



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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**"The case detection rate has been below 10 percent for four days in a row, which is a cause for relief."**  
LINE DIRECTOR (DISEASE CONTROL) DGHS NAZMUL ISLAM

**"If the influence of 'Taliban culture' is not prevented in Bangabandhu's secular Bangladesh, then our situation could be like that of Afghanistan someday."**  
PRESIDENT OF EKATTORER GHATAK DALAL NIRMUL COMMITTEE SHAHRIAR KABIR

**"No Phd degree, master's degree is valuable today. You see that the Mullahs and Taliban that are in the power, have no Phd, MA or even a high school degree, but are the greatest of all."**  
TALIBAN'S EDUCATION MINISTER SHEIKH MOLVI NOORULLAH MUNIR

## DHAKA-ASHULIA ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

# Work to start next month

Uncertainty over funding goes as China EXIM Bank okays \$1.2b loan

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The physical work of another elevated expressway, which will facilitate vehicles' quick entry and exit to and from the capital, is likely to start next month as the uncertainty over Chinese funding is now over.

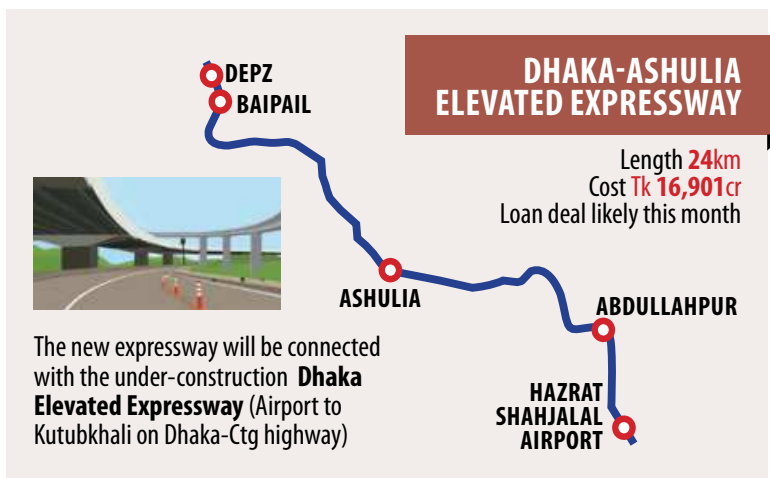
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last week gave the go-ahead to the draft loan agreement for the project called Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway. The development came after Chinese EXIM Bank approved the long-delayed loan of \$1.2 billion, or Tk 10,226.53 crore, for the expressway, said project officials.

China will provide 65 percent of the total project cost of Tk 16,901 crore, they said.

Project Director Shahabuddin Khan said the finance ministry's Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the Chinese bank were likely to sign the loan agreement this month. "We hope that the project's physical work will begin next month," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

A finance ministry official, who is aware of developments, also confirmed to this newspaper that the agreement was likely to be signed

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**Mahmudullah Riyad, left, scored an unbeaten 43 while Mustafizur Rahman took four wickets as Bangladesh beat New Zealand by six wickets in the fourth T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to win the series 3-1 with a match remaining.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Tigers cruise to series victory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudullah Riyad hit the runs shot as Bangladesh created history by winning their first bilateral T20I series against New Zealand, registering a six-wicket win in the fourth T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to seal the five-match series 3-1.

Yesterday's win was also Bangladesh's ninth T20I victory of the year, the most by any team this year.

The Tigers chased down the small

target of 94 runs with five balls to spare, continuing their dominance in the game's shortest format at home with a third successive T20I series, building on a maiden series win over Australia last month.

T20I skipper Mahmudullah guided his troops in the fourth T20I with an unbeaten 43 off 48 balls while opener Naim Sheikh added 29 runs.

However, it was not a straightforward chase, with Bangladesh at one stage struggling on 33 for three after Liton Das

(6), Shakib Al Hasan (8) and Mushfiqur Rahim (0) departed in quick succession before Mahmudullah steadied the ship.

Earlier, New Zealand skipper Tom Latham elected to bat but the visitors failed to capitalise in the face of a clinical bowling display by the Tigers.

Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed and pacer Mustafizur Rahman shared eight wickets as the Kiwis were bundled out below 100 runs for the second time this series.

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## LAND MANAGEMENT

# Govt wants hassle-free system for people: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government wants to develop a hassle-free land management system in the country so that common people do not suffer in any way.

"We want to develop a system so that people must not face unnecessary harassment and sufferings, and don't have to move from one office room to another," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme yesterday marking the inauguration of the Bhumi Bhaban of the land ministry, land office buildings at upazilas and making union-level activities online.

The event was organised at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium, with the PM joining it from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina asked the officials concerned to build every land office at the

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## SCHOOL REOPENING

# Cautious optimism all around

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MID SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Fourteen-year-old Shahabul Alam never thought a day would come where he would be impatient to get back into the classroom.

The daily grind of waking up early, attending the school assembly, concentrating for long hours, being called on in class and slogging through traffic to get back home is now seeming wholly inviting after about solitary 18 months at home with unrestricted access to video games, television and marathon online classes.

"I started to miss my school and seeing my friends. I couldn't be happier when the announcement came that we would be going back to school," said the Class-8 student of Shahid Police Smrity High School and College in Mirpur.

His father, Md Jahurul Alam, is not as

excited about the return to the classroom from September 12: he is worried whether the school would be able to maintain the health protocols needed to keep the mutating coronavirus at bay.

"Coronavirus has not stopped spreading yet. I know it is extremely important for our children to return to school as their lifestyle has been greatly disrupted by this long vacation. But maintaining the health guidelines is paramount," Alam said.

Shahabul's school is taking the matter just as seriously. It has formed several committees to monitor the implementation of the education ministry's directives including ensuring social distancing, mask use and sanitisation facilities.

Sinks have been placed in different corners, an isolation room has been readied and disinfectant chambers installed at the

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# World wary of Taliban govt

West expresses concern; women banned from sports

AGENCIES

World powers yesterday urged the Taliban to act on their promises, saying they are monitoring developments in Afghanistan after the Islamist group announced a headline interim government drawn exclusively from its inner echelons.

The names announced for the new government on Tuesday, three weeks after the Taliban swept to military victory as US-led foreign forces withdrew, gave no sign of an olive branch to its opponents.

Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, who is on a UN sanctions list, was named as the acting prime minister, while the group's co-founder Abdul Ghani Baradar, who oversaw the signing of the US withdrawal agreement in 2020, was appointed deputy leader.

FBI designated global terrorist Sirajuddin Haqqani has been appointed as the interior minister of the new government.

The structure of the new government runs counter to

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# Bangladesh to join UN, EU in talks with Taliban

Says Shahriar Alam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has decided to join a dialogue, initiated by the United Nations and European Union, with the Taliban in the wake of a humanitarian crisis after it seized control of Afghanistan.

"The UN and EU have asked us if we want to be a part to the dialogue. We have agreed to it," Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, told reporters at his ministry yesterday.

He said there is a humanitarian situation, including a food crisis, with

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# PLACING PORI ON REMANDS HC censures two judges, IO

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has said the investigation officer disregarded the Supreme Court guidelines and laws in seeking remand for actor Pori Moni for the second and third time in a narcotics case.

It also criticised two lower court judges for granting the remand prayers.

The full text of the HC order, which was released yesterday, said, "Moreover, crime is not a problem solely for the police only, rather it is a community problem. The police department must believe that human life is very precious. A police officer has to think about the legal and basic issues before taking an accused on remand."

The society vests the highest level of trust in the police department. But in the recent case, it seemed the IO to some extent disregarded the guidelines of the apex court as well as the laws, resulting in an obstacle to a smooth functioning of criminal justice system.

"We believe that justice would be met if the investigating

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The playground and much of the lower levels of a government primary school in Gala union in Tangail Sadar remain under flood water. In view of Covid-19 infection rates going down, the government has directed that schools open in phases from September 12. However, flood-affected schools will not be opening on that day.

# SUED UNDER DSA Court accepts charges against journo Kajol

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday accepted the charges pressed against photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol in another case filed under the Digital Security Act.

After accepting the charge sheet, Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal fixed October 20 for charge framing hearing against Kajol in the case, said Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant to the tribunal.

Earlier on the day, Kajol was granted bail as he was on High Court bail.

On March 11 last year, Sumaiya Chowdhury

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# Shwapno received 'The Asia Marketing Excellence Award'

Shwapno, the largest retail chain in the country, won the prestigious 'The Asia Marketing Excellence Award', which is also known as Asia's Marketing Company of the Year 2020. After a rigorous selection process, members of the jury board of A.M.F (Asia Marketing Federation) selected 'Shwapno' as the winner last November. Last day, representatives of A.M.F, President of Marketing Society of Bangladesh (MSB) Ashraf Bin Taj, and COO of Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) Sajid Mahbub handed over the award to the Executive Director of Shwapno, Sabbir Hasan Nasir at Shwapno's head office at Tejgaon.

Among others, Shwapno's Business Director Sohel Tanvir Khan, Operation Director Abu Naser, Head of Marketing Mahadi Faisal, Head of Human Resource Shah Md Rjivi Rony and other officials were also present on the occasion. The award ceremony was scheduled to be held in Singapore in this year, however, due to the ongoing pandemic, the program was cancelled. Later, the award was shipped to Marketing Society of Bangladesh's (MSB) office. In this regard, Marketing Society of Bangladesh (MSB) President Ashraf Bin Taj said, "Shwapno won the award after contesting with organizations from strong 17 nations like Japan, South Korea, Singapore, China, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia. After the rigorous assessment conducted by a strong jury board, Shwapno won 'The Asia Marketing Excellence Award', which is also recognized as Asia's Marketing Company of the year 2020. My heartiest congratulations to Shwapno."



After receiving the award, Shwapno's Executive Director Sabbir Hasan Nasir said, "Thanks to Marketing Society of Bangladesh (MSB) and Bangladesh Brand Forum for nominating us to compete and represent Bangladesh in this most prestigious program. Our responsibilities increased after getting this recognition. AMF honored us for the unconditional love and expectation from our consumers, the overall support we got from our partners, for the relentless effort & sweat of all Shwapno employees deployed in different parts of the country, and for the fundamentals of the business philosophy of Shwapno as a humane, conscious & responsible brand. My heartiest gratitude towards the jury board for awarding us this prestigious title."

**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**2,497**  
New cases in 24hrs



**15,22,302**  
Total cases



**26,736**  
Deaths



**14,64,594**  
Recoveries



**GLOBAL UPDATE**



**4,605,033**  
Deaths



**223,077,521**  
Total cases

# Take down the defamatory videos

HC tells BTRC on uploads regarding Japanese woman, her estranged husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission chairman to take steps to remove from online platforms defamatory videos about Japanese national Eriko Nakano and her estranged husband Bangladeshi-born US citizen Imran Sharif.

The couple have two daughters currently living in a Gulshan flat under HC directive.

The HC also ordered the Cyber Police Center under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to immediately identify persons posting or uploading defamatory videos and take necessary legal action against them.

The court issued these orders while hearing two separate petitions filed by Eriko and Imran.

The HC asked Imran to remove the closed-circuit television (CCIV) cameras from the interior of the residence where Eriko lives with their daughters.

CCIV cameras will remain operational in the outer areas of the residence for security reasons, the bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman said.

On January 18 this year, Imran submitted a divorce notice to a Japanese court, but did not appear before that court on the scheduled date of hearing, Eriko said in her petition.

On January 21, he picked up his daughters from their school in Tokyo and came to Bangladesh on February 21, Eriko's petition said.

Eriko, 46, a doctor based in Tokyo, came to Bangladesh on July 18 this

year and filed a writ petition with the HC seeking a directive on Imran, 58, to hand over the children to her custody. She feared that Imran, who now lives in Mohammadia Housing Society under Adabor Police Station in Dhaka or in a Gulshan house, may flee Bangladesh with her daughters.

In the petition, Eriko said she and Imran got married on July 11, 2008, in Japan following Japanese and Muslim customs.

On August 31, the HC bench directed authorities concerned to immediately shift the two children to a residence in Gulshan from the victim support centre.

The court permitted Eriko to spend nights with her daughters exclusively on September 9, 11, 13 and 15 at the Gulshan flat.

Imran, meanwhile, can stay with the daughters on other nights at the Gulshan residence, in the presence of Eriko.

In his petition, Imran appealed for the sole custody of his daughters.

The court fixed September 16 for passing further orders on the issue. Lawyers Mohammad Shishir Manir and Fawzia Karim Firoze placed arguments for Eriko and Imran respectively while Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state during the virtual hearing.

The HC bench also ordered the deputy director concerned of Directorate of Social Welfare to supervise the issues involved with the children and also asked the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and CID to ensure their security.

Both parents will equally bear the expenses of the residence, their living and relevant issues, the HC said in the order.



With sandbags, residents of Gowaldubi village in Chapainawabganj stand on the edge of an area before which acres of land stretched out not too long ago. Over the last three weeks erosion caused by strong currents of the Padma has devoured hundreds of bighas of land and homestead in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RABTUL HASAN

## Govt wants hassle-free system for people

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upazila level afresh. "Those which are still left need to be done quickly through taking up projects."

She said the government has taken initiatives to construct 139 upazila land offices and construction of 129 of them have been completed.

To provide services to the people, the government is implementing a project to construct 1,498 land offices at the union level and construction of 995 of those have been completed, the premier added.

She said the aim of the government is to build the country as a developed and prosperous one by 2041.

To make the land management system developed and world-class one, the government has taken up three projects to digitise it, she said.

The projects are: Land management automation project, strengthening capacity of the Land Record and

Survey Department project and Plot and Mouja-based National Digital Land Survey project.

"On completion of the projects, there'll be an epoch-making change in the land management system and a complete digitisation of the overall management will be possible," the PM said.

She said people had been suffering for years trying to avail themselves of land-related services, leading to various social problems. But the Awami League government, coming to power in 2009, took measures to digitise land management as part of its election manifesto and Vision-2021 to build digital Bangladesh, the premier said.

Hasina hoped that the projects inaugurated yesterday would play a very important role in building developed and prosperous digital Bangladesh and ensuring desired

land-related services for the citizens.

With the digitised and reformed the land management system, land owners would be able to avail of various services from home online, she added.

Describing her government's success in digitalising the land management, she said the UN recognised the Ministry of Land with "United Nations Public Service Award 2020" for implementing the e-mutation system.

Hasina said her government has been working to develop every sector, including land, with a farsighted plan and responsibility towards people.

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, and Land Secretary Mustafizur Rahman also spoke at the programme.

A documentary on the land reforms of the country was screened at the programme.

## Work to start next month

FROM PAGE 1

within this month.

Once built, the 24-kilometre expressway will connect Hazrat Shahjahan International Airport with Abdullahpur, Ashulia, Baipail and Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) on the Nabinagar-Chandra highway. Vehicles will have to pay toll, said project officials.

It will allow people from 30 districts to enter and exit the capital quickly and easily. It is also expected to boost the country's gross domestic product by 0.21 percent, shows project documents.

Another expressway -- Dhaka Elevated Expressway -- is being constructed to link the airport to the Dhaka-Chattogram highway at Kutubkhali point. The revised schedule for opening the 20km expressway -- Airport-Banani-Moghbar-Kamalapur-Sayedabad-Jatrabari-Kutubkhali -- is June 2023.

Once both elevated expressways are operational, people from the country's northern, western and south-western regions will be able to avoid the capital's perennial traffic jam as they will go from one side of the city to another without having to travel on the existing city streets.

Trucks and Lorries, which are now barred from entering the city during the day to curb traffic jams, will also use them.

The work of the 24km Dhaka-Ashulia expressway was set to start four years ago following the project's approval by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec). The work was scheduled to be completed by June next year.

The physical work, however, could not begin as the Chinese authorities delayed in approving the loan.

Now, the project authorities want to complete the work within four years.

**THE PROJECT**

The government had initially decided to implement the project under Public Private Partnership and the Cabinet Committee on Economic

Affairs okayed it in July 2011.

At that time, the proposed length of the expressway was decided to be 34km and the project cost \$2 billion.

But changes were made in both the design and the mode of funding, said sources aware of the matter.

The government then decided to implement the project under a government-to-government (G2G) agreement with China.

This project then became among 27 projects for which China assured of providing a loan of \$20 billion as per a memorandum of understanding signed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Dhaka in October 2016.

In October 2017, the Ecneec gave the go-ahead to the project and the deadline was fixed for June 2022.

In August 2017, Bangladesh Bridge Authority signed a contract with China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation to implement the project.

But the project work could not begin as the loan application sent to the Chinese authorities in October 2018 remained pending.

Talking to journalists at Setu Bhaban on July 11 2019, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said he hoped that the construction work would begin in December that year, which did not happen.

**WORK TO START NEXT MONTH**  
Sources said the Chinese EXIM Bank approved the loan in November last year and then both sides held negotiations on the draft loan agreement.

After the law ministry vetted the draft, it was sent to the Prime Minister's Office, which gave the green signal on September 2, the sources said.

Project Director Shahabuddin Khan said the uncertainty over the funding was over and that the contractor had already started some work, including fixing alignments and design of the expressway, in April this year.

## HC censures two judges, IO

FROM PAGE 1

officer explains the reasons in this regard," the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol said in the full text.

Earlier on September 2, the bench sought explanations from two lower court judges -- metropolitan magistrates Devobrata Biswas and Atikul Islam -- who placed Pori Moni on extended remand in the same case. They have been ordered to submit their explanations before the HC in 10 days.

The HC also summoned IO Golam Mostafa to appear before it at 11:00am on September 15 with relevant documents to explain why he sought the second and third remand of Pori Moni, who was granted bail and released from jail on September 1.

The bench issued the orders following a petition filed by rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) to question the repeated remands that allowed the police to interrogate Pori Moni in custody.

"Presumably, the accused may be required to be interrogated in the interest of investigation for the purpose of a fair and transparent trial, but the record shows that the IO of the case made remand prayers to the metropolitan magistrates for the second and third time basing on which the court concerned was pleased to grant remand by its order on August 10 and 19 respectively, which pricks our judicial consensus [about] how the magistrates concerned were so satisfied to allow prayers for remands a couple of times," the order said.

The bench said metropolitan magistrates Devobrata Biswas and Atikul Islam should appear in person before this court if their explanations about granting remand are not satisfactory.

"We found from the records that initially, the accused person [Pori Moni] was taken on remand for four days, which is of course a considerable time to extract any information and materials, if any, but furtherance of requiring the next remand period, the IO could not show substantial and sufficient materials as found from the records before us," the order read.

It added that the manner of the arrest by the law enforcement agency concerned is contrary to the guidelines set by the apex court.

"It is a settled proposition of law that citizens' rights cannot be hampered without following the relevant law. Similarly, every citizen should be respectful to the law of the land. One should not be convicted through any unusual course like trolling on personal life and the liberty of a citizen by any means before coming to any verdict from any appropriate court of law of the land," the judges observed in the order, adding that the law has to be regarded as the foundation of a civilised society.

The HC further said it is suffice to say that article 35(5) of our constitution contemplates that no person shall be subjected to torture and cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment.

Contacted, ASK's lawyer ZI Khan Panna recently told The Daily Star that according to the SC's directives, an accused should be interrogated at the jail gate if it is necessary.

The accused person's health must be examined by a registered doctor before and after interrogation and his or her lawyers and relatives must be allowed to be present during the interrogation, but the lower court concerned and police have not followed the directives while placing Pori Moni on remand, he added.

## World wary of Taliban govt

FROM PAGE 1

advice to the Taliban from world powers for an inclusive government, backing up its pledges of a more conciliatory approach that upholds human rights, if it sought peace and development.

Voicing concern about the Taliban government's composition, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said he saw little reason for optimism about conditions in Afghanistan.

"The announcement of a transitional government without the participation of other groups, and yesterday's [Tuesday] violence against demonstrators and journalists in Kabul, are not signals that give cause for optimism," he said.

The US said it was concerned about the "affiliations and track records" of some of the people named by

the Taliban to fill top posts in new government.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was looking to build a united front with nations shaken by the Afghanistan withdrawal as he consulted allies and heard stories from refugees at an air base in Germany yesterday.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Britain would have wanted to see a "diverse" leadership team in Afghanistan, but that is not what London has seen.

"We will continue to judge the Taliban on their actions ... We would want to see, in any situation, a diverse group in leadership which seeks to address the pledges that the Taliban themselves have set out and that's not what we have seen," the spokesman said yesterday.

## Court accepts charges against journo Kajol

FROM PAGE 1

Bonya, a member of the central committee of Jubo Mohila League, filed the case with Kamrangirchar Police Station.

On March 14 this year, Investigation Officer Mohammad Russell Mollah, also a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police, filed the charge sheet of the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Excluding this case, Awami League lawmaker (Magura-1) Saifuzzaman Shikhor and Jubo Mohila League's central committee member Usmin Ara Bally, also filed two cases with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Hazaribagh police

stations under the DSA on March 9 and 10 last year.

The charge sheets in the two cases were submitted to the court on April 8 and February 4.

On September 7, the tribunal accepted the charges against Kajol in a case filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The case filed with Hazaribagh Police Station is also now pending with the same tribunal.

Journalist Kajol went missing on March 10 last year. The Border Guard Bangladesh found him roaming around the Benapole border area on May 3 and detained him.

He was sent to jail by a Jashore court the same day under section 54 of the Code of the Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Later, he was shown arrested in the three cases filed under the DSA.

The lower court denied him bail for seven months until the High Court on November 24 granted him bail in one of the cases.

The HC, on December 17, granted him bail in two other cases after Kajol's lawyer argued that probes had to be complete within 75 days of the filing of the cases, and the investigators failed to do so.

The photojournalist walked out of jail on December 25.

## Army chief returns home after India visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh General SM Shaifuddin Ahmed returned to Dhaka yesterday after his official visit to India.



During his visit, the army chief met Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Kumar Doval; Lt Gen Vinod G Khandare, military adviser to the Secretariat of the State Security Council in the Indian Prime Minister's Office; Defence Secretary Ajoy Kumar; Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat; Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army Manoj Mukund Naravane, and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhaduria.

The army chief inspected the 50th Indian Parachute Brigade 50 (Independent) in Agra, the Wargaming Development Centre, Defence Image Processing and Analysis Centre and the Indian National Defence College.

The Indian Parachute Brigade 50 (Independent) was the first to enter Dhaka through Tongi as a member of the allied forces during the Liberation War of 1971.

During his meeting with Lt Gen Vinod G Khandare, Shaifuddin discussed security issues.

On the last day of his visit, he paid homage to the National War Memorial where he looked at the inscribed names of those who sacrificed their lives for the allied forces in the 1971 Liberation War and paid tribute.

He was given a guard of honour when he reached the South Block.

Later, he met Chief of Indian Army Staff Manoj Mukund Naravane and Defence Secretary Ajoy Kumar.

The army chief called on Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhaduria and Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat at their offices.

He later exchanged views with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Kumar Doval at his office.

**CORRECTION**

In the photo and caption, provided by news agency AFP and published by The Daily Star on page 2 yesterday, the rank of the Bangladesh chief of army staff was incorrectly mentioned as "Lieutenant General". His rank is actually "General". We regret the error and apologise to our valued readers for any inconvenience it may have caused.

## Vaccination centres' capacity limitation causing delays

Says DGHS about people getting texts late for Covid shots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the number of people who registered for Covid vaccine is much higher than the capacity of vaccination centres, people are receiving texts late, Nazmul Islam, spokesperson for the health directorate, said yesterday.

"We are trying to solve the issue, but the reality is a certain number of people can be inoculated daily in a centre. Otherwise, we have to make compromises with many things [including health safety]," Nazmul, also the line director (Disease Control) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said in an online briefing.

He said the DGHS is working to solve the issue as soon as possible.

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## Tigers cruise

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Nasum registered his best bowling figure in T20Is, ending with four wickets at the cost of just 10 runs from four overs, two of which were maidens. Meanwhile, Mustafizur showed his class and took on the New Zealand lower order to finish with the figures of four for twelve from 3.3 overs.

Will Young top-scored with 46 off 48 balls while skipper Latham added 21 but none of the other New Zealand batsmen were able to reach double figures. Their 35-run third-wicket stand was the only notable performance from the Kiwis.

Nasum bowled brilliantly, starting off by removing Kiwi openers Rachin Ravindra and Finn Allen. The 26-year-old was on a hat-trick in the 12th over after he first bowled Henry Nicholls with a turning delivery coming into the left hander and followed it up with the wicket off Colin de Grandhomme, who glocked off the ball to the keeper.

It was then Mustafizur magic in the latter stage of the innings as the left-arm pacer removed Tom Blundell and Cole McConechie in the same over.

# Labour migration in slow lane

JAMIL MAHMUD

Sending migrant workers abroad continued to remain inadequate amid the pandemic compared to what the situation was during pre-pandemic times, which posed a challenge for the labour migration sector.

About 8.81 lakh migrant workers, with an average of 58,758 per month, were sent abroad in 15 months from January, 2019 to March last year, says Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) data.

But the number of new overseas employment dropped to 2.84 lakh or 16,731 per month in 17 months from April last year to August this year, according to the data.

Bangladesh stopped sending new workers abroad in late of March last year, with closure of international flights, following detection of the first Covid-19 positive cases in the country.

In the next three months -- from April to June last year -- not a single new worker was sent abroad. Later, sending workers resumed in July last year, but the monthly average continued to remain low.

The government has a target to send at least seven lakh workers abroad annually.

Sector insiders said shutdown to contain Covid-19 affected the sector badly, as activities regarding visa processing and

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- Labour migration from country stopped late March 2020 due to Covid-19
- Sending workers abroad resumed in July 2020



JAN 2019 TO MAR 2020
> 8.81 lakh workers sent abroad
> 58,758 per month on average
APRIL 2020 TO AUG 2021
> 2.84 lakh workers sent abroad
> 16,731 per month on average

- Covid-19 restrictions
- Less demand from employers
- No timely inoculation



The ripples created by larger launches are often a reason why smaller dinghy capsizes in the Buriganga river. Near Sadarghat's Babu Bazar Bridge, these launches rush to the dock at high speeds, often running very close to other vessels, which could lead to disasters at a much larger scale. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BANGLADESH, UK

## Two-day strategic dialogue starts today

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh and UK will hold a two-day strategic dialogue beginning today. It will cover political, diplomatic, trade and development relationship between the two countries in the post-Brexit era.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and UK Permanent Under-Secretary of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Sir Philip Barton will lead the respective delegations in the meeting in London.

Masud Bin Momen arrived in London last night, while UK High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson had arrived there

### MAJOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

- Extension of UK's zero-duty GSP facility until 2029
- More foreign investments
- Efficient visa regime for Bangladeshis
- Afghanistan situation
- More pressure on Myanmar on Rohingya repatriation
- Humanitarian assistance for refugees
- Climate change related assistance, compensation

for the dialogue on Tuesday.

This is the fourth Bangladesh-UK Strategic Dialogue, an annual meet of the two countries held alternatively in Dhaka and London. However, this year's iteration comes after a break, as the dialogue could not be held last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the dialogue, the UK will congratulate Bangladesh on its golden jubilee of independence, according to diplomatic sources.

It will also laud the contribution of British Bangladeshis, especially in the UK's health sector, where a significant number of doctors and nurses are of Bangladeshi origins. There are about 600,000 British Bangladeshis in the UK, making people to people

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



As is the norm for weekdays, traffic pressure bogged down the capital's streets yesterday, long after the morning rush hour had passed. With a day to go till the weekends arrive, residents simply can't wait to let out a collective sigh of relief away from the sound, sweat, and stillness. This photo was taken from Shantinagar Bazar area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 'What was his crime?'

Wife of Jhumon, who is still in jail in DSA case, demands justice

DUI CORRESPONDENT

Professionals, including teachers, lawyers, journalists and cultural activists, yesterday demanded immediate release of Jhumon Das Apon, who has been in jail for over five months, after being accused under Digital Security Act (DSA).

Udichi Shilpigoshi organised programmes across the country, mainly at the capital's Shahbagh, where they demanded justice for him.

At the event, Jhumon's wife Sweetie Das asked, "Why is my husband not getting bail? What was his crime?"

"He is the only earner in my family. Though I am sick and helpless, I've come here to say that criminals who attacked, looted and vandalised our village are roaming around fearlessly."

Adding that she was going through a hard time with her baby girl, she sought the prime minister's attention in this regard.

Jamshed Anwar Tapan, president of Udichi, presided over the event, where Jashore University of Science and Technology teacher Abhinu Kibria, Barrister Imtiaz Mahmood and Udichi joint secretary Sangeeta Imam, spoke.

Jamshed urged the government to release Jhumon and abolish DSA.

In his Facebook post, Jhumon criticised Hefajat leader Mamunul Haque. The post allegedly led to the mayhem in Noagaon village of Sunamganj's Shalla upazila on March 17, which saw about 90 Hindu houses vandalised and looted.

VACCINATION DRIVE

## Are transgender people left out?

NILIMA JAHAN

Getting tested and vaccinated for Covid-19 was no less than a trauma for Tanisha Yasmin Chaity, a young transwoman and a development worker based in Cox's Bazar.

Chaity's biological sex is male, and she was registered with the birth name Mamun Mollah in her national identity card, long before the government recognised the third gender in 2013. She now identifies herself as a woman, which creates problems everywhere.

For example, last month, after registering for the Covid-19 vaccine at Teknaf Upazila Complex, she went to get her first dose and stood in the

- No special arrangements for transgender people
- They face harassment when they go for jobs as gender identity does not match the sex denoted in birth certificates, NIDs
- Many do not have NIDs
- Many lack access to education, mobile devices
- Turned away from centres during mass vaccination drive

"Other people in the queue were taunting me, as if I was not a human being and did not have the right to get vaccinated."

TANISHA YASMIN CHAITY, A DEVELOPMENT WORKER

female queue after submitting her card. She felt anxious that something untoward was going to happen, as other women in the queue looked uncomfortable in her presence.

"At one point, I heard the staff calling 'Mamun Mollah', and I went to him to receive my card. But the staffer was very astonished with my female appearance and made me wait for a long time, considering it a special case," said Chaity.

Chaity, an educated transgender youth, who works with more than 500 gender diverse populations of Cox's Bazar, as a mental health and psycho-social counsellor, tried to convince the staff that she is a transwoman, who identifies herself as female.

"But I found the staffer was unaware of the word transgender and asked me what it was. Later, I told him that I belong to the hijra community, and a high-risk group for Covid-19, as I mingle with a large number of gender diverse people regularly," said Chaity.

"After that, he asked me whether I have the permission to get vaccinated. Other people in the queue were taunting me as if I was not a human being and did not have the right to get vaccinated," she recalled.

"After yelling at him, when I finally went to the women to take the vaccine, the scene was repeated. Once again, I felt like an alien. At one point, I had to bring the first person, who explained the whole thing to her and only then was I finally able to get my first dose," she said.

But according to Chaity, if an educated transwoman like her had to go through such a humiliating situation, the ordinary hijras -- who are mostly uneducated and unaware of their rights, and make a living by extorting money from commuters or shopkeepers, performing Badhaai (a custom of conferring blessings on a newborn by singing and dancing) or engaging in sex work or other casual jobs -- will not opt for the vaccine, considering the humiliation and hassle.

Chaity's fear was real, because of the 100 transgender people of Teknaf upazila she works with, only one of them was vaccinated so far, while another just registered for the job.

It is difficult to know exactly how many trans people have been vaccinated so far in Bangladesh, as the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Tobacco companies using loopholes to promote products

Says a recent survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taking advantage of loopholes in the law, tobacco companies are providing materials to vendors in different formats to promote their products, according to a recent survey.

Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE), a rights-based research and advocacy platform, organised a meeting yesterday to disseminate the findings of its study with National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"Tobacco companies take advantage of a provision which does not specifically mention a ban on displaying products at retail shops," said Zayed Siddiki, project coordinator of VOICE, in his keynote speech.

He said the companies strategically pressurise vendors to display advertisement and promotional materials. Financial and non-cash incentives are provided at all levels of distribution.

Promotional materials include stickers, posters, branded lighters, stands displaying

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## 'Our situation could be like that of Afghanistan'

Warns Shahriar Kabir about dangers of fundamentalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh might face dire consequences, if a mass cultural movement cannot be waged against fundamentalism, said Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir yesterday.

"If the influence of 'Taliban culture' cannot be deterred in Bangabandhu's secular Bangladesh, then our situation could be like that of Afghanistan someday," he said, while addressing a webinar.

The cultural squad of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the webinar -- "Cultural Movement against Fundamentalism," said a press release of the committee.

Addressing the webinar, Shahriar Kabir, also a noted war crimes researcher, said the traditional secular culture of Bangladesh and free-thinking have repeatedly been attacked by the fundamentalist group that committed genocide and "legitimised" rape of women during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

This group assassinated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975 and is now making ill-effort to drive Bangladesh's society, culture and politics towards fundamentalism, he said.

He said their political and ideological successors are the Taliban, Al-Qaeda and IS of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Middle East.

When the Taliban assumed power in Afghanistan for the first time 25 years ago, they banned everything in Afghan culture including music, dance, theatre, arts and film and engaged Afghan women within the four walls, he said.

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Water from the Rupsha has entered Khulna city due to high tide. For around a week, low lying parts of the city remain flooded. While vehicles and pedestrians are being forced to plough through the water, households are busy sweeping it out. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Labour migration in slow lane

FROM PAGE 3  
Medical tests of workers were hindered greatly until recently. At present, after meeting all kinds of Covid-19 related conditions, migrant workers are able to fly to popular destinations including Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar.

However, recruiting agencies continued to receive lower numbers of demand letters (request for workers) from foreign employers than what they would receive pre-pandemic.

Besides, a major job market in Southeast Asia, Malaysia, is still not taking workers from Bangladesh since September, 2018.

M Tipu Sultan, president of Recruiting Agencies Oikya Parishad, said because of the pandemic's fallout, they have been receiving a smaller number of demand letters.

"In the past one month, the number of demand letters [for new workers] was about 20,000 to 30,000. In normal times, the number would reach 60,000 to 70,000 a month," said Tipu, also a member of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

Recruiting agencies could not send many workers despite possessing demand letters, due to various reasons amid Covid-19 restrictions. Moreover, overseas job markets have also shrunk during the pandemic, he said.

The country's labour migration sector

has been greatly affected by the pandemic, he added, urging the government to take necessary steps, including timely inoculation of migrant workers to ensure that they can fly abroad.

### OVERSEAS JOB SITUATION IN 2021

According to BMET data, in the first eight months this year, 2.75 lakh workers were sent abroad. Saudi Arabia, Oman and Singapore remained the top destinations for new migrant workers.

Of the 2.75 lakh new employees, about 2.15 lakh were in Saudi Arabia. Besides, 19,618 workers were sent to Oman and 12,482 to Singapore.

Moreover, Jordan hired 7,996 workers, United Arab Emirates 4,690, and Qatar 5,207.

Shakirul Islam, chairperson of Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Program, said besides sending a greater number of workers, the government also needs to look at whether they are getting their promised job abroad.

Also, the government has to ensure that the workers are going abroad with required skills, he said.

Contacted, Shahidul Alam, director general of BMET, told The Daily Star that they have been providing all kinds of support to migrant workers, as per government directives, and maintaining health guidelines.

## 4 get life term for killing Ruet driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for killing a bus driver of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) in 2018. Justice Anup Kumar of the Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal handed down the verdict.

The convicts are Sobel Rana, Nur Nabi, Anwar Hossain and Sabbir Hossain, said public prosecutor Entajul Haque. They were present at the court during the verdict.

There are two other accused in the case whose verdict is still pending with a juvenile court.

Aabdu Salam, the Ruet driver, was hacked to death on a road near Agrani School and College inside the campus on April 24, 2018 while attempting to resolve a local conflict.

Later, his son filed the case.

## Mahmudul Huq's death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Abu Sayeed Mahmudul Huq, former manager of Common Service Division of BCIC, said a press release.



To mark the death anniversary, family members of the deceased organised a doa mahfil and distributed food among the destitute in Dhaka. Mahmudul Huq, father-in-law of journalist Habibur Rahman Khan, died on this day in 2015.

## Two-day strategic

FROM PAGE 3  
connectivity a significant part of the bilateral relationship.

UK also is a major trade and development partner of Bangladesh, which exports products worth \$3 billion under a duty-free regime. It is also a major investor.

Bangladesh will seek an extension of the UK's zero-duty GSP facility until 2029.

Trade relations with the UK, which came out of EU early last year, will be discussed elaborately in the dialogue, a foreign ministry official said.

"Bangladesh is seeking more foreign investments, but there are issues that need to be addressed including ease of doing business here," a diplomatic source said.

One of Bangladesh's major concerns right now is the UK's red listing, which is preventing at least 7,000 British Bangladeshis to travel back to the UK, along with restricting trade-related travelling.

"Bangladesh will emphasise the red listing," the official concerned said, adding that Dhaka will also seek a simpler and

efficient visa regime for Bangladeshis.

As a climate vulnerable country, Bangladesh will seek technological transfer for renewable energy, net zero carbon emission, and compensation for loss and damage caused by climate change from the developed countries.

In the last strategic dialogue in 2019, UK had raised the issues of free elections, freedom of speech, democracy, human and labour rights, irregular migration, good governance, gender equality etc.

A diplomatic source said these are some of the issues that the UK will raise again during the strategic dialogue. "As a Commonwealth country, UK wants the values of democracy, women's rights, and human rights to be upheld."

Bangladesh will also seek more pressure from the UK on Myanmar for Rohingya repatriation as well as funding for humanitarian assistance. The two countries will also talk about the Afghanistan situation and ways to work in unison to restore regional peace, security, and stability.

## Our Situation

FROM PAGE 3

Like the Taliban, fundamentalist groups in Bangladesh have been spreading hatred against people belonging to different religions.

They are also spreading hatred against those who express different opinion and practice different traditions, Shahriar Kabir added.

The fundamentalist groups are trying to create communal chaos in society and pushing for banning all forms of art and artistic expressions, he further said.

Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Monoranjan Ghoshal, president of the Nirmul Committee's cultural squad, chaired the webinar.

## Are transgender people

FROM PAGE 3

daily vaccination update, prepared by the Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), only provide an update of the number of men and women who took the vaccine, with no room for counting the transgender population.

The Daily Star spoke to several transgender people of the capital about the vaccination process, and an overwhelming majority of them stated that they were reluctant to take vaccines considering the horrible experiences their fellows went through.

For example, Samiul Alam Shammi, a transwoman entrepreneur and trans rights activist, said that she didn't go to take the vaccine, as she saw how badly her "guru" had been treated when she went to take the vaccine.

A few of them also claimed that many in their community were not tested and vaccinated since they are not accustomed to the registration process, are uneducated and lack access to smart phones and internet connections.

Another major challenge, faced by the hijra community, is that since they live under their "gurus" (mentors) from their teenage years, many do not possess an NID, which is mandatory for registering online.

Some transgender people also claimed that they were not allowed to take the vaccine during the mass

vaccination drive.

Megh, another transgender person, said when she and her friends went to take the vaccine at a school in the capital's Badda, the people who maintain the queues asked them to step aside and let the others waiting in line go first.

"When we asked why, they told us to show up the next day, but we did not go later, considering the humiliation and denial," she said.

Most of the transgender population faced similar experiences in terms of getting tested for coronavirus. For example, Chaity said she was not welcomed when, last September, she went to get a Covid test at Rajbari Sadar Hospital. "I knew some people, who helped me get tested eventually," she said. "But I know many who went through all the symptoms of Covid-19 but didn't get tested fearing the hassle. They took medicines from the traditional healers and dispensaries."

"Some trans people also died of Covid-like symptoms in Dhaka, but the 'gurus' didn't disclose the information to anyone, fearing the consequences."

Dr Mashiur Rahman, advocacy manager of Bandhu Social Welfare Society, an organisation that works for the rights of gender diverse populations, said they too have received many such allegations of harassment and humiliation during

the testing and vaccination process.

"We are trying through our community volunteers in districts to sensitise both the transgender people and staffers, and have been noticing some progress. However, most members of gender diverse communities are still left out of the vaccination drive," he added.

Contacted, DGHS spokesperson Dr Robed Amin said DGHS didn't receive any such complaint so far.

"The government already recognised them as the third gender, but we are yet to overcome the social challenges in accepting them. They will take the vaccine as per their preferred gender [male or female], and if they are denied the vaccine, we will look into it," he said.

Dr Ainoun Naher, a professor of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University, said although the government recognised them, they first need to be accepted socially.

"They must be given the vaccine as per their gender mentioned in the NID, and there must be a complaint box in every centre so that if someone goes through any untoward situation they can make a complaint," she said.

The government must give them an opportunity to change their gender in their NID, since they are now officially recognised as the third gender, she added.

### HAMDARD GENERAL HOSPITAL

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**Job Vacancy**

Hamdard General Hospital organized by Hamdard Foundation Bangladesh is looking for a person for the post-

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Complete resume with written cover letter, recent 2 copies pp size photograph and all relevant documents may please be sent to: **Secretary General, Hamdard Foundation Bangladesh, Rupayan Trade Center (Level 12-13), 114 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000** by 25 September 2021, mentioning the post.  
N.B. Only short listed candidates will be notified.

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**CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**  
**Request for Expression of Interest (National)**

It is hereby notified to all concerns that the REoI notice published on "The Daily Star" and "The Daily Iffeq" on 07/09/2021 for the selection of Technical Assistance (TA) firm to support MFI for Local Entrepreneur (LE) selection, develop training materials for LEs & MFIs, capacity building of them and linking LEs with MFI is amended as follows:

As mentioned in REoI Notice	As amended
Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail <a href="mailto:rwashpksf.proc@gmail.com">rwashpksf.proc@gmail.com</a> ) by 15 September 2021.	Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail <a href="mailto:rwashpksf.proc@gmail.com">rwashpksf.proc@gmail.com</a> ) by 23 September 2021; 3:00 PM

All other Terms and Conditions shall remain unchanged. This Corrigendum Notice will be considered as integral part of the aforesaid Tender.

**AQM Golam Mawla, Deputy Managing Director-2 & PE**

### Job Opportunity

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- As per company policy.

**Read before Apply:** Interested persons who meet the above-mentioned criteria are requested to submit their updated "Resume" with photograph at [Shahjalalventurecapital@gmail.com](mailto:Shahjalalventurecapital@gmail.com) the subject line of the email should mention the position advertised.

**Or Send the hard copy of your resume to registered office**  
**Application Deadline: October 15, 2021**

## Horlicks Mother's Plus observes Breastfeeding Week

CITY DESK

Horlicks Mother's Plus, one of the most popular brands of Unilever Consumer Care Limited, has completed its month-long campaign by raising awareness among people on the importance of breastfeeding and the benefits of better nutrition for nursing mothers, said a press release.

In line with this year's "World Breastfeeding Week 2021" theme "Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility", Horlicks Mother's Plus has designed a campaign titled "Matridughdho paan-e gori shohayok poribesh". As part of the campaign, awareness sessions, free health check-up facilities and consultation for nursing mothers, and releasing educational videos in social media were organised.

A webinar was also held engaging the country's top public health specialists, where they explained the key challenges during pregnancy and the importance of breastfeeding to improve public health.

KSM Minhaj, managing director of Unilever Consumer Care Limited (UCL), among others, spoke at the event.

## Tobacco

FROM PAGE 3

cigarette packets, and small cigarette cases.

Kazi Zebunnessa Begum, additional secretary and programme director at NTCC, said the health ministry is working on strengthening the tobacco control law.

Dr Md Shahadat Hossain Mahmud, director general (health economics unit) of NTCC, and Khondokar Zakir Hossain, additional secretary and coordinator; Mostafizur Rahman, lead policy advisor of The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; and Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, executive director of VOICE, were present at the event.

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**ব্যাংকের পুরাতন গাড়ী বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র আহ্বান**

বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর দাপ্তরিক কাজে ব্যবহৃত নিম্নলিখিত ১১ (এগারো) টি পুরাতন গাড়ী (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) বিক্রির জন্য আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অফিস চলাকালীন বিক্রয়যোগ্য গাড়ীসমূহ যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে পরিদর্শন করা যাবে। গাড়ীর বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী সংশ্লিষ্ট সিডিউল অফারতথ্যে নম্বর ২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকার বিনিময়ে সেপ্টেম্বর ২৩, ২০২১ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এক্ষেত্রে, ১ (এক) বা একাধিক গাড়ী ক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগে সংরক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে সেপ্টেম্বর ২৬, ২০২১ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একই দিন বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র প্রত্যাহান করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রম নং	বিবরণ নং	ব্র্যান্ড/প্রকার	সিডি	নিবন্ধনের তারিখ	বর্তমান অবস্থান
১	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১৪-৫৮৩৭	টিআই কারিনা (টয়োটা)	১৫০০	২৭/১২/১৯৯৭	প্রধান কার্যালয়
২	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১১-৯৩৩৭	টয়োটা করোলা	১৩০০	০৪/০২/২০০৩	প্রধান কার্যালয়
৩	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১১-৯৯৬১	নিশান	১৩০০	২২/০২/২০০৪	প্রধান কার্যালয়
৪	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১২-২৯৬৯	টয়োটা ইয়ারিস	১৩০০	২৩/০২/২০০৭	প্রধান কার্যালয়
৫	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১২-২৯৬৭	টয়োটা ইয়ারিস	১৩০০	২৩/০২/২০০৭	প্রধান কার্যালয়
৬	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১২-৮৭৪১	মিতসুবিশি ল্যান্ডার	১৩০০	২৭/১০/২০০৯	প্রধান কার্যালয়
৭	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১২-৮৭৪২	মিতসুবিশি ল্যান্ডার	১৩০০	২৭/১০/২০০৯	প্রধান কার্যালয়
৮	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ১২-৮৯৪৩	মিতসুবিশি ল্যান্ডার	১৩০০	২৭/১২/২০০৯	প্রধান কার্যালয়
৯	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ৩৩-০৮৪৩	হোজা সিটি ডি	১৫০০	২৮/১২/২০১১	প্রধান কার্যালয়
১০	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ৩৩-১৫৩৩	হোজা সিটি এন্ড সি	১৫০০	২৮/১২/২০১১	প্রধান কার্যালয়
১১	ঢাকা মেট্রো: প ৩১-৮০৭৭	টয়োটা হেজারা	১৫০০	০৪/০৭/২০১১	প্রধান কার্যালয়

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

### Job Opportunity

#### Shahjalal Equity Management Limited (Full-Fledged Merchant Bank)

Al-Razi complex, Level-9 Suite-901,  
166-167 Shahid Syed Nazrul Islam Sharani, Dhaka-1000.

**Title: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Vacancy: 01**

**Educational Requirements:**

- Candidate should have FCA/FCMA/ACA/CFA/CA (CC) partly qualified with MBA/ Masters/equivalents degree from reputed University major in Finance/Accounting /Economics/Management.

**Experience Requirements:**

- At least 10 year(s)

**Job Responsibilities:**

- Sound knowledge about Capital Market, Bond Market, Merchant Banking, Issue Management, Underwriting, Rules, Regulations and Policies of Securities & Exchange Commission, Dhaka Stock Exchange, Central Depository Bangladesh Limited and other regulatory bodies.
- Knowledge about Fundamental and Technical Analysis of Capital Market.
- Well Conversant with Investment Products and ability to develop efficient portfolio management strategies.
- Conceptually sound in transaction/trading on securities, Brokerage & Merchant Banking Operation [equities, bond, debentures etc.]
- Capable in market trend analysis & market forecasting mechanism.
- In-depth knowledge to support business unit for preparation of short & long term
- Strategies & operation plan based on financial analysis.
- To ensure profitability target by maximizing revenues from Corporate, Retail & Foreign Portfolios
- To maintain liaison with regulatory authorities and prominent customers.
- Ability to attract foreign investment in the capital market
- Strong interpersonal leadership and communication skills.
- Monitoring the overall operation and compliance related activities of the company
- Time to time report to Board of Directors.
- Complete the additional task given by the Board of Directors, if any.

**Additional Requirements:**

- Age should not over 45 years
- 5 years' experience in the relevant field with proven record of accomplishment.
- Encouraging if having at least 03 years' experience as Chief Executive Officer in a reputed Merchant Bank with proven record of accomplishment. Experience may be relaxed for highly deserving candidates.
- Age may be relaxed for the highly deserving candidate.
- Have the knowledge of VAT & Tax rules.
- Must have sound knowledge in Microsoft office
- Must have experience in software operation.

**Compensation & Other Benefits**

- As per company policy.

**Read before Apply:** Interested persons who meet the above-mentioned criteria are requested to submit their updated "Resume" with photograph at [info@shajalalequity.com](mailto:info@shajalalequity.com). The subject line of the email should mention the position advertised.

**Or Send the hard copy of your resume to registered office**  
**Application Deadline: October 15, 2021**

# Frequent power cuts make life unbearable in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Frequent load shedding has turned the life of Tangail people unbearable in hot weather condition and paralysed business operations for the last one week.

Production in the mills and industries has also been badly hit by the disruption of power supply.

The authorities blamed shortage of supply against the demand behind the situation and they also said that such a situation will prevail for the next one week.

Kaniz Fatema, a housewife of registrypara area in Tangail town, said, "Our lives have become miserable due to frequent power cuts. Due to power outage at the midnight, we can't sleep for hot temperature."

Abdul Malek of Biswas Betka area in the town said, "My daughter's SSC exams are ensuing but she is struggling to take preparation due to frequent power cuts."

Saiful Islam of Akurtakurpara area in the town said, "My children could not prepare their school



An SSC examinee prepares her lessons lighting a candle during power outage in Tangail town. Frequent power cuts in the district for the last one week have been causing immense sufferings to the people amid soaring temperatures.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

The authorities blamed shortage of supply against the demand behind the situation. They said such a situation will prevail for next one week.

assignments in time due to the regular power outage."

Ahmedul Haque of Basail said, "We are getting electricity only for 4 to 5 hours in 24 hours."

Nizam Uddin of Charabari area in Sadar upazila said power outage has become a regular problem in his area for the last couple of weeks.

"We are suffering a lot as it

happens eight to ten times a day."

"We hope that the authorities will do something to lessen our sufferings," he added.

Although the government recently has brought all upazilas in the district under hundred percent electrification, frequent power outage is a regular matter in the rural areas, sources said.

Tangail Palli Bidyut Samity supplies electricity to seven upazilas in the district-- Sadar, Delduar, Mirzapur, Nagarpur, Basail, Sakhipur and Kalihati --and also partially in Chouhali upazila of Sirajganj. The Samity gets electricity from Tangail and Kabirpur grids of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB).

"The supply has been less than the demand from August 28," said Abu Hanif Miah, general manager of Tangail Palli Bidyut Samity.

The PGCB, however, assured

that the situation will be normal

after the production increases within the next seven days, he said.

"We are sincerely sorry for the temporary inconveniences of our honorable clients/customers amid the soaring hot weather," he added.

Abul Kalam Mostofa Labu, president of Zila Babosaye Oikyo Jote in Tangail, said the traders incurred huge losses due to the outbreak of coronavirus and lockdown for long period. Now when they were trying to turn around from the crisis, the frequent power outage is creating serious problem for them.

"We know load shedding occurs when the demand of electricity is much higher than the generation of power. The present government claims that power generation has increased, but we do not see any tangible proof of it. On the other hand, electricity has become

costlier," he said.

"If it is regional problem, the local authorities should inform the matter to the people beforehand through announcement so that they can take necessary preparation for it. If it is a national problem, the power minister should explain the reason and say sorry to the people for their sufferings," he added.

Contacted, Tofazzal Hossain Pramanik, superintendent engineer of Power Development Board (PDB) in Tangail, said that normally the demand of electricity is 235MW in the district, which has increased to 270MW during the irrigation period.

"However, we are getting around 170 MW from the national grid currently. As a result, the interruption in the power supply is causing. We understand the sufferings of the people and we are sorry for it," he said.

## Two held for raping schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police on Tuesday night arrested two people in connection with a case for raping a schoolgirl and recording the video of the incident in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila.

The arrestees, Mahbubur Rahman, 38, and Anik Bagha, 25, also demanded Tk 50,000 from the tenth-grader victim to delete the obscene video, OC of Abhaynagar Police Station Shamim Hasan said.

The culprits called the girl at Mahbub's fish enclosure luring her to give a job and raped her.



Parents of Srewo Mostafiz, a Class VI student of Quantum Cosmo School and College in Bandarban's Lama upazila, stage a demonstration in front of Bandarban Press Club yesterday, demanding justice and proper investigation into the mysterious deaths of two students, including their son, of the institution.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তর  
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স্মারক নং-ন-২৬(অংশ-২)/৯৫৫/স্থঃ তারিখ: ০৭-০৯-২০২১ খ্রিঃ

### স্থগিতকৃত নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত নোটিশ

স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তরের ৩ডি এনিমেটর, ড্রাফটসম্যান(নকশাকার গ্রেড-২), সীটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, কেয়ারটেকার, ড্রাফটসম্যান(নকশাকার গ্রেড-৪), অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক, সহকারী মডেল মেকার, সহকারী প্রিন্টার, ইলেকট্রিশিয়ান, প্রাধার, কার্পেন্টার এবং বুক বাইন্ডার মোট ১২(বার) শ্রেণির নন-সেজেটেড ৩৮(আটত্রিশ)টি শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে গত ০২/০৭/২০২১(শুক্রবার) এবং ০৩/০৭/২০২১(শনিবার) তারিখে "সিন্ডিকেট গার্লস কলেজ, ১৪৮, নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা"-তে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ সাময়িকভাবে স্থগিত করা হয়েছিল।

বর্ণিত পদগুলোতে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে স্থগিতকৃত লিখিত পরীক্ষাসমূহ ০২/০৭/২০২১ (শুক্রবার) এবং ০৩/০৭/২০২১ (শনিবার) এর পরিবর্তে যথাক্রমে আগামী ১৫/১০/২০২১(শুক্রবার) এবং ১৬/১০/২০২১(শনিবার) তারিখে প্রবেশ পত্র উল্লেখিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী সিন্ডিকেট গার্লস কলেজ, ১৪৮, নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকাতে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট www.architecture.gov.bd এবং দপ্তরের নোটিশ বোর্ডে দেয়া আছে।

পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের তারিখ	সময়	পদের নাম	পরীক্ষার সময়কাল
১৫-১০-২০২১ (শুক্রবার)	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-৩০ মিঃ	৩ডি এনিমেটর	৯০ মিঃ
	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-৩০ মিঃ	ড্রাফটসম্যান(নকশাকার গ্রেড-২)	৯০ মিঃ
	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-০০ মিঃ	সহকারী মডেল মেকার	৬০ মিঃ
	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-০০ মিঃ	সহকারী প্রিন্টার	৬০ মিঃ
	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-০০ মিঃ	বুক বাইন্ডার	৬০ মিঃ
	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-০০ মিঃ	কার্পেন্টার	৬০ মিঃ
	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-০০ মিঃ	প্রাধার	৬০ মিঃ
	১০-০০ থেকে ১১-০০ মিঃ	ইলেকট্রিশিয়ান	৬০ মিঃ
	০২-৩০ থেকে ০৪-০০ মিঃ	অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক	৯০ মিঃ
	১৬-১০-২০২১ (শনিবার)	০২-৩০ থেকে ০৪-০০ মিঃ	ড্রাফটসম্যান(নকশাকার গ্রেড-৪)
০২-৩০ থেকে ০৪-০০ মিঃ		সীটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর	৯০ মিঃ
০২-৩০ থেকে ০৪-০০ মিঃ		কেয়ারটেকার	৯০ মিঃ

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য : ইতোপূর্বে প্রেরিত প্রবেশ পত্র (Interview Card) উল্লিখিত পরীক্ষার জন্য কার্যকর হবে। নতুনভাবে আর কোনো প্রবেশ পত্র ইস্যু করা হবে না।

(শেখ মোহাম্মদ সাইদুর রহমান)  
প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা  
স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari  
Telephone No. 0551 61403  
E-mail: eenil@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.7364.456.07.012.20-1493 Date: 08-09-2021

### e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Nilphamari for the procurement of:

Tender ID & Tender No.	Name of works	Tender document price (in BDT)	Tender security (in BDT)	Last selling & opening (date and time)
e-TID No. 607617, Tender No. e-GP-01/EE/RHD/Nil/2021-2022	Emergency pavement repair by Base type-II, carpeting and sealcoat at 19th (P), 20th (P) and 21st (P) km of Jharbari (Birgonj) Joygonj Bhabaniganj-Nilphamari (Police Line) - Pachmatha-Panchapukur-Kishoregonj (Sadurarpool) Road (Z-5027) under Road Division, Nilphamari during the year 2021-2022.	2000	125000	Date: 26-09-2021 Time: Up to 17.00 & Date: 27-09-2021 Time: After 12.00
e-TID No. 607621, Tender No. e-GP-02/EE/RHD/Nil/2021-2022	Emergency pavement repair by repair, carpeting, sealcoat and SBST from Ch. 0+000 m to Ch. 1+550 m of BADC Seed Store Domar Bus Stand Road (Z 5702) under Road Division, Nilphamari during the year 2021-2022.	2000	100000	Date: 26-09-2021 Time: Up to 17.00 & Date: 27-09-2021 Time: After 12.00

GD-1611

Md. Monzurul Karim  
ID No. 602000  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari

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ফোনঃ ০১৭৬৯-৭১৯৮০৬, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮৮০২২২৩৩০৩৫০১

০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.১১.১৬৫.২১. ১২৪৭ ০৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১

### নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিমিটেড, সোনাকান্দা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এ নিম্নলিখিত পদে প্রকৃত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের মধ্য হতে দৈনিক/ভিত্তিক শ্রমিক নিয়োগ করা হবেঃ

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স	দৈনিক মজুরী	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন
১।	দক্ষ ওয়েল্ডার	০৫ (পনেরো)	১। দেশী অথবা বিদেশী কোন শিপইয়ার্ডে ন্যূনতম ০৫ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। ন্যূনতম ৮ম শ্রেণি পাশ।	সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর।		
২।	দক্ষ ফিটার	০৫ (পনেরো)	১। দেশী অথবা বিদেশী কোন শিপইয়ার্ডে ন্যূনতম ০৫ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। ন্যূনতম ৮ম শ্রেণি পাশ।	সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর।		অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিম্নলিখিত দৈনিক শ্রমিকের কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৩।	মেশিন অপারেটর	০৫ (পাঁচ)	১। দেশী অথবা বিদেশী কোন শিপইয়ার্ডে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। ন্যূনতম এসএসসি পাশ।	ন্যূনতম ২৫ বছর।		সকল জেলা
৪।	আধাদক্ষ ফিটার	২০ (বিশ)	১। দেশী অথবা বিদেশী কোন শিপইয়ার্ডে ন্যূনতম ০৫ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। ন্যূনতম ৮ম শ্রেণি পাশ।	সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর।		
৫।	আধাদক্ষ কাটার	২০ (বিশ)	১। দেশী অথবা বিদেশী কোন শিপইয়ার্ডে ন্যূনতম ০৫ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। ন্যূনতম ৮ম শ্রেণি পাশ।	সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর।		

২। প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রচলিত নিয়মে দৈনিক ভিত্তিক মজুরী কাঠামো মোতাবেক মজুরী পরিশোধ করা হবে।

৩। অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের মেডিক্যাল সেকশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মেডিক্যাল ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট সংশ্লিষ্টকর্তার প্রতীপাদিত হলে দৈনিক ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে।

৪। যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, সদ্য তোলা ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌরসভা/ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/ কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব/ জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র, জন্মনিবন্ধন (যদি থাকে), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত সকল সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত কপি সহ আগামী ১৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ০৯০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সারসরি অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বলা যাচ্ছে।

৫। প্রার্থীদেরকে বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত মৌখিক ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ ডিএ দেওয়া হবে না।

৬। পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/ বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে।

৭। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

GD-1608

পক্ষে/ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

**MORE NEWS**

**78 killed in Yemen clashes**

Nearly 80 Yemen rebels and pro-government troops have been killed as fighting intensifies for the northern city of Marib, officials said yesterday, nearly seven years into a war that has triggered a major humanitarian crisis. Scores of rebels were killed in airstrikes after they renewed their attempt to capture the strategic city, the internationally recognised government's last outpost in the north, according to loyalists. "Sixty Huthi rebels were killed in the last 24 hours while 18 pro-government troops were killed and dozens injured in clashes over the past 48 hours," a government military official said.

**Indonesia jail fire kills 41**

A fire tore through an overcrowded Indonesian prison in the early hours of yesterday when most inmates were asleep, killing 41 people and injuring dozens of others, an official said. Firefighters extinguished the blaze -- which was mostly contained within one block that housed prisoners jailed on drug charges -- at around 3:00 am and evacuated the victims. Authorities were still investigating the cause of the incident at Tangerang Penitentiary, just outside the capital Jakarta, but suspected an electrical fault may have been to blame. The penitentiary department's website showed the jail had just over 2,000 inmates, more than three times as many prisoners than it was designed to hold.

**Major Mexico quake kills 1**

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Mexico on Tuesday near the Pacific resort city of Acapulco, leaving at least one person dead and shaking buildings in the capital several hundred kilometers away. The epicenter was 11 kilometers southeast of Acapulco in Guerrero state, the National Seismological Service reported. A man was killed when a utility pole fell on him in the nearby city of Coyuca de Benite. Local media said there were no reports of significant destruction.



**Russia minister dies during Arctic drills to save man**

A Russian government minister, who once served in President Vladimir Putin's security detail, died during exercises in the Arctic yesterday while trying to save the life of a documentary film director, his ministry said. Yevgeny Zinichev, 55, who headed the high-profile emergencies ministry since 2018, was in the remote city of Norilsk to oversee large-scale drills in the region. The ministry said in a statement he died while trying to save Alexander Melnik who had travelled to Norilsk to make a documentary about the Arctic and the Northern Sea Route. It said Melnik had slipped on a wet rock and fallen. "Yevgeny tried to grab Alexander and jumped after him, but unfortunately, they both died after falling from a high cliff into a mountainous river," it said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A member of the Taliban forces points his gun at protesters, as Afghan demonstrators shout slogans during an anti-Pakistan protest, near the Pakistan embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. The phot was released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**'Not inclusive'**

Experts say Taliban's new govt announcement a bad sign as it fails to represent country's diverse groups

AGENCIES

Expectations were building as the Taliban were taking time in announcing a government after taking over the country in a lightning offensive and decimating oppositions on the way.

The cabinet list announced on Tuesday was entirely filled with leaders of the Islamist militant movement, and veterans of a guerrilla war that ended with a Taliban victory last month after two decades of fighting.

World powers have told the Taliban that it needs to have an inclusive government that backs up its pledges of a more conciliatory approach which upholds human rights if it wants peace and development.

Regional analysts also urged them to curb in the global jihadist elements of the movement and promote the nationalistic elements.

But the list of ministers, although interim in nature, didn't go with the expectations.

Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund, who is on a UN sanctions list, was named as leader of the new government, while Taliban co-founder Abdul Ghani Baradar was named as his deputy. Sirajuddin Haqqani, son of the founder of the notorious Haqqani Network, has been named as interior minister.

Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, son of Mullah Omar, has been named as defence minister. Hedayatullah Badri will be the acting minister of finance, while Amir Khan Muttaqi, a Taliban negotiator in Doha, was named foreign minister.

Al Jazeera's Charles Stratford said many of the appointments involved "old faces".

"It's also important to say that a lot of these names, the vast majority of them are actually Pashtun and are not taking into consideration, arguably critics would say, the vast great ethnic diversity of this country."

Commenting on the Taliban's announcement,

Obaidullah Baheer, of the American University of Afghanistan, said it did not do "their cause for international recognition any favours".

"The amount of time spent wasn't on discussing or negotiating inclusivity or potential power sharing with other political parties. That time was spent on knowing how to split that pie amongst their own ranks," Baheer told Al Jazeera from Kabul.

Yesterday, Afghanistan's last resistance group the National Resistance Front (NRF) denounced the Taliban's new interim government as "illegitimate", after its leader Ahmad Massoud called for a nationwide uprising against the country's Islamist rulers.

"The narrative of a modern Taliban is over... there is no Taliban in favour of an inclusive government," NRF spokesperson Ali Maisam Nazary said.

"This is going to become a pariah government, an illegitimate government... just look at the amount of terrorists in this cabinet. And we expect they are going to reform?"

Nazary said the new government does not represent Afghanistan's diverse ethnic mosaic.

All the top posts went to key leaders from the Taliban and the Haqqani network -- the violent faction known for carrying out some of Afghanistan's bloodiest bombings and suicide attacks in recent years.

By excluding representatives from Afghanistan's many ethnicities -- including its sizeable Shia and Hazara communities, the Taliban "have deepened" social divides, he said.

In the 20 years the Taliban spent as insurgents, Afghan society transformed into a much younger population with a taste for greater freedom, Nazary added.

As a result, the Taliban will struggle to force people into accepting their restrictive interpretation of sharia law.

**TALIBAN'S NEW CABINET**

**India restricts religious festivals**

AFP, Mumbai

Indian authorities are restricting major religious festivals that start this week and attract huge crowds, warning that a new Covid-19 wave had already begun in the financial capital Mumbai.

State governments across the country of 1.3 billion people, which saw a devastating coronavirus surge in April-May, are clamping down on mass gatherings.

"The third wave is not coming, it is already here," Mumbai's mayor Kishori Pednekar told reporters on Tuesday.

"We can celebrate festivals later. Let us first prioritise the lives and health of our citizens," added Uddhav Thackeray, the chief minister of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital.

He was speaking ahead of the 11-day Hindu Ganesh Chaturthi festival, which starts today.

The last Covid-19 wave overwhelmed India's hospitals and was known to have killed more than 200,000 people.

**NEW COVID SURGE FEARS**



It struck after one of the world's biggest religious gatherings, the Kumbh Mela, which attracted some 25 million Hindu pilgrims.

That gathering, large state election rallies and the infectious Delta virus variant -- first detected in India -- were blamed by experts for fuelling the surge.

Authorities said a recent spike in cases in the southern state of Kerala after the Onam festival in August

should be cause for alarm.

But festive crowds have still packed markets in Maharashtra and other states in recent days, ignoring the warnings.

The state government will limit the height of effigies of the elephant-headed god Ganesha to reduce the number of devotees carrying them during the festival. Processions on the festival's first and last days will be banned.

In the neighbouring state of Karnataka, a night curfew will remain in place and districts posting higher positive test levels will be banned from holding Ganesh celebrations.

The southern state of Tamil Nadu has banned public festival celebrations, while the eastern state of West Bengal was expected to impose curbs on the nine-day Durga Puja in October.

India has the world's second-highest known caseload, with more than 33 million infections, and 441,000 deaths.

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**



SEPTEMBER 09

**1776** -- US Congress renames the nation "United States of America". This replaced the term "United Colonies."

**1976** - Chairman Mao Zedong, Chinese revolutionary leader, died.

**1993** - Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization exchange letters of mutual recognition.

**2015** - Britain's Queen Elizabeth becomes longest reigning monarch of United Kingdom.

SOURCE: REUTERS

**THE HAQQANI NETWORK**

**Afghanistan's most feared militants**

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban's interim government in Afghanistan includes two representatives from one of their most feared factions -- the Haqqani network. As expected, they have emerged as key players in the new setup, after the Taliban routed the US-backed Afghan military and captured Kabul on August 15.

**Who are the Haqqanis?**

The shadowy group was formed by Jalaluddin Haqqani, who gained prominence in the 1980s as a hero of the anti-Soviet jihad. At the time, he was a valuable CIA asset as the United States and its allies such as Pakistan funnelled arms and money to the mujahideen. During that conflict and following the Soviet withdrawal, Jalaluddin Haqqani fostered close ties with foreign jihadists -- including Osama bin Laden. He later allied with the Taliban who took over Afghanistan in 1996, serving as a minister for the Islamist regime until it was toppled by US-led forces in 2001. Jalaluddin Haqqani died after a long illness and his son Sirajuddin formally became the network's chief in 2018. Thanks to their financial and military strength -- and a reputation for ruthlessness -- the Haqqani network is considered semi-autonomous while remaining within the Taliban fold.

**Why are they so widely feared?**

The Haqqani network is blamed for some of the deadliest and most shocking attacks in Afghanistan during the last two decades. They have been designated a foreign terrorist group by the United States, and are also under United Nations sanctions. The Haqqanis have a reputation for frequently using suicide bombers and have demonstrated the ability to carry out complex, high-casualty assaults on major targets including military installations and embassies. They have also long been suspected of links with the Pakistani military establishment -- US Admiral Mike Mullen described them as a "veritable arm" of Islamabad's intelligence in 2011. Pakistan denies the allegation. The Haqqanis have also hugely contributed to the Taliban's fighting ranks, and are the group's "most combat-ready forces", UN monitors said in a June report. The monitors also described the network as the "primary liaison" between the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

**What have they got in the new govt?**

Sirajuddin Haqqani has been given one of the highest-profile ministries -- interior. The post would give him control over Afghanistan's entire internal security apparatus. This is a major role change, following years of violent attacks by his group. As interior minister, Sirajuddin will have to deal with the threat of the regional chapter of the Islamic State group, myriad challenges posed by Afghanistan's deep ethnic divides, as well as crime. His uncle Khalil Haqqani has been given the refugees ministry. Sirajuddin and Khalil are both still listed as wanted by the United States, with millions of dollars in bounties on offer.

**Quotes of the day**



China has a real problem with the Taliban.

So they're going to try to work out some arrangement with the Taliban, I'm sure. As does Pakistan, as does Russia, as does Iran.

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



Only God can remove me. I'm only coming out of this jailed, dead or victorious.

BRAZIL PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO REFUSES TO TAKE PART IN 2022 POLLS IF EVM IS USED



The eclaration of a transitional government

without the participation of other groups and yesterday's violence against demonstrators and journalists in Kabul are not signals that give cause for optimism.

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER HEIKO MAAS

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

**Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges**

**Bridges Division**

**Bangladesh Bridge Authority**

**Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212**

**www.bba.gov.bd**

**Invitation for Tender**

ETC কে টোল দেব মুক্ত সেতু পার হব

1	Ministry/Division	Bridges Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority.		
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of non-consulting services (supply of manpower).		
7	Invitation Ref No.	50.01.0000.856.14.003.21(Part-1)-171		
8	Date	7th September, 2021		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB.		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	224333400		
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge Project.		
14	Tender Package No.	SD3.		
15	Tender package name	Recruitment of outsourcing manpower.		
16	Tender publication date	Date: 9th September, 2021		
17	Tender last selling date	Date:	29th September, 2021	Time: During office hours
18	Tender closing date and time	Date:	30th September, 2021	Time: 02:30pm
19	Tender opening date and time	Date:	30th September, 2021	Time: 03:30pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Accounts Section (Room No. 622), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.		
	Selling tender document (principal)	Not applicable.		
	Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.		
	Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director (Room No. 915), Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.		
	Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director (Room No. 915), Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.		
21	Pre-tender meeting	11:00am, 20th September, 2021		
	Place of pre-tender meeting	Office of the Project Director (Room No. 915), Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	i)	<b>General experience:</b> The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer as prime contractor/sub-contractor/management contractor shall be 05 (five) years.	
		ii)	<b>Specific experience:</b> The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor in providing Non-Consultant Service (Supply of Manpower) of at least one contract of completed over a period of ten (10) years each with a value of at least of Tk 65.00 lac (sixty-five-lac only) shall be required.	
		iii)	The required average annual turnover of the tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 40.00 (forty) lac over the last three years.	
		iv)	The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 20.00 (twenty) lac.	
23	Brief description of physical services	Supply of non-consultant manpower includes: i) 3 Nos. Driver, ii) 3 Nos. Office Assistant, iii) 1 No. Cleaner, iv) 3 Nos. Security Guard and v) 2 Nos. Office Assistant cum Computer Typist.		
24	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.		
	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tender security amount (Tk)
25	Supply of 3 Nos. Driver, 3 Nos. Office Assistant, 1 No. Cleaner, 3 Nos. Security Guard and 2 Nos. Office Assistant Cum Computer Typist for 42 months (from 01 January, 2022 to 30 June, 2025) for Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge Project	Dhaka, Narayanganj	1,000.00 (one thousand only)	3,50,000.00 (Tk three lac fifty thousand only)
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
26	Name of official inviting tender	Shafiqul Islam.		
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director (Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge Project).		
28	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.		
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. +880255040374	Mobile: +88-01711-164101	
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
Note: Technical & financial envelope shall be submitted separately by the tenderer in an outer envelope.				
Shafiqul Islam Project Director Tel. No. +88-02-55040374 Mobile: +88-01711-164101 E-mail: pdmukterpur@gmail.com				

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**পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড** | **Human Resources Division**  
PUBALI BANK LIMITED | Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka

**SHADOW GOVERNMENT 'WAR' CALL**

**Myanmar cell towers attacked**

AFP, Yangon

Protesters have destroyed around a dozen military-owned communications towers in Myanmar, witnesses and reports said yesterday, after the country's self-proclaimed shadow government issued a call for a "defensive war" against the junta.

The country has been in chaos since the military seized power in February, sparking mass pro-democracy rallies followed by a deadly crackdown and renewed fighting with ethnic rebel militias in border areas.

More than 1,000 civilians have been killed and nearly 8,000 arrested, according to local observers.

Protesters said they targeted 11 mobile phone masts belonging to the military-owned Mytel, one of the country's four main cell networks, in the town of Budalin in the central Sagaing region.

While attacks on military-owned infrastructure and businesses have been seen before, Tuesday's spate of blasts comes after a call to arms from the so-called National Unity Government (NUG), which is made up of dissident lawmakers in hiding or exile, many of them from ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party.

NUG acting president Duwa Lashi La on Tuesday urged citizens to target military assets in their areas.

The military authorities -- officially known as the State Administration Council (SAC) -- dismiss the NUG and its affiliates as "terrorists" seeking to bring the country to ruin.

**BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION**

# JALAL-UD-DIN AHMAD

## A headmaster's memoir

NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

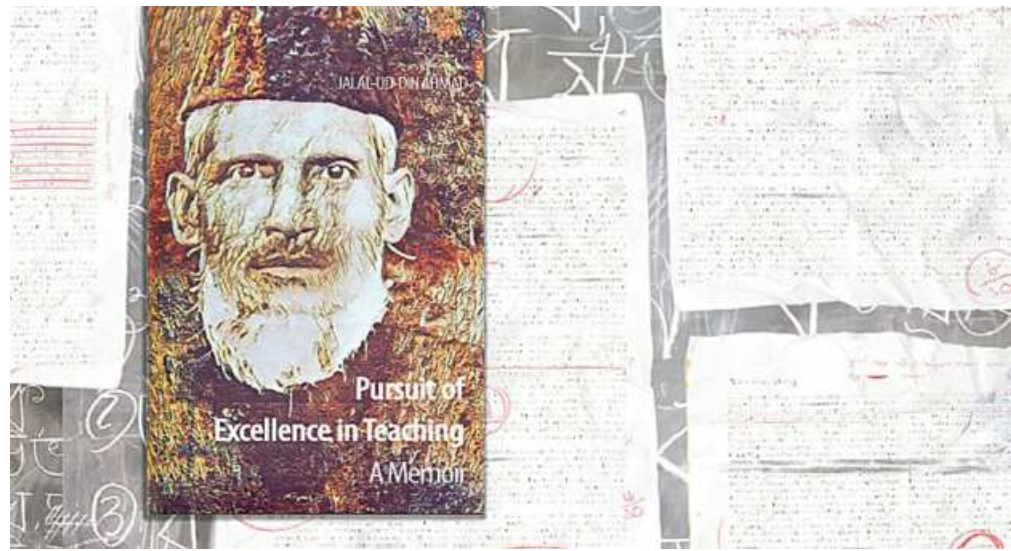
*Pursuit of Excellence in Teaching: A Memoir* (University Press Limited, 2021) chronicles the life and legacy of Jalal-Ud-Din Ahmad, a gifted educator who grew up to be the first graduate in his village in Feni, East Pakistan, and whose humble beginnings culminated in his winning the Presidential Award for "Best Headmaster in Pakistan" in 1967.

The contents of the memoir are recounted by Ahmad himself, but they were recorded by his son, Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed during conversations taped in 1987. The project came to a halt, however, following Jalal-Ud-Din Ahmad's passing in December of 1992. Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, a Rhodes Scholar and columnist, would not return to the project for over two decades before 2014, when efforts for the prospective book began again, and would continue for seven more years of editorial work. The headmaster's oral accounts constitute 99 percent of the finished book, the remaining one percent comprising updates between 1987 and 1992, as related by the editor.

Jalal-Ud-Din Ahmad's journey, as simple and humble as it was, was also one of turbulence. The beginnings of the memoir attest to this: "The theme of my life can be summed up thus: all my life, I had to struggle mightily to keep abreast of poverty; I made enormous sacrifices in pursuit of a decent education; in my professional life, powerful people pressured me relentlessly to break school rules and bend to their will; I played by the book, kept my focus on being an excellent teacher for my students, and sought Allah's guidance to successfully thwart them". This opening statement not only prepares us for the inspiring narrative about to unfold, but it also allows us a glance into the struggles of the man, and how they shaped his philosophy towards life.

Ahmad had been a citizen of three countries, starting from the British colonial era to present-day Bangladesh. He captures the essence and sociopolitical events of the times he witnessed in his memoir, from the mechanisms of the local schooling system to the culture of *jagirs*, and his transition through Daganbhuiyan Middle English School, Mongolkandi High School, Noakhali's Arun High School, and his matriculation and entrance into the University of Dhaka as a student of Mathematics Honours.

Another case in point would be Ahmad's



COLLAGE: MEHRUL BARI

descriptions of the Feni town of the 1920s, and the famine of 1943 during the Second World War, an event of such profound human suffering that it prompted Ahmad to take charge of the Union Food Committee and give aid where he could. Later, while serving as founding headmaster of the Kemal Ataturk High School, Ahmad was pressured to join politics by the school secretary, an offer which he refused, recalling his reasons as plainly as possible: "Any political preference on my part would have interfered with the integrity of my academic work and diminished my authority as impartial administrator", he wrote. "Life is too short for two careers." Despite his ethical ideologies, the school secretary would later try to frame him with false accusations.

Ahmad tried to be sensitive towards financially-constrained students, from whom he kept two separate accounts of fees so they could sit for their exams and pay them back later at their convenience. When this policy was abandoned by the order of the administration, Ahmad would often loan the students out of his own pocket. "We were trying to educate a very poor population, and my policy was to get every student to pay their tuition without disrupting their studies", he writes in one chapter.

His passion as an educator later took him to war-ravaged Feni Model High School, where he successfully brought about significant changes

and reconstruction, introducing sports and extra-curricular activities and shifting attention towards every student. This was a core part of his teaching philosophy, which helped elevate the Feni Model High School to the ranks of University of Chicago's Pilot School, a change that benefitted both students and teachers. Headmaster Ahmad's is a journey that can inspire and guide our present day educators and policymakers.

For me, the most intriguing part of this memoir was Jalal-Ud-Din Ahmad's children sharing the memories of their father. Well-established individuals with distinctive personalities and careers in their own right, his children are nonetheless influenced by the legacy of their father. In prose that is heartfelt albeit occasionally repetitive, in his preamble to the text and his editing of the book, Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed celebrates his father's achievements but also takes time to be critical of some of his actions, namely his strictness and the way he punished his children. This allows the reader to look at Jalal-Ud-Din-Ahmad through a more humane and nuanced lens. Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed's efforts to preserve his father's memories and his legacy are visible within every aspect of the production of this book. It is heartwarming.

Nahaly Nafisa Khan is sub editor of Toggle, The Daily Star.

**BOOK REVIEW: FICTION**

# How real is the world we imagine?

YAAMEEN AL-MUTTAQI

In the 1700s, there lived an Italian artist, architect, and archaeologist who saw in the world far more than what was in it. Giovanni Battista Piranesi captured his world, among other things, through prints: the most famous of which are the *Views*, an imitation of the classical remains of Rome, and the imaginary renditions of the *Prisons*. His works strained the bounds of the imagination, creating geometries and architectural wonders using optical illusions over a century before the likes of MC Escher. Susanna Clarke's second novel, *Piranesi* (Bloomsbury, 2020), lives up to its namesake. It constructs an elaborate world of concepts and illusions, and guides the reader through an impossible landscape as if it were a neighbourhood park. It is an adventure, a mystery, and a deep dive into the essence of human existence.

*Piranesi* is the tale of a man who lives in The House, which is the entire world. The House is labyrinthine, with no beginning nor end, and is lined with thousands of wholly unique, marvellous marble statues. He explores the house—its distant regions, its surges of migrating birds and tides—and journals his experiences, which is how we read of

is slow to reveal its secrets, and yet once a secret is revealed, it confuses more than clarifies, and this keeps the reader engaged throughout the tale. This is easy to do, for Piranesi is an incredibly likeable protagonist, resourceful, observant, and smart.

Yet Clarke expects her readers to be just as smart as her. She plays with distinction of the narrator's point of view versus the reader's: things that seem suspicious to us are normal to Piranesi, and things suspicious to Piranesi are normal to us, and the world itself is so bizarre and enigmatic that the reader cannot help but question everything they think they know. Clarke uses this confusion to build mystery and hide in plain sight.

This novel could be classified as a work of speculative fiction or mystery—but to do so would be nothing but a marketing move, for if anything, *Piranesi* is a dissection of perception, language and meaning, and reality itself. His diary entries, each quizzical to the outside viewer but oh-so-sensible when explained, are a fine example of how memory and language marry and play. His ascribing of meaning to the statues and the cycles of the House—to time



COLLAGE: SALWAN SAKIB SHAHRIAR

them. He shares his experiences and The House with his friend, The Other, a man who visits twice a week to seek help researching A Great and Secret Knowledge hidden within The House. But as Piranesi explores, questions emerge from the depths of The House, and the mysteries he is dragged into upturn his entire view of the world.

Like the works of Piranesi the printmaker, Clarke's writing is fractal in its layers of meaning. The story itself is presented as a journal, yet it throws itself against the conventions of journaling to further its own delving into the human condition. Clarke's tone, her use of punctuation, and capitalisation of letters change throughout the book too, and they are used to subtly show the narrator's changing states of mind. Her prose is gracefully simple while tackling themes that, in the hands of a lesser author, would render the book dense and verbose.

We start slowly, watching Piranesi's everyday, and while that does serve the purpose of grounding us within his normal, one cannot help but wish it had been done a bit quicker. The novel

itself—mirror how we give meanings to the things around us through our interactions and our preconceived biases. Clarke thus questions the inherent morality in relying on a self-governing higher power for "justice", even when we may personally oppose those methods. And she questions the idea of a Self—how it metamorphoses through different stages of life, and how simply writing about it can translate this strange process into something familiar and grounding.

It was not written for a pandemic-scarred audience, but after nearly 1.5 years of being forced to cut off social interaction, reading this book resonates deeply with the collective sense of alienation that we're all experiencing. With or without the pandemic as a backdrop, however, Clarke's novel, shortlisted for this year's Women's Prize, is a masterclass in world building, in crafting atmosphere and approachable philosophical discussions.

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

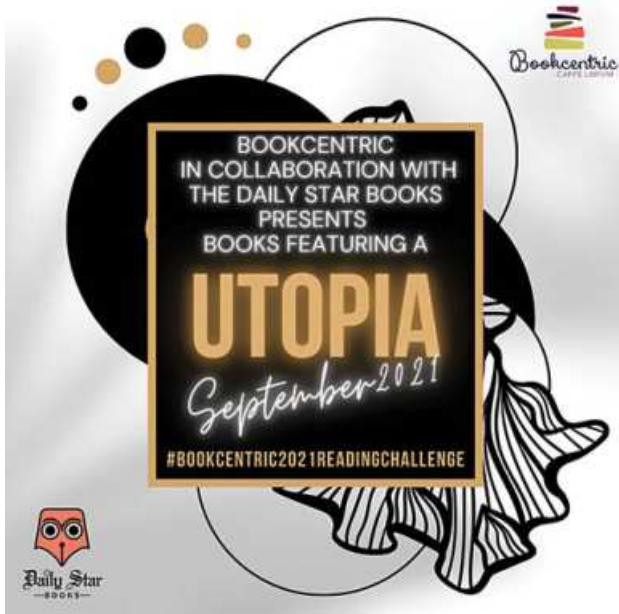
**BOOK NEWS**

## Bookcentric announces September 2021 reading challenge

STAR BOOKS DESK

Dhaka's Bookcentric library has announced their September 2021 reading challenge in collaboration with Daily Star Books. For this month, Bookcentric will look at books that feature a "utopia" or, conversely, a "dystopia", given their thematic similarities, from Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* (2006) and Ursula K Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* (1974) to Begum Rokeya's *Sultana's Dream* (1905), among others.

To participate, use #bookcentric2021readingchallenge on social media and tag @bookcentricbd and @thedailystarbooks to get a chance to be featured on Bookcentric's social media pages. Your reviews stand a chance to be published digitally by Daily Star Books!



**MUSINGS**

# The allure of the campus novel

SARAH ANJUM BARI

In Susannah Clarke's *Piranesi*, whose review rests atop this article, the narrator labels time not by calendar dates but by the things that happen to him—the birds who visit his wing of the world, the tides that come swinging or gently. Some of us readers, similarly, like marking time by the seasons and the books they inspire us to read. And while I treasure the blanket wraps and hot chocolate mists of cosy winter stories, nothing feels as stimulating, as strangely soothing, come Fall semester of September, as the campus novel.

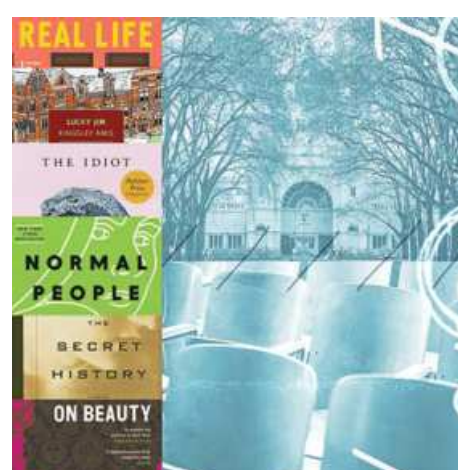
Is it narcissism? This need to read—or write—"about [our] own world, and indeed about [our]selves", as Elaine Showalter once put it?

Maybe so, but I'd be quicker to accept the blame of voyeurism than narcissism if I had to reflect on this fascination with books set in university or school campuses, usually amidst the politics of humanities faculty boards.

While growing up, particularly in a country like Bangladesh, we are made to

believe that knowledge exists like a block of concrete that we must train ourselves to lift. We are conditioned to see our teachers and admin personnel as all knowing epitomes of composure. In the space of a campus novel, it is so fascinating to watch them falter.

Netflix's recently-premiered TV show, *The Chair*, takes a politely humorous and "woke" tone in portraying the drama of tenure approvals, gender inequalities, and repressed love lives in the English department of Pembroke College in the States. But while it sometimes risks sounding preachy, it echoes the more overemphatic comedy of Kingsley Amis's 1954 novel, *Lucky Jim*, or the heated, hilarious intellectual feuds of Zadie Smith's *On Beauty* (2005), as academics become increasingly panicked about designing course curricula and drafting lectures. In *Lucky Jim*, especially, Amis pokes fun at how arbitrary the process of designing a syllabi can be—as arbitrary as the publications or faculty positions one scores based often on what



COLLAGE: MEHRUL BARI

transpires outside the classroom or library. The satire in campus novels—this ability to make light of its own work—succeeds in melting that concrete block of the idea of knowledge. In this more pliable form, the

performance of education—the preparation, the missteps, the passion, the commitment—becomes so much easier to respect and empathise with, and so much more deserving of embrace. It is so much fun to realise that our teachers, too, are constantly in a state of learning and unlearning.

And yet some of the best campus novels have been the ones written from the point of view of students. Interestingly, theirs has been the perspective more steeped in intellectual inquiry.

"I was thinking about the structural equivalences between a tissue box and a book: both consisted of slips of white paper in a cardboard case; yet—and this was ironic—there was very little functional equivalence, especially if the book wasn't yours". Selin, a Harvard freshman, muses on her first day on campus in Elif Batuman's *The Idiot* (2017)—my favourite campus novel of all time. Here, and in Donna Tartt's cult classic, *The Secret History* (1992), the microcosm of the college campus teases out

the basest instincts and the most fascinating observations in young minds waiting to be stretched free. From 'Form in Nonfiction Film' to the ecstatic heights of a Dionysian bacchanalia, the places one can go are truly limitless, and from the often forced interactions of specimens from different communities arise discerning commentaries on race, class, and morality.

Campus novels, to me, bring a heightened equivalent of the feeling I get every Saturday, when a fresh batch of book reviews lands in our inbox. "What new ideas, what new emotions will we encounter while preparing for this week's issue?" I ask myself after the lull of the weekend. After the lull of the summer break, similarly, the Fall semester brings the promise of new adventures. Books about the Fall semester—they're vicarious living.

Sarah Anjum Bari is editor of Daily Star Books. Reach her at sarah.anjum.bari@gmail.com or @wordsintale on Instagram and Twitter.

# Vaccinating children is a nice gesture but a bad plan

## Another reason to be cautious about reopening schools

Concerns over the threat of dengue to students must be addressed

It is extremely concerning how dengue cases have been on the rise recently. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), in the first week of September alone, over 2,000 dengue cases were recorded in the country, raising the total number of people hospitalised with the disease to 12,434 this year. Amid such a scenario, the authorities need to be extremely cautious, especially as schools are scheduled to reopen next week. All school premises need to be properly and regularly cleaned so that students are not vulnerable to the disease.

As this newspaper reported on Wednesday, schools have been actively trying to keep their premises clean and free of Aedes mosquito larvae, following suggestions from the experts. However, not all schools have been successful in maintaining cleanliness, since they have been closed for around a year and a half. In a couple of schools, benches and other items were found to be piled up, with stagnant water floating around, creating the perfect breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes.

Since schools have been closed for so long, it is not surprising that many of them have failed to maintain an acceptable level of cleanliness. However, before reopening, all school authorities must clean and sanitise their institutions properly—they should ensure that piles of garbage are removed, and keep a keen eye to rid the premises of all stagnant water. But even that might not be enough. The local government authorities have to assist schools in their respective areas through extensive fogging and fumigation drives.

In that regard, the DGHS has recently identified 19 hotspots in Dhaka that are most vulnerable to dengue due to widespread presence of Aedes mosquitoes. The city corporation authorities can begin their fumigation drives with a special focus on these areas. They can also coordinate with the authorities of schools in those areas as well as other high-risk places to ensure that the school premises are properly fumigated and ready for reopening. We understand that both the school authorities and state actors have their hands full when it comes to reopening schools due to the threat of Covid-19. But they must also prepare for the threat of dengue. The earlier they make preparations to deal with it, the better and easier it will be later on. For the sake of children's safety, this should be done with great care. We can't be worrying about the threats of Covid-19 and dengue viruses at the same time.

## Whose job is it to fix our roads?

Passengers suffer as a 3km stretch of Dhaka-Tangail highway remains waterlogged

It is disconcerting to know of the terrible condition that a three-kilometre stretch of Dhaka-Tangail highway between Norosinghpur and Shimultala is in, causing distress and disruptions to traffic and pedestrians alike. The road has reportedly been submerged in filthy water from the narrow and overflowing drains for the last three months. Given that it is a part of a major national highway, there are thousands of vehicles plying on it every day. But the constant waterlogging has also created large potholes on the road. So, not only do people need to tread through filthy water, the drivers must also be watchful of the potholes, which only add to their delay and suffering. The situation gets even worse when it rains.

Though workers from the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) periodically "fix" the road using cheap bricks, this is only a temporary and ineffective solution. On the other hand, officials from the RHD itself shift the blame onto locals and nearby factories and businesses for disposing of their waste directly into the area's drains. The department's assistant engineer has specifically blamed the 200 or so factories for the constant waterlogging, as they allegedly discharge water directly into a narrow drain. In addition, some influential people have grabbed the nearby Nayanjuli canal, which has reduced the canal's width from 24 feet to only three or four feet. This prevents drain water from flowing into the river through the canal as it used to be, prolonging the waterlogging.

If this is the condition of one of our major highways, one need not guess at the horrific state of the "less important" roads, especially during monsoon. We urge the authorities concerned, especially the RHD, to be more active in solving issues such as this, and to not let roads remain practically unusable for so long. Commuters already have to spend hours stuck in traffic every day. If the roads which they use are left in such dilapidated state, it is simply rubbing salt into their wounds. The blame shifting among different government agencies only makes it worse.

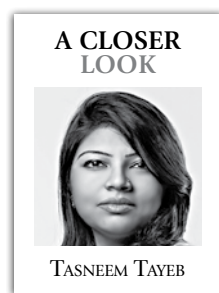
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Stop illegal sale of vaccine

The number of people getting infected by the coronavirus in the country remains worrying. Amid such circumstances, the government's ongoing initiative to inoculate people under the mass vaccination programme deserves special appreciation. But, unfortunately, some unscrupulous "businessmen" are hampering the government's vaccination drive by selling vaccines to various private clinics. They need to be stopped immediately. As a conscious citizen, I urge the authorities concerned to take prompt action to resolve this issue.

Md Rasel Sheik, Ghoraghat, Dinajpur



A CLOSER LOOK

TASNEEM TAYEB

As the world races to achieve immunity from Covid-19 with effective vaccination drives, immunisation campaigns are in progress in Bangladesh as well—albeit with

some hiccups. We all remember how the government's special mass vaccination campaign—between August 7 and August 12—ended in a disappointing disarray, as a lot of the vaccine seekers were turned away due to shortage of supply.

Despite the limitations and uncertainties in the vaccine supply chain, the government is now contemplating inoculating adolescents aged 12-17 years (it had earlier lowered the bar for vaccination of students to 18). This comes



There are a huge number of older people and persons with comorbidities who have yet to receive a single dose of Covid vaccine.

FILE PHOTO: TDS

as the government is set to reopen schools and colleges in phases starting from next week. Since March 2020, all educational institutions have remained shuttered and been only operating online to tackle the spread of Covid-19.

While the adolescent inoculation plan is still in the pipeline—awaiting recommendation from World Health Organization (WHO) and the country's National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19—the plan raises certain questions. First of all, how safe are vaccines for children? Only a handful of countries around the world have opted to or thought of vaccinating children, including the US, the UK and some other European countries. And only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been recommended by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization to inoculate children as young as 12.

However, in July, the British government

decided against vaccinating most children—except those at higher risk of contracting Covid-19, including those with Down syndrome, immunosuppression, learning disabilities—due to lack of sufficient safety data. The decision was based on advice by the country's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. The British government has yet to take a final call with regard to adolescent vaccination, but a decision is expected within days.

As of September 5, 2021, the Reuters Covid-19 Tracker suggests that "Bangladesh has administered at least 27,715,325 doses of Covid vaccines so far. Assuming every person needs two doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 8.5 percent of the country's population." With only less than 10 percent of the country's eligible population vaccinated (by Reuters's estimate), how wise it is to start offering vaccine shots to children remains a question.

government should specifically target the urban poor—day labourers, hawkers, low-paid workers, factory workers, construction workers, domestic workers, and others—for immediate vaccination. It is these people who have to brave the threat of Covid-19 every day and go outside of the house to earn their sustenance. Without bringing them under the vaccination coverage, offering vaccine to adolescents seems like a ludicrous idea, to say the least.

A case can even be made about the timing of reopening educational institutions, coming as it does amid the warning of another wave of Covid-19. Public health experts have recently expressed fear that the gross flouting of Covid-19 safety protocols by the masses might unleash a new wave of the disease in the country. This made the headlines in almost all the news outlets; the authorities concerned are also well aware of this concern. Even if the schools can be made to run under strict health protocols

you—it would be a mammoth challenge for them to take the vaccine to the children at the grassroots level as we lack sufficient storage facilities for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which requires a cold-chain facility for storage.

With the 26 special fridges received from Unicef, the country now has the capacity to store more than 10 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, but would that be sufficient to cover all 64 districts? And how are the adolescent children going to register for the vaccine, especially those who do not have access to internet facilities? How is the government going to keep track of whom they are vaccinating? These are important questions that need to be assessed and answered before we embark on a vaccination plan for adolescents.

Since the beginning of its mass Covid-19 vaccination programme, Bangladesh has gone through myriad obstacles and about-faces, often as a consequence of a lack of sound planning. From the failure of the Serum Institute of India (SII) to keep its end of the bargain by ensuring constant supply of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to the country as per agreement, to the recent debacle of the mass vaccination drive in August, which had to be stopped due to the shortage of shots—the fiascos don't seem to end. In the middle of all these struggles, this new adolescent vaccination plan seems impractical, logistically speaking. Also, the government needs to rethink its plan to reopen educational institutions if it's going to take the same laissez-faire attitude to enforcement of health guidelines that it has demonstrated after lifting the lockdowns and reopening the economy.

Any reopening of schools and colleges, and even universities, without strict and sustained enforcement of the health safety protocols will inevitably increase the risk of exposure to the coronavirus for the students. And with all the chaos going on in terms of vaccination supply and delivery, the least the government can do is revisit its Covid-19 immunisation programme to make it more realistic, science-based and ambitious only to the extent necessary, and to cover on a priority basis the already vulnerable adults, rather than enabling the creation of a new vulnerable category: students.

Vaccinating children, as the heading of an analytical report by *The Daily Star* puts it succinctly, is a plan simply "divorced from reality." We shouldn't jump on the bandwagon simply because some countries, who are far more capable and prepared than us, have decided to do so, and because doing so will most likely mean taking away vaccines from the more deserving ones.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @TayebTasneem

As of Sept 5, the Reuters Covid-19 Tracker suggests that Bangladesh has administered over 2.77 crore Covid jabs so far. Assuming everyone needs two doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 8.5 percent of the country's population."

following reopening—which seems like the best course of action right now—that concern isn't going to go away. What is the government's plan in this regard? Do they even have one?

Another major bottleneck in inoculating children is the availability of the Pfizer vaccine. On September 1, the country received a shipment of one million doses of the Pfizer vaccine under the COVAX arrangement. However, it is not clear when the next batch would arrive and what the quantity would be. With this limited number of doses, how many children does the government plan to inoculate? How would the government do the mapping? What is the adolescent inoculation strategy? Who would get the shots first?

Moreover, even if the government secures sufficient doses of the Pfizer vaccine to inoculate all the adolescents in the country—and that's a big "if", mind

While it is understandable that more and more children are contracting the Delta variant of the coronavirus, and reopening school would expose them further, the infection and fatality rates remain much higher among the adults.

Moreover, the people belonging to the lower rungs of the social ladder—those who do not have the means to register for the vaccines or are largely not aware of its importance—remain outside immunisation coverage. Many of them work in factories or in the overall informal sector, and with the lockdowns lifted, they have to go to work—every day. As long as these people remain unvaccinated, they—along with their co-workers, families, and neighbours—will remain at a high risk of getting infected by Covid-19.

These people should remain at the top of the government's Covid-19 inoculation plan, along with aged people with comorbidities and frontline fighters. The

# Who made men owners of the night?



AFIA JAHIN

We just have a term for it now that rolls off the tongue easily.

The recent social media outrage over moral policing, specifically that of women, came in the aftermath of actor Pori Moni's arrest in early August, in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act. Before her detention and the subsequent vilification campaign against her, two models, Piyasha and Mou, were also sued and remanded in separate cases under the same act. Various media outlets seemed to be having a field day over the next week or so, treating these women with anything but respect which any individual, even an accused, deserves in the eyes of the law. As prominent rights activist Sultana Kamal said of the law enforcement and media's treatment of Pori Moni: "Misogyny has entered every nook and cranny of the society."

What was most derogatory were the terms used by a section of the media to refer to these women, one of them being "raater rani" (literally, "queen of the night"; figuratively, take a wild guess). Because what can be worse than allegedly being a woman in possession of foreign liquor in "huge amounts"? Certainly not allegedly abetting the suicide of a college student whom the accused industrialist (and a married one, no less) "kept" as his mistress. Definitely not fleeing the country after being sued for allegedly torturing and opening fire at two top bank officials, and then being audacious enough to challenge the High Court's rejection of their anticipatory bail petition. Even causing the deaths of at least 52 workers in a factory fire, where the building had no emergency staircases—what the citizen probe committee termed a "systematic killing"—will not qualify as bad enough to warrant that kind of wrath from the moral mercenaries of our society.

No, none of that is seemingly as scandalous or dangerous as an adult woman going out at night or participating

in recreational activities, which are only acceptable for men to be a part of. Men need not explain in detail to anyone why they were out late at night. But do so as a woman, and you will be detained and paraded in front of the media by the country's law enforcement, so all can be witness to your "shame."

But the hypocrisy of the subcontinent's culture in shunning women for things a man can do without objection is nothing new—and it has found a fertile ground in Digital Bangladesh. This makes sense when you consider how challenging women's autonomy is still encouraged and practised in every facet of our society, despite decades of progress in education

and outsiders view them as objects of sex and mistreat them as such.

Most women learn to live with these double standards and mould their "characters," behaviour and ambitions accordingly. Many even internalise such policing and help to keep other women "in check," themselves acting as tools of patriarchy.

But some others—and they have been rising in numbers in the last couple of generations—fight back in order to defend their rightly owed agency as free human beings and equal citizens of this country. Sometimes we argue, other times we use wit and irony. An example of the latter would be the *Raater Rani* campaign



Issues like factory fire, embezzlement and violence against women do not attract the same outrage with which the netizens expressed their opinion on Pori Moni's character.

PHOTO: ASIFUR RAHMAN

and women's empowerment.

Beginning at a prepubescent age, the girl children of Bangladesh are made to feel like they are solely responsible for how the people around them may perceive their "character." For some odd reason, the oh-so-precious honour of each family is directly affected by the (mis)behaviour of its female members. From the clothes she wears (or is allowed to wear) to the opinions she can express—everything must meet the approval of not only her elders, but of the neighbours, relatives, teachers, and even strangers. It is a lot of pressure to be put on an eight/nine/twelve-year-old child and to be told that it is, at least in part, their fault if

by youth organisation Meye Network, which snowballed from the arrests of Pori Moni et al, and was inspired by the media circus that had followed. The campaign included women using the organisation's Facebook profile picture frame—simply the term *raater rani* written in Bangla, the text illustrated as the night sky, to be pasted under your photo—and attaching short essays about their own experiences with moral policing.

These women relayed stories of why they, too, were the "queens of the night." Some were out late for work or study, others for recreational purposes—all equally entitled to be out at any hour of the day or night as free citizens of a

The hypocrisy of the subcontinent's culture in shunning women for things a man can do without objection is nothing new—and it has found a fertile ground in Digital Bangladesh.

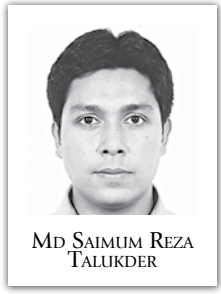
free country. But many had to face the judgement of relatives and strangers for practising such freedoms. One woman wrote of an incident where she was travelling by a rickshaw at night when a cyclist coming from the opposite direction shot some choice words at her for being out at that hour, and spat at her. Still, she and all the other participants of the campaign declared their pride in donning the badge of *raater rani*. Essentially, if exercising one's right as a citizen to be out at night and to refuse to be questioned about the reasons behind it makes one a *raater rani*, then so be it.

These incidents and protests illustrate the importance of being progressive in our views regarding people and their freedoms—not just in the devices and technology we use. When half the population of our country is told they need to be afraid of the other half, and that their freedom of movement comes with an arbitrary curfew, it is utterly dehumanising. Moral policing is what contributes to rape culture in our society and makes way for victim blaming, no matter what the circumstances are. The narrative of women being somehow lesser beings must change. We must "allow" women to practise their agency and provide support for them to challenge and defeat the nuanced rules of patriarchy which are so deeply embedded in our society. Neither the individual nor the state alone can stop women from being judged against illogical standards of subjective morality. Battling the moral policing of women needs to be a conscious practice at all levels of society.

Afia Jahin is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*.

# With a new data protection act on the way, time for a reality check

*There is a thin line between protection and control*



Md SAÏMUM REZA TALUKDER

THE internet has been developed as a transborder, decentralised and virtual space which everyone can access, irrespective of their nationality, race, creed or culture. Since its public launch in the 1990s, the internet has been intentionally kept outside the control of national jurisdiction. It is a borderless abstract space that is controlled and regulated mostly by private groups and entities—e.g. the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), regional internet registries (RIRs), etc.

But for quite some time, the world has been polarised regarding the characteristics of the internet. One group, e.g. the North American and European countries, want the internet to remain borderless and free from national jurisdiction. The other group—i.e. China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Turkey, Brazil—wants to make it a subject of national jurisdiction and want to exercise “sovereignty” in cyberspace. In fact, there is a critique that authoritarian regimes and states with fragile democracy tend to regulate the use of internet by exercising “state sovereignty.” So the regulation and control of the internet should be a cause for concern for any freedom-loving, rights-respecting individual.

There has been a lot of discussion on the implications of authoritarian and restrictive policies and laws targeting the internet. Draconian laws related to the cyberspace have met with strong protest and resistance all around the world. But very little has been done to criticise and protest the architectural control over the internet. Lawrence Lessig, professor of law and leadership at Harvard Law School, developed his theory “Code is Law” in 2006, where he warned that by controlling the architecture (code) of the internet, we can regulate the market, norms and the law of society. NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden has revealed how pervasive the mass surveillance conducted by the US and UK—in the name of protecting the so-called national interests and fighting terrorism worldwide—is. According to Statista, the global surveillance

from the internet, which is being criticised as a digital lock on free speech online. Recently, a Moscow court fined Google over USD 40,000 for refusing to localise users’ data in Russia.

**Concerns over data protection in Bangladesh** Recently, the *Daily Samakal* reported the Bangladesh government was drafting a personal data protection act (PDPA). According to a report by *The Daily Star*, the government is considering data localisation to protect personal data through the new law.

systems in the world—systems that can be hacked, and systems that will be hacked again. That is why the confidentiality of critical information infrastructure (such as a data centre) is crucial. This is the key reason why tech giants like the FAANG—Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google—keep their data in distributed servers. As there are a few data centres in Bangladesh which can serve the purpose of the proposed law, are we risking our data centres to be identified and made

c) Application level (software running and communicating between the nodes).

**Who can access what data, and to what degree?**

Another major issue of concern is access to the data. We cannot impose absolute ban on data collection and storage, in order to facilitate criminal investigation, judicial decision-making, running key administrative work of the government, collection of taxes and revenues, etc. But the data should not

containing confidential information of Bangladeshi taxpayers. If such an allegation is proven true, does the PDPA propose provisions of right to be forgotten, data portability with safety precautions, restricting automated processing of data, data rectification, right to access, right to be informed about a data breach, etc to deal with future incidents?

There needs to be a data controller for the prompt response to such risks. If the PDPA proposes a data controller, how will they be



Biplob ©

ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

**Will the new data protection law ensure that the citizens have autonomy over their personal information?**

The news reports mentioned the government’s concern about having more control on social media companies and storing the citizens’ data in physical devices located in the country. Bangladesh is proposing such a law when the Digital Security Act (DSA) is still in effect. According to reports by Amnesty International, 433 Bangladeshis have been imprisoned under the DSA and nearly 1,000 have been arrested since the law was enacted in 2018. So, when the government proposes a new law like the PDPA, a reasonable suspicion also arises: Will this law protect personal data or curb the freedom and autonomy over our personal information?

The core objective of a data protection law is to protect the privacy of personal and sensitive data, so that people can safely communicate in cyberspace. Facilitation of e-commerce or digital commerce is also another prime focus of any data protection law. Though necessary, criminalisation and penalisation are not the main concern of such legislations. Theoretically, it does not differentiate between whether data is localised within a geographic boundary or distributed among several servers situated in different parts of the world. In fact, data localisation might be beneficial for certain sectors, e.g., ensuring data privacy of critical information infrastructures. However, the main concerns for citizens should be: What will be done with their personal data? How does the architectural control proposed by the data protection law affect citizens’ rights?

**Collection, protection of localised data** Data mining is collection of data from different sources through different means, and then storing it in a physical storage. According to the news reports mentioned previously, the proposed law requires personal data to be stored within the geographical location of Bangladesh. In the tech world, there is a saying: There are two types of computer

targets by the hackers? If publicly known IT firms run those data centres, it is not difficult for cybercriminals to hack or disclose sensitive information about the data centres through malicious means. So, the information on data centre location, identity of its staff, operational methods, etc should be kept confidential. The Bangladesh Bank heist of USD 81 million is a good example to understand the importance of such confidentiality of a data centre facility.

Another matter of great concern is how data is collected. Our personal data is our property, so our consent must be taken before our personal data is collected. Due diligence has to be done when collecting data. I can recall the instance of biometric data collection for mobile SIM registration through agents of telecom operators across the country. Should we allow third parties (agents assigned by mobile phone operators) to collect biometric data because the government asked for it? Did it not expose our personal data to various interested groups?

I assume the PDPA will contain data protection principles that bans such practices of data collection.

We should also consider Section 43 of the DSA, which allows law enforcement agencies to confiscate all devices owned by a suspect—which may also contain personal information of the suspect’s friends, family members and acquaintances—without a warrant. Will the PDPA exempt law enforcers from obeying its data protection principles and keep similar provisions as Section 43 of DSA? If so, then is it not a risk to the privacy of journalistic sources, human rights activists and cyber dissidents in Bangladesh?

I hope that the proposed PDPA will also provide detailed policy to secure personal data at three basic levels of the internet: a) Node level (individual computers, servers, and routers connected to the network); b) Network level (connection between the nodes); and

be fully accessible to everyone. For example, population census data should not be shared with all government institutions without specific requirements, or data of sensitive litigation matters should not be accessible to law enforcement agencies without court permission. If the government stores data within Bangladesh, the access level to that storage must be classified. What are the propositions of the PDPA in this regard?

Different government agencies (e.g. police, judiciary, ministries) need to process, analyse and disseminate personal data to do their jobs. In the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution, we see the use of artificial intelligence to process and analyse Big Data in order to identify risks or prospects, foreseeing opportunities, determining development priorities, etc. For example, health data has been collected through different online apps during the Covid-19 pandemic, which helped governments worldwide to contact-trace or map community transmissions. But such data usage must be regulated and transparent. It must not discriminate while identifying and targeting people, and there must be a mechanism for accountability if something goes wrong. Also, people should have a minimum level of autonomy over their personal data and should be able to decide what information is to be shared. Is such type of data usage policy maintained in Bangladesh?

According to a report published by *Banglanews24.com* last year, the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) under the Ministry of Planning identified 11 risks and 29 weaknesses in the National Board of Revenue’s (NBR) “Strengthening Governance Management Project.” The report also mentions an allegation that the Vietnamese IT company, which was given the job of developing the NBR database, had access to that database

*Another matter of great concern is how data is collected. Our personal data is our property, so our consent must be taken before our personal data is collected. Due diligence has to be done when collecting data. I can recall the instance of biometric data collection for mobile SIM registration through agents of telecom operators across the country. Should we allow third parties to collect biometric data because the government asked for it? Did it not expose our personal data to various interested groups?*

appointed, and what will be the accountability mechanism for them? Will there be judicial monitoring over the data controller to maintain checks and balances?

**Compliance with international standards** Data protection compliance is a crucial issue for the global business community which is dealing with cross-border data. In the 2015 Maximilian Schrems vs Data Protection Commissioner case, the Court of Justice of the European Union struck down the Safe Harbour Agreement, a trans-Atlantic pact between the US and the EU countries, which was used by thousands of companies to transfer the Europeans’ personal information to the US. The EU Court of Justice was not convinced that the US data protection policies were in compliance with the European standard of data protection. Is the Bangladesh government formulating the PDPA with data protection principles that are in compliance with the requirements of the EU, North America, Asean or Far East countries? If not, then our private companies—mainly those providing information society services—will be facing hassles, which would not bode well for digital Bangladesh.

As we exist both online and offline, anything that happens online has consequences offline and vice versa. Perhaps that is the reason why the UN Human Rights Council, in its 2018 report on human rights on the internet, affirms that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. Although we need a law like the PDPA, we must also ensure that any such measures for the internet must comply with the fundamental rights of people stated in the international human rights instruments as well as Bangladesh Constitution.

Md Saïmum Reza Talukder teaches cyber law at Brac University and is member of the Artificial Intelligence Working Group by the Hannah Arendt Humanities Network.

*When the internet itself is an abstract space without any border, such notion of data localisation confines cyberspace according to geographical boundaries. The question is, are we ready to accept concepts like Russian cyberspace or American cyberspace?*

industry was a market worth USD 45.5 billion in 2020, which will rise to USD 74.6 billion by 2025.

Among several architectural controls, “data localisation” is a technique that allows states to impose and exercise “sovereignty” in borderless and neutral cyberspace. It simply means data collected from citizens of a state has to be stored in physical devices located within the state territories. When the internet itself is a distributed abstract space without any border, such notion of data localisation confines cyberspace according to geographical boundaries. The question is, are we ready to accept concepts like Russian cyberspace or American cyberspace?

We have to be very cautious about ideas like data localisation. Russia controls its version of the internet (RuNet) by data localisation. Yarovsky Law, introduced in 2016, allows the Russian authorities to localise the content data

**QUOTABLE Quote**



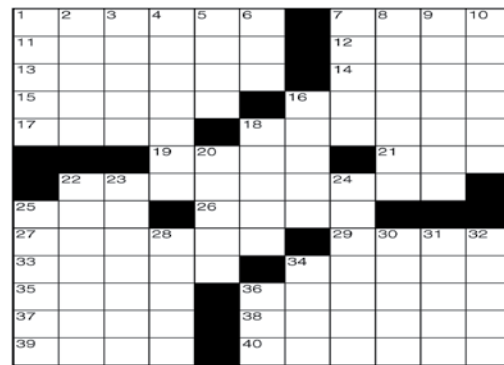
**ALBERTINA SISULU** (1918 – 2011) South African anti-apartheid activist

*We are each required to walk our own road and then stop, assess what we have learnt, and share it with others. It is only in this way that the next generation can learn from those who have walked before them.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

- |                         |                        |                            |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>           | Oscar                  | 8 Cheese-filled pastry     |
| 1 Not dressy            | 34 Eye colour          | 9 Charlie Parker played it |
| 7 Fight memento         | 35 Foray               | 10 Took a breather         |
| 11 Immediately          | 36 Couch potato’s need | 16 Docking spots           |
| 12 Account              | 37 Skin woe            | 18 Café offerings          |
| 13 Third-largest island | 38 Freed of wrinkles   | 20 Abrasive powder         |
| 14 Leaf carriers        | 39 Oracle              | 22 Patio’s kin             |
| 15 Pays to play         | 40 Creators            | 23 Jane Eyre, for one      |
| 16 Wine grape           |                        | 24 Went wild               |
| 17 Tragic king          |                        | 25 Horses’ kin             |
| 18 Gloomy               | <b>DOWN</b>            | 28 More unusual            |
| 19 Turn suddenly        | 1 Plotting group       | 30 UV stopper              |
| 21 Stripling            | 2 Be penitent          | 31 Hamper                  |
| 22 Hit film of 1999     | 3 In a way, informally | 32 Snow gliders            |
| 25 Alphabet end         | 4 Rattle               | 34 Vengeful goddess        |
| 26 “Frozen” queen       | 5 Best pair            | 36 Brink                   |
| 27 Goofs                | 6 Summer sign          |                            |
| 29 Auction bids         | 7 Flight part          |                            |
| 33 Adrien with an       |                        |                            |

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**YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS**

R I S E N T A B L E  
 U N C L E O C E A N  
 S T A K E Y E A S T  
 S O N D E E C S I  
 E N D L A D H I T  
 T E A S E R O B E Y  
 L U S T F U L  
 E L S E H O R A C E  
 R A H B E L N R A  
 A T E E N L K I T  
 S I E G E O B E S E  
 E N T E R W A T E R  
 R O S E S S A S S Y

**BEETLE BAILEY**



**BY MORT WALKER**



**BABY BLUES**



**BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT**



## Eyewitness tells

FROM PAGE 12

OC Pradeep went to the spot. After getting off the car, Pradeep kicked the man lying on the ground and stomped on his neck with his foot," the source added.

Shahidul earlier knew Liaqat and Pradeep but he did not know the victim when the incident took place. Later, he came to know that the deceased was Maj (ret'd) Sinha.

Judge Mohammad Ismail recorded Shahidul's deposition, which began at 10:15am and continued till around 2:00pm. The defence then cross-examined his statement.

Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam said all 15 accused in the case were present in the court yesterday.

The court began recording statements of witnesses in the second phase of the hearing on Sunday and ended yesterday.

Although the court has summoned 15 witnesses to testify during this period, only four witnesses could testify before the court till yesterday.

Sinha, 36, had been making travel documentaries for a YouTube channel called "Just Go". He was returning to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf when he was killed in a police firing at a checkpoint of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) at Teknaf's Shamlapur area on July 31 last year.



A migrant child, who was rescued from the English Channel, is carried by a Border Force Officer, in Dover, Britain yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## For 5 years she was locked up, tortured

FROM PAGE 12

four or five months ago as she became physically and psychologically ill, Mizanur said, adding that she then made her way to a relative's house in the district.

"Until then, her family had assumed she was dead."

The PBI, which has been reinvestigating the case filed after she went missing in 2016, came to know about her return recently.

Five members of the gang -- Lata Begum, who employed the girl, her husband Baser Mia, their sons Rabbi and Al Amin, and driver Sohag -- were arrested from Dhaka, Mizanur told a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the victim said Sohag, Rabbi and Al Amin were among those who raped her during captivity.

PBI officials said the girl's aunt sent her to Lata's house in 2016, where she stayed for only a week.

Later, Sohag took her to his house and raped her. Lata's sons also raped

her there.

They later forced her into sex work and took her to another house. She was moved to several houses during captivity.

Failing to contact her, family members went to Lata's house. She told them that the girl left her house for her village.

Meanwhile, a decomposed body of a girl was recovered from Bhatara area and the family primarily identified it as their loved one.

The victim's aunt then filed a case with Bhatara Police Station against Lata, her family members and an unnamed driver, on charges of rape and murder, Mizanur said.

The accused were arrested but released on bail after six months.

Meanwhile, DNA samples of the dead body and the victim's parents did not match, confirming that the deceased was not their daughter.

Bhatara Police then submitted the final report in June 2019 to a Dhaka Court -- citing factual errors

in the case. The court asked PBI to reinvestigate the case as the victim remained missing.

The PBI then finally arrested the accused for forcing the girl into sex work after she returned.

Mizanur said Lata is the ringleader of the group and used to force girls into sex work. She would also give money to the victim's aunt so that the latter would not file cases against her in this regard, he said.

"We are going to file a case against the five arrestees and the aunt with Bhatara Police Station. If other names emerge during investigation, they will be implicated in the case too," said Md Shamsuzzaman, PBI additional superintendent.

Speaking to The Daily Star, all the accused denied the allegations against them. Meanwhile, the girl's aunt is on the run, PBI officials said.

The victim's mother said they are happy they got their daughter back but demanded justice for the ordeal she had to endure.

## Bangladesh Liberation Front formed

FROM PAGE 12

unity among the rank and file of the freedom-loving people of Bangladesh, having faith in the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Awami League and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The meeting, by a resolution, called upon India and all other countries of the world to accord immediate recognition to the Government of Bangladesh. The resolution also appealed to them to give "active assistance" to the Government of Bangladesh and the Mukti Bahini in the form of arms and ammunition.

### ON THE WAR FRONT

In Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattogram Sector, Mukti Bahini today fired on Pakistani positions in Koteswar, Amratoli and Jambari, and killed 13 enemy soldiers.

Mukti Bahini exchanged fire with Pakistani troops in Teliapara, killing

nine enemies.

The war bulletin, issued by Bangladesh Forces Headquarters, reported a serious dissention between Razakars and Pakistani troops. They referred to an incident occurred today in Ulipur where a group of Razakars clashed with Pakistani troops. Two Pakistani soldiers and two Razakars lost their lives in the clash. Later on, in reprisal, Pakistani troops killed about two hundred civilians in the area.

'ANSWER LIKE VIETNAM' Andrie Malraux, well known French writer and former minister of culture, advised the people of Bangladesh to "answer like Vietnam".

In a letter to Jayaprakash Narayan, chairman of the preparatory committee of the international conference on Bangladesh, who had invited him to attend the conference, Malraux said that in view of the situation in

Bangladesh today, democracy was irrelevant. "Bengal does not defend a political system -- it defends its life. It must answer like Vietnam: If we must die, we will die but this will cost you so much that you will end by going away."

He further said Bangladesh should not try to appeal to the Anglo-Saxon liberalism of 40 years ago or depend upon good feelings from absent-minded Americans but it must avail itself of its courage.

In Malraux's opinion, "petition making is useless. What is vital is the military organisation of Bangladesh. Either it would accept pitched battles with Pakistan and would be wiped out or it would organise its guerillas and Pakistan would be defeated. Even the USA could not crush Vietnam."

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

## Incorporate Bangabandhu's

FROM PAGE 12

to wage a decisive struggle against the Pakistani rulers and to achieve the long-cherished independence.

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition, the HC asked the government to include the March 7 speech in the textbooks through an expert committee.

The committee will determine how the March 7 speech of Bangabandhu will be included in the textbooks, Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar told The Daily Star.

The HC also ordered the government to complete construction of the monument of Bangabandhu delivering the March 7 speech at Suhrawardy Udyan as early as possible.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Shahed Nuruddin handed down the judgment after hearing of the petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Bashir Ahmed in November 2017 seeking necessary directives in this regard.

The grounds on which the HC bench delivered the verdict could

not be known as its full text was not released yesterday.

During yesterday's hearing, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told the court that the government will work in line with its directives on this issue.

Petitioner Bashir himself moved the petition and requested the HC bench to direct the government to include Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech in the textbooks for students of school, college and university so that they can learn about the significance of the speech.

On February 25 last year, the HC directed the government to declare March 7 as "National Historic Day" and to issue a gazette notification in this regard.

It also asked the authorities concerned to set up murals of Bangabandhu in all upazilas and districts across the country during the Mujib Borsho and to submit a compliance report in a month.

The directives, issued by the HC on February 25, 2020, have already been implemented, Deputy Attorney General Bashar added.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

hundreds of thousands of Afghans being displaced following the withdrawal of US forces and the Taliban's takeover on August 15.

On Tuesday, the Taliban formed an interim government after three weeks of negotiations within its factions.

Shahriar said Bangladesh will take its decision independently on the recognition of the new Afghan government when it will have a permanent one.

He said the Taliban has changed from what it was during its previous rule in 1996-2001, but how far it has really changed at the grassroots level is yet to be seen.

"We are watching the situation closely."

However, he said, as there is a huge humanitarian crisis, the Bangladesh government will be ready to extend support.

EU top diplomat Josep Borrell on August 17 called for a dialogue with the Taliban in Afghanistan to prevent the crises, but made clear that it doesn't mean international recognition.

"We have to get in touch with authorities in Kabul ... whoever they are. The Taliban have won the war," he said, speaking after a video conference among EU foreign ministers.

"We'll have to talk to them in order to engage in a dialogue, as soon as necessary, to prevent a humanitarian and potential migratory disaster."

He feared the situation in Afghanistan could trigger a migration crisis like the one in Syria in 2015.

Such a dialogue will also have to focus on the prevention of terrorist presence in Afghanistan, he added.

One of the conditions of the US withdrawal agreement with the Taliban was that Afghanistan would not be used as a land for terrorists attacking foreign countries.

## Cop involved

FROM PAGE 12

themselves as DB police officials, and showed me and my brother inside the car. They put handcuffs on us, blindfolded us, and beat us up. They dumped us near the Rampura staff quarters the next morning," the victim said in the case statement.

ADC Akter said several incidents of robbery have taken place all over the city in recent times, and in many instances it was claimed that DB officials were involved.

"But we had failed to identify those involved in the robbery. Finally, we could track down the ring following the incident at Kawla and found that six people, including sub-inspector of CID Aksaduzzaman, were involved in this robbery and looting," he said.

Following the leak of the phone call on Tuesday night, SI Aksaduzzaman was arrested yesterday morning.

"Our investigation is at the final stage and the charge sheet will be submitted soon," he said, adding that two of those arrested in the intervening period have already given their professional statements.

Aksaduzzaman faced departmental action, and was fired after the case was filed, said the police official.

In the leaked phone call, supposedly the wife of the SI, kept alleging that she gave Tk 1.28 crore to a certain senior DB official and kept alleging that she personally gave Tk 14 lakh to DB's deputy police commissioner Kayser Rizvi Korayshi.

When contacted, Korayshi said the audio clip was fabricated and that the man speaking on the phone was not

him.

"The SI's wife has been requesting us to give him clearance. The audio is fabricated. I have had no conversation like that. This is not my voice. This is them trying to frame me," he claimed.

"We will investigate the phone call to see whether these claims are true," said ADC Akter when asked to comment on the allegation of bribery against DC Korayshi.

"As the process of submitting charge sheet is at the final stage, the accused are trying desperately to stop this process," he added.

Aksaduzzaman could not be reached as he was arrested yesterday morning.

One of the people allegedly present during the robbery, one Hasan Raja, gave a confessional statement to the CID stating that he received Tk 70,000 as his share of the booty.

The driver of the microbus, Harunur Rashid Shajib, also gave a confessional statement stating that SI Aksaduzzaman took him along, saying there would be a raid.

Amir Hossain Talukder, among those accused, told The Daily Star that his wife had given Tk 16.5 lakh to Aksaduzzaman's wife to facilitate Amir's release.

"My brother sold a shop in Shariatpur and arranged the money. My wife gave the money to the CID officer's wife to get me released."

"When I wanted proof, she played a phone conversation between her and a DB official," Amir told The Daily Star.

Amir claimed that he was framed in the case.

## A bridge too low

FROM PAGE 12

we found the vertical clearance of the bridge is around 15 feet. It should have been at least 25 feet considering the class-3 river route," said Ashraf Hossain, deputy director of BIWTA.

"No medium size vessels will be able to ply the waterway because of the low vertical clearance of the bridge," he said.

A proposed capital dredging project will also be hampered as, the BIWTA official said, the bridge will obstruct operations of dredgers.

The RHD did not take approval from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), which is mandatory for constructing a bridge over a river, he added.

Currently, operation of vessels beneath the bridge is suspended because of the construction work and dumping of construction materials.

Locals, including environmentalists, have been protesting the "faulty" construction of the bridge on the 38km Jashore-Benapole highway, which plays a vital role in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.

That three-lane bridge has been built in a way that plying of even small boats will be difficult during monsoon, said Iqbal Kabir Zahid, chief advisor of Kapotaksha Bachao Andolon, a platform working to save the river.

Croes of Taka has gone down the drain for the faulty design, he also said.

Contacted, Shyamal Kumar Bhattacharyya, director of Cross-Border Road Network Improvement Project, said "Generally, we take approval when the river route is defined by the BIWTA."

"But for this route where the bridge has been built on, we didn't take a written approval from the BIWTA as the route is not defined by them."

However, according to the Rules of Construction Control at Inland Water, Adjacent Areas, 2010, if any organisation wants to build any structure on a river route or a riverbank, it must take the clearance from BIWTA.

Shyamal denied the allegation that the bridge has low vertical clearance or there was any fault in its design. "There is no error from our side," he said.

"We have stopped the bridge construction work for now following a protest by a group of local people. We will resume the work when the matter is solved."

The feasibility study was done in 2015-16, the design was completed in 2017 and the work order was given in 2018, said the director.

He, however, could not say the exact cost of building the bridge.

The director said the total construction costs of this bridge and three others, an approach road and an axle load control station were around Tk 329 crores.

## Ant bites intense as their

FROM PAGE 12

have learned that the "mandibular teeth" of ants - those on the outside of their mouths - are tightly bound together with zinc atoms that make up more than 8 percent of the weight of the tooth.

The zinc atoms are laid out evenly in a way it lets the ants cut the leaves and not suffer any damage. "We could see that the zinc is uniformly distributed in the tooth, which was a surprise," said PNNL materials scientist Arun Devaraj in a statement.

"We were expecting the zinc to be clustered in nano-nodules."

Due to the prevalence of zinc, the researchers estimate it's possible for the ants to use 60 percent or less of the force that they would have to use if their teeth were made from material similar to humans, such as enamel.

This feature could be implemented by engineers, according to University of Oregon Associate Professor Robert Schofield, who led the study.

"Human engineers might also learn from this biological trick," said Schofield. "The hardness of ant teeth, for example, increases from about the hardness of plastic to the hardness of aluminum when the zinc is added. While there are much harder engineering materials, they are often more brittle."

During the course of their study, the researchers looked at a piece of an ant tooth and then used a microscope technique known as atom probe tomography, which allowed them to see how the zinc atoms were arranged.

## Vaccination centres

FROM PAGE 2

"We hope we would be able to come up with a good news shortly."

About the transmission situation of novel coronavirus, he said the transmission has been in a downward trend for the past 30 days.

"The case detection rate has been below 10 percent for the past four days in a row," Nazmul said, adding, "If we can maintain this, we could be in comfort to a great extent."

He also said, "If the transmission declines further, going back to normalcy would be easier."

The DGHS in a press release, meanwhile, reported 52 deaths from Covid-19 in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

Besides, the case detection has also dropped as the DGHS reported 2,497 new cases across the country. The previous day, 2,639 people tested positive.

Against 27,528 tests yesterday, the positivity rate was 9.07 percent.

With the latest count, the total number of deaths from the deadly virus reached 26,736, which is 1.76 percent of all confirmed cases so far.

On March 8 last year, the DGHS reported the first three Covid-19 cases in the country. Since then, 15,22,302 people tested positive for the virus.

Of yesterday's deceased, 20 were men and 32 women.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)		
IEB Bhaban (5-8 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Floor)		
Ramna, Dhaka-1000		
INVITATION FOR TENDER		
01 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications Division	
02 Agency	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).	
03 Procurement Entity Name	Director, Administration Division, BTRC.	
04 Invitation for	Procurement of Laptop, Desktop Computer & Genuine Operating System	
05 Invitation Ref. No.	14.32.0000.430.07.001.21.1775	
06 Date	08/09/2021	
KEY INFORMATION		
07 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)	
FUNDING INFORMATION		
08 Budget and Source of Funds	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
09 Tender Name	Procurement of Laptop, Desktop Computer & Genuine Operating System	
	<b>Date</b>	
	<b>Time</b>	
10 Tender Publication date	08/09/2021	-
11 Tender Collection date	08/09/2021	-
12 Tender Pre-bit Meeting	16/09/2021	3:00 PM
13 Tender Last Selling Date	22/09/2021	-
14 Tender closing Date & Time	23/09/2021	2:00 PM
15 Opening Date and Time	23/09/2021	2:30 PM
16	Name & Address of the office	
Selling Tender Document	BTRC, IEB Bhaban (5-8 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000	
Receiving Tender Document	-do-	
Opening Tender Document	-do-	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
17 Eligibility of Tenderer	i) Tenderer will have legal, financial, professional capability to deliver and install the Tendered Items and have 05(five) years' experience in the relevant field. ii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least two (2) contract successfully completed within the last 03 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk. 60 (Sixty) lakhs.	
18 Brief Description of Goods	As per schedule	
19 Brief Description of Related Services	As per schedule	
20 Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	1000/-	
21 Tender Security Amount (Tk)	150,000/-	
22 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Yakub Ali Bhuiyan	
23 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, Administration Division	
24 Address of Official Inviting Tender	BTRC, IEB Bhaban (5-8 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000	
25 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 880-2- 9554689; E-mail: yakub.ali@btrc.gov.bd	
26	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md. Yakub Ali Bhuiyan  
Director  
Administration Division, BTRC  
Phone:-02-9554689; E-mail:-  
yakub@btrc.gov.bd

# SHANG-CHI

LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS

## QUIZ CONTEST

The Daily Star | STAR CINEMA

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Email your answer to [starquiz@outlook.com](mailto:starquiz@outlook.com) by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

**QUIZ - 05** What creature is the "Great Protector"?

**WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 04**

1. Rokeya Akter, Gulshan 2.
2. Md. Sakif Bin Shafi, Dholpur
3. Mubtasem Anjum, Mohammadpur
4. Naimul Hoque Koushik, Shantinagar
5. Kamrun Nahar, Jatrabari
6. Md. Easir Arafat, Gazipur
7. Adib Hasan Shovon, Mohammadpur
8. Mohammad Saif Uddin Nabil, Chattogram
9. Rownak Jahan, Mohammadpur
10. Sanjid Khan Majlish, Rampura

# SPORTS

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & 2  
US Open Semifinals  
Live from 10:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS 1  
CPL

Barbados Royals vs Trinbago Knight Riders  
Live from 8:00 pm  
Jamaica Tallawahs vs Saint Lucia Kings  
Live from 5:00 am (Friday)



Nasum Ahmed (2nd from L) and Mustafizur Rahman (R) took four wickets each as Bangladesh bowled New Zealand out for 93 runs before chasing down the target with six wickets to spare to clinch the five-match T20I series 3-1 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Foregoing fine-tuning for a series win?

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh are playing their last series ahead of the T20 World Cup in UAE but while there was a need to calibrate their tactical setup in terms of the batting order and team combination there is also the need for understanding the capabilities of as many players as possible ahead of the announcement of the World Cup squad. Despite that scenario, the team management and selectors prioritised winning the series as they named an unchanged playing eleven for the fourth time in a row yesterday against the Kiwis.

New Zealand had kept the series alive with a thumping 52-run win in the third T20I to make it 2-1 and Bangladesh yet again went with the same line-up for the fourth T20I. It could be argued that

the final T20I against Australia -- his only game in that series -- grabbed his chance by picking up three and has so far played all four T20Is against New Zealand. Meanwhile, the other pacers in the squad continued to be overlooked and perhaps the desire to win series with a proven line-up on such surfaces.

Rubel Hossain and Taskin Ahmed are yet to get a game either and ahead of the World Cup in UAE where pitches will offer more to pacers and Bangladesh may need an extra speedster in the line-up, the selectors did not feel the need to give them matches ahead of naming the World Cup squad, which will likely be announced very soon. What the selectors are looking for with a same eleven game after game, remains unclear. An extra pacer in the line-up is a very real possibility during World Cup matches but judging from



Mosaddek Hossain, Aminul Islam, Shamim Hossain Patwary, Shoriful Islam and Taskin Ahmed -- five of the members of the squad who have not got a game in the first four matches of the series against New Zealand as Bangladesh stuck with the same eleven in every match.

PHOTO: STAR

having lost the third T20 against an ever-improving Kiwi side in these conditions, Bangladesh would make changes just to see how the other players perform and return to winning ways. However, management perhaps felt they had the right recipe to begin with for the Kiwi series.

Shoriful Islam featured pretty regularly in the Australia series and performed well enough to be considered for the T20 World Cup due to being able to take pressure on in tough situation. He took seven wickets in four T20Is against Australia -- second highest wicket taker for the Tigers in that series -- at an economy rate of 6.37. However, after four matches in this New Zealand series, he is yet to get a game. Mohammad Saifuddin, who appeared in

team selection, this was not the series to judge them.

Nasum Ahmed has once again remained effective in this series. Yesterday, he produced a few brilliant deliveries in a career-best 4 wickets for 10 runs. However, not so long ago, he was also plundered for runs in New Zealand and Zimbabwe pitches. The World Cup pitches will offer much less than the pitches at home and since Nasum is playing as a specialist bowler, there is belief selectors will think differently in the World Cup. Giving Nasum chances is not bad, but when you don't test others such as Aminul Islam Biplab -- knowing a leggie's importance in the T20 format -- questions should be asked regarding what the selectors are really looking for in the last series ahead of naming the World Cup squad.

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite a middling T20I debut in New Zealand earlier this year, left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed has emerged as one of the go-to men in Bangladesh's spin bowling department.

The 26-year-old gained confidence from the home series against Australia, during which he was the highest wicket-taker for Bangladesh with eight wickets from five games at an economy of 5.11.

Nasum has displayed an aptitude for bowling during the Powerplay overs, when batsmen tend to go after bowlers and also shown maturity when it comes to keeping batsmen quiet and also picking those crucial wickets at the top of the order.

Courtesy of Nasum and Mustafizur Rahman's four-wicket

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### New Zealand:

93 all out in 19.3 overs (Young 46, Latham 21; Nasum 4-10, Mustafizur 4-12)

#### Bangladesh:

96 for four in 19.1 overs (Mahmudullah 43 not out, Naim 39; Patel 2-9, McConchie 1-34)

**Result:** Bangladesh won by six wickets to lead the series 3-1

**Player-of-the-match:** Nasum Ahmed

hauls, New Zealand were bundled out for just 93 runs in the fourth match as Bangladesh sealed their first bilateral T20I series triumph against New Zealand yesterday. "In terms of adjustments, I tried

to hit the seam consistently and at times tried a few cross-seam deliveries. Since the wicket was turning, I tried to bowl a particular line and length consistently. When it comes to my role in the Powerplay, I was actually never told to pick wickets. Instead, the captain has given me freedom to bowl and look for dot balls," the man of the match told media yesterday.

Nasum broke the Kiwi batting line-up by removing openers Rachin Ravindra and Finn Allen and followed it by removing Henry Nicholls and Colin de Grandhomme with beautiful turning deliveries in the 12th over and finding himself on a hatrick.

"I enjoyed Finn Allen's dismissal when he was undone while going for a reverse sweep. Mahmudullah Riyad bhai told me to bowl a bit slower as he tried to reverse me couple of times. I saw him moving

so I bowled a bit quicker and he was unable to time the ball," Nasum added.

Nasum, who registered his career-best bowling figures of four for 19 against Australia in the previous series, seemed to grow in confidence and surpassed his previous best bowling figures as he ended with bagging four wickets at the cost of just 10 runs from his four overs, two of which were maidens.

Although the pitch in the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in the Middle East is expected to favour batsmen, according to Nasum it will be important to perform consistently regardless of the surface.

"I think there is no better preparation than winning matches as it gives you a lot of confidence as a unit. I believe that we will be able to perform well in the World Cup," he added.

## 'The girls can't wait to take the field'

SPORTS REPORTER



The wait is over for Bangladesh women's football team following a two-and-a-half-year break as the women in red and green return to the international stage to square off against Nepal in the first of two FIFA friendly matches at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu today.

The match will kick off at 5:15pm (Bangladesh time). Interestingly, it was in Nepal where the team played their last international match during 2019 SAFF Women's Championship semifinals against India and this time, the hosts, who never lost to Bangladesh at senior level, are the opponents.

As part of preparation for AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in Uzbekistan, the charges of Golam Rabbani Choton would be looking to address and rectify loopholes through today's match and the second match on September 12 while having had set an objective to remain undefeated against Nepal.

"The girls are thrilled to get back to playing international matches and can't wait to take the field," Choton told The Daily Star over phone from Kathmandu yesterday.

"Obviously, we want to play a competitive match against Nepal and

improve our FIFA ranking by not losing. I can assure you the girls will try to give their best on the pitch," said the successful women's coach.

The players had a light practice session at the gym yesterday morning but rain prevented them from training with the ball at the match venue. However, later in the afternoon, they toured the venue to learn about its historical side.

Choton was a bit worried about the footballers' prolonged absence from international engagements even though all squad players had participated in two women's leagues during the coronavirus pandemic.

"The only problem is that the girls were out of international commitments for such a long period, so I'm concerned about their temperament. If they can calmly adjust with the tempo of the match, they will perform well. Otherwise, it can be a problem," concluded Choton.

Nepal have relatively experienced players, who had beaten their Bangladeshi counterparts 3-0 during 2019 SAFF Women's Championship. Sabitra Bhandari, who scored one in that match, might miss today's encounter due to injury. Bangladesh however, could extract inspiration from holding Nepal to a 1-1 draw during Olympic Qualifiers in 2018.



Erling Braut Haaland (top) continued his phenomenal goalscoring form with a hatrick as Norway thrashed Gibraltar 5-1 in a World Cup qualifying fixture in Oslo on Tuesday night. The treble took the 21-year-old striker's international tally to 12 in just 15 games. Despite the win, Norway were in second position in Group G, thanks to Netherlands' 6-1 thrashing of Israel in Amsterdam. The hero of the night for Louis van Gaal's side was Memphis Depay (bottom left), who scored a hatrick to take his international tally to 33 goals. Meanwhile, Antoine Griezmann (bottom right) scored twice as world champions France beat Finland 2-0 to snap a five-game winless streak in Group D.

PHOTO: AFP

## Booters take on Kyrgyzstan U-23s today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team will look to wrap up their Kyrgyzstan tour on a positive note when they play their third and final match against Kyrgyzstan U-23 side at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek today.

Following disappointing results against Palestine and Kyrgyzstan senior teams, head coach Jamie Day is expecting a victory against Kyrgyzstan U-23 side, who recently played out a 2-2 draw against their Bahrain counterparts.

"It would be nice to get a win if possible but they [Kyrgyzstan U-23] are playing for the places in the future," Day told the Daily Star yesterday.

The three matches in Kyrgyzstan are part of preparation for October's SAFF Championship and the coach tried a new formation, that of 3-4-3, in the first two matches.

The coach checked most of the players and is likely to give chance to players such as Tahmid Islam, Mitul Marma, Mehed Hasan and Suman Reza who didn't get to feature in the first two matches.

"We have to look after the players' health," said Day, who is worried about the risks for the players playing three matches in five days.

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# Cop involved in robbery

Arrested only after 'a phone call between his family and investigators leaked'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former CID sub-inspector was arrested yesterday, nearly 11 months after he was accused of leading a gang to rob a migrant worker who was on his way to the Dhaka airport to go to Dubai.



SI Aksadzaman

The incident came to light on Tuesday as part of an investigation by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch.

That day, a phone call was leaked containing negotiations allegedly between the family of the offending CID official and a "senior DB official", with the aim of the conversation being to let the culprit off the hook.

The Daily Star has heard the record of the conversation. Additional Commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, AKM Hafiz Akter told The Daily Star that there was a highway robbery near Kawla in the capital last October.

The victim was Md Roman, who lost different currencies worth Tk 4.78 lakh in the robbery. He filed a robbery case with the Airport Police Station the next day.

According to the first information report filed by the victim, on October 19, 2020, the autorickshaw he was in was intercepted by a microbus.

"Two individuals got down from the car, introduced

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Stagnant water at a construction site, adjacent to Willes Little Flower School in Kakrail, can add to the number of dengue cases in the capital. Experts have warned that schools and their surrounding areas must be cleaned before their reopening to reduce the risk of dengue spreading.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



# Eyewitness tells court how Sinha was killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Former officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das kicked Maj (ret'd) Sinha Rashed Khan and stomped on the victim's neck when Sinha fell on the ground.

Eyewitness Shahidul Islam said this while testifying before the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday, said a court source.

Hailing from Cox's Bazar Moheshkhali upazila, Shahidul works as the Imam of a mosque situated close to the spot where Sinha was shot and killed.

"Shahidul told the court that he was staying inside the mosque on that night. He suddenly heard the sound of a bullet firing. Instantly, he went to the mosque's roof to see what was happening," said the source.

"He saw that police inspector Liaqat Ali was standing with a firearm in his hand. Within few moments, he heard the sound of firing another bullet. Then, he saw a man fell on the ground," said the source quoting Shahidul.

"A few moments later, another police team led by

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# For 5 years she was locked up, tortured, raped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She was confined, tortured and forced into sex work for more than five years.

She was never even allowed to go out or talk to her family members.

A victim of sex slavery narrated her ordeal at the Police Bureau of Investigation office in Dhaka's Banasree area on Tuesday.

"They tortured me more whenever I wanted to talk to my mother even for a minute," the young woman, now 21, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In April 2016, her aunt had sent her to a house in Dhaka's Bhatara area to work as a domestic help. Just days after, she was confined.

She ended up in the hands of a gang that forced girls and women into sex work, said Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, superintendent (Dhaka Metro South) of the PBI.

Her captors, however, released her

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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

## Bangladesh Liberation Front formed

SEPTEMBER 9, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**5-PARTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FORMED**  
A broad democratic front comprising the five main political parties of Bangladesh was formed today to conduct the liberation struggle. A consultative committee of eight members was set up to advise the Bangladesh government and to issue guidelines to the Mukti Bahini.

The formation of the Front was announced at the end of a two-day meeting of the leaders of the parties which was presided over by Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed.

The parties comprising the Front were the Awami League, National Awami Party (Bhashani group), National Awami Party (Muzaffar group), the Communist Party of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh National Congress.

A spokesman for the Bangladesh government said the formation of the committee would ensure a sense of participation in the liberation struggle among all sections of the people actively fighting the "colonial and imperialist exploiters of Bangladesh".

He added: "The formation of the committee reflects the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

# Incorporate Bangabandhu's March 7 speech in textbooks

HC directs govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to include Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech in the textbooks for students of school, college and university so that they can learn about the significance of the speech.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic speech on March 7, 1971, inspiring the nation to go for the Liberation War. In his fiery and soulful address at the then Race-course Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan), Bangabandhu called on the freedom-loving Bengalis

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Ant bites intense as their teeth are made of zinc

MAIL ONLINE

Ants teeth are so strong because they are comprised of zinc atoms that are laid out in such a way that allows them to cut through leaves and not suffer damage, a finding that may have implications for consumer electronics, a new study suggests.

Researchers at the US Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

**PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 9**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:20 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# A bridge too low

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

An under-construction bridge on the Kapotaksha river in Jashore has been built with low vertical clearance, which will obstruct the movement of medium-size vessels, says a BIWTA official.

This is one of the two three-lane bridges financed by Jica under the Cross-Border Road Network Improvement Project of Roads and Highways Department (RHD). The construction of the second bridge is yet to begin.

"In a recent visit to the construction

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The bridge, constructed with poor clearance in Jashore's Jhikargachha bazaar area, makes it impossible for medium-size vessels to pass.

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## IN MEMORIAM

"A silence that fills the air with noise,  
A space that startles with its clutter,  
A warmth that has been turned inside  
If this is absence then give me INSIGHT.  
In sound and in sense, he will always be  
here, INSIDE."

Written by  
Dr. Numair A. Choudhury  
April, 1999

DR. NUMAIR ATIF CHOUDHURY, Director, BIT  
(November 4, 1974 – September 9, 2018)

### MAY ALLAH GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

MS. LUBNA CHOUDHURY, Mother (Founder Principal & Chairperson, BIT)  
MS. ANIKA RAHMAN, Sister (Director, BIT)  
MS. TALITA CHOUDHURY, Sister (Director, BIT)