DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 28, 2021

'INCLUSIVE GOVT' IN AFGHANISTAN Taliban say caretaker government will include leaders from all ethnicities and tribal backgrounds in the country **SEE PAGE 5**

The Haily www.thedailystar.net

Bhadra 13, 1428 BS

SECOND EDITION



The dressing room environment is very good at the moment. We are 15 to 20 people here but everyone wants the 11 playing in the field to do well. NURUL HASAN, BANGLADESH WICKETKEEPER

Vol. XXXI No. 216



'We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay." **US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN**

MUHARRAM 18, 1443 HIJRI





High-value fish stock depletes

Experts for action to stop overfishing

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The stock of some high-value sea fish species has depleted over the last three decades due to excessive fishing that also damages the ecosystem of the marine environment, threatening survival of other aquatic lives.

The depletion trend of some fish

populations, including shrimp, pomfret, croaker and Indian is so Salmon, alarming that experts call for urgent protective measures. overall "The

shrimp biomass trend has been consistently downward over the last 30 years and somewhat depleted due to overfishing," said a government report, titled Marine Fisheries Survey Reports and Stock Assessment.

The report was published in 2019, after a three-year (2016-2019) survey by the Department of Fisheries (DoF).

The report recommended immediate



SILVER POMFRET SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED



CATFISHES

government interventions before fish like shrimp, pomfret and Indian Salmon face "commercial extinction". Two years on, the relevant ministries

and departments are yet to formulate the rules needed to stop overfishing and rebuild the stock of endangered fish species.

Kh Mahbubul Haque, additional

work. **TIGER SHRIMP**

director general of DoF, said the coronavirus pandemic had slowed down their

THE DEPLETION Though the overall shrimp

production has risen due to inland shrimp farming, the total catch of marine shrimp has dropped by about 10,000 tonnes in a decade, according to the statistical yearbooks of the DoF.

In 2009-10, the total catch of marine shrimp was 52,592 tonnes. It dropped to 42,816 tonnes in 2019-20.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



HARINA SHRIMP SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED



2 judges get death threats from 'militant groups'

STAR REPORT

Two judges in Joypurhat and Tangail have received death threats from "militant groups".

They received threatening letters through the post on

STRANDED IN AFGHANISTAN Evacuation of 15 Bangladeshis still uncertain 160 Afghan students of

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

AUW also wait for flight

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The evacuation of 15 Bangladeshis from remained uncertain Afghanistan yesterday as the chartered flight that was supposed to carry them home on Thursday got cancelled following the blast at Kabul airport

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

midnight.

Thursday

ON KABUL AIRPORT BLASTS



"This incident underscores the volatility of the situation on the ground in Afghanistan but also strengthens our resolve as we continue to deliver urgent assistance across the country in support of the Afghan people." **UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES**

SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED

KEY POINTS

- Marine shrimp catch drops due to overfishing
- Catch of pomfret sees a nearly five-fold decline
- With a 44-fold drop, Indian Salmon seems worst victim of 'overfishing'
- Experts for quick action to save high-value fish species, ecosystem



Salmon face "commercial extinction". But the relevant ministries and departments are yet to formulate the rules needed to stop overfishing and rebuild the stock of endangered fish species.

Rustam Ali, judge of Women and Children **Repression Prevention** Tribunal in Joypurhat, received a two-page letter at his residence.

Police and court office sources said the senders of the letter claimed that they are "the Taliban" and the group will take control of Bangladesh like Afghanistan soon.

'You are a judge, but people are not getting fair justice," said the letter. It also asked "judges and lawyers to wear Taliban SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Witnesses said more than 100 people were on board when the boat left Champaknagar area for Brahmanbaria town around 5:30pm.

sinks in B'baria

It was hit by 2 cargo vessels; about 50 missing

At least 21 people drowned and around 50 others went missing as a boat

Firefighters and locals were looking for the missing people well past

capsized in Laishka Beel in Brahmanbaria yesterday evening.

As the boat reached Dewdona area, it collided with a small dinghy and the boatman lost its control. The boat was then hit by two sand-carrying vessels coming from the opposite direction and capsized, said survivors and witnesses.

"I was on the bank of the waterbody when I heard a loud noise and saw the cargo vessels hit a boat full of people. The boat sank within moments," said Nurul Amin, a local resident.

"Some passengers were trying to swim ashore," he told this newspaper last night.

One of the survivors, Anwar Hossain, who was travelling with his family, was seen in tears on the bank of the waterbody around 8:15pm.

"I had to see my two children drown. I could not save them," he cried. Soon after the accident, hundreds of villagers thronged the spot and kept searching for the missing people. Many were desperately looking for their loved ones.

The deputy commissioner of the district visited the area later and announced that Tk 20,000 would be given to each family of the deceased. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Eight telecom engineers and three BRAC International officials are among the 15 who have been stranded in strife-torn Afghanistan.

The US arranged the chartered flight for flying to Bangladesh 160 Afghan students who are studying at the Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chattogram.

They had gone to Afghanistan on leave but got stranded there as the Taliban seized control of that country.

Mashfee Binte Shams, secretary (east) at the foreign ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday that Thursday's flight was cancelled and it was vet to be rescheduled. SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Biman pilot suffers heart attack in flight

Emergency landing at Nagpur airport, India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Biman flight from Muscat to Dhaka had to make an emergency landing at an Indian airport yesterday after the pilot in command suffered a heart attack in the cockpit.

The Boeing 737-800 had 124 passengers.

The plane landed safely at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur of Maharashtra around 10:40am (local time), Abu Saleh Mustafa Kamal, Biman managing director and CEO, told The Daily Star.

The flight BG-022 was scheduled to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:30am (Bangladesh time).

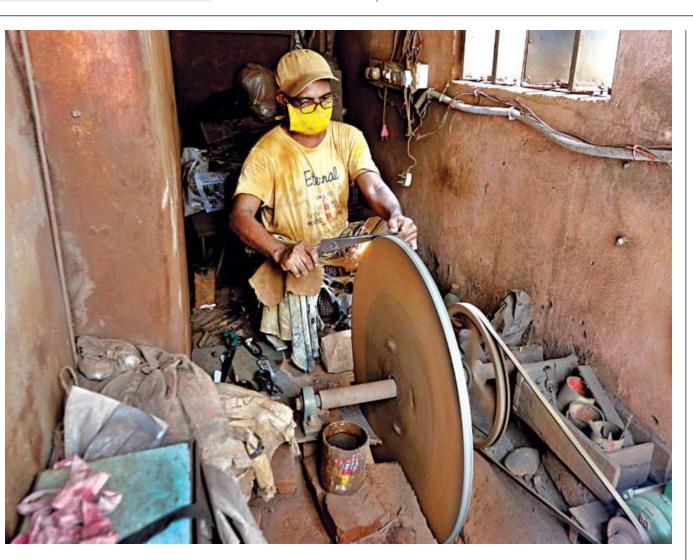
Biman in a press release said Capt Nowshad Ataul Qayyum suddenly fell sick while the aircraft was over Raipur in India.

In a WhatsApp message, Group Captain Touhid-ul Ahsan, executive director of Shahjalal airport, said after Capt Nowshad suffered the heart attack, the co-pilot took over and landed the plane safely.

Capt Nowshad was admitted to the emergency department of Hope Hospital in Nagpur, said the press release.

The pilot was improving and the country manager at Biman's Delhi office was sent to Nagpur to provide necessary assistance to passengers and crew.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Fifty-year-old Jamil Hossain sharpens a pair of scissors at his small shop in old Dhaka's Churihatta. On weekdays, he sharpens about 100 pairs of scissors he gets from the numerous sweatshops in the area. Apart from running his family, he pays for the education of his two college-going son and daughter from the earnings at his shop. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

KABUL AIRPORT CARNAGE **US on alert for** more attacks

Says next few days most dangerous; Biden vows to hunt down culprits; death toll hovers around 100

Agencies

US forces helping to evacuate Afghans desperate to flee Taliban rule were on alert for more attacks yesterday after an Islamic State suicide bombing killed around 100 people, including 13 US service members, just outside Kabul airport.

The White House said the next few days of an evacuation operation that has taken more than 100,000 people out of the country in the past two weeks were likely to be the most dangerous.

Reuters yesterday put the death toll at 92, while AFP said 85 people have died in the attack. Some US media including the New York Times and CNN cited local health officials as saying as many as 170 people had died in the attack. The blast targeted US forces, but hit hardest the mass of

people who had converged on the airport in a desperate bid to escape the Taliban's feared hardline rule.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the United States believed there are still "specific, credible" threats against the airport.

"We certainly are prepared and would expect future attempts," Kirby told reporters in Washington. "We're monitoring these threats, very, very specifically, virtually in real time.

US and allied forces are racing to complete evacuations of their citizens and vulnerable Afghans and to withdraw from Afghanistan by an Aug 31 deadline set by President Joe Biden

BANGLADESH
UPDATE3,525
New cases in 24hrs14,86,12
Total cases



25,846

Deaths

4,493,022 ● 📮 215,760,216 Total cases

GAS EXPLOSION AT MIRPUR HOUSE Unauthorised repair, faulty line to blame

Say fire service officials; three more die from burns raising death toll to four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death toll from Wednesday's gas explosion at a building in the capital's Mirpur has risen to four as three more people died from burns yesterday.

Officials said cooking gas got trapped in a flat when a local man was trying to unclog a faulty gas pipe on the ground floor of the building. The tragedy struck when the man lit a stove to check if the pipe was clear, causing the trapped gas to catch fire.

Three of those who died are from a family. Three others injured in the fire are struggling for life with burns in their respiratory tracts, doctors said.

The building owner's mother Rawshan Ara Begum, 70, his stepbrother Shafiqul Islam, 35, and Sazzad Hossain Suman, 40, the man who was trying to unclog the gas pipe, died at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery yesterday, according to Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of the burn institute.

Eighty-five percent of the bodies of Rawshan and Shafiqul were burnt while Suman suffered 45 percent burns.

Shafiqul's mother Rina Begum, 50, died at the institute on Thursday morning with 70 percent burns.

Tenant of the building Renu Begum, 35, with 38 percent burns; tenant of an adjacent building Naznin Akhter, 25, with 27 percent burns; and her daughter Nawshin, 5, with 15 percent burns, are being treated at the High Dependency Unit of the facility.

The fire originated around 11:30pm on the ground floor of the six-storey building in Mirpur-11.

Owner of the building Rafiqul Islam said there was a problem in the gas line of the building and he called Suman to fix it.

14,86,153

"After repairing the line, he tried to check the connection and lit a stove. There was an explosion... Later, the fire spread," he said.

A team of Bomb Disposal Unit of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit visited the scene.

Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, chief of the unit, said that gas trapped in the kitchen on the ground floor caught fire when the stove was lit.

Sumon's daughter Suraiya said, "Whenever it rains, water enters into the gas pipe. The house owner called my father to clear the pipe.'

Naznin's husband, who went out of home to buy ice-cream for his daughter, was not injured in the fire.

Rafiqul's father Mahbubur Rahman said he called Titas officials at least 20 times to report the problem. "But they didn't come. We were forced to call the local technician."

Zakir Hossain, a customer service provider at Titas Gas Emergency for Mirpur Zone, refuted the allegation, saying no complaint was submitted.

Leaky gas pipes were the fourth most common cause of fires reported last year, according to Fire Service and Civil Defence data.

In late June, an explosion that claimed 11 lives in the capital's Moghbazar, resulted from accumulated methane gas from a leaky pipe, says a probe report of the fire service.

According to the fire service, at least 722 fires at gas lines were reported last year. Firefighters had to work at 485 of those sites.



14,04,370

Recoveries

Biman passengers of Boeing 737-800 flight waiting at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Maharashtra to return Dhaka hours after their plane made an emergency landing there yesterday.

PHOTO COURTESY: ABDUL KARIM

the flight around 4:30am and the

aircraft departed at 6:30am for

of Biman left Dhaka for Nagpur

yesterday evening to bring back the

124 passengers, said Biman sources.

with the passengers around 10:25pm

(Indian local time) and was scheduled

to arrive in Dhaka around 12:40am

An eight-member rescue team

Biman's flight BG022 left Nagpur

Biman pilot suffers heart attack in flight (Muscat local time). But we boarded

Dhaka.

GLOBAL

FROM PAGE 1

"All passengers on the flight are safe and they were provided meals and were taking rest at the airport lounge," read the press release sent to The Daily Star around 4:30pm.

But Abdul Karim, an expatriate Bangladeshi in Oman who was on the flight, told this newspaper over the phone around 5:00pm that they were yet to get any food.

Ariful Islam, who is from Noakhali, said all passengers were safe but they have not been given any food yet.

Once there was a queue for food but in the end the food did not come."

Mohammad Nurul Huda, another passenger, said all kinds of shops, including that for food, were closed at the Nagpur airport due to the closure of international flight operations. "So, I did not get a chance to buy food."

He added that after the pilot fell sick, the cabin crew via the PA system asked if there was a doctor on board. "But there was no doctor on board." He added, "Our reporting time

(Bangladesh time), said a passenger at the airport was around 2:30am onboard.

High-value fish stock depletes

Dividing marine shrimps into four categories -- tiger, brown, white and others -- researchers analysed the data of industrial catches of shrimps from 2005 to look into the status of shrimp

value shrimp species -- tiger shrimp and brown shrimp -- declined slowly but steadily. On the other hand, the catch of white shrimp increased sharply in 2013 after showing a downtrend for several years. Then it dropped again.

rising trend in lower-value species is offsetting the declining trends in more valuable groups," reads the survey report.

-- is also depleting at an alarming rate. Its catch in 2009-10 stood at 50,245

marine fish production. For example, increased significantly. In 2019, there the total marine hilsha catch in 2019-20 was 3,04,566 tonnes, almost 2009

1,98,574 tonnes 10 years ago. "The overall catch, all species and reproducing species such as sardines and scads," reads the survey

in large volumes in recent years.

were 67,889 industrial trawlers and artisanal boats, up from 45,377 in

One DoF official said industrial fishers often took advantage of the loopholes in the Marine Fisheries Ordinance, 1983, making it difficult to take legal action.

The ordinance, for example, does not specify the size of an industrial fishing trawler. As a result, when officials seek to ban fishing trawlers of a certain size they consider to be industrial, they cannot prove it in court.

'Whenever we took actions, fishing industry people challenged them in the High Court and secured injunction orders in their favour," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Last year, the government passed the Marine Fisheries Act addressing "The increase in these small species the loopholes, but the law cannot be enforced without relevant rules.

2 judges FROM PAGE 1 caps and offer their prayers regularly".

India and Bangladesh will be the states of "Taliban" and no Hindus will be allowed to stay in these two states, said the letter.

The letter termed police a public enemy and praised the armed forces. Five upazilas of Joypurhat will be

attacked soon, the letter added.

Ahmed Bhuiyan, Masum superintendent of Joypurhat police, and Niprendranath Mondal, public prosecutor of the court, confirmed it to The Daily Star yesterday.

The SP said steps have been taken to investigate the incident after police got the letter in the name of militant group Taliban.

In a similar incident, Judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Tangail Khaleda Yasmin received a letter from a "militant group" by the post on Thursday.

The letter said since the judge joined the court, she has given verdict of important cases, creating some troubles for the "militants". "So, if you have any care for your life, leave Tangail after taking transfer. Go away. If you don't listen, we will kill you," the letter said.

The letter mentioned that "militants" can throw bombs at the judge's car while it is going to court or returning home and can carry out bomb attacks in the courtroom. The letter further states that police will not be able to protect her.

Asked, Tangail SP Sanjit Kumar Roy said the judge forwarded the letter to police.

"We have taken special measures for the safety of the judge," he added.

[Our correspondents in Dinajpur and Tangail contributed to this report.]

Evacuation

FROM PAGE 1

'We are waiting for information from the Asian University for Women."

Contacted yesterday evening, AUW Deputy Registrar Sanaul Karim Chowdhury said he had no information on rescheduling of the flight.

Meanwhile, international media outlets reported that the evacuation flights resumed yesterday morning.

Earlier on Thursday, a bomb blast near Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul killed at least 90 Afghans and 13 US troops.

Talking to this correspondent, Mahfuza Rownak, wife of telecom engineer Razib Bin Islam who got stranded in Afghanistan, said, "My husband along with others went to the airport [in Kabul] on Thursday, but left it about 30 minutes before the blast as the flight was not ready."

"Thankfully, they are safe.

"Please pray that they return home afely.

At least 26 Bangladeshis were staying in Afghanistan when the Taliban took control of the country on August 15

Nigerian gunmen free dozens of kidnapped seminary pupils

AFP, Katsina

Nigerian gunmen have freed the remaining pupils from more than 100 kidnapped from an Islamic seminary in northwestern Niger State nearly three months ago, the school's head teacher said on Thursday.

Heavily armed criminals snatched 136 pupils from the seminary in Tegina on May 30 in one of a series of mass abductions targeting schools and colleges in Nigeria since December.

Six of the pupils died in captivity and a further 15 escaped in June, according to school officials.

"The pupils have all been released. We are now conveying them home," 15-year-old son were among the captives, confirmed the pupils were free.

"We have been in touch with those bringing them home on the phone. We have been tracking their journey home," Abdullahi said. "We are anxious to see them."

Northwest and central Nigeria have seen a surge in attacks, looting and mass abductions by criminal gangs known locally as bandits. But gangs this year began targeting schoolchildren and students as a way to squeeze out more ransom payments.

Around 1,000 students have been kidnapped since December after gangs started to hit schools. Most

The DoF is yet to publish the Fisheries Statistical Yearbook for 2020-21.

stocks.

They found that two most high-

"For the overall shrimp trend, the

Pomfret -- another high-value fish

half the total marine catch that year. Whereas, the hilsha catch was

combined, may remain the same or increase in spite of intense fishing. This may results from replacement of larger, slower growing and reproducing groups such as Indian salmon with small-sized, fast growing

report Pointing out how overfishing puts negative impacts on the ecosystem, researchers said they noticed small and low-value fish species that used to be forage of big fish are being netted

reflects a significant alteration to the

seminary head Abubakar Alhassan told AFP by telephone.

"I can't give you an exact number now. We will have to screen them when we get home. But none of the pupils is in captivity."

He did not give any details about how the pupils were released or say if a ransom was paid.

whose 18-year-old daughter and Sunday.

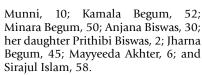
have been released after negotiations, but scores are still being held in forest camps.

Gunmen who kidnapped more than 100 students from a Baptist high school in northwestern Kaduna State released 15 more of those hostages after collecting ransom, a One of the parents, Fati Abdullahi, representative of the families said on

21 die as boat sinks in B'baria

FROM PAGE 1

Of the dead, 11 were identified by their family members last night. They are Afif Billah, 20; Monju Begum, Begum, 45; Mayyeeda Akhter, 6; and 60; Farida Begum, 47; her daughter Sirajul Islam, 58.



tonnes. A decade later, it came down to 10,023 tonnes, nearly a five-fold drop, according to the DoF.

Indian Salmon, locally known as Lakkha, seems to be the worst victim of over-exploitation. Its catch fell by a whopping 44 folds in 10 years -- from 7,733 tonnes in 2009-10 to just 177 tonnes in 2019-20.

"The marine fisheries resources are heavily exploited, with some species severely depleted and are in urgent need of rebuilding," the report said. The overall catch of marine fish, however, increased to 6,71,104 tonnes

in 2019-20 from 5,17,282 tonnes in 2009-10

Experts said the increase in the catch of hilsha and some small fish contributed to the overall rise in the

ecosystem structure which may or may not be reversible in a reasonable time period," the report noted.

Prof Sayedur Rahman Chowdhury of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries of Chittagong University was involved in the study.

He said some recent interventions like enforcing a ban on marine fishing for about 65-days and brood Hilsha were bringing some success.

"But to recover fish stock fully we assume that we need to wait for another 10 to 15 years," he said, pointing out that it took 45 years to recover the stock of cord fish in Europe.

LEGAL LOOPHOLES While the catch of valuable marine

FROM PAGE 1

fish has declined, the number of boats and trawlers fishing in the bay

US on alert for more attacks

"The industrial trawlers catch a good amount of large hilsha fish from the sea. It threatens the effort to rebuild the hilsha stock. Rules are being framed to ban industries from catching hilsha fish," the official added.

Officials are also planning to set a limit on industrial and artisanal fish catch

Meanwhile, the DoF has drafted a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) detailing the work plan to restore the fish stock. The draft is awaiting approval from the fisheries ministry.

Contacted, Towfiqul Arif, additional secretary (planning) of the fisheries and livestock ministry, said they received the draft before Eid-ul-Adha. "We will look into it."

Of them, three BRAC International officials were evacuated to Kazakhstan on August 22 under UN arrangements and two more Bangladeshis to Qatar under US arrangements.

Asked about the other six Bangladeshis in Afghanistan, Mashfee said they were safe.

The foreign ministry official, nowever, could not say anything about their return.

Thousands of foreigners and Afghans, fearful of the Taliban rule, began fleeing the country after the hardline Islamists took control of the country.

There have been huge crowds at the airport since then. The bomb blast, meanwhile, complicated the situation



Islamic State (ISIS), an enemy of the Islamist Taliban as well as the West, said one of its suicide bombers had targeted "translators and collaborators with the American army". The Pentagon yesterday said that the

attack was carried out by one suicide bomber, not two as earlier thought.

The attack marked the first US military casualties in Afghanistan since February 2020 - and the deadliest incident for American troops there in a decade.

It also underlined the realpolitik facing Western powers in Afghanistan: Engaging with the Taliban who they have long sought to fend off may be their best chance to prevent the country becoming a breeding ground for Islamist militancy.

The United Nations Security Council condemned the attack as "especially abhorrent" for targeting civilians trying to flee the country.

Biden said on Thursday evening he had ordered the Pentagon to plan how to strike ISIS-K, the Islamic State affiliate that claimed responsibility. The group has killed dozens of people in attacks in Afghanistan in the past 12 months.

"We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay," Biden said in televised comments from the White House.

Biden was already facing strong criticism at home and abroad for the chaos surrounding the troop withdrawal, which led to the Taliban's lightning advance to Kabul. He has defended his decisions, saying the

United States long ago achieved its original rationale for invading the country in 2001

The US-led invasion toppled the then-ruling Taliban, punishing them for harbouring al-Qaeda militants who masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks that vear

General Frank McKenzie, head of US Central Command, said on Thursday that the United States will press on with evacuations. He said some intelligence was being shared with the Taliban and he believed "some attacks have been thwarted by them".

Most of the more than 20 allied countries involved in airlifting Afghans and their own citizens out of Kabul said they had completed evacuations.

Taliban guards blocked access to the airport yesterday, witnesses said. "We had a flight but the situation is very tough and the roads are blocked," said one man on an approach road.

Another 12,500 people were evacuated from Afghanistan on Thursday, raising the total flown abroad by Western countries' forces since Aug. 14 to about 105,000, the White House said vesterday.

Pakistani officials told Reuters that at the Torkham border crossing, Pakistani security forces had opened fire on a group of people trying to illegally enter Pakistan, adding that two Afghans were killed and two others wounded.

The Taliban yesterday said that Afghans with valid documents would be able to travel freely in future at any time, in comments aimed at calming fears that the movement planned harsh

restrictions on freedom.

Those killed on Thursday included two British nationals and the child of a third British national, British foreign minister Dominic Raab said. The country's defence minister, Ben Wallace, said the threat of attacks would increase as Western troops got closer to completing the huge airlift.

ISIS-K was initially confined to areas on the border with Pakistan but has established a second front in the north of the country.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday called for efforts to help form an inclusive interim government in Afghanistan, saying ISIS was trying to capitalise on chaos in the country.

Up to half a million Afghans could flee their homeland by year-end, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said, appealing to all neighbouring countries to keep their borders open.

There are also growing worries Afghans will face a humanitarian emergency with the coronavirus spreading and shortages of food and medical supplies looming.

The Taliban have asked all women healthcare workers to return to work, spokesman said yesterday, amid mounting pressure on public services as trained and educated Afghans flee the country

Medical supplies will run out within days in Afghanistan, the World Health Organization said, adding that it hopes to establish an air bridge into the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif with the help of Pakistan.

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Brown Hawk-owl. Hail Haor. Bangladesh.

PHOTO IHTISHAM KABIR

OWL

he first bird that many remember from childhood might be an owl. In my case, there was a massive Krishnachura tree just behind our house. A family of owls lived in a cavity in the tree about twenty feet from the ground where the trunk forked into two main branches. Whenever I looked at them they stared back intensely. Being a child, I found this unsettling and avoided going under the tree.

Humans have attributed significance and meaning to owls for as long as 30,000 years - the age of a cave painting of an owl in the South of France. In folklore, owls have been considered mysterious and evil in many cultures, portents of bad luck. However, in other cultures owls are a symbol of wisdom. For example, the Bangla name of Barn Owl is Lokkhi Pecha. Lokkhi means bearer of good luck.

The main reason why people are fascinated by owls is their eyes. Compared to the size of their heads, owls' eyes are large. They are set facing forward (eyes of other birds face sideways.) They often stare back, unblinking, creating uneasiness. They are also immobile and owls must rotate their head 180 degrees to "look around."

At the same time, their eyes give owls fantastic vision, particularly at night. The retina of an eye, where light is collected, contains millions of sensors of two types: rods and

predators, hunting by night and resting by day. They catch rodents, small mammals, fish, insects and smaller birds with their sharp claws. There are two hundred odd species

of owls in the world, seen in all continents except Antarctica. They are divided into the owl family (Strigidae) and the barn owl family (Tytonidae). The latter is characterized by a heartshaped face, as seen in Barn Owls.

In Bangladesh we can see thirteen species of owls covering a gamut of sizes from just larger than a sparrow to the size of a kite. The Spotted Owlet and the Asian Barred Owlet are, in my experience, our most common owls. Brown Hawk-owl, Brown Fish Owl and Collared Scops Owl can also be seen with some effort. Barn Owls can be seen in the city – a kind friend alerted me once when he saw it in his Banani backyard and allowed me to photograph it. The Buffy Fish Owl, a rare species, can be seen in Sundarban. I saw it deep inside the forest from a boat - it was enormous, almost the size of a monkey. The Short-eared Owl is seen in the chars of the Padma but my day-long search for it was fruitless. Our other owls are rare and live deep in the forests of Sylhet and the Hill Tracts

A good place to see owls is Dhaka's National Botanical Garden. Look for cavities in the larger tree trunks for Spotted Owlets; a Brown Fish Owl is also known to hang out in the garden. The tea gardens of Sylhet have many Asian Barred Owlets. If you are looking for an owl in a rural area it is worth asking local villagers since owls tend to stay in the same tree.

SURGE IN DENGUE CASES **Dedicated hospitals** still not ready

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Amid the rise in dengue cases, the government on Monday dedicated six hospitals for treating dengue patients. However, it has been four days, but only two hospitals have started treatment till vesterday.

Officials blamed shortage of healthcare professionals and logistics for the delay. They are hopeful to start soon.

Among the six hospitals, Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital in Dhaka and Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master General Hospital in Tongi have started dedicated treatment.

Asked yesterday, Dr ABM Khurshid Álam, dírector general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said, "We will look into the matter."

He said, besides the dedicated hospitals, they have already instructed some other public facilities, including Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and Mugda Medical College and Hospital, to provide dengue treatment, as Covid-19 patients are decreasing.



DGHS on August 23 announced six hospitals dedicated to dengue patients, which also included Railway General Hospital at Kamalapur, 20-bed Aminbazar Govt Hospital in Dhaka, Lalkuthi Hospital in Mirpur, and 31-bed Kamrangirchar Hospital in Dhaka.

These correspondents visited the dengue-dedicated hospitals on Wednesday and Thursday and found such a scenario.

Meanwhile, more and more dengue patients are requiring hospitalisation, as cases continue to rise across the country.

the country in 24 hours till 8am

4 days on, only 2 became operational Officials cite shortage of manpower, logistics as reason DMCH, Suhrawardy and Mugda hospitals to also treat dengue

yesterday, according to DGHS data, taking the total cases this year to 9,304.

Forty people have died of dengue in the country this year, all of whom succumbed to the disease between July and August. Twelve people died in July while 28 died in August so far.

Among the infected, 2,443 took treatment at government and autonomous hospitals, while 6,191 were treated at private hospitals across the country.

Dengue patients have been struggling to get treatment at the fever were admitted to hospitals in major facilities are burdened with person cannot provide that.

At least 184 people with dengue capital's public hospitals, as the 24-hour lab support and only one

Covid-19 patients.

professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College, earlier said patients taking treatment at private hospitals was a matter of grave concern. There is a national guideline

for dengue treatment, and DGHS has trained doctors and nurses of government hospitals to abide by the guideline. But the ones working at private hospitals are not trained, and they, in many cases, do not follow the guideline, he said.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate

Dr Ripon Das, divisional medical officer of Bangladesh Railway Hospital, told The Daily Star on Wednesday that they did not get any directives to run the hospital as a dedicated one.

"We are going to send a requisition to the ministry concerned to run the hospital as a dengue-dedicated one and will prepare 100 beds in this regard," e said.

Ripon said they need reagents in their lab, at least one pathologist and a lab technician, as they only have a single pathologist now.

He said dengue patients need

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



cones. Rods are sensitive to low light and cones are sensitive to brighter light. The owl's retina contains a preponderance of rods giving them extraordinary nocturnal vision. Coupled with acute hearing and fast, silent flight, owls succeed as nocturnal

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

For the first time since April 2, National Zoo in the capital opened up to visitors yesterday. Fittingly, they thronged the zoo, meeting for the first time numerous cubs born during this closure.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Who will take liability for this?'

Man yet to be found 3 days after falling down drain in Ctg; CDA, CCC playing blame game

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Three days have passed since vegetable trader Saleh Ahmed (55) fell into a roadside drain at the port city's Muradpur area, but fire service's rescue team is yet to trace him.

Biplob Kanti Nath, team leader of the diving unit of fire service, said they could not trace the man as of yesterday evening. He said the accident occurred as there was no retaining wall or any demarcation mark in the drain area.

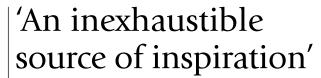
"My father fell down the drain on Wednesday morning due to the sheer negligence of the authorities," said a grief-

stricken Mohammad Mahim, Saleh's son. Mahim has been at the spot for the last three days along with fire service personnel, searching for Saleh.

"The authorities could have at least put up a red flag, warning people of the drain there. That way, this accident could have been avoided," Mahim said.

"Who will take liability for this accident?" he asked.

Meanwhile, residents said with most of the city canals as well as secondary and tertiary drains remaining uncovered and unfenced, accidents have become a common scene during waterlogging, and



45th death anniversary of national poet observed STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 45th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed yesterday in a befitting manner.

Different political parties, and socio-cultural and professional bodies observed the day by paying tribute at the poet's grave on Dhaka University campus and by arranging discussions.

The poet passed away at the

then PG Hospital, now Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, in the city in 1976. He was buried with state honour beside the Dhaka University Central Mosque. Yesterday, the day's programme started with Quran-

khwani after Fazr prayers at the DU Central Mosque.

Awami League leaders, led by its general secretary Obaidul Quader, who is also road transport and bridges minister, placed a wreath at the grave of the poet, reported BSS.

Besides, the party's associate bodies and pro-AL student organisations also paid homage to the national poet, maintaining social distancing.

Members of Bangladesh National Awami Party and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party also paid tribute to the poet at his grave, said separate press releases of the political parties.

Marking the day, teachers, students, officers and employees of DU held a procession, led by DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman, which proceeded towards the poet's grave at 7:15am, reports our DU correspondent.

They paid glowing tributes to the poet by placing wreaths at his grave. Later, at a discussion at DU, Prof Akhtaruzzaman termed Nazrul an "invaluable resource of Bengali language and literature" and the nation's "inexhaustible source of inspiration".

National Professor Rafigul Islam said, "Nazrul's rebellious poems changed the course of Bengali poetry. Nazrul will always be remembered... as long as there is Bengali language and literature," he added.

Nazrul wrote nearly 3,000 songs and composed many of them, which are known as Nazrul-Geeti or Nazrul Sangeet.

The nation got inspiration from his poems and songs during the Liberation War and all democratic movements and struggles.

New frog on the block!

Researchers discover new-to-science species from country's south-eastern forests



ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

The worldwide scientific community is too often bombarded with bad news -- from first time ever rains at the Greenland ice summit to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) doomsday forecast, there is hardly ever a reason to celebrate.

Yet for Bangladesh's nature enthusiasts, there is cause to celebrate. Researchers have recently discovered and confirmed a new-to-science species of frog from Bangladesh's south-eastern forests -- Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. It is a "ribbiting" story of a group

of young researchers scouring the lowland, mixed-evergreen tropical forests of Bangladesh in the height of monsoon to collect specimens that they believed might lead to a new discovery. And their hunch was right.

PHOTO: COURTESY

The stocky, semi-aquatic frog, specimens of which were collected back in 2019, has been named Phrynoglossus swanbornorum or Swanborn's Puddle Frog in English and Chattgai ar gata bang in Bangla, according to the scientific paper titled "A new species of Phrynoglossus Peters, 1867; Dicroglossidae from southeastern Bangladesh, with comments on the genera Occidozyga and Phrynoglossus.

The paper was published in the international peer-reviewed journal PeerJ on the 19th of this month.

The authors are Creative Conservation Alliance's (CCA) Hassan Al-Razi, Marjan Maria, Shahriar Caesar Rahman Fahimuzzaman Nobel, Scott Trageser, and Jagannath University's Assistant Professor of Zoology Department Md Asaduzzaman.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



No coverings, no barriers, no warnings, these wider drains of the port city are possible death traps for unsuspecting pedestrians. And when the streets are submerged due to waterlogging, there is no way of knowing where danger lurks. This photo was taken vesterday from Muradnagar area. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

New frog on the block!

Dedicated hospitals still |Who will take liability | Five actors

"We have only one indoor doctor... We need more doctors, medicine and cardiology consultants, as well as 10 nurses, he said.

At Kamrangirchar hospital, there are eight doctors, three of whom are now working (on deputation) at the Covid-19 unit of a jail hospital. "There is no consultant [medicine], and it's not possible to run the dengue unit without a medical officer, as dengue patients need special care," said a doctor.

Another doctor said fluid management and continuous monitoring are crucial to treat dengue patients, which is why treating them is more difficult than Covid-19 patients.

To run the 31-bed hospital, its authorities said they need necessary sufficient workforce, lab facilities and other forms of support. They also mentioned that they have introduced NS1 (dengue) test from Thursday.

Meanwhile at Amin Bazar hospital, there are six doctors and three nurses, who have been conducting dengue tests (NSI and CVC) in two shifts for the last one month.

Saidun Nahar, its resident medical officer (RMO), said they referred patients who needed hospital admission to Savar upazila hospital. Another doctor said they have prepared the beds for dengue patients but could not start the service due to lack of adequate workforce and support.

The situation was similar at Lalkuthi hospital. "We are providing free dengue tests to patients," said a doctor there. Meanwhile, Dr Parvez Hussain, RMO of Ahsan Ullah hospital, said they have kept 30 beds for dengue patients and have treated 282 patients so far.

BUILDING & LAND SALE

(Suitable for Factory/ Hospital/University) wo Buildings (each 6 Storied@ 90,000sft) total 1,80,000sft, Lanc 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments actory running at Dhaka Road. Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta Contact: 01711-525563, Email: dilan@capital-bd.com

Procuring Entity Name

Procuring Entity District

KEY INFORMATION

Tender Publication Date

Tender Last Selling Date

FUNDING INFORMATION

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

Tender Receiving Date and Time

Tender Closing Date and Time

Tender Opening Date and Time

Name & Address of the office (s)

Selling Tender Document (Others)

Selling Tender Document.

Receiving Tender Document

Opening Tender Document

Public Limited Company.

newspaper.

Budget and Source of Funds

Procurement Method

Invitation for

Date

Invitation Ref No

1.

2

4.

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11.

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13.

AGRANI BANK LIMITED **ESTABLISHMENT & ENGINEERING DIVISION**

HEAD OFFICE, 9/D, DILKUSHA C/A, MOTIJHEEL, DHAKA

Date: 25/08/2021

25/08/2021

N/A

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER (Eligibility of Tender):

Dhaka

Invitation For Tenders (IFT)

E&ED/ ENGG./ MECHA-2/232/2021

Open Tendering Method (OTM).

21/09/2021 during office hour

representatives (if any present).

Reputed Firm/ organization / manufacturer/ authorized agent who have minimum 05 (Five) years of general

experience of similar nature of works. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the

Having experience in successfully completion of Air Cooler Supply & Installation of at least 02 contract(s)

within the last 05 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 11.00 Lac. (The year counting backward from the

date of invitation of this Tender (IFT)) under any Govt./ Semi-Govt./ Autonomous bodies/ Govt. owned

22/09/2021 at 03.00 PM

Own fund of Agrani Bank Limited.

22/09/2021 at 10.00 AM to 03.00 PM

office (7th floor), Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka

Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka.

FROM PAGE 3 even during normal times.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw that he canals and tertiary drains on Chatteshwari Road, Chawkbazar, Katalganj, Prabarttak, Muradpur, Chashma Hill, Panchlaish and Jamal Khan Road areas had no retaining walls.

At least three people were killed and many others sustained injuries in the past three months after falling nto drains and canals in a similar manner.

In June, an auto-rickshaw driver and a female passenger died after the vehicle fell in a drain at Chashma Hill in Hill 'iew area.

Residents held the authorities concerned liable for these accidents.

"The canals and roadside drains have been left without retaining walls, but the authorities aren't doing anything about it," said Tanvir Ahmed, a resident of Zakir Hossain Road area.

Meanwhile, officials of Chattogram City Corporation CCC) and Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) continue to blame each other over the issue.

Rafiqul Alam, chief engineer of CCC, said as the CDA has been implementing a mega project to address waterlogging in the city, it is their responsibility to build retaining walls.

Contacted, CDA chief engineer Hasan Bin Shams said they have been implementing the project for three years. 'What did CCC do in the past 15 years? Why didn't they build the walls?"

"We are not working on all canals and drains in the city. We are focusing on 36 canals and the main tertiary drains. We will build retaining walls after the completion of our work," he said.

Despite repeated attempts, city mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury could not be contacted for comments.

Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head

Supply & Installation of Air Coolers for Agrani Bank Limited,

Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head

Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head

DGM's Chamber, Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering

Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka.

office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000,

injured in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular actors Sariful Razz, Nazifa Tushi, Khairul Basar and Jonayed Buktadi, alongside five others, were injured in a car accident on Gulshan Avenue in the capital around 3:00am yesterday.

The news was confirmed to The Daily Star by Khairul Bashar, over the phone.

The accident took place when their car lost control and hit an electric pole near Gulshan Avenue.

"We were instantly admitted to the United Hospital's emergency ward," said Bashar. "To be honest, I am still traumatised." The actor suspects that the accident might have happened due to a brake failure.

Jonayed and Nazifa are currently receiving treatment at the hospital's ICU.

The actors recently starred in the web film "Networker Baire", released on OTT platform Chorki.

Dr Akhlakul Hossain's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War

and



the Constituent Assembly of 1972, said a press release

Dr Akhlakul Hossain was also a member of the erstwhile East Pakistan Provincial Assembly.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his Mohanganj residence in Netrakona today. Dr Akhlakul Hossain Ahmed Memorial Trust will pay tribute at his graveyard, hold a discussion and distribute stipend among poor students.

Man's body

the body on information and sent it to Barishal Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Nibas Mahuri, the victim's uncle, however, claimed that his nephew was tortured to death. "Where did he get the towel from?" he asked.

Chandan got admitted to the rehabilitation centre on August 7 this year. Earlier, he got admitted to rehabilitation facilities multiple times.

Fossil of four-legged FROM PAGE 12

provided a rich seam of discoveries conditions. showing the evolution of whales -before being studied at Mansoura current data suggests chances of versity Vertebrate Palaeontology

"It has been named in honour of the members of the Swanborn family, who have been supporters of Creative Conservation Alliance's conservation efforts," says Shahriar Caesar Rahman, who is also the chief executive of CCA. Back in 2019, the team collected specimens, with permission from the Bangladesh Forest Department -- four male adults and one female adult -- from Chattogram's Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary. They also collected

photographic evidence and frog calls from Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary situated in Cox's Bazar district.

It is hard to differentiate between species of frogs and oftentimes these croaky little creatures go misidentified. That was the case for Swanborn's Puddle Frog. All this time, it was thought to be another species called Occydoziga lima. But the authors knew Occydoziga lima's distribution was around Indonesia and this

particular frog's call was different. After collection of specimens, authors Hassan Al-Razi and Marjan Maria, got down to the nitty gritty. To confirm this indeed was a new species, they needed to have DNA confirmation.

"All the lab-work was completed in Bangladesh. This is because as signatory of CITES, we cannot easily send gene samples out of the country and to avoid any tardiness, we went

about it locally," says Hasan Al-Razi. The researchers finalised the DNA sequencing at a lab in Banani named Invent Technology, confirms Marjan Maria, another author.

They then submitted the DNA sequence to GenBank. The GenBank sequence database is an open access, annotated collection of all publicly available nucleotide sequences and their protein translations.

"After comparing the gene sequence with other species under both Occidozyga and Phrynoglossus, we could confirm that this indeed is a completely new species. Each species is designated a unique accession number and if a new species is determined, it gets a new one from the GenBank so no two numbers are the same," says Hasan Al-Razi.

The discovery has added a 13th species to the genus of Phrynoglossus, and has also added to the world's knowledge on amphibians.

Understanding and knowing the range and distribution of amphibians is crucial for the ecosystem as they act as important indicator of the health of that ecosystem, says Shahriar Caeser Rahman. He also emphasised on the need for further research as current data puts the newly discovered frog as Endangered according to a particular category of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Bangladesh mission

of achieving a political solution of the problem acceptable to East Pakistan. The Latin American Parliament

urged the international community to extend aid to the refugees sheltered by India and to the suffering people of East Pakistan and to excise all their influence over the Government of Pakistan with the object of achieving a rapid political solution.

ON THE FRONT LINE

Mukti Bahini today raided Ranamati near Phulbari in Mymensingh district and killed 15 Pakistani soldiers. They also raided Pak position Kamalpur and inflicted 11 casualties on the previous day.

In Sylhet district, Mukti Bahini today ambushed Pak troops near Manu and inflicted five casualties. Another group of Mukti Bahini raided Razakar patrol party three miles north of Tamarjuni and inflicted six casualties. Mukti Bahini also ambushed Pak patrol in Kanairghat today and wounded three Pak troops. In Noakhali district, Mukti Bahini

today ambushed 15 Pak civilian vehicles carrying supplies for Pak troops in the Feni-Belonia area

and damaged almost all vehicles They apprehended two Pakistani supporters.

In Kushtia district, Mukti Bahini today killed local Peace Committee chairman at Pataldanga.

Bangladeshi guerillas today also destroyed railway track in Nakurgachi in North Bengal. In another attack, Mukti Bahini blew up 70ft. railway track between Bhawanipur and Jharbari in Dinajpur district.

KEATING DENIÊS FRESH ISSUE OF ARMS LICENSE TO PAKISTAN

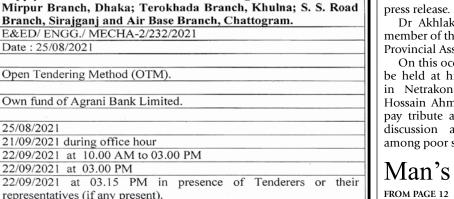
The US Ambassador to India Kenneth B Keating today categorically asserted that no more arms licences were being issued to Pakistan by the USA "nor are old ones renewed as they expire." Writing in his weekly column in the American Reporter, Keating also denied the allegations that the USA had been: giving counter-insurgency training to Pakistani Military officers; diverting arms from South Vietnam to Pakistan; and planning to send American troops from South Vietnam to Pakistan.

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

What is long Covid?

There are currently no tests for long Covid. But if vaccines help against regular Covid infections, can they also While there is a lack of research, help beat long Covid?

BBC has reported research where at



	equivalent post and the certificate will be duly verified by the concerned authority. The Tenderer must process: i) Up to date valid Trade license ii) In case of Limited Company, the certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum of Association, Article of association & Power of attorney iii) Up-to-date income tax certificate iii) Valid VAT registration certificate iv) e-TIN Certificate.										
	The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities shall be Tk. 15.50 lac. Should be counting 28 days backward from the date of opening of tender. In case of Bank Solvency Certificate, an Account statement should be attached counting 90 days backward from the date of opening of tender.										
	The Tenderer will submit their f sheet of last 03 years.	financial state	ments such as profit and loss statements a	nd audited balance							
	The Tenderer must submit: i) In brand ii) Catalogue/ Brochure of Authorize Dealer/ Importer of Me	must be subm	tandard Compliance (CE/UL/ISO/ Any oth hitted with Tender iii) Necessary docume h.	ner) of mentioned nt of Distributor/							
	of Tender documents and all exp	perience certifi	tions of the tenderer are shown in the tender icates will be submitted as per format. Nec of ITT Clauses and technical specification o	cessary supporting							
14. 15.	Completion Time Brief Description of Goods or Works	Supply & In Branch, Dha	ks from the date of Contract Signing. Istallation of Air Coolers for Agrani Bank ka; Terokhada Branch, Khulna; S. S. Road Branch, Chattogram.								
16.	Brief Description of Related Services	As per STD	-,								
17.	Tender Document Price	order/ Bank	(Taka One Thousand) only per set (non-re Draft from any schedule bank of Bangla Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.								
18.	Invitation For	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time in Weeks/ Months							
	Supply & Installation of Air Coolers for Agrani Bank Limited, Mirpur Branch, Dhaka; Terokhada Branch, Khulna; S. S. Road Branch, Sirajganj and Air Base Branch, Chattogram.	Dhaka; Khulna; Sirajganj and Chattogram	The amount of the Tender Security shall be 0.50 Lac in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft (refundable) from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favour of Agrani Bank Limited, Head office, Dhaka.	4 (Four) weeks from the date of Contract Signing.							
	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		I								
19.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	MD. Nurul I									
20.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy Gene	eral Manager.								
21.	Address of Official Inviting Tender		Limited, Establishment & Engineering Div /D, Dilkusha, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	ision, Head Office							
22.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy Gene Bank Limite	eral Manager, Establishment & Engineering ed, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkush								
23.	 Dhaka. Tel: 02-223381674 23. Special Instructions i) Tender security money must be submitted along with the tender documents through Pay Order/ Bank Dr favoring Agrani Bank Limited. Head Office, Dhaka from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited. ii) Attested copy of Experience certificate, Up to date Trade License, Last Income Tax Certificate, N registration certificate, e-TIN, Bank Solvency Certificate, etc should be submitted with tender schedule. iii) If it is not possible to receive/ open the tender on the schedule date & time for any unavoidal circumstances the same will be received/open on the next working date at the same time & same venue. iv) All submitted documents must be signed by the tenderer in every page of tender all true/ photo copy m be attested as per prevailing Laws & Rules. v). If the Tenderer submits any false/ incorrect or forged certificate, action may be taken as per PPA-20 and PPR-2008 and its amendments. vi). This tender will be governed by the PPR 2008 and its amendments. vii). The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders prior to acceptance without assigning a 										

re (MUVP).

he new whale, named Phiomicetus ois, had an estimated body length ome three meters (10 feet) and a mass of about 600 kg (1,300 and was likely a top predator, the archers said. Its partial skeleton aled it as the most primitive ocetid whale known from Africa.

Phiomicetus anubis is a kev whale species, and a critical overy for Egyptian and African ontology," said Abdullah Gohar IUVP, lead author of a paper on liscovery published in the journal eedings of the Royal Society B.

ol at a Kali 1 PAGE 12

ed the spot and talked to the local ole over the matter.

harma Das, president of the ole committee, demanded to the inistration to bring the people lved with the idol vandalised lent to book after holding a fair stigation.

ontacted, Sazzad Hossain, officernarge of Delduar Police Station, The Daily Star that he along with lice team was still on the spot to stigate the incident.

People who were involved with incident will be identified and sted immediately through proper stigation," he added.

aily Covid cases 1 PAGE 12

nd 60, and 68 were above 60 years added the release.

ne DGHS said among the total 46 fatalities, 11,310 deaths rred in Dhaka division, 5,162 in togram, 1,920 in Rajshahi, 3,379 hulna, 880 in Barishal, 1,115 in et, 1,290 in Rangpur and 790 in nensingh division.

least 6,485 Covid-19 patients recovered during the period. The number of recoveries now stands 404,370 and the recovery rate at percent

fter a drastic fall of coronavirus in the country for about two ths in January and February, the try witnessed a sharp increase nfection as 65.079 cases were orted in March and 1,47,837 cases pril

ne country again witnessed a fall hay 2021 as it recorded 41,408 The infection rate started bing from June. The rising trend ined for about two months and then began to drop from August.

having long Covid increase with age, and women are twice more likely to experience it.

who have serious underlying health

According to the National Health Service (England), the following key symptoms may persist in long Covid cases: shortness of breath, 4 weeks after Covid recovery; extreme fatigue; chest pain; heart palpitations; and a change in taste or smell.

least half of respondents experienced improvements in their symptoms after getting jabbed.

The data is still limited, and doctors have only now started to treat long Covid separately. But with the world slowly reopening, the best line of defence is to mask up at all times, maintain a good hygiene routine, and getting vaccinated when your time comes.

Ronaldo returns to Man Utd

FROM PAGE 12 to his name.

FROM PAGE 12

The 36-year-old won the Ballon d'Or as the world's best player in 2008 at United alongside his team accolades, before sealing a then world record 80 million pounds move to Madrid.

Massimiliano Allegri on Thursday of his desire to leave Turin, widespread media reports claimed Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, had agreed personal terms with Premier League champions Manchester City.

But after City were said to have had a change of heart over the deal, rivals United got the transfer agreed.

Covid cases rise

After telling Juventus coach

FROM PAGE 12

more than half of the total active cases, followed by 16% in the western state of Maharashtra.

"More efforts would be required to arrest the increase in infections," the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement on Thursday evening after its secretary held a meeting with the two states.

"This would require adequate intervention in geographical areas having higher infection, through measures such as contact tracing, vaccination drives and Covidappropriate behaviour.'

The ministry also said that the states had been asked to "explore the possibility of placing night curfew in areas of high positivity" and assured additional supplies of vaccines.

India has so far administered more than 611 million vaccine doses, giving at least one dose to more than half of its 944 million adults and the required two doses to about 15%

The coronavirus has killed at least 4,472,486 people worldwide since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data yesterday. LANKA EXTENDS CURFEW

Sri Lanka yesterday extended a stringent coronavirus curfew for another week after reporting its highest daily death toll of more than 200

nationwide lockdown had А

been due to end Tuesday but Health Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said it would be extended until September 6.

The announcement came as 33 leading health professionals, including World Health Organization experts in Sri Lanka, called for even tougher restrictions.

After resisting pressure for a lockdown for several weeks, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa agreed on a 10day closure from August 20 amid warnings that hospitals could no longer cope with the spread of the Delta strain.

Sri Lanka's total coronavirus deaths exceeded 8,000 on Thursday and its 412,370 infections make it one of Asia's worst hit countries.

New Zealand yesterday extended pandemic restrictions by four days after which they will be eased slightly, although businesses and schools will remain shut and the biggest city Auckland will be locked down for longer.

Myanmar will vaccinate minority Muslim Rohingya people against the coronavirus, a spokesman for its ruling military said yesterday, adding that no one will be left behind in its inoculation campaign.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled to Bangladesh during military operations in 2017 and those who remain complain of discrimination and mistreatment in a country that does not recognise them as citizens.

INTERNATIONAL

KABUL AIRPORT BLASTS GLOBAL REACTION

The Taliban has joined global leaders in condemning twin suicide bombs that ripped through crowds waiting to be evacuated outside Kabul airport, killing at least 85 people, including 13 US troops. Here is a round-up of the reaction to Thursday's attack.

United States: President Joe Biden vowed to hunt down those behind the suicide bombings that killed American troops in the worst singleday loss for the Pentagon in Afghanistan since 2011. "We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay," Biden, visibly shaken, said in a White House address during which he said evacuations of vulnerable people would continue until August 31.

Taliban: The Taliban slammed the blasts, but pointed out they happened in an area that was under the control of US military. "The Islamic Emirate strongly condemns the bombing targeting civilians at Kabul airport," the group's spokesman tweeted.

Russia: Russia also blasted the attacks "in the strongest possible terms". "Unfortunately, the pessimistic forecasts that entrenched terrorist groups, especially ISIS, will not fail to take advantage of the chaos in Afghanistan, are being confirmed," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

China: China said it was "shocked" by the explosions. They show "the security situation in Afghanistan is still complex and severe", foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

Europe: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned "barbaric" attack, paying tribute to the "phenomenal effort" of those involved in the evacuation operation. French President Emmanuel Macron expressed "his condolences to the families of the American and Afghan victims".

Canada: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged to work with partners to resettle refugees in his country. "Our hearts break for the people of Afghanistan and the loved ones of the victims, including the brave women and men of our allies," he said.

OIC: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned the "twin heinous terrorist bombings". Secretary General Yousef al-Othaimeen in a statement "reaffirmed the OIC's firm, principled position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

Middle East: Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry rejected the attacks as "incompatible with all religious principles and moral and human values." Turkey's foreign ministry deplored "this heinous attack in the strongest terms," while Egypt decried the "gruesome terrorism". Iran, meanwhile, condemned "the targeting of Afghanistan's defenceless people and any terrorist operation in which women, men, youth, and children are attacked."

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Taliban forces block the roads around the airport, while a woman with Burga walks passes by, in Kabul, yesterday.

Biden presidency shaken to core

.....

AFP, Washington Eyes closing, voice cracking, Joe

Biden physically reflected the terrible blow to his presidency from the slaying of 13 US service members during the desperate Kabul evacuation.

Addressing the nation from the White House, Biden appeared occasionally close

to tears as he spoke of the dead "heroes." And when he promised the attackers "we will hunt you down," there was steel in his voice.

No doubt that Biden's presidency has been shaken to the core by the bombing at Kabul's airport.

In January, he took office promising calm at home and respect for the United States abroad after the turbulent Donald Trump years.

Now Biden's been left with a mountain to climb if he's to persuade the nation and America's partners that either goal remains achievable.

After the fall of Kabul literally unopposed, his administration has been working around the clock for 10 days, hoping it could still pull triumph from disaster. The airlift was going far better than predicted. Then the bombs went off.

Shutting himself away with aides in the Situation Room, Biden canceled a meeting of state governors and told visiting Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett that their planned meeting in the Oval Office would have to wait until Friday.

congresswoman

Stefanik said. "This horrific national security and humanitarian disaster is solely the result of Joe Biden's weak and incompetent leadership. He is unfit to be commander-in-chief."

Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn tweeted that Biden and all his top national security staff 'should resign or face impeachment and removal from office.

The Republican outcry was predictable. But the wider damage reflected in opinion polls will be more worrying for Biden.

While a USA Today/Suffolk University poll this week found overwhelmingly that Americans believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting, Biden isn't getting thanked. The poll found his overall approval at just 41 percent, with 55 percent disapproving.



Humanitarian crisis unfolding

Hundreds of displaced families seek food, shelter in Kabul

REUTERS

Hundreds of Afghan families who have been camping in searing heat at a Kabul park after the Taliban overran their provinces begged for food and shelter on Thursday, the most visible face of a humanitarian crisis unfolding in the war-torn country.

While thousands of people have crowded the airport to try to flee, many others, like the families in the park, are stuck in limbo, unsure whether it is safer to try to go home or stay where they are.

"I'm in a bad situation," said Zahida Bibi, a housewife, sitting under the blazing sun with her large family. "My head hurts. I feel very bad, there is nothing in my stomach. Ahmed Waseem, displaced from northern Afghanistan said those in the park were hoping the central government would pay attention. "We are in an open field and in the heat," he said. A Taliban spokesman told Reuters the group was not providing food to the people at the park and others at the airport because it would lead to further

overcrowding. They should return to their homes, he said. The Taliban have placed its members in ministries and ordered some officials back to work, but services are yet to esume, with banks still closed.

Phalwan Sameer, also from northern Afghanistan, said his family came to Kabul after the situation rapidly deteriorated in his home town.

"There (was) a lot of fighting and bombing as well. That's why we came here. The houses were burned and we became homeless," he said.

Taliban working on **'inclusive caretaker govt'** Say it will include leaders from all ethnicities

and tribal backgrounds in Afghanistan

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The Taliban yesterday said it is planning an inclusive caretaker government in Afghanistan after the group toppled the Western-backed administration in a stunning sweep earlier this month.

Taliban sources told Al Jazeera that the caretaker government will include leaders from all ethnicities and tribal backgrounds in the country.

Nearly a dozen names are being considered to be part of the new government, sources said. The duration of the caretaker government is unclear at the moment.

Afghanistan's ethnic diversity has been at the centre of politics and conflict in the country, with no single ethnic group enjoying a decisive majority in the country of 40 million people.

The Pashtuns are Afghanistan's biggest ethnic group, making up more than 42 percent of the population. The predominantly Sunni Muslim community speaks the Pashto language and has dominated Afghan politics since the 18th century.

Taliban sources also told Al Jazeera the caretaker government will have an "amir-ul momineen" (commander of the faithful) to lead the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

They said a supreme leadership council has been convened to decide the form of the



The sources added that the group wants to bring new faces in to the government, including the sons of Tajik and Uzbek tribal leaders.

They said the United States has been insisting on bringing in some members of the older governments, including former President Hamid Karzai and former Head of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation Abdullah Abdullah.

Another Taliban source told Al Jazeera that the group remains committed to the 2020 Doha accord it signed with the US, including not allowing Afghan soil to be used to launch terror attacks.

On women's rights, the source said women will be allowed to work in various government bodies as they did in the previous government, mainly in the health and education sectors.

The source said special courts will be set up at local levels to fight corruption and



"Joe Biden has blood on his hands," Republican Elise



Rescuers help a migrant child to disembark from a Spanish coast guard vessel, in the port of Arguineguin, in the island of Gran Canaria, Spain on Thursday. The photo was released yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

	বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান গোপালগঞ্জ-৮১০		
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অন্যান্য	বিদ্যালয়ের রাজস্বখাতের আওতায় নিম্নবর্ণিত প আর্থিক সুবিধাদিসহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিযে দর নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাঞ্ছে।	দসমূহে বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদে য়াগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্র	ন্য বেতন ও কৃত ও স্থায়ী
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নং		(২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	
۶.	রেজিস্ট্রার	গ্রেড-৩ (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০)	গী
ર.	লাইব্রেরীয়ান	গ্রেড-৩ (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০)	গী
৩.	উপ-রেজিস্ট্রার	গ্রেড-৫ (৪৩০০০-৬৯৮৫০)	গী
8.	উপ-পরিচালক (অডিট)	গ্রেড-৫ (৪৩০০০-৬৯৮৫০)	গী
¢.	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (পুর.)	প্রেড-৬ (৩৫৫০০০-৬৭০১০)	গী
હ.	মেডিকেল অফিসার (১টি পুরুষ ও ১টি মহিলা)	গ্রেড-৯ (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০)	২টি
۹.	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল)	গ্রেড-৯ (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০)	গী
	(উপ-বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রকৌশলী পদের বিপরীতে)		
b.	ব্রাদার	প্রেড-১০ (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	গী
۵.	সহকারী পাবলিক রিলেশন অফিসার	গ্রেড-১০ (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	গী

۹.	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল)	গ্রেড-৯ (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০)	গী	
	(উপ-বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রকৌশলী পদের বিপরীতে)			
Ъ.	ব্রাদার	প্রেড-১০ (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	গী	
۵.	সহকারী পাবলিক রিলেশন অফিসার	প্রেড-১০ (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	গী	
30.	ক্যাটালগার	প্রেড-১১ (১২৫০০-৩০২৩০)	গী	
33 .	দ্রাইভার	প্লেড-১৫ (৯৭০০-২৩৪৯০)	খীত	
ડર.	মোয়াজ্জিন	গ্রেড-১৯ (৮৫০০-২০৫৭০)	গী	
20.	কার্পেন্টার (মেশন পদের বিপরীতে)	গ্রেড-১৯ (৮৫০০-২০৫৭০)	গী	
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\$0.	সহকারী কুক (বয় পদের বিপরীতে)	প্রেড-২০ (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	গী	
<u>১</u> ৬.	নিরাপন্তা প্রহরী	প্রেড-২০ (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	খী	

প্রতিটি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরম (Prescribed Form), শিক্ষাগত অভিজ্ঞতা এবং নিয়োগের শতবিলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট যোগতো (www.bsmrstu.edu.bd) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। যে পদে আবেদন করতে ইচ্ছুক সে পদের নাম অবশ্যই খামের উপর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ক্রমিক নং-১ হতে ক্রমিক নং-০৯ পর্যন্ত উল্লেখিত পদের জন্য ১২০০/- (এক হাজার দুইশত) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং-১০ হতে ক্রমিক নং-১৬ পর্যন্ত পদের জন্য ৬০০/- (ছয়শত) টাকা অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের হিসাব বিভাগে নগদ জমা দিয়ে জমা রশিদ অথবা অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিঃ এর যে কোন শাখা হতে বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ এর অনুকূলে হিসাব নং- ০২০০০০৩১৫২৩৭২ এ নগদ জমা দিয়ে জমা রশিদ আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সংযক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদন পত্রের হার্ড কপি (৬ সেট) করিয়ার সার্ভিসের/ডাক বিভাগ এর মাধ্যমে অথবা হাতে হাতে আগামী ২৯/০৮/২০২১ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫-০০ টার মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রার দণ্ডরে জমা দেয়া যাবে/পৌছাতে হবে। কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস/ডাক বিভাগের বিলম্বের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনভাবেই দায়ী থাকবে না।

	মো. আবদুর রউফ
4	রেজিসট্রার

GD-1534

No jobs, passports for 'anti-nat'l' social media posts in India

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

At least three Indian states are denying passports and government jobs to people because of their social media posts or participation in protests, human rights activists said.

In a move that could jeopardise the futures of tens of thousands of vocal young Indians, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Uttarakhand have issued such orders, as India clamps down on dissent online and on the ground.

It is a reprehensible move - the police have no right to decide whether any post on social media is anti-national or not," said Nasir Khuehami, a student leader in the restive region of Jammu and Kashmir, enmeshed in turmoil for decades.

"The need of the hour is to not create more hassles in the path of thousands of Kashmiri youth who are now in jobs or studying. It will push the youth into further alienation," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

In Bihar, state police said participating in any kind of protest could result in clearances being denied for passports and government jobs.

"Such people have to be prepared for serious consequences," said Bihar's director general of police S K Singhal.

Earlier this year, police in the northern state of Uttarakhand said they would monitor social media posts and maintain a record of those that are "anti-national" or 'anti-social", and reject passport applications accordingly.

Across Asia, lawmakers have introduced a slew of legislation for governments to access internet users' data and block so-called false news, which human rights groups say raises the risk of mass surveillance and free speech violations.

AUGUST 28

1963 - Martin Luther King delivered his "I have a dream" speech to 200,000 civil rights demonstrators who had marched on Washington for jobs and freedom.

1996 - The marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, which took place with pomp and pageantry in 1981, ended with a rubberstamp divorce.



Factory fire kills 16 in Karachi AFP, Karachi

At least 16 workers died and more were missing after a factory fire in Pakistan's commercial capital Karachi yesterday,

police said. More than 25 labourers were inside the small factory in a residential area of the port city when the

blaze broke out, causing it to fill with thick smoke. "We have recovered 16 bodies so far," senior police

officer Shahjehan Khan told AFP. "We are trying to recover more stranded people but I fear they might not make it out," Khan said, adding the factory had no proper

fire exits. "The stairs leading to the roof were locked, otherwise the labourers could have survived by running to the rooftop," Khan said.

Karachi city administrator Murtaza Wahab also said there was no safe exit for the workers. Poor industrial laws and building codes in Pakistan mean factory blazes are frequent.

future government and nominate ministers. make examples of corrupt officials.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Teiosh Halder.

🌀 | The Baily Star

PHOTOS: COURTESY

Behind Tejosh Halder Josh's powerful sculptures

Farah Kabir

Tejosh Halder Josh is a skilled sculptor from Gopalganj, Bangladesh. Born in 1982, he had an affinity towards sculpting since childhood. It first grew in the second grade, when he was asked to create a structure out of mud. Sculpting amuses him, as he finds power in being able to physically touch his art. Tejosh is also drawn towards the materials used in his art, due to their unique properties.





Sculptures by Tejosh Halder

The sculptor has completed his bachelor's and master's from the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka in 2007 and Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan, India, in 2010, respectively. His muses are the works of Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti, Michelangelo, Ramkinkar Baij, Frances Segelman, and the sculptures sold in markets of rural Bangladesh.

Tejosh connects research with his works. His

through the phase and will only deem himself as successful after its passing. He furthers that when he is working, he is traversing through a particular period of time, which is actually shaping his future.

Tejosh also opines that an artist's journey is more challenging in our country as it still follows an ageold curriculum, which creates lesser opportunities for skilled artists. Although the market for art is rich, people hardly know artists. There is also an absence

Devotion is needed to practice art:

Mosharraf Karim

Shah Alam Shazu

Mosharraf Karim is a household name, having garnered respect amongst people of all age groups. His contribution to the Bangladeshi television and film industry is immense. In a recent conversation with *The Daily Star*, the actor talks about the current standard of tele-fictions, actors, OTT platforms and so on.

Can you tell us how television fictions are faring today, compared to how they used to?

Bangladeshi television fictions have evolved with time. Improvements have been made in direction, acting, plot, camera, light and makeup to suit the needs of the present day. It will be unfair to say that all the projects of the past were great. In comparison to olden days, there are more channels, content, and tools at our disposal. Through my experience, I can say that quality television fictions only stand out at the end of the day, which makes me believe that good work is being done.

The audience of our country has been watching tele-fictions even before independence. Once upon a time, there were package dramas, and currently, we have OTT platforms. What is your perspective towards this new medium?

I have taken OTT platforms positively as I believe that change is inevitable. More emphasis is to be given to scripts, as audiences enjoy good stories. If there is a powerful story, people will watch it regardless of what medium it belongs to. We have to welcome what is new, because change is certain.

Many argue about the variation in quality found in OTT projects. How do you feel about that?

How is that any different from television? We need to give the platforms more time for its development and wait patiently. However, many wonderful series have been released till, and the audience has accepted them. We have to keep in mind that the story must be ours to tell and thus, belong to our roots. Most importantly, a lot of money, time and dedication is being spent on creating these series, which will always attract an audience.

There is a strange urge for newcomers to become 'famous' by any means possible. Why do you think that is?

I wholeheartedly believe that devotion is needed to practice art. Acting is not an easy job. One needs to practice it for years before mastering. However, the matter of establishing oneself as a star is different. Some people want to gain instant popularity as an actor, but this does not suffice in the long run. An actor needs to nourish a said character within him before delivering his performance. The process also provides him enough joy. I do not understand why people feel the need to rise instantly. They must come out of it.

You are also known as a 'chameleon' actor. How do you adapt so well to any role?

I learn acting by observing my surroundings. When I go out, I observe the people around me. Similarly, I also make note of people in the fields, river banks and markets of villages during shooting. Their daily roles in life serve as lessons in acting.

Do you miss any aspect of your former life as an aspiring actor? I miss much of the times I have already spent, especially in theatre. I reminisce about conversations my comrades at Baily road, and my work in Natya Kendra. I had spent quite a lot of my childhood at my village in Barishal, during which I used to ride on boats, get drenched in rain during the rainy season, visit the village market and bathe in the river after returning from school. Those are moments that I cherish.

Your recent work in the Ashfaque Nipun directorial, 'Mohanagar', has become the subject of discussion in both Bangladesh and West Bengal. How do you feel about that?

When any of my work is well-received by the audience, I like being a part of it. It thrills me that "Mohanagar" was instantly accepted. I was elated when Prosenjit Chatterjee himself called to congratulate me on it. Much of the credit goes to the director, Ashfaque Nipun, and the entire crew. Good work will always bear fruit.

sculptures are focused on a variety of topics, ranging from society, people, politics, religion, spirituality and existential questions centering on the connections between the universe and humans and who are humans. However, he does not explicitly put across his ideas as he prefers leaving his works up to the audience's interpretation, allowing them to relate to his work and find the joy in discovering on their own.

The artist recounts his student life when people liked his sculptures, but this did not necessarily guarantee their sale. He was only able to sell 2-3 pieces every year. Hence, as an artist, one needs to go through an arduous phase of time when s/he has to invest money for his/her art from a different source and stay very patient.

Such a phase of time may even extend till one's death. The sculptor says that he is still going

of connection between artists and the wealthy, middle class, and a dearth of advertising facilities, art agents, media exposure and platforms such as a private art museum for showcasing their works.

Until now, Tejosh Halder Josh has had one solo exhibition, 28 group exhibitions, 6 workshops and 7 major commissions. He is also the recipient of the following awards and scholarships: Media Best Award (2006 and 2008), Honorable Mention Award (2006), Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Gold Medal (2005), Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati-Scholarship (2010), Bengal Group Scholarship (2008, 2009 and 2010).

Currently, he is working on a project as a commission for a certain organization. He briefly describes it as the figure of a sun, at the centre of which, the word 'Imagine' is written. Its rays extend as a chain of human figures, depicting the growth of population.



The bleak future of filmmaking in Afghanistan under Taliban rule

Farah Kabir

Following the repossession of Afghanistan by the Taliban, various filmmakers took to explaining the plight of Afghan artistes, particularly that of females.

Diana Saqeb Jamal, the director of the Afghan-Bangladeshi short film, *Roqaia*, told *Variety* that she had left her friends and family in Kabul, and her belongings in her apartment. She compared her grief to the weight of the Hindu Kush mountains.

Sahraa Karimi, director and Head of the government-run company known as Afghan Film, reasoned that the Taliban is afraid of free-thinking, which especially threatens the lives of artistes. She has safely escaped the country with her family and two assistants to Ukraine.



Mohsen Makhmalbaf's 'Kandahar'

More recently, director Hassan Fazili, who is now in Germany, told the *Times of India* that art, cultural activities, and filmmaking are destined for destruction under the Taliban. Shahrbanoo Sadat, the



Sahraa Karimi's 'Hava, Maryam, Ayesha'.

Afghan filmmaker whose credits include the 2019 Cannes Directors' Fortnight movie, "The Orphanage", recently fled Kabul successfully.

According to *Variety*, artistes and civil society workers in Afghanistan are refraining from sleeping in their homes, as they are now being located by Taliban militants with address intelligence technology. Sahra Mani, the founder of Documentary House said that intellectuals, filmmakers, and artists are only left with two options: to flee the country or get executed by the Talibans. It is very easy for them to track down female filmmakers, whose numbers are as low as 10. PHOTOS: COLLECTED

The Taliban is a fundamentalist Islamic group, whose members were originally Mujahideen guerillas, who fought against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. The group gained momentum in the early 1990s in the backdrop of a civil war against the Mujahideens.

By 1996, they had captured Kabul, declared Afghanistan as an Islamic emirate and imposed extreme measures such as widely banning women's education and employment, music, and television, and abusing ethnic and religious minorities.

In 2001, the US accused the Taliban for collaborating in the 9/11 attacks by hiding Osama Bin Laden, who was believed to be

its master plotter. Upon asking for proof, the US denied, and in a matter of months, the Taliban was reduced to shreds by a US bombing campaign. A new constitution based on the 1960s reformed constitution under Afghanistan's last king was formed, which granted rights to women and ethnic minorities.

However, by 2006, the Taliban had reestablished itself, with a mission to expunge the US. They became successful in 2021, which led to the withdrawal of the US troops.

The Afghan film industry rejuvenated in the last decade with the help of a few women who worked tirelessly and fought against obstacles. Their films mainly portray the lives and daily struggles of Afghan citizens, especially women, in a war-stricken



Diana Sageb Jamal's 'Rogaia'

country under the Taliban regime. There are also many notable documentaries based on the US-Afghan war such as Zero Dark Thirty and the Oscarwinning Taxi to the Dark Side. Filmmaker and social activist Mariam Ghani, daughter of former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani directed *What We Left Unfinished*, which studies the relationship between the Afghan film industry and the country's national identity, from the abolition of monarchy in the 70s to the Taliban in the 90s.

The efforts of Afghan directors yielded fruits as films won accolades at international platforms. *Osama*, directed by Siddiq Barmak won a Golden Globe in 2003. In 2019, Karimi's *Hava, Maryam, Ayesha* premiered at the Horizons section of the Venice International Film Festival.

On the other hand, Afghans produced movies like *Kandahar* (2001), a filmthattells the story of an Afghan-Canadian who returns to her homeland to save her sister from committing suicide. It didn't get much attention when it premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, but then came the 9/11 attacks, and the world wanted to find out more about the hardships faced by women in Afghanistan.

It is in the making and perceiving of our own art that time and again reminds us of our roots. On the other hand, art acts as a vessel for knowledge of foreign cultures, and its restriction leaves us marooned. It now seems that the years of hard work by Afghan filmmakers and artistes have become futile.

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ILLUSTRATION: NOOR US SAFA ANIK

Dhaka streets devoid of women following decision to only venture out at night

STAR NIGHT QUEEN CORRE-SPONDENT

The city's streets, its offices, homes, schools and colleges have witnessed a curious absence over the last few weeks. Ever since the comment by a senior official calling popular film actress Mona Fairy, Raat er Rani (Queen of the Night), it seems women have decided to band together.

A press conference was arranged a week back at 2:30am and was attended by scores of women from all walks of life. only after nightfall. The ones who are early birds can and will start the day around 7-8pm and the others will join as the night progresses," said one of the women leading the press conference.

This correspondent, also a woman, attended the press briefing and decided to do a weeklong follow-up of the pledge to only work at night as a show of solidarity to Mona Fairy by women of the nation.

This mandate included everyone, from homemakers, office going women, course of the week and recorded scenes of chaos as the first week of the "Raat er Rani" campaign unfolded. This paper also received hundreds of email, all from men sharing their plight at this sudden decision by women.

"My wife refuses to wake up in the morning. That is when I have to go to work. I have no idea where most of my clothes are or my matching tie is. And what about breakfast? I have had to leave the house without breakfast for the next threa dark.

Meanwhile for boys who live in messes, this new decision by women to only work at night means their mess continues to get messier.

"Our bua has not shown up for the last few days. I mean, she comes at the oddest of hours. Like the other day, she came at 3:30am but our night guard was sleeping and didn't let her in. Our house hasn't been cleaned in days and we have been living on store-bought meals for the last few days," said Iman, an engineering student who lives with his classmates in a mess. Men have been complaining nonstop since this decision came into effect.

"We are left confused and worried and don't know how to go about our days. Regular office requires us to go to work during the day but to interact with the women in our lives we have to stay up late. My wife has even been doing all her gardening at night. My friend's wife apparently catches up on all her shows and cooking in the dead of night. She even hosted her friends for a dawat after midnight. Which also means the house is constantly noisy and us men who have to work during the day can barely get any sleep," said another disgruntled husband.

"We have decided to start our day

RMG workers, to household help and schoolchildren and teachers. I visited various spots throughout the past three days. I return home and find my wife is just waking up to tackle the day," said the senior law enforcer who had come up with the term Raat er Rani.

ADVERSARIAL You think you woke me?

SLEEPLESS WHEREVER YOU'RE NOT

Woke Folk has opened its doors to the public, and offers solutions to anyone who wants to appear more woke than the person they are arguing with, especially on online platforms.

"We have long been noticing that everyone, and I mean everyone, has been jumping on the social cause bandwagon of the day," said Amijaga Tuina, CEO of Woke Folk. "They do this to appear woke and come across as caring deeply about injustices of the day."

But the tragedy, Tuina said, was that people at Woke Folk actually cared, and for others to steal the limelight from the pain Woke Folk felt for those who were actually suffering was the real injustice.

"You see, the time has come to separate those who are actually woke and those who are just jumping on bandwagons. I have been woke for so long that I don't know what year it is – can they say that?"

Tuina outlined the services they will offer to their members.

"First, you become a member by submitting a vial of crocodile tears. Then, whenever someone on your feed is making too much of a noise about a social justice issue, you contact us and then choose from a number of solutions.

"There are currently three services we offer," he said.

They are:

DEFLECTION

Suppose someone is wringing their virtual hands about, say, Australia's draconian measures against animals to curb the spread of Covid-19, you can shut that dose of selfrighteousness right up with: "Hah! Nice to see so much concern about animals when people are falling off planes in Afghanistan."

Afghanistan is just the example of the day. So, let's say someone is crying about Afghanistan, then you can say: "Typical. People are dying from Covid-19 in our own country and not able to eat during lockdown,



but our armchair warriors are heartbroken about reports they see on CNN, BBC and Al Jazeera."

TURN THE TABLES

On the positive side of things, some can start feeling very good about themselves by pointing out the racial and gender diversity in the cast of a western show. Contact us then, and we will help you tell them how mistaken they are. The show is basically propaganda about how great the west is, when it actually sucks. On the flip side, if someone praises a classic show which featured very little diversity, criticise that and insist that the watching public are naïve enough to believe everything they see on a sitcom.

Bottom line: nothing anyone does is right or woke – that is the credo of the true Woke Folk.

BORE THEM INTO SUBMISSION

In the rare case that someone actually makes a good, nuanced point about an issue, and you feel like you cannot help but agree – that is when our services are most valuable. Do not try to respond yourself, contact us and we will write 2200-word responses with a guarantee that no one will read that far or follow the twists of logic.

These are just three initial strategies of Woke Folk.

"It will forever be evolving as circumstances change," said Amijaga. "To avail our solutions, please mail us at uthinkuwoke@gmail.com."

Star Satireday can confirm that this is a real email address and as Woke Folk's media partner, we will be printing their woke solutions if and when you face problems during debates and contact them at this address.

We swear on our wives and daughters that we will be less misogynistic: Reformed misogynists

WHATEVER CORRESPONDENT

A Very Religious Organisation in the newly unliberated country of Ivegoneinsane has garnered international acclaim after they said they will be less misogynistic than they were 20 years ago.

In a press conference, the leader of the Very Religious Organisation said now, after the supreme world power have finished unliberating the country, they will ensure that women along with other lesser beings will have rights.

These rights, the leader said, will be determined by the Very Religious Organisation.

Some of these rights include allowing women to breathe the open air, but only up to 20 feet away from their dwellings.

Women, he said, can also study from textbooks written by the organisation to broaden their horizons. This is a rare opportunity from them to glimpse into the superior minds of the men.

They can also work, but only from home. The work is limited to creating face coverings.

The international community has welcomed the initiative, despite protests



in Ivegoneinsane. World leaders said they would support whichever regime the people of the country support, but the leader of the Very Religious Organisation also said there would be no elections.

EDITORIAL



LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 28, 2021, BHADRA 13, 1428 BS

Ensure health and safety when reopening universities

Wellbeing of students must play a central role in decision-making

FTER over 500 days of closure of all education institutions in Bangladesh-one of the longest pandemic-induced shutdowns of education in the world—we are pleased to hear that the authorities have decided to resume certain education-related activities from mid-October. At a meeting on Thursday, it was announced that students of all public and private universities will be inoculated against Covid-19 by end of September, and the universities will start in-person classes from October 15.

Although there have been attempts to shift to online learning during the prolonged shutdown, the huge digital divide and inadequate planning and haphazard directives from the education ministries did not lead to desired results. Given that Unesco has termed the learning loss caused by the pandemic an unfolding "generational catastrophe", we fully accept the urgency of holding exams and resuming classes as soon as possible. However, we must also equally stress the importance of protecting our students while helping them to recover from learning losses.

While we appreciate the initiative to vaccinate students, it must be noted that only 35 percent of 1.45 lakh registered students have been inoculated so far, out of a list of about 3.5 lakh university students sent to the health ministry by the UGC. This means that there are still around three lakh university students who need to be given both doses of the vaccine, of whom over two lakh haven't even registered for it yet. What steps are being taken to ensure these students are registered? Does the government have enough vaccines in stock to inoculate all of them by October? Is there going to be another special vaccination drive for students, and will this be as crowded and chaotic as the one we saw earlier this month? Given the precedent that has been set regarding stock shortfalls and last-minute cancellations of special vaccination drives, one can be forgiven for being cautious in their expectations.

The reopening of halls is another issue where education authorities have been accused of being unsympathetic to students' needs. So far, it has been decided that universities will make their own decisions regarding this. But if halls do not open by the time students have to sit for exams or join classes, have the authorities considered how they will afford the substantial expenses of arranging their own accommodation? The UGC chairman has also said that strict Covid-19 health protocols will be maintained in classrooms. We hope that these protocols, and all other relevant information, will be properly communicated well in advance to the students-since so far, the frequent disruptions in learning as well as the uncertainty and lack of clarity surrounding decisions related to the resumption of in-person classes have put a great deal of stress on them

While no concrete decisions have been taken regarding the reopening of schools and colleges, it is expected that an announcement will be made within the week. We urge the authorities to allow no further delays in holding SSC and HSC examinations, and to listen to the experts in formulating strategies for reopening all schools and colleges in phases. At the end of the day, it is imperative that the wellbeing of our students is at the centre of every



the port city can the memorable quote from the Game of Thrones, where the main

"You know nothing, Jon Snow. A piece of news made me venture into the abyss of the unknown. On

Wednesday, a certain Saleh Ahmed (55) was wading through a waterlogged road in Chattogram when he slipped and plunged into a nearby canal. There has been no sign of the body that disappeared in the Chashma Canal. Firemen are keeping an eye for the body to surface as their initial search has yielded no results. In the last five years, at least six people have died in this canal that flows into Karnaphuli river, including a CNG auto-rickshaw carrying a passenger. Mind it, we are talking about the disappearance of a citizen from the heart of a city, not of a trekker lost in the wilderness. It tells a lot about our urban planning and management.

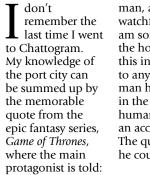
Instead of unfolding my ignorance over the waterlogging issue caused by that illegal settlements and unplanned urbanisation; dried-up canals through illegal refilling; garbage accumulation and encroachment of drains; landslides during torrential rains; lack of coordination among different service agencies; and lack of political will and civic behaviour-I shall instead focus on an image that struck me after I heard the canal's name: chashma. Chashma or eyeglasses, according to Collins dictionary, "are two lenses in a frame that some people wear in front of their eyes in order to help them see better".

Saleh Ahmed failed to see that the road

In Chattogram, these institutions are either overmandated or undermandated for its drainage system management. The end result is a mess.

underwater had merged with the canal. He disappeared while trying to cross the road on his way to the shrine at Muradnagar. Google Maps helped me locate the canal near a hill of the same name. The canal, if I have understood correctly, flows from the nearby Chashma Hill and ferries water to the river and then to the sea. The

The Hills Have Eyes



man, a vegetable trader, died under the watchful eyes of the hill and the canal. I am sorry if the reference reminds you of the horror film The Hills Have Eyes. But this incident has no horror plot or link to any urban legend suggesting that the man had offended one of the holy men in the shrines or that the canal demanded human sacrifices to keep its flow. It is an accident as the victim failed to see. The question is: Whose fault is it that he couldn't see? Can we afford not to

waterlogging. The incident at the Chashma Canal makes us see such rain as the cry of the sky. Nature exists in an organic whole; if one body is hurt, the other part feels it too.

Surely, there are agencies to see this and dismiss my poetic rendering as illusory as the birthplace of Rama. A simple Google search produced the names of three key actors. The Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) is responsible for the drainage system besides houses, roads, and

Saleh Ahmed will keep occurring.

From my safe distance in the capital, it is difficult for me to fathom the gravity of the situation. Just like it is difficult for us to imagine why desperate Afghans were clinging on to the body of a plane to escape from Kabul that had fallen. The spectacle made us aware of the horror that returned to a space that was beginning to feel the air of freedom and democracy. The image of the bodies falling off the plane created a spectacle. The sight and sound



Firefighters search for a man in a canal at Muradpur, Chattogram after he slipped and plunged into it as the nearby road was submerged by rainwater on August 25, 2021.

see when an accident like this happens? Where is the body now? Stuck somewhere in the cornice of a hill? Stuck in the silt and filth of the blocked canals, flown into the river, or carried to the sea to become shark meal?

The uniqueness of Chattogram lies in its topography. Here we have a city that houses hills, plains, canals, rivers, and the Bay area. A 1969 survey under the "Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan and Feasibility Report for Chattogram", conducted by the US-based engineering firm JR Snell, identified 34 canals in Chattogram. Twelve of those canals do not exist anymore, and eight are in the process of dying. Of them, Chatkhai Canal has the ill fame of being the "Sorrow of Chittagong." If this downward trend continues, what future do we have for the water bodies? The lost body of Saleh Ahmed creates a spectacle to reflect on the condition of manmade disasters. His death, in a way, is a performative act. We may not hear it, but we can feel its silence. It is easy to blame the downpour for the

rainwater management. The Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) deals with primary and larger canals. Chattogram WASA (CWASA) takes care of sanitation and storm-water management. My colleague from Chattogram tells me that these three agencies become hyper-active only during the monsoon (and I believe him, because the Dhaka officials are no different). The lack of coordination among them is evident from the city flyovers where you can see that one agency digs and fills up the road, and then another agency repeats the performance soon after. One agency vacates the illegal settlements, while the others allow new ones to grow. It seems like a recitation competition where everyone is given the same poem to recite. Ideally, everyone should play a certain part of the play to complement one another so as to complete the act. According to experts, these institutions are either over-mandated or under-mandated for drainage system management. The end result is a mess. It must be dealt with urgently, otherwise tragedies like that of

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

of it had reached many shores including ours. Unfortunately, sometimes we get excited over things that happen afar while we miss things that occur in our own backyard.

Wasn't it Tagore who famously wrote in Sphulingo (Sparks):

"I've gone to see the mountains, the oceans I've been to view. But I haven't seen with these eyes What two steps from my home lies On a sheaf of paddy grain, a glistening drop of dew.

Tears of Saleh add "a glistening drop of dew" to the waters of the Chashma canal, by extension to the Karnaphuli river, and to the sea. One can only hope that the pair of spectacles will be fixed soon. The frame needs to be fixed. Only then will we "see better" (as the fool advised King Lear in Shakespeare's tragedy) and see the misery of the common man.

Shamsad Mortuza is Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), and a professor of English at Dhaka University (on leave)

decision taken regarding them, and that they are able to have their concerns heard during this decision-making process

Every child deserves to be registered at birth

Govt must fully resume birth registration in Cox's Bazar

T is disheartening to know, as a recent study cited by The Daily Star found out, that citizens in Cox's Bazar district are being put through unnecessary hassles in relation to acquiring birth certificates for their babies. Apparently, since 2017, soon after the influx of Rohingya refugees, the district administration suspended birth registration in a bid "to prevent Rohingya babies and children from obtaining the primary certification required for citizenship." As a result, Bangladeshi nationals in the district have been denied the basic right of registering the births of their children for nearly four years.

While the High Court in 2019 did order the district administration to resume issuing birth certificates, only 12 of the 71 union parishads (UP) in the district so far did so. Around the same time, "the government and the UNHCR had begun the biometric registration of all Rohingya refugees, including babies born in the camps.' Still, and even to this day, most citizens in the district are unable to register new births. It seems that the law also differs between unions, as the chairman of Palongkhali union of Ukhiya upazila says that locals in his union cannot get a birth certificate from another union, despite what the relevant law states.

Now that the facts are out of the way, we cannot help but wonder at the sense—or lack thereof—of the authorities in suspending birth registration in the district in the first place. We understand that the arrival of Rohingya refugees was chaotic and disorganised and that some form of control was necessary initially. We also fully agree that repatriation of the Rohingya to Myanmar should be the ultimate goal of Bangladesh. However, couldn't the refugees have been prevented from possible attempts at registering their children as Bangladeshis without stopping a vital service for the lawful citizens? Residents in the 12 UPs where birth registration has resumed are also facing various hurdles in the process. First, there is the Tk 500 fine for "late registration" even though the delay is not to be blamed on the applicants. There is also an unusually high number of documents (around 28) to be provided for registration including, curiously enough, birth certificates of the grandparents of a baby.

We would urge the government and relevant authorities to fully resume birth registration for Bangladeshi citizens in all 71 UPs of the district, and also to make the registration process as simple and hassle-free as possible. In Bangladesh, birth registration is mandatory within 45 days of a birth. It is also required to access a host of vital services. Citizens must not pay for the inability of the administration to devise an effective way to deal with the concerns surrounding illegal registration.

Why amplifying Rohingya voices is essential

Ahmed Shafquat Hassan

HROUGHOUT history, humanity has often failed to take adequate notice of some of the worst atrocities that were committed. The story of the Rohingya falls squarely into this category. As a group, they are among the most persecuted, and yet their cries for justice and help have long gone unheard.

On August 25, 2017, the Myanmar military launched a brutal crackdown that would lead to the exodus of about 700,000 Rohingya who fled persecution and mass ethnic cleansing on their own land. They crossed miles of treacherous terrain to find themselves at the borders of Bangladesh, where most of them are currently housed in camps strewn across Cox's Bazar. While some countries surrounding Myanmar turned away many of the Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh took in all who turned up and gave them shelter and support. August 25 has since come to be known as the "Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day", to be observed every year.

This was but the latest in Myanmar's long history of systematic oppression of this community, however. Since 1942, the Rohingya have suffered almost apartheid-like conditions in their country. They have been disenfranchised, and denied support, education and economic opportunities. Beyond that, they have been subjected to myriad human rights abuses, including forced labour, not unlike slavery. Myanmar's distaste for the Rohingya is a result of an ethno-religious clash with the objectives of the Myanmar junta, which has been trying not only to curb the establishment of democratic rule in the country, but also to unite the nation under a more Buddhist identity.

This infectious problem was first noticed during World War II, as the Rohingya sided with the Allied forces while the Myanmar military chose to side with the Empire of Japan. Since then, the abuse and ostracisation of the Rohingya people have been prevalent. They were denied any opportunity to self-identify or find any form of economic emancipation. And, while this infection festered, the

world failed to take notice. Although the rise of the democratic movement in Mvanmar seemed to have brought some semblance of hope for a cure, especially for marginalised communities like the Rohingya, the recent coup staged by the military stunted any possibility of justice, accountability or reconciliation in the foreseeable future. While the world was distracted by the 2020 American presidential election and its aftermath, whispers of a coup to seize power in

like the Palestinians, the Syrians and many more, is their (lack of) ability or opportunity to tell their story. It is one thing for a nation to host those who have been displaced, but that is neither a sustainable nor a justifiable way of managing the problem. What is required is the demand for justice and the accommodation of that process.

In the years leading up to the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials, there was a sufficient degree of mandate and political



Rohingya children fly improvised kites at the Kutupalong refugee camp near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on December 10, 2017. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar, democratically won by the NLD party, were already in the air. But the global community failed to take notice again. Today, some 600,000 Rohingya still remain in Myanmar, living in constant fear for their lives.

The Rohingya are currently screaming into a void, unable to find ways to voice their concerns and thoughts or attract meaningful support. What binds us to their plight is Bangladesh's experience of similar tragedies before and during the 1971 war. What binds the Rohingya's plight to that of the millions of other persecuted or forcibly displaced peoples,

will galvanised against the atrocities committed during World War II. The stories of the families who suffered at the hands of their oppressors, and later were allowed to come forward, were a means to ensuring that their stories lived to see the days of trial and stand as testimony when required. This was equally true of the years of advocacy in favour of trials against the war criminals of 1971 in Bangladesh. Many of these stories were frequently published in media across multiple platforms. However, it was imperative that the people who suffered were empowered to speak for themselves, along with their allies and advocates from across the globe.

The Rohingya require the same form of support and access to such modes of narrative building. This could happen primarily by giving them access to modes of media allowing them to speak freely in demand for justice and accountability against those who oppressed them in Myanmar. However, to make their advocacy effective, access to education and a guide for advocacy are necessary. The world can collectively help further the cause by simply joining their demand for justice. The momentum towards justice delivery must be kept up.

The effectiveness of international law largely depends on cooperation. The global community, if correctly informed, can be persuaded to push for the restoration of democracy and the rights of the Rohingya in Myanmar. Bangladesh has long demanded such restorations. As a host country, Bangladesh's support of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other such supranational legal bodies and trial initiatives is instrumental in ensuring that justice is served to the Rohingya quicker than instances in the past. Such courts have presented their interest in the matter in recent years; the logistical support necessary should not be difficult to obtain.

As we recall the unspeakable horrors of August 25, 2017 today, it is imperative that we remind ourselves why remembering these stories of atrocities inflicted on the Rohingya and other refugees around the world is important. While Bangladesh may not have the resources to offer them a permanent home, it is possible for us to amplify their voices, demanding justice for their people by being their permanent allies—much like our own allies did in the past. Their message and stories must be heard and amplified so that they can no longer be ignored or, worse, forgotten. So that even if it is in the distant future, those who have suffered, and the generations after them, are able to use these narratives to demand the justice they long for.

Ahmed Shafquat Hassan is a Research Assistant, Centre for Peace and Justice, Brac University.

TTH the day

coming to

an end on

Twin blasts in Kabul: A crisis made in security vacuum in Afghanistan



airport for a safe passage to the US had hoped for a respite from the stifling heat. Some of them were even standing in the

knee-deep water of a sewage canal, waiting for the formal departure processes to be completed. But there would be no respite for them, as lurking in the twilight were the terrorists of Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), waiting to detonate the suicide vests they were wearing. As time for the evening prayers neared, the first explosion happened. It was near the Baron Hotel-close to the airport—that was being used as a centre to gather foreign nationals to be taken to the airport for evacuation.

The blast was followed by open gunfire by the terrorists, and then a second blast near the Abbey Gate, where the Afghans waiting in the knee-deep canal became the target. What followed afterwards was a scene of utter chaos and devastation as panic spread in the surrounding areas, and the Taliban along with the locals scrambled to take the injured to hospitals.

As of writing this column, the death toll stands at more than 103-at least 90 Afghans, including children, and 13 American service members. It was a total disaster but not so much of a surprise, however. Terror attack alerts had been issued by several countries including the US and the UK prior to the ISKP attacks on Thursday.

As recently as August 22, the US president's national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, had asserted on CNN's "State of the Union" that, "The threat is real. It is acute. It is persistent. And it is something that we are focused on with every tool in our arsenal." The attack modalities were anticipated to be ranging from missile attacks to bomb-laden truck explosions to the use of suicide bombers. And the authorities—both the Afghans and the international community-knew that an attack(s) was imminent.

The Taliban, in its response, "strongly condemned" the attacks, and added that they had warned the US. The US had also shared limited information with the Taliban to help it secure the perimeters around the Kabul airport. The question is: Despite all

the warnings, terror alerts, and the security measures deployed by both the US and the Taliban, how could such a ghastly and brutal attack take place, and right under their very noses?

The are two ways to look at it—from the Taliban perspective and from that of the US.

The Taliban has only recently taken control of the country, and that too with their ruthless use of muscle power. Having ousted the former Afghan government, the Taliban resources are mostly engaged in ensuring stable governance. Fighting the US and capturing towns was one thing, but running a country is a different ball game altogether. With their hands full trying to establish a new governance system and, more importantly, with an intel and security system that is still not well-organised, the Taliban cannot do much on its own to hunt down the ISKP and prevent their well-orchestrated terrorist attacks. A stable security mechanism could have mobilised resources to go door-to-door, search every hideout seeking out the terrorists, but under the current circumstances, one cannot expect this from the Taliban.

Now, if we talk about the international community, their military presence in the

> As of writing this column. the death toll stands at more than 103—at least 90 Afghans, including children, and 13 American service members.

country has been significantly reduced, as has been their ability to gather intel effectively. Their network of informers has also been affected—if not fully dismantled—following the Taliban's re-emergence. The foreign troops are mostly focused on the evacuation of foreign nationals, their allies and aids. At best they can tighten security at the Kabul airport and the evacuation handling centres. In their current capacity, more cannot be expected of them either.

Understandably, the withdrawal of foreign



Volunteers and medical staff bring an injured man for treatment after two powerful bomb explosions killed at least 103 people outside of the Kabul airport on August 26, 2021.

forces, the sudden rise of the Taliban and fall of the corrupt Afghan government, and the hurried evacuations have all combined to create a void in the Afghan national security mechanism, which the ISKP leveraged to make this bloody show of a comeback. After a relatively tough phase in 2019 and the first half of 2020, when the ISKP had been pushed to Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, their attacks have become more frequent in 2021. Between January and April this year, the ISKP had launched 77 attacked across Afghanistan, as opposed to 21 during the corresponding period in 2020, according to UN counterterrorism officials.

The fear is, the ISKP will take advantage of the prevailing disconnect between governance and security in Afghanistan and carry out more such attacks to create a position of influence within the country. While fighting the ISKP will pose a new set of challenges for the Taliban, it will also expose the region to further risks of terrorist presence.

While the Taliban itself is regarded by many governments as a terrorist organisation, they are now seeking political legitimacy and acknowledgement from the international community. The ISKP, on the other hand, is a hard-core terrorist organisation that feeds

PHOTO: AFP/WAKIL KOHSAR

on violence and is likely to attempt further attacks to create a sense of fear in Afghanistan and among its neighbours. So, what now?

In response to Thursday's attacks, US President Joe Biden-whose authority has been dented by this incident exposing him to criticism from both the Republicans and Democrats-has vowed revenge: "We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay," he said, and asked the military commanders "to develop operational plans to strike ISIS-K [or ISKP] assets, leadership and facilities". How this will be done remains to be seen. Does this mean the US will strike strategic Afghan locations to root out the presence of the ISKP? Would they have the moral courage and appetite for this, especially as they are only just trying to pull out from this "never-ending war"? Perhaps.

The Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has also reiterated their commitment to the international community that they will "not allow terrorists to use Afghanistan as a base for their operations." This incident, however, has taken away from the Taliban's reputation that they have made through their trailblazing gains against the foreign forces in Afghanistan, and has put them in

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a precarious position where even those who might see them as a potential ally-including China and Russia-might now question their ability to neutralise internal security threats. Rooting out the ISKP, however, would be difficult, especially since the mountainous and semi-mountainous terrains of both Kunar and Nangarhar would make it hard for the US to target and eliminate ISKP elements. One must not forget the US' Tora Bora failure. On the other hand, for the Taliban,

hunting down individuals in such rough terrains would also be difficult, although they are better-equipped with the knowledge of the geology, since they had also used similar hideouts not so long ago. But without additional intel and logistics, it will be a tough challenge for them.

How does one eliminate the ISKP threat? One way of dealing with this problem is through strategic collaboration. While having to form a strategic alliance with the Taliban might seem distasteful to many Western countries, this might be a potential solution to address the threat of ISKP's rise. With no presence on the ground after the planned August 31 pull-out, the US and its western allies might have to consider forming strategic security partnerships with the Taliban so that both parties can leverage and combine their strengths to make ISKP pay for this heinous crime.

While Afghanistan being ruled by the Taliban is not a desirable outcome for anyone, it being used as a base by ISKP is a more horrifying prospect. US Centcom Commander Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie has already said that the country is sharing some intelligence with the Taliban for security reasons: "They don't get the full range of information we have. But we give them enough to act in time and space to try to prevent these attacks" (CNN). However, to eliminate ISKP, this limited-scale collaboration between Afghanistan and the West needs to go on for some time. It cannot be a stop-gap measure, otherwise the ISKP will leverage the current chaos to turn it to its advantage.

There is no alternative to collaboration to neutralise ISKP, and the world powers must come together in this fight against the Islamic State offshoot in Afghanistan. Both the Taliban and the international community are responsible for the rise of the ISKP, and both now must work together to eliminate it.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle: @tasneem_tayeb

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WILLIAM L. SILBER

strategy in politics, war, and business are usually more serious than the outcome of a football game. In the Middle East, for example, it has produced continuous conflict because the warring parties feel as though they have nothing to lose.

RESIDENTS,

dictators, and

generals.

ordinary people take

big risks when they

have nothing to lose,

in American football

throwing a so-called

Hail Mary pass. But the

consequences of such a

The brokerage firm TD Ameritrade's annual collegiate stock-market contest illustrates the incentives when there is "nothing to lose." Each team begins with a paper allocation of USD 500,000, and a final cash prize goes to the team whose portfolio earned the highest profit in the space of a month. In 2015, students from Southeast Missouri State University beat 475 other entrants by turning USD 500,000 into USD 1.3 million. None of the winning students knew anything about finance, so how did they do it? According to the team captain, "We had nothing to lose. If we end up losing all USD 500,000, oh well. We basically just decided to be as risky as possible."

This go-for-broke approach exploited the rules of a contest that rewarded only the biggest gain, while ignoring all the losses. The students were protected against losing money, so they devised their strategy accordingly. This anecdote may sound trivial, but that same logic is often followed by protagonists in real-world conflicts. For example, the pursuit of "unconditional

> More recently, Israel has felt it has nothing to lose in fighting Hamas, because the organisation's founding charter denies the right of the Jewish state to exist.

surrender" during wartime can have catastrophic unintended consequences. When US President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued this politically popular demand during World War II, the Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, told Hitler that now, "the Germans have nothing to lose and everything to gain" by continuing to fight.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Allied commander in Europe and future US president, agreed with Goebbels. In November 1944, he warned the Combined Chiefs of Staff in

propaganda which is convincing every German that unconditional surrender means the complete devastation of Germany and her elimination as a nation.

stolid resistance" comes, in part, from "Nazi

Washington, DC, that the "enemy's continued

similar to a quarterback Hitler relied on that spin to motivate his troops for a desperate counterattack in December 1944 (the Battle of the Bulge), saying beforehand, this is "really a kind of Hun battle in which you either stand, or fall and die."

Israel's destruction. As Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian observer at the United Nations, noted in response to the latest conflict in Gaza this past May, Israel has "failed in defeating Palestinian consciousness and in breaking apart our national belonging ... We all stand at a crossroad."

But Israel must also deal with Palestinians

who just want a state of their own, rather than

At the same time, Tzipi Livni, a former Israeli vice prime minister and justice minister, wrote,



An Israeli police officer stands in position as a stun grenade explodes by the gate to Jerusalem's Old City during clashes in Jerusalem on April 24, 2021.

Hitler's roll of the dice-his Hail Mary pass-did not change the outcome of the war, which was already lost. But it did produce the worst atrocity inflicted on US troops in Europe: the massacre at the Belgian town of Malmedy.

A similar nothing-to-lose attitude drives the continued wars between Israel and Palestine. In 1973, when Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir met Joe Biden, then the freshman US senator from Delaware, to discuss Israel's security, she said, "don't look so worried... We Israelis have a secret weapon. We have nowhere else to go.'

More recently, Israel has felt it has nothing to lose in fighting Hamas, because the organisation's founding charter denies the right of the Jewish state to exist. Article 11 of the charter begins: "The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine has been an Islamic Waqf throughout the generations and until the Day of Resurrection, no one can renounce it or part of it, or abandon it or part of it." And Article 13 fully closes the door on peace: "The so-called peaceful solutions, and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem, are all contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement."

"The two-state solution ... seems as important as ever. Even if peace is not around the corner, the point of no return is closer than ever before. We must not go there. The most important thing for now is to keep the road open."

ΡΗΟΤΟ

REUTERS/AMMAR AWAD

In other words, beware of enemies with nothing to lose.

Martin Luther King, Jr., a little over a year before he was murdered in Memphis, used a similar idea for avoiding armed revolution: "Riots grow out of intolerable conditions. Violent revolts are generated by revolting conditions, and there is nothing more dangerous than to build a society with a large segment of people who feel they have no stake in it; who feel they have nothing to lose."

In a world beset by new and old zero-sum conflicts, this lesson remains as timely as ever.

William L. Silber, a former professor of finance and economics at the Stern School of Business, New York University, is currently a senior adviser at Cornerstone Research. He is the author of The Power of Nothing to Lose: The Hail Mary Effect in Politics, War, and Business (Morrow/ Harper 2021).

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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জিডি-১৫৩

	গণ	প্রিজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার সমাজসেবা অফিসারের কার্যালয় শহর সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় পটুয়াখালী।
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য়/বিভাগ	:	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্ৰনালয়
› সন্তার নাম	:	সমাজসেবা অফিসার, শহর সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।
জর দরপত্র	:	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতরাধীন শহর সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালীর আওতায় দক্ষ উন্নয়ন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের জন্য ডেস্কটপ কম্পিউটার (ইউপিএস সহ), ল্যাপটপ ও মান্সিমিডিয়া প্রজেক্টর ক্রয়।
র সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	স্মারক নম্বর: ৪১,০১,০০০০,০১০,২০,০১৩,২১-১৩৫৬ তারিখ: ২৯/০৭/২০২১
প্রচারের তারিখ	:	২৮/৮/২০২১ খ্রিঃ
দ্বতি		উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
এবং তহবিল উৎস	:	রাজস্ব বাজেট জিওবি
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		উন্নয়ন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের জন্য ডেস্কটপ কম্পিউটার (ইউপিএস সহ), ল্যাপটপ ও মাল্টিমিডিয়া প্রজেক্টর ক্রয়।
দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	>0/8/202>
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থোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	১১/৯/২০২১ খ্রি: দুপুর ০১:০০ টায় দরদাতা বা তার মনোনিত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে। (যদি নে উপস্থিত থাকেন)
। এর নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	
দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়	:	শহর সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।

	1			া ওপ্লরণ আশাস	ମ୍ମ କେଲୋମ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ	চার (হঙাগঝগ গহ), ল্যাগচগ ও মাল্ডান	ଏତମା ଅବେଥମ ଘଂମ				
08	দরপত্রের সূত	া নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	স্মারক নম্বর: ৪১.০১.০০০০.০১০.২০.০১৩.২১-১৩৫৬ তারিখ: ২৯/০৭/২০২১							
00	দরপত্র প্রচার্টে	রর তারিখ	:	২৮/৮/২০২১							
60	ক্ৰয় পদ্ধতি			উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র	পদ্ধতি (OTM)						
09	বাজেট এবং	তহবিল উৎস	:	রাজস্ব বাজেট জিওবি							
٥b	দরপত্রের প্য	াকেজ নং	:	ৰ্থী (কচ) ১							
60	দরপত্রের প্য	াকেজ নাম	:			তরাধীন শহর সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়					
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১৩	কার্যালয় এর	নাম ও ঠিকানা	:								
	ক. মূল দরপ	ত্র দলিল বিক্রয়	:	শহর সমাজস	দবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।						
	খ. দরপত্র দ	লিল গ্রহণ	:		নবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।						
	গ. দরপত্র দ	লিল খোলা	:	শহর সমাজস	দবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।						
28	দরদাতার যে	গ্যতা	:		ম্পিউটার সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান						
				(০২) কম্পি	উটার সরবারহের ক্ষেত্র ০৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে	। অভিজ্ঞতার স্ব-পক্ষে				
				প্রয়োজনীয় ক	াগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।						
				(০৩) অভিজ্ঞতার সন্দপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, এবং ভ্যাট প্রদান (২০২০-২ সনদের অধিকারী হতে হবে।							
26	দরপত্র দলি		:	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল চালান এর মাধ্যমে কোড-১-২৯০১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ তে (অক্ষেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।							
	লট নং	বিবর			সিডিউল মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমান	মন্তব্য				
	2	ডেস্কটপ কম্পিউটার ল্যাপটপ ও মাল্টিমিডিয়া			কোর্য -\০০০ ৫	সিডিউল মোতাবেক					
১৬	শৰ্তাবলীঃ										
	os. পি,পি,	৭-২০০৬ এবং পি,পি, আর	2005	(সংশোধিত সহ) এ প্রদন্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি য	থাযথ ভাবে অনুসরন করা হবে।					
						অর্ডার আকারে সমাজসেবা অফিসার, শব	রে সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়,				
		রাবরে দরপত্রের সাথে টেন্ড									
					গ সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রান্তির সাপেণ						
	০৪. কর্তৃপক্ষ	র্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।									
	০৫. দরপত্র ক্রয়ের তারিখ হতে দরপত্র খোলার তারিখের নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে। ০৬. বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্নিত আছে।										
		র বিজ্ঞণ্ডিতে শর্তাবলী ও দর									
	০৮. কতৃপৰ	• সবানম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাঁধ্য ন	হ এবং	কোন কারণ দশ	ানে। ব্যাতরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র	গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ	। করেন ।				
	(মেহে	দী হাসান)		আ	শরাফুল ফরহাদ চৌধুরী	এস, এম, শ	হজাদা				
		নবা অফিসার		পো	গ্রামার, আইসিটি অধিদণ্ডর	সহকারী পরি	চালক				
	শহর সমাজসেবা	কার্যালয়, পট্য়াখালী		79	লো কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী	জেলা সমাজসেবা কাৰ্য	লিয়, পট্য়াখালী				
		8			'B'	8					
		স্য সচিব			সদস্য	চেয়ারপা					
		গলিত ব্যয় কমিটি			রিক প্রাক্তলিত ব্যয় কমিটি	দাণ্ডরিক প্রাক্তলিত					
	হির সমাজসেবা	কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।		শহর সম	াজসেবা কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।	শহর সমাজসেবা কার্যাল	লয়, পট্রাখালী।				



The Daily Star DHAKA SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021 **BHADRA 13, 1428 BS**

Brothers with the lyrical names

WAQAR A KHAN

I arrived in Islamabad as a schoolboy along with my family from Dhaka in January, 1968. The new capital city of Pakistan was still in its nascent stage of development. To the north of Islamabad lay the small semi-autonomous principality of Swat ruled by a Wali. It was visited by Queen Elizabeth II, during her trip to Pakistan (she also came to former East Pakistan now Bangladesh) in

e-Rawan. The year was 1970. Naushe was an office peon of my father at the 'planning commission' in Islamabad. For a Yousufzai Pashtun (Pathan) from Swat he was of a medium height, fair of complexion with light brownish hair and a slightly pock-marked face. He was in his mid-20s. His younger brother Bakth-e-Rawan lived up in the hills of Swat, in their remote village home.



1961. She famously coined the enviable sobriquet of 'Switzerland of the East' for Swat, because of its pleasant weather, the enthralling beauty of its snow-capped mountains, vales and placid lakes. The Queen was enchanted by it all.

The following story is about two brothers from Swat, with the lyrical names of: Naush-e-Rawan and BakthBakth was a school drop-out having read up to class IV, in a school located at some distance from his village. At 16 years of age, he was now in need of a job. He had never ventured much out of his sleepy little village, where clouds caressed the mountain tops, rolling mist played in its bewitching vales and gurgling waterfalls cascaded

over rocks which flowed downwards with a musical cadence. Bakth with Grecian features and fair complexion, was employed as a domestic hand in our house to run errands. However, as I showed Bakth around the house, kitchen and the backyard, it occurred to me that his seemingly sedate behavior perhaps masked a more youthful exuberance. There was that all-knowing half crescent smile and a twinkle in his hazel eyes, which at close proximity looked like those of a mischievous cat. Bakth slowly settled down to his daily chores and life went on as usual.

Meanwhile, about three months would elapse before there were visible signs of serious trouble with Bakth. He would often whistle and hum a song around the house for which he was reprimanded by our parents. He sulked for a couple of days and was heard to mutter, "hum toh kisi ka qaidi nahi hoon" (I am not anyone's prisoner). One day, the pious darwan, a middleaged man, complained that his sleep was often disturbed because of Bakth's raucous singing. Once when he had scolded Bakth and threatened to box his ears, Bakth had surreptitiously put salt in his tea. The darwan also complained about his vanishing acts. He said that while we took our afternoon nap, a customary ritual in bygone days, Bakth would sneak out of the house and go to a nearby tea-stall and spend time with some unsavory characters. This alarmed my parents since these rickety 'Jhopris' (shacks) were known to sell 'charas/ganja' or cannabis. The darwan also reported that on a few occasion Bakth had sneaked out of the house by scaling the wall late at night to watch Punjabi/Urdu movies in the nearby town of Rawalpindi, with his newly found friends. Afterwards, he would slip back into the house at dawn. He had also been offending the puritan sensibilities of the darwan by repeatedly belting out a line of a love song from an Urdu film he had recently watched. It went somewhat like this: "aaja meri jaan, aaja meri piyare" (come hither my

love, come to me my beloved). I have personally heard the darwan scream "Khamosh! Yea betamizee bundh karo" (Shut up! Stop this nonsense). Once I found Bakth sitting on a sofa in our drawing room watching TV. I was aghast and immediately told him to quit the room. He was hurt and left crestfallen. Again, he was heard to mutter, "mein to kisi ka qaidi nahin hoon." Meanwhile, he would often talk about his village life to me. It would change his somber facial countenance to one of joy. It was obvious that he was missing the carefree life of his 'gaon' (village) he was used to.

One day, Bakth failed to show up for work in the morning. The darwan was called in. He reported that Bakth was unwell. Our mother asked the darwan to take the morning breakfast to Bakth, and keep an eye on his welfare. However, Bakth did not eat anything the whole day except for some tea and an occasional drink of water. The darwan further reported that Bakth was running a fever. Father arranged for Bakth to be taken to the government polyclinic (doctor's clinic) at G-6/3 in Islamabad with the darwan. Bakth looked pale and gaunt. In the next two days his condition took a nosedive. He started to retch violently. Our mother was afraid that Bakth may die on us. And, on his sudden premature death, she envisioned his Pathan relatives descending upon us with vengeance from the heights of Swat with guns blazing! We laughed a lot about it.

Soon Naushe arrived and spent a better part of the afternoon trying to talk and feed his brother Bakth. However, he could not succeed much in discerning the cause of his ailment. He apologetically told father that it would be better if he took his brother back to Swat. Our mother was overjoyed. Frankly, I was a bit saddened to see Bakth go. There was something endearing about his rustic youthful vigor. However, when I went to his room I was in for a big surprise! The lad who could barely stir yesterday, was now briskly engaged in packing his few belongings into bundles.

For possession he had a small transistor radio and a worn-out shoulder-bag for his clothes. He stood ramrod straight and eyeballed me with a grin. It was then that he opened up. He told me that one of the tea boys at the 'chai ke dokan' he befriended, had borrowed 50 rupees from him and absconded. I was appalled. Bakth hurled a flurry of the choicest invectives at the thief and at Punjabis in general. He detested people of the plains, he told me with a huff. It was homesickness coupled with the theft that got him so depressed. That is why he had fallen ill.

Suddenly, he became quite garrulous and broke into neurotic ramblings. Torrents of words flowed forth some of it unintelligible because it was in Pushto or Yousufzai dialect. However, it all sounded like a litany of grievances. He then turned to me in earnest and started pleading in Urdu. Translated into English it would be something like this: "Respected sir, will you go with me to my village home high up in the hills? Don't be afraid, I'll always be beside you. On our way up, I shall pluck sweet ripe apples from the orchard for you to eat. You will then drink cold water from the stream to your heart's content. Next, you will stretch yourself and inhale lungs full of fresh air and a transformation will come over you. You will start to feel that you are at last free!" And, as if to emphasize his points he dramatically enacted some of what he said. I was rendered speechless!

It suddenly occurred to me that we had unwittingly brought a carefree, happy-go-lucky 'creature' from the wilderness, nay, from the very lap of 'mother nature' and entrapped him in the alien environment of a city amidst mundane rules. He felt enslaved, as if in fetters. That explained the better part of his ailment. It was as much an affliction of the soul as it was of the heart and mind. "Farewell, Bakth-e-Rawan, wherever you are," I said to myself. "May you remain in life or death, forever free!"

Waqar A Khan is the Founder of Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies.

On Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs and Steel*

SHIREEN MAINUDDIN

Guns Germs and Steel was first published in 1997 and received the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction the following year. Reading this book has been an incredible experience. Each time I put the book down for the day I had to gasp for air because I had been totally immersed, rather like deep sea diving and looking at the world in a new dimension.

The depth and breadth of the knowledge that Diamond has passed on is vast, and the questions that he has raised remain a challenge. One does not have to agree with his opinions but the book serves to activate the mind in a hitherto unknown manner.

Jared Diamond is one of the US's most celebrated scholars. A Professor of Geography and Physiology at the University of California, he is equally renowned for his work in the fields of ecology and evolutionary biology and for his ground breaking studies of the birds of Papua New Guinea. Other than the Pulitzer, his prizes and honours include the U.S National Medal of Science, the Tyler Prize for Environmental Science, and election to the U.S National Academy of Sciences etc. As a biological explorer his most publicized finding was the rediscovery, on the New Guinea highlands, of the Golden Fronted Bower Bird which had not been seen for almost a century.

Guns, Germs and Steel starts around 11000 BC and is divided into four parts, within which, each chapter covers different issues. To summarize the book, if at all possible, the author states that he was inspired by a question from Yali a local politician in New Guinea who asked him, "Why is that you white people developed so much cargo and brought it to New Guinea when we black people had little cargo of our own?"

Throughout the book, Diamond seeks an answer to that query but

not from a racist point of view. He is an American and his constitutional belief that 'all men are created equal' forms the premise of his research.

Using the equality of man as his cornerstone, he examines in great detail the growth of certain ancient human settlements in the world and the reason why some of them achieved the basics of food production earlier than others. Food production and food surplus being the basic requirement for humans to move upwards into the next stage of development. Diamond, however, does not make any references to the Indus Valley civilization, and when writing about linguistic development, fails to mention the Indo Aryan group of languages. His emphasis in on the parts of the world that he is familiar with, New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, North and South America and Europe and Africa with most of his focus on the America's and Australia/ New Guinea.

Diamond compares world history to an onion, "One has to keep taking off the layers. History is not just one damned fact after another. There really are broad patterns to history and the search for their explanation is as productive as it is fascinating."

Diamond commences by giving an analysis of the world prior to 11000 BC. He proceeds to write about the effect of geography on shaping societies on Polynesian Islands, with human movement from the mainland to Islands, across the seas, in ancient times being his prime focus. Continuing with migration, he covers the defeat of the Inca Emperor by the Spanish. The result of the victory, was the subsequent colonization of the New World by Europeans, the resultant disappearance of most groups of Native Americans and the biggest population shift of modern times.

The second section talks about the rise of food production and how farmer power forms the root of Guns, Germs and Steel. He puts forward his theory that geographic differences provided the greatest advantage in the onset of food production and the major reason why people from certain areas flourished over others. His views are especially important in the context of geographic changes that are likely to be caused by climate change.

Diamond goes from food to guns germs and steel in the third section in which he covers the evolution of germs, writing, technology, government and organized religion.

His views on the evolution of germs and the connection to domesticated animals is of particular importance in the present pandemic as he states that given human proximity to the animals that are kept as pets and those that have been domesticated, the human body is getting constantly bombarded by their microbes. He cites four stages in the evolution of a specialized human disease from an animal precursor with the first being the diseases directly transmitted to us from our pets and domestic animals. Examples of such diseases are cat scratch fever from our cats and leptospirosis from dogs. Human beings are similarly liable to pick up diseases from wild animals such as the tularemia from skinning wild rabbits.

In the second stage, a former animal pathogen evolves to the point where it does get transmitted directly and causes epidemics. However, the epidemic dies out for any of several reasons, such as being cured by modern medicine, or being stopped when everybody around has already been infected and either becomes immune or dies. He gives the example of Onyong-nyong fever which appeared in East Africa in 1959 and proceeded to infect several million Africans. The fact that

JARED DIAMOND **GUNS** 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION GERMS With a new afterword by the author **& STEEL** A short history of everybody for the last 13,000 years Over One Million Copies Sold

the patients recovered quickly and became immune to further attack helped the new disease to die out quickly.

Interestingly, Diamond refrains from mentioning Spanish flu although it killed millions all over the world. The final stage of this evolution of germs is represented by the major long established epidemic diseases which remain confined to humans.

He emphasizes the importance of lethal microbes in human history and uses the European conquest and depopulation of the America's

as an example. "Far more Native Americans died in bed from Eurasian germs than on the battlefield from European guns and swords." Small pox, measles influenza and typhus competed for the top rank among the killers. The Aborigines of Australia and the Maori population of New Zealand faced similar extinction.

The book ends with a whirlwind tour of the histories of Australia and New Guinea, East Asia, Austronesian expansion, a historical comparison of Eurasia and the Americas, and Africa.

A singularly fascinating in Guns Germs and Steel is the detailed

description of the defeat of the Inca Emperor on the 16th of November 1532 on his home turf in Peru, by the Spanish Conquistador Francisco Pizarro with only 168 Spanish soldiers. Diamond traces the chain of causation in this confrontation and the role played by guns, germs and steel.

Pizarro's military advantage lay in the Spaniards steel swords and other weapons, steel armor, guns and horses. In comparison, Atahualpa's troops were foot soldiers and had only stone, bronze or wooden clubs, hand axes, plus slingshots and quilted armors.

The Inca Empire was divided because of a battle between Atahualpa and his half-brother. The reason for this civil war was that an epidemic of small pox had spread among native South American Indians, after the germ arrived with Spanish Settlers in Panama and Colombia. The disease had killed the Inca Emperor Capac, his designated heir and most of the court officials. These deaths led to a contest for the throne between Atahualpa and his half-brother with the latter gaining ascendancy of the throne but not having the necessary training for the position.

Diamond concludes by making a passionate plea for history to be treated as a science in much the same way as Political Science and Economics and recommends a Nobel Prize be established for history.

At times, Diamond meanders, in other instances he places too much information for the reader to digest but it is an incredible journey that he takes us on. The book is as meaningful as it was when first published and perhaps in the context of the present human versus virus encounter even more so.

Shireen S. Mainuddin is a former banker and a member of The Reading Circle.

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 28, 2021, BHADRA 13, 1428 BS

RONALDO *returns to United*

RONALDO'S MU CAREER (2003-2009) IN NUMBERS

Champions League -1 Club World Cup - 5 English Premier League - 3 English League Cup - 2 English Community Shield - 2 English FA Cup - 1

Individual honours while at MU: Ballons d'Or – 1 FIFA Player of the Year -1 European Golden Boot - 1 Champions League top scorer: 1 **English Premier League top scorer: 1**

RONALDO

Cygames

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United announced on Friday they have reached a deal to re-sign Cristiano Ronaldo from Juventus, 12 years after he left Old Trafford for Real Madrid.

"Manchester United is delighted to confirm that the club has reached agreement with Juventus for the transfer of Cristiano Ronaldo, subject to agreement of personal terms, visa and medical," United said in a statement.

"Everyone at the club looks forward to welcoming Cristiano back to Manchester."

United's swoop capped a tumultuous 24 hours during which Ronaldo initially seemed poised to join rivals Manchester City.

Premier League champions City had been widely linked with a move for the Portuguese forward after missing out on England captain Harry Kane.

However, United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hinted a deal was in the offing during his pre-match press conference on Friday ahead of Sunday's Premier League trip to Wolves.

"Cristiano is a legend of this club, he's the greatest player of all time, if you ask me," said Solskjaer, who played alongside Ronaldo.

"We've always had a good communication. I know Bruno (Fernandes) has been talking to him as well. He knows what we feel about him. If he was ever going to move from Juventus, he knows that we're here.'

Sky Sport Italia reported that United have offered Juve 28 million euros (\$33 million), agreeing a twoyear deal with the superstar attacker worth 25 million euros per season.

Ronaldo won the first of his five Champions League titles and was first crowned the world's best player during six years at United between 2003 and 2009.

In total he scored 118 goals in 292 games, also winning three Premier League titles, one FA Cup and two League Cups.

Earlier in the day, Juventus coach Massimiliano

Jamal



Allegri confirmed the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's desire to leave the Italian giants.

"Yesterday, speaking with Cristiano, he told me that he has no intention of staying at Juventus, for this reason he will not be picked tomorrow. This morning he didn't train," said Allegri.

"He was here three years, he made his contribution, he made himself available to Juventus and now he's leaving. Life goes on."

Ronaldo won two Serie A titles with Juventus, but his time in Turin has not lived up to expectations. He joined 2018 after scoring a remarkable 450

goals in 438 matches in a glittering nineyear spell in Madrid that also included four Champions League triumphs.

Juventus' hopes he would be the final piece required to end their 25-year wait to become champions of Europe have been thwarted.

They have failed to get beyond the quarter-finals in the past three seasons.

Last season, they were deposed as Italian champions by fierce rivals Inter Milan and had to wait until the final day of the campaign to secure qualification for Europe's top club competition.

However, Ronaldo still topped the Serie A goal charts, edging out Romelu Lukaku, who joined Chelsea this month for £97 million.

And he also rolled back the years at Euro 2020 to win the Golden Boot despite playing just four games as Portugal bowed out at the last 16.

United have already significantly strengthened their squad with the signings of Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane during the transfer window as they aim to win the Premier League for the first time since 2013.

Ronaldo joins already loaded group of attacking options for Solskjaer featuring Fernandes, Sancho, Edinson Cavani, Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial, Mason Greenwood and Paul Pogba.

Cristiano's message to Juventus

FO WAT

India vs England

Third Test (Day 4)

Live from 4:00 pm

Live from 5:30 pm

Live from 8:00 pm

English Premier League Manchester City vs Arsenal

Newcastle vs Southampton

Today I depart from an amazing club, the biggest in Italy and surely one of the biggest in all of Europe. I gave my heart and soul for Juventus and I'll always love the city of Turin until my final days. The "tifosi bianconeri" always respected me and I tried to thank that respect by fighting for them in every game, every season, every competition. In the end, we can all look back and realize that we achieved great things, not all that we wanted, but still, we wrote a pretty beautiful story together.

I will always be one of you. You are now part of my history, as I feel that I'm part of yours. Italy, Juve, Turin, tifosi bianconeri, you'll always be in my heart.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

"@Cristiano is going back to @ ManUtd . Wow! Just Wow. What a signing. What a transfer window for United. What a home coming. Love it."

-- Former Barcelona and England

"SCARY HOURS!"

"All the man united fans that were absolutely abusing Ronaldo yesterday appear to have lost their voices today.... Funny old

-- Britain's former men's tennis world number one Andy Murray.

Ronaldoooooooooo #MUFC

-- Former Manchester United central defender Rio Ferdinand.

"The idea of him going to Manchester City was torture. If there is a big player available Manchester United have to be in the market for that player."

Liverpool vs Chelsea Live from 10:30 pm **English Premier League** Norwich City vs Leicester Live from 8:00 pm English Premier League West Ham vs Crystal Palace Live from 8:00 pm

T SPORTS & MTV La Liga Celta Vigo vs Athletic Bilbao Live from 9:00 pm Elche vs Sevilla Live from 11:30 pm Real Betis vs Real Madrid Live from 2:00 am (Sunday) Bundesliga

Stuttgart vs Freiburg Live from 7:30 pm Bayern Munich vs Hertha Berlin Live from 10:30 pm R SPORTS 1 Guyana vs St Kitts and Nevis Live from 8:00 pm Barbados vs Jamaica Live from 12:30 am (Sunday)

A new-look team away on its mission

SPORTS REPORTER

Head coach Jamie Day is willing to adopt a new playing system for Bangladesh national football team in upcoming Three Nations Cup in Bishkek as the men in red and green were scheduled to leave during early hours today for Kyrgyzstan to play three international friendly matches.

In the tournament, Bangladesh will face Palestine on September 5 before taking on hosts Kyrgyzstan on September 7 within the FIFA window play a friendly against Kyrgyzstan yet superior opponents Palestine and

month, he sat with the British coach to discuss different aspects of the national team.

Perhaps the latest inclusion of expatriate players have promoted Jamie to lean to an attacking brand of football in upcoming international friendlies in which Bangladesh's tie against Kyrgyzstan will be counted as a FIFA friendly.

Defender Tapu Barman, who along with eight other Bashundhara Kings players recently joined the national team after playing AFC Cup, is eager to while the charges of Jamie will also raise performance against the familiar



U-23 side on September 9 as part of their preparation for October's SAFF Championship in Maldives.

Meanwhile, the 41-year-old British coach has also integrated two expatriate players - Rahbar Wahed Khan from Canada and Tahmid Islam from France - to consider including them in SAFF squad based on their performances in the international friendlies

"We will look at some new players to see if they are ready for the level of international football, and possibly try a new system with future games in mind," Jamie told The Daily Star on the eve of departure yesterday.

Jamie is likely to modify his counter-attacking playing style which he usually executed ever since his appointment three years prior. However, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin is apparently not pleased with the deep-defensive strategy of Jaime and earlier in the middle of this ahead in ranking," said Jamie.

Kyrgyzstan and vowed not to lose any of the matches.

Tapu is optimistic about the inclusion of two expatriate players.

"If you look back at our previous matches of World Cup Qualifiers, we mostly struggled in midfield and the backline made mistakes when facing tremendous pressure from opponents. So far, I heard that both Tahmid and Wahed are upfront players, so if they can perform better by holding the ball upfront, then our squad depth will increase, I think," opined Tapu, who is also ready to assist expatriate players in settling down.

Ahead of the first game against Palestine, Jamie will get a week to prepare his charges and fine-tune his probable new playing system.

"A schedule of three games in five days will be tough, especially considering Palestine and Kyrgyzstan will get four days rest between their matches. Besides, they are 90 places

striker Gary Lineker. -- England and Manchester United midfielder Jadon Sancho.

game."

"Going LIVE NOW Viva

#Ronaldo"

-- Former Manchester United

captain Gary Neville.

Sheikh Jamal finish second

SPORTS REPORTER



champions Bashundhara Kings in the Bangladesh Premier League after winning 2-0 against Mohammedan SC in

Sheikh

their last league encounter at the Bangladesh Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

It was Sheikh Jamal's 15th win in the league as they ended with 52 points, six more than third-placed Abahani who will play their final game against champions Bashundhara Kings.

On the other hand, the defeat saw Mohammedan drop down to sixth in the points table. A win for the Black and Whites could have seen them climb to fourth but a brace from Gambian Solomon Kings -- in the 52nd and 89th minutes respectively -shattered Mohammedan's hopes.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS), Saif SC, under the guidance of Julfiker Mahmud Mintu, showed tremendous character to ensure at least a fourth-place finish as they registered their sixth successive victory with a 1-0 win over Brothers Union.

Saif, who still have a match against Kings, raised their points tally to 44 from DC 23 games. Chattogram Abahani also have finished second behind equal points but are behind Saif in goal difference.

> Like Saif, Ctg Abahani also showed their improvement throughout the second leg of the league as they beat Muktijoddha Sangsad 1-0 in their last match to collect 25 points from 12 matches of the second leg.

> Nigerian Chinedu Mathew struck the decisive goal against Muktijoddha Sangsad. Muktijoddha, who had started the campaign following a stiff financial crisis, finished 10th in the table with only 19 points from 24 matches.

> At the Army Stadium, Sheikh Russel KC beat Bangladesh Police 1-0 to confirm a seventh-place finish. Russel, however, will play Kings in their final game of the league.

> Police, meanwhile, finished ninth with 25 points from 24 outings.

> Rahmatganj MFS thrashed relegated Arambagh KS 3-0 and due to a better goal difference, the Old Dhaka outfit finished eighth despite having equal 25 points as Bangladesh Police. Felix struck twice and Shahedul Alam netted one for Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.



Bangladesh's foreign coaching staff look on as the players train at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday ahead of the series with New Zealand. (L) Nurul Hasan and Soumya Sarkar apparently enjoyed the time at the ground a lot following a three-day quarantine period. (Bottom) The New Zealand players sweated it out too. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tigers, Kiwis begin practice

SPORTS REPORTER



Following three days of mandatory quarantine inside their rooms, members of the Bangladesh

and New Zealand teams yesterday started training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur ahead of a five-match T20I series starting from September 1.

The Tigers were at the home of cricket for around three hours after arriving at around 10:00am with every member barring star allrounder Shakib Al Hasan.

Shakib, who returned from the United States after spending time with his family, will join the squad today after completing his mandatory three-day guarantine.

Wicketkeeper-batsmen Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das also joined the team after missing the last series against Australia, which should give the team management a decision to make about who to pick behind the stumps against the Kiwis. A third wicketkeeperbatsman, Nurual Hasan, has also enjoyed his comeback to the T20 side in the series against Zimbabwe and kept the momentum going against Australia.

"Whether I score a hundred or a fifty, it's



not worth it if it doesn't help the team's cause. But if I am able to contribute to the team's win by making five or ten runs, that is important for me. Regardless of the situation, I get an opportunity. We managed to play the last two series as a team which was important," Nurul said vesterday.

Meanwhile, the Black Caps gathered together for the first time since landing in Dhaka on August 24. Glenn Pocknall will oversee the Kiwis in Bangladesh while head coach Gary Stead, who is in New Zealand, will be passing along instructions.

"There's no doubt with Finn (Finn Allen)

being likely to be ruled out for the first few matches. Matt Henry will be coming over as a bowler. I think it will provide a lot of opportunities for the guys who were around the team. I think if you look at our squad it is more likely the bowlers will have to be rotated about or given the opportunities to have different roles and we are looking forward to this as well," Stead said.

Pacer Matt Henry will be making his comeback to the T20I side after four years, replacing Allen, who tested positive for Covid-19. Henry said he was looking forward to adjusting to the tough conditions.

"I have played a lot against Bangladesh over the last few years. Obviously, our conditions are very different to what we are about to experience. Bangladesh have been very strong as we have seen in the recent series and they are always a tough team to play at home. It's been good preparation for us at the Lincolns, practicing on some slow wickets and trying to replicate some zip and turn and keeping it lso slow and low in nature. There will be a lot of change in pace and it's going to be different sorts of cricket and bowling. I'm thankful we have experience in such conditions but obviously Bangladesh will be a tough challenge so it will be an exciting series," said Henry.



England's Ollie Robinson appeals unsuccessfully for the dismissal of India's Rohit Sharma on the third day of the third Test at Headingley in Leeds on Friday. It proved to be a frustrating day for the hosts as they saw the visitors, trailing by 354 runs in the first innings, fighting back to reach 215 for two at the end of the day's play, with Cheteshwar Pujara batting on 91 and Virat Kohli on 45.



Man's body

from rehab

Family alleges torture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal Police yesterday recovered the body of a man

from Holycare drug

Barishal.

facility.

his neck.

rehabilitation centre in

The victim is Chandan

tortured to death inside the

Contacted, Holycare authorities denied the

allegations and said that

and died by suicide.

Chandan was mentally sick

The victim was found dead with a towel around

According to Sarwar, a staff member of the

Chandan was locked in a dispute with another

Early yesterday, he was

patient on Thursday night.

Sajahan Mallik, sub-

inspector of Kotwali Police

Station, said they recovered

rehabilitation facility,

Sarkar, 27, of the district's

Agailjhara upazila. His family alleged that he was

recovered

centre



Bangabandhu Tunnel is being built with BSRM COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT



DHAKA-SYLHET CORRIDOR **ADB** approves \$1.78b to help boost trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asian Development Bank The approved a \$1.78-billion has multitranche financing facility (MFF) to help improve mobility, road safety and regional trade along Dhaka-Sylhet trade corridor in Bangladesh.

ADB

The corridor will support a new trade route that connects Chattogram port with India's northeastern states through three land ports of Akhaura, Sheola and Tamabil, and from there to Bhutan and Myanmar, according to a press release of the ADB yesterday.

"Bangladesh's export-driven economic growth has shown its unique potential and opportunity of becoming a regional transport and trade hub. To sustain this growth, the country's transport infrastructure needs to be improved," said Satomi Sakaguchi, ADB transport specialist for South Asia.

The funds for the SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project will be provided in four tranches. The first tranche of \$400 million will help finance the initial works of the major contracts for the widening of about 210km of the National Highway No 2 along Dhaka-Sylhet corridor from a two-lane to a four-lane road with slowmoving vehicular traffic lanes.

It will include 60km of footpath, 26 footbridges, and 13 overpasses. Its design will have features responsive to the needs of the elderly, women, children, and the differentlyabled, as well as disaster and climate risks.



City

Fear of dengue has gripped many in the capital as the number of patients of the mosquito-borne disease keeps rising. The photo of this homeless child tucked under a mosquito net while taking a nap on a rickshaw van was taken in the city's Khilgaon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3 Ronaldo

found dead.

returns to Man Utd

REUTERS, Manchester

Manchester United have agreed a deal to re-sign Cristiano Ronaldo fr Juventus,

the Premier League club announced on Friday, with the transfer subject to the agreement of personal terms, visa and a medical.

The Portugal forward is headed back to the club where he won eight major trophies from 2003-2009

Daily Covid cases lowest in 69 days

117 more die; infection rate drops below 13pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of daily Covid-19 cases dropped to 3,525, the lowest in the last 69 days though the death toll is still above the 100-mark.

The infection rate has also dropped to 12.78 percent, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 27,578 samples were tested in the past 24 hours. So far, 14.86 lakh people have been

Sayeed Chowdhury, speaking today at the inaugural function of the Bangladesh Mission in London. Justice Chowdhury was the overseas representative of the Bangladesh Government. Although Bangladesh Government had

AUGUST 27, 1971

Shamsuddoza Sajen

INAUGURATED

LONDON MISSION

Pakistan was now dead and

two countries had been born

the dead state, said Justice Abu

not yet received any official international recognition, the Mission in London intended to carry out diplomatic activities there. Justice Chowdhury described the detention of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by the Pakistani authorities as illegal and

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh mission at London

Covid cases rise again in India

Govt asks 2 states to consider night curfew Agencies

India has asked the states of Kerala and Maharashtra to consider night curfews in areas with high Covid-19 case numbers as the country reported more than 40,000 new infections for two days in a row yesterday.

Cases fell to a fivemonth-low of 25,166 in the middle of the month but have risen sharply in the last three days, mainly Fossil of four-legged whale found in Egypt



infected by the deadly coronavirus since the detection of the first cases in the country on March 8, 2020.

Of the daily Covid-19 cases, 1,613 were detected in Dhaka division.

A total of 117 people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. With this, the total number of deaths in the country has reached 25,846 and the death rate stands at 1.74 percent.

Among the deceased, 56 were men and 61 women. Of them, one aged between 0 and 10 years old, one between 11 and 20, three between 21 and 30, nine between 31 and 40, 16 between 41 and 50, 19 between SEE PAGE 4 COL 3 called for his immediate release. LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS BANGLADESH

GENOCIDE The Latin American Parliament at Caracas, Venezuela today unanimously passed a resolution condemning the brutal suppression of human rights, the massive genocide, the deliberate liquidation of politically conscious elements and of intellectuals and the imposition of a reign of terror in East Pakistan by the Pakistan Army.

They also called upon the Government of Pakistan to desist from committing a further violation of human rights and of law and justice, stop military repression, respect the life of the leader Mujibur Rahman, and enter into immediate negotiations with the already elected representatives of the people with the object SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

in Kerala that recently celebrated a big festival during which families typically come together. India reported 44,658 new Covid-19 infections yesterday, taking the total

to 32.6 million, the most in the world after the United States. Deaths rose by 496 to 436,861.

Kerala, on India's southern tip, has accounted for nearly 60% of the new cases in the past week and SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

REUTERS, Cairo

Scientists said on Wednesday they had discovered the 43 million-year-old fossil of a previously unknown amphibious four-legged whale species in Egypt that helps trace the transition of whales from land to sea.

The newly discovered whale belongs to the Protocetidae, a group of extinct whales that falls in the middle of that transition, the Egyptian-led team of researchers said in a statement.

Its fossil was unearthed from middle Eocene rocks in the Fayum Depression in Egypt's Western Desert -- an area once covered by sea that has

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Financial details were not disclosed but British and Italian media said United would buy Ronaldo for 25 million euros on a two-year deal.

Ronaldo, signed by Juve in 2018 for 100 million euros (\$117.90 million) from Real Madrid in the hope of leading them to an elusive Champions League title, will leave the club with 101 goals, two league crowns and a Coppa Italia SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Idol at a Kali temple vandalised in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An idol of a Kali Temple was vandalised by unidentified criminals at Delduar upazila early yesterday, creating anger among local Hindu community people.

Radhika Chandra Radhu, general secretary of the temple committee, said unidentified criminals vandalised an idol of the Kali Temple at Dheuria Rishipara under Deulee union and threw it away from the temple.

Being informed, a police team from Delduar Police Station along with the local union parishad chairman SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 28 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00 JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



In preparation for tomorrow's formal performance test of the country's first metro train, a contractor yesterday operated the train among four metro stations in Uttara. Many residents of the area saw the cars on the elevated tracks for the first time in Bangladesh. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will be present at the event on Sunday.

PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB



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