis 38 Old gold coin 39 Say 40 Be penitent 41 Destines to failure 42 Cook's mushroom DOWN 1 Vacation vehicle 2 Turkish peak 3 Turn 4 Sign 5 1992 Olympics host 6 Down 7 Serpent's victim 8 President between Warren and Herbert 9 Giants of myth 10 Informal talk 16 Actor Rupert 20 1928 Olympics host 21 Female rabbit 24 Pester 25 Right away 26 Deceived 27 Ill will 28 Mysterious 29 Fairy tale sister 30 White collar crime 34 Lot buy 36 "Stand" band 37 Hosp. sections

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS A S S A Y H O S E S M A P L E A N K L E A T O L L S T A L E R A P S A T A D P I T Y P A R E A R C C A R I B O U P O L A R M O O N S A N I M A L S A T E M A G I P R O D T A B S S T O L D A M I S S G A I T S R E N E E L I N E R A N G S T E D G E S

BEETLE BAILEY YOUR BOOT IS UNTIED, BEETLE MY HANDS ARE ALL SOAPY. CAN YOU HELP ME? THERE YOU GO SOME OF THESE GUYS REALLY NEED BASIC TRAINING

BABY BLUES DAD, THERE'S A RUMOR THAT YOU'RE TAKING US ON A MONTH-LONG TOUR OF THEME PARKS THIS SUMMER. WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU HEAR A RUMOR LIKE THAT? I STARTED IT, BUT IT'S REALLY GAINING SUPPORT WITH THE PUBLIC. I'LL BET IT IS.

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

Uncontrolled

FROM PAGE 12

an uncontrolled diabetes can cause a sudden drooping of it, which is known as 'ptosis'. It can cause paralysis of the muscles of eyes, resulting in squinting. Uncontrolled blood sugar can also cause early cataract, at a very young age," said Dr Sabrina Rahmatullah, a consultant Vitreo-Retina and Phaco Surgeon of Bangladesh eye Hospital.

"As diabetes is a microvascular disease, which means it affects small vessels of the body, it can damage small blood vessels of retina and cause dot shaped bleeding," Dr Sabrina said.

Diabetes can also affect the nerve which supplies visual information to our eyes, known as the optic nerve.

During the Covid-19 period, another eye problem -- Orbital mucormycosis -- is surfacing. It's a rare fungal infection that affects patients with altered immunity from diabetic ketoacidosis, said Dr Ferdous Akhter Jolly, associate professor of ophthalmology department, BIRDEM General Hospital and Ibrahim Medical College.

According to Dr Ferdous, other vision hampering complications in diabetic patients are bacterial corneal infection, frequent spectacle power change and increased incidence of glaucoma.

Prevention is the best remedy to prevent eye problems. So, proper control of diabetes through regular exercise, balanced diet, medicine for diabetes, control of blood pressure and cholesterol can help lower the risk for vision loss, Dr Ferdous said.

"Comprehensive dilated eye examination to check retina at least once a year and regular follow up can help patients prevent and delay vision loss," she added.

A patient suffering from DR must go for investigations and start treatment as advised by doctor as early as possible. Delay in starting treatment may lead to severe vision threatening complications and ultimately blindness.

Business icon

FROM PAGE 12

chairman of Anwar Group of Industries, The City Bank Limited, Bangladesh Finance and Investment Company Ltd, and founder director of City General Insurance Company Limited.

Hossain, the renowned industrialist and successful business icon, was the chairman of the DCCI Foundation for a long time.

Hossain established Anwar Silk Mills in 1968, the first Bangalee owner of silk mill in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and started marketing the 'Mala Sari' made from the factory that became a much-talked about product at that time.

Rest of Covid

FROM PAGE 12

Triggered by the Delta variant of the coronavirus, the positivity rate rose to its highest -- 33 percent -- on July 24.

New Covid-19 cases and deaths have also been declining recently.

Yesterday, the health directorate reported 172 deaths and 7,248 new cases across the country.

With this, the total number of deaths is 24,719 and confirmed cases 14,40,644.

Of the yesterday's dead, 94 were male and 78 were female.

The highest number of deaths -- 67 -- were in Dhaka division, followed by 47 in Chattogram, 16 in Khulna, 15 in Sylhet, 10 in Mymensingh, eight in Rajshahi, five in Barishal and four in Rangpur.

New mermaid

FROM PAGE 12

has a cap-like structure similar to an umbrella, has been named *Acetabularia jalakanyaka*, after the word 'jalakanyaka' which means 'goddess of oceans' or 'mermaid' in the Sanskrit language.

It is the first species of the genus *Acetabularia* discovered in India, Felix Bast, a scientist and professor from the Central University of Punjab in India, told The Independent.

"The newly discovered alga is so stunning; it has caps with intricate designs as if it were umbrellas of a mermaid," said Bast, who is also a lead author of a study into the new species.

"Having such a giant cell is advantageous for molecular biologists who study cellular processes; they can see it and manipulate it with naked eye. For this reason, *Acetabularia* is considered a model organism," the scientists said in a statement.

The marine alga's DNA was analysed and compared with that of other plants in the lab for the study. The results of the analysis have been accepted for publication in the Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences.

Bast said he first stumbled upon the alga during a family trip to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in May 2019 and thought it was a variant of a known species.

After looking at the unique designs on the plant's cap-like structures, however, he brought samples to the lab for analysis.

"After meticulous taxonomic work that lasted for more than one and a half years, it turned out to be a new species," Bast said in a statement.



A banner that reads, "The state has failed, people are dead" is displayed as protesters drape sacks, used to represent the bodies of people who have died from Covid-19, from the Democracy Monument during a demonstration calling for the resignation of Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha over the government's handling of the coronavirus crisis in Bangkok yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Death toll in Myanmar crackdown passes 1,000

Says advocacy group

AFP, Bangkok

Myanmar's security forces have killed more than 1,000 civilians since the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi from power six months ago, an advocacy group said yesterday.

The country has been in turmoil since February 1, when the armed forces seized power in a lightning coup, triggering dissent as protesters demanded a return to democracy.

Security forces responded with bloody crackdowns, using live rounds against civilians. But anti-junta mobs -- some of whom have formed self-defence groups -- are still taking to the streets daily in

flash marches.

Activist group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) -- which verifies the deaths and mass arrests under the regime -- said the number of people killed by security forces reached 1,001 yesterday.

The actual number is likely far higher, said AAPP's joint secretary Ko Bo Gyi.

"As long as the military is in power, they will continue to kill youths, professionals like doctors and teachers, men, women and children," he said.

"They are not only killing our lives but the country's future and

democratic hopes."

Ko Bo Gyi -- whose group has been named an "unlawful" organisation by the junta and is currently in hiding -- also accused authorities of "weaponising" Covid-19 as the country weathers a deadly surge.

So far, Myanmar has recorded more than 360,000 cases and 13,623 deaths from Covid.

The health crisis has been aggravated by a lack of formal medical care as many hospitals have been emptied of staff joining nationwide strikes against the junta.

Patients are also reluctant to go to military-run hospitals, creating long lines for oxygen and medical supplies

in pharmacies across Yangon.

The junta has repeatedly justified the coup by alleging widespread fraud in last year's election, and given much lower civilian death tolls.

Authorities also said in June that more than 90 members of the security forces have been killed in clashes.

Deposed leader Suu Kyi is facing a raft of criminal charges, from possessing illegal walkie-talkies to violating the state secrets act.

Army chief Min Aung Hlaing was installed as the prime minister of a "caretaker" government, which the junta has dubbed the State Administration Council.

Rohingyas testify about the horrors they faced

FROM PAGE 12

many other women in their village and then burned their homes to the ground.

The women themselves were victims of sexual violence by security forces in the Rakhine State before they fled to Bangladesh in 2017. The names of the victims are being withheld for safety purposes.

This is the first hearing after the BROUK in 13 November petitioned to Argentinian courts to open an investigation into the role of Myanmar's civilian and military leaders in committing genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya.

Nearly 8 lakh Rohingyas fled the military crackdown in Rakhine in 2017. Earlier too, there were several waves of Rohingya influx since the 1980s from the state.

Under the principle of universal jurisdiction, such crimes can be

investigated anywhere in the world regardless of where they were committed. The hearing on 17th August, 2021 forms part of this process in which the Argentinian judiciary is considering whether to take up the case.

During the hearing, the President of the of the Appeal Court Ojea Quintana said they will issue a prompt decision in the coming days. BROUK will take the case to the Argentinian Supreme Court, if necessary, Ojea said.

Since 2019, developments at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have added momentum to international justice for the Rohingya genocide. At the same time, many experts -- including the UN Fact-Finding Mission in Myanmar -- have urged states to pursue universal jurisdiction cases against the Tatmadaw and its allies.

"This is the first time anywhere in

the world that a Rohingya has a chance to sit in person in front of a court of law, impartial and independent, to talk about the crimes against us," said Tun Khin, President of BROUK, at the hearing.

This is also a reminder to the world that justice is the only way to break the cycle of violence in Myanmar. The same military that has tried to wipe out the Rohingya as a people are now in control of the country since the coup, he said.

"The Tatmadaw must face the consequences of their murderous actions. This week's hearing is not just for the Rohingya, but for all our brothers and sisters in Myanmar who have suffered through military abuse."

If the case is accepted by the Argentinian judiciary, it will be the first universal jurisdiction case related to the Rohingya crisis anywhere in the world.

The case in Argentina will cover

the full range of crimes committed entirely in Myanmar against the Rohingya, including mass murder, enforced disappearances, widespread torture, sexual violence, and mass imprisonment. This is different to the ICC case, which is limited to only crimes which have at least partially been committed on Bangladeshi territory.

Among those named in the case are Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, currently self-appointed Prime Minister of Myanmar, and other high-ranking military officials.

"For decades, the Myanmar military has with impunity tried to wipe the Rohingya out as a people. With Myanmar both unwilling and unable to investigate itself -- especially since the coup -- the international community must step in and support all justice efforts," said Tun Khin.

3 cases filed against city BNP leaders

FROM PAGE 12

leaders and activists and around 3,000 unannounced on charge of assaulting and injuring police personnel and damaging properties.

The accused include Abdus Salam and Rafiqul Alam Mojinu, convener and member secretary of Dhaka south city unit BNP, and Amanullah Aman and Aminul Huq, convener and member secretary of its Dhaka north city unit.

Besides, two contractors of metro rail project filed two cases against unnamed people.

Md Shohidullah, deputy commissioner of Tejgaon division, said, "So far, 47 accused have been arrested. We are trying to arrest the

others."

Abdus Salam, admin and security officer of Metro Rail Project Line-6, lodged a case against 100 to 150 unidentified people, accusing them of assembling illegally with a motive to kill, causing grievous injuries and damaging goods worth Tk 30 lakh.

The attackers vandalised six vehicles of the project and caused injuries to four people.

Another case was filed by Abdus Salam Fakir, security supervisor of Contract Package-4 of Italian-Thai Development Company, against 80 to 120 unknown people for attacking the metro rail project, throwing brick chunks at police on duty at the metro rail site and causing damage to

properties.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company LTD, said cases were filed as six vehicles used for carrying equipment for metro rail project were damaged by the attackers.

He said the attackers tore down the fence of the construction site in Bijoy Sarani area and entered the site. "When workers asked why they have entered the restricted area, the attackers beat up our workers."

One of the workers had to be hospitalised, Siddique said.

On Tuesday, BNP men and police clashed during a programme, leaving dozens of party leaders and activists as well as law enforcers injured.

The clash happened around 10:30am when members of the newly formed convening committees of the party's Dhaka north and south city units went to place wreaths at the grave of party founder Ziaur Rahman at Chandrima Udyan.

The BNP and police blamed each other for the clash.

The BNP had said the law enforcers attacked them without any provocation while Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal claimed that police were compelled to use teargas after being attacked by the BNP men.

On August 2, the party announced convening committees for its two Dhaka city units.

CAAB notice sparks confusion

FROM PAGE 12

Lumpur over phone.

"We will make an announcement clarifying that travellers don't need to come to the high commission for permission," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Kamrul Islam, general manager (public relations) of US-Bangla Airlines in Dhaka, said they were allowing to fly home only those Bangladeshi travellers who took both shots of Covid vaccines.

In reply to a query, Kamrul said he was not aware of special permission mentioned in the CAAB circular.

Earlier, those wishing to return home would need to undergo PCR tests for Covid before departure and book rooms at hotels in Bangladesh for 14-day quarantine.

The CAAB circular has created big troubles for hundreds of Bangladeshi migrants, who either came out of jail recently or have been jobless for

months amid lockdown in Malaysia.

One of them is Jahid Hossain, who is finding it hard to survive in Johor Bahru after losing his job a few months back.

He went to the high commission in Kuala Lumpur and obtained a travel permit on Tuesday as his work permit had expired.

"I had a ticket for a flight home on August 20. But my travel agent suddenly said I was not allowed to return home because I'm not fully vaccinated. I got shocked as the ticket was cancelled," he said.

Yesterday, he rushed to the high commission to obtain special permission to catch a flight home.

"After hours of wait, we were told around 5:00pm that we would not need special permission. I then informed my travel agent about it. The agent said he would manage a ticket at the end of this month or early next month," Jahid, who is from Tangail,

told this newspaper over phone.

He said he was staying at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur's Kota Raya area since Monday and that he would have to fork out more money in case he has to extend his stay there.

"I was already in trouble as I lost my job. Now, I am facing even more troubles to return home. This is so sad. No one feels the pain of the migrants," he lamented.

Moudud Molla, a Bangladeshi student in Malaysia, said he has a relative there who must return home before going to Saudi Arabia next month.

"I went to the high commission yesterday with an application for special permission to allow my relative to fly home. An official there received the application..."

Around 5:00pm, commission officials told more than 100 Bangladeshis waiting there that they would not need any special

permission to return home.

"One of the officials there told me that the CAAB circular was cancelled," Moudud said.

Talking to this newspaper from Malaysia over phone, migrant rights activist Mohammad Harun-Al Rashid said such a circular and subsequent sufferings of the migrants suggest a lack of coordination within the government.

"Migrants are already in trouble and the authorities need to take care of them instead of doing anything that pushes them into further vulnerability," he said.

Malaysia, home to about eight lakh Bangladeshis, has been seeing a rise in Covid infections over the last few months.

A large number of Bangladeshi migrants are in hardship due to joblessness, underpayment or non-payment of salary amid Covid-induced lockdown there.

AL legislators

FROM PAGE 12

guerrillas, and misleading the world as to the nature of the refugee situation, he added.

He further said that to date his government had not been successful in getting its case across to the international press of the many constructive things that they were attempting to do in East Pakistan. "Pakistan government makes the information available but the New York Times doesn't print it. In order to put their case forward they have to buy space in American newspapers," lamented Yahya.

President Yahya went on to discuss his plans to associate Bangalees in administration of the province by clearing 88 of the former Awami League representatives to National Assembly. Asked if it was possible that more than 88 might be cleared, he said all the others were being specifically charged with crimes but that it was possible that they could clear themselves of these charges and then take their seat in the next National Assembly. He said only some 15 or 16 of the 88 were presently in Dhaka and they were being protected by the government since they feared for their lives. The rest of the 88 were either in the countryside or in India. He did not know how many of them would come forward to claim their seat but he supposed he would have to set some kind of a deadline on this.

Referring to Yahya's comment regarding civilian participation in the Government of East Pakistan, the US Ambassador suggested that any announcement which Yahya planned to make on this subject should carry with it a restatement of the entire "package" which the Government of Pakistan had promulgated to date, and that the same should be so tailored as to get maximum news impact both in Pakistan, India and in the Western world. Yahya replied by stating that, "I think this is an excellent suggestion and I'll do it."

OPERATION SHALDA RIVER

The freedom fighters of K Force today ambushed three boats carrying Pakistani troops. Twenty Pakistani soldiers were killed in the operation. The freedom fighters took control of the area.

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

Court clears

FROM PAGE 12

Alomgir Hossain, an official of General Recording Office at Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, told The Daily Star.

Soon after the order, complainant of the case, and also the victim's sister, told The Daily Star that she would challenge it in a higher court.

Injustice was done to her sister, she said.

On Tuesday, the complainant submitted the no-confidence petition with the court, seeking further investigation into the case.

At Tuesday's hearing, the complainant said Investigation Officer Abul Hasan had told her that he would press charges against the accused under section 302 (murder) of the Penal Code and section 9 (1) (rape) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

But the IO, also officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, did not inform her before submitting the probe report to the court, she had mentioned earlier.

The investigator had submitted a false report without examining vital witnesses and tried to sabotage the case from the very beginning, she stated in the petition.

The closed-circuit camera in the victim's building held very important evidence as it would be possible to identify the accused through video footage captured by the camera, but the IO did not seize the footage, she said in the petition.

Citing the forensic report, the complainant further said in the petition that the DNA of a male was found on the victim's clothes, but the investigator did not take any steps to conduct a DNA test on the accused to match his sample with that found on the clothes.

The IO acted against the law by saying in the probe report that such a step would be "unreasonable", the petition said.

The IO tried to save the accused by hiding evidence of rape although the medical and forensic reports said the victim was raped before death. The IO did not arrest the accused for interrogation, allowing him to influence the probe, the petition said.

The IO showed negligence in the probe and did not try to unearth the mystery of the victim's rape and murder. Instead, he unethically tried to assassinate the victim's character in the probe report, it added.

On July 19, Abul Hasan submitted the probe report to Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and appealed to it to relieve Anvir of the charges of abetting suicide.

About not conducting a DNA test of the lone accused in the case, the IO said in the report that it is not reasonable to collect and test a suspect's DNA samples solely on the basis of the complainant's allegations, without any supporting evidence.

The case was a "matter of factual error" as no evidence against Anvir was found in the probe, the report said.

On April 26, police recovered the body of the 21-year-old college student hanging from the ceiling fan of her bedroom in Gulshan.

SPORT

What to WATCH T SPORTS
BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE
Uttar Baridhara vs Saif Sporting
Live from 4:00 pm



Liton Das (C) talks with Nurul Hasan (R) and Shamim Hossain Patwari following a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday ahead of the New Zealand T20I series. (Bottom) Test specialists like Taijul Islam were also involved in individual training too.

Hockey clubs gearing up

SPORTS REPORTER



After a three-year hiatus, the hockey clubs are returning to activity following the announcement of the inter-club player transfers, scheduled for September 19 to 23 and with the hockey season getting underway through the Club Cup tournament from October 12.

Since the completion of the Dhaka Premier Division League in June 2018, Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) could not take the top-flight league to the turf due to international engagement of the senior and junior national teams, conflicts among club officials soon after the 2019 BHF elections as well as the outbreak of coronavirus last year.

However, things changed rapidly once Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina allocated a budget of Tk one crore for the 12 participating clubs in a bid to bring the Premier Hockey League back to the turf.

Following the budget announcement, the clubs have already started communicating with the players to form their squads. The top clubs, especially holders Mohammedan, runners-up Dhaka Mariner Youngs' Club and Abahani, are ahead of others in this regard.

"As a former player, I feel good that hockey is returning after a long gap. I have

already started talking to the players we targeted to sign up as I have been given the responsibility again after 10 years. I definitely want to repay the faith the club management had put in me by forming a strong team for the championship," Mohammedan's hockey secretary Sajed A Adel told the Daily Star yesterday.

Dhaka Mariners general secretary Hasan Ullah Khan Rana said, "We have already confirmed three top players out of a five-player quota and are negotiating other players to form a squad that will fight for the championship."

"We are yet to start the official procedure as the club directors are supposed to sit sometime later this month. However, unofficial discussion with the players is going on and we are hoping to form a strong team as Abahani always do," said Abahani's hockey secretary Zaki Ahmed Ripon.

A club official, seeking anonymity, said that the players are also demanding high salaries compared to 2018 but the club officials are not ready to spend high amount due to financial limitation amid the pandemic.

Since each club can field up to four foreign players against seven registered, the title contenders would want to first bank on the local players to form strong squads and then think of foreign players, whose movement could be susceptible amid travel restrictions due to the pandemic.

Bangladesh start SAFF campaign against SL

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will begin their SAFF Championship campaign by taking on Sri Lanka in one of the two opening day matches on October 1 at the National Football Stadium in Maldives as the fixtures of the 13th edition were disclosed yesterday.

The regional football extravaganza has turned into a five-team competition

after Bhutan failed to get permission from their government while Pakistan are banned by FIFA from taking part in any international tournament.

Following their opening match against Sri Lanka, the men in red and green will face two tough opponents – India and Maldives – before squaring off against Nepal in the final group match.

FIXTURES

| DATE | MATCHES | TIME (BST) | VENUE |
|--------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Oct 1 | Nepal vs Maldives Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka | 5:00pm 10:00pm | NFS in Male NFS in Male |
| Oct 3 | Bangladesh vs India Sri Lanka vs Nepal | 5:00pm 10:00pm | NFS in Male NFS in Male |
| Oct 6 | India vs Sri Lanka Bangladesh vs Maldives | 5:00pm 10:00pm | NFS in Male NFS in Male |
| Oct 8 | Maldives vs Sri Lanka Nepal vs India | 5:00pm 10:00pm | NFS in Male NFS in Male |
| Oct 11 | Bangladesh vs Nepal India vs Maldives | 5:00pm 10:00pm | NFS in Male NFS in Male |
| Oct 13 | Final | 9:00PM | NFS in Male |

A test of patience for TEST CRICKETERS

SPORTS REPORTER



Following the recent historic T20I series win over Australia, Bangladesh cricket team are gearing up for the upcoming five-match T20I series against New Zealand and with the ICC T20 World Cup in sight, members of the Test team are currently passing an idle period.

The last time the Tigers played a Test match was against Zimbabwe in July this year, where the visitors went on to register a comprehensive 220-run win. Since then, the players who only play the Test format – the likes of skipper Mominul Haque, Shadman Islam, Abu Jayed, and Taijul Islam – are waiting for their opportunity to perform.

Later this year, Bangladesh will take on Pakistan to begin the new cycle of the World Test Championship, and venture into their busy schedule in the longest format. The Tigers will then host Sri Lanka for a two-match Test series which makes it important for the cricketers who are only considered in the longest format to remain in



touch and prepare themselves.

However, it is not easy to keep the focus intact especially with no domestic league schedule in the coming days, however the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has planned to keep these cricketers busy during this period.

The BCB has already announced the High-Performance (HP) squad to begin a training camp while the

likes of Mominul, Shadman, and the players who will not feature in the T20I series against New Zealand, will play for Bangladesh A team.

The HP side, following a 15-day training camp, will play three one-day and two four-day games against the Bangladesh A team in Chattogram next month.

Left-handed opener Shadman

Islam, who struck his maiden hundred in the lone Test in Zimbabwe, was seen training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"I heard there'll be few matches against the High-Performance side and I hope those games will help us prepare. Also, the National Cricket League and the international series are lined up, so it is important for me to prepare for those challenges.

"Previously we didn't get enough Test matches but recently we played a few. And we also have the World Test Championship. I don't think the numbers are less but yes, if we can perform well we might get more test matches in future," Shadman told the media yesterday.

For someone like Shadman, exclusively a Test player for the Tigers so far, it is difficult to preserve the focus in a time when everyone is buzzing about the glamour of the T20 format.

"Obviously I also want to play in all the formats. During this off-season I am trying to work on my areas of weakness. Hopefully I can perform well and achieve my goal," he added.

Ronaldo rubbishes Real rumours

AFP, ROME

Cristiano Ronaldo on Tuesday blasted reports that he was trying for a return to Real Madrid, hours after coach Carlo Ancelotti also said he was not going to take the Juventus forward back to Spain.

In an Instagram post, Ronaldo said that his "story at Real Madrid has been written", although he did not explicitly say that he was not looking for a way out of Juve.

He said that such talk was "disrespectful" to both him and "to all the clubs involved in these rumours, as well as to their players and staff". "There have been frequent news and stories associating me with a number of clubs in many different Leagues, with nobody ever being concerned about trying to find out the actual truth," Ronaldo added.

"I'm breaking my silence now to say that I can't allow people to keep playing around with my name. I remain focused on my career and in my work, committed and prepared for all the challenges that I have to face. "Ronaldo has been the subject of a series of rumours about his future this summer.

On Tuesday Italian daily Corriere dello Sport said that his agent Jorge Mendes had offered the 36-year-old to Manchester City.

Other

outlets said that Paris Saint-Germain were interested but stepped back once they pulled off the signing of the close season, bringing free agent Lionel Messi to the French capital. Earlier on Tuesday, Ancelotti said that Real Madrid were not interested in the return of the man who fired the club to four Champions League triumphs.

"Cristiano is a Real Madrid legend and he has all my love and respect. I have never considered signing him. We look forward," Ancelotti said on Twitter.

Nagelsmann wants more trophies

AFP, Dortmund



Julian Nagelsmann joked that he wants to hoard titles like a 'hamster' after winning his first trophy at Bayern Munich with his debut victory as head coach of the Bundesliga giants.

Bayern swept aside league rivals Borussia Dortmund 3-1 on Tuesday to win the German Super Cup with Robert Lewandowski scoring twice in a stellar performance.

Nagelsmann, 34, is under pressure to win a tenth straight Bundesliga title for Bayern in only his first season in charge -- the champions drew Friday's opening league game at Moenchengladbach.

He celebrated with his team after captain Manuel Neuer lifted the Super Cup in Dortmund and joked that he hopes to hoard titles in the way hamsters store food.

"You can see that I have such small hamster teeth -- I'd like to be a title hamster," joked Nagelsmann.

"The title is a reward for our pre-season work. I am still happy, but it belongs more to others than to me,"



Bayern Munich coach Julian Nagelsmann celebrates with players after winning the DFL Super Cup with a 3-1 win over Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Nagelsmann added after Bayern's impressive display.

Their head coach is not the only one who covets titles in his first season.

"This title is just the beginning, we still have a lot to do," wrote Bayern's new CEO Oliver Kahn on Twitter.

Nevertheless, Bayern's sixth straight win over Dortmund was a clear reminder of their status as Germany's top club.

Dortmund striker Erling Braut Haaland, who dazzled last Saturday

with three assists and two goals in a 5-2 thrashing of Frankfurt, had a frustrating night against the Bayern defence.

The towering Norwegian had a goal ruled offside, as did Dortmund striker Youssoufa Moukoko, 16, while the hosts pulled a goal back when their captain Marco Reus curled a long-range shot inside the post.

Nagelsmann described Robert Lewandowski, who turns 33 on Saturday, as "better" than Haaland. The Polish goal-machine has

now scored 24 times in as many games against his former club Dortmund.

Dortmund were left licking their wounds as defensive mistakes contributed to Bayern's goals.

Dortmund head coach Marco Rose acknowledged there are certain mistakes "you can't make" against Bayern and there were "one or two too many of them".

Both teams wore black armbands in honour of legendary Bayern striker Gerd Mueller who died last Sunday, aged 75.

NEWS IN BRIEF

AFC compensates Kings

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) agreed to give Bashundhara Kings compensation worth US\$57,000 after the Bangladesh champions claimed the amount following the sudden suspension of Group D Matches of AFC Cup in May.

The AFC was forced to suspend the AFC Cup fixtures in Maldives due to the surge in Covid-19 infections, leaving Bashundhara Kings to abort their scheduled departure for the island nation hours before the flight. The compensation included fees for hotel booking and ticket prices.

Petrakov replaces Shevchenko as Ukraine coach

Oleksandr Petrakov, who managed Ukraine's youth football team to victory at the Under-20 World Cup in 2019, was named acting coach of the Ukrainian national team on Wednesday. Petrakov, 64, who has coached various Ukraine youth teams for the past decade, takes over from Andriy Shevchenko, who managed Ukraine for five years and led the team to the Euro 2020 quarter-finals this summer but whose contract expired earlier this month.




Rest of Covid curbs go today

No restrictions on social gatherings, tourist spots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the restrictions on social gatherings and tourist destinations being lifted from today, there will be no Covid-19 curbs in place in the country.

From today, social gatherings are allowed and tourist destinations reopen on the condition that they operate at half capacity.

On August 12, the cabinet division in a circular said all public transport will be allowed to operate on the roads, railways and waterways, while maintaining health safety guidelines, from today.

Before today, transport companies were allowed to operate 50 percent of the buses from August 11 when the restriction on public transport operation was lifted.

Bangladesh Railway will resume operation of 36 more trains from today, as the authority is trying to normalise operation of train services.

Of the 36, 12 are intercity and 24 are local, DEMU, commuter and mail trains. The operation of other trains will gradually resume, a BR official said.

Earlier on August 11, the BR resumed operation of 56 trains at full capacity.

While the authorities have not specified how crowds will be controlled at places like sea beaches, the circular warned that the authorities concerned will be held responsible if any of the conditions are violated.

Since August 2, the positivity rate has been declining steadily, with 17.67 percent recorded yesterday.

Earlier on June 20, the positivity rate was 16.38 percent -- the lowest in the past two months.

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Members of Jubo Red Crescent Chattogram, along with doctors and nurses, are volunteers in treating Covid-19 patients admitted to the ICU of Chattogram General Hospital. A 20-member team received a week-long training on providing oxygen support and giving medicines to patients. Of them, seven are working at the ICU. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Business icon Anwar Hossain no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwar Hossain, founder and chairman of Anwar Group of Industries, breathed his last on August 17.

He died at the age of 83 at Labaid Hospital in Dhaka.

The veteran businessman had been suffering from dementia and old-age complications.

Namaz-e-janaza of Hossain, the late parliamentarian from Dhaka-8, will be held at 10:30am today at Baitul Aman Jam-e-mosque in Dhanmondi Road 7.

He was the founder
SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

New 'mermaid' plant species discovered in Andamans



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A new species of marine algae in the Andaman archipelago has been discovered by Indian scientists, with the name given to the species taking inspiration from The Little Mermaid fairy tale written by Hans Christian Anderson.

The main characteristic of the species is that the whole plant is made up of just one gigantic cell with just one nucleus, said researchers.

The green seaweed, which
SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

MIGRANTS RETURNING FROM MALAYSIA CAAB notice sparks confusion

Many unsure if they need special permission or be fully vaccinated to come home

PORIMOL PALMA AND RASHIDUL HASAN

Many Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia are now facing uncertainty over their return home as confusion has arisen over a circular of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

According to the CAAB circular issued on August 16, Bangladeshi citizens have to be fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus 14 days before the travel date for their return home by flights.

If not fully vaccinated, they will need special approval or authorisation from Bangladesh foreign ministry, it said.

Following the circular, scores of Bangladeshi migrants thronged Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur to get authorisation to return home as they were not fully vaccinated. But the officials there turned them away, saying they wouldn't need any authorisation or letter to fly home, several migrants told this newspaper yesterday.

They also said some officials at the mission told them that the circular was withdrawn.

Contacted, Khorshed Alam Khastagir, Bangladesh's deputy high commissioner in Malaysia, said the CAAB order was not cancelled and there could have been miscommunication about it.

Asked about the rush of migrants at the high commission for special permission, Khastagir said he was not aware of it.

He further said the high commission is not issuing any letters to the Bangladeshis willing to return home.

"We get the list of travellers from the airlines. We then send it to the foreign ministry in Dhaka. Upon the ministry's approval, we send the list back to the airlines concerned," he told this newspaper from Kuala
SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ARGENTINE COURT Rohingyas testify about the horrors they faced

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In a historic development for Myanmar, Rohingya women have described in an Argentine court of law, under the aegis of universal jurisdiction, how the Myanmar military carried out a brutal massacre in their village.

Speaking remotely to the Federal Criminal Appeals Court in Buenos Aires from the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday, the women spoke of how soldiers killed their husbands in Chuk Pyin of Myanmar's Rakhine, according to a statement from the Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK).

They said soldiers killed hundreds of people, while some women were raped before being killed. The soldiers went on to rape
SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

AL legislators disqualified

AUGUST 19, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

AL LEGISLATORS BARRED

The Pakistan government today disqualified 195 of the 288 Awami League members elected to the 310-seat East Pakistani Provincial Assembly. They were charged with "incitement to murder, rape, kidnapping, attacks on police posts and banks, armed robbery, rebellion and conspiring with the enemy".

It said those disqualified would face criminal charges. The remaining 94 Awami League members would be allowed to hold office as individuals but not under the party label.

The Pakistan government's action followed a ban of 79 of the 167 members of the Awami League elected to the National Assembly in December, 1970. The assembly never met as the West Pakistani troops began a military crackdown on March 25, 1971 in the province.

US AMBASSADOR CALLS ON YAHYA The US Ambassador to Pakistan Joseph Farland today called on Pakistan President Yahya Khan.

Yahya claimed that there was not at this time a continuing flow of refugees leaving East Pakistan. Indians were mounting attacks against Pakistan, preventing refugees from returning, arming
SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



COLLEGE STUDENT'S DEATH Court clears Bashundhara MD of charges

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka court yesterday relieved Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir of the charges in the case filed over abetting a college student's death by suicide in the capital's Gulshan in April.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order, rejecting the no-confidence petition submitted by the complainant against the probe report which the investigation officer of the case had submitted in July, court sources said.

Earlier in the day, the magistrate accepted the final report in which the accused was cleared of charges, saying the investigation by police was found to be proper and correct and there were no cogent grounds to order further investigation into the matter, Sub-Inspector
SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

CLASH WITH COPS 3 cases filed against city BNP leaders

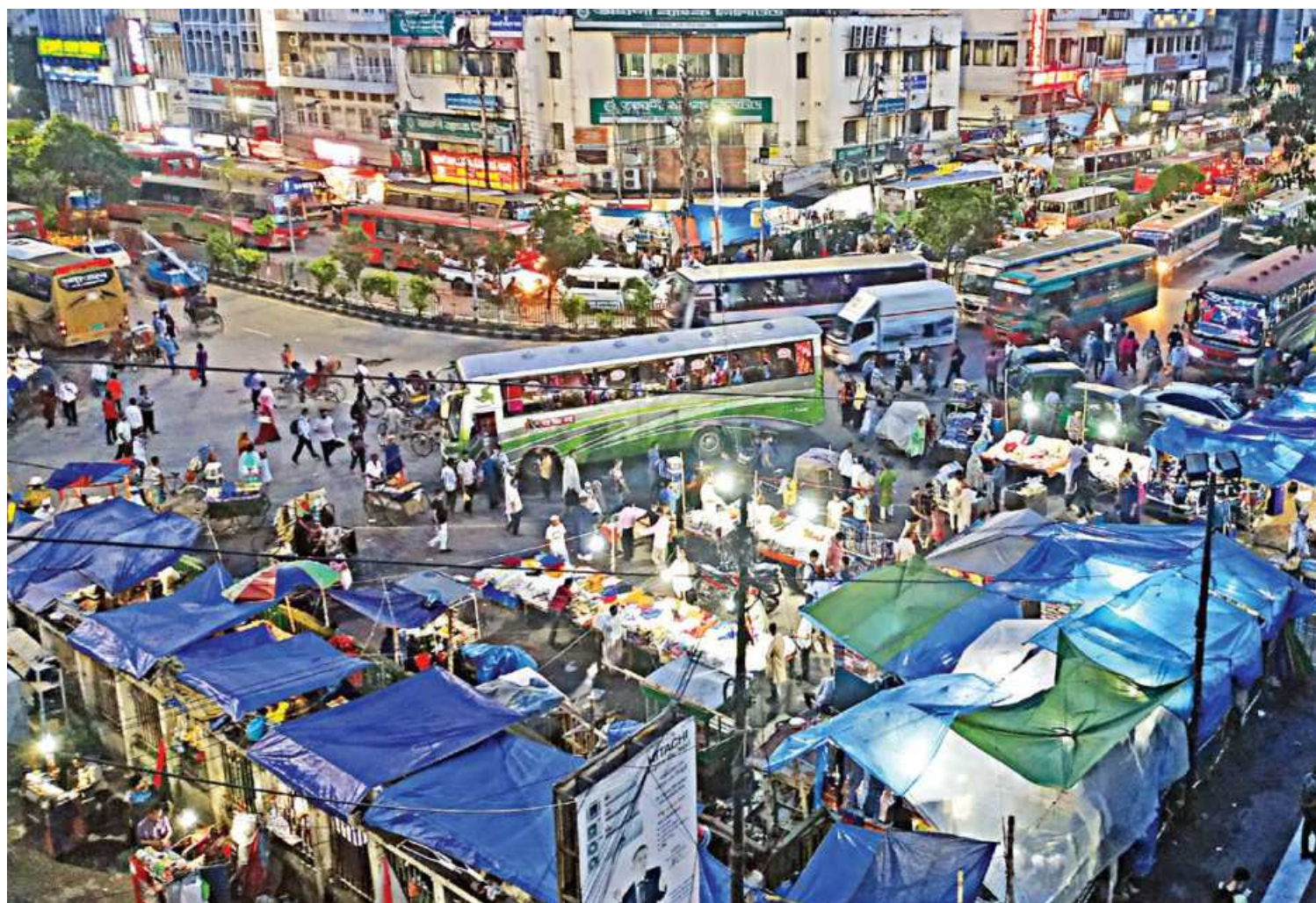
153 named, 3,000 unnamed accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four top leaders of newly formed BNP's Dhaka north and south city units were sued yesterday, a day after the party activists and law enforcers clashed in the capital's Chandrima Udyan.

Three cases -- one by police and the two others by metro rail contractors -- were filed in this connection.

Prabir Ranjan Dhar, sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Police Station, lodged a case against 153 BNP
SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Gulistan's Bangabandhu Avenue buzzing with people and public transport, as most Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted in phases and traffic in the capital returned to its pre-lockdown state. The photo was taken from Baitul Mukarram Mosque area recently.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Star HEALTHLINE

Uncontrolled diabetes A THREAT TO VISION

FARHANA AHMED

There are several medical conditions that affect the eyes. But diabetes poses high risk of vision loss and even blindness.

Diabetes affects several organs, like kidney and peripheral nerves, but many of us are unaware of its effect on the eyes.

People who have had diabetes for many years are at risk of a condition known as Diabetic Retinopathy (DR), the fifth leading cause of blindness worldwide.

"If we start with the eyelid,
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BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 19
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:00
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION