

**KABUL SAFE ZONE**  
Macron says France, UK to push the idea on humanitarian grounds at today's key UNSC meet  
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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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The electric metro train in Mirpur DOHS area during yesterday's maiden run between Pallabi and Uttara. Hundreds of people on the streets, in flats, and rooftops watched the six cars in awe.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## METRO DREAM closer to reality

Uttara-Agargaon section to open by Dec 22 at the latest: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's first ever metro rail service will launch in December next year, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday, raising the city dwellers' hope of daily commutes free of tailbacks.

At least, the service between Uttara and Agargaon, a distance of 11.73km, will be operational by the end of 2022, Quader said while inaugurating the beginning of a series of test runs of the metro train on viaduct yesterday.

Uttara-Agargaon is part of the 20.10km route to Motijheel. The Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 or MRT-6, the country's first metro rail service, is being built at a cost of Tk 21,985 crore.

"We hope the prime minister will be able to inaugurate... the metro rail, Padma bridge and Bangabandhu tunnel next year," he said.

Padma bridge will be inaugurated in June. The second mega project to be inaugurated will be the Bangabandhu Tunnel under the Karnaphuli

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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

## Days in custody unaccounted for

Cops showing victims arrested even weeks after actual detentions

ZYMA ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

There is a kind of enforced disappearance where a person is picked up or abducted, vanishes into thin air and is never heard from again.

There is another kind where the person returns but after many months or years.

Then there is a more common form of enforced disappearance.

These are the cases where a person is picked up and kept at a certain location for a few days before being produced before a court as arrested. This leaves a certain number of hours, days, or weeks in custody unaccounted for.

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Section 167) an arrestee must be produced before the court within 24 hours of arrest. But as law enforcement agencies, journalists and rights activists know, this stipulation is often flouted.

Rights organisations are rarely able to collect data on this. The phenomenon only recently came under media scrutiny when cartoonist Ahmed Kishore filed a case alleging that he was kept in an unknown location for several days and tortured.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DISAPPEARED

"They [police] took me to the under-construction BRP [Bhashantek Rehabilitation Project] building and made me climb into the septic tank. I spent the whole day and the whole night there."

FISH TRADER MOSHARRAF CLAIMING HE WAS KEPT IN A SEPTIC TANK FOR 36 HOURS BEFORE BEING SHOWN ARRESTED

But at the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka, stories like these can be picked like fruit in harvesting season.

On the third floor of the court building, a fish trader named Mosharraf narrated how he was

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## Bangladesh to be made global aviation hub

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Highlighting the potentials of Cox's Bazar, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government wants to turn Bangladesh into a global aviation hub that will help accelerate the country's current economic march forward.

"Considering Bangladesh's geographical position, we want to make the country the centre of global aviation so that our country is greatly benefited economically," she said while inaugurating the breaking ground of the extension of Cox's Bazar Airport runway.

She joined the programme from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said the position of Cox's Bazar is very significant.

In recent times, she said Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok gained importance while Dubai is currently getting the greater attention. "I can say Cox's Bazar will be



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## Use of antibiotics rampant, careless

Finds study on 10 Covid and non-Covid hospitals

MOUJIB AHMED SUJAN

A study has revealed that costly antibiotics are being prescribed inappropriately for treating Covid patients at hospitals, which could lessen effectiveness of the lifesaving drugs in killing bacteria.

Such irrational use of antibiotics is also putting unnecessary financial burden on patients, said researchers involved in the study.

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) jointly conducted the study at five Covid and five non-Covid hospitals in the capital, Chattogram, Rajshahi and Sylhet. Of the hospitals, five are state-run and five private.

Data was collected from May 1 to July 30 this year for the study titled "Antibiotic Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance in Tertiary Care Hospitals of Bangladesh".

Bacteria-fighting drugs known as antibiotics have been helping control and destroy many of the harmful organisms that can make one sick.

But in recent times, overuse and misuse of antibiotics led some strains of bacteria



to make small changes in their DNA and become antibiotic-resistant "superbugs", according to health experts.

This happens mainly due to injudicious use of antibiotic drugs, they said.

As per the AWaRe (Access, Watch and Reserve) classification, antibiotics are classified into three groups -- "Access Group" used for a wide range of primary level infection, "Watch Group" used against higher resistance bacteria, and "Reserve Group" only to be used when all alternatives fail.

AWaRe classification is a method to classify all antibiotics adopted by the World Health Organization in 2019.

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## OUT OF KABUL A dozen Bangladeshis now in Qatar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The 12 Bangladeshis and 160 Afghan students evacuated from Afghanistan to Qatar on Saturday have been under quarantine at a US base in Doha.

Their quarantine period will be determined by their health status following the RT-PCR test, a source familiar with the evacuation process told The Daily Star yesterday.

They will be brought to Bangladesh following the quarantine period, he said.

The Bangladeshis and the female Afghan students of the Asian University for Women in Chattogram were evacuated with the help of the US and the United Nations from Kabul.

Their flights were cancelled initially after the Taliban's seizing control of Afghanistan on August 15 as thousands of foreigners and Afghans rushed to flee the country in fear of Taliban rule.

Later, on August 26, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A man trying to keep his feet dry as he walks on a waterlogged street in the capital's Shyampur. The drainage system, while being inadequate, often remains clogged, causing the chemical-laden industrial discharge to flood the streets. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Blast rocks Kabul again

Rocket lands in a neighbourhood near airport; US strikes at IS militants

AGENCIES

A huge explosion was reported near Kabul airport yesterday after a rocket had hit a neighbourhood, hours after US President Joe Biden warned of another terror attack.

An Afghan police chief said the rocket struck a house in an area to the northern side of the airport amid US evacuation. Television footage showed black smoke was rising into the sky. However, no casualty was reported and no group immediately claimed the attack.

US President Joe Biden on Saturday warned of more attacks from the ISIS-K group. "The situation on the ground continues to be extremely dangerous, and the threat of terrorist attacks on the airport remains high," Biden said. "Our commanders informed me that an attack is highly likely in the next 24-36 hours."

Meanwhile, the US carried out a drone strike on Islamic State militants in Kabul yesterday, US officials said, as its forces at the capital's airport worked to complete a withdrawal that will end two decades of involvement in Afghanistan.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the strike targeted suspected ISIS-K militants, a group that is an enemy of both the West and the Taliban and was responsible for a suicide bomb attack outside the airport gates on Thursday.

The attack by ISIS-K, a branch of Islamic State, killed at least 90 Afghans and 13 American troops as a huge evacuation operation was underway following the Taliban's seizure of Kabul on Aug. 15.

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**3,948**  
New cases in 24hrs



**14,93,537**  
Total cases



**26,015**  
Deaths



**14,15,697**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**



**4,513,249**  
Deaths



**217,100,127**  
Total cases

## Fishermen not getting their aid

*Says agriculture minister; points to corruption in distribution*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Explaining the hurdles that fishermen have to face, Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said on top of other miseries, they do not even get the aid meant for them during fishing bans.

"I've information. Please don't mind. Fishermen do not get the 40-kg rice properly. Anomalies take place," he said at the inaugural session of "National Fish Week 2021" yesterday.

The National Fish Week 2021 began on Saturday and will continue till September 3.

Speaking to SM Rezaul Karim, minister of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), who was present at the programme, Razzaque requested a special programme and monitor so that aid reaches actual fishermen.

In three phases, the MoFL provided VGF rice to fishermen. A total of 16,721 tonnes of rice were distributed to 2,98,595 fishermen during the 65-day ban on catching fish in the sea.

About 56,228 tonnes of rice was distributed among 3,73,996 fishermen during the ban on catching Jatka (fish fry) and about 10,566 tonnes to 5,28,342 fishermen during the 22-day ban on catching brood Hilsa.

Razzaque called upon the MoFL to increase the amount of aid.

"We have to feel the struggles and [consider the] conditions of fishermen who live in remote areas of Barguna and Patuakhali. Their living standard is declining due to the rise in sea levels and many other reasons... It is our duty to look after them. As a part of the government, I'll help you in this regard."

Contacted, Zia Haider Chowdhury, project director (Hilsa) of the Department of Fisheries (DoF), said

local administrations and public representatives are involved in aid distribution.

"We have to strengthen our monitoring this year to ensure that the aid reaches actual beneficiaries," he said.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at the programme said the government has taken comprehensive measures to develop the fish sector of the country.

"Meeting nutrition demands, building a meritorious nation, resolving the unemployment problem, in other words, the overall socio-economic development of the country is related to the fish sector. That is why the government is giving emphasis on it," she said.

Fisheries Minister Rezaul Karim said Bangladesh was internationally recognised for its success in fish production. The country came in third in catching fish from inland water bodies and fifth in fish farming in closed water bodies.

Bangladesh ranked first in the production of Hilsa and fourth in Tilapia, he said, adding that they have successfully revived 31 native fish.

Underscoring the need to catch fish from the sea in a well-planned manner, he said if fish is caught following scientific methods, marine life will not go extinct.

Twenty-one individual and organisations were handed gold and bronze medals for their outstanding contribution in the fish sector.

Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, president, parliamentary standing committee on fisheries and livestock, Rawnak Mahmud, secretary at the MoFL, and Quazi Shams Afroz, director general of DoF were present, among others.



People, many of whom are relatives of victims, get on boats yesterday to see the rescue and recovery operations launched after a boat capsized in Brahmanbaria on Friday.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO

## Use of antibiotics rampant, careless

FROM PAGE 1

The IEDCR study found that physicians prescribed the Watch Group drugs in around 70 percent cases, followed by Access Group drugs (28 percent), Reserve Group drugs (0.8 percent), and drugs not recommended by the WHO (0.4 percent).

"Physicians should be cautious while using Watch Group antibiotics as these drugs have the potential to give rise to resistant bacteria," said Dr Zakir Hossain Habib, head of microbiology and principal scientific officer at the IEDCR, who led the study.

The study listed top 10 antibiotics based on their use among patients at the Covid-19 wards and ICUs. It showed Ceftriaxone was physicians' first choice for majority of the patients at four of the five Covid-dedicated hospitals.

For example, Ceftriaxone was the first choice for treating 62.8 percent of the Covid patients at Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases in Chattogram, followed by a combination of Amoxicillin and

Clavulanic Acid (24.8 percent).

Similarly, Ceftriaxone was the doctors' top choice for treating 55.8 percent of the patients at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, 53.6 percent at Shahid Shamsuddin Hospital in Sylhet, 30.7 percent at Chattogram Medical College Hospital and 27.9 percent at Uttara Adhunik Medical College Hospital in the capital.

According to a 2017 IEDCR study, the widely-prescribed ceftriaxone was ineffective in combating E-coli, proteus spp, non-typhoidal salmonella and Acinetobacter complex and other bacteria in many cases.

The latest study said Meropenem -- a Watch Group drug -- was also among the top 10 antibiotics used at these five hospitals. This was widely used for the patients in intensive care units.

"Covid-19 is a viral infection and antibiotics are not effective in treating it. Antibiotics should not be used unless there is possibility of secondary bacterial infection... Physicians should be judicious in selecting antibiotics," Dr Zakir told this newspaper yesterday.

"This [use of antibiotics] also puts unnecessary financial burdens on patients."

Ceftriaxone is a costly and overrated drug. It should not be used without proper judgement, he observed.

Voicing concern over widespread use of very effective antibiotic Meropenem for Covid patients, he said doctors should be more careful about using this drug and try to avoid it whenever possible.

According to experts, Culture and Sensitivity Test of a patient's specimen is a mechanism to see what kind of medicine, such as an antibiotic, will work best to treat a particular disease or infection.

Worryingly, this practice was found in case of drug selection for just 6 percent patients at private hospitals and only 3.44 percent patients at public hospitals.

The researchers involved in the study recommended prescribing antibiotics based on the results of Culture and Sensitivity Test.

They also said ceftriaxone should be used judiciously.

## Momen leaves for Europe

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday left for Europe for a 10-day visit aimed at boosting cooperation on tackling the pandemic, climate change and challenges faced by migrants amid the pandemic.

He will attend the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Asia-Pacific Regional Review meeting on Monday and Tuesday in preparation for the LDC conference to be held in Doha in January, 2022.

Bangladesh, as a co-chair of the LDC, has been negotiating at the multilateral forum for several privileges, foreign ministry official said.

"There are also countries, including

Bangladesh, that are graduating LDCs. We are negotiating for continuing the privileges of the LDC for 12 years after graduation in 2026. This could be an important topic in the meeting," an official said.

Besides, the minister will meet the directors general of the World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, UN Refugee Agency, UN Human Rights Council, International Organization for Migration, and International Labour Organization, officials said.

He is also likely to hold a bilateral meeting with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis.

After visiting Switzerland, Momen will visit the UK and meet his UK counterpart Dominic Raab.

## Days in custody unaccounted for

FROM PAGE 1

beaten up and kept inside an empty septic tank for nearly 36 hours before he was officially shown arrested for possession of 200 pieces of yaba.

This happened on June 30, 2015, but he was at court even yesterday for a hearing -- fighting not to prove the case of his enforced disappearance, but to prove that he was not carrying 200 pieces of yaba.

"I was fishing at a pond inside the cantonment area around 10:00am in the morning, when I was picked up by Bhashantek police," he claimed.

"They took me to the under-construction BRP [Bhashantek Rehabilitation Project] building and made me get into the septic tank. I spent the whole day and the whole night there. The next day, a child, who is a police informer, came to me and asked me what I wanted to eat. I asked him if he had a cell phone and he said yes," narrated Mosharraf.

"I asked him to call a number and put it on loudspeaker, and in that manner, I talked to my wife to let her know where I am," he narrated.

His wife informed a journalist of this newspaper, who then informed a police high-up.

"It was right before iftar that I was taken out of the manhole," he claimed.

However, as per the first information report filed by Assistant Sub-inspector Sohel Md Mohiuddin, Mosharraf was arrested from beside a garbage bin in Damalkote at 6:45pm on July 1, 2015.

According to the case, police learnt from a tipoff that Mosharraf was selling yaba, went to find him and caught him.

When asked why he did not file a case against the police for keeping him in a manhole, Mosharraf looked befuddled for a minute. "I was sent to

prison for nine months. By the time I got out, wouldn't it have been too late?" he asked.

His lawyer Mozammel Haque, however, stated that the issue was brought up during hearings in court.

In February 2016, when Md Arman was picked up from Mirpur-10 Bihari camp, he was hit in the back of the head with a rifle butt.

He woke up four days later in a hospital bed at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. "When I regained consciousness, I could inform my family, who had been searching for me since I was picked up," said Arman. He was shown arrested the same day in a case filed against someone whose father and Arman's father had the same name.

Arman was incarcerated for five years until the High Court declared on December 31, 2020, that the arrest and detention was illegal and contradictory to his fundamental and human rights, and asked the authorities concerned of the government to immediately release him from jail.

Compared to five years of incarceration, the four days of frantic searching probably meant nothing, but it is imperative to reiterate that it was a violation of the law dictating that an arrestee be produced before the court within 24 hours of being arrested.

Taking a look at 122 cases of enforced disappearances that happened between 2017 and 2019 where the victims were returned, it becomes clear that the most of the victims disappeared for two days. In almost all of these cases, the victims were shown arrested.

This is according to data provided by Mayer Daak, a platform of the families of the people who fell victim to enforced disappearances, who documented the date of arrest, and

date of return of these victims.

Odhikar tracked 31 cases of enforced disappearances last year where 22 returned alive. Six people were found dead, and three were never found.

The year before, they tracked 34 cases, where 17 were returned alive. Nine people never returned.

"Keeping someone outside of the 24 hour time limit provided in law is a crime. But this is an extremely common type of enforced disappearance where the victim stays disappeared for days, weeks or even months before being produced before a court as arrested," said Nur Khan Liton, rights activist and former chief of Ain o Salish Kendra.

"Other than Kishore, nobody has ever challenged this in court. These people do not have enough faith in the judicial process to challenge their arbitrary detention," said Liton.

In a report released by Human Rights Watch this month, the global watchdog recommended that law enforcement units follow a 2016 Supreme Court ruling that directed all law enforcement agencies to ensure that the family of a detained person is informed within 12 hours of arrest, and to allow a detained person access to lawyers.

Ain o Salish Kendra yesterday issued a statement demanding that the government of Bangladesh ratify an international treaty by the United Nations titled International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It also demanded that the government initiate an investigation into all cases of enforced disappearances.

Furthermore, it stated that a specific law must be crafted to recognise enforced disappearance as a crime, instead of simplifying it as abduction.

## Bangladesh to be made

FROM PAGE 1

the most important one in the future," she said.

She said after the expansion of Cox's Bazar Airport, it will emerge as a suitable place of refuelling aircraft from the east and west, and enhance communication with South East Asian countries. "If we can enhance our communications with South Eastern Asian countries, it will help expand our trade and commerce."

After coming to power, Hasina said her government bought 16 new aircraft, including four Boeing 777s, two 737s, four 787-8s, two 787-9s and four Dash-8s.

With these aircraft, she said the government wants to expand Biman's routes, including New York, Toronto and Sydney.

She asked the Biman officials to work with honesty and sincerity and upgrade all services, including security, to international standards.

The PM said the government wants to upgrade the Syedpur Airport to make it a regional airport so that Bhutan, Nepal and some Indian states can use it.

She also said Sylhet International Airport can be used by Meghalay, Assam and other Indian states while Chattogram International Airport can be used by Tripura and other Indian

states.

Voicing her frustration for not being able to utilise the new B1 aircraft of Biman, Hasina said these aircraft cannot be operated due to coronavirus.

She mentioned that the construction work on Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) third terminal is going on in full swing. "It will be the most modern one."

She said there will be an underpass from HSIA to Airport Railway Station for the convenience of passengers.

About the development of Cox's Bazar as a tourist spot, she said the government has many development plans for the area to attract more local and foreign tourists.

In this connection, the PM mentioned that the Sonadia Eco Park which will be preserving all natural elements.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md Mahub Ali, Secretary of the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry Md Mokammel Hossain and Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Air-Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman also spoke at the event.

A video on the development of the aviation industry of Bangladesh was screened at the programme.

## A dozen Bangladeshis now

FROM PAGE 1

their flights were again cancelled as two bomb blasts killed nearly 100 Afghans and US troops. Finally, the 12 Bangladeshis and Afghan students were evacuated to Doha on August 28.

Of the total of 12 Bangladeshi officials of BRAC International, nine were already brought back home. Still, there are three BRAC officials in Kabul. BRAC said they were safe and will be repatriated soon.

Some six other Bangladeshis were still known to be stranded in

Afghanistan but foreign ministry officials said they have yet to approach the Bangladesh authorities for evacuation.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministry said they are in regular contact with the stranded Bangladesh nationals and has taken every measure for their safe and orderly departure.

"It is expected that the development workers can return to Afghanistan once conducive environment is restored," said a foreign ministry statement yesterday.

## Blast rocks Kabul again

FROM PAGE 1

US officials had said they were particularly concerned about the ISIS-K militants attacking the airport as American troops depart, in particular the threat from rockets and vehicle-borne explosives.

One US official said yesterday's strike was carried out by an unmanned aircraft piloted from outside Afghanistan, and that secondary explosions following the strike showed the target had been carrying a "substantial amount of explosive material".

"We want to ensure that every foreign civilian and those who are at risk are evacuated today [yesterday]. Forces will start flying out once this process is over," the official said.

A US official told Reuters on Saturday that fewer than 4,000 troops remained at the airport.

The United States and allies have

taken about 114,400 people - foreign nationals and vulnerable Afghans - out of the country in the past two weeks, but tens of thousands who want to go will be left behind.

The airlift - one of the biggest such evacuation operations ever - marked the end of a 20-year Western mission in Afghanistan that began when US-led forces ousted a Taliban government that had provided safe haven for the perpetrators of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

The final chapter came after the United States and the Taliban made a deal to end the foreign involvement by August 31 this year. The Western-backed government and Afghan army melted away as Taliban fighters swept across the country and took control of Kabul.

"We tried every option because our lives are in danger. They (the Americans or foreign powers) must

show us a way to be saved. We should leave Afghanistan or they should provide a safe place for us," said one woman outside the airport.

A Taliban official told Reuters the Islamist group had engineers and technicians ready to take charge of the airport.

"We are waiting for the final nod from the Americans to secure full control over Kabul airport as both sides aim for a swift handover," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Biden yesterday headed to Dover Air Force Base to honor members of the US military killed in Thursday's attack as their remains were returned to the United States.

His national security adviser said Washington expected the Taliban to still allow safe passage for Americans and others to leave after the US military withdrawal is completed.

## Biman pilot still in coma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condition of Biman pilot Capt Nawshad Ataul Quayyum, who suffered a heart attack while commanding a Muscat-Dhaka flight, remains the same. He is in coma in a hospital in Nagpur.

"His condition is the same as yesterday [Saturday] ... he is still in coma at the ICU," said a senior official of Kingsway Hospital, wishing not to be named.

His view was echoed by a senior Biman official in India.

Requesting anonymity, the official

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## Metro dream

FROM PAGE 1

river. The Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 (metro rail), the dream of young people and a priority of the government, will be inaugurated late next year, he added.

TEST RUNS START

Top officials of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the project, over 100 journalists, many engineers and workers gathered at the workshop at the depot in the capital's Diabari yesterday morning.

Around 11:00am, MAN Siddique, the MD of DMTCL, briefed reporters about the programme.

Quader, also the general secretary of Awami League, MAN Siddique, along with Minister and Deputy of the Mission of Japan Embassy in Bangladesh Hiroyuki Yamaya, and Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh Yuho Hayakawa, and several other officials, entered the train and inspected it for several minutes.

Quader then gave a speech. Around 11:50am, the train, consisting of six cars, came close to the podium inside the depot.

The minister then waved a green flag, signaling the train to start its first run.

Apart from a train operator from the Japanese company, a resident engineer, and Project Manager ABM Arifur Rahman were inside the train.

It was operated at 25km per hour on the main tracks while 5km per hour at the station, Arifur said. The train was operated between Uttara North, Uttara Centre, Uttara South, and Pallabi.

The electric train can reach up to 100kmph.

"We successfully completed today's test run. It was a good start," Arifur told The Daily Star, adding that he and the experts did several technical checks during the test run.

When the train reached Pallabi station, hundreds of people were seen watching it from the streets and rooftops.

Munna Islam, a resident of Mirpur-12, went to the roof of a six-story building to see the train.

"It will be really helpful to us. We heard it would take 20 to 25 minutes to reach Motijheel from Mirpur once the service begins," he told this correspondent.

WHAT'S NEXT

Quader said construction of 19.02km, out of 20.10km viaducts, have already been done. Apart from the depot, the tracks have been installed on 17.24km of it.

Wiring on 17.44km of overhead catenary system has also been done. Four of the 24 trains have reached Dhaka from Japan. The rest will reach gradually, he said.

Testing of the train inside the depot started on May 11, he said.

The overall performance tests may take six months and the integrity tests may continue for three months, he added.

After that, five months of trial runs without passengers will be carried out before starting commercial service, he added.

"Metro rail is no longer a dream, it is now a reality."

The original implementation period for the fast-track project was from July 2012 to June 2024. But Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the physical work in June, 2016.

She later directed that the metro services from Uttara-Agargaon be operational by 2019, and from Agargaon-Motijheel by 2020.

Failing to meet the deadline, the authorities in May 2019 said the services would be launched on December 16 this year to coincide with the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence. But construction work lost pace amid the pandemic, forcing the authorities to extend the deadline again, officials said.

The overall progress of the project was 44.12 percent in March last year, when the first cases of coronavirus were detected in the country. As of July this year, the project made 68.49 percent progress, falling short of what was anticipated at the outset.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, in his budget speech in June and MAN Siddique at a programme on July 30 hinted that partial operation of the metro rail service was likely to start in December next year.

There will be 16 stations between Uttara and Motijheel. Around 60,000 people will be able to commute every hour between Uttara and Motijheel in just about 40 minutes. The journey now takes about two hours on a regular day.

The authorities later decided to extend the line to Kamalapur. However, physical work of this portion has not started yet.



### Homage paid to writer Bulbul Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of all walks of life paid their last tributes to Ekushey Padak winning writer Bulbul Chowdhury at Bangla Academy premises yesterday.

They placed floral wreaths at the coffin and stood in silence to pray for his departed soul, while some bade him a tearful farewell.

The 73-year-old writer breathed his last around 6pm on Saturday at his Bangla Bazar residence in the capital. He was suffering from cancer, his son R Rafi told The Daily Star.

His body was taken to Bangla Academy premises around 11am yesterday for final respects after his first namaz-e-janaza was held at a local mosque in Bangla Bazar.

After his second namaz-e-janaza at the academy

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, PALASH KHAN

Metro rail staffers take a moment to click selfies with the product of their hard work at Uttara North Station, as the mega-project began its performance test yesterday. Inset, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader waves a green flag to inaugurate the test runs at Diyabari's Metro Rail Depot.

### SURGE IN DENGUE CASES

## 'DSCC must take responsibility'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Old Dhaka residents staged a demonstration in front of the Nagar Bhaban yesterday, calling out the Dhaka South City Corporation for failing to control Aedes mosquitoes in the area.

Under the banner of "Old Dhaka Residents", around 20 people formed a human chain around noon, holding a jar in hand that contained Aedes larvae.

Bangshal resident Alauddin, one of the organisers, said, "We're here to draw DSCC's attention because nothing else

seems to be working."

When asked about the larvae in the jar, he told this correspondent they were collected from Kamrangirchar area.

"The city corporation is not taking experts' opinions regarding dengue-control seriously," said Mizanur Rahman, a resident of Jurain.

He said Jurain is particularly hard-hit by the mosquito-borne disease, as nine people from the area have died of dengue this month alone. "But there's still no effective initiative to destroy Aedes mosquitoes by

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

The protesters gathered in front of the Nagar Bhaban, bringing with them a jar containing Aedes larvae collected from Kamrangirchar. Though they planned to hand it over to the mayor, it ended up in the hands of an Ansar member, who left it on the road.



Death toll 42

30 died in Aug so far, 12 in July

252 more hospitalised yesterday

### Another dies of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient has died while at least 252 more were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), among the 252 new cases of infection, 50 are from outside Dhaka.

Meanwhile, 42 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year, all of whom have died in July and August. Twelve people died in July while 30 have died in August so far.

With the new cases, a total of 7,199 were diagnosed with the mosquito-borne virus

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## 'A continuation of oppression'

### Nine rights orgs condemn repeated violence against Garo, Khasia communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine rights organisations yesterday condemned and expressed concern over repeated incidents of violence on Garo and Khasia communities to evict them from their land in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

Sammilito Samajik Andolon, Nijera Kori, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela), Association for Land Reforms and Development (ALRD), Nagorik Uddog, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) raised the concern at a virtual press conference.

In a joint statement, they raised concern over the "vicious effort" to grab jhum and betel trees of the communities in the name of social forestry, which put the forest department's role into question.

They also mentioned separate incidents on August 27, where three people from the Khasia community were attacked on their way back home, and five of the same community were assaulted.

On August 24, around 28,000 betel trees



The responsibility of the forest department is to conserve nature, but we find no sign of this among its officials. We have to let indigenous people live in nature and conserve the environment. The forest is in their thoughts and culture.

of the Khasia community at the upazila's Kormoda union were chopped down, incurring damages worth Tk 18 lakh, leaving five Garo and Khasia families in a destitute state, the statement said.

Bapa President Sultana Kamal, who chaired the conference, said this oppression is nothing new; it is just a continuation of previous incidents.

"It's our duty to let the people know about the development in the Garo and Khasia communities. The miscreants think they will be able to get away with it, given the impunity they enjoy in the country."

She lambasted the forest department for its questionable role in Kulaura upazila.

"The responsibility of the forest department is to conserve nature, but we find no sign of this among its officials. We have to let indigenous people live in nature and conserve the environment. The forest is in their thoughts and culture."

She said if a community of the country lives in constant fear, then it is presumed that there is violation of human rights. The government must ensure the safety and security for Garo and Khasia communities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

### BCL, Chhatra Dal activists clash at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) locked into a clash on Dhaka University campus yesterday morning.

JCD activists claimed that BCL men attacked them when they were holding a scheduled programme. BCL activists denied the allegation.

The clash took place two days after Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader expressed fear of possible "instability" in educational institutions as they are preparing to reopen the institutions.

Rakibul Islam Rakib, convener of JCD's DU unit, told The Daily Star that they brought out a procession from Central Shaheed Minar around 10am, protesting the arrests of organising secretary of JCD central committee Saif Mahmud Jewel and assistant organising secretary Moshirur Rahman Rony.

BCL men attacked the procession when it reached near TSC, Rakib claimed, adding that at least 15 JCD activists were injured in the attack.

Among the injured, two were undergoing treatment

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

### ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN LABOUR MIGRATION

## Media's proactive role a must: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday stressed the need for media's proactive role in addressing different challenges in the country's labour migration sector.

Besides, they stressed the need for inter-ministerial coordination as well as public-private partnership in different areas of labour migration to overcome the existing challenges.

Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development (BPCMD) and WARBE Development Foundation, with support from British Council's project "Prokas" and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, organised the participatory dialogue between the caucus and media professionals at a city hotel.

The dialogue was addressed by present and former parliamentarians, media professionals and migrant rights activists.

Highlighting parliamentarians' role and BPCMD's activities for migration sector development, WARBE chairman Syed Saiful Haque said there is a need for promoting such activities in media to ensure migrant workers' rights.

He said recommendations generated from the dialogue could be helpful for the caucus for future activities.

In her keynote presentation, BPCMD secretary general Mahjabeen Khaled said advocacy and building awareness are among the major activities of the caucus.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



On Jatrabari's Demra Road, DSCC is implementing a project to renovate the area's drainage system to relieve waterlogging issues. But for such a risky undertaking, its workers were not seen wearing any kind of safety gears, with no other protective measures in place either. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## Aatur Rahman passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Aatur Rahman, a well-known humour writer, diplomat, and former director general of Bangladesh Post Office, died from Covid-19 on Saturday. He was 79.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, and numerous relatives and admirers.

Aatur was kept on life support at a private hospital in Dhaka.

His body was brought home to Nagar village of Dhaka South Union, Golapganj upazila of Sylhet.

His namaz-e-janaza was held on the Dhaka South Madrasa ground after Maghrib prayers.

Aatur Rahman retired in 2002 as the DG of Bangladesh Post Office. Later, he taught at private universities.

In addition to 24 published books, he gained wide popularity for his writeups in newspapers under the headline "Du Dugone Paanch".

He was born in 1942 in Nagar village of Golapganj upazila.

## Media's

FROM PAGE 3  
Reserved seat lawmaker Khodeza Nasreen Akhter Hossain, former lawmaker and BPCMD member Selina Jahan Lita, and journalists Rabiul Islam, Mohsinul Karim, Miraz Hossain Gazi and Mustafizur Rahman, among others, spoke at the dialogue.

## BCL, Chhatra Dal

FROM PAGE 3  
at Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the rest at other hospitals.  
Later they held a press conference at Dhaka University Journalists' Association and demanded punishment of the attackers.  
Contacted, Saddam Hossain, general secretary of BCL's DU chapter, said Chhatra League activists are now busy with humanitarian activities during the

pandemic and they have no involvement with the incident.  
Asked, DU proctor Prof Dr AKM Golam Rabbani said no one has lodged any complaint over the incident yet.  
"I heard that an organistaion came to the campus to hold programmes without our permission amid this closure. I request everyone to be responsible and refrain from any such activity that will create unrest on campus," he added.

## DSCC must take

FROM PAGE 3  
DSCC," Mizanur said.  
He retold a story of a dengue death in his area. "A person recently came to Jurain to visit his granddaughter from their native village. But once here, he was infected by dengue and passed away within a day."  
The father of three said he's also afraid of the costs involved in dengue treatment, as it takes around Tk 5,000 to treat an infected patient.

Mizanur said both the then mayor and the current mayor failed to control the mosquito menace.  
Sheikh Md Alamgir, councillor of Dhaka South City Corporation ward-31, was found at the spot. Talking to this correspondent, he said, "This whole thing is a staged drama. The demonstrators are outsiders and [former mayor] Sayeed Khokon is behind it."  
The protesters ended up leaving the scene without handing the larvae over to the mayor. As they were leaving, councillor Alamgir took the jar from them and handed it over to an Ansar member of DSCC, who left the jar on the road, this correspondent saw.

Responding to a question, Mizanur said he tried to stage a demonstration back in 2019 -- when Sayeed Khokon was DSCC's mayor -- and was detained by a magistrate just before holding the protest rally.  
That year, over one lakh people were infected, while 179 people died of the disease.

Meanwhile, additional Ansar members were deployed at Nagar Bhaban's main gate since morning centering the programme.

## 3 mega projects

FROM PAGE 3  
But this time, he did not mention the expressway's deadline.  
The Padma Multipurpose Bridge and MRT Line-6 are among the government's fast-track projects.  
The bridge project saw major progress on August 23, as authorities finished installing all road slabs linking both sides of the Padma river through the roadway.  
The 6.15-km bridge will connect the capital with 21 south-western districts and is expected to boost the country's gross domestic product by 1.2 percent. Following several revisions of cost and deadline, the project cost rose to Tk 30,193 crore and the deadline was extended to June next year.

## Man held over rape of two women

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A man was arrested yesterday in Narayanganj sadar upazila on charge of raping two women.

The alleged rapist Delwar Hossain (28) was arrested from Chattogram. Before that, one of the victims filed a case with Narayanganj Model Police Station, said OC Rakiuzzaman. Delwar lived at a rented room and the two women, both RMG workers, lived in a room next to his.

On Friday, Delwar prepared meal for the two after they returned from work. He mixed sedatives with the food. As they lost consciousness, he raped them.

## 'Nutrition of nursing mother main concern'

Speakers tell seminar  
CITY DESK

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on families to share the responsibility of nursing mothers by creating a supportive environment to ensure the well-being of both mother and baby.

Unilever and "Horlicks Mother's Plus" brand organised the event at The Daily Star Centre. Titled "The importance of Breastfeeding, Lactating Mother's Health and Father's Responsibility", the session marked the "World Breastfeeding Week 2021", said a press release.

Nutritionist Naila Bari said, "Breastfeeding promotes better health for mothers and children alike. It is crucial for new mothers to ensure regular consumption of a healthy, balanced diet."

Family members, especially the husband, must be cautious to not ignore the well-being of nursing mothers, she said.

The speakers also mentioned Bangladesh's progress in promoting breastfeeding in the past couple of decades.

However, some indifference can still be seen regarding lactating mothers' health and nutrition. As a result, a large number of mothers are still suffering from malnutrition, they said.

After the seminar, health check-ups for nursing mothers were arranged at The Daily Star Centre.

## Another dies

FROM PAGE 3  
during the current month, while total infections stand at 9,857. Of the total, 771 are from outside the capital.  
At least 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, according to DGHS.

Though most patients who were hospitalised have been released, 1,123 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 143 outside the capital, DGHS data shows.

## Income of AL fell by 51pc in 2020

Says its report submitted to EC

STAR REPORT

The income of ruling Awami League in 2020 was about Tk 10.33 crore, 51 percent down from that of 2019, according to its audited financial statement submitted to the Election Commission yesterday.

However, AL's expenditures increased by Tk 1.73 crore last year, compared to that of the previous year, reports UNB.

The party's total income was Tk 10,33,43,33 in 2020, which was over Tk 21 crore in 2019.

An AL team, led by its publicity and publication secretary Dr Abdus Sobhan Golap, MP, handed over the financial statement of the 2020 calendar year to EC Secretary Md Humayun Kabir Khandaker at Nirbachan Bhaban in the city.

Later, Golap told reporters that their party's income largely came from the subscriptions of its members, sale of nomination forms and donations from various individuals and organisations. In 2020, the income declined as it earned less from the sale of nomination forms, and there was no income from the triennial council of the party in 2019.

AL spent Tk 9,94,49,931 in the calendar year, Tk 1,73,48,356 more than it spent in 2019. The expenditures went up for conducting relief activities amid the Covid-19 pandemic, providing donations to party-nominated candidates in different elections and the rise in the expenses against different publications.

On Thursday, BNP submitted its 2020 financial statement before the EC. The party's income was Tk 1.23 crore and expenditure was Tk 1.75 crore in 2020. The additional expenditure was met from its previous fund.

As per the law, each registered political party is obliged to submit its financial statement of the previous calendar year by July 31. But this time, EC has extended the time till August 31 due to Covid-19.

## Pori Moni's bail hearing tomorrow

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set tomorrow for hearing the bail petition in the narcotics case filed against Pori Moni.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed the fresh date after receiving an order of the High Court Division, said additional public prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

On August 22, the judge fixed September 13 for the hearing after her lawyer filed it [petition] challenging a lower court's rejection order. On August 26, an HC bench refused to grant her bail in the case, but issued a rule questioning the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court's order of setting September 13 to hear her bail application.

The HC issued the rule following a criminal revision petition filed by Pori Moni, challenging the lower court's order. It also fixed September 1 for hearing on the rule.

## ASK SEEKS SUO MOTO RULE

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday sought a suo moto (voluntary) rule from the HC questioning the legality of placing Pori Moni on remand in phases.

ASK's Chairperson and Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna moved a prayer before the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol for issuing the rule.



## LA Quadery no more

STAR REPORT

Eminent neurosurgeon Prof Dr LA Quadery passed away at a private hospital in Chattogram city yesterday morning. He was 80.

He was a pioneer in establishing Neurosurgery Department at Chattogram Medical College and was the head of the department, said Prof Dr Shahena Akter, principal of CMC.

Dr Quadery breathed his last around 11:30am at Centre for Specialised Care and Research Hospital in the port city.

He had been suffering from cancer, said Dr Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury, general secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association, Chattogram.

Dr Quadery was also a former president of BMA, Chattogram, said Dr Faisal. He was also a former student of the CMC. His only daughter lives in the US.

## A continuation

FROM PAGE 3  
Bela Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan also criticised the forest department, saying that the body runs under antiquated laws, which were formed during the British rule.

"How dare they think about social forestry while damaging the life and livelihood of so many families," she said.

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bapa, presented the keynote, while Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum; rights activist Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association of Land Reforms Development; and Nizamul Haque Nasim, former justice of Appellate Division, also spoke at the conference.

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## Homage paid

FROM PAGE 3  
premises, he was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of the writer.

In a condolence message yesterday, the premier prayed for his eternal peace and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Bulbul Chowdhury was born on August 16, 1948, at Dakshinbag in Gazipur.

Along with the Ekushey Padak for his contribution to Bangla literature, he also received the Bangla Academy Literary Award, Humayun Qadir Smriti Purashkar, and Jasimuddin Smriti Purashkar, to name a few.

Tuka Kahini, Machher Raat, Aparup Bil Jhil Nodi, Tiyaser Lekhon, Jibaner Ankibunki, Atoler Kathakatha, Prachin Gitakar Golpo are some of his popular fictional works.

Bulbul Chowdhury is survived by his wife and three sons.

### Call for Application/Expression of Interest Recruitment of Voluntary Representatives for the National Steering Committee of the GEF Small Grants Programme implemented by UNDP

The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provides financial and technical support to communities, Community-based Organizations (CBO), NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and academic/research organizations to meet the overall objective of "Global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions". This programme has been launched in Bangladesh this year.

The programme provides financial grants of up to \$50,000 directly to the CBOs/CSOs for projects in Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Land Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, International Waters and Chemicals.

A **National Steering Committee (NSC)**-composed of voluntary representatives from NGOs, government agencies, the private sector and the UNDP office - approves projects and guides the implementation of the Programme, managed by a National Coordinator. The NSC is not only responsible for selecting and approving projects, but they are also encouraged to participate in project monitoring and evaluation of the projects on a voluntary basis.

For the nomination of membership, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, academic/research institutions, women entrepreneurs, and private sectors, are hereby invited to submit the names of qualified representatives to be the members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the GEF-SGP for a period of 3 years initially.

**The proposed representative would have the following profile:**

1. Have an abiding interest and commitment to working with communities.
2. Have experience in participatory approaches and methodologies.
3. Expertise in, or good knowledge of, at least one of the following GEF focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, forest management, land degradation, chemicals and wastes.
4. Be well respected in his/her field.

**Important Note:**

1. NSC members are appointed by the UNDP Resident Representative upon ratification by the SGP Global Manager.
2. In recruiting members for the NSC, due consideration will be given to both the expertise and qualifications of the individual candidates, and the overall composition and balance of the committee.
3. Strong, experienced, and technically competent civil society representation on the NSC is crucial as a means of keeping the GEF-SGP responsive to its mandate to work with NGOs and CBOs.
4. Emphasis is laid on the fact that the work of the NSC is voluntary and without compensation.
5. A sitting NSC member's NGO cannot receive a grant from the GEF Small Grants Programme.
6. The selection of the best representative according to the transparent criteria set forth in this call for application will be done by the National Coordinator in consultation with the SGP focal point and UNDP as per the GEF SGP Operational Guidelines.

**Kindly send the full CV of the person you will have chosen from your organization by 15 September 2021 to the attention of:**

Mohammed Muzammel Hoque, National Coordinator GEF Small Grants Programme: [muzammel.hoque@undp.org](mailto:muzammel.hoque@undp.org)  
Cell: 01707073236 With copy to Mr. Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist, UNDP: [arif.faisal@undp.org](mailto:arif.faisal@undp.org)

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড  
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, ভেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা  
ঢাকা-১২০৮।

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমটি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী / সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছে :-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/সোকার/টেন্ডার/২০২১/৩৩৪ তারিখঃ ২৯/০৮/২০২১ ইং	সুক্রোস (রিকাইভ সুগার) বিপি Sucrose (Refined Sugar) BP (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)।	৩২,০০০ কেজি
সিকিউরিটি/ আর্নেস্ট মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
২.৫%	টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	০৮/০৯/২০২১ ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	০৮/০৯/২০২১ ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে,যাহাদের ভ্যারি রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(4"x4) মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকিউরমেন্ট  
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।

### United Nations Development Programme GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME Invitation of Proposals from NGOs/CSOs/Academic Institutions for preparing Country Programme Strategy

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh invites civil society organizations (CSOs) or non-government organizations (NGOs) or Academic Institutions to submit a Proposal for preparing Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for the Operational Phase 7 (OP7) 2019-2023 of the GEF/SGP.

The GEF SGP, implemented by the UNDP, provides financial and technical support to communities, CBOs, NGOs, CSOs and academic/research organizations to meet the overall objective of "Global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions". This programme has been launched in Bangladesh this year.

The programme provides financial grants of up to \$50,000 directly to the CBOs/CSOs for projects in Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Land Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, International Waters, Chemicals, and wastes.

Terms of reference (TOR), Project Proposal Form, and Country Programme Strategy (Template) can be obtained from GEF/SGP National Coordinator with an email to [muzammel.hoque@undp.org](mailto:muzammel.hoque@undp.org) The proposal should be delivered before 5 pm Thursday 14 October 2021.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) is responsible for reviewing and approving the proposals. The NSC reserves the right to accept or reject without any reason whatsoever. Only the proponents of the selected proposals will be informed before end of October 2021.

For further information please contact:  
National Coordinator  
UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP)  
IDB Bhaban, 18th Floor, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.  
E-mail: [muzammel.hoque@undp.org](mailto:muzammel.hoque@undp.org); Cell:01707073236, 01818982832

SWELLING PADMA, JAMUNA

# Two major rivers devour more fresh areas in Manikganj, Tangail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Erosion has taken a serious turn in Manikganj and Tangail as flood water continues increasing in the Padma and Jamuna rivers, devouring more fresh areas.

Water level in the Jamuna, Dhaleshwari and Jhenai rivers was flowing above the danger level in Tangail.

Meanwhile, a government primary school and Azimnagar Union Health Centre in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj devoured in the river Padma.

Despite repeated reminder, Water Development Board (WDB) authorities said they could not stop the erosion due to strong current in the Padma, our Manikganj correspondent reports.

Azimnagar Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Billal Hossain said more than 70 percent of the health centre building was washed away by the strong current of the river around 11:00pm on Saturday and the remaining rest part went into the river womb yesterday morning.

The health centre was established in 2014 at a cost of Tk 81 lakh, the chairman said.

He said last year, when it was only 150 yards away from the river he wrote a letter to the higher authorities and also informed the Harirampur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) about the erosion.

"The UNO told me that he had informed the WDB authorities. But WDB authorities did not take any immediate initiative to protect the health centre from erosion," the UP chairman further said.

In the second week of this month, the Padma river washed away Sutlari Ramchandrapur Government Primary School in the upazila.

Moreover, over a hundred houses and vast croplands have already been devoured in the river, while many other institutions in the upazila are still facing serious erosion threat, locals said.

Manikganj WDB Executive Engineer Md Main Uddin said, "Due to strong currents in the river nothing can be done at present to prevent the erosion. Attempts have been made by dumping sand-filled geo-bags in some areas in the past, but we did not succeed."

A government primary school was devoured in the mighty river this month,



Increasing water level in the Jamuna river has hit the riverbanks at different points in Tangail's Bhanpur upazila, while a union health centre, below, in Manikganj's Harirampur upazila was devoured by the Padma.

PHOTOS: STAR



he added.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that water level continued increasing in the Jamuna and its branches in Tangail yesterday due to onrush of water from the upstream.

As a result, serious erosion hit the riverbanks and fresh areas along the river.

With the increasing water level erosion intensified at different places in the district.

Around 100 dwelling houses, roads, mosque, embankments and other important structures in five upazilas of

the district have already been devoured by the rivers, sources said.

Rafiqul Islam of Bhalkutia village in Bhanpur upazila said a concrete road was damaged by huge pressure of the flood water yesterday morning, disrupting communication.

A mosque is also on the verge of collapse and villagers were trying to save it by dumping soil bags, he said.

Ramjan Ali of Alipur village in Kalihati upazila said he is taking preparation to shift his dwelling house at other place once again.

"Due to erosion by the Jamuna I have

shifted my house three times before," he said.

Gohaliabari UP Chairman Hazrat Ali Talukder said around 100 dwelling houses at Alipur and other adjacent villages under his union were devoured by the river during the flood while nearly 100 more houses are facing erosion threat.

Tangail WDB Executive Engineer Sirajul Islam said due to increasing water level they cannot stop the erosion.

According to WDB water was flowing 34 centimetre above the danger mark in the Jamuna river yesterday.

**Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology**  
Directorate of Planning and Development

**e-Tender Notice**

No. P&D/LP(S-3)/REC-61/20/Reg. Off-03/DR-1316 Date: 28 AUG 2021  
This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of Goods	Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
Tender ID: 586683 Package No: GD-61/20/REC/Reg. Off-03 Publishing Date: 29/08/2021	Supply of Stationary Equipment and Paper for the Registrar Office, BUET	14-09-2021 16:00 15-09-2021 15:00
Tender ID: 586679 Package No: GD-39/20/REC/Reg. Off. Publishing Date: 29/08/2021	Supply and installation of Computer and Printer for the Registrar Office, BUET, Dhaka.	14-09-2021 16:00 15-09-2021 15:30

The interested persons/firms may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

*M. Hossain* 28.08.2021  
Director  
Directorate of Planning and Development  
BUET, Dhaka. GD-1539



PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPO

Cattle wander in floodwater in search of food. The photo was taken from Bonni area of Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

## Fodder crisis deepens in flood-hit Sirajganj

Two lakh animals affected in floodwater, 154 acres of grazing land submerged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

Fodder crisis have become a double blow for the flood affected people of Sirajganj, one of the major dairy hubs in the country. The people who have become stranded due to the flood are worried over feeding their domestic animals as 154 acres of grazing land have submerged in the flood in the district.

Sural Jowardar, a poor farmer of village Bonni Dorota in Sadar upazila, has two cows, but flood waters entered his homestead couple of weeks ago, causing food crisis for his family and the animals.

"We can live without food or minimum food a day but we must feed our domestic animals. All the grazing land in the shoal has become submerged, and we have no money to buy fodder. So, I have shifted the cows to Berabari, another point of the shoal," Sural said.

"The water is increasing very fast and it is just a matter of time until Berabari point gets submerged as well, so I am worried to feed my animals," he added.

Visiting Berabari area last week, this correspondent found that many people were cutting grass in the shoal and a number of cows were grazing. People were coming from long distance in the part of the shoal to collect cattle feed.

"Due to river erosion, we have lost our house and we have taken shelter in the flood protection embankment along with three cows. I have been coming here every morning on my boat for collecting grass over the last couple of weeks." Sujon Miah of Berabari area said.

Sujon will have nowhere else to go another if it (Berabari shoal) gets submerged in flood water.

Like them, most of the flood-hit people can hardly manage fodder for their animals.

According to Sirajganj District Livestock Officer (DLO) Dr Gourango Kumar Talukdar, Sirajganj is one of the major dairy hubs in the country having over 8.78 lakh cows, 3.5 lakh goats and over 1 lakh lambs.

Fodder crisis and crises of shelter are making animal farming costlier and immensely difficult due to the flood, he said.

According to the DLO, around 1.08 lakh cows, 79 thousand goats and 20 thousand lambs have been affected by the flood in the last couple of weeks in Sadar, Chowhali, Kazipur and Shahzadpur upazila.

Around 154 acres of grazing land have also submerged in the four upazilas deepening fodder crisis, the DLO said, adding that the flood situation is worsening and more animals are likely to be affected in the district.

Flood-hit cattle farmers, however, said in addition to the fodder crisis, various animal diseases have also broken out.

"We have already started vaccination to the cattle in the flood-hit areas for preventing diseases. We will take initiative to give fodder support to the affected farmers," The DLO added

**বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
গোপালগঞ্জ-৮১০০

স্মারক নং-বশেমুরবিপ্রবি/র/জ.প্র/২৬-১৯/৯২৮ তারিখ: ১১ ভাদ্র, ১৪২৮  
২৬ আগস্ট, ২০২১

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজস্বখাতের আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় বেতন ও অন্যান্য আর্থিক সুবিধাদিসহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা
১.	পরিচালক (পরিচালনা, উন্নয়ন ও ওয়ার্কস)	গ্রেড-৩ (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০)	১টি
২.	উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব)	গ্রেড-৫ (৪৩০০০-৬৯৮৫০)	১টি

প্রতি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরম (Prescribed Form), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা এবং নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট [www.bsmrstu.edu.bd](http://www.bsmrstu.edu.bd) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। যে পদে আবেদন করতে ইচ্ছুক সে পদের নাম অবশ্যই খামের উপর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ক্রমিক নং-১ ও ২ পদের জন্য ১,২০০/- (এক হাজার দুইশত) টাকা অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের হিসাব বিভাগে নগদ জমা দিয়ে জমা রশিদ অথবা অগ্রাধী 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 আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের হার্ড কপি (৮ সেট) কুরিয়ার সার্ভিসের/ডাক বিভাগ এর মাধ্যমে অথবা হাতে হাতে আগামী ১৪/০৯/২০২১ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০টার মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে জমা দেয়া যাবে/পৌঁছাতে হবে। কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস/ডাক বিভাগের বিলয়ের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনভাবেই দায়ী থাকবে না।

মোঃ আবদুর রউফ  
রেজিস্ট্রার

জিডি-১৫৪১

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Barind Multipurpose Development Authority  
Office of the Project Director, EIRP & Superintending Engineer  
Rangpur Circle, College Road, Alamnagar, Rangpur-5400

"কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি"  
০৫২১২৫৪০  
Email: se\_rangpur@bmda.gov.bd

Memo No. PD/EIRP/BMDA/Rang/2021-2022/154 Date: 28/08/2021

**Corrigendum**

Due to unavoidable circumstances all concerned are hereby informed that the following amendment has been made against tender/proposal ID No. 595810 published 02-August-2021 23:00:00 the National e-GP System Portal & dated: 03/08/2021 in The Daily Star, Somokal & Dainik Dabanol respectively for BMDA, Rangpur Circle, Rangpur. This shall constitute an integral part of the said tender notice and tender documents. The Revision is as follows:

Tender ID No.	Description & Amendments
595810	Amendment will be-Notice, Price and Delivery Schedule for Goods.

All other terms and conditions in the original Tender Notice shall remain unchanged and valid.

**Engr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan**  
Project Director, EIRP & Superintending Engineer (In Charge)  
BMDA Rangpur Circle, Rangpur

GD-1543

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges  
Bridges Division  
Bangladesh Bridge Authority  
Project Director, Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchaboti-Mukterpur Bridge Project  
Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212  
[www.bba.gov.bd](http://www.bba.gov.bd)

Ref No. 50.01.0000.856.14.011.21-160 Date: 29 August, 2021

**Invitation for Tenders [National] (Physical Services)**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Bridges Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchaboti-Mukterpur Bridge Project.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Tenders (Physical Services).
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
7	Source of funds	GoB.
8	Development partners	Not applicable.
9	Project name	Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchaboti to Mukterpur Bridge Project.
10	Tender Package No.	50.01.0000.856.14.011.21-160
11	Tender package name	Engagement of 'Service Provider' for detection of utility services at underground, at grade and overhead along the corridor of "Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchaboti to Mukterpur Bridge Project".
12	Tender publication date	Date: 01 September 2021
13	Tender last selling date & time	Date: 22 September 2021 Time: 5.00pm (BST)
14	Tender closing date & time	Date: 23 September 2021 Time: 2.00pm (BST)
15	Tender opening date & time	Date: 23 September 2021 Time: 3.00pm (BST)
16	Name & address of the office	Accounts Section (6th Floor, Room No. 622), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.
	Place of selling tender document	Office of Project Director, Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchaboti to Mukterpur Bridge Project, Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Room No. 915, Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka.
	Place of receiving tender	
	Place of opening tender	
17	Date of pre-tender meeting	Pre-tender meeting shall be held on 9 September 2021; 11:00am.
	Place of pre-tender meeting	Office of Project Director, Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchaboti to Mukterpur Bridge Project, BBA, Room No. 915, Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka.
18	Qualification criteria of tenderer	<b>General experience:</b> The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as prime contractor/sub contractor/management contractor shall be 5 (five) years. <b>Specific experience:</b> The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor in providing similar physical services (data collection, survey of underground, at grade and overhead utilities, data processing & mapping, preparation of GIS map etc.) of at least ONE contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of 5 (five) years each with a value of at least of Tk 90,00,000.00 (ninety lac) shall be required. <b>Average annual turnover:</b> The required average annual turnover of the tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 3,50,00,000.00 (three crore fifty lac Taka) over the last 3 (three) years. <b>Liquid assets:</b> The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 1,00,00,000.00 (one crore Taka)
19	Description of physical services	Data collection, survey of underground, at grade and overhead utilities, data processing & mapping, preparation of GIS map etc.
20	Site location	Price of tender document Tender security Completion period
	Narayanganj-Munshiganj	BDT 1500.00 (one thousand five hundred) BDT 5,00,000.00 (five lakh) 75 days
21	Name of official inviting tender	Shafiqul Islam.
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchaboti to Mukterpur Bridge Project.
23	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. +880-2-55040374, Mobile: 01711-164101, Fax No. +88-02-55040444 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pdmukterpur@gmail.com">pdmukterpur@gmail.com</a>
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings	

**Shafiqul Islam**  
Project Director  
Ph: +88-02-55040374  
E-mail: [pdmukterpur@gmail.com](mailto:pdmukterpur@gmail.com)

GD-1544

## Widow's house attacked, 3 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Criminals attacked the house of a widow in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila allegedly after the latter filed a rape case against one of her neighbours.

Three people sustained injuries during the attack.

Of them, Binodini Rani, 58, and Sudhanshu Chandra Roy, 36, have been admitted to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex.

Being informed, police went to the spot and arrested Kafil Uddin, father of the alleged culprit Nur.

Police said Swapna Rani, wife of late Uday Chandra of Purbo Barvita village was walking alone near her house Wednesday morning when neighbouring youth Nur Mohammad first gave her an illicit proposal and then tried to rape her forcibly.

Hearing screams, villagers rushed to the spot and saw Nur Mohammad fleeing, leaving the woman on the spot.

Later, Swapna lodged a complaint with Phulbari Police Station against Nur Mohammad on Friday. Hearing the news, enraged Nur Mohammad and his men attacked Swapna's house the following morning.

They also beat up Swapna's mother-in-law and two other in-laws when they tried to resist the attackers.

OC of the PS Rajib Kumar said they arrested a man and were trying to arrest the main culprit.

## MORE NEWS

## Singapore now the most vaccinated country against Covid

Singapore has fully inoculated 80 percent of its 5.7 million people against COVID-19, according to officials, becoming the world's most vaccinated country and setting the stage for further easing of curbs. "We have crossed another milestone, where 80% of our population has received their full regimen of two doses," Singapore's Health Minister Ong Ye Kung said in a Facebook post yesterday. That gives the tiny city-state the world's highest rate of complete vaccinations, according to a tracker by the Reuters news agency. Other countries that have high vaccination rates include the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Chile, which have fully inoculated more than 70 percent of their populations.

## Hurricane Ida grows to Category 4 storm

Hurricane Ida was upgraded to a Category 4 storm as it stayed on course to hit New Orleans with maximum sustained winds reaching 225 kilometers per hour, the US National Hurricane Center said yesterday. Ida was due to make landfall later yesterday, 16 years to the day Hurricane Katrina devastated the southern US city, flooding 80 percent of New Orleans, and leaving behind 1,800 casualties and billions of dollars in damage. Shops were boarded up and evacuations were underway Saturday, with officials warning residents to leave immediately or hunker down to ride out the storm.

## Japan detects more Moderna vaccine contamination

Two Japanese regions yesterday suspended use of some Moderna Covid-19 shots after more cases of contamination were spotted, the local governments said. The move came a day after the Japanese health ministry said it was investigating the death of two men who received doses from other tainted Moderna batches — though the cause of death is unknown. Okinawa prefecture said it had suspended use of Moderna shots at a major vaccination centre in the city of Naha, while Gunma prefecture, north of Tokyo, also said it had paused use of contaminated lots. The contamination in Okinawa and Gunma follows the suspension of 1.63 million doses across Japan on Thursday after the deaths of two men aged 30 and 38 in August following their second Moderna doses.

## Israel strikes Gaza after fire balloons, border clashes

The Israeli air force attacked two Hamas sites in Gaza yesterday, the army said, after Gazans clashed with forces on the border and launched incendiary balloons into southern Israel. The latest escalation came as Israel and Egypt continued to relax restrictions on commerce and travel imposed on the Gaza Strip, largely cut off by both countries since the Islamist movement Hamas seized the Palestinian enclave in 2007. There were no reports from the Gaza Strip of any casualties caused by the Israeli strikes. Hamas and Israel then fought a devastating 11-day conflict in May, the worst between the two sides in years, which ended with an informal truce.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A protester gestures to riot police standing beside water cannon trucks during a demonstration calling for the resignation of Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha over the government's handling of the Covid-19 coronavirus crisis in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday

PHOTO: AFP

## France, UK to push for Kabul safe zone

Says Macron ahead of today's UN meet, slams US for shifting focus and for abandoning allies

AGENCIES

France and Britain will submit a resolution to an emergency United Nations meeting due today proposing a safe zone in Kabul to try and protect people trying to leave Afghanistan, French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday.

"Our resolution proposal aims to define a safe zone in Kabul, under UN control, which would allow humanitarian operations to continue," Macron told French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche (JDD) in an interview.

"What we are trying to do is to be able to organise targeted humanitarian operations for evacuations that will not take place through the military airport in Kabul," he said.

"It is about protecting these threatened Afghans and getting them out of the country in the coming days or weeks. We will see if this can be done through the capital's civilian airport or through neighbouring countries."

He said such a deal would be a prerequisite for constructing a future western relationship with the Taliban.

Journal du Dimanche cited Macron as saying the UK backed the resolution, although London has not spoken publicly on any such efforts. A Whitehall source played down the French president's comments, saying the plans outlined in the interview were



French President Emmanuel Macron visits the Grand al-Nuri Mosque in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq, yesterday

PHOTO: REUTERS

"premature".

"We are not there yet," the source said.

It is not yet clear if Russia or China will accept the resolution, or see it as an incursion into Afghan sovereignty.

Turkey had been negotiating with the Taliban and the US to take military responsibility for the airport, but abandoned the plan after the Taliban said they would not accept Turkish troops remaining on its soil.

Macron made no attempt to hide

that the evacuation operation was incomplete. "We still have on our lists several thousand Afghans who we want to protect, who are at risk because of their commitments - magistrates, artists, intellectuals - but also many other people who have been reported by relatives and who we are told are at risk," he said.

The French president made a succession of pointed remarks towards the US, pointing out that Joe Biden had yet to accept many refugees from

Afghanistan on to American soil but was instead sending them to processing centres in countries as far afield as Uganda and Albania.

France, he said, "had fought for the last few years to avoid too brutal a disengagement of the Americans or other allies in the region", adding that the withdrawal from Afghanistan could have a negative impact on Iraq and Syria.

"The risk now, as we have seen in Afghanistan, is that the impression is given that they are abandoning when their agenda changes. This is not our case. France does not abandon those who fought alongside it".

He added that the US had shifted its "strategic agenda" to the Asia-Pacific region because American middle-class voters do "not understand why [Washington] sends soldiers for years to die at the end of the world".

He concluded: "We must therefore play our part more in the face of the destabilisation of our neighbourhood."

On a visit to Mosul in Iraq, Macron later confirmed the safe zone comments and said he was hopeful the resolution would be welcomed favourably.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is convening a meeting on Afghanistan with the UN envoys for Britain, France, the United States, China and Russia - the Security Council's permanent, veto-wielding members.

## Quotes of the day



"The risk now, as we have seen in Afghanistan, is that the impression is given that the west has conditional allies that they are abandoning when their agenda changes. This is not our case. France does not abandon those who fought alongside it."

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMANUEL MACRON AHEAD OF A KEY UNSC MEET CALLED BY UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES TO CONTROL THE FALLOUT FROM THE WEST'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN

## TALIBAN TAKEOVER IN AFGHANISTAN

## A 'blow' to Indian interests

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The Taliban's return to power two weeks ago has caused a major diplomatic setback for India, with the South Asian giant now one of the region's "most disadvantaged" players, analysts say.

The sudden collapse of the Western-backed government in Kabul on August 15 precipitated an unprecedented exodus of diplomats, foreign aid workers and Afghans who worked for Western countries and feared reprisals from the Taliban.

India was among the nations that closed their missions in Afghanistan and brought back their staff and citizens. It is still trying to evacuate some citizens left behind amid chaotic conditions at the Kabul airport.

New Delhi invested \$3b in development projects, offered scholarships to Afghan students, and helped construct the parliament building at a cost of \$90m, earning huge goodwill in the country of 38 million.

Last year, during the 2020 Afghanistan Conference, India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said no part of Afghanistan was "untouched" by the "400-plus projects" that India had undertaken in all 34 provinces of the country.

Bilateral trade between the two countries had also increased significantly over the years and reached \$1.5bn in 2019-2020.

India, which sees the Taliban as a proxy of its archrival Pakistan, had maintained close ties with

the Northern Alliance, which defeated the Afghan armed group in 2001 with the help of the US-led Nato forces.

"India has gone from being Kabul's closest regional partner to one of the region's most disadvantaged players in an Afghanistan context," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia programme at the US-based Wilson Center.

Echoing similar sentiments, Happyymon Jacob from New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, said: "I think India seems to be out of the game in Afghanistan."

Some foreign policy mandarins have pointed out India was too late in reaching out to the Taliban to secure its interests, as reports emerged that Indian officials met the Taliban in the Qatari capital, Doha, in June. The Taliban established a political office in Doha in 2013.

Kugelman said two factors went against New Delhi: "India's reluctance to reach out to the Taliban until it was too late, and an ill-fated Afghan reconciliation process with a deep Pakistani footprint, owing to its ties to the Taliban."

"One deprived India of potential leverage, and the other put New Delhi at a geopolitical disadvantage," Kugelman told Al Jazeera.

"Afghanistan will now have a pro-Pakistan government, and this will give Pakistan and India's other key rival, China - Pakistan's close friend - an opportunity to play more of a role in Afghanistan," said Kugelman

## Rebel attack on Yemen biggest airbase kills 30

AFP, Dubai

Strikes on Yemen's largest airbase yesterday killed at least 30 pro-government troops and wounded at least 56 more, said medical and loyalist sources who blamed Iran-backed Huthi rebels for the attack.

The strikes were carried out on Al-Anad airbase, some 60 kilometres north of Yemen's second city Aden in the south of the conflict-riven country.

The airbase served as the headquarters for US troops overseeing a long-running drone war against al-Qaeda until they pulled out in March 2015, shortly before the Huthis overran the area.

An armed forces spokesman accused Yemen's Shia Huthi rebels of carrying out missile and drone strikes on the facility.



## 'Asleep on watch' UK gov slammed over Afghan exit as hundreds left behind

REUTERS, London

Prime Minister Boris Johnson defended Britain's airlift from Kabul yesterday following growing criticism that ministers had been "asleep on watch", potentially leaving thousands of eligible Afghans behind in the country.

Britain, like the United States, has been criticised for failing to predict how quickly the Afghan government would fall, meaning it had not made sufficient preparation for the chaos that would follow when the Taliban seized power.

Britain's last military flight left Kabul late yesterday, ending a chaotic two weeks in which soldiers helped to evacuate more than 15,000 people from the crowds who descended on the capital's airport, desperate to flee the country.

Richard Dannatt, former chief of staff of the British army, said the government now needed an inquiry to establish why it had been so ill-prepared for the rapid turn of events. "It is unfathomable why it would appear that the government was asleep on watch," he told Times Radio. "We've had this chaotic extraction, we should have done better, we could have done better."

The Observer newspaper said thousands of emails sent to the Foreign Office by lawmakers and charities, detailing cases of Afghan citizens who needed help to leave, had not been read.

A Foreign Office spokesperson said it had worked tirelessly to evacuate people but it had always cautioned that it would not be able to help everyone.

Britain's defence minister, Ben Wallace, predicted last week that time had run out to evacuate around 1,000 Afghans who were eligible to come to Britain, including former staff to the UK.

Johnson said however that while Britain would not have wished to leave Afghanistan in the way it did, the armed forces should still be proud of their achievements.

Speaking to the 150,000 men and women who completed a tour of Afghanistan, and the families of the 457 who died there, Johnson said they had succeeded in keeping Britain safe and in improving the livelihoods for Afghan locals.



AUGUST 25

1918 - Vladimir Lenin, leader of Soviet Russia, was shot and wounded by Fanya Kaplan after speaking at a factory in Moscow.

1963 - Hotline established between Washington and Moscow. John F Kennedy becomes the first US president to have a direct phone line to the Kremlin in Moscow.

SOURCE: WEBSITES



## Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATC)

European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) & Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Part 147 Approved Maintenance Training Organization

## Training To Take-off

Admission for EASA & CAAB Part 147 approved B1.1 & B2 Basic Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Training Courses



Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATC) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines is the only EASA Part-147 approved Aircraft Maintenance Training Organization in Bangladesh. This training centre is also approved by Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh as CAAB Part 147 organization for conducting aircraft maintenance engineering courses. Under the privileges of EASA Part-147 and CAAB Part 147 approval, BATC is offering the basic training courses for Aircraft Maintenance Engineering on

- Category B1.1 (Aeroplanes Turbine) and
- Category B2 (Avionics)

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GD-1538

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GD-1542

# Early Barristers from East Bengal

WAQAR KHAN

The failed Indian rebellion of 1857 also led to the 'demise' of the rapacious East India Company (EIC) in 1858, when political power was transferred to the crown-in-parliament in England with the founding of 'The British Empire in India' (1858-1947), popularly known today as the British Raj. A deceptive calm settled over the restive land, following savage Company (EIC) reprisals with the fall of rebel held Mughal Delhi, Lucknow and elsewhere in upper India. As colonial India gradually came under the firm vice-grip of the inglorious British Raj, Queen Victoria (reign: 1837-1901) was proclaimed as 'Kaiser-i-Hind' or Empress of India in 1877, in the plains of Delhi in a grand durbar held under the aegis of the Earl of Lytton, the Viceroy and Governor-General of British India.

Meanwhile, as life returned to normal, educational institutions at the college and university level in the Bengal Presidency, experienced an efflorescence of academic excellence achieved by Indian students profoundly impacted by the Bengal Renaissance, necessitating further advanced education in the fields of the sciences, liberal arts and law through enrollment in institutions of higher learning in Britain. In the meantime, the opportune opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 considerably reduced the distance, time and cost of travelling between India and Britain. Also, the rapid modernization of steamship navigation via the high seas, encouraged more aspiring Indian students to travel in relative comfort to attend prestigious colleges and universities in Britain, thereby obtaining higher degrees to qualify in the professions of law, civil service (ICS), medical science, engineering, financial management and in other areas of human endeavor. Thus, the Indian Barristers in particular, started to return to India adequately 'armed' with newly acquired legal skills, determined to face the forbidding challenges of a colonial society with boldness, hitherto unknown. Gradually, a new era of political consciousness and nationalism dawned in British India in which the Indian Barristers played a leading role, many of whom entered politics as ardent nationalists, devout revolutionaries and prominent politicians to challenge the British Raj as formidable opponents. The rest is history.

This essay is dedicated to the early Barristers from East Bengal, the 'Bhumiputra' or 'son of the soil' who qualified for the prestigious legal profession in those difficult days by becoming successful trailblazers for future generations of aspiring Barristers, as they followed in their footsteps during the colonial era. The period covered here is from 1866 to 1920. It began when Monomohan Ghose (1844-1896) from historic Bikrampur of Dhaka, was called to the Bar in London in 1866. While Gnanedramohan Tagore (1826-1890) from the Pathuriaghat branch of the Tagore family in Calcutta was the first Indian and Asian to qualify as a Barrister in 1862, Monomohan Ghose became the first 'practicing' Indian Barrister by joining the Calcutta High Court in 1886.

The following is a list of early Indian Barristers presumably from the Bengal presidency, who were mandatorily required to belong to one of the four learned Societies, that is, the 'Inns of Court' namely: Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn, Inner Temple and Middle Temple in London, England to qualify at the Bar. Provided against the names for most of the following Barristers are the dates, when they were called to the Bar. Only the identifiable Barristers from East Bengal are shown within the parentheses of (EB): Monomohan Ghose - 6 June, 1866 (EB); Michael Madhusudan Dutt - 17 Nov, 1866 (EB); Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee (also Umesh Chandra Banerjee) - 11 June, 1867; Syed Ahmed Ali - 26 Jan, 1869; Tarokanath Palit - 10 June, 1870; Romesh Chandra Dutt - 6 June, 1871; Biharilal Gupta - 6 June, 1871; Rajnarain Mitra - 6 June, 1872; Syed Asghar Ali Khan - 11 Jan, 1873; Syed Ameer Ali - 27 Jan, 1873; Krishnamohan Chatterjee - 27 Jan, 1873; Lalmoan Ghose - 7 June, 1873; Charu Chandra Dutt - 24 Jan, 1874; R. K. Sen - 24 Jan, 1874; Anandamohan Basu - 3 April, 1874; Brajendranth De - 1875; Pramathanath Mitra - 26 Jan, 1875; Manath Chandra Mullick - 7 June, 1875; Bipin Bihari Mukherjee - 11 June, 1875; Nagendra Ghose - 28 June, 1876; Girish Sen - 28 June, 1876; A. C. Mitra - 28 June, 1876; R. Ghose - 17 Nov, 1876; Nandalal De - 17 Nov, 1876; Jogendranath Sarkar - 13 Jan, 1877; A.C. Rudra - 13 June, 1877; Rishibar Mukhopadhyaya - 27 Jan, 1879; N. Halder - 27 Jan, 1879; W. M. Das - 27 Jan, 1879; W.C. Ghose - 27 Jan, 1879; Pearylal Rai - 21 April, 1880; Mohammad Sirajuddin - 21 April, 1880; A. Hossain - 21 April, 1880; Abdul Halim - 21 April, 1880; A.F.M. Abdur Rahman - 21 April, 1880 (EB); Syed Abdur Rahman - 9 June, 1880; Syed Mohammad Sharfuddin - 9 June 1880, Syed Nurul Huda - 9 June, 1880; K. N. Mitra - 10 June, 1880; Ashutosh Chaudhuri - 1886 (EB); Kumudnath Chaudhuri - 1889 (EB); Chittaranjan Das - 1894 (EB); Atul Prasad Sen - 1894 (EB); Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri - 28 Jan, 1895 (EB); Pramathanath Chaudhuri - 1896 (EB); Abdul/Abdur Rasul - 1898 (EB); Syed Motahar Hussain - 1903 (EB); Amiya Nath Chaudhuri - 1904 (EB); Jatindra Mohan Sengupta - 1909 (EB); Khabeeruddin Ahmed - 1910 (EB); Ashraf Ali Khan Chowdhury - 1912 (EB); A.S.M. Latifur Rahman - 1914 (EB) and Khawaja M. Nazimuddin - 1920 (EB).

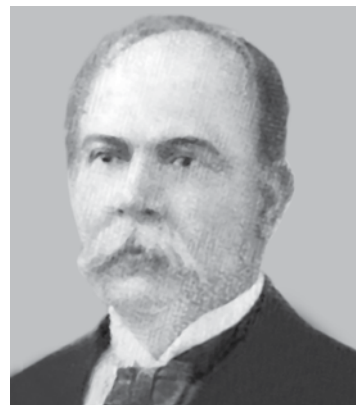
Note: Some of the unidentifiable Barristers, especially those with Muslim names as shown in the list in the batch of 1880, and elsewhere may also have belonged to the presidencies of Madras, Bombay or other places in British India, like upper India. Since the focus of this essay is exclusively on Barristers from East



**Monomohan Ghose (1844-1896) of Bikrampur**



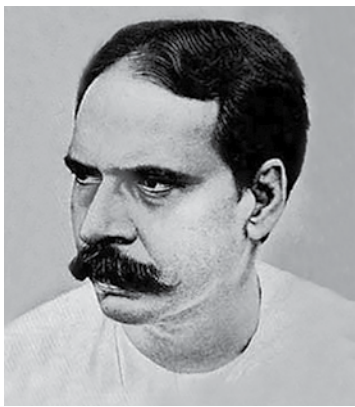
**Michael Madhusudan Dutt (1824-1873) of Jessore**



**Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri (1859-1924) of Pabna**



**Kumudnath Chaudhuri (1862-1933) of Pabna**



**Pramathanath Chaudhuri (1868-1946) of Pabna**



**A. F. M. Abdur Rahman (1848-1936) of Faridpur**



**Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das (1885-1933) of Bikrampur**



**Syed Motahar Hussain (1878-1912) of Barisal**



**Abdul Rasul (1872-1917) of Comilla**



**Deshpriya Jatindra Mohan Sengupta (1885-1933) of Chittagong**



**Khabeeruddin Ahmed (1870-1939) of Chapainawabganj**



**Khawaja Nazimuddin (1894-1964) of Dhaka.**

Bengal, some Barristers with Hindu Bengali names as mentioned above from the Bengal presidency may have hailed from West Bengal, too. It was not possible to come by detailed information on them. Moreover, it is very intriguing to note that in the year 1880 alone nine Indians qualified as Barristers, a record number for a particular year of whom curiously seven were Muslims and only two Hindus. This is rather unique for the times and need further research to learn as to how so many Indian Muslims managed to qualify at the Bar in 1880, during the heyday of the Victorian era?

Now a brief mention of the identifiable early Barristers from East Bengal (EB) for the stated period. Monomohan Ghose, was born in historic Bikrampur in Bangladesh. He joined Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1866. As already mentioned, he was the first 'practicing' Indian Barrister of the Calcutta High Court. Michael Madhusudan Dutt hailed from the zamindar family of Sagarderi, in Jessore district. Although, a non-practicing Barrister for most of his active life, he is better remembered as a great poet, writer and playwright/dramatist of the Bengali literary heritage. A.F.M. Abdur Rahman was the eldest son of the eminent Nawab Abdul Latif of Boalmari, Faridpur. He practiced at the Calcutta High Court and was later invested with the title of Nawab. Deshbandhu C. R. Das needs no introduction, particularly in Bengal. He hailed from Bikrampur, Dhaka. He remains a larger than life illustrious figure as an ardent Indian nationalist-revolutionary, politician and a formidable lawyer. Abdul/Abdur Rasul hailed from the village of Guniauk formerly in Comilla now in the Brahmanbaria district. He was a high-profile secular Indian nationalist lawyer of the Calcutta High Court who vehemently opposed Curzon's Partition of Bengal in 1905. He had a distinguished academic record from England. He had an English wife. Syed Motahar Hossain, was born in the Shaistabad zamindar family of Barisal. Very little is known about him beyond the fact that he was a Barrister and the son of Nawab Syed Moazzem Hossain (1810-1909) of Shaistabad, Barisal. He died at a relatively young age. A.S.M. Latifur Rahman was the son of the Calcutta based Barrister Nawab A. F.M. Abdur Rahman of Boalmari, Faridpur. He was a judge at the 'Court of Small Causes' in Calcutta. Ashraf Ali Khan Chowdhury hailed from a notable zamindar family known as the 'Khan Chowdhuris' of Natore, Rajshahi. He practiced at the Calcutta High Court. Deshpriya Jatindra Mohan Sengupta of village Barama, Chittagong, was a Cambridge educated Barrister and a devout Indian nationalist revolutionary and a lawyer-politician in British India. He along with his devoted English wife, Nellie Sengupta, also a politician became household names in Bengal for their diehard nationalist activities. Jatindra died in a British jail in Ranchi due to serious health problems as a result of frequent incarcerations, for his relentless political activism against British rule. Sir Khawaja M. Nazimuddin was a member of the Dhaka Nawab family. He attended Cambridge University and was called to the Bar from Middle Temple in 1920. He became a notable politician and held important public offices in

Bengal during the British Raj and more so, after the partition of 1947, in Pakistan.

I take this opportunity to highlight the story of a remarkable zamindar family from Haripur, now in the Chatmohar Upazila, in the district of Pabna, Bangladesh. This particular family was not only noteworthy for being prominent landholders, but more so because of their meritorious scholastic achievements and contribution in the fields of law, Bengali literature and cultural heritage. They were closely associated by marriage and cultural ties to the fabled Tagore's of Jorashanko, Calcutta. We begin with Durgadas Chaudhuri, a notable Brahmin zamindar of Pabna and father of the illustrious 'Chaudhuri brothers'. He married Sukumari Debi a sister of Rabindranath. It is alleged that Dugadas once paid a courtesy

themselves by producing 'five brothers' (siblings) of the same family who became contemporary Barristers between the years 1886-1904 in the Bengal presidency, but also held that enviable distinction in entire British India during that period! We should take note of this exemplary feat of achievement and take legitimate pride in it as Bangladeshis.

Barrister Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri (1859-1924) of Pabna, East Bengal, was a lawyer of the Calcutta High Court from 1912-1920. He is readily confused with his namesake, Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee (1864-1924) of Hooghly, West Bengal, another stalwart of Bengal who although not a Barrister was nonetheless, a famous lawyer of the Calcutta High Court and Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University. Incidentally, both the Ashutoshes died in



**(L to R) A. S. M. Latifur Rahman (1892-1964) of Faridpur & Ashraf Ali Khan Chowdhury (1874-1941) of Natore**

call on the English Collector of Pabna, who thought he had come to petition him for a job for his son. Thus, humiliated Durgadas resolved to send his older sons to England to become Barristers. It was the only elite profession in British India where an Indian Barrister could enjoy professional autonomy while in service, and one that did not require an Indian to kowtow to the colonial administration like in the other services, including the prestigious Imperial/Indian Civil Service (ICS). Durgadas and Sukumari had seven sons, five of whom eventually became barristers. They were: Barrister Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri (1859-1924); Barrister Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri; Barrister Kumudnath Chaudhuri (1862-1933); Barrister Pramathanath Chaudhuri (1868-1946); Capt. Manamatha Nath Chaudhuri, Dr. Suhrit Nath Chaudhuri and Barrister Amiya Nath Chaudhuri (1868-1946). The illustrious Chaudhuri's of Pabna from East Bengal (Bangladesh), not only distinguished

2024, adding to the prevailing confusion. Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, was educated at the Presidency College, Calcutta and at St. John's College, Cambridge, England from where he took his Tripos in 1885, and was called to the Bar in 1886. He married Probata Debi, daughter of Hemendranath Tagore the brother of Rabindranath. Sir Ashutosh was knighted in 1920. He was the Founder Secretary, of the Bengal Landholder's Association a formidable guild during the Raj. For a while he was also a member of the Bengal Legislative Association, the deputy chair of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad and president of the Calcutta Club in 1915. His younger brother, Barrister Kumudnath Chaudhuri (1862-1933), was a renowned big game hunter who lost his life to a fatal tiger attack during a hunt in the forest of central India. Another younger brother of Sir Ashutosh was Barrister Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri who graduated from Oxford and qualified at the Bar in 1895. He married Sarasibala the daughter

of the famous Indian nationalist, founding member of the Indian National Congress and a leading politician Sir Surendranath Banerjee (1848-1925). Another sibling of Sir Ashutosh was Barrister Pramathanath Chaudhuri (1868-1946), popularly known as 'Biral'. He was a major influential writer of Bengali literature of the 20th century, and a nephew of Rabindranath who was his maternal uncle. Pramatha was married to Indira Debi daughter of Satyendranath Tagore (1842-1923), the first Indian ICS (1863) and elder brother of Rabindranath. He received his MA in English from the Presidency College, Calcutta and stood first class first. He was called to the Bar from Inner Temple, London, in 1896. As a Barrister, he practiced at the Calcutta High Court. However, he did not take the legal profession seriously, since he was more inclined towards the pursuit of Bengali literature which was of foremost interest to him and his actual forte. His devotion and excellence as an eminent Bengali litterateur made him a renowned figure during the last forty years of his literary life.

The last of the distinguished Chaudhuri brothers to become a Barrister was, Amiya Nath Chaudhuri, popularly known as A. N. Chaudhuri. He received a law degree from Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1904. While his eldest brother, Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, the well-known Barrister was a staunch nationalist, Amiya on the other hand was an inveterate Anglophile who along with his westernized spouse loved the excitement and gaiety of high life. They were very popular socialites of the early 20th century glitterati society of colonial Calcutta, thereby belonging to those exclusive social circles where European businessmen and British officials dominated. Amiya was married to Millie, daughter of the eminent Barrister Sir Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee (1844-1906), who was the first president of the Indian National Congress. Millie Chaudhuri (nee Bonnerjee) had the rare distinction in Calcutta of her time for being educated at the Sorbonne in Paris. Their son, Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri (1908-1982), passed out from the renowned Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, England, where Ayub Khan (1907-1974) later on president of Pakistan was his batch-mate. Both Jayanto and Ayub, became King's Commissioned Indian Officers (KCOs) in 1928, and joined the British Indian Army. Later on, Jayanto alias 'Mucchu' went on to become the first Bengali and the sixth Indian C-in-C of the Indian Army (1963-1966) in independent India. It is somewhat ironic that both former Sandhurst graduates who had served together in the British Indian army, finally fought against each other to a standstill in the Indo-Pak war of 1965, Ayub Khan as the Pakistani president and thus the C-in-C of his armed forces and General Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri OBE, as the C-in-C of the Indian Army.

It should also be recalled here, that there were two other extraordinary families from East Bengal (Bangladesh) in British India, who had the enviable distinction for having produced three brothers from each family, who became contemporary barristers. They were the sons of Durga Mohan Das who hailed from a well-known Baidya family of Bikrampur, Dhaka. His Barrister sons were: Satyaranjan, Satishranjan and Sudhiranjan. Likewise, three sons of Durga Mohan's younger brother Bhuban Mohan Das, who also became Barristers were: Chittaranjan (Deshbandhu), Prafularanjan and Basanta Kumar. Barrister Atul Prasad Sen (1871-1934) the phenomenal Bengali composer, lyricist, singer and litterateur also hailed from Bikrampur. Born in old Dhaka, he was closely related to the Das family and was called to the Bar in England in 1895.

This article should be read in the context of the times. It is explicitly written with our younger generation in mind for dissemination of information regarding a long-forgotten chapter in the early days of higher education particularly in law, studied in England by adventurous Indian students during the mid-19th and early 20th centuries. I hope that this modest effort will imbue future researchers to delve into newer sources of information on this subject and write more substantially, by way of documentation and historical narration. So much remains to be known about the difficult path traversed by the early pioneering Barristers from East Bengal, who qualified by sheer dint of merit against all odds to become valued members of a once exclusive guild and coveted legal profession. It should be recalled here with gratitude that in an all India basis, it was ultimately the Bengali Barristers who played a pivotal role in humbling the British Raj, thereby bringing it down!

Through this essay, I would like to make a fervent appeal to the Department of Archeology, Ministry of Cultural Affairs (Bangladesh), the District Council of Pabna and the Pabna Bar Association to take urgent steps to preserve the remnants of the historic Chaudhuri zamindar house in Haripur, Pabna, by initiating a well-coordinated action plan to reclaim the lost property. A complete survey should also be undertaken forthwith to demarcate the property and renovate the zamindar house with the assistance of the Department of Archeology. A befitting museum and library should also be set up in the memory of a great son of the soil, the outstanding Bengali litterateur Pramatha Chaudhuri. It will be a laudable step towards the preservation of our cultural heritage and, thereby facilitate tourism.

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

## Stimulus package disbursers demanding bribes

*A leopard never changes its spots*

IT is a pity that when the government is working under tremendous economic strain caused by the pandemic, with an economic downturn becoming an inevitability, its incentive programme—to rescue various business enterprises in the service and manufacturing sectors with loans on easy terms—is being hampered by the disbursers asking for bribes.

Apart from the serious impact of the pandemic on the health sector, it has had the most deleterious consequences on the county's economy. For its part, the government has taken up a scheme of Tk 1,28,000 crores worth of stimulus packages to salvage firms affected by the pandemic. But a survey of around 500 such firms has now revealed that a good percentage of those cannot obtain loan without greasing the palm of the people entrusted with distributing the loans. The survey, done by the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), shows that paying bribes (not "reports") has become like a precondition for getting the application processed and receiving the money. And this involves bank employees and various public agencies assigned with the task of processing and disbursing the loans.

The pandemic, unfortunately, has brought a windfall situation to certain people who are exploiting the situation to mint money. And that includes a section of corrupt local leaders who defalcated funds and misappropriated relief goods allotted by the government. The same culture we see now in case of providing relief in the form of monetary incentives, where 12 percent of firms surveyed complained of bribery and even 29 percent of firms who did not get the incentives complained of the same. It is a sad reflection of the character of the society, where the bribe culture induces certain people to exploit the plight of the public. The small and medium firms and non-exporting enterprises have no other alternatives but to succumb to the demands of the immoral public servants, to keep their nose above water.

The long and short of it is that, if the current trend continues, and the affected business enterprises have to cough up money to get a slice of the incentive package, a good part of the stimulus packages would go into the pockets of the corrupt officials. Consequently, not all those targeted for the package will get the funds, and a very well-intentioned programme of the government will be ultimately put paid to. SANEM research found that 67 percent of the firms had not received stimulus funds. A good many of them may have to close down if they don't receive the funds soon, which cannot be good at all for our economic recovery.

Here is a situation where an important government plan, to aid the floundering business enterprises, runs the risk of being scuttled by unscrupulous people. Only strict monitoring, transparency, and investigation and punishment for corrupt people associated with the process of disbursement, can see the programme through effectively.

## Poor showing of a project on waterway accidents

*Project managers, suppliers must be held accountable*

IT is disappointing to know the dismal rate of progress of a Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence project that, if implemented properly, would have expanded its diving unit. As per the findings of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the ministry of planning, although the project deadline of three years has passed this year, it has seen only 15 percent progress since its initiation in 2018. The goal of the Tk 165.19 crore project was to equip and train divers with modern rescue equipment in a bid to reduce the country's high rate of deaths by drowning (around 18,000 per year). But not only have the majority of the equipment not been acquired, but those that are there are also sitting idle in the project director's office, with their warranties nearing expiration.

Moreover, due to the "availability" of some of the equipment (such as tugboats, jetties, and pontoons), 68 percent of the estimated Diving Project Proposal (DPP) was excluded while "only 19.97 percent of purchase packages were placed for tender" until June of this year. According to our report, there are only 50 divers countrywide. On top of that, the project director claims that the finance ministry refused their proposal to appoint six divers in each district, so they are planning on downsizing their ask to at least three divers per district and resubmitting the proposal. Reportedly, though the revised DPP stood at Tk 63.4 crore after the exclusions, and only 16 percent of the expected capital expenditure was fulfilled, the allocated budget for transportation and office equipment was already spent.

So, we are left to wonder why such major irregularities and delays of large-scale government projects are allowed, unopposed and unpunished. Frankly, the way this vital, life-saving project has been handled from the start leaves a lot to be desired. The excuse of pandemic-induced disruptions in regular activities is unacceptable when it comes to projects and initiatives that have a direct bearing on matters of life and death. The divers are a vital part of any rescue effort in case of waterway accidents, and the authorities must ensure there are enough of them in case of an accident and that they are equipped properly to do their job. Even this past Friday, at least 22 people (including nine children) died in a boat capsizing incident in Brahmanbaria's Laishka Beel, which shows, once again, the importance of reinforcing the diving unit.

If the proposal to extend the project duration by a year is approved by the planning ministry, we would urge the fire service and project managers to use the time effectively by not only recruiting and training an appropriate number of divers, but also to use any existing or to-be-acquired equipment to improve their response time when waterway accidents occur.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES



On this day, scores of families of the victims of enforced disappearances get together to share their grief, but also their concerns at the indifference of the State.

PHOTO:  
STAR

# No flowers for the birthday boy

*Obligations, indifference and accountability*



C R ABRAR

DECEMBER 2, 2013 was the birthday of Mahfuzur Rahman's—al Chhatra Dal leader of Bangshal—son. Mahfuz promised his son that he would bring him flowers on the

occasion and went out to buy flowers in Shahbagh. Since then Mahfuz has not returned. Subsequently, his family learned that he was picked up from the floral market by a group of men in plain clothes. Mahfuz remains traceless to this day. Every year Mahfuz's two children join their mother Nilufa in commemoration of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance on August 30.

On this day, scores of families of the victims of enforced disappearances get together to share their grief, but also their concerns at the indifference of the State. They exchange experiences of dealing with the state agencies. They raise their voice in unison demanding the return of their loved ones and for a credible investigation into every case of enforced disappearance, justice for the gross wrongdoings and punishment for the perpetrators. They draw support and strength from each other and from those who join them in solidarity.

The demands articulated by the families of the victims are not frivolous or outlandish. They should not be deemed as clamouring for favour or special treatment. The claims and assertions by the families are supported by the supreme law of the land—the Constitution—and by the plethora of international instruments that Bangladesh is a state party to.

The right to life and liberty tops the list of basic human rights. In addition, everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted by the Constitution or by law.

Article 31 of the Constitution unequivocally stipulates: "To enjoy the protection of the law, and to be treated in accordance with law, and only in accordance with law, is the inalienable right of every citizen". It states: "in particular no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law" (emphasis added). This position is reinforced by Article 32: "No person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty save in accordance with law." Article 33 (1) specifies that no one shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest and nor shall he be denied access to legal counsel of his choice. The sub-para (2) further states that a person "arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of twenty-four hours of such arrest" and that "no person shall be detained in custody beyond the said period without the authority of a magistrate." These constitutional provisions ensuring protection of a person have been further augmented by Bangladesh ratifying a number of international instruments.

The right to life is often claimed to be the most important of all human rights because life is the precondition for the exercise of any other right. It is enshrined

in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and in all major general human rights conventions. Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognises the inherent right of every person to life, adding that this right "shall be protected by law" and that "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life".

Moreover, Bangladesh ratified the Convention Against Torture (CAT) over 20 years ago but it refrained from submitting yearly reports for 19 years without any explanation. Enforced disappearance coupled with torture have been a common feature in almost all cases. Physical and mental torture leaves an enduring effect on the victims for the rest of their lives and most who go through them never speak up and reveal what happened to them. A common story tied with ransom flies in the air.

A close scrutiny of the experiences of alleged enforced disappearances and state responses to those amply reveal that state authorities have time and again

Procedure amended by the High Court division in 2003, later affirmed by the Appellate Division in April 2016. Fifteen-point directives were issued by the apex court in that judgment, which are the most ignored provisions of the law as far as it relates to the personal liberty of a citizen. In addition, in some cases, family members of the victims have claimed they were arbitrarily arrested by some agencies which do not even have the authority to arrest a civilian in any circumstances.

In some cases, deeply distraught family members were assured that their loved ones were being taken for questioning only to be returned shortly. The promise remained unfulfilled and the families' wait became perennial. Some were even threatened with dire consequences if they speak to the press about it. In almost all cases, distressed families are shocked when local police stations plead ignorance of any such arrest and detention. Most fail to secure any information even after running from post to pillar.

disoriented conditions. In quite a few instances, they are shown arrested and produced before the court without anyone accounting for their whereabouts in the interim. A handful of those who are lucky to return maintain total silence about the experience they endured in captivity.

For more than a decade, the government of Bangladesh has been summarily dismissive of the claims of enforced disappearances made by the families, the media, rights groups and international organisations, and even by the National Human Rights Commission. In 2019 in a reaction to an OMCT-Odhakar report, the Home Minister claimed that "not even a single case" of enforced disappearance had occurred. Other senior functionaries viewed it as a "smear campaign" by vested quarters. The government says the so-called disappeared actually go into hiding of their own accord to "avoid arrest" or detection "after committing irregularities in business or engaging in extra-marital affairs". Thus, there is an absolute denial on the part of the Bangladeshi state.

The government argues that many of those who disappeared were later "shown arrested" or eventually "reappeared", claiming that these nullify the claims of enforced disappearance. However, the eventual release, "shown arrested" or reappearance of individuals in no way negate the fact that the period of their detention or abduction by the state or other actors constitutes enforced disappearance. There is no time limit, no matter how short, for an enforced disappearance to occur.

Enforced disappearance is an anathema to the rule of law. The Bangladesh state's position on enforced disappearance is belied by the lived experiences of hundreds of families of the disappeared. Such denial is an affront to the deceased whom the state had failed to protect as required under the law. If indeed the victims are hiding to cover their misdeeds, is it not incumbent on the state to trace them as per the law? Also, isn't the onus on the authorities to find out or explain where those individuals were during the period when they were reported involuntarily disappeared and their "re-appearance" or being "shown arrested" by the police?

The reticence of the authorities to register complaints and their dogged refusal to investigate only reinforce the perception in some quarters about the state's indifference to the practice. While it may be unfair to suggest enforced disappearance is state-sanctioned, denial and refusal to hold anyone to account only encourage the rogue elements to further perpetuate the practice, thereby corroding people's trust in law enforcement. Perhaps the time has come for the institutions to protect citizens' constitutionally guaranteed rights (such as the civil administration and the higher judiciary), robustly safeguard their mandated tasks and resist and rid extra-constitutional encroachment in their domains. The sooner that is done and the sooner the policymakers acknowledge this, the better it is for upholding the dignity of those institutions to ensure good governance and the rule of law and also for the much-touted image of the country.

CR Abrar is an academic. He acknowledges the insights gained from Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua and the support of Rezaur Rahman Lenin in writing this article.



not lived up to the above cited Articles of the Constitution. There is a great degree of commonality in the narratives of the families of victims. Most are relatively young active citizens with interest in politics, many belonged to opposition parties or their student, labour or youth wings, while others are trade unionists, journalists or social mobilisers and influencers. Most participated in political or civic actions and are committed to bringing about change as per their own ideological and political moorings.

Only a handful of them have prior police records; others are free from the "blemish". Most were picked up either from their homes (often in the wee hours of the day) or from public places by persons claiming to be members of law enforcement agencies. In some instances, they were in plainclothes; in others, they were in uniforms or donning jackets clearly identifying a particular branch of law enforcement, carrying walkie talkies. While some were taken in vehicles bearing the insignia of law enforcement agencies, in most cases, they were ferried away in white minibuses with tinted glasses. No single case was reported in which the captors produced any warrant of arrest.

It is presumed that if a law enforcing agency is making an arrest, then they would be doing it under the provisions of Section 54 of the Code of Criminal

They are surprised at the reticence of law enforcement officials to register a General Diary, an otherwise routine practice. Those with social capital also have little success. Their friends and family members with access to the corridors of power can bring them little help. Days, weeks, months, and years pass by, they receive no update on the complaints they had registered. In some instances, family members are discouraged, even threatened, for demanding updated information.

In the meantime, in the absence of the only earning member, some families plunge into deep poverty, more so as the sources of loans dry up. Their children's education suffers and girl children are married off early. Young wives pass months and years without the company of their partners and often have to live in hardship at the mercy of extended families. The absence of documentation about the status of the disappeared makes it difficult for them to claim dues and entitlements from employers, banks, and insurance companies and settle family property issues.

In a few instances, after days, weeks or months, they are either released or their corpses with marks of injury are found in ditches or by the roadside, floating in canals or rivers. In other cases, they are found wandering in unlikely places such as border areas in distraught or



# The Afghan government and its future



AN OPEN DIALOGUE

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

**T**HE sudden collapse of the US-backed Ghani regime in Afghanistan and the scenes of the evacuation of American citizens at Kabul Airport brought back some deep-buried memories of mine from another era. When Saigon fell and the last of the American troops withdrew from Vietnam on April 31, 1975, I was a Masters' student at Dhaka University watching the developing scenario in Southeast Asia with strongly-held convictions. We were celebrating the collapse of the puppet government in South Vietnam. Last week, after more than 46 years, Americans were once again faced with another defeat in Kabul, and the chaos at the airport was for many of us a "deja vu" moment. I was joyful in 1975, but I cannot say the same this time. The scenes at Kabul Airport have been a painful reminder to the Americans that military power shifts with the winds and that the costs of armed conflicts are borne by ordinary people. In this particular instance, American taxpayers and the poor ordinary Afghans will both bear the price for years to come. Jeffrey Sachs, an economist at

invasion of Afghanistan and the policy decisions made in Washington that kept US forces there for over two decades. According to a recent report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), the US invested roughly USD 946 billion between 2001 and 2021. While SIGAR is a non-partisan watchdog created by Congress, this number provided in the report is an underestimate by all accounts. That's not the point. It is a mystery why Sachs considers the USD 1 trillion that was poured into Afghanistan an "investment", but more on that later. He must nonetheless be given credit for deconstructing the numbers and reporting that only USD 21 billion was utilised for "economic support". However, much of that money was pocketed by the corrupt officials and the warlords in Afghanistan and not spent for development on the ground, because the programmes were meant to "support counterterrorism; bolster national economies; and assist in the development of effective, accessible, and independent legal systems." I have taken a very personal interest in the comings and goings in Kabul since I was a child growing up in East Pakistan. In an op-ed for this newspaper earlier this year, I wrote about the dangers that might bedevil the American withdrawal from Afghanistan which was planned for August 31 ("What path lies ahead for Afghanistan?" *The Daily Star*, March 21, 2021). Like many observers who were in the same boat as me, who had their anxieties about the shape of things to come after the US withdrawal, I harboured misgivings, and mixed feelings of hope and frustration at the uncertainty looming ahead for the Afghan people. Since the Soviet invasion in 1979, this peace-loving nation had seen nothing but conflicts and were manipulated to be the stage for the "endless wars" mentioned by President Biden. "Unfortunately, the proud nation of Afghanistan suffered and paid a hefty price for this tug of war between powerful nations and their surrogates," as I said earlier. Now that Afghanistan is in the hands of the Taliban, who were in power before, until 2001, the work of nation-building can start. Fortunately, the city of Kabul and other regional urban centres appear to have been spared

the ravages that befell many other population centres in Syria, Libya, and Yemen. Unfortunately, the country is losing its intelligentsia and technocrats who are understandably trying to get out before things get worse for those who worked with the US-led coalition the last two decades. Even the previous governor of the central bank, Ajmal Ahmad, left with a crowd at the back of a C-17 transport aircraft.

in reserves, most of which is held by the New York Federal Reserve. Afghanistan was also slated to access about USD 450 million on August 23 from the IMF, which has effectively blocked the release of the funds because of a "lack of clarity" regarding the recognition of a new Afghan government. The new Taliban government has been advised by friends at home and abroad to come to a political

central bank, has been criticised by financial analysts. While it had the choice of picking a senior-level civil servant for the position, the Taliban appointed Hajji Mohammad Idris, a senior member of the group, as the new governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, the central bank. There is some speculation whether the USA will fall back into a scorched earth policy after the evacuation from Kabul airport is completed. US money transfer services have suspended payments into Afghanistan, and American banks are more closely scrutinising transactions with Afghan counterparts, as they await clarity on whether US sanctions against the Taliban apply to the new government. Remittances that average over USD 800 million annually have played a major role over the last five years. All this will cause a major short-term crisis for the Taliban-led government. If the sanctions that are in force against the Taliban are applied more broadly to all business dealings with the new government, Afghanistan could join North Korea and Iran as pariahs in the international financial system. In the longer term, the new government will need to address widespread corruption and reduce its dependence on foreign aid. Currently, half of the USD 20 billion economy comprises of foreign aid. According to a World Bank study released before the Taliban takeover, the country would need USD 8.5 billion annually until 2024 to keep its government afloat. A large part of the economy is also dependent on the opium trade which also funded the Taliban's war effort. Many in the west have suggested a Marshall Plan type initiative to help the new government. The Marshall Plan for Western Europe helped war-ravaged countries repair themselves quickly after World War II. It typically provided USD 100-200 per inhabitant per annum over a period of several years, making for a cumulative total that often approached USD 1,000 per person in the end. Using USD 100 as a benchmark, Afghanistan will need close to USD 4 billion in official aid. Dr Abdullah Shibli is an economist and IT consultant. He is also Senior Research Fellow at International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI), a think tank based in Boston.



People try to get into Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, August 16, 2021.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Like many other war-ravaged countries, Afghanistan will need all the support and financial aid that it can muster in the current international environment. There are also some short-term and long-term challenges that a new government will need to address. I will only mention a few that have major economic consequences. The central administration has collapsed and most ministers have escaped Kabul. Because banks and money exchanges remain closed, the bazaars and the economy have slowly ground to a halt. ATMs have reduced the daily withdrawal limits. To compound the problems, prices of basic commodities such as flour, cooking oil, and petrol have risen by as much as 50 percent. As of now, the Taliban government cannot access almost all of the Afghanistan central bank's USD 9 billion

settlement with the moderates and rival political forces, and form a national government. A former finance minister, Omar Zakhilwal, who recently returned to Kabul, is reported to be working with the Taliban on a power-sharing arrangement. "We are working in tandem with the Taliban to bring a normal face to Kabul again: reopening of banks, of the offices, of the ministries." In the interim, Zakhilwal has suggested that the Taliban would do well to promote existing civil servants to replace senior officials who fled the country. This would be more "helpful than bringing in new people who don't know, and whom the international community doesn't know". It is not known if the Taliban will listen. One of its key appointments announced on Monday, to replace Ahmad at the

*Like many other war-ravaged countries, Afghanistan will need all the support and financial aid that it can muster in the current international environment. There are also some short-term and long-term challenges that a new government will need to address.*

Columbia University, discusses in detail the financial cost, i.e. the dollar cost for the US Treasury, and the real cost, the time, money, and lives lost during the two decades of NATO adventure in Afghanistan. In his article, "Blood in the Sand", Sachs is very critical of the American mindset which triggered the

## Clean energy could bestow major competitive advantage for suppliers



RMG NOTES

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

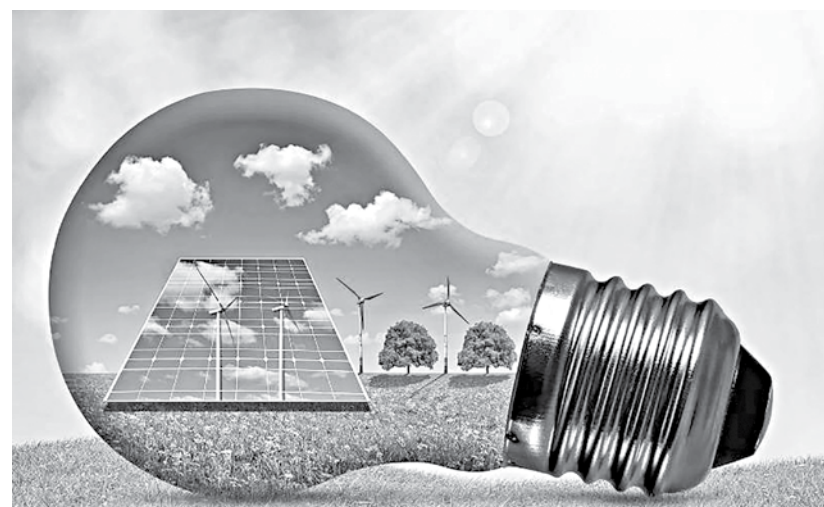
**C**OMPETITIVE advantage comes in many different shapes and forms. Product quality, speed, flexibility and, of course, price. All have their place in influencing whether a company should choose one supplier over another. But what about the energy mix relating to how a product was produced? What if the customers of RMG factories were to begin choosing suppliers based on which ones used renewable energy instead of being, say, coal powered? There has been a lot of talk about how "sustainability pays" in recent years, but not much of this talk has translated into action—or benefits to suppliers. Too often, price has been the key driver, with brands being unwilling to pay extra to fund sustainable garments or production techniques. On the issue of renewable energy, however, I sense a real opportunity for Bangladesh—and it is one I believe our industry and government must grasp with both hands. Look at the world's leading apparel brands and all of them have commitments to reduce their carbon footprint. Many of these commitments relate to 2050 but some are more ambitious, with 2040 and even 2030 now being considered. Meanwhile, the fashion industry itself acknowledges that the only

way it can have a real impact on its carbon footprint is via its suppliers. Garment production represents up to 90 percent of the fashion industry's carbon emissions, according to most credible estimates. Moreover, the major fashion brands have already taken most of the "low hanging fruit" in terms of carbon emissions, which is in their own retail stores. Yet, installing solar energy at stores and other initiatives are easy to implement for fashion brands. The real challenge comes when it comes to getting to grips with suppliers. This past week, Swiss outdoor apparel company Mammüt has pledged to switch to 100 percent renewable energy at all of its suppliers by 2030. This is a hugely ambitious move and the industry should sit up and take notice. I expect other apparel retailers to take similar decisions moving forward. Why is it so significant? Well, the

main reason is that it sends a huge message to global apparel supply chains. Those which are not using renewable energy risk missing out as there is a risk that fashion brands and retailers will simply switch elsewhere in order to hit their carbon emissions targets (which many are now sharing publicly). This risk has become heightened in the past month as the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its most sombre update yet. This landmark study claimed that human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and sometimes irreversible ways. The study warns of increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts and flooding, and a key temperature limit being broken in just over a decade. It has been described as "a code red for

humanity," by a UN chief. Be in no doubt—sustainability teams at the world's leading fashion brands and retailers will have been taking notice of this report. And each of them, I truly believe, will have been thinking about their own projections as far as the climate is concerned. In short, can they rely on making projections for decades in the future when the IPCC is talking about key temperature "red flags" being hit this decade? I expect many will be asking the question, can they be more ambitious? Can they bring 2050 forwards to 2040 or 2030? I expect they may have no choice as they will be placed under increasing pressure by their investors, regulators and NGOs. The IPCC report is a seminal moment where climate is concerned. All of this comes back to us as RMG suppliers and how we can use the requirements of brands to slash

to identify gaps and understand where investment is required. To reiterate, all of this represents an opportunity rather than a threat for our industry. We have shown already that, when we work together, collaborate and put aside competitive differences, we can achieve great things. For example, look at how we improved safety across the industry in the wake of the Rana Plaza. We need this sense of cooperation again in order to pivot our industry onto a greener path. Why not set a timeline to shift all our industry to renewable energy by 2030? And we could bring our customers along with us on this journey for it is in our mutual interests to get this right. "Build it and they will come," is a famous quote from Hollywood film, *Field of Dreams*. It is applicable now to the Bangladesh RMG industry. Get things right on this issue, and we have cured a major headache for all our customers. Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).



their emissions to our competitive advantage. I believe Bangladesh needs to move fast and move now on the issue of renewable energy. Such a move will require collaboration between government, industry, clean energy providers, tech solutions businesses and, of course, utilities businesses. How can we rapidly and cost effectively make our industry green? How can we put in place the right public-private partnerships and investment structures to ensure funding is channelled where it is needed along our RMG supply base? We need a benchmarking exercise. Where is our industry now in terms of renewable energy, where do we need to be and what do we need to do to get there? Surely it is not beyond our industry to carry out a scoping exercise among the full supply chain

*There has been a lot of talk about how "sustainability pays" in recent years, but not much of this talk has translated into action—or benefits to suppliers.*

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Education  
Secondary and Higher Education Division (SHED)  
Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and statistics (BANBEIS)  
1, Zahir Raihan Road (Palashi-Nilkhet)-Dhaka-1205  
[www.banbeis.gov.bd](http://www.banbeis.gov.bd)

No. 37.20.2642.003.18.006.19-(part-2)4118

Dated: 29.08.2021

### e-GP Tender Notice

E-Tender is invited in the National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods below under:

Sl. No	e-Tender ID No	Package No	Name of goods	T Last selling Date & time	T. Closing Data and time
1.	601109	2021_2022_02	Procurement of Full-Duplex Dedicate Internet Bandwidth (12 Mbps) and connectivity for 60-UITRCE & BANBEIS, Ministry of Education.	16-Sep-2021 15.00	16-Sep-2021 17.00
2.	601210	2021_2022_03	Procurement of Full-Duplex Dedicate Internet Bandwidth (12 Mbps) and connectivity for 65-UITRCE & BANBEIS, Ministry of Education.	19-Sep-2021 15.00	19-Sep-2021 17.00

This is online Tender ID: 601109, 601210 where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP system (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Further information and guideline are available in the national e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) contact number (01762625528-31)

(Habibur Rahman)  
Director General  
BANBEIS, MOE

## Covid deaths

FROM PAGE 12  
added the release.

The current positivity rate is 14.14 percent, while the total positivity rate stands at 16.84 percent.

Around 27,921 samples were tested across the country in 24 hours.

At least 6,466 patients recovered during the period. The total number of recoveries now stands at 14,15,697, and the recovery rate is 94.79 percent.

Of the 89 deceased, 41 were men and 48 women. Three were between 21 and 30; five between 31 and 40; 15 between 41 and 50; and 50 were above 60 years old, added the release.

## Gun that killed

FROM PAGE 12  
Bonhams said.

It said the gun was in "very good" condition with "well worn grips."

Garrett used the .44-caliber gun to shoot Billy the Kid -- who was born Henry McCarty but also went by William Bonney -- in the chest on July 14, 1881 in New Mexico. The gunfighter died at the age of 21.

The previous record for a firearm was \$1.98 million, set by Christie's in 2002 for a pair of flintlock saddle pistols carried by George Washington during the Revolutionary War, Bonhams said. They were gifts from his friend and ally the Marquis de Lafayette.

The sale Friday was the highlight of an auction of Old West firearms, manuscripts, photos and other memorabilia amassed by Texas-based collectors and college professors Jim and Theresa Earle.

Also sold was a Whitney double-barrel hammer shotgun that Billy the Kid took from a sheriff's deputy and used to kill him as he escaped from jail in April 1881.

It fetched nearly \$980,000 at Friday's auction, well above estimates of \$200,000 to \$300,000.

## Biman pilot

FROM PAGE 2  
said yesterday. "His [pilot] condition is the same as before," reports our Delhi correspondent.

The pilot's condition is still serious and he remained on ventilation support as he suffered brain hemorrhage and bled profusely, said the officials.

A medical board has been formed to treat the pilot. The team includes Subhrajit Dasgupta, director medical services, Ranjan Barokar, critical care physician, and Virender Belekar, critical care physician.

Initially, Capt Nawshad suffered a cardiac arrest in flight and later a CT scan revealed his brain hemorrhage.

On Saturday, Roshan Fulbandhe, assistant general manager of Kingsway Hospital, said, "Capt Nawshad's condition is severe ... he is surviving with full ventilation support ... he suffered brain hemorrhage and bleeding profusely ... he remains unconscious."

He said initially the pilot suffered a cardiac arrest onboard the flight and after that he was taken to the emergency ward of the hospital with "unresponsive and unconscious" condition.

Roshan said an angiogram was done which brought out 60-70 percent blockage in his two arteries. As per the cardiac arrest protocol, the patient was then put on ventilator.

Asked, Biman Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal told The Daily Star that two sisters of the pilot reached Kingsway Hospital yesterday.

Our Delhi correspondent reports that wife of Capt Nawshad was supposed to reach the hospital last night.

Different media in Dhaka yesterday reported that Capt Nawshad died.

Capt Mahbubur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Airlines' Pilot Association, a platform of pilots of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said the news on the demise of Capt Nawshad was a rumor.

Carrying 124 passengers on board, the Dhaka-bound Biman flight BG 022 from Muscat made an emergency landing at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagar on Friday morning after Capt Nawshad suffered a cardiac arrest.

Capt Nawshad joined Biman in 2002.

## Thousands protest curbs on minority voting rights in US

AFP, Washington

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in Washington, Houston, Atlanta and other US cities to protest against laws in several Republican-led states that critics say will make it harder for minorities to vote.

The date selected for the rallies was not picked at random: It was on August 28, 1963 that a quarter-million people descended on Washington for a massive civil rights rally highlighted by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech.

Addressing a much smaller crowd on Saturday, his son Martin Luther King III spoke of the need to safeguard American democracy and to guarantee voting rights for everyone.



Taliban Fateh fighters (L), a "special forces" unit, stand guard along with other fighters on a street in Kabul yesterday, as suicide bomb threats hung over the final phase of the US military's airlift operation from Kabul, with President Joe Biden warning another attack was highly likely before the evacuations end.

PHOTO: AFP

## Khulna farmer develops 6 varieties

FROM PAGE 12

Talking to The Daily Star, Ayub Ali, a farmer of Katianangla village in Batiaghata, said he cultivated traditional Kataribhog and Chapshail in 2019. He got around 16 mounds of paddy from each bigha of land.

Next year, he grew "Alo Dhan" and could produce around 24 mounds of paddy from each bigha of land, he said.

Besides, traditional varieties of paddy need around 145 to 170 days before they can be harvested. But the new ones take 135 days tops, he said.

Since his childhood, Aruni had been interested in cross-breed rice varieties.

His efforts to develop a new variant began in 2010 when he participated

in a three-day workshop on rice hybridisation in Pirojpur organised by a local NGO LOCOS.

He gained some knowledge on hybridisation and pollination from the workshop and later started applying the knowledge in the field.

He has recently submitted an application to the government's Seed Certification Agency (SCA) for recognition of his varieties.

As per procedure, any such development requires examination and analysis by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) for SCA's recognition.

Mohammed Khalequzzaman, BRRI chief scientific officer, said if a farmer follows the procedures of cross-breeding, he can develop a new

variety. But it takes six seasons to get the perfect characteristics of a variant. The government intends to give due credit if somebody develops a new variety, he said.

Contacted, BRRI Director General Md Shahjahan Kabir said necessary measures have been taken to examine the new variants.

If the new varieties are really effective, steps will surely be taken to institutionally recognise them for widespread cultivation, he added.

Talking to this paper, Md Monirul Islam Ripon, professor of Agro Technology at Khulna University, said Aruni's efforts to develop new varieties of Aman paddy are praiseworthy. More time is required to test its suitability for widespread cultivation.

## CTTC arrests first female Ansar Al Islam

FROM PAGE 12

She is now on a five-day remand in a case filed with Badda Police Station.

The CTTC launched the investigation thinking the target was a male member but further investigation revealed that the member of Ansar al-Islam was a woman, said Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the CTTC unit.

The CTTC officials said they have arrested female members of militant outfits earlier but they were not as well trained as Nabila.

Nabila, with a fake Facebook ID in 2020, connected with the militant group through its Facebook page "Titumir Media", Asaduzzaman said at a briefing yesterday held at the media centre of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police headquarters.

She gradually learned about extremist content.

While accessing the extremist content, Nabila has managed to set up communication with the page's admin panel. The admins then became convinced enough to add her to the group's official site and other pages, he said.

"Nabila used to disseminate content propagating extremism through Facebook pages. She maintained accounts on several encrypted messaging platforms including Telegram and ChirpWire," said Asaduzzaman, also the additional commissioner of DMP.

Preliminary investigations revealed Nabila maintained two Facebook accounts, one ChirpWire account and four Telegram accounts. Her four Telegram accounts have more than 15 channels and 25,000 followers.

Many violent jihadi propaganda

books were uploaded at different times in these channels, said CTTC officials.

She used to share extremist content, bomb-making manuals and strategies of attack in the channels, Asaduzzaman said, adding that she was also involved in maintaining various official and unofficial channels of Ansar al-Islam.

"Nabila was instructed to open an account on the encrypted social media platform ChirpWire from the official website and launched an extremist campaign there as well. Through these processes, she was mentally prepared to participate in jihad."

Recently, her family arranged her marriage, but she told her prospective groom that if he did not follow the same Jihadi ideology as her, she would not marry him.

## Bangladesh mission opened

FROM PAGE 12

Shehabuddin said in his statement: "Though at this hour, we are hoisting our national flag on a separate building with a view to avoiding embarrassment to our host government I wish to assert very clearly that I, on behalf of my government, lay full claim to the high commission premise along with the buildings inside them at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi hitherto belonging to defunct Pakistan, and on the so-called Pakistan House at Tilak Marg, New Delhi as the rightful property of Bangladesh. These palatial buildings, like similar missions in other capitals, were built by the rulers of Pakistan with the foreign exchange earned by the jute and tea of Bangladesh and so none has greater right to them than the people of Bangladesh."

BRITISH MP MEETS TAJUDDIN

Peter Shore, Labour MP and former British minister, had lengthy talks with Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed today. It was learnt that they reviewed all aspects of the liberation struggle with particular

emphasis on the probable steps which might be taken by the friendly countries overseas to help secure a free and democratic Bangladesh.

INDIA TRYING FOR SAFE RETURN OF REFUGEES: INDIRA  
India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, during her visit to refugee camps today, said India was making an all-out effort to create global pressure to solve the Bangladesh problem so that the refugees could safely return to their homeland.

Indira told Bangladeshi refugees that the people of India were against their forcible return to Bangladesh in their present distress. She said despite many internal and external problems with which India was heavily burdened, the Indian people always supported the democratic cause of Bangladesh. She, however, asked the refugees not to be complacent but to be ready to sacrifice everything for the independence of Bangladesh.

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

## Janmashtami today

FROM PAGE 12

community on the occasion of Janmashtami and wished success of the programmes arranged for the day.

Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee has drawn up elaborate programmes, including Geeta Joggo -- seeking blessing for the country -- at 8:00am and a discussion starting at 2:30pm.

Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister and also Awami League general secretary, will virtually join the discussion as the chief guest.

Besides, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Vikram Kumar Doraiswami, AL Cultural Affairs Secretary Asim Kumar Ukil and daily Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta will also join the programme.

International Society for Krishna

Consciousness (ISKON) has also arranged a six-day programme, starting today, at Swamibagh Asram here.

Different religious, cultural and social organisations have also chalked out identical programmes across the country for Janmashtami.

According to Hindu mythology, Sri Krishna was born on the eighth day of a dark fortnight in the Bangla month of Bhadra and he takes birth in ages in the world to safeguard the good and pious people from the hands of malevolence by establishing truth, justice and beauty in the society.

National dailies will publish special articles while Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, other private TV channels and radio stations will air special programmes highlighting various aspects of the eventful life of Lord Sri Krishna.

## The country cannot be run

FROM PAGE 12

strengthened. We are being made victims of misrule and autocratic rule. We have to be free from these. This government should be ousted through a movement."

He, however, said they don't want any destructive movement. "We have to launch a united movement to build the country."

The movement would not be partisan, rather it would be launched through unity among the people, the eminent jurist said in his written statement.

Following the fall of the Ershad regime, the Awami League and the BNP formed governments, and they were in competition for politicising all levels of the state machinery.

Criticising the incumbent government, Dr Kamal said the AL formed the government through "vote robbery".

He further said the freedom of expression of the civil society and journalists has been curtailed through the Digital Security Act.

The Gonoforum president alleged that violation of human rights and torture by law enforcement agencies

have become common in the country.

"Bangabandhu never dreamt of such Bangladesh. The Awami league formed by Bangabandhu is now in state power. But why such incidents are taking place here? What are the drawbacks of the state?"

The eminent jurist demanded amendment to articles 70 and 48 (3) of the constitution for making the lawmakers directly accountable to the people.

He further said the constitution should be amended so that no one can hold the post of prime minister for more than two tenures, and ombudsmen should also be appointed.

"The president, the prime minister, ombudsmen and ministers cannot participate in any political programme. Separate commissions should be formed for making appointments to important posts of the state."

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder Zafarullah Chowdhury, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna and senior leaders of Gonoforum also spoke.

## Delta doubles hospital risk

FROM PAGE 12

Delta variant.

'EXCELLENT PROTECTION'

Since these samples were taken, Delta has surged and now accounts for more than 98 percent of new Covid-19 cases in Britain, the authors said.

Multiple studies have shown that full vaccination prevents infection with symptoms and hospitalisation for both Alpha and Delta variants.

"We already know that vaccination offers excellent protection against Delta," said Gavin Dabrera, another lead author and consultant epidemiologist at the National Infection Service, Public Health England.

"It is vital that those who have not received two doses of vaccine do so as soon as possible."

An earlier study from Scotland also reported a doubling in hospitalisation risk with Delta over Alpha, suggesting that Delta causes more severe disease.

The coronavirus has killed at least 4,492,854 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to an AFP compilation of official data yesterday.

MELBOURNE EXTENDS CURB

A lockdown of Australia's second-biggest city Melbourne will be extended, authorities announced yesterday as they struggle to quash a stubborn coronavirus Delta variant outbreak.

Almost seven million people in Melbourne and surrounding Victoria state were scheduled to exit a four-week lockdown on Thursday, but state premier Dan Andrews said it would no longer be possible with case numbers rising by 92 overnight.

It is the city's sixth lockdown of the pandemic, and includes a curfew, the closure of playgrounds and strict limits on exercise.

An unvaccinated teacher in a California elementary school infected half her students and 26 people

in total when she contracted the Covid-19 Delta variant, researchers for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found.

The researchers said the teacher attended school for two days despite displaying symptoms of Covid-19, and read aloud to her class without a mask during that time. Infections corresponded to the classroom's seating chart, with the students sitting closest to the teacher the most likely to be infected.

Authorities said the report showed why vaccinations, masks and other prevention measures remain critical to prevent Covid-19 infections as US schools reopen. They also warned that anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 should stay home, to avoid infecting others.

KOSOVO DELAYS SCHOOL YEAR

Kosovo will delay the start of the school year by two weeks and introduce a night-time curfew, the government said yesterday, as coronavirus infections soar.

The government said the curfew will take effect today from 10:00 pm until 5:00 am while the school year will begin in mid-September instead of September 1.

Daily cases of Covid-19 have risen from several hundred at the start of August to some 2,000 a day currently. Kosovo, a 1.8-million-strong country, has registered around 140,000 infections since the start of the pandemic and 2,500 deaths.

The United Arab Emirates announced it will resume issuing visas to all tourists fully vaccinated against Covid from today, a month before Dubai hosts the delayed Expo 2020 trade fair.

The move comes as coronavirus infections drop in the oil-rich Gulf country, after it reported fewer than 1,000 cases per day last week for the first time in months.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক  
বিজিএমইএ ইউনিভার্সিটি অব ফ্যাশন এন্ড টেকনোলজি (বিইউএফটি) কে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় স্থাপন ও শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য  
স্থায়ী সনদ প্রদান  
উপলব্ধ ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের পক্ষ থেকে  
বাংলাদেশ সরকার ও বিইউএফটি পরিবারের সকল সদস্যকে  
আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন

ভুক্তি তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন  
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admission.buft.edu.bd

বিজিএমইএ ইউনিভার্সিটি অব ফ্যাশন এন্ড টেকনোলজি (বিইউএফটি)  
নিশাতনগর, তুরাগ, ঢাকা-১২৩০

রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ  
স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/১০০২/রাজস্ব জনবল (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পার্ট-৬/২১-১৮৪৭

Office of the Registrar  
Jashore University of Science and Technology  
Jashore-7408, Bangladesh  
তারিখঃ ২৮/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নোক্ত পদগুলো পূরণের নিমিত্তে বর্ধিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা ও স্কেল	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স	শর্তাবলী
০১	বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রকৌশলী (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী), ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ, প্রকৌশল দপ্তর (পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি, ৩য় বার), বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-	৫০ বছর	আবেদনকারীকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রসহ ০২ সেট আবেদন রেজিস্ট্রার, যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, যশোর-৭৪০৮ বরাবরে আগামী ১৩/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে মন্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে। রেজিস্ট্রার, যবিপ্রবি এর কার্যালয় অথবা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://www.just.edu.bd">www.just.edu.bd</a> হতে আবেদন ফরম ও যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের জরুরি সনদ প্রদান করতে হবে- (ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্র (খ) সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৩ কপি ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (ঘ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাসরিকৃত সনদপত্র। বয়স গণনার ক্ষেত্রে গু ২৫/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত হিসাব করতে হবে। চাকরিতে নিয়োজিত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। জটিলপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এক বিলাসে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র (নির্ধারিত সময়ে পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না। দরখাস্তের সাথে "রেজিস্ট্রার, যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়" এর অনুকূলে অস্থায়ী ব্যাংক লিঃ এর যে কোন শাখা হতে ১১০০/- টাকা মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে তার প্রার্থিত পদের নাম, দপ্তর/বিভাগের নামসহ নামের উপর স্পষ্টভাবে লিখতে হবে। উপার্ভা মহোদয় অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বিভাগীয়/অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার যে কোন ০১ (এক)টি শর্ত শিথিল করতে পারবেন। প্রার্থীর যোগাযোগের বর্তমান ঠিকানা লিখিত ১০/- (দশ) টাকার ডাকটিকেট সর্মিলিত দুইটি ফেরত বাম আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যোগান করতে হবে।

বিশ্ব গু ২৩/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখের স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/১০০২/রাজস্ব জনবল (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পার্ট-৫/শ্যডো নথি/২০-২৮৯৯, মোতাবেক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রকৌশলী (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী) পদে ফেরতক প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করেছেন তাদেরকে নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

শাঃ/ রেজিস্ট্রার  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-1540

## Arambagh demoted to first div; Brothers cleared

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League outfit Arambagh Krira Sangha have been demoted to the third-tier for their involvement in live betting, spot fixing, match manipulation and online betting in three BPL matches while Brothers Union, another club which under investigation, have been cleared of the allegations.

Besides, 14 footballers of Arambagh including two foreign recruits -- Smith Bradie Christian of Australia and Chizoba Christopher Lyikwobe of Nigeria -- have been suspended from all footballing activities for various terms ranging from two to five years.

The club's former president Minhazul Islam, former team manager Mohammad Gowhor Jahangir Rusho, assistant team manager Mohammad Arif Hossain and fitness trainer Maidul Islam Sheikh of India were handed life-time ban from

the BPL. They considered an exemplary punishment to demote the club two tiers from the top-tier league," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said. "The committee did not find any information, evidence or voice records incriminating Brothers Union, which is why the club was cleared of the allegations."

Arambagh, who had collected only one point from the 12 matches of the first leg in the league, eventually ended up with eight points and finished 12th among 13 teams. Brothers were the other relegated side, having finished bottom of the table with seven points.

Although there had been allegations of match-fixing against clubs in the top-tier club football in the past, no club had previously been relegated by the BFF. Some officials and players, however, were slapped with fines and bans on some of those occasions.

This time, though, the fate of Arambagh looked sealed, provided the allegations were proven, since the investigation



The return of experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim will be a sweet dilemma for the team management against New Zealand as the in-form wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan Sohan has set himself into a vibrant rhythm with solid performances during the Zimbabwe and Australia series.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



football while the team's physio Sanjoy Bose of India and game analyst Azizul Sheikh of India were banned for 10 years.

The club will have to play in the first division for two years without the option of promotion at the end of first year. The club has also been fined Tk 500,000 lakh, to be paid within one month.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee of Bangladesh Football Federation on Thursday, following a six-month long investigation, started in February over a tip-off by Asian the Football Confederation (AFC) regarding five BPL matches -- Arambagh KS vs Abahani, Arambagh KS vs Sheikh Russel, Arambagh KS vs Mohammedan, Brothers Union vs Bashundhara Kings and Brothers Union vs Abahani.

"The Disciplinary Committee did not consider the present status of Arambagh KS, which was already relegated to Bangladesh Championship League from

had started at the behest of the AFC. The continental body, which monitors professional leagues of different countries through third party, had asked the BFF to investigate the suspicious matches. Except for the Nigerian footballer, the fixed-match identification committee reached almost every alleged player, official or coaching staff either face-to-face or through virtual platform.

The BFF will send the decisions to the AFC and will seek imposition of continental punishment on the foreign nationals involved.

Former national team captain-turned-coach Golam Sarwar Tipu thinks that the punishment is exemplary.

"It is understandable that BFF took the decision in light of AFC regulations and I think they did the right thing by demoting Arambagh," Tipu said. "I think online or spot betting will be checked now and the clubs will be aware of being involved in such heinous activities."

## 'IMPORTANT TO MAKE NURUL FEEL HE IS PART OF THE TEAM'

SPORTS REPORTER



As experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim returns for the upcoming five-match T20I series against New Zealand, the Tigers think-tank are facing a rather sweet problem as they wonder how to accommodate another wicketkeeper-batsman, Nurul Hasan Sohan, who impressed many on his comeback to international cricket.

Nurul returned to the shortest format after over four years in Zimbabwe in July this year after Mushfiqur was forced to return home before the T20I series. The 27-year-old grabbed the opportunity with both hands and continued that by performing especially well against Australia in the five-match T20I series earlier this month.

Known as one of the best glovemen in the country, Nurul remained a livewire behind the stumps and was also able to play a few handy knocks late down the order with the bat.

However, Mushfiqur's return means that Nurul will have to expectedly make way for the proven campaigner considering the balance of the playing eleven.

Since Nurul has been enjoying something of a purple patch, it will be important for the team

Nurul needs to play more and perform to make an impact. Definitely, it is a sweet problem that will also put Mushfiqur under some sort of pressure, which is the kind of healthy competition every team wants to have. I will hope this thing will replicate in the ODI format too where specialization is important for the betterment of Bangladesh cricket in the coming days.

NAZMUL ABEDEEN FAHIM

management to make sure the cricketer does not feel excluded. What will be crucial is how the Bangladesh team tackles this sweet dilemma and makes the most of it.

"Mushfiqur has played a lot more than Nurul and I think it is very obvious for him to make way for the senior player when he is available. I think for someone like Nurul it is important to create spots intentionally as they might get demotivated if they are dropped despite impressing with their performances. It is important that these players are not fit in accidentally but that room is made

for them in the coming days," prominent coach and mentor to many national cricketers Nazmul Abedeen Fahim told The Daily Star.

There may have been a few question marks over Mushfiqur's keeping over the years and with options available in the form of Nurul and Liton Das, Fahim believes the time has come to create a passage for a smooth handover of the baton in the coming days.

"I think it is important to rotate players as the current pandemic situation makes it difficult for the cricketers to play continuously. It is also important to make Nurul feel that he is part of the team and allow him to believe that he is good enough," he said.

With an average of just over 16 in 17 T20Is, Nurul will have to keep pushing the selectors through performances whenever he gets an opportunity, which will also keep Mushfiqur on his toes as well.

"Nurul needs to play more and perform to make an impact. Definitely, it is a sweet problem that will also put Mushfiqur under some sort of pressure, which is the kind of healthy competition every team wants to have. I will hope this thing will replicate in the ODI format too where specialization is important for the betterment of Bangladesh cricket in the coming days," added Fahim.

## ALL EYES ON DJOKOVIC as US Open gets underway today

AGENCIES



Serbian top seed Novak Djokovic will be the centre of attention when the final Grand Slam of the 2021 calendar, US Open, showdown begins today on the hardcourts at Flushing Meadows.

Djokovic will try to complete the first calendar-year men's singles Grand Slam in 52 years and become the all-time men's leader in Slam titles by capturing the US Open.

After winning this year's Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon, a fourth victory for Djokovic at Flushing Meadows will enable him to enter an exclusive club.

Only five players have previously won all four majors in the same year, with Australian great Rod Laver the only man to have achieved the feat in the Open era.

Five past champions won't be in the field when the showdown begins Monday on the hardcourts at Flushing Meadows, with Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Stan Wawrinka, Juan Martin del Potro and 2020 winner Dominic Thiem absent due to injuries.

That leaves the main obstacles in Djokovic's path to a 21st career Slam crown as a set of rising 20-something talents trying to build their trophy hauls -- Russia's second-ranked Daniil Medvedev, Greece's third-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas and fourth-ranked Olympic champion Alexander Zverev of Germany.



Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty is widely considered as the player to beat in the women's singles, although Japan's defending champion Naomi Osaka is aiming to lift the title for the third time in four years. With an all-court game that has yielded five titles so far this year, 25-year-old Barty has cemented her place as the world number one and goes into the US Open as the favourite.

After lifting the Cincinnati title last week, Wimbledon champion Barty has notched a tour-high of match wins (40) in 2021 and a 14-1 winning record against top-20 opponents.

Meanwhile, players' mental health is also in focus after four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka led the charge for her fellow athletes this year.

The 23-year-old withdrew from the French Open after being fined and threatened with expulsion for refusing to attend media conferences, which she said had an adverse impact on her mental health, and disclosed she had suffered from depression for years.

The incident led Roland-Garros organisers to concede that the sport's governing bodies needed to do better and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) this week announced a mental health initiative for players in partnership with the Mount Sinai Health System.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Novak Djokovic will attempt to complete a rare calendar sweep of the Grand Slams and go past Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in terms of major titles.
- This will be the first Grand Slam tournament since the 1997 Australian Open not to feature Federer, Nadal, Serena Williams, or Venus Williams in the main singles draw.
- The tournament will be the first Grand Slam since the coronavirus pandemic started to be allowed a 100% capacity throughout.
- Spectators at the US Open will be required to show proof of at least one vaccination dose.



## SHAKIB, MUSTAFIZUR IN LINE FOR IPL

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman gears up for his turn while all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan looks on during fielding session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday ahead of the five-match T20I series against New Zealand. There was a good news for both the players as BCB cricket operations committee chairman Akram Khan said yesterday that the board was positive about their participation in the second phase of the Indian Premier League (IPL). "Shakib applied for NOC yesterday while Mustafiz had placed his application a few days ago. We will decide on September 1 but the board is positive on this issue and it will be a positive decision," said Akram, adding that their participation will benefit the whole team ahead of T20 World Cup in October. The franchise tournament, which was postponed after March 29 following rising Covid cases in India, will resume on September 19 and will end on October 8 in UAE.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



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## CLIMATE-ADAPTABLE AMAN Khulna farmer develops 6 varieties

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

After chasing his dream for over a decade, 46-year-old Aruni Sarkar, a farmer from remote Gangarampur village of Khulna's Batiaghata upazila, finally succeeded in developing high-yielding and climate-adaptable varieties of Aman paddy.

He claims that his varieties would change the fate of poverty-hit farmers in southern coastal region where saline water intrudes.

The newly developed six types of Aman paddy have been named "Alo Dhan", "Locos Dhan", "Aruni Dhan", "Ganga Dhan", "Maitri Dhan", and "Lakshimbhog Dhan".

The new varieties have been made through hybridisation of multiple traditional varieties of paddy.

The main features of these paddy are their salinity tolerance, high yield and the ability to ripen faster, said Aruni.

The traditional Aman paddy can survive around one week under saline water. But the new variants can survive over two weeks, he claimed.

Even, the traditional Aman paddy can tolerate 1 dS/m (decisiemens per metre) -- a unit used to measure the degree of salinity in land. But the new ones can tolerate up to 3 dS/m, claimed Aruni.



Aruni Sarkar

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Rubble is what remains after the Azimnagar Union Health and Family Welfare Centre in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj went into the Padma yesterday. *Inset*, the building being devoured by the river a day before. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS

## Janmashtami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Janmashtami, a major festival of the Hindu community marking the birth of Lord Sri Krishna, will be celebrated across the country today with due religious fervour and gaiety.

However, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, all rituals and programmes will be arranged inside temples where health safety guidelines are expected to be maintained. A decision has been taken to cancel all processions and rallies this time.

The religious affairs ministry issued a press release yesterday saying that all religious rituals will be arranged following health protocols and maintaining social distancing but processions and rallies will be halted due to the pandemic.

The day is observed as a public holiday.

In separate messages, President Md Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and other distinguished personalities and organisations greeted the members of the Hindu

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## CTTC arrests first female Ansar Al Islam operative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She was the first female operative of militant outfit Ansar Al Islam, self-radicalised by online content.

Although she was in charge of the outfit's media wing, she also had a connection with the military wing and was ready to go for Jihad anytime at home or abroad.

And the Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit yesterday said it arrested the female operative, identified as Zobaida Siddiqua Nabila, 19, an HSC candidate of a college in Bhola's Lalmohon upazila.

Based on information, Nabila was arrested from her relative's home in Dhaka's Badda area on Thursday, said CTTC officials.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY Bangladesh mission opened in New Delhi



KM Shehabuddin, chief of the Bangladesh mission in New Delhi, and others before the mission which formally opened in New Delhi on August 30, 1971.

AUGUST 30, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BANGLADESH MISSION IN NEW DELHI

The Bangladesh mission was formally opened in New Delhi today. In the solemn, simple and touching flag-hoisting ceremony the green-red-gold flag broke at the mast with a choral rendition of the Bangladesh national anthem. The ceremony started with recitations from the Holy Quran, the Gita, the Bible and the Tripitaka.

The mission was housed, temporarily, at the residence of KM Shehabuddin, the Bangladesh government representative in New Delhi.

Before hoisting the flag, Shehabuddin read out a statement in which he expressed the determination of the people of Bangladesh to drive out the Pakistani enemy from their land. "We have shed much blood and are ready to give more," he added.

He thanked India for her sympathy and support to the new state, and asked all nations to stop assistance, both military and economic, to Pakistan.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## 'The country cannot be run like this'

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain has said the people are thinking of freeing the country from corruption and misrule as the country cannot be run like this.

The eminent jurist has urged the people to forge unity to launch a movement.

He was speaking at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, marking the founding anniversary of Gonoforum.

"[We have to] establish effective democracy. Parliament should be formed with the peoples' representatives who will run the country..."

"The country cannot be run like this. Bright future awaits it."

"Unity among the people should be

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## Gun that killed Billy the Kid fetches \$6m



AFP, Los Angeles

The pistol used to kill the notorious outlaw Billy the Kid in the days of the American Wild West has been auctioned for \$6.03 million, a world record for a firearm.

The Colt single-action revolver owned by sheriff Pat Garrett had been estimated at \$2-3 million and saw "lively bidding" on the phone, online and in the room in Friday's sale, the auction house Bonhams said.

"It stands as a relic of one of the most important and well-known stories of the Wild West,"

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## Covid deaths cross 26,000 mark

STAR REPORT

Eighty-nine more people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services.

The total number of Covid-19 deaths in the country now stands at 26,015, and the death rate is 1.74 percent.

At least 3,948 new infections were recorded during the period, taking the number of people infected to 14,93,537,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



### PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 30

Fajr 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

## BSF shoots 2 Bangladeshis dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmohirhat

Indian Border Security Force personnel early yesterday shot two Bangladeshis men on the border in Patgram, Lalmohirhat, and kept their bodies.

Yunus Ali, a resident of Burimari area of Patgram, and Sagor Chandra, of Jaldhaka area in Nilphamari, were gunned down on Bandermatha border around 4:30am, according to Camp Commander Billal Hossain of 61 Border Guard Bangladesh and Officer-in-charge Omar Farooque of Patgram Police Station.

Yunus and Sagor and about eight others were smuggling in Indian cattle from Changrabandha area in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal when the patrolling BSF men opened fired on them.

The duo died at the scene while the others managed to flee. BSF men then took away bodies.

Camp Commander Billal said a letter was sent to the BSF asking for the bodies to be returned.



People, who do not have NID cards, throng the election office on the C&B Road in Barishal yesterday to get their NID cards. Some went there to make corrections to their cards. Many are asking for the cards as it makes it easier to get vaccinated.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## COVID PANDEMIC Delta doubles hospital risk

Says UK study

AGENCIES

The Delta variant of the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 doubles the risk of hospitalisation compared with the Alpha variant it has supplanted as the dominant strain worldwide, researchers reported in The Lancet on Saturday.

Only 1.8 percent of the more than 43,000 Covid-19 cases assessed in comparing the two variants were in patients who had been fully vaccinated. Three-quarters were completely unvaccinated, and 24 percent had received only one jab of a two-dose vaccine.

"The results from this study therefore primarily tell us about the risk of hospital admission for those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated," said co-lead author Anne Presanis, a senior statistician at the University of Cambridge's MRC Biostatistics Unit.

Researchers analysed healthcare data from 43,338 Covid-19 cases in England from March 29 to May 23 of this year, including vaccination status, emergency care, hospital admission and other patient information.

All virus samples underwent whole genome sequencing, the surest way to confirm which variant had caused the infection. Just below 80 percent of the cases were identified as the Alpha variant, and the rest were Delta.

About one in 50 patients were admitted to hospital within 14 days of their first positive Covid-19 test.

After accounting for factors that are known to affect susceptibility to severe illness - including age, ethnicity, and vaccination status - the researchers found the risk of being admitted to hospital was more than double with the

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