

The Bailt



Your Right to Know



"If we see an alarming increase in infection rate of [Covid 19], the education ministry will decide on closing schools. We will give our recommendation," EALTH MINISTER ZAHID MALEQUE.



'We must maintain a dialogue with the Taliban, where we affirm our principles directly -- a dialogue with a feeling of solidarity with the Afghan people." UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES PLEADS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



'Whether China and the US can properly handle their relations... is critical for the future and destiny of the world." CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING TELLS US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Two crore doses every month

Govt plans to revamp vaccine campaign as supply now getting smooth



20 crore doses expected by this year

3.90 crore received so far

2.01 crore people got their first dose; **1.25** crore got both

6% of inoculation target met

Vaccination campaign began Feb 7

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government plans to administer two crore shots of Covid-19 vaccine each month to ramp up the ongoing vaccination drive as it hopes to get around 20 crore doses by the end of this year.

The plan might appear ambitious given the scale of vaccination over the last eight months -- with some three crore doses administered since the campaign started on February 7 -- but health officials believe it is very much achievable.

"Initially we are targeting to administer two crore doses of Sinopharm vaccines each month if we get those as per the commitment," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star yesterday.

The vaccination campaign got some momentum after the government purchased 1.5 crore doses of Sinopharm vaccine from China in June.

Besides, the country has also got around one crore doses of different brands from Covax, a global initiative aimed at equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines, in the last three months.

"The supply chain is a bit smooth now. We are planning to administer two crore doses per month from October," said Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the DGHS.

Health officials say Bangladesh is supposed to get another purchased six crore doses of Sinopharm vaccine between

PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Not more than

3 classes a day

In-person classes resume tomorrow



Jhumon Das's wife Sweety Das does not know what crime her husband committed and why he was not getting bail. She sits with her daughter in front of a photo of her incarcerated husband during a rally at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday. The rally demanded Jhumon's immediate release as he has been behind bars for over five months in a Digital Security Act case. Story on page 3

Daily deaths lowest in 3 months

Covid positivity rate declines to 8.65pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country recorded 38 deaths from Covid-19 in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the lowest daily death toll in the last three

months. On June 9, 36 people died from the highly transmissible virus, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The Covid-19 situation is currently improving in the country as both infection and death rates are falling.

In the 24 hours, 2,325 more people tested positive for coronavirus, said the regular health bulletin of

on deaths and infections, SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

With the latest data

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Primary students will attend three classes a day from tomorrow when in-person classes resume, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) decided yesterday.

The DPE also asked teachers to make sure that only two students sit on each large bench to

maintain social distancing inside the classroom.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) has asked all school authorities to reopen hostels ensuring enforcement of Covid-19 health safety protocols and keeping in mind the dengue fever situation. Meanwhile, Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said his ministry

would recommend closing schools and colleges if the Covid infection rate surged again alarmingly. He made the comment at a time when the school and college authorities

are making final preparations for partial reopening of their institutions. Following a significant fall in the Covid-19 daily positivity rate, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

PK HALDER'S SCAM

2 fake firms, Tk 118 crore shady loans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a rented flat in the capital's Banani, Subrata Das, a friend of Proshanta Kumar Halder alias PK Halder, set up offices of two shell companies -- Wakama Limited and A&B Trading.

With the help of his friend, Subrata then took Tk 31 crore loan from FAS Finance in the name of A&B Trading and Tk 87 crore from International Leasing and Financial Services (ILFS) Ltd for Wakama Limited

The Anti-Corruption Commission already filed a case against Subrata, who is now in the US, his wife Shuvra Rani Ghosh, former managing director of NRB Global Bank PK Halder and three others.

In connection with the case, a fourmember team, led by ACC's Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhan, interrogated Shuvra, director of both the shell companies, for about five days last week.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Master of swindling

Rab arrests man who defrauded thousands of people thru' MLM scheme using religious clout, embezzled at least Tk 110cr taken from clients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen years ago, he started working as an imam in a Pirojpur mosque. Around the same time, he joined a multi-level marketing (MLM) company with a salary of only

Two years later, Mufti Ragib Ahsan established his own MLM company named "Ahsan

Real Estate", enticing people into making in the capital on charge of swindling crores interest-free investments following Islamic Shariah with promises of lofty returns.

Ahsan even used programmes like wazmahfil and well-known religious preachers to attract attention of the devotees in Pirojpur and other parts of the country and called on them to invest in a Tk 1 lakh deposit scheme. In the first year, he managed to get around 10,000 clients, accumulating a sum of Tk 110 crore.

Ahsan, now the chairman of Ahsan Group Pirojpur, established 17 businesses using the MLM company's money, most of

which have now vanished. The company could not pay profits to its investors since 2018, let alone return their deposited money. As cases after cases were filed against Ahsan, he went into hiding. The Rapid Action Battalion

yesterday arrested Ahsan, 41, and his brother Abul Bashar Khan, 37, a director of the company, from Topkhana Road

of taka through the shady businesses.

Rab initially said in a SMS sent to the media that the amount of the embezzled money was around Tk 17,000 crore, but its Legal and Media Wing Director Commander Khandaker Al Moin could not exactly say what the amount was during a press conference later in the afternoon.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission and the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] of police will figure out how much money they have actually embezzled,"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Tigers end NŽ series with defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

New Zealand clinched the fifth and final T20I by 27 runs at Mirpur yesterday in a surface that provided much more to batters than the previous matches. Bangladesh, coming into the match having already sealed the series, fought back with Afif Hossain's unbeaten 49 in chase of 162 but eventually the Kiwi bowlers prevailed with intelligent pace variations

to seize victory.

Despite coach Russell Domingo previously insisting that there were no issues at the top-order, the Tigers' problems at the top became apparent in chase of 161 for five posted by New Zealand.

The start from Liton Das and Mohmmad Naim was stable as they reached 18 for no loss after three overs but things soon unravelled when Liton sliced one in the fifth over off Ajaz Patel to Scott Kuggeleijn at point and departed after a 11-ball 10.

Soumya Sarkar (4 off 9) did not trouble the scorers much, falling in much the same manner as Liton SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Afif Hossain and Mahmudullah Riyad stitched together a 53-run partnership in quick time in chase of 163 but eventually Bangladesh fell short of the target by 27 runs in the fifth and final T20I against New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Afghanistan at risk of total collapse: UN

Int'l community urged to keep flowing money into the country; Taliban accused of harassment

The United Nations has warned that Afghanistan is at risk of "total breakdown" if the international community does not find a way to keep money flowing into Afghanistan despite concerns over the Taliban government.

The warning comes as a second charter flight was due to leave Afghanistan yesterday carrying foreigners and Afghans to Qatar in a sign the country's main airport was close to resuming commercial operations. It also comes as the United Nations warned of "credible allegations" of reprisal killings by the Taliban.

Unconfirmed reports in the capital, meanwhile, suggested the Taliban may hold a ceremony to swear in the new government today-- the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks that triggered the end of their first stint in power.

The Ûnited Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said in a report released on Thursday that about 97 percent of Afghanistan's population may sink below the poverty line unless the country's political and economic crises are

Nearly \$10bn of Afghanistan's central bank assets are currently frozen overseas and considered key leverage over the new administration.

But the UN special envoy on Afghanistan Deborah Lyons told the Security Council on Thursday that a way needed to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3









14,72,067



46,26,461



● 224,159,659

RIVER EROSION IN 5 DISTRICTS

Houses, cropland, roads devoured

At least five districts in the country are facing erosion as river water started receding there, causing immense suffering to people.

Several hundred houses, vast areas of cropland, roads and other establishments have been devoured by the rivers in the districts.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, around 420 homesteads, 2,000 bighas of land, 56 fruit orchards, four mosques and a community clinic have been devoured.

The officials of the two district administrations said many more homesteads, structures, and croplands were at high risk.

Nazrul İslam, of Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila, said he and his neighbours managed to move their furniture and other valuables to safe places but could not protect their houses.

"The Teesta has eroded our homesteads," he said.

Contacted, Ariful Islam, executive engineer of Kurigram Water Development Board (WDB), said they would take necessary measures on an emergency basis to check the erosion.

In Tangail, the Jamuna and its branches continued to devour several hundred houses, croplands, roads and other structures.

The worst affected upazilas in the for the next 72 hours.

district are Sadar, Kalihati, Bhuanpur and Basail.

According to the district relief and rehabilitation office, at least 368 dwelling houses were devoured by the rivers in the last two weeks.

Tangail District Commissioner Ataul Gani said relief assistance including cash incentives would be provided to the victims.

In Manikganj, homesteads of at least 20 families and vast areas of cropland have been devoured by the Padman in Harirampur upazila in the last three weeks.

Around 200 more houses and other structures are at the risk of being eroded, said locals.

Main Uddin, executive engineer of Manikganj WDB, said they already started dumping geo bags to prevent river erosion.

In Sirajganj, over 100 homesteads and some croplands have been eroded by rivers in Shahjadpur and Chowhali upazilas in the last month.

Although the water level in the river started receding, people in the low lying areas remained submerged.

Meanwhile, a bulleting of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), released at 9:00am yesterday, read all the major rivers in the country are in falling trend that may continue

2 fake firms

Later, Shuvra confessed to a Dhaka magistrate that she took a loan of about Tk 87 crore for Wakama Ltd with fake documents

She also told the investigation officer that she withdrew several crores and handed it over to her husband Subrata who later gave it to PK Halder.

"Since both companies are closed and there is no mortgage against the loan, it is not possible for them to repay the loan," she said.

ACC found that PK Halder was the mastermind behind the embezzlement of huge amounts of money from nonbanking financial institutions (NBFIs).

On Thursday, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahidul Islam recorded Shuvra's statement.

In her confessional statement, she said PK Halder assisted her husband in taking the loan without any

After recording the statement, the magistrate sent Shuvra to Kashimpur High Security Women's Jail in Gazipur. The enquiry over A&B Trading is

now going on. Shuvra was arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport by the imigration police on March 22. On remand after being produced before a

Dhaka court. On March 21, the ACC filed a case against Shuvra on charge of embezzling

Tk 87.6 crore from ILFS Ltd. Meanwhile, another accused Nahida Runai, former head of business of ILFS Ltd, gave a detailed description of how

PK Halder took ILFS Ltd in his grip. Nahida joined as an officer Industrial and Infrastructure

Development Finance Company (IIDFC) Limited's Chattogram branch in 2008 when PK Halder was its deputy managing director.

PK Halder later joined Reliance Finance as its managing director in 2009. Nahida also joined Reliance in December 2010 as assistant manager of loan division.

In 2011, Rashedul Haque, who is also accused in the case, joined as senior vice-president of Reliance Finance. Rashedul later joined ILFS Ltd as its managing director in June 2015.

Nahida, upon the directives of PK Halder, joined ILFS Ltd as its head of business in July 2015.

The accused said she accompanied PK Halder abroad at least on 20

"Upon his [PK Halder] directives, Rashedul approved and disbursed loans without any collateral to different persons and organisations," sources said, quoting Nahida.

"A borrower of ILFS Ltd and close aide of PK Halder, Swapan Kumar Mistri gave Nahida around Tk 15 crore for doing business," sources said.

She invested the money in the stock

The commission has so far arrested that day, she was placed on a five-day 11 people, including Shuvra, in connection with PK Halder cases. Of the arrestees, eight have already confessed to their involvement in the

> PK Halder took loans from financial institutions against at least two dozen non-existent companies created by him. In some cases, he used part of the funds to repay instalments of loans taken against his several

Master of swindling

Moin told reporters while replying to queries at the briefing held at the Rab's Media Centre in Karwan Bazar.

"He has embezzled the hardearned money of ordinary people under the guise of various different organisations involving housing, land projects, shops, and religious educational institutions. He has so far admitted to collecting Tk 110 crore," he said.

The Rab official said Ahsan allured people by using their religious sentiments.

He created his business strategy by targeting devotees and other ordinary people in different parts of Bangladesh and attracted investors with what he claimed was "Shariah-compliant interest free investment".

"This man used individuals involved in religious educational institutions, imams and others for making money. He also campaigned in Waz Mahfil. He enticed people with the promise of hefty profits per month by investing lakhs of taka," said the Rab director.

"Ragib Ahsan said he was able to get 10,000 customers in 2008. Now the number of customers is said to be around one lakh," Moin said.

There are at least 15 cases against him with different police stations, he

Talking to The Daily Star, Md Saifulllah, one of the clients, said his father deposited over Tk 2 crore with the MLM company.

"Ahsan brought famous preachers from Dhaka and other places in a Waz Mahfil in our area. There, they campaigned for the company and assured that it is a Shariah-based investment. He promised to give an excessive profit on the deposit scheme.

their cash but the cheques bounced.

The victims also said many of them

Many of them held human chains,

He said there are about 300

employees at the Ahsan Group. These

employees were not paid any salary, but

used to get 20 percent commission on

the customer's investment. As a result,

he was able to increase the number of

relatives at the company's important

money in the name of these

organisations, he has acquired

property and land in the name of

family members and close relatives,

a madrasa in Pirojpur in 1986 and

completed Hadith in Daura from a

madrasa in Hathazari in 1996-1999

and became Mufti from a madrasa in

Khulna in 1999-2000 before began

working in a madrasa in Pirojpur,

indulged in innumerable irregularities

to swindle the money from them," said

"The victims told us that Ahsan

Ahsan started his education in

Rab said Ahsan had his close

Victims claim that by collecting

customers quickly.

according to Rab.

according to Rab.

the Rab director.

positions.

were intimidated, humiliated and

press conferences and spoke to the

media demanding justice, he added.

for them to resume classes at primary And people made investment," said tomorrow. would

He said 16 out of 17 establishments the flood situation there, he added. of Ahsan Group are not in operation

to the field level officials to inform "My father has fallen ill after losing schoolteachers about the class routine his hard-earned money," he said. of primary schools. The Rab official said Ragib Ahsan

holding three classes a day for each used to deceive the customers in various ways. In some cases, he forges cheques. Many went to bank to collect

Completion Examination, for students

will join classes once a week.

The grade-I students will attend classes on Tuesday, grade-II on Monday, grade-III on Sunday and grade-IV on Saturday. A 10-minute briefing on Covid awareness will take place every day at the onset of the day's educational activities, according to the routine.

order stipulating responsibilities of field level officials, headmasters, teachers, guardians as well as students regarding running school activities

It asked teachers to keep the school shut in any areas that the government would declare a "red zone" considering Covid infection rate. The order said the authorities will have to ensure all students, teachers and staffers wear masks and maintain physical distancing at the classroom. It asked the authorities to take steps so that there is no crowding on the school premises, and only two students sit on

make sure that all, including students, enter the campus after their body temperatures are checked. Besides, handwashing facilities and cleanliness of the campus must be ensured.

Speaking to reporters while visiting a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) entrance exam centre at the capital's Government Titumir College, Health Minister Zahid yesterday said schools and colleges were resuming classes as the daily Covid infection rate dropped.

"If we see an alarming increase on closing schools. We will give our recommendations," he said.

infected [with Covid]."

Asked about the government's plan to vaccinate students aged under 18, Zahid said the World Health Organization has not approved Covid vaccination for people under 18, but some countries are inoculating

"We are following the issue and a discussion with the WHO is underway. We will provide the vaccine if we get approval," he added.

country were closed on March 17 last year to curb the spread of Covid-19. The closure led to the cancellation of classes and examinations, throwing the academic lives of more than four crore students of around 1.5 lakh

was further brought down to 18 years to include university students in the Currently, over two crore people, including the vulnerable ones, await

get the promised amount of vaccines

it also could not continue the special

vaccination campaigns at union level

vaccination on February 7 for people

aged 65 and above, and then gradually

lowered the age bar to 25. The bar

government

that started on August 7.

Because of the shortage of shots,

their first jab weeks after registration. Once the vaccination of two crore people starts from next month, the sufferings will come to an end, health

officials hope. Bangladesh has been witnessing a gradual decline in the number of Covid deaths and infections over the last two weeks after a new coronavirus variant, detected in May, ravaged the country in

June and July. The number of deaths shot up to over 200 a day at that time with the number of casualties continued at over

100 for several weeks. However, deaths from the deadly

virus came down to 38 in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, lowest in the last three months.

The total death count stands at 26,832, said a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Not more than 3 classes a day

Besides, the government also did not

Covid-19

government on September 5 decided to resume in-person classes at schools

According to the decision, candidates of Higher Secondary Certificate, Secondary School Certificate exams of 2021 and 2022 and this year's Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) would attend classes every day after the reopening of schools and colleges.

Students of classes 1 to 4 and 6 to 9 will have in-person classes once a week. "Primary school students will

have to attend three classes a day," Primary and Mass Education Ministry Additional Secretary Ratan Chandra Pandit told The Daily star. He said it would not be possible

schools in the flood-affected areas schools reopen

immediately after the improvement of Yesterday, the DPE issued an order

În the order, it recommended

Candidates of Primary Education

primary school, will attend classes everyday while students of grade 1 to 4

amid the pandemic.

each bench of a classroom.

in the infection rate [of Covid-19], the education ministry will decide "We don't want our students to get

children aged over 12.

Educational institutions across the

educational institutions in disarray.

Afghanistan at risk of total collapse: UN The first civilian flight out of Kabul 18 million people rely on human The first civilian flight out of Kabul 18 million people rely on humanitarian

be found to get the money into the country "to prevent a total breakdown of the economy and social order" noting that Afghanistan was facing a storm of crises including a plunging currency, a sharp rise in prices for food and fuel and a lack of cash at private banks. The authorities also do not have the funds to pay salaries, she said.

The economy must be allowed to breathe for a few more months, giving the Taliban a chance to demonstrate flexibility and a genuine will to do things differently this time, notably from a human rights, gender, and counterterrorism perspective," Lyons told the 15-member Council, saying safeguards could be devised to ensure the funds were not misused.

Foreign donors led by the United States provided more than 75 percent of the public expenditure for the Afghanistan government that crumbled as the US withdrew its troops after 20 years in the country.

President Joe Biden's administration has said it is open to donating humanitarian aid but says that any direct economic lifeline, including unfreezing the central bank assets, will be contingent on Taliban actions including allowing safe passage to people to leave.

carrying more than 100 passengers landed in Qatar on Thursday. The White House said the Taliban had been "businesslike and professional" in allowing the flight to leave.

The International Monetary Fund has also blocked the Taliban from accessing some \$440m in new emergency reserves.

"The Taliban seeks international legitimacy and support. Our message is simple: any legitimacy and support will have to be earned," senior US diplomat Jeffrey DeLaurentis told the Security Council.

Russia and China, which has offered millions in emergency aid to the country, have both argued for the release of Afghanistan's frozen assets. These assets belong to Afghanistan

and should be used for Afghanistan, not as leverage for threats or restraints," China's Deputy UN Ambassador Geng Shuang said. Afghanistan's UN Ambassador

Ghulam Isaczai, who was appointed by the US-backed government that collapsed as the Taliban advanced, urged the Security Council to "withhold any recognition of any government in Afghanistan unless it's truly inclusive and formed on the basis of free will of the people."
Al Jazeera's Charles Stratford,

reporting from the capital Kabul, said

aid on a daily basis in Afghanistan, from a population of 38 million people.

"It's a dire situation. There have been convoys coming across from Pakistan and we know that some NGOs have been using airports in other cities, like Mazar-e-Sharif, to try to get aid in," he said.

"We know there are ongoing discussions within the UN on how to

increase the amount of aid. "But of course, there are some very real problems, like the political situation: there are many Taliban officials in this interim government that are on a black list, one of whom, the interim interior minister, is on terror watch list - so the issue is how to deal with that on an international political

level. 'CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS'

The Taliban announced what it said was an interim government on Tuesday, which included no women and several ministers on UN sanctions lists.

Lyons said there were "credible allegations" that the Taliban has carried out reprisal killings of security forces despite promises of amnesty.

She also voiced concern over what she said was the rising harassment of the UN's Afghan staff, although she said the Taliban had largely respected the world organisation's premises.

Army chief embarks on **US** visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed was scheduled to leave home for the USA early today on an official visit at the invitation of the US Army.

He was scheduled to leave Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 1:40am, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) release said.

Gen Shafiuddin will the "Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)-2021", jointly organised by US Indo-Pacific Command and the Papua New Guinea Defense Force. Senior leaders from 17 countries of the Indo-Pacific region will join the event.

The future of operational environment will be discussed in this year's IPACC conference.

The Bangladesh army chief will participate in bilateral meetings with his counterparts from different countries at the conference.

The army chief's visit is expected to further strengthen ties between the Indo-Pacific countries and the Bangladesh Army and increase possibilities for mutual cooperation.

Gen Shafiuddin is scheduled to return home on September 18.

Daily deaths

26,832 people have so far died and 15,27,215 have tested positive since the first cases were reported in the country on March 8, 2020.

Yesterday's positivity rate was 8.65 percent while the overall positivity rate stands at 16.60 percent. A total of 26,878 samples were tested across the country in the 24 hours.

At least 3,856 Covid-19 patients have recovered during the period.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 14,72,067 and the recovery rate at 96.39 percent.

Among deaths recorded in the those 24 hours, 17 died in Dhaka division, 10 in Chattogram, five in Khulna, two each in Rajshahi and Mymensingh, and one each died in Rangpur and Sylhet divisions.

The DGHS said among the overall 26,832 fatalities, 11,677 breathed their last in Dhaka division, 5,420 in Chattogram, 1,985 in Rajshahi, 3,484 in Khulna, 918 in Barishal, 1,207 in Sylhet, 1,328 in Rangpur and 813 in Mymensingh divisions.

Of yesterday's 38 deceased, 20 were men and 18 women. Of them, three were aged between 31 and 40; five between 41 and 50; six between 51 and 60; 10 between 61 and 70; eight between 71 and 80, and six between 81 and 90, added the release.

Tigers end

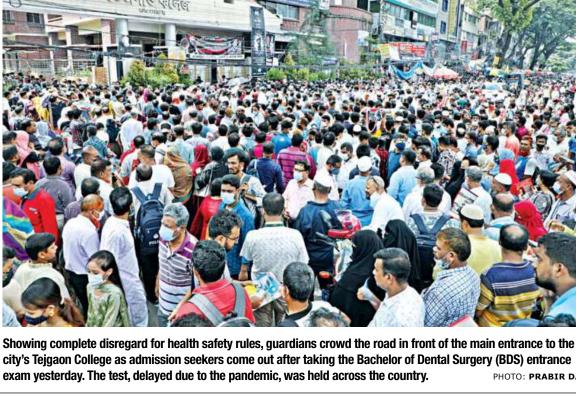
as Bangladesh, having finished the Powerplay at 35/1, slumped to 39 for two after seven overs. The bounce on the surface was much more conducive to shot playing but Naim departed next over after a 19-ball 23 to Ben Sears, nicking an angled delivery to the wicketkeeper.

Then Mushfiqur Rahim, who has been struggling with the bat ever since his return to the side, felt the pressure of the required rate creeping over 10 and was holed out at long off after scoring three. With the top-order failing to add quick runs while also losing wickets in the process of trying to up the ante, Bangladesh slumped to 46 for four after nine overs, making their struggles at the top apparent yet again.

After the Powerplay, no boundary came until the 12th over due to loss of wickets but Afif and skipper Mahmudullah Riyad fought back with a considerably meaningful partnership. The partnership added 63 runs off 43 deliveries before Riyad departed to Kuggeleijn. Afif for his part had powered to 49 off 33, laced with two fours and three sixes, but Kiwi bowlers kept picking up wickets from the other end to stem the flow of runs as Bangladesh reached 134 for

Earlier, Finn Allen set the tone for a big total after New Zealand won the toss and elected to bat. Allen plundered Shoriful Islam for 19 runs in the fourth over to get the Kiwis off to a flyer. Shoriful got his revenge in the last over of the Powerplay, first bagging Rachin Ravindra and then

The right-handed Allen had however swung the momentum sharply in his side's favour with a 24ball 41 before departing. Tom Latham found the right platform during a run-a-ball 35-run partnership with Henry Nicholls before adding another 43 runs with McConchie off just 21 deliveries. The two big stands saw New Zealand capitalise on their initial momentum and the captain remained unbeaten on a 37-ball 50 to take Kiwis to the highest score of 161 for five in the series.



to the DGHS.

be named.

vaccine supply.

exam yesterday. The test, delayed due to the pandemic, was held across the country. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS Two crore doses every month

around 3.90 crore doses of different

brands from various sources, according

their first dose while around 1.25 crore

people got both doses. Only around six

percent of the target -- inoculating 80

percent of the total population aged 18

to reduce the disparity in vaccination

the rural people as a huge number

of them are yet to be inoculated,"

said a DGHS official engaged in the

vaccination campaign, wishing not to

in last month's special vaccination drive

have already been addressed. "We hope

hiccups in its regular mass inoculation

campaigns mainly due to a dearth of

doses caused by a yawning gap between

commitments and compliance in

The regular vaccine campaign

Bangladesh bought three crore doses

remained postponed for around a month

due to a sudden suspension of vaccine

of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from

Serum but so far received only 70 lakh

doses with the last consignment arriving

supply from Serum Institute of India.

He added the loopholes they found

The country has suffered frequent

Health officials say they are working

"We will focus more on vaccinating

and above -- has been met.

this time it will be smooth.

between urban and rural areas.

Around 2.01 crore people have got

FROM PAGE 1

crore doses of Sinopharm and Sinovac

September and November -- two crore shots a month. Apart from this, there will be 10.50

vaccines from Covax. Hopefully, those will start arriving next month, they added. "We have already agreed to purchase 10.50 crore doses [of Sinopharm and Sinovac| from Covax at a reasonable price

which will arrive in the fourth quarter of this year," said the health minister. Moreover, the country will get five crore free vaccine doses from Covax by

The government has the capacity to

the end of this year, he added.

administer four crore doses per month but could not do that due to the vaccine "We are preparing the vaccination campaign plan, targeting two crore doses a month," said Dr Shamsul Haque, member secretary of the

Management

Taskforce Committee of DGHS. Meanwhile, Hualong Yan, deputy chief of mission at the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, said yesterday that 54 lakh Sinopharm vaccine doses of commercial purchase will be arriving Dhaka early morning today.

Vaccine

our Bangladeshi friend needs," he wrote in a Facebook post. The country has so far received

"As a strategic partner of Bangladesh,

China will always remain the most

reliable supplier whatever and whenever

near the end of their fifth year in HEALTH MINISTER ON CLOSURE

Yesterday, the DPE issued another

The DPE further asked teachers to

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Crested Goshawk, Satchori, Bangladesh.

G is for Goshawk

read a book about goshawks long before I saw one. A Northern Goshawk is the star of *H* is for Hawk by Helen MacDonald. It is the riveting true story of the author training her newly acquired goshawk, and how her relationship with this wild bird of prey enabled her to cope with severe depression and emotional crisis following her father's death. Reading the book I also learned about the exciting sport of falconry as well as the business of birds of prey. Once a sport of nobility – Emperor Shah Jahan, for example, counted seventy goshawks in his stable of raptors – falconry today is a largely unknown subject. The book offered a glimpse into this world: no wonder it was a bestseller. (It could have been called *G* is for Goshawk but then how many would understand the title and buy the book?)
Goshawks belong to the family

Accipitridae, a group of about two hundred species of birds of prey, including hawks, kites, eagles, buzzards, some vultures, and of course goshawks. There are approximately thirty species of goshawks worldwide. These vary from small (30 cm.) to large (165 cm.) Females are larger than males.

Goshawks are well adapted for hunting, but their hunting style is different from the spectacular diving attacks employed by falcons. They are stealthier, sometimes flying beneath their prey, often manoeuvring through forests, sometimes on foot through heavy ground cover, to pounce when the prey makes a mistake. Attaining speeds of 30 miles per hour in a few seconds, they take birds in flight as well as smaller mammals such as rabbits. Their wings and legs are well adapted to weaving through closely

spaced trees.

In Bangladesh we can see Crested and Northern Goshawks. The former, living here year-round, is seen in the forests of Sylhet and Chittagong. The latter is a winter visitor and seen in Dhaka and Chittagong. Both are rare.

I saw the Crested Goshawk from the watchtower at Satchori National Park. It soared high above the forest, using thermals to minimize its wing beats. Like many goshawks, it had yellow-orange eyes with a piercing gaze. While flying in circles, it searched for prey below, coming very close to the tower.

Another time the air supremacy of this apex predator came under attack as I watched. It had flown too close to the nest of a Racket-tailed Drongo. The irate drongo shot up, two long tail feathers trailing behind, and flew straight at the goshawk which immediately turned around and started flying away. The drongo chased it for at least a quarter mile before leaving the raptor in peace.

Some years ago, while visiting a falconry in the mountains of Slovakia, I saw a Northern Goshawk and a Siberian Goshawk. Against a backdrop of snow covered terrain, the flights of these birds were sublime displays. In Kenya, I saw a Pale-chanting Goshawk perched on top of an acacia tree, looking for prey down in the savanna. Unlike other goshawks, it had black

One day I would like to see the White Goshawk of Australia, a genetic mutation of the Grey Goshawk. Why? It is the only pure white raptor in the

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

'Why is Jhumon in jail while his attackers remain free?'

Eminent citizens at Shahbagh protest demand his immediate release

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jhumon's crime?"

Eminent citizens yesterday demanded immediate release of Jhumon Das Apon, who has been in jail for over five months after being accused in a Digital Security Act case filed over criticising Hefajat-e-Islam leader Mamunul Haque on Facebook in March.

There is no logical explanation for why he was denied bail seven times, they pointed out, during a protest at the capital's Shahbagh.

They also reiterated the same question asked by Jhumon's wife two days ago - - "What was

The event -- "Shahbagh against oppression" -- was organised by a citizen's platform.

Rights activist Sultana Kamal, expressing solidarity over phone, said, "Those in power always speak about the spirit of the Liberation War. But those who attacked Jhumon Das and his community were not brought to justice; rather an innocent person like Jhumon was arrested and denied bail seven times."

His religious identity should not be an obstacle for getting justice in independent Bangladesh, which was built on secular values,

"A High Court judge had said, in regards to the issue of denying bail to Pori Moni three times, that it should not be allowed in a civilised state. I want to echo his question, can something

- Jhumon was detained on Mar 16 for criticising Hefajat leader Mamunul in Facebook post
- > The post allegedly led to mayhem in Noagaon village of Sunamganj's Shalla upazila on Mar 17, which saw about 90 Hindu houses vandalised and looted
- Jhumon was sent to jail on Mar 17
- On Mar 22, police filed a case against him and 20-30 unnamed persons under DSA
- Jhumon has been in jail ever since

like this happen in a civilised state?"

> His bail has been refused 7 times so far

Jhumon's post on Hefajat leader Mamunul Haque 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.

His wife Sweety Rani Das, who was present at the event yesterday along with her son, said, "I was also injured when they brutally attacked my husband. How long do I have to roam the streets to get justice?"

She also said, "He [Jhumon] 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 boy, she sought the prime minister's attention in this regard.

Dhaka University's Prof Robaet Ferdous said, "When the constitution has a state religion, we can understand why citizens like Jhumon Das don't get justice."

Speakers at the event also urged the government to abolish the controversial Digital

Among others, DU teacher Khairul Chowdhury, Jahangirnagar University teacher Sumana Gupta, Bangladesh Jubo Union leader Khan Asaduzzaman Masum, and one of the organisers of Gonojagaron Mancha Jibanananda Jayanta spoke at the event.

Publisher Robin Ahsan conducted the programme.



At Tejgaon Industrial Area, a portion of the road near Re-Rolling Mills Bot Tola has been dug up to facilitate DNCC's sewage development works. But with no barricades or tapes in place, the spot carries enormous potential for accidents, which was only made worse by the last few days' rainfall. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bapa condemns leasing out forestland in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) condemned the land ministry's decision to lease out 700 acres of protected forest area in Cox's Bazar to Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy.

Bapa urged authorities to cancel the lease in a statement sent to the media on Thursday. The statement was signed by Bapa President Sultana Kamal and General Secretary Sharif Jamil

The land ministry in June granted the lease in Suknachari area of Cox's Bazar's Jhilwanja union, next to Marine Drive, prompting an outrage among greens, as 15 organisations based in Cox's Bazar decided to wage a tough movement to have the lease suspended.

Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy is planning on building a training institute on the land. The statement termed the decision a threat to biodiversity and forest ecology, as the leased area is home to endangered flora and fauna, including the Asian elephant.

The forest was declared "protected" in 1935 and has been under the Forest Department's supervision and care. It is home to 58 species of trees, endangered

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Life-saving equipment lying unused

Tk 1.5cr ICU ambulance at RMCH not been in operation for 2 yrs



ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

At a time when intensive care unit (ICU) support is so much in need, a state-of-the-art ambulance worth Tk 1.5 crore has just been lying idle at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for over two years.

Officials pointed to a lack of skilled staffers to operate the vehicle as an explanation.

The air-conditioned ambulance, which can provide mobile ICU support to patients, did not carry a single person since it arrived at

According to hospital officials, the ambulance was sent to RMCH in May, 2019, after it was procured for Tk 1,50,44,855 by Director General of Drug Administration.

Operating the ambulance and its equipment requires a skilled team of doctors and nurses, and a policy on how to operate, RMCH Director Brig Gen Shamim Yazdani told The

Daily Star.

"We could not prepare the required team and policy, as we had to deal with the surge of Covid-19 patients," he said, adding that they could not fix allowances of doctors and nurses for this service or the ambulance fare in time.

During a recent visit to RMCH, this correspondent saw ambulance driver Ashraful Ali opening the garage, switching on the ICU ambulance, and powering up electronic equipment inside the

The ambulance has some 40 kinds of life-saving apparatuses, including mobile ventilators, an ECG monitor, a defibrillator, suction unit, nebuliser, and an oxygen supply unit, hospital officials said.

This correspondent saw that all the apparatuses were wrapped in plastic, as they have never been used. Half an hour later, the ambulance driver powered everything down



PHOTO: STAR

and came out, closing the garage's

"I do it [turning the vehicle and equipment on almost every day, so the machines don't rust," Ali said. "None have so far asked for the

ambulance," he said, adding that no fare was fixed yet for operating the vehicle. Normal ambulances of the hospital charge a patient Tk 5,600 for transporting them to Dhaka.

A cardiologist at RMCH said many deaths could have been avoided, if the ambulance was in use.

Seeking anonymity, he said, the ambulance can provide emergency services right after picking up patients, and thus, potentially save lives. "But such a useful vehicle is not being used because of the sheer negligence of authorities.'

Ahmed Shafi Uddin, president of Sushasoner Jonno Nagarik (Sujan), Rajshahi chapter, said authorities should investigate the negligence.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Student's death | in hit-and-run sparks protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student was killed after a car hit him in Dhaka's Mirpur ECB Chattar on Thursday night.

Shanto Hasan was a 10th-grader of Adamjee Cantonment Public School The accident occurred around 9pm, sparking protests.

Some people were chasing the car, as the driver had an accident nearby. When Shanto tried to stop the vehicle, the driver tried to evade, and in doing so, hit him, said Md Asaduzzaman, deputy commissioner of Gulshan Division Police. He was declared dead at a hospital.

Cantonment Police Station Sub-inspector Shaheen Md Amanullah said they arrested car driver Shakil (26) from Uttara.

Locals and the victim's classmates rushed to the spot to protest the death, resulting in a gridlock in nearby areas. They also formed a human chain there yesterday morning.

They alleged that onduty police had helped the driver flee. The protesters left after police had assured them of arresting the driver.

The DC said they would look into the allegation. Josna Begum, mother of Shanto, said her son

-- who went out to play on Thursday afternoon -- was supposed to return at 8pm. "We want justice," she

Dengue infections keep rising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 248 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday. According

Directorate General Health Services (DGHS), among the 248 new cases, 34 are from outside the capital.

With the new cases, a total of 2,899 were diagnosed during current month, out of the total 13,255 infected. Of the total patients, 1,284 are from outside Dhaka. At least 7,698



diagnosed in August, 2,286 patients in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, according to the DGHS. Meanwhile, a total of 54 people have died of dengue

infection in the country this year, all of whom died in July, August, and September. Twelve people died in July, 34 have died in August, and

eight have died in September so far. Among the new cases, 25.4 percent patients were aged between 11 to 20, while 19 percent were aged under 10,

according to DGHS data. Among other age groups, 12.7 percent were aged between 41 and 50,11.1 percent were between 31 and 40,

and 3.2 percent were aged 51 and above. Though most of the hospitalised patients have so far been released, 1,221 are still undergoing treatment at

hospitals in Dhaka, and 180 outside the capital. Meanwhile, experts have expressed fear that dengue may spread further if the authorities concerned do not take appropriate measures before reopening educational

institutions. They suggested cleaning schools, colleges, and universities properly to destroy Aedes mosquito larvae and breeding spots, and applying adulticide and larvicide before reopening the institutions. In light of this, Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said at a programme yesterday that they

have initiated a three-day cleaning drive at 443 educational institutes on September 8. He also said though Friday was the last day of cleaning work, they will continue it till September 11 at the campuses, where the second dose of the mass vaccination programme is also ongoing.

Divided, bruised US marks

Yet 9/11 never fully went away. The Taliban who once sheltered bin Laden are back ruling Afghanistan. The mighty US military has been humiliated. In Guantanamo Bay, accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other men continue to await trial, nine years

after charges were filed. Even the full story of how the attack came to happen remains secret. Only last week did Biden order the release of classified documents from the FBI investigation over the next six months.

Meanwhile, according rights advocates, Washington's "war on terror" has fuelled erosions in civil liberties and human rights worldwide.

Governments have used counterterrorism as justification to tighten or pass laws to crack down on dissent and round up those deemed as a threat to national security, disproportionately targeting activists and minorities, according to rights groups.

"9/11 threw the privacy-security balance badly out of whack," said Steven Feldstein, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. "Policymakers contended that fighting terrorism in whatever manner they deemed necessary took precedence over protecting citizens' rights.

"Governments took advantage of America's 9/11 anxiety and exploited the threat of terrorism to advance their own repressive agendas," he added.

About 20 years of post-9/11 wars have cost the United States more than \$8 trillion and caused about 900,000 deaths, according to estimates by the Costs of War project at Brown University, which said it did not factor in the "high societal costs".

wars the US military has launched or participated in since 2001 - including Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen, according to the Costs of War

City

Same as every year, simple, heartwrenching ceremonies will unfold at each of the three places where al-Qaeda hijackers crashed packed airliners, striking the cultural, financial and political hearts of the United States.

Ground Zero in New York was where the majority of the approximately 3,000 fatalities, including people from all over the world, were killed in the initial explosions, jumped to their deaths, or simply vanished in the inferno of the collapsing towers.

At the Pentagon, an airliner tore a fiery hole in the side of the superpower's military nerve center.

And in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the third wave of hijackers crashed into a field after passengers fought back, sending United 93 down before reaching its intended target -- likely the US Capitol building in Washington, a short flight further on.

Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will stop at each of these places today to "honor and memorialize the lives lost," the White House said.

Biden planned for this to be a pivotal day in his nearly eight-monthold presidency.

Taking over from Donald Trump in January, with the country still reeling from a Trump mob's assault on Congress, he promised Americans unity; exiting Afghanistan against the background of the 9/11 anniversary was going to be a big part of that.

However, instead of presiding over a moment of unity, Biden will traverse a country angry about the chaotic Kabul At least 37 million people have fled their homes in the eight most violent evacuation and stung by the broader realization of failure and defeat.

Importance of free polls

The UK commended Bangladesh for hosting the Rohingyas who, in August 2017, fled atrocities by the Myanmar

The UK and Bangladesh reiterated their commitment to the goal of enabling the Rohingyas to return home in a safe, voluntary and dignified way as soon as the situation allows.

Both countries committed to working with the international community, including Asean and the UN, to resolve the crisis.

The two countries agreed to cooperate on global challenges such as conflict prevention, support for the Bangladesh.

rules based international order, and

countering terrorism. Strategic UK-Bangladesh Dialogue provides an important forum for a productive exchange of views across the entire breadth of bilateral relations, covering political and diplomatic relations, global and regional issues, economic and partnerships, development security and defence.

The dialogue began with both sides welcoming the opportunity to meet in-person for the first time since 2019, particularly as this year marks 50 years of independence of

Life-saving FROM PAGE 3

"Not all citizens have the ability to hire air-ambulances for critical patients. This [ICU] ambulance could have provided some hope for them," he said.

Shafi urged authorities to provide and subsidise high-end ambulance service to save lives.

The RMCH director said they talked with government high-ups and were directed to start operating the ambulance like a normal one. Whether the specialised equipment will be used during such operation remains to be known.

"We will launch the ambulance officially in seven days. If someone wants the ambulance before its launching, we will allow it to go on hire at normal rates," he added.

Supply will

the vaccine production is strengthened," said Hasan while sharing views with journalists at his residence yesterday morning over his recent twoday visit to India.

He described his September 7-8 visit as very fruitful. Alongside the inauguration of Bangabandhu Center at the Press Club of India in New Delhi, he held meetings with Indian external affairs minister, information minister, foreign secretary, journalists and

researchers during, said a press release. He said the inauguration of the Bangabandhu Center is a milestone in the relations of the two countries. A life-sized portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was installed there

Man beaten FROM PAGE 12

injured, he added.

On information, police rushed to the spot and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in an

unconscious state, he further said. Ridoy died around 3:00am while being treated at the hospital. His body bore torture marks.

According to the police official, the law enforcers detained two men in connection with the incident and sent the body to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Pre-Viking gold

"The find consists of a lot of gold items, including a medallion the size of a saucer," Ravn added.

Dolphins in danger

Bangladesh Forest Department too believes WCS' statistics and insights on cetacean deaths in our Bay of Bengal are the most accurate as they have kept meticulous data for the past

Zahangir Alom, country representative of WCS, echoes Rubaiyat Mansur's opinion dolphin mortalities.

*Dolphins are mammals and like us they drown if they cannot surface to breathe. Most of these deaths are caused by entanglement in fishing nets, particularly in gillnets (locally known fash/sandi/ilish/sayen/current/ poka/bhasa/bhadha/khuta jal) used to catch Hilsa fish," Zahangir says.

"The ban on hilsa fishing ends in June. So from July, when fishers go out to sea again, we start seeing more reports of dolphin deaths," he adds.

This indicates an almost direct relationship between Hilsa fishing and dolphin deaths.

WCS has been keeping count of dolphin mortalities reported in the media or over the WCS dolphin hotline since 2007. Within these nearly 15 years, a total of 274 dead cetaceans have been reported.

"For 130 of these animals, we were able to identify the cause of death," says Zahangir.

"At least 65 percent of these deaths were from gillnet entanglements," he adds. Fisherfolk use gillnets to catch

According to WCS data, there have been 14 cetacean deaths in 2018, 11 in 2019, 31 in 2020 and 25 deaths in 2021 (from January to August).

For any and all species of dolphins, this many deaths is a cause for concern. According to Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), a leading international charity that is dedicated to the protection of whales and dolphins, they virtually never have twins; they give birth to one baby at a time every one to six years depending on the species and individuals. The average time between babies for bottlenose dolphin mothers is two to three years.

There might be another reason behind the recent increase in reports of dolphin deaths.

According to Zahangir, there is notably more public awareness, partly due to WCS training programmes for journalists and many educational outreach programmes in coastal areas over the past years. So, there is likely also an increased interest in reporting such incidents.

"There is also more attention marine wildlife now, especially since the coronavirus hit and news reports made the rounds saying that dolphins had returned to Cox's Bazar," said Zahangir.

He does not believe that deaths have increased recently, and in fact says dolphins have been dying as incidental by-catch in this manner for

before the seasonal ban on hilsa fishing ends and they go off to the sea that they should keep an eye on their fishing nets at all times and safely release any marine wildlife caught in

those before they perish." In terms of solutions and way forward, Elisabeth Fahrni Mansur, senior manager of the WCS Marine Conservation Programme Bangladesh, believes that we have a shared responsibility in protecting our

"In terms of government bodies, we're seeing increasing collaborations for marine conservation between the forest department, responsible primarily for protecting wildlife and managing protected areas, and the fisheries department, responsible for managing marine fisheries and marine protected areas," says Elisabeth.

She also said that research conducted in collaboration with coastal fishermen trained as citizen scientists shows that there are, for example, areas where hilsa fishers often catch mostly jatka and that are frequented by dolphins. identifying high priority and high-risk areas for threatened marine wildlife such as cetaceans, sharks, rays, and marine turtles, it is possible to share ocean space in a way that benefits people and wildlife.

But there is hope. Gillnet fishermen trained in safe release procedures by WCS have documented successful releases of dolphins, turtles, and a whale shark.

Dolphins are protected under the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012, says Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests Jahidul Kabir Jewel. There is a provision for twoyears punishment for killing dolphins but it is not a cognisable offence.

"Only the killing of elephants and tigers under Wildlife Conservation Act-2012 is considered a cognisable offence," he added.

The forest official also focused on the need for stewardship at sea to bring an end to this problem and emphasised on collaboration between multiple sectors such as forest department, fisheries department and other relevant bodies.

There is a need to monitor seavessels, determine whether they are dumping any chemical waste or otherwise in Bangladesh's waters to also ensure no other unknown reason is contributing to the deaths of dolphins, he added.

Meanwhile, marine conservationist and assistant professor of Zoology Department at Dhaka University, Alifa Bintha Haque, says these deaths are more complicated than meets the eye.

"Without any forensic study on the dolphins that have washed ashore, it is hard to say whether it was a natural death or whether it was due to some other human-induced reasons.

"With that being said, of the dolphins that have washed ashore only ways we can stay safe.

We need to remind hilsa fishermen recently -- some are quite small in size. And it may be the case that these are not natural deaths, but it cannot be said for sure."

And if we look at human-induced causes of deaths, there could be many reasons. "Dolphins, especially the ones that live near the shoreline are especially vulnerable to habitat degradation. The number of mechanised boats has increased as well and dolphins could get injured by a boat propeller, it could also be due to pollution, or due to entanglement in fishing nets or some disease even," Alifa says.

"I really think focus should be given on determining the cause of death by conducting a forensic investigation. This should not be tough as most places where dolphins have washed ashore have a forest department or fisheries office. The forest office could work in collaboration with a veterinary university to conduct the forensic study. That would give some concrete answers.

In the end, there are no conclusive answers until further studies say otherwise but for now, we need to take a more nuanced approach. We need to be more aware of where our fish is coming from, understand its connection to the sea, empower and build the capacity of fishers to ensure they release the mammal alive and overall reduce our pressure on the sea. That way at the very least, we can say with more clarity that these deaths are not caused by us.

For now, the water remains murky.

What is post-Covid

FROM PAGE 12

Scientifically, vertigo is the sensation where one might feel imbalanced. Simply put, vertigo can feel like the room is spinning. Many suffering from the condition may even lose consciousness

Covid-19 is "neuroinvasive". More than 25 percent of people who were infected with Covid can develop neural problems. The virus can attack the sensors of our brain that keep us steady and can cause us to lose our balance.

Headaches and loss of sense of smell are all connected to the virus's neuroinvasive capacities. With vertigo as a long-haul symptom, it is believed Covid-19 might also be capable of attacking the system inside our ears responsible for maintaining our

If you happen to experience vertigo after your episode with Covid, you might want to give yourself enough time to heal from the damages the virus has left behind. Consult your doctor, and they will be able to suggest exercises that can help the brain slowly rebuild its resilience.

Until the pandemic is over, taking proper precautions, getting vaccinated, wearing masks, and distancing are the

www.unicef.org.bd

সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গত ১০/০৯/২০২১ইং তারিখে অত্র পত্রিকায় JSSSL কতুক নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়ের অধীনে IDEA প্রকল্প-২ এর প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সাময়িক সময়ের জন্য স্থগিত করা হয়েছে।

নির্দেশক্রমে(1 Salmay মোঃ ফেরদৌস উর রহমান ডাইরেক্টর এন্ড সিইও জে.এস.এস সার্ভিসেস লিঃ



Department of Pharmacy

University of Rajshahi

: RE-TENDER NOTICE : Selected local tender are hereby-invited separately from bonafide Indentors/Agents of Bangladesh to purchase Education

& Educational-materials our local currency. Tender form consisting of description of the items, terms and conditions will be available from the office of the Chairman, Department of Pharmacy, Rajshahi University on all working days during office hours from 13-09-21 to 07-10-21 cash paid 1000/= taka only (Courier Service or by post). Tender will be received by the office of the Treasurer on or before 07-10-21 up to 12.00 noon and will be opened on 07-10-21 at 12.30 p.m. in presence of the tenderer (if any one present). The authority reserves all rights to reject or

GD-1624

accept any tender without assigning any reason thereby. Chairman Department of Pharmacy

University of Rajshahi.

Only self-rule will satisfy

Mushtaque Ahmed and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India M Hossain Ali. After his visit to the evacuee camp and his talks with Bangladesh leaders Professor Galbraith was convinced that only self-government would satisfy the people of Bangladesh.

US ASKS YAHYA TO FACILITATE EVACUEE'S RETURN The USA urged the Government of Pakistan to make every effort to create conditions that would lead to the return of Bangladesh refugees to their homes, the US Secretary of State William Rogers told the Congress. Rogers gave this assurance while making a request for the Congress's approval of economic assistance to Pakistan for development purposes "without restrictions".

ON THE WAR FRONT In the Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattogram sector, Mukti Bahini today destroyed the railway bridge between Manikkhali-Sararchar disrupting railway communication. Another group of Mukti Bahini ambushed the Pakistani patrol in Kalikapur killing five enemy troops and injuring 10.

In Kushtia-Jessore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani positions in Sikri, killing five Pakistani troops RED CROSS RESUMES WORK IN BANGLADESH

The International Red Cross resumed relief work in East Pakistan. An official of the League of Red Cross informed that the Red Cross was now doing relief work not only among those hit by last year's cyclone, but also victims of army atrocities. The Red Cross had suspended its relief operations in East Pakistan at the time of the army crackdown.

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

forest policy, forest law

A quarter in the government is out to grab forest land. This practice has been wreaking havoc on already shrunk forest

the environment of Cox's Bazar, the statement

Bapa condemns

Forest land is being leased out for building structures. warned

Asian elephants, deer,

Burmese pythons and birds. The lease was granted in violation of the national and the government's commitment to the international community to protect forest land, it read.

land, the statement alleged.

It is in no way acceptable. This decision will jeopardise

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RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2021-9169873

Request for Proposal (RFP): Support for engaging communities through arts, media and culture in Cox's Bazar focusing on host community and

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and

credibility of providing the above required service. To receive the detailed scope

of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to

The deadline to submit the proposal is Wednesday, 22 September 2021;

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation



documents:

EAST WEST UNIVERSITY

Progoti Foundation for Education and Development

Permanent Sanad Holder

Vendor Enlistment

East West University invites application from bonafide firms/suppliers/service

providers/importers/professionals for enlistment for supplying the following items: Category A: Computer, Printer& its Cartridge and other Related Items

Category B: All Types of Stationery, Paper & Cleaning Materials

Category C: Lab Equipment /Solvent /Reagent Category D: Convocation Related Items

Category E: Engineering Related Items(i) Civil Works

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Category F: Miscellaneous The intending firms/suppliers/service providers/professionals will submit their proposal in their letter head pad for enlistment along with the following updated

1. Company Profile 2. Trade license 3. TIN Certificate 4. BIN Certificate, if

applicable 5.VAT Registration Certificate 6.Bank Solvency Certificate 7.List of Clients 8. Years of Experience 9. Manufacturing/Dealership/Distributorship/ Retailer Certificate (as applicable). Existing enlisted firms will also need to apply. Category wise detailed schedule / list of items can be obtained from the HR & Logistics Department of the University (Room No. 507, 4th floor, Block-A) up to12.10.2021 (03:00 pm) on working days. The list of items will also be

available in the website of East West University (www.ewubd.edu). Interested firms are requested to submit their proposal(s) addressed to the Chief of HR & Logistics, EWU mentioning name of the item including category on the top of the envelope. The proposal(s) must be submitted in the category wise boxes kept in the Reception & Information Centre of HR & Logistics Department (Ground Floor), East West University, Plot No. A/2 Main Road, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Dhaka-1212 by 13.10.2021 up to 03:00 pm on working days.

For any query, contact number 09666775577 (Ext: 273)

East West University authority reserves the right to accept any proposals in full or part or reject all proposals without assigning any reason.

Chief of HR & Logistics

মোহাম্মদপুর প্রিপারেটরি স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ ৭৩/স, ব্লক-ডি, আসাদ অ্যাভিনিউ, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি ২০২২ সালের জন্য পিজি শ্রেণিতে বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভার্সনে (বালক ও বালিকা শাখা) ভর্তির ফরম বিক্রি চলছে।

প্রাপ্তি স্থান: ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লি. মোহাম্মদপুর শাখা

ফরম বিতরণ ০১ সেপ্টেম্বর থেকে ১৪ অক্টোবর ২০২১ পর্যন্ত। ২০০ টাকা যোগাযোগ ঃ ০২-৪৮১১৭৭০২, ০১৫৩৩২৫৪১৫২

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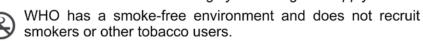
World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following positions under following contractual modalities:

- Project Facilitator / Team Assistant / SSA - Microbiologist / SSA

- Consultant - COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Study / Consultant For further details on submission of applications including detailed

https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment



MI5 chief

new terror

The Taliban's takeover

"emboldened" extremists,

domestic intelligence MI5

said yesterday, warning

of the likelihood of new

20th anniversary of 9/11,

Ken McCallum said MI5

had disrupted six "late-

in the past four years.

stage" plots even during

coronavirus lockdowns over

the past 18 months, and 31

"That number includes

mainly Islamist attack plots

but also a growing number

likely to be terrorist attacks

McCallum said that after

al-Qaeda's plane hijackings

of September 11, 2001, the

the so-called Islamic State

group inspiring followers

into extremism online. He added there was

"no doubt that events

in Afghanistan will have

heartened and emboldened

The MI5 director-general

some of those extremists".

also reflected on how, 20

years ago, he watched on

an office television with

colleagues as the second

Center in New York.

plane hit the World Trade

"Someone else said 'I

threat had evolved with

on UK soil on my watch."

of attack plots from rightwing terrorists," he told

BBC radio.
"Of course there are

Speaking ahead of the

of Afghanistan has

the head of Britain's

warns of

threats

AFP, London

atrocities.

Big Tech made billions: report

Tech giants made billions through contracts with the US military and other government agencies during the socalled "war on terror", according to a report released ahead of the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

The "Big Tech Sells War" report, published Thursday by three US campaign groups, documented an explosion of government contracts with Amazon, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Twitter since 2004.

The tech companies' contracts were "primarily with agencies central to the War on Terror," said the report.

"From 2004 to today, Big Tech corporations have seen a huge climb in federal demand for their services, particularly from the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security," it said.

The demand from US military and intelligence agencies for cloud computing and GPS software has surged since 2001 as the defense industry has grown increasingly digitized.

The Department of Defense alone has spent \$43.8 billion on Big Tech contracts since 2004, said the report, a collaboration between the Action Center on Race and the Economy and social justice groups LittleSis and MPower Change.

Four of the five top-spending agencies on Big Tech contracts were "central to foreign policy or were established as a direct result of the Global War on Terror", it said.

"Amazon and Microsoft in particular pulled ahead in recent years, with Amazon signing nearly five times and Microsoft signing eight times as many federal contracts and subcontracts in 2019 compared to 2015," the report

AFP has reached out to the five Big Tech companies for comment, but has yet to receive a response.

The report pulled its data from Tech Inquiry, an online tool that allows users to explore US government contracts. The tool only includes contracts for which information

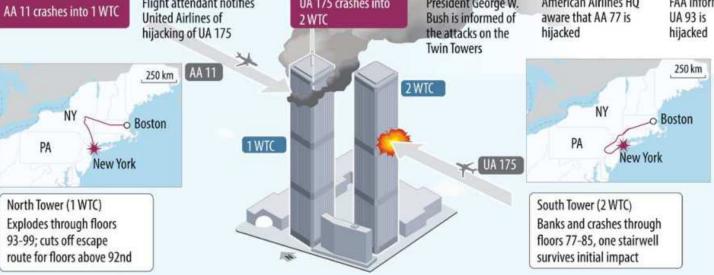
is publicly available, so the figures given in the report are "very likely an underrepresentation", the report said. It's authors meanwhile criticized a "revolving door" phenomenon between Big Tech and US security agencies, with former senior government officials going on to take major roles at technology companies.

The report cited former State Department official Jared Cohen, now at Google, as an example, as well as Amazon's Steve Pandelides -- formerly of the FBI -- and Microsoft's Joseph D. Rozek, who helped found the Department for Homeland Security, as examples.

2001 SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS IN THE US: TIMELINE

149 minutes to the collapse of both twin towers







All US bound flights 1 WTC collapses diverted to Canada

Death toll of victims: 2,977 New York Shanksville AA 11 87 AA 77 59 **UA 93** UA 175 60 Ground 125 Ground 2,606

SOURCE: 9/11 COMMISSION

guess we all know what we're going to be doing for the next 10 years of our lives', and so it proved."

MORE NEWS

Nord Stream 2 pipeline 'fully completed'

Energy giant Gazprom yesterday announced that construction of the controversial Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, set to double natural gas supplies from Russia to Germany by bypassing Ukraine, had been completed. Nord Stream 2 has divided European capitals and raised tensions between the bloc and Washington. A key controversy is that it diverts supplies from an existing route through Ukraine and is expected to deprive Europe's ally of annual transit from Russia. Running from Russia's Baltic coast to northeastern Germany, the underwater, 1,200-kilometre pipeline follows the same route as Nord Stream 1, which was completed over a decade ago.

'Ouad' leaders to meet in Washington this month

Leaders from the US, Australia, Japan and India are this month expected to hold the first in-person talks of their "Quad" grouping, seen as a counter to China's growing influence, Japanese media said yesterday. The diplomatic group held online leaders' talks in March, and ministers from the four countries have also held in-person discussions. Japan's Kyodo news agency and Yomiuri Shimbun both reported leaders from the four nations were now expected to meet in Washington on September 24, citing unnamed Japanese and US diplomatic sources. Quad is seen as a bid to



counterbalance China's growing economic

and military reach in the Asia-Pacific region.

Lebanon gets cabinet

Lebanon yesterday ended a 13-month wait for a new government with the unveiling of a lineup that faces the daunting task of rescuing the country from economic meltdown.

Billionaire Najib Mikati, Lebanon's prime minister for the third time, made an emotional statement from the presidency vowing to leave no stone unturned in efforts to save the country from bankruptcy. Mikati unveiled his list of ministers mostly in-line with previous governments. The newcomers include many technocrats but each minister was endorsed by one or several of the factions that have dominated Lebanese politics since the 1975-1990 civil war. On the streets of Beirut, the announcement of a new cabinet seemed to do little to lift the spirits of a population broken by one of the steepest economic declines the world has seen in decades.

Bolsonaro backs off attacks

on Brazil's institutions President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday backed off his heated attacks on Brazil's federal institutions, insisting that his recent jabs at the Supreme Court just came "in the heat of the moment." Bolsonaro has repeatedly hit out at the high court, which has ordered investigations of him and his inner circle, notably over accusations of systematically spreading fake news from within the government amd questioning the electoral process of the country ahead of 2022 polls.

US-China ties to decide 'destiny of the world' Says Xi as he holds talks with Biden to avoid conflict

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping talked for the first time in seven months Thursday, with both leaders urging a path away from conflict but holding ground on fierce competition between the superpowers.

In the 90-minute call, Biden warned against misunderstandings that could lead to confrontation between Washington and Beijing, the White House said, while Xi called for a new direction in a relationship beset by "serious difficulties".

US-China relations went into a nosedive under

Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, who launched a trade war between the world's number one and two economies and harangued the Chinese government for its handling of the pandemic.



urging multilateralism and an end to Trump's "America first" ideology, has kept trade tariffs in place and remains tough on other contentious areas of the relationship with Beijing, such as cybersecurity and

During the call, Biden's message was that the United States wants to ensure "we don't have any situation in the future where we veer into unintended conflict," a senior US administration official told reporters.

In Beijing, state broadcaster CCTV reported that the phone call was "candid, in-depth" with Xi noting the "serious difficulties" caused by recent US policy towards China, which has seen the countries joust over trade, tech, human rights and the origins of the coronavirus

"Whether China and the US can properly handle their relations... is critical for the future and destiny of the world. And this is a question of the century that both countries must answer," state broadcaster CCTV said citing Xi.

The White House signaled the diplomatic impasse is unsustainable and potentially dangerous, requiring intervention by the leaders in

Thursday's call.

We welcome stiff competition but we don't want that competition to veer into conflict," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity,

The goal of the call was to set out "guardrails" so that the relationship can be "managed responsibly." Lower level attempts to engage with China have not gone well, especially at an angry March exchange

between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and top

Chinese officials when they met in Anchorage, Alaska. Faced with the impasse, "President Biden understood the importance of engaging President directly," the

official said.

decisions

Thursday's

focused on "broad

and strategic" issues,

with no concrete

expected



outstanding issues or setting up a first Biden-Xi summit, the official said. The list of disagreements between Washington

and Beijing is long and growing. Beyond trade, with the White House official complaining of "China's unfair and coercive trade practices," there is deepening tension over China's claims to Taiwan and numerous islands in the

South China Sea. Washington is also angered by what it says is China's refusal to cooperate with an international probe into the origins of the Covid-19 virus, which first emerged in China before sweeping worldwide.

There are areas where the two powers also find themselves having to cooperate or at least coordinate, including on North Korea's nuclear weapons program and the climate crisis.

The White House said that Biden and Xi discussed the Covid pandemic and climate, among other global topics. But Thursday's call was "not about finding some sort of breakthrough agreements," the official said. It was "about keeping the channels of communication open" between the two powers.

"Our goal is, is to really reach a steady state of affairs between the United States and China," the official said.

ELSEN

Tender ID: 602972

Time: 14.00 pm.

Time: 15.00 pm.

GD-1622

Tender ID: 605515

Package# MFD/SUFAL/2021-22/GD-01

Package# MFD/SUFAL/2021-22/GD-02

(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233,+880176225528, +8801762625529).

Publishing Date: September 08, 2021

Publishing Date: September 08, 2021

CLASHES BETWEEN TROOPS, ANTI-JUNTA FORCES

At least 10 killed in restive Myanmar

Myanmar troops killed several members of a local "defence force" in a day of clashes, the junta said yesterday, with local residents and media reporting at least 10 dead.

The country has been in turmoil since a February coup and a military crackdown on dissent that has killed more than 1,000 people, according to a local monitoring group. Junta troops were attacked with "small arms and homemade guns" as they entered Myin Thar village in the western Magway region on Thursday, army spokesman Zaw Min Tun told state-backed People Media.

The soldiers, who were searching for members of a local "Peoples' Defence Force" had killed a number of fighters, he said, without giving an exact figure.

Soldiers set fire to several houses after the clash, residents said. Local media reported between 10 and 15 locals had been killed.

On Tuesday around a dozen military-owned communications towers were destroyed, the same day a shadow government working to reverse the coup called for a "people's defensive war against the junta." The "National Unity Government" is made up of dissident lawmakers in hiding or exile, many of them from ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's party.



1922 - A British mandate was proclaimed in Palestine. It came into effect at the end of the month, despite Arab protests.

2001 - Four hijacked planes crashed into New York's twin World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon in

Washington and a field in Pennsylvania killing 2,973 people. The coordinated attack was planned and executed by al-Qaeda. 2012 - US Consulate

attacked in Benghazi, Libya with American staff member dying in the clashes.

SOURCE: REUTERS



Free School Street Hatirpool

3 Bedroom Apartments with high-end amenities including Swimming Pool, Community Hall, Gymnasium, Rooftop Garden & Walkway etc.

01711694343, 01714016716, 01711426855

Illusive herd immunity WHO says Covid-19 vaccines may help

curb serious illness, not the pandemic

AFP, Copenhagen

The head of the WHO Europe was pessimistic yesterday about vaccines' ability to put an end to the Covid pandemic, as new variants dash hopes of reaching herd immunity.

Faced with the possibility that the virus

may be around for many years, health officials must now "anticipate how to gradually adapt our vaccination strategy," in particular on the question of additional doses, Hans Kluge told reporters.

In May, the WHO director had said "the pandemic will be over once we reach 70 percent minimum coverage in vaccination." Asked by AFP if that figure was still a target or whether more people

would need to be vaccinated, Kluge acknowledged that the situation had changed due to new, more transmissible variants, such as Delta. I think it brings us to the point that the aim of a vaccination is first and foremost to prevent more serious disease, and that's mortality," he

Epidemiologists now suggest that it is unrealistic that herd immunity can be reached solely with the use of vaccines, though they remain crucial to contain the pandemic.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Divisional Forest Officer

Mymensingh Forest Division, Mymensingh. Memo No. 22.01.0000.624.29.001.2021-3887

Date: September 08, 2021

e-Tender Notice

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk

This is to notify all concern that the following tenders have published through e-GP Portal. Online Tender Last Selling & Closing Date Tender ID, Package, No. & Date of Publishing Package Description and Time. Supply of Polypropylene bags for Last Selling Date: September 27, 2021 at 16.00 pm. Closing Date and Time: September 28, 2021 at 14:00 pm. Last Selling Date: September 27, 2021 at Supply of Loamy Soil and Cow dung for Nursery. 16.00 pm.

2021 at 14:30 pm. The interested Persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted o submit e-Tender Registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

> (A.K.M Ruhul Amin) **Divisional Forest Officer** Mymensingh Forest Division. Phone: 091-64380

Closing Date and Time: September 28,

e-mail: dfomymn@gmail.com

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

I promise to bounce back: **Khairul Basar**

Khairul Basar made his way into the showbiz industry with tele-fictions and TVCs. He soon rose to fame with his natural and effortless acting skills. With two back to back OTT hits, "Mohanagar" and "Networker Baire", the actor soon became the talk of the town, and was appreciated by one and all.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

He recently survived an accident and is currently resting to recover. In a candid chat with The Daily Star, the actor talks about his journey, recent releases, and

Born in Kishoreganj, Khairul Basar had a keen interest in music since childhood. Walking closer towards his dream of becoming a singer, the actor left home and moved to the city to study music at University of Dhaka.

Being exposed to different art forms around him, the actor soon started engaging himself in various campus based co-curricular activities, mostly leaning towards theatre and stage performances.

Khairul Basar started his acting career after being inspired by a mime performance by Mir Lokman, they went on to form an organisation together called Dhaka University Mime Action. "In 2011, I came across a performance by Lokman that left me speechless," shares Khairul Basar. "While miming, my stage presence started effecting the audience's emotions

Shawki," shares Basar. Following along the success trail of

"Punorabritti", the actor was cast again in "Sincerely Yours, Dhaka" (2018), one of the first two films to enter Netflix originating from Bangladesh. He went on to bag roles in many other critically acclaimed productions, including "Unoponchash Batash" (2020). He was also featured in the popular

fiction-series "Close-up Kache Ashar Golpo" namely "Tomar Pashe Hatte Divo" and "Ekdin Brishtyte Bikele", both directed by Anam Biswas. He has also appeared in many other tele-fictions, including "Jotno", "Chorer Master", and "Tumi Arekti Din Theko". "Rather than

taking up numerous projects, absorbing

the character, his struggles and emotions,

are more important for me to perfect the role," says Khairul Basar.

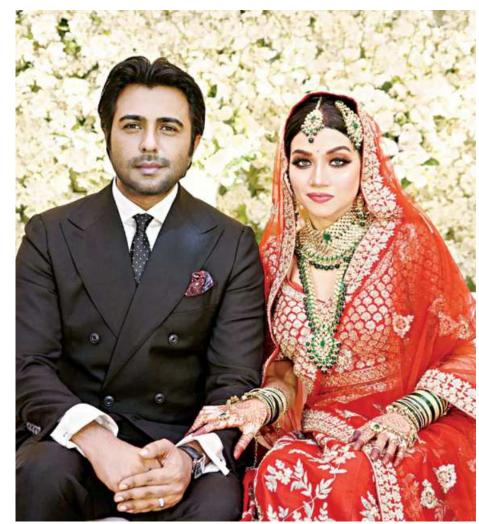
This year, Khairul Basar appeared as Abir in the HoiChoi original "Mohanagar", directed by Ashfaque Nipun, where he shared the screen with prominent actors Mosharraf Karim, Zakia Bari Mamo, and Shamol Mawla.

"As actors, we also have a social responsibility and I always take myself to be a story teller who aims at raising awareness through his work," mentions

Leaping towards his net appearance, Khairul Basar made his film debut with the Mizanur Rahman Aryan's debut web film "Networker Baire". Upon release, the film started trending on social media, flooding the actor's wall with positive criticisms for his role Munna.

Sadly, the actor along with his "Networker Baire" co-stars survived a deadly accident while returning from the success party of this production. "Accidents don't come with notices. I believe, it was the love and blessings of my fans and their blessings that brought us back from such a





My wife loves my acting: Apurba

Popular television actor Apurba has carved a place for himself in the hearts of millions with his powerful performances over the years. The "Boro Chele" famed actor recently tied the knot with Shyamma Dewan, a Bangladeshi-American. The news of his wedding created quite a buzz across social media.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Apurba opened up about his marriage, and his upcoming plans.

How does it feel to start a new chapter in

By the grace of Allah, I have started this new chapter. Please pray for us that we get to spend many more years together. As a newly married couple, we are now busy attending different family events. Currently, Shyamma has a job in America. So, she will have to go back abroad soon.

When will you be returning to shoots? It will take some time before I can return to work. If all goes well, I will be back to shoots by the end of this month.

Do you have any plans for your honeymoon?

Does your wife like your acting?

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I don't think we will be going anywhere for the honeymoon. If the situation gets better, we might make some plans.

My wifehas seen my work, and she loves my acting. She has praised many of my

performances, and encourages me to pursue good roles.

Do you have any request or message for your fans?

I have only one request to them. Please continue to shower me with your love and pray for my new journey.

Translated by Rakshanda Rahman Misha







A panel displaying all the victims of the tragic incident.



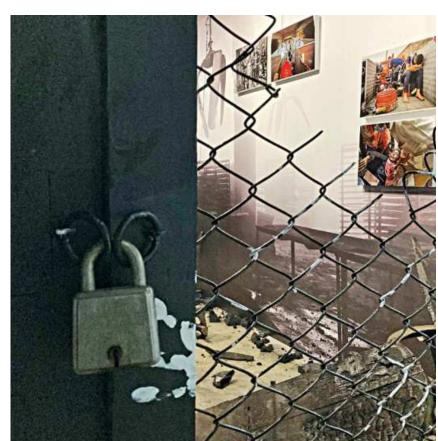


Drik's homage to victims of Hashem **Foods Factory fire**

Long after the water from fire engines had extinguished the raging flames that surged through Narayanganj's Hashem Foods Factory in July this year, the flames still burned in the charred homes of the 54 who died in the fire.

Their dreams were shattered; their belief in a just society, torn to shreds. "Scorched Lives at Hashem Foods", a mixed media exhibition paying homage to the victims of the factory fire, is currently underway in Drik Path Bhaban at Panthapath.

At the exhibition, a corridor with a photograph of a giant, burnt lock captures the attention of the spectators right away. The photograph, taken by Shahidul Alam, portrays the narrative that workers were dying inside the locked floor of Hashem Foods Factory. The exhibition, organised by media house Drik, will conclude on September 20.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Jeff Bezos named baldest rich man alive; locals believe they have better candidates

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos was named the baldest rich man alive, but that has raised an outcry around the world especially in Chapasthan.

Amid immense populist challenge, Jeff Bezos is on the verge of losing his longheld position to a Chapasthan policeman, another bald-headed man who once had hair in the millions. He is now bald, and has also accumulated massive wealth in different countries.

Whenever we talk about Bezos, we tend to talk about his wealth. That sort of affluent-ist stereotype has to be left behind, said a pedestrian in Dhoka, adding that it now must be ensured that he doesn't also become baldest rich guy.

We should know that Bezos can be compared with others based on things other than his wealth, such as the amount of hair on his head or his shiny, Amaz-on-ing chrome dome.

The judges of the award, Balffluent 2021, are still deciding which aspect to focus on the thinning or lack of hair or the fattening of wallets - when deciding the winner.

Now Bezos, despite his billions, is in doubt and absolute fear about losing his position to a person who is totally unknown. That's the beauty of hair and the dollop of embezzlement -- humble follicles and offshore riches can make the richest and baldest person insecure.

Meanwhile, the Chapasthan policeman seems angry. He did not like the idea of

being compared based on hair or lack thereof, even if it is with Bezos.

While Jeff Bezos's position is under constant threat from the policeman, another challenger appeared to exacerbate Bezos's follicle-challenged headache.

Bruhsell, the owner of an infamous e-commerce platform in Chapasthan, appeared from nowhere.

Bruhsell is all about potential. His head has a bit of hair, but everyone thinks that it would soon all be lost. The promise -- just like the promise of millions of deliveries on his e-commerce platform - was there.

"Also, as soon as I lose the rest of my hair, it will make me more aerodynamic and I can climb up the ladder faster," Bruhsell said.

"Man, the way Chapasthan people are pushing me, I may fail to get myself into the top ten, let alone the top three. Although the new guy Bruhsell looks less threatening as he still has some hair, I am sure that he will get rid of it overnight to outperform us," Jeff Bezos expressed his fear fearlessly.

People are enjoying the competition -- the less the hair on the head, the higher the chance to be champion, they think. As two Chapasthan heads are causing a headache for the world's most known billionaire, the two heads are becoming more known by the day.

A local Chapasthan biker, while pushing his bike on the footpath, said joyfully, "Kick Bezos out of his position. We Chapasthan people deserve top position always, especially when it comes to corruption."



Notorious e-commerce platform brings in 'foreign investments'



Representational image of customers looking for products they ordered in 1779.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

AAQIB HASIB

Last Friday, renowned business guru and founder of E-Gorge, Bruhssel Bromad, announced to thousands of his followers and fanboys through his Facebook live stream that E-Gorge had finally procured some foreign investment. This came months after regulatory bodies

had been pursuing E-Gorge on the basis of what they termed "fraudulent activities".

Bruhsell sat in his signature gaming chair and wiped away the tears on his face after being dogged by regulatory bodies and journalists for months on end. The webcam light bounced off the disco ball on his forehead, branded with E-Gorge stickers in typical Bruhsell fashion.

"Let's get thing one out of the way," he said, pointing to the disco ball, "this is on sale at E-Gorge.com with a 99% discount for

"Now, let's talk about E-Gorge. No one believed in me. People bullied me online, calling me a fraud. Nobody believed me

when I said I just needed more time to ensure to be tears of joy. E-Gorge could deliver its backlog of two years' worth of orders. Well, now we have procured one the largest foreign investments of all time! A Chainese investment company will be injecting us with \$550 billion!! The Genius Book of World Records has already contacted me and I will be receiving my plaque, delivered by E-Gorge parcel service shortly," said Bruhsell.

The livestream was flooded with likes and heart reacts as long-time fans of E-Gorge and Bruhsell celebrated in the comment sections declaring every news agency and government entity to ever ridicule E-Gorge as "dalals".

But some people were still looking for answers. A few viewers asked for details of the investing company and when they would be receiving products they had ordered in 2019.

"The company's name is ---uh--- it's Pawnzi Ltd. They're a company out of Chaina and they could not wait to invest in us after seeing our business model," Bruhsell said, putting his hand in front of his mouth, choking on what people could only assume

Viewers, at this point, started commenting about the white board with a triangle drawn in marker. Bruhsell moved it out of the frame quickly before reassuring viewers that it was only a new business model that they had been working on. Many fans of Bruhsell have since speculated that it might be the Illuminati sign, as only that can explain how a man from such a humble background could reach such heights.

"Now, for everyone who believed in me and are still waiting for me to deliver their products, I will explain the procedure to get your products in the second quarter of the next year. Firstly, you'll need to draw a pentagram on your floor using some red paint. Then you need to switch off your lights and burn and delete both physical and digital copies of all of your receipts by candlelight. Once you are done, send the video to my Telergraam ID, and you will receive your products soon," he said, and followed up by whispering, "terms and conditions apply.

Tali-Ban ready to deploy peacekeepers in Southeast Asian countries plagued by US bullying

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CORRESPONDENT

In support of allies China, a spokesperson of Tali-ban -- a religious organisation which shoots on site anyone who is seen clapping in joy --- on Thursday has declared that the

group is ready to deploy peacekeepers in Southeast Asian countries bullied by the United States. The comments were made at another one of Tali-Ban's eye-opening visionary press briefings where they

announced a string of new financial

commitments made by Beijing. "We are always ready to support all Southeast Asian countries plagued by US rule. We will not impose ourselves on them. We will carry out peacekeeping missions by imposing it on ourselves first, and then presenting it as an example to them -- that is the Tali-Ban vision of governance," said the unnamed but fully armed spokesperson.

While answering questions, the spokesperson also said their vision for the future has already been outlined

in religion. "The rules are very clear, and we are in consultation right now to figure out what policies we can draft. When pressed about China's

treatment of the Uighurs - who follow the same religion of which Tali-Ban says they are the sole guardians -- in Xinjiang, the spokesperson ended the press briefing, exited the building while firing stray shots at protesting

In a separate yet related development (go figure) the country's former President Ashlo Bhagi apologised to his countrymen for fleeing the country with millions in cash when the Tali-Ban took over.

"I did it for peace of my people," he said in a televised address. He however did not know that the microphone was still recording after the interview ended and he said: "By my people I mean my family, and by peace I mean the comfort only millions can buy.... Am I right, am I



Representational Image.

PHOTO: REUTERS

8 | The Baily Star

The Paily Star

LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2021, BHADRA 27, 1428 BS

Delayed verdicts only add to victims' suffering

Landmark verdict in Jonny case remains stayed for a year

T is unfortunate that a landmark verdict once hailed as a turning point in the prosecution of custodial death and torture cases in Bangladesh has been marred in a lengthy legal battle, making the verdict all but ineffective even after a year of delivery. On September 9, 2020, the verdict by a trial court—the first ever in a custodial death case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013—saw three policemen responsible for the death of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny sentenced to life imprisonment. They were also directed to pay Tk 2 lakh each as compensation. But according to a report citing a discussion of legal experts, the High Court then stayed the verdict of life imprisonment as well as realisation of the fine following appeals from the convicts. Things have been at a stalemate since then.

Navigating the protracted legal battle, we're told, has been especially hard for Jonny's brother, who at the commemorative discussion session admitted to still being harassed in his neighbourhood. Unaided and unprotected against any threat of retribution, the family languishes without justice even after over seven years since Jonny's death on February 7, 2014—not to speak of the financial toll of having to fight a costly legal battle. This incident, unfortunately, is the latest in a long list of cases that have failed to find a resolution because of delays in the judicial process. One can recall the fate of the rape and murder case of law student Rupa Khatun which, on February 12, 2018, saw a Tangail court, in just 14 days after the incident, sentencing four men to death and another to seven years' imprisonment. The quick trial also drew praise for being a landmark verdict, but soon fell into lengthy legal quagmire.

These cases illustrate the importance of overhauling the judiciary to handle cases more efficiently and quickly The immense caseload our courts are clogged with as well as the shortage of judges and necessary support systems (including legal protection for the victims) mean that some cases end up taking years—even decades—to find a resolution. The long wait and attendant challenges can also dissuade the victims, especially those from humble backgrounds, from pursuing their cases. This is the opposite of what the legal system stands for—protecting the unprotected by ensuring justice. We urge the higher judicial authorities to undertake necessary reforms to fasttrack resolution of the cases, especially the criminal cases. If there are procedural and systemic bottlenecks hindering the delivery of justice, those need to be eliminated too. We must do it for the sake of thousands waiting helplessly

Break the vicious cycle of domestic worker abuse

There is no proper law to protect them from torture at the hands of their employers

E are shocked to know about the ordeal of a 21-year-old woman who was recently released after being confined and tortured for five years. According to our report, she was sent to a job in Dhaka's Bhatara area—by her aunt—in 2016, where she was supposed to work as a domestic help. Shortly after she went to the house, she was taken hostage by her employers, who turned out to be the members of a gang that forced girls and women into sex work. For five years, she was out of contact with her family members, who unable to get in touch with her—assumed she had died. It was only about five months ago that her abusers finally set her free, and she found her way to a relative's house at

During her confinement, she suffered unspeakable horrors—torture, rape, being forced into sex work and transferred from house to house. Unfortunately, domestic worker abuse is nothing new in Bangladesh. Many women, often young, are tortured and abused after being recruited as domestic workers. Their families send them away in hopes that their daughters would make an income while working in what they assume are safe environments. But the number of cases of people torturing their domestic helps—many of whom are children—gives us a glimpse of how horrible the situation is.

Bangladesh has the Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015, but it is hardly implemented. The Labour Act recognises domestic work as a valid profession, but it belongs in the informal sector. Domestic workers are thus deprived of rights and protection, allowing apathetic employers to abuse them and face no consequences. There is little these workers' families can do, given their financial conditions and standing in society. It is only when the abuse leads to devastating consequences—severe physical injuries or death—that the law enforcement gets wind of it. Even then, the victims rarely get justice. For instance, when the family of the abovementioned survivor thought she was dead and filed a case against her employers, the accused were in jail for only six months before getting out on bail.

Now that the young woman, although traumatised to the extreme, is back to safety, and the culprits have again been arrested, we hope that this time the law enforcement will ensure she gets justice, and her abusers are punished accordingly. It is also high time the domestic worker welfare policy was effectively implemented in the country, and the government took some strict and timely steps to protect them from mistreatment and abuse. These cases are a gross violation of human rights. These are mostly women and girls who are forced to move away from their families to earn a living; such abuse against them cannot be left unopposed and unpunished.

9/11: The Turning Point



N September 2001, soon attack on the Twin Towers, the Bangladesh government issued a public announcement to contact the America & Pacific wing of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the whereabouts of Bangladeshi residents. The director concerned was travelling from Barishal to Dhaka that evening; he remained ignorant of the horrible incident that had taken place that day. He came directly from Sadarghat to his office and started receiving a flurry of phone calls from worried relatives. He called in his associate, my wife, and asked: "What's the deal with the Twin Towers?" My wife briefed him, but he was in utter disbelief. "What do you mean the towers have collapsed? How could that even happen?" he exclaimed. My wife used two pencils and an eraser to demonstrate the incident, only to confuse the man even further. He rested his chin against his hand, and said: "Thank God, I took a photo in front of those buildings during my last visit."

The emotional turnabout from denial to acceptance can be explained through the Kübler-Ross model of grief management. The same stages can be detected in the American attitude towards 9/11 if we think of the calamitous military withdrawal from Afghanistan as a form of acceptance. Once the anger phase following the initial denial was subdued, there was a series of bargains and depressions that characterise the American response in the last 20 years.

The disbelief that a terror attack could occur in the American heartland led the Americans to believe that the worldwide War on Terror was needed for the protection of the free world. President George W Bush vowed that they would bring the war to the terrorists, dividing the world into the "us" and "them" camps.

I vividly remember when the first air raid took place; CNN showed pictures of Afghan fighters riding horses, with the commentator saying: "This is the war between the 21st century and the 11th century." The war exposed the clash of civilisations, as American political scientist Samuel Huntington theorised, and spread to Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Pakistan, among other places. Following 9/11, the US narrative started painting the Muslim world with the brush with which their indigenous population was once portrayed: the noble savage and the bloodthirsty savage. Individuals such as Malala would therefore become the good Muslims, while the Taliban were the bad ones. Crediting some Muslims as innocent till proven guilty was the bargain that the US was ready to offer, which justified its trade deals with oil-rich

Then the rise of the number of soldiers in body bags and the trillions of dollars

from the taxpayers' money spent to restore democracy or fix rogue states caused nationwide depression, leading to the endgame officiated by the Biden administration. The Taliban returned to power on the heels of an agreement they had signed with the US in Qatar last year, and the suicide attack at Kabul airport shows that Afghanistan still remains a safe haven for al-Qaeda and Islamic State. Does it mean, after 20 years, we are back to the denial-anger-bargain-depression-

9/11 world where we have accepted such nuisance as normal, just like we have learned to live with surveillance in a Big Brother state.

In defining who the enemy is, America has defined itself too. The arrows and olive branch held by the American icon, a bald eagle, used to traditionally determine the hawkish and dovish foreign policies of different administrations—9/11 changed all that. America no longer wants the puritan

Police forces now behave like the military. And the radical terrorists see the reflection of their enemies in totalitarian and dictatorial states. The ground zero has shifted so much that it is no longer possible to pin down on the centre of terrorism or to identify the cocoons of terror. The connect-thedots investigative journalism of Michael Moore's documentary, "Fahrenheit 9/11, argued that the inner circle of the Bush administration used media to cash in on



The US-led campaign against terrorism in a post-9/11 world has made things worse, not better.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

acceptance cycle all over again? Then again, it would be a fallacy to think that these emotional categories exist in watertight compartments. Is it possible for the anger to burn out so easily when so many lives are lost and the national pride is hurt? We have already seen how the slow-burning anger can morph into xenophobia and Islamophobia that allowed President Donald Trump's illiberalism to flourish.

How has 9/11 changed the world? For brown people like me, with Islam written as the religion on my passport, being routinely pulled out for random checks or getting extra Thai massage at the airport security line has become more frequent than ever. To be honest, such racial profiling does not make me angry anymore. I know many of my friends who live in the US had to change their names to avoid backlash soon after the tragic incident. Now we live in a post-

belief of being an exclusive indispensable role model for the world. In unleashing its Global War on Terror, America had to change some of its essential values. It started violating its own laws. Illegal confinement and interrogation outside its territories and ghost flights suspending its habeas corpus is a case in point. The post-9/11 America saw most of the global challenges around the world through the lenses of Islamic terrorism and the crusade dictum. Exuberant spending on the War on Terror allowed certain groups to become richer and more influential than ever. The extra funding created mercenary militia and innovative weaponry. The surveillance system became more sophisticated than ever to encroach upon the liberty of every civilian. The system became corrupt. And what's dangerous is that the US model is being replicated by governments across

the fearmongering and benefit from the wars. Whether such paranoia is true or not is for the American people to decide.

The US had the world's sympathy for 9/11. The attacks did characterise the assault on the heart and soul of every freedom-loving soul. When the US went after the perpetrators of 9/11 in the mountainous terrains of Afghanistan, the sympathy remained intact. The democratic changes and the nationbuilding process in Afghanistan were heart-warming to see. The retreat from Kabul, however, tells a different story. It takes us back to the question: Why did the Twin Towers fall? How did it change not only the US but also the whole world? There are people who would still like to hold on to the image of a pre-9/11 America with its signature skyline.

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A memory from 20 years ago...



STANTON

our new flat in New York City, especially the 300sg-ft terrace with its panoramic views of Lower Manhattan. Because we lived on the 24th floor, it felt like we were

floating in the sky. A licensed tour guide, I was thrilled to be living in the heart of the historic Financial District. I had taken thousands of tourists over the years to the World Trade Center complex, where we would take the 82-second lift ride to the observatory on the 107th floor and enjoy views that stretched 45 miles in every direction.

Life seemed perfect for me and Brian, my husband of just more than a year. Just like the Twin Towers that stretched a quarter mile into the clouds, it felt like the sky was the limit for us.

But just two months after we moved into our dream apartment, Brian shook me awake, shouting something about the World Trade Center. I jumped out of my bed and followed him to the terrace. Thick black smoke was rolling out of the North Tower, just six blocks away. Emergency vehicles raced down the West Side Highway—lights flashing, sirens blaring. I looked down to the street. People were running in all directions, some directly into traffic.

Suddenly, something caught my eye. I saw a plane flying low—too low. With a deafening roar, the jet swooped like a hawk and banked to the left, its nose pointed straight at the South Tower. We felt, rather than saw, the impact. One moment we were standing on the terrace, and the next I woke up on the living

Our flat in the sky suddenly felt very vulnerable. Brian grabbed our dog, Gabriel, and we raced to the stairwell. After galloping down the 24 flights, I opened the exit door to the street. Only then did I realise I was barefoot and wearing my nightgown. My husband gave blowing directly into the park, we took

me his socks to protect my feet, and we joined the crowds running away from the burning buildings.

Hopscotching through traffic, we made our way to Battery Park. But not long after we found a bench to rest on, the ground began to shake violently. I heard a rumble like a freight train, and thousands of people in the park began screaming as we realised that one of the towers was falling.

I froze in terror as a mass of something hit me in the face. It felt like someone

cover by an old fort and hugged its stone wall, trying to catch our breath. Gabriel flopped on the ground, exhausted. Coated in gunk, struggling to breathe, we realised we were stranded at the tip of Manhattan Island with no obvious escape

"Brian, do you think we're going to die?" I asked, shocked that my life might be over at the age of 31.

"Maybe," Brian replied sadly. He grabbed my hands, and we prayed to God our way, even though we were not near any loading dock or ferry terminal. We followed a crowd and were able to board a ferry that had pulled up to the edge of a pedestrian walkway.

A wave of relief washed over me as we chugged away from the shore. After three hours of terror, we were off the island. As our boat set sail across the Hudson, I looked back at the Manhattan skyline. The Twin Towers were gone, the New York City skyline forever altered.

It was weeks before we could return to our apartment. When we finally got back home, I worked up the courage to step out on the terrace. The beautiful, awe-inspiring Twin Towers were gone, replaced by a gaping black hole and a pile of rubble.

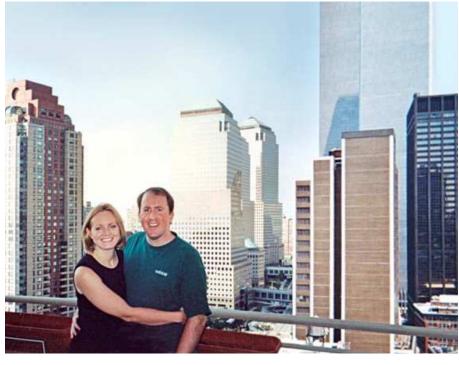
I'm still a New York City tour guide, and I still take tourists to the World Trade Center site. But now I tour them through the 9/11 memorial and the museum, where I stop at the reflecting pools and tell my story. I share my experience because thousands of others cannot.

The September 11 attacks in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington, DC remain one of the deadliest acts of terrorism in world history. The attacks were unprecedented in terms of scope, magnitude, and impact. Almost 3,000 people died in the attacks that day, including people from more than 90 countries around the world.

More than 6,000 people were injured, and people are still suffering and dying from cancer and other illnesses related to exposure from toxins released when the Twin Towers crumbled. Physically, it took New York City years to fully rebuild the areas that were damaged on 9/11, but the emotional effects of that day can never be fully repaired.

As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11, may our memories of how much we lost on that terrible day inspire us to work toward unity, mutual respect, and world peace. As the Covid-19 pandemic has shown us, we are a global community whose lives depend on and affect each other. May we never forget the ties that bind us.

Christina Ray Stanton is a Florida native-turned-New Yorker and a licensed NYC tour guide specialising in the 9/11 memorial and 9/11 history.



Christina Ray Stanton and her husband Brian in front of the New York skyline and the Twin Towers before the 9/11 attacks. PHOTO COURTESY: AUTHOR

had thrown a bucket of sticky sand over me; gunk filled my nose and mouth, covered my pyjamas, and coated every pore of unprotected skin.

I opened my eyes slowly, trying to protect them from whatever was on my eyelids. Brian hadn't moved, but he looked completely different—like an upright mummy. Everyone around us was covered in the same sticky, yellow goo.

Dodging thick clouds of smoke

After the prayer, Brian led us north. As we tried to find a way to safety, the second tower fell with another earth-shattering thunder, sending even more clouds of smoke and gunk into the atmosphere. We eventually found ourselves on the banks of the Hudson River along with thousands of others who had congregated at the water's edge.

At some point, we realised that boats of all shapes and sizes were headed

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 ATTACKS

A day of remembrance, a day of reckoning



how the day marking the 20th anniversary of the al-Qaeda attacks on the United States was expected to be commemorated, but unfortunately, the day has turned out to be not only a day of remembrance, but also of reckoning.

Like any other year, commemorative events remembering those who lost their lives in the horrific attacks will be held today, but the discussion in the wake of the day has been dominated by the recent events in Afghanistan. The most innocuous question has been: How have we come to this point? Detractors of the US and conscientious observers of US policies agree that the country has lost another war. For observers, the questions are how and why. It is not only the Afghanistan war they are referring to, but to a larger picture: Has the US lost the war it fought against terrorism for the past two decades? Did the war that President George W Bush began nine days after that attack in 2001 conclude with the fall of Kabul to the Taliban on August 15, 2021? For the past decade, there has been intense discussion on the failure of the war, and the chaotic withdrawal from Kabul has become the most obvious symbol of

George W Bush, referring to the attackers, said on September 12, 2001: "The United States will use all resources to conquer this enemy. We will rally the world. We will be patient. We will focus, and we will be steadfast in our determination. This battle will take time and resolve. But make no mistake about it, we will win." Indeed, in the past two decades, four US presidents-George W Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden—remained steadfast in their defence of this "war", and there was no dearth of resources. The US has already spent at least USD 2 trillion, and another USD 4 trillion

will be needed in the future to deal with the consequences of the war. At one point, most countries in the world extended their sympathy and support to the US. But it cannot be claimed that it has won the War on Terror.

It is important to recall that the nature and scope of this war was neither clearly stated, nor did one know how someone was being identified as an "enemy." In such an instance, "win" remains as elusive as the accomplishment of mission. The question raised in the September-October issue of Foreign Affairs is important: What would it mean to win?

Terrorism is a strategy, which can be adopted by anyone at any point; yet, a war was declared against it by the US and its allies, leaving it to our imagination as to what is meant by the "War on Terror." To say that it was ambiguous is an understatement; it turned out to be an action to serve the geopolitical and economic interests of a few countries. That's why defence contractors profited from the US presence in Afghanistan more than the Afghans. There has been no clear answer in the past two decades as to what the strategy of the asymmetrical warfare should be. In Afghanistan, the war against terror was transformed from counterterrorism to counterinsurgency, and then to the ambitious nation-building project. It is a classic example of a mission adrift.

Analysing the War on Terror exclusively through the experience of the Afghanistan war will be incomplete, if not erroneous. It is under the pretext of the War on Terror that Iraq was invaded, violating international laws and norms. Besides, there have been indirect military interventions—drone strikes, for example—in various countries against "terrorists," which have cost the lives of innocent people making these attacks counterproductive.

The US and the UK were not the only partners of the so-called Global War on Terror (GWOT). Many countries were quick to join the bandwagon as their rulers saw it fit their own interests. In its name, rulers of various

countries, particularly the authoritarians, have grabbed more power, increased surveillance over common citizens, and enacted laws limiting the fundamental rights.

On September 20, 2001, George Bush declared the war and drew a line in the sand: "Every nation in every region now has a decision to make-either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." The seed of a longlasting division was sowed with these words. This division didn't stay within the purview of US foreign policy; instead, it permeated

rulers, many with dubious track records, have used and continue to use this idea. No matter how much they and their supporters oppose US foreign policy, no matter how loudly they speak out against the alleged War on Terror, their penchant for such policy is easily discernible. Their everyday rhetoric and behaviour reveal their preference for a contrived division, a tendency to construct enemies, and an eagerness to silence dissent. In this way, the concept of War on Terror has gained a life of its own, and assumed different



The future role of the US in global politics and the geo-strategic global game will be partly shaped by what it learns from the events, strategies, and failures of the last two decades.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

society. Islamophobia, which had existed for long within the US society, reached a new height. The loyalty and patriotism of Muslims were questioned. In the long run, this attitude has contributed to the pernicious divide in US politics, the rise of white supremacist extremism, and anti-Muslim hatred.

The notion of such division has proliferated beyond the boundaries of the US. Other

forms in different countries to justify the violation of democracy and human rights. Whether terrorists exist in society has made little difference, and where violent extremists have been present, it has been used as an excuse to give rise to a culture of fear through legal and extralegal measures.

The measures taken to combat terrorism have become a blessing to domestic and

transnational terrorist organisations, as these measures have helped them recruit new foot soldiers. The rise of Islamic State, in Iraq in 2014, is a case in point. This is not to suggest that such terrorist organisations were absent prior to 2001. The September 11 attacks and the previously growing strength of al-Qaeda, building bases in Afghanistan, providing training to recruits from different countries and launching attacks on US interests in various countries since 1993, prove that terrorist activities were a reality on the ground. However, whether their strengths were overrated, the measures taken against them were proportional to the threat they posed, and the adopted strategy was correct or not is an open question and deserves criticism. Some argue that the GWOT has decimated

al-Qaeda as a centralised organisation capable of mounting large-scale attacks on US interests. Various violent organisations inspired by al-Qaeda ideology have emerged in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, but they do not pose any imminent threat to the security of the US. This is portrayed as a success. Another argument is that the US has not been a victim of any major terrorist attack since 9/11. But are these successes worth the money spent and the 7,000 American lives lost in Afghanistan and

Twenty years after 9/11, a new reality has emerged in the wake of the humiliating defeat of the US in Afghanistan. After the attacks in 2001, we became accustomed to describing the present era as "post-9/11." Perhaps in 2021, we are entering a new era which can be described as "post-post-9/11." The future role of the US in global politics and the geo-strategic global game will be partly shaped by what it learns from the events, strategies, and failures of the last two decades. Without the reckoning, it will be difficult for the US to move forward. September 11, 2021 should be the point of departure of the reckoning.

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Winners and losers of the West's 'forever wars'



ERESH OMAR JAMAL

years of the 9/11 attacks on the US masterminded by Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and a bunch of "ragheads" (as

ODAY

marks

angry racist US soldiers called them) sitting in some cave in Afghanistan, as per the West's dubious official narrative of what transpired on this day. Even though there are still a thousand unanswered uestions about what really happened, the events of 9/11 and what followed are undoubtedly the most important world-shaping occurrences

of the 21st century. It significantly changed the West's foreign policy (particularly the US) and marked the start of the War on Terror—an odd turn really, since al-Oaeda was of its own making. Hillary Clinton, for example, when she was the US secretary of state, once asked during her testimony to Congress why the US was in Afghanistan fighting the same people that they once funded to fight the Soviet Union—namely the Mujahideen

The first country the West invaded in its War on Terror was Afghanistan. Two long decades later, it has finally ended its occupation of that country, with mixed results, even according to its most ardent supporters and unapologetic war-hawksincluding politicians on both sides of the Atlantic, experts and media personalities across the partisan line.

According to the latest report by Brown University's "Costs of War" Project, the US-led war on terror has killed nearly one million people globally and cost more than USD 8 trillion. Even though the death toll in the report pales in comparison to another estimate from 2015 done by the Nobel Prize-winning Physicians for Social Responsibility—which said more than one million people were killed both indirectly and directly in wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan alone, never mind other places like Libya, Syria, etc-it is still significant

Meanwhile, the economic costs tallied by the "Costs of War" report include USD 2.3 trillion spent by the US government on military operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, USD 2.1 trillion in Iraq and Syria, and USD 355 billion in Somalia and other regions of Africa, with an additional USD 1.1 trillion spent on domestic security measures in the US since 2001, bringing direct expenditures from the war on terror at home and abroad to an astronomical USD 5.8 trillion. Moreover, according to an earlier report by the same group, the wars the US government has fought since 9/11 have forced at least 37 million people—perhaps as many as 59 million—to flee their homes. In Afghanistan and Iraq alone, the total number of displaced people reached 14.5 million. Alongside

that, the report included 3.7 million Pakistanis, 1.7 million Filipinos, 4.2 million Somalis, 4.4 million Yemenis, 1.2 million Libyans and 7.1 million Syrians who were displaced.

So, what did the US, the people living in these regions, and the world get in return?

Well, the US spent trillions of dollars of its own taxpayers' income, became a surveillance state—as exposed by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden—and surrendered the constitutional rights of its own citizens. Also, in the so-called pursuit of "exporting democracy," it sacrificed its own democratic ideals, such as granting US presidents the power to go to war without congressional approval. US soldiers, along with soldiers of other NATO countries, committed all sorts of atrocities worthy of being called war crimes, including torture—as exposed by CIA whistleblower John Kiriakou. Its troops killed hundreds of thousands of people in the countries they occupied, such as Afghanistan and Iraq—as exposed by documents published by WikiLeaks in their "Afghan War Diary" and "Iraq War

the world, mainly as a reactionary expression of anger against the violent conduct of the West. The Islamic State, which was largely created by the US invasion of Iraq, at one point controlled vast swaths of territory in Iraq, Syria and Libya, only to be pushed back by the West's seemingly sworn enemies such as the Assad government in Syria, Iran and Russia. Evidence has even come out showing that the West actually funded some of these radical elements for geopolitical

gains against its rivals. The destabilisation of countries particularly in the Middle East—has led to mass migrations of people, and the European migrant crisis that we witnessed a few years ago was a direct result of the West's interventionist policy. These migrations, in turn, have resulted in increased tensions between different cultures, people, and religions, and have possibly supplied even more fuel for future fires.

So, from that perspective, has the War on Terror and Western interventionism been a failure? Well, it depends on your definition of success

Following the recent US withdrawal



The US-led War on Terror has killed nearly one million people globally and cost more than USD 8 trillion. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Logs"—and then lied about it. According to a 2011 poll, six in 10 Americans believed that the US had weakened its economy by overspending in its responses to the 9/11 attacks. And two out of every three Americans perceived that since 9/11, US power and influence in the world declined.

The people in these regions, needless to say, suffered tremendously. Thousands of people died and millions were injured. Those who made it out alive couldn't possibly do so without suffering some sort of major trauma.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban has now once again returned to power and are better armed, thanks to US-made weapons. In Iraq, one poll from 2016 found that more than 90 percent of young people considered the US an enemy of their country. Peoples' sentiment was found to be similar in other countries, and they believed that the West had destabilised Syria, Somalia and Libya.

Islamic extremism has only increased and spread out all across

from Afghanistan, a 2011 video clip of WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange went viral. In it, the now incarcerated journalist—who, by the way, is yet to be convicted of any crime, but has published evidence that could possibly implicate Western leaders of being responsible for sanctioning war crimes—said that the US goal in Afghanistan is not to completely subjugate the country. "The goal is to use Afghanistan to wash money out of the tax bases of the US and Europe through Afghanistan and back into the hands of a transnational security elite. The goal is an endless war, not a successful war.

From that perspective, the War on Terror has been a success. According to The Intercept, over the past 20 years, returns on stocks of the five biggest US defence contractors— Boeing, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and General Dynamics—outperformed the overall stock market by 58 percent. "A USD 10,000 investment in stock evenly split across those five companies on the day in 2001 that then President George

W Bush signed the authorisation preceding the US invasion would be worth USD 97,295 this week," The Intercept reported on August 21. These numbers, according to journalist Jon Schwarz, "suggest that it is incorrect to conclude that the Taliban's immediate takeover of Afghanistan upon the US's departure means that the Afghanistan

Ministry/Division

Procuring Entity Name

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

Contact details of Official Inviting EO

War was a failure."

"On the contrary, from the perspective of some of the most powerful people in the US, it may have been an extraordinary success. Notably, the boards of directors of all five defence contractors include retired top-level military officers," he

For everyone else, however, the War on Terror has been a mostly painful and costly disaster, proving the words of Major General Smedley Butler one of the most decorated soldiers in all US history—true: "War is a racket."

Eresh Omar Jamal is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) Medical Education and Family Welfare Division Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 13/1, Sheikh Shaheb Bazar, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

Training Research and Development (TRD) Operational Plan of 4th HPNSP, National Institute of Population Research and

Training (NIPORT), Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)

Procuring Entity Code	:	16205224108800			
Procuring Entity District	1	Dhaka			
Expression of Interest for Selection of		Research/Consulting	Firm (National)		
Title of Service	- :	NPS 24: Procurement	t of Services for Bangladesh Dem	ographic and Health Survey (BDHS)	2021-22
EOI Ref. No.	- :	NIPORT/Research-10	06/BDHS (Part-1)/BDHS 2021-2	2/2020-423	
Date		08/09/2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
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Mohammed Ahsanul Alam

Director, Research (In Charge) and Evaluation Specialis

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National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT), Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 13/1 Sheikh Shaheb Bazar, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205

(Mohammed Ahsanul Alam)

Director, Research (In charge)

NIPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 BHADRA 27, 1428 BS

Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's "Obhoyer Onidra"

Obhoy's Insomnia

TRANSLATED BY SOHANA MANZOOR

An abrupt noise woke Obhoy up in the middle of the night and throughout the rest of the night his eyelids would not shut. What was the matter with him? He had been sound asleep; then suddenly he woke up as if someone was battering at the gate of his senses. Slowly, Obhoy sat up on his bed and lit the oil lamp. He looked around the room; everything seemed perfectly alright. What was he so afraid of then?

gether. Then one day, his mother died. Bokul took up the responsibilities of his household. Initially, it was difficult for her, but she learnt fast. She was able to replace his mother only too well. She did everything herself—from keeping the accounts to cooking and washing. She got up early in the morning and worked till midnight. She had no time to visit her parents even. Obhoy could not tolerate being without her for a



He sat still and tried to listen. No, there was no sound. He was worried for no good reason.

Then his gaze fell on the empty space on his bed. Even seven days ago, someone used to sleep there. Three years earlier, he had married Bokul. There had been a full moon in the sky alive then and they were all happy today. The next-door neighbor Champa had observed once, "O dear, you look

"I have so much to do, you know," replied Bokul.

Champa said, "You could work a little less, I'm sure."

Bokul answered as a complacently

if death comes to take me today, I have to ask him to wait.

Champa shuddered, "What kind of

talk is that?"

"Don't worry. Death won't take me." So, Bokul had brought order in Obhoy's disorderly household. Not only that, people said that he even had fallen in love with his wife. Obhoy, who couldn't bear to live without his friends, stopped visiting them after his marriage. His friends made fun of him, but he pretended as if he did not hear anything.

As days passed, Obhoy's friends began to shun him. Nobody saw him frolicking with friends or colleagues after office. His friends also stopped visiting him. Obhoy seemed relaxed and happy Bokul asked, "Why don't your friends come any more?"

Obhoy laughed uproariously. "Too much expense, my dear."

Bokul said, "But you know, everyone is going to blame me for your transformation.'

"What do you mean?" "I mean that people will think I've made you stop all these."

Obhoy laughed again, "Let them." Within two months of her marriage Bokul had understood that her husband was quite a miser. Marriage basically gave him an opportunity to

get rid of his friends. Slowly, three years passed by. Then one night, Bokul became ill. On Wednesday night, she called out to her husband. Obhoy asked, "W- what's

Bokul whimpered, "I feel so cold... ahh.. ooh.. close all the doors and windows. Let me have the quilt, all my clothes too. Oh, God, why is it so c..co...old? Give me everything in the house...

Obhoy put everything he had on her. Still, she felt cold. Obhoy put his palm on her forehead and felt she was burning. It was late at night; where could he go? Should he call in a doctor? But that meant he would have to spend money. Meanwhile, Bokul kept on screaming,

"O I am burning... O..O..O." Obhoy said to himself, "She went to bed all good. What happened? Is it Malaria? I'm sure it's just Malaria."

By this time, Bokul had started uttering gibberish.

Obhoy felt miserable. He sat by his less? It's my home and my family. Even night. He was ready to do anything that all over his body. He certainly was not

required physical labour. But he certainly was not going to spend money for nothing. In the morning, a local doctor was called in. The doctor took time in examining Bokul and passed the verdict that she had typhoid. And it was a difficult case too. She needed a lot of care.

Obhoy was horrified. He felt like crying his heart out. But instead of doing so he became magnanimous and spent ten taka on his wife. If Bokul had lived longer, he would have to spend more. But to save her loving husband from extra expenditure, the considerate wife died the very next day.

Obhoy fell on the floor, crying and whimpering like a woman. His precious home had fallen like a house of cards. He had failed miserably to protect his wife, and hence the only option for him was to wail at the top of his voice. His friends from the old days came to console him. They had carefully avoided Obhoy through the last three years, but the situation was different now. Seeing him cry so piteously, all of them shed tears too.

After burning her at the funeral pyre everybody went home in the evening.

People said that Obhoy's love for his wife was sublime. Bokul would often laugh at him and ask, "What would you do when I die?"

"I'll build a Tajmahal for you." "Oh, please, don't spend all your money on me."

Obhoy would say, "All that I have is yours. What's so great about it?" "Okay, so we have tons of money?

Why don't you go and get a fancy soap You want to spend four anas and

a half on bubbles?" Obhoy chided his wife. "No, no, we can't afford that kind of luxury here." Now that Bokul was gone, Obhoy

barely ate for six days and six nights. His friends and relatives were worried over him. They tried to console him in every possible wav.

Finally, after six days and nights he was able to think of his surroundings, and he fell asleep. That is when he heard the loud sound and woke up in the middle of the night. He gazed at the empty space where Bokul used to sleep and his entire being screamed.

Suddenly, a thought crossed his mind. He hoped his dead wife was not ready for that kind of love.

Then he heard the sound again. Someone was pushing the door from outside. Obhoy jumped up and looked through the hole. In sheer astonishment he spied a fat rat pressing itself in desperation at his door before finally disappearing round the corner.

Obhoy heaved a sigh of relief. He decided to take out his key and see if everything was in order. While looking through the list, he felt thirsty and almost called for his wife. Then he remembered that Bokul was gone. Now he would have to get a servant and pay at least ten taka per month as salary. He shuddered at the thought of the huge amount accumulating by the end of the

It was two at night. Obhoy was ransacking his boxes, his hair disheveled, his eyes bulging out from sockets; he was perspiring heavily. He fell on his wife's side of the bed and wept with abandonment. He looked at the single photograph of Bokul, hanging on the wall. It was old and faded as it was taken quite a while ago.

The clock struck three. Was he going mad over his deceased wife? He threaded his fingers through his longish hair. He opened the window and looked out into the moonlit night. Obhoy felt a sense of vast emptiness inside him.

He had spent the last six days and nights in fear and suspense.

Taking out his wife's jewellery box he started going through its content against the list he had. No, that particular item was surely missing. Tears ran freely down Obhoy's cheeks. He felt cheated. He had taken everything off Bokul's body before the cremation; everything except the pair of gold earrings she always wore. Hidden beneath her dark locks they had travelled with her to the funeral pyre.

Obhoy could endure the pain of losing his wife, but the loss of the gold earrings proved too much. Whenever he closed his eyes, the earrings appeared in his dreams with a vicious brightness that did not allow him to sleep.

Didn't they say that wives of the fortunate die early? Obhoy kept awake through the night wondering how and why fortune eluded him at the death of his wife. (Abridged)

Sohana Manzoor is Associate Professor of Editor of The Daily Star.

The Plague in Bengal: Literary Glimpses and Anecdotes

ABHISHEK SARKAR

About 122 years before the Covid-19 pandemic Bengal was struck by bubonic plague, which has left its traces in Bangla fiction and life writings. Punyalata Chakraborty recalls in her memoir Chhelebelar Dinguli (Childhood Days; 1958) that Rabindranath Tagore had once come to their residence to meet her father Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury and was then going by foot to meet his friend Jagadish Chandra Bose who lived nearby. Rabindranath returned unexpectedly, to report that he had spotted a dead rat lying on the pavement. He suspected that the rat had died of plague and feared that it might infect the passersby and the children playing near it. Rabindranath felt reassured only after Upendrakishore had the rat's carcass burnt down with kerosene oil. Punyalata's uncles were all praise for the poet, noticing that he was not lost in the world of thoughts but had a cautious eye on

The first official case of bubonic plague in Kolkata was registered in April 1898. By 30th June 1900 the number of deaths from the disease in the city was 10,997, but the actual figure was probably around 13,000. Plague did not linger in Bengal like malaria or cholera and eastern Bengal was largely spared, but it raged over a decade or so. It was scary enough to haunt the popular imagination for a long time. Plague stands for great alarm whenever it is mentioned in Bengali literature.

Abanindranath Tagore recalls in Jorasankor Dhare (Near Jorasanko; 1944) that his uncle Rabindranath joined hands with Sister Nivedita to inspect Kolkata neighbour hoods during the epidemic. Rabindranath also started a private hospital for plague sufferers. This experience is reflected in Rabindranath's Chaturanga (Four Quartets; 1916). In the novel, a saintly atheist named Jagamohan refuses to escape to Kalna when the epidemic hits the city. He does not listen to his brother, the selfish and bigoted Harimohan. Instead, he converts his house into a private hospital to treat the poor Muslim leatherworkers of the locality. In the process,

Jagamohan himself succumbs to the disease. . Jagamohan had to start a private hospital since he had found from his inspection of the government plague hospital that it treated patients like criminals. In fact, people feared the high-handed and obtrusive government officers more than the disease itself. Besides, people were concerned about preserving the purity of caste and the dignity of their womenfolk when faced with the possibility of medical inspection or forced admission to plague hospitals. Rumours circulated freely that the British government would inspect and inoculate all people by force. The suppression of plague was seen by many as an elaborate ploy for the conversion of Indians to Christianity. In view of this, the "Plague Manifesto" distributed by the Ramakrishna Mission in 1899 requested citizens not to panic or spread rumours. It tried to reassure them, "There will be no lack of effort in treating the afflicted patients in our hospital under our special care and supervision, paying full respect to religion, caste and the modesty (Purdah) of women." Saratchandra Chattopadhyay in Srikanta (1917) gives an account of the embarrassment caused by the open inspection of Rangoon-bound passengers at the Koilaghat ietty for plague. The narrator observes that the British doctor was touching and examining uninhibitedly such parts of the men's bodies (meaning, the glands in the armpits and the groin) as would mortify even a wooden puppet. The narrator adds, the "civilized" Indians were standing still after flinching only once under such treatment, but any other race would not rest before breaking the doctor's arm.

The novel Chaturanga seems to be unsympathetic towards Kolkatans who fled from the city for dear life. Similarly, the "Plague Manifesto" of the Ramakrishna Mission asserts, "Let the wealthy runaway! But we are poor; we understand the heartache of the poor. The Mother of the Universe is Herself the support of the helpless." It is recorded that the fare of palanquin and horse carriage rose fourfold to eightfold in response to

the exodus of householders from Kolkata. Some, who could not afford even a bullock cart because of the inflated price and did not want to walk all the way, resorted to a scavenger's cart for moving out. However, this mass departure brings a refreshing change to the life of the feisty, proto-feminist heroine in the novel Subarnalata (1964) by Ashapurna Devi. Plague allows Subarnalata to take a train ride for the first time in her life. She also gets to live in the lap of nature for a while away from the claustrophobic house of her in-laws.

in Beleghata, Khidirpur, Baghbazar and Maniktala arising out of the government's approach to the disease. All these accounts of the plague in

Kolkata date from a time when the scare of the disease was a thing of the past, while the playlet Ashrudhara (The Shower of Tears; 1901) by Girish Chandra Ghosh was produced during the plague years. Curiously, the disease is personified as a character in this playlet, which was produced to lament the demise of Queen Victoria. It shows three friends, namely, Famine,



Pratham Alo (First Light, volume 2, 1997) by Sunil Gangopadhyay provides a snapshot of this exodus as seen by Rabindranath on his way from the Howrah Bridge to Park Street. The novel reports that non-Bengalis were rushing towards the Howrah railway station whereas those from eastern Bengal were making a beeline for the Sealdah station to escape the city. Pratham Alo also describes the brutal measures taken by the colonial police in the Kolkata slums in the name of checking the spread of the disease. It further mentions violent confrontations between the police and the local mob

Plague and Anarchy, jeering at the loyal Indian mourners and nurturing rosy hopes about their future exploits. Plague reports that Queen Victoria, a darling of God, had tearfully prayed to Him to rid the world of the pandemic. It is for this reason that she was sent from heaven to rule over the British Empire. Later, Plague indicates that his local address is in Burrabazar in Kolkata. He seems to have access even to the viceroy's palace. The playlet concludes with the hope that Victoria's son and heir will be as magnanimous and efficient as the

Theatre on 26 January 1901, where the role of Plague was essayed by one Natabar Choudhurv.

The most striking and gruesome picture of the plague in Kolkata is deftly provided by the novel Kolkatar Kachhei (Not Far from Kolkata; 1957) by Gajendra Kumar Mitra. The novel revolves around the fortunes of Rasmani, a pious and courageous high-caste Hindu widow. She goes to the Nimtala Ghat every morning at 4 o'clock to take a bath in the holy river. When the police prohibit access to the ghat because of the raging plague, she starts going there at 3 o'clock. One morning she steps on a half-burnt, headless corpse caught at the foot of the steps in the river. She realizes what it is - the corpse had to be dumped into the river because a funeral pyre could not be allowed to burn for more than two hours owing to the excess of corpses. But Rasmani is neither scared nor disgusted. On the contrary, she is full of reverence for the corpse. She is convinced that the corpse is as holy as Lord Shiva himself since it has been purified by the touch of fire and immersed in the sacred river. Religion had a monumental role to

play in the contemporary Bengali people's approach to plague. Premankur Atorthy reports in his memoir Mahasthabir Jatak that there was a rumour about the goddess of plague relocating to Kolkata from Bombay by the railway. However, she was not officially inducted into the Hindu pantheon. The "Plague Manifesto" of the Ramakrishna Mission specifies, "In order to remove the fear of the epidemic, you should sing Nâma Sankirtanam (the name of the Lord) every evening and in every locality." Besides, a letter to The Indian Mirror from an educated Bengali (published as a pamphlet in 1898) proposed a general day of prayer across all denominations. Generally speaking, people in Bengal have departed from such widespread, public religiosity during the Covid-19 pandemic and have privileged medical dictates over piety.

mother. Ashrudhara premiered at the Classic Abhishek Sarkar teaches at Jadavpur University.

Afif Hossain fought till the end with an unbeaten 33-ball 49 but very little support from the other batsmen meant the youngster could not help Bangladesh avoid a 27-run defeat against New Zealand in the fifth T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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'Winning three series a real morale boost'

SPORTS REPORTER



Although Bangladesh completed the five-match T20I series against New Zealand with a 27-run defeat

in the final game, the Tigers will have gained in confidence after three consecutive T20I series wins.

Following a whitewash at the hands of New Zealand in a three-match T20I series to start the year, Bangladesh bounced back strongly in the format, clinching series wins starting with a 2-1 win over Zimbabwe. That was followed by a 4-1 win over Australia and the latest 3-2 win over the Kiwis at home.

T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad believes the wins will give his side a much-needed morale boost ahead of the start of the Tigers' T20 World Cup mission, which starts from the

"I think we have played some very good cricket in the last three series. And winning three series in a row a real morale-boost. Hopefully, we can regroup at the World Cup and win some games over there," Mahmudullah said during the post-match presentation yesterday.

However, there are still concerns about whether Bangladesh extracting the most of home conditions for those series win will prove much better compared to the preceding games

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND

161 for 5 in 20 overs (Latham 50 not out, Allen 41, Nicholls 20; Shoriful 2-48, Taskin 1-34, Nasum 1-34)

BANGLADESH

134 for 8 in 20 overs(Afif 49 not out, Mahmudullah 23, Naim 23; patel 2-21, Kuggelejin 2-23)

RESULT: New Zealand won the match by 27 runs, but Bangladesh won the series 3-2 **PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:** Tom Latham **PLAYER-OF-THE-SERIES:**

Nasum Ahmed and Tom Latham

beneficial in preparing the Tigers for the megaevent, where pitches are expected to offer runs as they tend to do in ICC events.

The pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for the fifth match played and the visitors posted 161 for five -- the most by any team in the last ten T20I matches at

In reply, Bangladesh ended on 134 for 8 after 20 overs as their batting department continued to be an area of concern ahead of the World Cup, with the top-order once again failing to provide a solid platform.

The Tigers were struggling on 46 for four inside nine overs before a 63-run fifth-wicket stand between Afif Hossain, who top-scored for the hosts with an unbeaten 49, and Mahmudullah raised some hope but that was ultimately not enough.

Bangladesh's skipper credited the Kiwi bowlers and added that losing early wickets proved costly in the end.

"I think bowlers did quite well but we didn't finish well enough. We probably went for too many runs in the last couple of overs but the bowlers bowled their hearts out. The spinners bowled really well. Shoriful also picked up two early wickets and gave us the momentum to restrict them," the 35-year-old said.

"It was a good wicket to bat on but I think we didn't start well. The required run-rate kept climbing. Afif and I had a good partnership but I think New Zealand bowled and executed their plans really well."

matches played. How lack of game time has affected the young pacer could be ascertained from how he went from impressing in a series to ending the fifth T20I against the Kiwis as the most expensive among bowlers of the two sides.

Live from 8:00 pm

Chelsea vs Aston Villa

Live from 10:30 pm US Open Women's Final

Emma Raducanu vs

Leylah Annie Fernandez

Rusty and short

rhythm yesterday in Mirpur when recalled into the playing eleven in the final T20I against New Zealand after sitting

Aside from Shoriful, three other players -- Taskin Ahmed, Soumya Sarkar and all-rounder Shamim Hossain

-- who played for the first time in the series, seemed out of sorts facing a more relentless and attacking New Zealand.

Match practice is the best way to prepare for a tournament. And it was clear that these aforementioned

four players lacked in preparedness due to inadequate

game time. Before yesterday's game, in which the Tigers

suffered a 27-run defeat, Shoriful last played the fourth

of the fiveT20Is against Australia last month. And the left-

armer had bowled at an economy of 4, giving away just

eight runs in two overs, and had picked up the crucial

bowlers in that series, scalping a total of seven wickets, one

less than the top wicket-getter Josh Hazlewood, in the four

In fact, Shoriful finished as one of the most impressive

wicket of Ashton Agar in that game.

Young pacer Shoriful Islam, who was included on Thursday in Bangladesh's squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup as one of the frontline pacers, struggled to get into

of confidence

out the first four games.

Live from 2:20 am

English Premier League

Manchester United vs

Newcastle United

Live from 8:00 pm

(Sunday)

As far as leaking runs is concerned, pacer Taskin also did not do any better in that regard.

Despite getting pace and carry in a much better and sporting Mirpur wicket, Taskin often bowled a wide and wayward delivery that was put away for what it deserved. In the end, the right-arm quick, who had not played since the Tigers' tour of Zimbabwe in July, finished with bleak figures of one for 34 in four overs.

Meanwhile, Soumya, whose dismal series against the Aussies saw the team management drop him for the first four Kiwi T20Is, threw his wicket away after scoring just four.

And when Shamim walked into the pitch, Bangladesh were already staring at a defeat, but the way he ended up misjudging a slower from Jacob Duffy only reflected how much the young player needed some game-time to build his confidence back up after an underproductive Australia

It is true that these four players were responsible for how they failed to make the most of their opportunities but it also cannot be denied that the team management also could have had them better prepared with a bit more game time, especially now that they are set to feature for Bangladesh in the World Cup just a month later.



Levante vs Rayo Vallecano

Athletic Bilbao vs Mallorca

Live from 10:30 pm

Live from 1:00 am

La Liga

(Sunday)

(1964-20221)

Nadir Shah no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket fraternity Bangladesh went shock following the demise of former international Nadir umpire yesterday morning, who breathed his last at the age of 57 after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Nadir made his debut as an international umpire back in 2006 and stood in 40 ODIs and three T20Is and gained a stellar reputation in the domestic circuit over the years.

Nadir was the youngest of the seven 'Shah' brothers, and five of whom, the likes of Jahangir Shah Badshah who featured in five ODIs for Bangladesh, have played Dhaka Premier League with a lot of authority.

Known for his character and lively presence both on and off the field, however, there was a dark chapter in Nadir's career when he was banned on corruption charges in 2013 but it was later lifted by the board.

Former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe posted Mortaza emotional message on his Facebook page: bhai, we will miss your half-folded sleeve shirt. Whenever my front leg was close to a no-ball Nadir bhai used to get angry at me and used to say, 'Mash you are getting tight on your foot landing, come back a little bit.' But whenever my feet touched the danger zone, there you spoke English and all those fun times spent with you has become a memory today. You wanted a sunglass from me but it feels bad that before I could deliver, you left. Stay well on the other side, may the almighty bless you."

BATTLE OF THE TEENS

It will be the Big Apple battle of teenagers in Saturday's U.S. Open final after Britain's Emma Raducanu became the first qualifier to reach the title clash at a major, joining Canadian Leylah Fernandez as the duo continued their giant-killing spree. The final under the lights at the colossal Arthur Ashe Stadium between

Fernandez and Raducanu will be the first major final in the Open Era across both the men's and women's game to feature two unseeded players. It will also mark the first Grand Slam final to be contested by two teenagers since the 1999 U.S. Open between Serena Williams and Martina Hingis. Both Raducanu, 18, and Fernandez, who turned 19 this week, were yet to be born then.

PHOTO: REUTERS

U-19s scrape past Afghans

SPORTS REPORTER



In their first assignment since the previous batch won the Under-19 World Cup last year, Bangladesh

Under-19s started with a close win over their Afghan counterparts in the first of five one-dayers at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Having been bundled out for 154 in 38.3 overs after electing to bat, Bangladesh Under-19s managed to eke out a 16-run win. A concerted effort from the bowlers saw Bangladesh restrict Afghanistan to at fighting.

138 all out in 48.2 overs

Pacer Ripon Mondol stood out with the ball in hand, returning figures of four for 20 in 9.2 overs.

Ripon dealt Afghans the first blow, dismissing opener Suliman Arabzai in the sixth over before claiming three more

Earlier, two early wickets saw Bangladesh reeling at 12 for two after 6.5 overs. However, opener Prantik Nawrose Nabil's 78-ball 42 and skipper Meherob Hasan's 57-ball 49 gave the hosts a chance

'Waited a long time for this'

AFP, Buenos Aires



Lionel scored a hat-trick to overtake Pele as the top international goalscorer in South American football

history on Thursday as Argentina cruised to a 3-0 victory over Bolivia in their 2022 World Cup qualifier. Messi pounced for his 77th, 78th and 79th international goals to

keep Argentina firmly on course for

a place at next year's finals in Qatar

against a Bolivia team languishing near the foot of the table. The 34-year-old Paris Saint-Germain forward, making his 153rd appearance for Argentina, drew level with Pele's longstanding mark of 77 goals in the 14th minute, nutmegging a defender and then

curling a sublime shot past Bolivia goalkeeper Carlos Lampe. The Argentina captain then moved one clear of Pele in the 64th minute with his second of the night, surging into the Bolivian box and playing a one-two with Lautaro Martinez before tucking away a

finish from close range. Messi completed the seventh international hat-trick of his career two minutes from time, burying a rebound from close range after a shot from the edge of the area was only parried by Lampe.

"I've waited a long time for this," an emotional Messi said afterwards. "Now I'm going to enjoy it, it's a unique moment after waiting so

long. I am very happy," he added. On a night when Argentine fans were allowed to watch their national team for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Messi broke down in tears as he lifted the Copa America trophy at the





Monumental stadium.

Argentina won the Copa America in July, their first major title in 28 years, and Messi danced with his team mates and showed off the trophy to the 21,000 supporters present. "There was no better way to celebrate than by being here," he said. "My mum is here, my siblings are in the stands. They have suffered so much and they are here celebrating. I am very happy.

The former Barcelona star's great rival Cristiano Ronaldo holds the outright record for goals scored in international football with 111 from 180 games

The win leaves the two-time World Cup winners second in South America's overall qualifying standings with 18 points from eight games, six points behind leaders Brazil, who maintained their 100 percent qualifying record on Thursday with a 2-0 win over Peru in Recife.

Messi's Paris St-Germain teammate Neymar, third on the scoring list with 69 goals, scored one and set up another for Everton

The Neymar goal, tapped home five minutes before half-time after Ribeiro's shot was saved, was his 12th in World Cup qualifiers, a Brazilian record.

Neymar, however, took aim at those who criticised him despite his contribution. "I don't know what more I need to do in this shirt for the fans to respect Neymar," he said after the win in Recife. "This isn't normal. This has been happening for a long time, from you reporters, commentators, and others as well. Sometimes I don't even want to give interviews but I do my bit at important moments."



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DOLPHINS in danger

Experts say entanglement in fishing nets primary cause of death

ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

French naval officer, explorer and conservationist Jacques-Yves Cousteau was not wrong when he said, "The happiness of the bee and the dolphin is to exist. For man it is to know that and to wonder at it."

As such it feels especially unfortunate that in this piece, we are having to wonder just the opposite.

Why are dolphins washing ashore from the Bay of Bengal, is there one or many more reasons behind their deaths and can anything be done? News of dead and sometimes emaciated dolphins washing up along the coast have been making the rounds on both social media and news

"If you look closely at the newspaper photographs, you will notice that many of these mammals that wash ashore are emaciated. Often times there's a piece of net around the dolphin's snout," said Rubaiyat Mansur, adviser to the Wildlife Conservation Society Bangladesh

WCS began operations in Bangladesh in 2004 focusing on marine

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Over the last **15** years,

274 dolphin deáths

have been reported

At least **65%** of these

deaths were from

gillnet entanglements



A dolphin spotted in the Swatch of No Ground in the Bay of Bengal in 2010. This is an image of a cetacean in its natural habitat, but not many of its ilk can enjoy the open seas, as the sight of the marine mammals washing ashore after being caught in fishing nets have become all to common.

PHOTO: REZA KHAN

DHAKA-LONDON TALKS

Importance of free polls discussed

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and the United Kingdom have agreed on the importance of free and fair elections and vibrant civil society to promote accountable governance and institutions ensuring freedom of expression and religion.

The UK raised concerns reflected in the FCDO Annual Human Rights Report, including the "impact" of the Digital Security Act, political space, and extrajudicial killings, said the British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

The two countries held their fourth annual Strategic Dialogue on Thursday at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in London and discussed the issues.

The dialogue was led by FCDO Permanent Under-Secretary Sir Philip Barton and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Masud Bin Momen.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Divided, bruised US marks 9/11 anniv

Experts say the 'war on terror' proved a boon for surveillance, bane for human rights



AGENCIES

Americans mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11 today with troops finally gone from Afghanistan, but national discord -- and for President Joe Biden, political peril -- are overshadowing any sense of closure.

The Sept 11 attacks also ushered in an era of increased surveillance, human rights violations and mass displacements globally, with the social and economic fallout likely

to continue for decades, experts said.

A whole generation has grown up since the morning of September 11, 2001.

In the interim, al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden has been hunted down and killed. A towering new sky scraper has risen over Manhattan, replacing the Twin Towers. And less than two weeks ago, the last US soldiers flew from Kabul airport, ending the so-called "forever war."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

VACCINE FROM INDIA Supply will follow rise in production

Hopes information minister after 2-day India visit

UNB, Dhaka

Information and **Broadcasting Minister** Hasan Mahmud yesterday expressed hope that India would be able to supply Covid-19 vaccines to Bangladesh as per the agreement once the neighbouring country's production rises.

He said Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar informed him that the vaccine production has been hampered in India due to scarcity of foreign raw materials, but they would be able to recover the problem in the 4th quarter of the current year (October-December).

"Hopefully, they would be able to supply the vaccines to Bangladesh in line with the agreement, if

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Only self-rule will satisfy **Bangladesh: Galbraith**

SEPTEMBER 11, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUSHTAQUE TO LEAD DELEGATION TO UN

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed would present the case of Bangladesh before the UN General Assembly. He would be assisted by a strong team of experts including Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mahbub Alam and diplomat Abul Fateh. The decision to send a strong delegation to the UN General Assembly had been taken by the Bangladesh government in the light of the recent discussions at political level with different

parties in Bangladesh. In fact, the Consultative Committee, formed with five-party representatives had found it necessary to rouse the conscience of the world to the realities in Bangladesh. GALBRAITH URGES FOR

SELF-DETERMINATION Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, former US Ambassador to India, said today at the Calcutta Press Club that because of the massive influx of evacuees from Bangladesh to India, the Bangladesh issue had ceased to be an internal affair of Pakistan. He also refused to distinguish between political aspects of the issue and the evacuee

question. "Two cannot be viewed separately," he opined. Earlier today Professor Galbraith discussed various aspects of Bangladesh issues with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khandaker

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

literally.

Pre-Viking gold treasure found in Denmark



An amateur archeologist has found 22 gold

and inscriptions which may refer to the rulers of the time, but also recall Norse mythology, Mads Ravn, director of research at the Vejle museums in western Denmark, told AFP.

"It is the symbols on the items that makes them unique, more than the quantity found," according to Ravn, who said the

emperor Constantine from the early 4th

Man beaten to death as theft suspect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected thief was beaten to death in the capital's Sabujbagh area early yesterday.

The 28-year-old man could only pronounce his name - Ridoy - to the crowd that started beating him, said police. Anwar Hossain, sub-

inspector of Sabujbagh Police Station, said the incident took place inside the boundary wall of a building under construction for a club. Some people, including

the club manager and caretaker, caught him around 11:15pm yesterday, he said. They tied up his hands

and legs and beat him up, leaving him critically SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 11 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45 JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-17 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Part of the old iron Bailey Bridge in the capital's Aminbazar has collapsed into the river. Locals have alleged that the collapse occurred after a sand-laden trawler hit one of its pillars. There are other such collapsed structures around the bridge, and those could lead to further accidents if not cleared soon.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



AFP, Copenhagen

objects with sixth century symbols that could yield new details about pre-Viking peoples in Denmark, the museum that will house the treasure said. Some of the objects have runic motifs

treasure weighed about one kilogram. One piece even refers to the Roman

century, said Ravn.

Star HEALTHLINE

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

