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"The Election Commission either is not working properly or it cannot work properly."

JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER



"Bangladesh needs no assistance from the UN to arrange elections"

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER HASAN MAHMUD



"It is unthinkable and unconscionable that 100 million vaccines will have to be thrown away from the stockpiles of the rich countries whilst the populations of the world's poorest countries will pay for our vaccine waste in lives lost."

FORMER BRITISH PM GORDON BROWN



FIRST PHASE UP POLLS

Three killed as violence rules the day

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and dozens others injured in clashes between supporters of ruling Awami League's chairman candidates and party rebels during the final part of the first phase of union parishad polls yesterday.

Postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the election to 160 union parishads and nine municipalities featured some of the prominent features of the 2018 national polls and recent local government elections: boycott by candidates and ballot stuffing at places.

The election lacked festivity and enthusiasm and the absence of candidates from the BNP apparently made it one-sided. Most clashes took place between supporters of chairman candidates from the AL and those of party rebels.

Unofficial results in 134 of the 160 unions were available until 12:30am today. AL candidates secured victory in chairman election in 103 unions. Independents, including AL rebel, won in the other 31 unions, reported our district correspondents citing returning officers.

Two people died in Maheshkhali and Kutubdia upazilas of Cox's Bazar yesterday and one died in Bagerhat's Mongla upazila the previous night, reported our correspondents in the districts.

Clashes also took place in Bagherhat's Moreganj, Sharankhola upazilas and Khulna's Dighalia upazila yesterday.

At least 10 candidates boycotted the elections and voting was postponed in five centres.

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Fearing that he might lose his job, Mohammad Giasuddin, a Bangladeshi expatriate in Dubai, holding his passport, breaks down in tears while another migrant worker tries to console him during a sit-in at the Dhaka airport yesterday. The programme was organised demanding immediate set up of RT-PCR labs at the airport without which migrant worker cannot fly to the UAE. The migrants now need to have Covid-19 negative certificates based on RT-PCR test done within six hours ahead of their departure.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Question of our survival'

No RT-PCR labs at airports only obstacle for migrants ready to fly to UAE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of UAE-based expatriates, who got stranded at home amid the pandemic, yesterday gathered at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's multi-storey car park to demand speedy installation of RT-PCR labs there.

The building has been selected for setting up the RT-PCR facilities as the UAE government last month set a condition that foreigners must have rapid PCR tests for Covid-19 maximum six hours before boarding the flights to the Gulf country.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said seven healthcare facilities have been selected for setting up RT-PCR labs at HSA.

Six of them have submitted standard operating procedures (SOP), which have been sent to the UAE. Installing

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

DGHS driver gets 30 years in illegal arms case

Court says exemplary punishment meted out to deter others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced Abdul Malek, a former driver of the Directorate General of Health Services, to 30 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case.

Judge Md Robiul Alam of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-4 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in presence of the convict in a packed courtroom, Assistant Public Prosecutor Salahuddin Howlader told The Daily Star.

Malek was sentenced to 15 years for possessing firearms and another 15 years for possessing ammunition, but the punishment will run concurrently, the judge said.

It is very unusual for a fourth-grade

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



ROGUE E-COMMERCE SITES

HC blasts govt for delayed action

Writ petition filed for an e-commerce watchdog

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday pilloried the government for its failure to take action in good time against companies that embezzled people's money.

"The government is taking action. But when? After I have become penniless," said the HC bench of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman and Justice Md Zakir Hossain during the hearing of a writ petition.

The comment came on the day Supreme Court lawyer Md Anwarul Islam Badhon filed a writ petition with the HC seeking its directive for forming an e-commerce regulatory authority for oversight on the fast-growing industry.

The petition was made as public interest litigation: the National Digital Commerce Policy 2018 has a mandate to establish an e-commerce watchdog but the government has not taken any steps to that end.

In the petition, Badhon prayed to the HC to issue a rule asking the authorities concerned with the government to explain why their failure to form an e-commerce regulatory authority should not be declared illegal.

The development comes as hundreds of thousands of customers of rogue e-commerce platforms like Evaly and Dhamaka Shopping are left in limbo over their orders for which they had made payment months ago.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

"The government is taking action. But when? After I have become penniless?"

HC OBSERVES

Evaly CEO tells cops he committed no crime

Claims company owes Tk 950cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Evaly has liabilities of upwards of Tk 700 crore to its customers and about Tk 250 crore to vendors, Mohammad Rassel, chief executive officer of the controversial e-commerce platform, told investigators.

Rassel boasted that he did not commit any crime but he gave products at a very low price with big discounts, law enforcement officials familiar with the investigation told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

"It's not like that no one got the products -- many of them got their orders," an official told The Daily Star quoting Rassel, who was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

CHILD MARRIAGE

Creeping through the pandemic

85 female students of Baravita Girls High School married off

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Eighty-five girl students out of 345 of Baravita Girls High School in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila have been married off during the closure of the school amid the pandemic.

Aged between 12 and 16, they were students of classes VI to X and SSC examinees last year, said Headmaster Matiur Rahman Khandaker.

Of the 85 child marriage victims, two were in class VI, 10 in class VII, 17 in class VIII, 29 in class IX, 14 in class X and 13 SSC examinees.

After the reopening of the school on September 12, the attendance of students came down to about 40 to 45 percent. Before the closure in March last year, the attendance was 80 to 90 percent, said Matiur.

"We could not collect information about the students as the school was closed. In the meantime, their families married them off. We are working to bring them back to the school."

The headmaster said they have informed the upazila secondary education officer about the incident.

Sujit Chandra Roy, an assistant teacher at the school, said the child marriages took place between November last

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Adopt policies that work in Bangladesh

Rajshahi cyber tribunal urges Facebook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The cyber tribunal of Rajshahi suggested Facebook adopt policies that are compatible with Bangladesh's social system, said Ismat Ara, the public prosecutor of the court.

Bangladesh's social values, people's beliefs, religious habits, culture, interrelationships and social customs are completely different from those of other countries, particularly the developed countries, she said.

Therefore, Facebook should adopt policies that suit the culture and habits of its users in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Vehicles stop on the main thoroughfare in front of Rajuk Uttara Model College in the capital as a student jaywalks while another is about to do the same to cross the busy street. There used to be a footbridge nearby but it was removed more than a year ago. As a result, hundreds of pedestrians have to cross the road this way, risking their life. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Lowest daily Covid deaths in 4 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-six Covid-19 patients died in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday -- the lowest single-day death in nearly four months.

The last time fewer than 26 single-day deaths were recorded by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) was on May 27, when there were 22 Covid-19 deaths.

The overall death count due to the highly transmissible viral disease now stands at 27,251.

The death rate is 1.76 percent of all cases detected so far.

In the same 24-hour period, the DGHS also reported 1,555 new cases after testing 27,431 samples, according to a DGHS press release. The daily positivity rate is 5.67 percent.

The total number of cases recorded now stands at 15,44,238. The overall positivity rate is 16.32 percent.

On March 8 last year, the DGHS reported the first three novel coronavirus cases in the country.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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**BANGLADESH
UPDATE**



1,555
New cases in 24hrs



15,44,238
Total cases



27,251
Deaths



15,03,106
Recoveries

**GLOBAL
UPDATE**



4,709,217
Deaths



229,554,220
Total cases

Strictly implement Paris accord

Hasina asks global leaders at UN Headquarters

STAR REPORT

Renewing her call for strict implementation of the Paris Agreement, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked global leaders to take stronger steps urgently to address the planetary emergency of climate change.

She also placed six-point proposal before the global leaders as the COP-26 is just a few months away, reports UNB.

The PM was addressing a closed-door leaders' meeting on Climate Change, arranged for a small group of heads of state and governments, at the UN Headquarters yesterday.

The proposal includes strict implementation of the Paris Agreement to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, realisation of annual \$100 billion climate fund from the developed countries, 50 percent of this fund should go to adaptation and resilience, especially to climate vulnerable countries.

The other proposals are: Forging new financial mechanisms and transfer of green technology to developing countries, addressing loss-and-damage issue, and displacement of large-scale population due to climate change and capacity building of CVF countries to tackle the double jeopardy of pandemic and disaster, particularly with the increased frequency of climate-induced disasters.

"Finally, we need a 'whole-of-the-world' approach to leave a sustainable future for our next generations," she said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened the meeting.

Hasina said climate vulnerable countries contribute the least to the



global green house gas emissions. "Yet, they are the worst victims of the impacts of climate change."

She mentioned that the recent IPCC report has provided a grim picture about their future. "If the global temperature goes above 1.5 degrees Celsius, they'll face permanent damages."

"The international community has a special responsibility to support these countries in their adaptation and mitigation efforts," the premier said.

Hasina said despite being a climate vulnerable country with resource constraints, Bangladesh has emerged as a global pioneer on adaptation and resilience.

She said Bangladesh has adopted the "Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan" focusing on green growth, resilient infrastructure and renewable energy.

"We're on our journey from climate vulnerability to climate resilience to climate prosperity [VRP]," the PM added.

Earlier, Hasina reached the USA to attend the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Bangladesh Ambassador to USA M Shahidul Islam and Bangladesh Permanent Representative to United Nations (UN) Ambassador Rabab Fatima received the premier at the airport around 5:40pm Sunday local time, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told BSS.

Foreign Minister Abdul Momen and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, among others, are accompanying the prime minister.

Hasina will stay in New York until September 24 as part of an official visit to attend the UNGA and a number of high-level events there, reports BSS.

This is her first foreign tour after her Italy visit in February 2020.



Garbage dumped by locals near a bridge in Kamrangirchar area of Dhaka. Some of the waste hangs by the barbwires of a fencing put up to prevent people from falling into a nearby ditch. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

Three killed as violence

FROM PAGE 1

Election Commission Secretary Humayun Kabir Khandakar in a press briefing said apart from some "untoward" incidents, yesterday's polls across the country were held in a peaceful manner.

"It is painful that two people died in clashes and that chase and counter chase took place. Other than these, the election was peaceful," he claimed.

Election Commission data shows that in 160 union parishads, 45 chairman candidates had already been elected uncontested. Out of the 45, 38 were in Bagherhat.

Three mayor candidates of nine municipalities, which went to polls yesterday, were also elected unopposed.

Voting in 204 unions were held on June 21 during the first part of the first phase of the UP polls, when 28 chairman candidates were elected unopposed. At least three people were killed and dozens others injured in violence that day.

POLLS VIOLENCE

Abul Kalam, 35, was killed and five others were injured in a gunfight between supporters of two chairman candidates in Kutubjam union of Maheshkhali, said Cox's Bazar Additional Superintendent of Police Rafiqul Islam.

The gun battle was fought by supporters of AL chairman candidate Sheikh Kamal and party rebel Mosharrar Hossain Khokon at Government Kutubjan Primary School around 9:00am, about an hour after the polls opened, police said.

The deceased was a supporter of Mosharrar, who is the incumbent chairman of the union, locals said.

Voting at two centres was suspended following the incident.

In another incident, Abu Halim, 40, was killed and three others were injured in police firing when supporters of AL candidate Abul Kalam tried to "capture" the Pilittaka Government Primary School centre in Sadar Borogup union in Kutubdia upazila, locals said.

Halim was the general secretary of AL Boroghup union unit, confirmed

Aurangzed Matubbar, president of Kutubdia upazila AL.

However, Md Omar Faruque, officer-in-charge of Kutubdia Police Station, said the victim died after supporters of the two chairman aspirants engaged in a clash.

Meanwhile, Rejaul Hasan, health officer of Kutubdia upazila, said some 40 people took treatment at hospitals following clashes in different unions of the upazila.

Another gunfight took place between supporters of two member candidates at Ali Asiya High School centre in Whykong union of Teknaf upazila around noon.

Polling at Unchirang Primary School and Lambasia Emdadia Madrasa centres was suspended after supporters of a member candidate stuffed ballots in the box.

In Chattogram's Sandwip upazila, several crude bombs exploded during a chase and counter chase between supporters of AL chairman candidate Mohammad Naushad and AL rebel Saiful Islam in Amanuallh union.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said Officer-in-Charge Basir Uddin of Sandwip Police Station.

In Mongla upazila of Bagerhat, Fatema Begum, 70, died in pre-election violence on Sunday night. The violence broke out as supporters of two member candidates of a ward of Chandpai union engaged in a clash, said locals.

Supporters of Matiar Rahman Moral and supporters of rival candidate Shafiqul Islam clashed around 10:00pm, they said.

Mongla Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Monirul Islam confirmed the death. "The cause of Fatema's death was yet to be known, police were investigating the matter," he said.

Clashes were also reported in Morelganj and Sharanekhola upazilas of Bagerhat.

Two independent candidates Mohammad Abdul Awal of Shubhdia union parishad in the district's Fakirhat upazila and Masud Rana Lalon of

Dhopakhali union parishad in Kachua upazila boycotted the election.

In Barakpur union of Khulna's Dighalia upazila, there were clashes between supporters of two chairman candidates. Crude bomb blasts and exchange of fire were reported. The incident took place in front of Barakpur Uttarpara Government Primary School around 11:30am yesterday during the voting. Voting was temporarily stopped after the incident.

All the injured are supporters of independent candidate Sheikh Anshar Uddin.

OC of Dighalia Police Station Ahsan Ullah Chowdhury said the situation had turned "slightly heated", but they brought it under control.

In Noakhali, six election officials -- four at Jahajmara union and two at Char Ishwar union -- were detained as they were caught stamping seal on ballot papers.

The detained were assistant presiding officers Mahbubur Rahman and Belayet Hossain at Hatiya Model High School centre in Char Ishwar union, assistant presiding officers Afzar Ahmed, Siddik Ullah, polling officers Munni Begum and Farzana Akter at Hajee Mozammel Haq Government Primary School centre in Jahajmara union.

Hatiya Election Officer Jakir Hossain said the detainees were in police custody and a decision on them would be taken as per the order of the Election Commission.

Two Awami League candidates and three party rebel candidates in five UPs in Hatia upazila boycotted the election just before the voting opened in the morning.

The candidates included Zia Ali Mubarak Kallol, AL-nominated candidate of Hatiyar Burir Char Union ATM Sirajul Islam, AL candidate of Jahajmara Union Nurul Islam, AL rebel in Sonadia Union Mehraj Uddin, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

Meanwhile, Prof Pran Gopal Datta, former vice-chancellor of BSMMU, was announced elected unopposed in Cumilla-7 by-polls by Returning Officer and Regional Election Officer Dulal Talukder yesterday morning.

E-orange CEO, 2 ex-owners held

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The CEO of e-commerce site E-orange and two former owners of the company were recorded as arrested yesterday in a case filed over the embezzlement of around Tk 76.41 lakh.

This would be the third case in which E-orange CEO Aman Ullah Chowdhury and former owners Masukur Rahman and his wife Sonia Mehjabin have been arrested.

Aman has been in jail since August 18, a day after Masukur and his wife Sonia were sent to jail in connection with a different case filed over the embezzlement of around Tk 1,100 crore.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the latest order after Sub-inspector Zakir Hossain of Gulshan Police Station sought permission to show them as arrested in the case, court sources said.

The case was filed on August 31 by a consumer named Ishtiaque Hossain Titu.

He accused suspended police inspector Sheikh Sohel Rana, known to be a patron of E-orange, his wife Naznin Nahar Bithi, and eight others of misappropriating Tk 76,41,102.

Sohel was caught by the Indian Border Security Force on September 3 while fleeing Bangladesh.

Creeping through the pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

year and July this year. The students' family members took them elsewhere and arranged their marriages.

"The guardians do not want to give us any information about the name of the marriage registers and where the marriages took place," he told The Daily Star.

Phulbari Upazila Secondary Education Officer Abdul Hai said he received a letter from the school authorities on the child marriages. He said they were working to collect information from all 73 educational institutions, including schools, colleges and madrasas, in the upazila about their students.

"Teachers have been instructed to raise awareness about child marriage by exchanging views with parents," he added.

Nasima Khatun, an 8th grader at Baravita Girls High School, said her parents had planned to marry her off

last year, but she opposed it. She said she came to know about the marriages of her classmates only after returning to the school.

Meher Ali, 48, guardian of a student from Baravita village, said he married off his ninth grader daughter as he had a "good marriage proposal" for her.

"The more a girl is educated, the more dowry it takes. That's why people from villages marry off their underage daughters," he said.

Phulbari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sumon Das said he heard about the child marriages of 85 students of Baravita Girls High School.

"Child marriage has now become a disease in our society," he said.

The UNO said they have started working on how to prevent child marriage. Besides, work is underway to bring absentee students back to educational institutions, he added.

Adopt policies that work in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

In the case of cybercrime, Facebook should collaborate from the point of responsibility to identify, bring charges and punish criminals.

The court recommended Facebook remove the option of opening multiple IDs anonymously in the name of the same person as that raises a cybersecurity risk.

There needs to be a security system too so that no one can download without permission photos and videos of women and children posted on Facebook.

The court also called for prompt action in detecting and removing content that might offend one's religious values.

It also requested Facebook to play a more effective role in preventing cyberbullying.

The observation came while the tribunal judge Ziaur Rahman was delivering a verdict against the accused Akter Hossain, 45, of Shingra of Natore district yesterday.

The tribunal convicted Hossain under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act of 2006 for publishing fake, obscene and defamatory information and photographs of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on September 2, 2015.

The day after Hossain had posted the photo on Facebook, one Mokhesur Rahman filed a case with Singra police station against him.

On March 8, 2016, the police pressed the charges against Hossain. Two months later, the court transferred the case to the cyber tribunal.

The court heard out five of the nine prosecution witnesses and studied the pieces of evidence and came to the conclusion that the accusations against Hossain were proved beyond doubt.

Subsequently, Hossain was given seven years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 1 lakh. If he fails to pay the fine, he would have to serve three more months of jail time, she said.

Krishak League leader shot dead in home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A leader of Bangladesh Krishak League was shot dead in his house in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The victim, Sarwar Kamal, 38, was the general secretary of Krishak League's Fasiakhali union unit, said Anisul Haque Chowdhury, senior vice-president of the organisation's district chapter.

On information, police recovered Sarwar's body from his residence around 3:00am, officer-in-charge of Chakaria Police Station Shaker Mohammad Zubaer said, adding that police were looking into the matter.

Mohammad Mohiuddin, member of ward-9 of the local Krishak League, said he went to Sarwar's house after getting a phone call from him.

Once there, he found Sarwar's bullet-hit body, Mohiuddin said.

Sarwar's wife was not at home during the incident, he added.

Question

FROM PAGE 1

the labs at the airport will start upon approval from the UAE authorities, he told journalists at the airport.

Earlier on Saturday, the CAAB chairman said Covid-19 testing at HSIA will begin within three to four days.

Several thousand Bangladeshi expatriates, including migrant workers and professionals, who got stuck at home amid the pandemic, have been demanding RT-PCR labs at international airports since the Gulf country last month withdrew ban on passenger flights from Bangladesh.

UAE-based expatriate Salahuddin, one of yesterday's demonstrators, told this newspaper that many of them were ready to fly to UAE.

"It's the question of our survival," he said, adding many of them have already booked air tickets and completed other necessary procedures but the only obstacle is the absence of RT-PCR labs at airports.

He urged the government to set up the test facilities without further delay.

UAE-based expatriate Mohiuddin Belal alleged the government's dillydally in setting up the testing facilities only augmented their sufferings.

He said when the government selected the seven institutions a few days ago, there was no mention of further requirement of UAE approval but such issue has emerged now.

The seven facilities are Stenz Healthcare (BD) Limited, Dhaka; CSBF Health Centre; AMZ Hospital Limited, Dhaka; Anwar Khan Modern Medical College Hospital, Dhaka; Zainul Haque Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital (Pvt) Ltd, Dhaka; Gulshan Clinic Limited, Dhaka; and DMFR Molecular Lab and Diagnostic.

According to a letter issued by the expatriates' welfare ministry on September 15 says the seven healthcare facilities have been selected by the Directorate General of Health Services while CAAB has been tasked with allocating space for setting up the labs at the airport.

Evaly CEO

FROM PAGE 1

arrested from his residence on Thursday along with his wife Shamima Nasrin, also the chairperson of Evaly.

The duo is in police custody on a three-day remand, which ended yesterday. They will be produced before a Dhaka court.

The arrest came in response to a case filed with the Gulshan police station by an aggrieved Evaly customer who had paid for an order amounting to Tk 3.1 lakh back in May but never received the goods.

Officials are still investigating the matter, and particularly if any amount was laundered.

Besides, a large sum of money was spent on promotion, Rassel had told investigators.

Md Asaduzzaman, deputy commissioner of Gulshan division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), told The Daily Star that they have sought information about bank details and payment gateways to know the exact amount of Evaly's liabilities to customers.

Earlier, the Rapid Action Battalion, which made the arrests from the capital's Mohammadpur area, told media that the company's total liability was upwards of Tk 1,000 crore.

Investigators said they would look into the wealth and assets of the Evaly CEO, his wife and other members of their family at home and abroad.

Newton Das, assistant commissioner of DMP's Gulshan Zone, told The Daily Star that they interrogated Rassel and Nasrin separately. If needed, they would be taken to remand again.

In another development, Dhanmondi police have shown the duo arrested in a case filed by a seller over embezzlement of more than Tk 35 lakh.

They then filed a prayer with a Dhaka court to place Rassel and Nasrin on a seven-day remand each.

Aminul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Gulshan Police Station, said although money laundering is not their concern of investigation, they are interrogating about it.

If they get any information, they would inform the matter to the Criminal Investigation Department of the police for further investigation, he said.

The inspector said they got a list of customers and merchants from Evaly's server and they would inform the matter to court.

identify all the usurious moneylenders across the country.

In the petition, he also requested the HC to issue a rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why the failure and inaction of the respondents to prevent informal moneylenders from lending money in the excessive interest rate should not be declared illegal.

Citing the petition, Suman told The Daily Star that high-interest informal moneylending businesses are going on at every village across the country in the name of co-operatives.

Many people also individually running such businesses even though they have no registration.

They provide loans on a high interest rate and collect weekly and monthly instalments, he said, adding that poor people are being hostage to the moneylenders and are becoming destitute.

A borrower reportedly has to give Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 as interest every week for a loan of Tk 10,000 and a moneylender collects Tk 2,000 to 2,500 per month against a loan of Tk 10,000, Suman said.

"Such moneylending business is running illegally before the local administrations in many places -- they need to be banned."

Lowest daily

FROM PAGE 1

On July 24 this year, the country recorded an all-time high positivity rate of 33 percent amid the spread of the more contagious Delta variant of the virus.

Since early August, the positivity rate has been declining steadily.

Meanwhile, 1,565 Covid patients have recovered in the 24-hour period, taking total recoveries to 15,03,106 -- more than 97 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of the deceased yesterday, 11 were male and 15 were female.

THE GREAT PARADOX

When more public transport is need of the hour, their numbers decline



YEAR-WISE COMPARISON OF REGISTERED VEHICLES

VEHICLES	2020		TILL AUG 2021	
	Country	Dhaka	Country	Dhaka
Bus	2,395	1,792	1,075	849
Minibus	620	133	220	97
Private Car	12,403	11,150	9,470	8,396
Motorcycle	311,016	78,551	198,301	54,139
Microbus	2,779	2,407	2,457	2,206

SOURCE: BRTA

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

When experts are advocating for a planned public transport system to ease traffic congestion and ensure road safety, the number of buses and minibuses are actually declining in the city.

Their numbers saw a sharp decline in Dhaka as well as other parts of the country in the last one and half years, intensifying people's suffering amid the pandemic.

Although the number of private

cars and micro-buses have gradually declined over the last three years, the number of such vehicles operating on roads is still too high, said experts.

In fact, their numbers increased again this year, according to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) data.

"When developed countries are moving for public transport-oriented development, we are moving towards more private cars and motorcycles due to lack of proper planning," said Prof Hadiuzzaman, director of Accident

Research Institute at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

It is amid this paradoxical situation that the country is going to observe World Car Free Day tomorrow -- a day which aims to discourage the use of private cars and encourage cycling, walking or using public transport instead.

The day has been observed in Europe since the 1970s and in Bangladesh since 2006.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



AS IF THINGS CAN'T WAIT FOR A FEW MINUTES... It's common for parents to huddle around school exits after class hours. At the capital's Dhanmondi Government Boys' High School, authorities simply can't separate the parents, despite their best attempts. This is stressful for students as it is, and amid the pandemic, it's a legitimate public health concern. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

EC capable enough to hold fair polls

Says info minister

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said Bangladesh needs no assistance from the United Nations (UN) to arrange elections since the country's Election Commission (EC) is capable enough to hold fair and transparent polls.

"The Election Commission of Bangladesh is very strong, and I don't think it needs anyone's help to hold elections," he said.

The minister came up with the remarks at a programme of Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF) as journalists sought his reaction to UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Mia Seppo's comment on the UN's assistance for holding elections in Bangladesh.



Stating that the EC has already conducted many elections in Bangladesh in a very fair and transparent manner, the minister said Bangladesh is not Somalia or Ethiopia that it needs the UN's help to hold elections.

He, however, said it is completely a different issue if anyone wants to observe elections in Bangladesh. "But the Election Commission does not need any assistance to conduct elections."

On Sunday, Mia Seppo said the UN will provide electoral assistance to Bangladesh only if there is any request on that particular front.

Responding to questions at "DCAB Talk" at the Foreign Service Academy, she also said, "The UN

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It's not functioning properly: GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said that the Election Commission is either not working properly or it cannot work properly.

"The Election Commission has many powers as a constitutional body, but its power is not visible to the common people," said GM Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition.

He said this while speaking at a programme at the JP chief's office at the capital's Banani.

The JP chief alleged that along with the ruling party members, a section of government officials is often involved in influencing the election.

"Therefore the local body elections are not being held in a competitive manner," he further alleged.

Besides, GM Quader said,



candidates from the opposition ideology cannot stay in the election field due to filing of cases against them, along with intimidation.

Despite this, he said, Jatiya Party will take part in every local government elections. The party is being organised and reaching out to people through the elections, he added.

GM Quader also said participants of his party who are taking part in different elections were given instruction to fight till the end of every polls.

"Those who cannot fight ignoring fear and greed are not needed in Jatiya Party. Because, the door of Jatiya Party is open for the new generation," he also said.

In this context, he added that there is no such place in the ruling Awami League. No one can join

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

An enemy of our own making

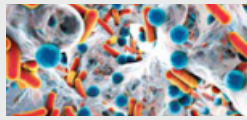
47pc children in port city resistant to antibiotics, finds study

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Cg

The medicines we are self-prescribing in our efforts to fight off illnesses are actually creating stronger and deadlier germs.

A recent research confirms that overuse and misuse of antibiotics are causing antibiotic resistance in people and creating uncertainties regarding the effectiveness of future treatments.

As many as 47 percent of newborns and children in Chattogram have been infected by at least three types of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms, pathogens that cannot be fought off by drugs, said researchers.



STUDY AT A GLANCE

47pc of newborns, children infected by at least 3 types of antibiotic-resistant germs

40pc of those aged 15 and above resistant to at least 3 antibiotics

70pc of people resistant to at least 1 antibiotic

KEY REASONS

Getting infected by resistant pathogens at hospitals

Resistance passed down from mother to neonate

Irrational use of antibiotics

Consuming dairy, poultry products laced with antibiotics

They conducted a study on 1,000 patients in two hospitals in Chattogram over a period of two years -- from 2018 to 2020 -- and found increasing ineffectiveness of antibiotics among adolescents and youths.

"Among the patients monitored in the research, around 50 percent were children. Of them, more than 40 percent were antibiotic resistant," said one of the researchers, Dr Wazir Ahmed, head of neonatal ICU at Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital.

The physician feared that treatment of children will be almost impossible in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Woman held over killing of husband

Beaten with a racquet till it broke, she stabbed him with it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested a woman on charge of killing her husband in Dhaka's Khilgaon area yesterday morning.

The deceased is Abdur Rahman (40), employee of a shop selling poultry in the area.

Farukul Alam, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said the couple used to live with their three children at a flat in East Goran area.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Appointment of 1,650 agri officers 'legal'

SC upholds HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that declared "legal" the appointments of 1,650 sub-assistant agriculture officers at the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

The Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed a petition filed by the writ petitioners, seeking stay on the HC verdict.

Additional Attorney General SK Md Morshed told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the 1,650 qualified

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

HC seeks info on death-row convicts, condemned cells

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought detailed information about death-row convicts and condemned cells in prisons across the country.

The court asked Attorney General AM Amin Uddin to communicate with the inspector general of prisons to provide information on how many death-row convicts are currently in condemned cells, the number of those cells and the facilities provided there on October 31.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order during hearing of a writ petition, challenging the legality of keeping death-row convicts in condemned cells before their cases are finally disposed of by the Appellate Division.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Why no guideline for recruitment thru outsourcing

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to formulate a guideline for recruiting manpower through outsourcing process.

Secretaries to the ministries of public administration, and women and children affairs were made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule following a writ petition seeking necessary directives.

Fifty-four people including a Manik

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

275 hospitalised with dengue

LGRD minister says situation may improve in a month



Death toll 59

13 died in Sept so far

34 in Aug, 12 in July

275 more hospitalised yesterday

Total infected 15,976

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 275 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday. Of them, 64 are from outside Dhaka.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new cases, 5,345 have been diagnosed during the current month, out of 15,976 infected this year.

Of the 15,976 infected, 1,842 are from outside Dhaka. At least 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, according to DGHS.

As per DGHS data, 59 people have died of dengue this year. All of them succumbed to the disease in July, August and September. Twelve people died in July, 34 in August, and 13 in September so far.

Among the deaths, 54 have died in Dhaka division, two each in Chattogram and Khulna, and one in Rajshahi division.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Parked buses and lagunas have choked this road near the capital's Fulbaria intersection. The scene remains the same throughout the day, leaving little space for other vehicles to go through. Authorities do not seem to mind, as the place has been a glorified parking spot for a long time. Amid the chaos, pedestrians make best of the situation by walking on the narrow gap left in the middle by the lines of human hauliers on both sides. These photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



In loving memory



1951-2021

On 15 September 2021, our father, Dr Osman Haider Chowdhury, was called home to be with Allah. His generosity, kindness, humour and jovial personality will be missed by the many lives that he touched. He was our best friend and biggest supporter; he was a loving husband to our mother, Eva. His memory will be forever cherished in our hearts. May Allah bless his soul and take care of him on his new journey.

"Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come" - Rabindranath Tagore

Farhana & Ekram

From cultural activists to Covid volunteers

Bibarton Jashore steps up amid the pandemic

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

When the Covid-19 pandemic began, some cultural activists could not bear the thought of staying back home as everyone else suffered.

Confronting their own fears of the deadly virus, they came forward and tried to help out those in distress in anyway they could.

From going door-to-door on a 24/7 on-demand oxygen service, to arranging food, masks, and sanitisers, they dedicated themselves to the service of others. They did all of this despite most of them being unemployed and having no way to earn their own living. They belong to an organisation called “Bibarton Jashore”.

“We are cultural activists. We do what we do for the sake of society’s wellbeing, with the hope that our contributions can help bring a positive change,” Nawroz Alam Khan Chopol, president of the organisation, told The Daily Star recently.

With 55 cylinders at their disposal, they provide oxygen to over 500 patients across the district, Chopol said. In addition, they also run a vaccination registration booth to assist people enroll their names into the government website.

Regent Hospital Scam DGHS ex-DG named in charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved a charge sheet against the former Director-General of Directorate General of Health Services, Abul Kalam Azad, and five others in the Regent Hospital scam case.

According to ACC sources, the charge sheet will be submitted to the court within this week.

Azad was implicated in the case during probe. Earlier, five people, including Shahed Karim, were accused in the case.

On July 7 last year, a case was filed against Shahed and 15 others over issuing fake Covid-19 test reports and charging people unfairly for testing and treatment. He was arrested in Sathkhira on July 15 last year. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in an arms case last year.

Sheikh Hasina univ of science, tech gets approval

CITY DESK

The government has approved of another private university, named Sheikh Hasina University of Science & Technology.

The Ministry of Education has issued an order in this regard, with a temporary approval to install and operate the university in Banshgari village of Kishoreganj’s Bhairab upazila, said a press release.

Earlier on Thursday, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) sent a letter to university founder Dr HBM Iqbal, providing temporary approval to run the institution.

With this, the number of private universities in the country stands at 108, according to the press release.

The approval was given under the Private University Act 2010, subject to fulfilment of 24 conditions, the press release said.

Dr Iqbal -- a former lawmaker from the ruling party and current chairperson of Premier Bank Limited -- is already working on improving education in the area, establishing the “Dr. Iqbal Education City” in Banshgari.

Spread over 100 acres of land, it will host a multitude of establishments for higher education such as the university, a medical college, a polytechnic institute, a nursing school and more.

The great paradox

FROM PAGE 3

WHAT DATA SHOWS

A total of 2,395 buses were registered with BRTA last year, across the country, with 1,792 in Dhaka.

But, only 1,075 buses were registered in the whole country, with 849 in Dhaka, in the first eight months of this year, shows BRTA data.

A total of 620 minibuses were registered across the country last year, 133 of which were in Dhaka. But only 220 buses were registered till August this year in the whole country, with 97 in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, private cars, motorcycles and minibuses continued to rise this year.

A total of 12,403 private vehicles got registered last year in whole country, of which 11,150 were in Dhaka. But, 9,470 cars got registered in the country this year, of which 8,396 were in Dhaka.

A total of 3.11 lakh bikes got registered across the country last year, with 78,551 in Dhaka alone, while 1.98 lakh got registered till August this year, with 54,139 in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, traffic congestion remains a major problem for Dhaka, as a World Bank report in 2017 highlighted that in the last 10 years, average traffic speed has dropped from 21km to 7km (hour).

WHY THIS PARADOXICAL

DEVELOPMENT?

Mahbubur Rahman, organising secretary of Dhaka Road Transport Owners Association, blamed the adverse impact of the lockdown due to Covid-19 for the declining number of buses.

He also said route permits for buses were suspended for a long time, which contributed to the decrease in numbers.

However, experts found lack of planning and policies behind the decline of buses and poor service of public transport.

Prof Hadiuzzaman said Trip Length Distribution Function (TLDF) should be the determiner of transport mode for a city.

Trip distribution is a model of the number of trips that occur between each origin zone and each destination zone.

According to a Buet survey last year, the TLDF pattern of the city shows that 70 percent trips are covered by public transport and walking, while only five percent are covered by cars and other non-motorised vehicles.

“So we should put more stress on public transport and footpaths,” he told The Daily Star.

As there is little scope to increase roads in Dhaka, policies should prioritise planned public transport, he added.

Atiqur Rahman, project officer of

Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust, said while restrictions should be imposed on private cars, different government incentives like provision of easy car loans are encouraging more people to purchase them.

He also urged the authorities to emphasise revamping BRTC bus service, introducing bus franchise system, which will bring all the buses under some particular companies, and prioritising Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) service for developing the public transport system in the country.

Keeping footpath useable and developing infrastructure for cycling is also important for easing traffic congestion, he added.

Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA) is the government organisation leading the celebration of World Car Free Day.

Its executive director Khandakar Rakibur Rahman, in response to why public transport is overlooked in the country, said, “We are observing the day precisely to give emphasis on public transport.”

Big changes in the public transport system would be visible once the bus franchise system and bus route rationalisation are implemented, he claimed.

Asked about the delay in implementing the systems, he said “background work” is taking time.

Appointment of 1,650

FROM PAGE 3

candidates to join their services following the apex court order. The petitioners, however, can move a leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division, challenging the HC verdict after receiving its certified copy.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and Additional Attorney General SK Md Morshed represented the state while lawyers Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for the writ petitioners.

On September 16, the HC declared valid the appointments of 1,650 sub-assistant agriculture officers, clearing the way for the government to allow them to join their services.

The HC rejected 20 petitions filed last year.

Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy told The Daily Star that the government issued a circular on January 23, 2018 for recruiting 1,650 sub-assistant agriculture officers.

After the results of qualified candidates were published on January 17 last year, around 500 unsuccessful candidates filed the petitions, challenging the legality of the recruitment process.

In the petitions, they claimed that quota system was not properly followed in the recruitments. If the quota system was followed, they would get appointments, DAG Tushar said citing the petition.

An enemy of our own making

FROM PAGE 3

future, if they develop resistance to other antibiotics. The research, which focused on five age groups, ranging from neonates to adults aged 60 and above, was recently published in the international journal PLoS ONE.

Referring to the findings, Dr Wazir said 40 percent of the participants aged 15 and above showed resistance to at least three antibiotics. Additionally, 70 percent of people were resistant to at least one antibiotic.

Dr Nahid Sultana, another researcher and head of Maa-O-Shishu Hospital’s microbiology department, said they found that three out of every four males who previously suffered from pneumonia were resistant to three or more drugs.

The study looked at the effectiveness of 16 antibiotics commonly prescribed by Chattogram doctors to fight off klebsiella pneumonia, bacteria which typically cause hospital-acquired infections, and found that the drugs were largely ineffective.

The researchers stated that there are four main reasons for the increasing rate of antibiotic resistance among patients -- patients getting infected by antibiotic-resistant pathogens from hospitals through basins, beds and walls; resistance passed down from mother to neonate; irrational use of antibiotics without doctors’ suggestion; and consumption of dairy and poultry products laced with antibiotics.

The researchers also detected multiple genes in patients that contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance, said Dr Adnan Mannan, a researcher and associate professor of genetic engineering and biotechnology at Chittagong University. He emphasised regular monitoring and clinical detection of antibiotic resistant bacteria and their plasmids (a specific genetic structure) to prevent public health disasters.

In the study, it was found that patients residing at the city’s Agrabad, Doublemooring, Halishahar, Panchlaish, Bayezid and Bakalia areas,

and in Sitakunda, Patiya, Hathazari and Chandanaish upazilas were resistant to multiple antibiotics.

According to the researchers, there are many pharmacies in those areas from which patients can buy antibiotics without any prescription.

Dr Mannan said there are around 6,000 pharmacies in Chattogram, and almost half of them do not have government licence.

He said a countrywide comprehensive study should be conducted on this issue in the future.

The principal researchers of the study were genetic engineering and biotechnology teachers Dr Adnan Mannan and Md Mahbub Hasan; Dr Nahid Sultana and Dr Wazir Ahmed, while Chittagong University student Afroza Akter Tanni assisted in the research.

The research was funded by Research and Publication Office of Chittagong University and supported by Disease Biology and Molecular Epidemiology Research Group Chattogram.

EC capable enough

FROM PAGE 3

doesn’t provide electoral assistance unless we’re asked to.”

The info minister also said the next election will be held according to the constitution, which does not provide for any caretaker government.

KHALEDA’S JAIL SENTENCE SUSPENSION

On six-month suspension of Khaleda Zia’s jail sentence under an official order, the minister said BNP should remain thankful to the government.

“If that order is revoked tomorrow, Khaleda Zia will have to return to jail immediately. I think BNP needs to keep this in mind as well,” said the minister.

Asked about BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir’s comment that the government is afraid of freeing Khaleda, the minister said BNP should rather thank the government for suspending her sentence for another six months.

He said the BNP chairperson was not released on bail or freed by any order of the court. “Khaleda Zia is out of prison because the prime minister suspended her sentence by exercising power given by the law,” he said.

The minister also brushed aside another BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain’s recent call to people to take to the streets demanding that the next national election is held under a neutral caretaker government.

He said BNP’s demand for a caretaker government has no constitutional basis and so it will fail to get any response from the people like it happened in the past 12 and a half years.

Later, the minister unveiled the cover of BSRF’s magazine “BSRF Barta”, at the meeting room of the information ministry at the Secretariat.

BSRF president Tapan Biswas and general secretary Masudul Haque were, among others, present at the programme.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday also said the next general election will be held in line with the constitutional provisions.

“The next national election will be held, as per the constitution, in a neutral and peaceful atmosphere,” he told a press conference on temporary issues at his official residence here.

Woman held over

FROM PAGE 3

As they locked in an altercation in the morning, Rahman started beating his wife Nazma Akter (35) with a badminton racquet. The beating was so severe that the upper part of the racquet broke during the assault.

At one point, Nazma snatched the broken racquet from Rahman and stabbed him in the chest with it -- leaving him critically injured, the OC quoted her as saying.

Rahman was later taken to a hospital where doctors declared him dead.

On information, police rushed to the hospital and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday afternoon. Police detained Nazma from the house and said filing of a case is underway.

275 hospitalised

FROM PAGE 3

Although most patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,072 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 215 outside the capital, DGHS data shows.

Meanwhile, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday said the number of dengue cases is expected to decline within a month.

Many people had left Dhaka for a

long time due to Covid-19 restrictions and Eid vacation, and during this period, Aedes mosquitoes bred in stagnant water in houses and under-construction buildings, leading to the outbreak.

The situation will improve within a month, the minister said, while speaking at a dialogue organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum at the secretariat.

He said there was no planned initiative to control dengue in 2019,

but the country witnessed 1,405 dengue cases in 2020, as some steps were taken at that time.

He further said many children died of dengue, and many lost their relatives this year. Authorities do not want more lives lost to dengue, and so will take steps from this year’s experience.

The minister said the dengue situation in the country is better than that of Vietnam, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore and Philippines.

Invitation to submit proposals for two (2)

Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-9170075: To provide services related to Interior Branding and Landscaping design including implementation for UNICEF Cox’s Bazar Field Office

RFP No. LRPS-9170080: To provide professional Electrical, Mechanical (Air Conditioning), Plumbing, Elevator, IBMS and other facility maintenance related services for UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office (BCO) under Long Term Arrangement (LTA).



UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above required services under one contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to “supplybangladesh@unicef.org”

Site Visit and Pre-bid Meeting date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP.**

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Monday, 18 October 2021; Time: 11:00 Hrs.**

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

www.unicef.org.bd



তালিকাকল্পিত করন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

একশনএইড বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক কক্সবাজার অফিস নিম্নে বর্ণিত ক্যাটাগরী সমূহে (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ হতে আগস্ট ২০২৩ সময়ের জন্য) তালিকাকল্পিত করন প্রকৃত উৎপাদনকারী / সরবরাহকারি/সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করছে:

Category	Description
1	Advertising and Communication
2	Promotional Items
3	Campaign and Event Management
4	Stationeries and Office Supplies
5	ICT Equipment
6	Office Equipment, Electric and Electronic Items
7	Printing and Publication
8	Audio Visual Production (Individual / Firm)
9	Travel Agent and Visa Services
10	Transportation and Vehicle Rent Service Provider
11	Furniture, Fixtures and Home Appliances
12	Automobile Workshops
13	General Supplier
14	Accommodation and Venue (Seminar, Conference, etc.)
15	Emergency Response Items (Relief items)
16	Construction and Renovation Works
17	Maintenance Item and Works
18	Service Provider (Pest control, Security Service, Cleaning Service, Fuel Pump, Etc.)
19	Construction and Renovation Items (Cement, Brick, Sand, Paint, Bamboo, Etc.)
20	Health & Hygiene Items
21	Health Service
22	Training Institute
23	Catering Service
24	Audit Service (Agency / Individual)
25	Consultancy Service (Agency and Individual)

আগামী উৎপাদনকারী/ প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারি/সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহ একটি/একাধিক শ্রেণিতে তালিকাকল্পিত করন ২১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ হতে ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ পর্যন্ত সিডিউল সজাহ ও আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে পারবেন। সিডিউল একশনএইড কর্তৃক কক্সবাজার অফিস (বাড়ী - ৭৫২, ব্লক- সি, ওয়ার্ড- ১২, আউটলা মসজিদ রোড, কক্সবাজার - ৮৭০০)। ফোন: ০১৬৮৭২৮২৮৩৮, ০১৮২৯৩২২৭৮৯ অথবা ওয়েবসাইট <https://actionaidbd.org/post/schedule-vendor-enlistment> থেকে সজাহ করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য একশনএইড বাংলাদেশ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

It’s not functioning

FROM PAGE 3

Awami League just because s/he wants to. On the other hand, there is a fear of lawsuits and attacks if anyone joins BNP. Therefore, Jatiya Party is a suitable platform for the new generation, he added.

The JP boss said Jatiya Party is considered the safest party among common people as they are thinking that BNP will exceed Awami League [in terms of corruption].

“People, therefore, want to see Jatiya Party in power.”

SM Foyсал Chisty, JP presidium member and president of JP Dhaka city (north) unit, presided over the programme. It was arranged seeking prayers for the quick recovery of JP secretary general Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu who is undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at a Dhaka hospital.

Why no guideline

FROM PAGE 3

Mondal were appointed as office assistant to a company under the women and children affairs ministry in 2018 through outsourcing process, but the tenure of their jobs expired in July last year.

They recently submitted the petition to the HC saying that they have been victimised due to arbitrary action of the appointing company as there is no guideline in this regard.

Petitioner’s lawyer Moniruzzaman Lincon told The Daily Star that his clients have been facing hardship after losing jobs.

An inter-ministerial meeting of the public administration ministry in 2017 had discussed the advantage and disadvantage of the recruitment of manpower through outsourcing process, he said. Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state during the hearing.

HC seeks info

FROM PAGE 3



The bench fixed October 31 for further hearing and passing order on the matter.

During the hearing, petitioners’ lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told the court that since a long period is required for final disposal of a case, death-row convicts are sent to solitary confinement in condemned cells immediately after a trial court gives the death sentence, and are kept there till final disposal, which is illegal and inhumane.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin opposed the petition, saying that death-row convicts are kept in condemned cells to ensure their security.

Facilities in condemned cells have improved, he argued.

Three death-row convicts, including Zillur Rahman, filed the petition with the HC in September. They urged the HC to order prison authorities to transfer them to normal cells. Around 2,055 death-row convicts are currently in condemned cells, Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.



পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)

স্ট্রাড রোড, সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম।

দরপত্র নং-ইএডপি/এফ-৫২/প-১০৫/২০-২১

পুরাতন ও অকেজো মালামাল বিক্রয়ের সংশোধিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর দরপত্র নং-ইএডপি/এফ-৫২/প-১০৫/২০-২১, তারিখ ০৫/০৯/২০২১ এর আলোকে দৈনিক কালের কন্ঠ, তারিখ ০৭/০৯/২০২১, দৈনিক ডেইলি স্টার, তারিখ ০৭/০৯/২০২১ এবং কোম্পানির ওয়েব সাইটে প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ বন্ধ ও উন্মুক্তকরণের সময় ও তারিখ অনিবার্হ কারণবশত সংশোধন করা হলো। দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ বন্ধ, উন্মুক্তকরণের বিদ্যমান ও সংশোধিত সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপ:

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির ক্রমিক নং	বিষয়	প্রকাশিত তারিখ ও সময়	সংশোধিত তারিখ ও সময়
০৫	দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ বন্ধের সময়সূচী	০৮/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা	১০/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা
০৬	দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ উন্মুক্তকরণের সময়সূচী	০৮/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা	১০/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা


দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকৌশল ও পরিকল্পনা)

স্ট্রাড রোড, সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম।

ফোন নং-০৩১৬৩৩২৪৩

জিডি-১৬৬২



Invitation for Tender (IFT)

for Printing, Stationery & Learning Centre Materials

Project Name	BRAC Education Programme
Tender Name	Printing, Stationery & Learning Centre Materials
Tender Package No.	BPD/2021/IFT-1878 (Printing Materials) BPD/2021/IFT-1885 (Learning Centre Materials)
Reference No. & Date	BPD/2021/IFT-1887 (Stationery Items) BPD/2021/IFT-1878 Date: 20-09-2021 BPD/2021/IFT-1885 Date: 20-09-2021 BPD/2021/IFT-1887 Date: 20-09-2021
Source of Fund	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)
Name of Tender	Procurement of Printing Materials Procurement of Learning Center Materials Procurement of Stationery Items
Time of Delivery	As Per Tender Schedule
Price of Tender Schedule (Non-Refundable)	BPD/2021/IFT-1878 (Printing Materials) BDT 500.00 BPD/2021/IFT-1885 (Learning Centre Materials) BDT 1,000.00 BPD/2021/IFT-1887 (Stationery Items) BDT 1,000.00
Each Tender schedule fee to be paid separately through Bkash including cash out charge. (Bkash No.-01719262589), must share company name in Bkash Ref.	
Tender Security	As Per Tender Schedule
Documents Availability on e-tender platform & Tender Dropping (Online), Date & Time	https://tender.brac.net/ (Go to live tender from the dashboard after entering the above URL and search for the Tender Ref. No.) BPD/2021/IFT-1878 21-09-2021 to 05-10-2021, 2:30 pm BPD/2021/IFT-1885 21-09-2021 to 12-10-2021, 2:30 pm BPD/2021/IFT-1887 21-09-2021 to 13-10-2021, 2:30 pm
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time (Online Opening)	05-10-2021, 3:00 pm through Google meet, link: meet.google.com/omm-bfzd-sbn 12-10-2021, 3:00 pm through Google meet, link: meet.google.com/gbg-jtoy-zur 13-10-2021, 3:00 pm through Google meet, link: meet.google.com/gxg-bkhg-zgb

BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka- 1212
Phone: 02222281265-72, Ext No 3796, 5486 or Mob: 01709647508 & 01713158444

Overcoming one hurdle after another

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Any obstacle can be overcome with a strong will and positive mindset. Ferdous Alam Feroz is one such individual who proved just that.

Feroz was born with disabled upper limbs. But he has been clearing one hurdle after another and continuing his master's studies by writing with his mouth.

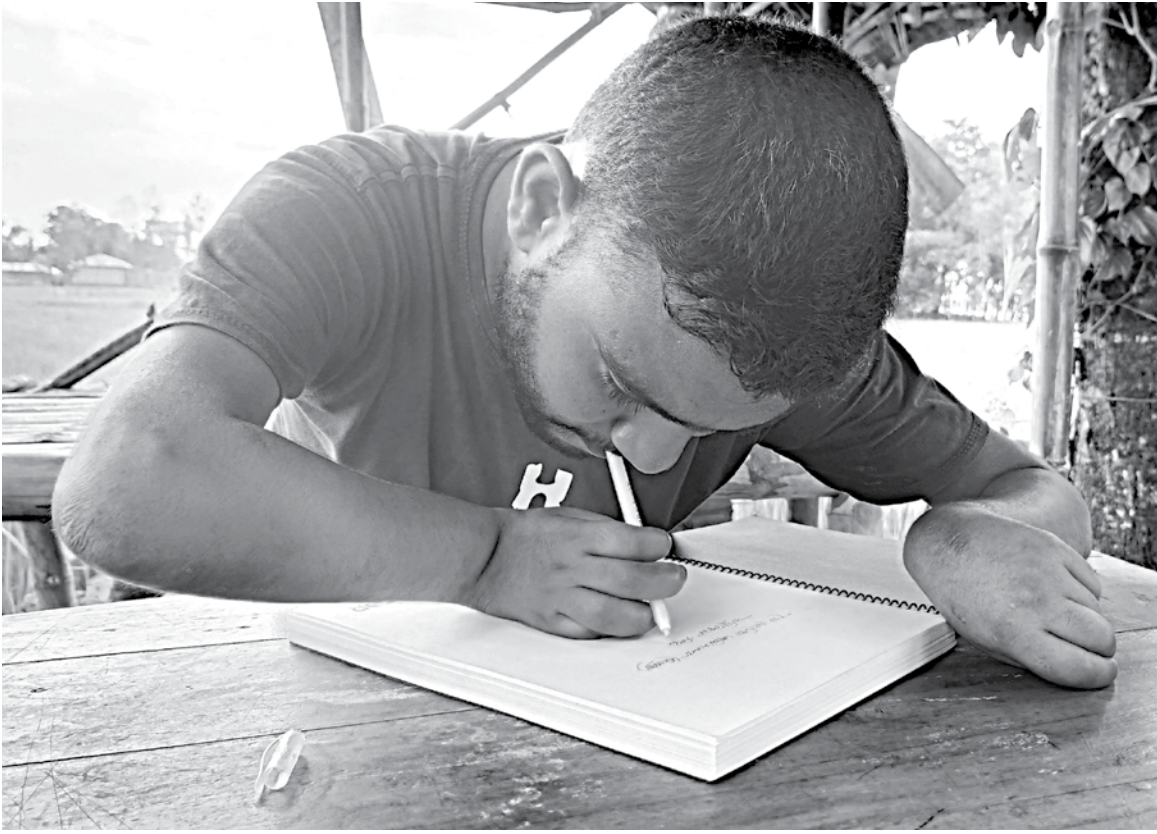
Born to a family of farmers in Kawamari village of Patgram upazila in 1998, Feroz passed SSC in 2013, HSC in 2015 and Honours in 2019 -- all by holding a pen in his mouth. The disabilities could not deter him from following his dreams of being established.

"It is really difficult to use my mouth to write. But I accepted the difficulties with the hope that better days will come to me some day," Feroz said.

"My mother has been by my side every step of the way since my birth and it would be quite difficult for me to survive without her."

Though his classmates and teachers have always been lending a helping hand to him, financial difficulties have been the toughest obstacle he faces, said the young man.

Born to a family of farmers in 1998, Feroz passed SSC in 2013, HSC in 2015 and Honours in 2019 -- all by holding a pen in his mouth.



Differently abled master's student Ferdous Alam Feroz of Kawamari village in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

His classmate Mashiur Rahman said Feroz writes beautifully with his mouth. "He set an example for other students by passing the Honours. There's a lot to learn from him. Through his struggles he inspires us in our own endeavours."

Fazlul Haque, a lecturer at Patgram Adarsha College, said, "Feroz is a talented student. He is a modest and kind-hearted soul. We advise our students to follow his example and concentrate in their studies."

Feroz's three younger brothers are also continuing their studies at different educational institutions.

His father provides for the family by producing agricultural goods on five bighas of land.

Khurshid Wahid, a younger brother of Feroz, said their elder brother always checks on their studies and his success inspires the younger brothers immensely.

Their father Shahab Uddin said educating the children with meagre income from farming is difficult, especially when meeting special needs of Feroz requires a little more money.

"Feroz used to write using his feet till the third grade. He later started trying to write by

holding the pen in his mouth. While writing, one of his cripple hands has to be used to support the pen in his mouth. Though it's tough, he has been managing it well."

Feroz's mother Feroza Begum said, "Feroz can't bathe, eat or change clothes by himself. I have to help him while doing other chores in the house."

Asked what his next goal is, Feroz said he was hoping for a government job, as he was not sure whether a private firm would be willing to accommodate him considering his special situation.

Summer bean farming brings solvency to Jhenidah farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Cultivation of IPSHA, an early variety bean, has appeared to be a profitable venture for many farmers in Jhenidah, an area famous for growing the popular winter vegetable.

Farmers have got fair price of their yield as the variety matures early when the supply of other variety beans in the market is not sufficient.

Jhenidah Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said, in 2021/22 season IPSHA variety has been cultivated in 20 hectares of land in four upazilas of the district.

Notably, beans were cultivated on 18 hectares of land in 2020/21 season in the district.

According to the DAE sources, the variety has been cultivated in nine hectares in Kaliganj upazila, four hectares in Kotchandpur upazila, three hectares in Shailakupa upazila and four hectares in Moheshpur upazila.

Farmers said that they do not get good prices of their produce in winter as the crop is cultivated on a largescale at that time. But by cultivating the IPSHA variety, they have seen the face of success as this variety can be brought to the market early.

Bapparaj Hossain of Subidpur village under Kaliganj upazila said, "We planted the seeds on the first week of June and after 20/25 days the plants bore flowers. Just after one and a half month into flowering, harvesting started. It costs Tk 18,00 to 20,000 (33 decimals) to cultivate beans on per bigha land, which includes fertilizer, insecticide and bamboo platforms."

He added that he has cultivated beans on one bigha of land this year and selling the produce at Tk 125 per Kg.

He expects that he will get a profit of Tk one lakh if the weather condition remains favourable.

Another farmer Imran Hossain of the village told that he has cultivated 15 decimals at the cost of Tk 14,000.

According to Jhenidah DAE IPSHA variety has been cultivated on 20 hectares of land in 4 upazilas of the district in 2021-22 season.

He has already sold 5 Kgs at Tk 120 per Kg. He added that its demand is very high in the market as there is no other varieties of beans available in the market now.

Rafi Uddin, Abdus Sattar, Harun-or-Rashid of the village echoed the same.

Vegetable vendor Mobarak Ali said that summer beans are not available in the market. So, its demand is very high.

"We cannot meet the demand of the buyers as the supply is inadequate," he added.

Asgar Ali, deputy director of Jhenidah DAE, said that the farmers are getting good profit by selling the off-season variety of beans.



A farmer tends to early variety of bean trees in his field at Subidpur village under Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
Directorate of Planning and Development

e-Tender Notice

No. P&D/LP(S-3)/REC-04/21/EEE-02/DR- 2346

Date : 19 SEP 2021

This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of Goods	Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
Tender ID: 611090 Package No: LP-S-3/21/REC-01/EEE-02 Publishing Date: 19/09/2021	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Lab equipments (Computer, Graphics Card, Spectrometer, UPS) for the EEE Department, BUET, Dhaka.	05-10-2021 16:00 06-10-2021 15:00
Tender ID: 599929 Package No: LP_S-3_Dean EEE-01 Publishing Date: 19/09/2021	Supply and Installation of Photocopy Machine for the Office of the Dean, EEE, BUET, Dhaka.	05-10-2021 16:00 06-10-2021 14:30
Tender ID: 611058 Package No: LP-S-3/21/Medical Center-02 Publishing Date: 19/09/2021	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Semi Auto Bio-Chemistry Analyzer Machine for the Isolation Center, BUET	05-10-2021 16:00 06-10-2021 15:00
Tender ID: 611054 Package No: LP-S-3/21/Medical Center-01 Publishing Date: 19/09/2021	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CBC Analyzer and Fully Automated "Bio-Chemistry and Coagulation Analyzer" for the Isolation Center, BUET	04-10-2021 16:00 05-10-2021 15:00

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

19.09.2021
Director
Directorate of Planning and Development
BUET, Dhaka.

GD-1691

Free eye screening camp held in Tangail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) and Rights and Sight for Children (RSC), in cooperation with Faraz Hossain Foundation, organized a free eye screening camp at Shakahria Asaduzzaman Ideal School in Tangail's Gopalpur on Sunday.

A team of doctors from Isphani Islamia Eye Institute & Hospital, Jamalpur provided treatment to the patients at the eye camp, says a press release.

The goal of the eye screening camp, which started at 10:00am continued till 4:00pm, was to identify and treat the underprivileged people who were in need of eye surgery, medicine or eyeglasses, but was financially unable to seek treatment.

The press release says a total of 713 underprivileged people including children received free eye treatment at the camp.

Of them, 98 patients were diagnosed with cataracts and 314 patients with refractive errors.

Moreover, 241 eye glasses were given to as many patients at free of cost.

The rest of the patients will be provided with corrective surgeries and receive eyeglasses at the same venue on September 29.

Besides, a total of 405 patients received medicine from the camp, while the cataract patients will go through surgery accordingly at Isphani Islamia Eye Institute & Hospital in Jamalpur from September 25.

Youth gets life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to life term imprisonment for killing a man in 2017.

The convict is Bachchu Khan, 28, of Habili Gopalpur area in Faridpur town.

Faridpur District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Salim Mia also fined the convict Tk 10,000. In default, he is to suffer one year more in prison, Acting Public Prosecutor (PP) Dulal Chandra Sarkar said.

According to the case statement, Bachchu locked in a quarrel with his wife Ankhi Akter over a trifling matter on February 20, 2017.

Hearing the quarrel, Ankhi's elder brother Sheikh Azad, 26, who used to live near the couple's house, came forward and tried to stop the quarrel.

At one stage, angry Bachchu hit Azad on the head with an iron rod, leaving him critically injured.

Neighbours took injured Azad to Faridpur General Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

Later, Azad's father Harun Sheikh filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station accusing Bachchu.

After investigation, the then Sub-Inspector of Sadar Police Station Monir Hossain submitted the charge sheet against Bachchu on June 23, the same year.

Four policemen closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Four members of Sirajganj highway police, including the officer in charge (OC) of Hatikumrul Highway Police Station, have been closed to Bogura Highway Police on charge of negligence of duty and irregularities.

The closed policemen are OC Sajahan Ali, Sub Inspector Jahidul Islam and Constables Azom Ali and Ruhul Amin, of the same police station.

Additional Superintendent of Bogura Highway Police Faizur Rahman said the closed policemen were allegedly involved in various irregularities and not performing their duties properly.

They were investigating the allegations brought against them, he added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল
রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা

সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-কেঃ পুঃ হাঃ/দরপত্র/২০২১-২০২২/৩২৫৩

তারিখঃ ২০/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেকর্ডেশন/০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী) মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকায়-মেডিকেল ইকুইপমেন্ট ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে স্মারক নং-কেঃপুঃহাঃ/দরপত্র/২০২১-২০২২/২৯০০ তারিখঃ ২৪/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ মূলে প্রকাশিত সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য বিষয় অপরিবর্তিত রেখে নিম্নরূপভাবে সংশোধন করা হল।

বিবরণ	পূর্বের তারিখ	বিবরণ	সংশোধিত তারিখ
দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	২২/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	০৩/১০/২০২১খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত
দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/১০/২০২১খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৪/১০/২০২১খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা

ডাঃ মোঃ এমদাদুল হক
বিপি-৭৭০৫১১৯৮১৯
পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)
পক্ষে-পরিচালক (ডিআইজি)
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা
জিডি-১৬৯০

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Pirojpur.
E-mail: pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com

"কার্বকর, নিরাপদ, গতিশীল পথ
গড়বে সড়ক ও জনপথ"

Memo No. 35.01.7980.462.07.001.20-1757

Date: 16/09/2021

Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal for the following works:

Tender ID & Package No.	608111 & e-GP/07/PRD/2021-2022
Name of Tender	Asphalt Materials Supply for Departmental maintenance work at different roads of under Pirojpur Road Sub-Division of Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2021-2022.
Tender Last Selling Date and Time	Date 04-Oct-2021 & Time 17:00
Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time	Date 05-Oct-2021 & Time 13:15
Tender ID & Package No.	608113 & e-GP/08/PRD/2021-2022
Name of Tender	Asphalt Materials Supply for Departmental maintenance work at different roads under Kawkhali Road Sub-Division of Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2021-2022.
Tender Last Selling Date and Time	Date 04-Oct-2021 & Time 17:00
Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time	Date 05-Oct-2021 & Time 13:30

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system. (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact e-GP help desk, (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Masud Mahmud Sumon)
ID No-602165
Executive Engineer (A.C.), RHD
Road Division, Pirojpur.

GD-1689

RUSSIA PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

Pro-Putin party wins big majority

Opposition claims mass fraud

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia's ruling United Russia party, which supports President Vladimir Putin, won an emphatic parliamentary majority after its most vociferous critics were prevented from contesting an election that opponents said was marred by large-scale fraud.

With 98% of ballots counted yesterday, the Central Election Commission said United Russia had won nearly 50% of the vote, with its nearest rival, the Communist Party, at just under 20%. United Russia won 54% in 2016, the last time a vote was held.

The scale of the victory means United Russia will have more than two-thirds of deputies in the 450-seat State Duma lower house of parliament. This will enable it to continue to push through laws without having to rely on other parties.

The Kremlin hailed the result, saying United Russia, which Putin helped found, had confirmed its role as the leading party. It said the election had been competitive, open and honest. Kremlin critics alleged large-scale vote rigging. They said the election was a sham and that a newly-introduced electronic voting system had been used to deprive opponents of United Russia of victory in Moscow.

Some Moscow-based Communists who felt cheated called for a protest in the Russian capital yesterday evening. The central square they named as the venue was sealed off by police yesterday afternoon.



Lava flows behind houses following the eruption of a volcano in the Cumbre Vieja national park at Los Llanos de Aridane, on the Canary Island of La Palma yesterday. The Canary Islands' first volcanic eruption in 50 years has forced the evacuation of about 5,000 people, including around 500 tourists, and destroyed about 100 houses, officials said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SHADOW GOVT'S CALL FOR WAR AGAINST JUNTA

Myanmar's Suu Kyi has 'no comment': lawyer

AFP, Yangon

Toppled Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has "no comment" on a declaration of war against the junta by a shadow government dominated by lawmakers from her party, her lawyer said yesterday.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy government in a February coup, sparking huge democracy protests which have triggered a bloody crackdown from the junta.

NLD lawmakers make up the majority of a "National Unity Government" which is working to overturn the military regime and declared a "people's defensive war" earlier this month urging citizens to attack junta assets.

Following the declaration, clashes between local "people's defence forces" and the military have increased, and over a dozen army-owned communications towers have been attacked, according to anti-junta groups.

Suu Kyi had "no comment" when asked by her lawyers about the NUG's declaration of war, her lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said, and would comment only after discussions with others in the NLD leadership.

"She said she never turns against the wishes of the people," he added. Suu Kyi, 76, appeared at a special court in the capital Naypyidaw yesterday for the latest hearing over allegedly importing walkie-talkies illegally and flouting coronavirus restrictions during elections last year that her party won by a landslide.

Avoid new Cold War

Guterres urges US, China ahead of UNGA gathering of world leaders

AGENCIES

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned of a potential new cold war between China and the United States, and implored the two major powers to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship.

"We need to avoid at all cost a cold war that would be different from the past one, and probably more dangerous and more difficult to manage," Guterres said ahead of the annual UN General Assembly gathering of world leaders - a convening blemished by Covid, climate concerns and contentiousness across the planet.

Guterres said the world's two major economic powers should be cooperating on climate and negotiating more robustly on trade and technology even given persisting political fissures about human rights, economics, online security and sovereignty in the South China Sea.

"Unfortunately, today we only have confrontation," Guterres said on Saturday in an interview with the Associated Press.



"We need to re-establish a functional relationship between the two powers," he said, adding that it is "essential to address the problems of vaccination, the problems of climate change and many other global challenges that cannot be solved without constructive relations within the international community and mainly among the superpowers".

Two years ago, Guterres warned global leaders of the risk of the world splitting into two camps, with the US

and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules "and their own zero-sum geopolitical and military strategies".

He reiterated that warning in the AP interview, adding that two rival geopolitical and military strategies would pose "dangers" and divide the world. Thus, he said, the foundering relationship must be repaired - and soon.

The so-called Cold War between the Soviet Union and its allies and the US and its Western allies began immediately after World War II and ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The UN chief said a new cold war could be more perilous because the Soviet-US antipathy created clear rules, and both sides were conscious of the risk of nuclear destruction. That resulted in back channels and forums "to guarantee that things would not get out of control," he said.



An asylum-seeking migrant carries a girl as he crosses the Rio Grande river towards Mexico near the International Bridge between Mexico and the US in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US risks nuke arms race

N Korea warns over Aukus pact; France pulls out of UK defence talks amid row

AGENCIES

North Korea yesterday warned that the United States risked a dangerous nuclear arms race by providing submarine technology to Australia, criticising its "double standards" and vowing counter-measures.

Last week, the United States clinched Aukus pact, a new trilateral security partnership involving Britain, to provide technological aid to Australia to build at least eight nuclear-powered submarines.

North Korea joined China in decrying the US decision as an "irresponsible one" that destroys regional peace and stability and global non-proliferation efforts.

"These are extremely undesirable and dangerous acts which will upset the strategic balance in the Asia-Pacific region and trigger off a chain of nuclear arms race," the North's foreign ministry said in a comment carried by the official KCNA news agency.

The North criticised Washington's "double-dealing attitude," singling out White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki's

remarks that it does not seek conflict with China but the decision was to shore up regional security.

Her comment "amounts to a stand that any country can spread nuclear technology if it is in its interests, and this shows that the US is the chief culprit toppling the international nuclear non-proliferation system," the ministry said.

"We are closely looking into the background of the US decision and will certainly take a corresponding counter-action in case it has even a little adverse impact on the security of our country."

Meanwhile, France has cancelled a meeting between Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly and her British counterpart planned for this week after Australia scrapped the submarine order with Paris.

Parly personally took the decision to drop the bilateral meeting with British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, the sources said.

The French defence ministry could not be immediately reached. The British defence ministry declined comment. meeting had been cancelled.

UNIVERSITY SHOOTING

Six killed in Russia, several hurt

AFP, Moscow

A gunman opened fire on a university campus in central Russia yesterday and killed six people before being detained, investigators said, in the country's second mass shooting this year to target students.

Video on social media showed students throwing belongings from the windows of university buildings in the city of Perm, around 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) east of Moscow, before jumping to flee the shooter.

The Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes in Russia, initially said eight people were killed but later revised the number of deaths to six.



SEPTEMBER 21

1939 - In Romania, Prime Minister Armand Calinescu was murdered by the fascist Iron Guard.

1964 - Malta became independent after 164 years of British rule.

1999 - An earthquake of magnitude 7.6 struck Taiwan, killing at least 2,321 people and injuring 8,712.

2003 - Nasa's Galileo space probe made a controlled, fiery crash into Jupiter, ending a 14-year mission that yielded dramatic discoveries about Solar System's largest planet and its moons.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Afghan women outraged by Taliban restrictions on work

AFP, Kabul

Fears were mounting in Afghanistan yesterday as the Taliban tightened their grip on women's rights, slashing access to work and denying girls the right to secondary school education.

After pledging a softer version of their brutal and repressive regime of the 1990s, the Islamic fundamentalists have been stripping away at freedoms one month after seizing power.

"I may as well be dead," said one woman, who was sacked from her senior role at the foreign ministry.

"I was in charge of a whole department and there were many women working with me... now we have all lost our jobs," she told AFP, insisting she not be identified for fear of reprisals.

The acting mayor of the capital Kabul has said any municipal jobs currently held by women would be filled by men.

While the country's new rulers have not issued a formal policy outright banning women from working, directives by individual officials have amounted to their exclusion from the workplace.

Many Afghan women fear they will

never find meaningful employment. Since returning to power on August 15, the Taliban have shown no inclination to honour rights of women.

When pressed, Taliban officials say women have been told to stay at home for their own security but will be allowed to work once proper segregation can be implemented.

"When will that be?" a woman teacher said yesterday. "This happened last time. They kept saying they would allow us to return to work, but it never happened."

Women in the capital remain deeply suspicious.

"The Taliban told us not to come to work and to wait for their second announcement. But it seems like they don't want women to work again," a lawyer in the capital's high court told AFP.

A colleague fears that because of her past role prosecuting Taliban fighters, she will not be allowed to work again, but has noticed some changes in the regime.

"They are not like before but we don't know if it will last. Before we had to be accompanied by a man, today we can come alone," she added.

CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS

Pfizer jab safe for kids aged 5-11

AFP, Frankfurt

Pfizer and BioNTech yesterday said trial results showed their coronavirus vaccine was safe and produced a robust immune response in children aged five to 11, adding that they would seek regulatory approval shortly. The vaccine would be administered at a lower dosage than for people over 12, they said.

"In participants five to 11 years of age, the vaccine was safe, well tolerated and showed robust neutralising antibody responses," US giant Pfizer and its German partner said.

They plan to submit their data to regulatory bodies in the European Union, the United States and around the world "as soon as possible".

MORE NEWS

Italy inmate shoots at rivals with 'drone-delivered' gun

An Italian prisoner shot at fellow inmates through the bars of their cell with a weapon believed to have been smuggled in by drone, a prison union said yesterday. The 28-year old, who has links to the Neapolitan mafia, fired three shots Sunday at prisoners he had argued with, but without injuring them, Donato Capece, head of the Sappe prison union, told AFP. The man had got permission to leave his cell to have a shower, and once the door was open he pulled out the gun and pointed it at a guard, forcing him to hand over his keys to the other cells, Capece said. Unable to open the cells of his enemies, the inmate shot through the bars instead, he said.

Trudeau future on the line as Canadians vote in election

Voting kicked off in Canadian elections yesterday that are headed for a photo finish, with liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seeking a third term but threatened by a strong challenge from rookie conservative leader Erin O'Toole. Trudeau called the snap election hoping to parlay a smooth Covid-19 vaccine rollout -- among the best in the world -- into a new mandate to steer the nation's pandemic exit, without having to rely on opposition party support to pass his agenda. But the contest, after a bumpy five weeks of campaigning, appears set for a repeat of the close 2019 general election that resulted in the one-time golden boy of Canadian politics clinging to power.



'Hotel Rwanda' hero convicted on terror charges

Paul Rusesabagina, the "Hotel Rwanda" hero who became a fiercely outspoken government critic, was found guilty of terror charges yesterday after what his supporters labelled a politically motivated show trial. He was convicted by a high court in Kigali of forming a rebel group blamed for deadly gun, grenade and arson attacks in Rwanda in 2018 and 2019. "He founded a terrorist organisation that attacked Rwanda, he financially contributed to terrorist activities," Justice Beatrice Mukamurezi said at the end of a seven-month trial. Rwandan prosecutors have sought a life sentence for Rusesabagina, the 67-year-old former hotelier credited with saving over 1,200 lives during the country's 1994 genocide, and whose actions inspired the Hollywood film.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

LAW ANALYSIS

Concerns over the proposed personal data protection bill

MD. TORIQUI ISLAM

It has come to light through print and electronic media that the Government of Bangladesh has recently prepared a draft bill on the matter of personal data protection. Some very pertinent issues regarding the bill are set out below.

Section 2 of the proposed bill includes definitions of several key terms, including data, anonymised data, personal data, the data subject, data controller, data processor, processing, etc., but many of the definitions are not comprehensive and exhaustive. For example, under the proposed bill, anonymised data refers to ‘any data that has undergone the process of anonymisation’, but there is no explanation regarding the anonymisation process. Again, there should have been clues about the personal data that can be used to identify a person. Generally, personal data means and includes some identification indicators, such as the name, ID number, location data, or any specific physical, physiological, genetic or mental condition, etc. The definition of personal data as laid down



Therefore, most international, regional, and national data protection frameworks, specially the Convention 108 of the Council of Europe 1981, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and 90% of countries having data protection laws have opted to establish an independent supervisory authority.

Whereas under section 28, the proposed bill incorporates provisions for the establishment of a data protection office (DPO) under the direct control and administration of the Digital Security Agency constituted under the Digital Security Act, 2018 (DSA). The DPO will be equipped with officers and other employees as required and headed by the Director-General of the Digital Security Agency established by section 5 of the DSA. Experts in the field opine that the DPO under the proposed bill should be independent of the Digital Security Agency. One should bear in mind that privacy is not an option but one of the most valued rights for the growth of democracy in the digital age.

Under section 43 of the proposed bill, there are provisions for the transfer of personal data outside Bangladesh, subject to the notification of the government published in the Official Gazette. This will be a lengthy process. The cross-border data transfer can be made more simplistic by incorporating specific provisions like transfers subject to appropriate safeguards, binding corporate rules, derogations/exemptions, or

international cooperation mechanisms. Despite that section 43(3) specifies seven circumstances of cross-border data transfer without government's intervention such as consent, performance of a contract, vital interests of the data subject, public interest, etc., these provisions lack at least two other important provisions such as transfers subject to appropriate safeguards and international cooperation for the protection of personal data.

Data breach notification is being incorporated as one of the most exhaustive provisions in modern data protection instruments. Under section 29 of the proposed personal data protection bill, the controller will share the data breach with the Director-General and the processor will notify the controller without undue delay. But there is no specific timeframe for the notice of data breach, and eventually, the said provision could hardly protect the irreparable data losses of the individuals. Moreover, there is no notification requirement to the victim concerned. In that case, the data controller and all other responsible persons should notify about the data breach without undue delay, but no later than 72 hours. Furthermore, if the data breach appears likely to cause a high risk to the rights and freedoms of the individuals, the controller should inform the concerned persons without further delay.

The combined reading of sections 60 and 65 of

the proposed bill reveals that no legal action can be taken against the Director-General, authorised officer, an employee of the DOP in respect of any act or omission done or omitted by any of them in good faith in such capacity. Similarly, under section 57 of the said bill, a company along with other responsible persons may get exemption from being punished for the commission of an offence under the bill if they can prove that the offence was committed without their knowledge, or they had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence. Let us not forget that too much blanket powers of exemptions as evidenced in the bill will certainly destroy its purposes while making the law meaningless.

It is good to see that under section 46, the proposed data protection bill incorporates the provisions of compensation for the victim from the data controller, data processor or data collector for their failure to comply with the provision of this law. There is neither any provision for filing civil litigation nor any fixed administrative fine under the proposed bill. Due to the lack of specific provisions for civil litigation, fixed administrative fines, etc., the proposed bill may turn into a powerless tool. Considering the profound importance of privacy, the data protection laws of many countries such as Singapore, Switzerland, USA, UAE, Portugal, South Africa, Malta, Macau, Chile, Lesotho, Cape Verde, Bahrain and Uzbekistan have incorporated provisions for filing civil suits against data breach incidents.

Last but not least, an effective data protection law does not intend to stop the processing of personal data rather allows processing within the legal bounds. A carefully designed data protection regime promotes business, eases trans-border data transfers, encourages research and innovations, pays due attention to public interests, and protects the privacy rights of individuals. Hence, the principal aim of an effective data protection regime is to strike the balance of the competing interests among all stakeholders, namely the State, businesses, and data subjects. Though the primary duty of ensuring privacy lies on the government, all relevant stakeholders such as civil society, the legal community, judiciary and other legal institutions, national human rights institutions, ministries and legislative bodies, industry and technology community, and media should have some roles to make a new law purposeful.

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An effective data protection law does not intend to stop the processing of personal data rather allows processing within the legal bounds. A carefully designed data protection regime promotes business, eases trans-border data transfers, encourages research and innovations, pays due attention to public interests, and protects the privacy rights of individuals.

in the said bill does not include any of these identification indicators, and this turns the definition clause into a problematic one.

Moreover, the proposed bill did not define many other important terms, generally used in data protection laws, including but not limited to - international transfer/cross border processing, profiling, pseudonymisation, consent, data breach, health data, biometric data, establishment, etc.

Since data processing activities are becoming increasingly complex in the digital age, there must be entities to be in place to act as watchdogs for the protection of the rights of the individuals.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In the spirit of peace, recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, the Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. 2021 is significant as it is the 20th Anniversary of the UN Resolution on the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (A/RES/53/243 B). The theme of this year's International Day of Peace is “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world”.

In 2021, as we still fight the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier.

The pandemic is known for hitting the underprivileged and marginalised groups the hardest. By April 2021, over 687 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered globally, but over 100 countries have not received a single dose. People caught in conflict are specially vulnerable in terms of lack of access to healthcare.

In line with the Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire last March, in February 2021 the Security Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for Member States to support a “sustained humanitarian pause” to local conflicts. The global ceasefire must continue to be honoured, to ensure people caught in conflict have access to lifesaving vaccinations and treatments.

The pandemic has been accompanied by a surge in stigma, discrimination, and hatred, which only cost more lives instead of saving them: the virus attacks all without caring about where we are from or what we



believe in. Confronting this common enemy of humankind, we must be reminded that we are not each other's enemy. To be able to recover from the devastation of the pandemic, we must make peace with one another.

And we must make peace with nature. Despite the travel restrictions and economic shutdowns, climate change is not on pause. What we need is a green and sustainable global economy that produces jobs, reduces emissions, and builds resilience to climate impacts.

Above all, we should not forget that on 12 November 1984, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, proclaiming that “the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace” and “the maintenance of a peaceful life for peoples is the sacred duty of each State”.

On this day, the United Nations invites everyone out there to celebrate peace by standing up against acts of hate online and offline, and by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic, and as we recover.

FROM LAW DESK (SOURCE: INTERNATIONALDAYOFPEACE.ORG).

JUDGMENT REVIEW

Procedural waiver in writ jurisdiction: Should *Tayeeb* case be followed as general standard?

MD. IKRA

Enforcement of fundamental rights is itself a fundamental right within the constitutional scheme of Bangladesh, the basis of which is found in Articles 44 and 102(1) of the Constitution. The words used in Article 44 need no further explanation as the words are devoid of ambiguity and posit the rights to be ‘guaranteed’. However, the articulation of words in Article 102(1) possesses linguistic uniqueness which is certainly capable of inviting a wide range of interpretation. A textual reading reveals ‘an application’ must be submitted to set the case in motion, therefore making it a pre-requisite to the judicial enforcement of fundamental rights.

The essence of submitting an application is to draw the Court's attention to a particular case of violation along with other aspects of maintaining a case, such as certainty of contesting parties, aggrieved person's *locus standi*, etc. Apparently, the liberalisation of ‘*locus standi*’ in the famous case *Mohiuddin Farooque v Bangladesh* (Writ Petition No. 998 of 1994) could not remove the procedural hurdle in toto in writ jurisdiction of the High Court Division. Traditional legal scholarship would interpret the requirement of submitting ‘an application’ from an aggrieved person as an absolute procedural requirement. This was the prevailing attitude until the premise met with challenge in *Mohammad Tayeeb v Bangladesh* (Civil Appeal No. 593-594 of 2001). In this case, fatwa given by the local community forced the victim to go through another marriage against her will before she could return to her actual husband after an alleged divorce from the latter. The High Court Division initiated a *suo moto* case considering the newspaper report as ‘an application’ after reading it in the same. Later, it was challenged in the Appellate Division which expounded the case in favour of victim. The Court had to deal with, among others, the question of procedural requirement of submitting an application. It interpreted the requirement in the light of ‘knowledge’ of the judge which was the ultimate purpose of ‘application’ moving away from the conventional understanding of an ‘application’ to be a well-written document



disclosing the grievances and accounts of violation of rights. So, in case of grave violation of human rights where the victim cannot pursue the court to set forth the case by reason of any procedural hurdle, including, but not limited to, submitting an application, the judge can exercise *suo moto* jurisdiction if it comes to his knowledge. This premise is also known as epistolary jurisdiction of the Court that connotes the relaxation of procedural rules to meet the justice.

Epistolary jurisdiction was introduced in India as part of judicial activism in *Sunil Batra v Delhi Administration* (AIR 149 SC 1982) where the Supreme Court, upon receiving a letter from a prisoner stating the Jail Authority's inhumane treatment to the prisoners, took cognizance of the said letter and treated it as a petition. The *Tayeeb case* seems to be a reiteration of Indian precedent in Bangladesh, though the text of the judgment does not mention the same. One might find it an extreme instance of judicial activism that wins justice for the downtrodden. Dispensing justice for the people not capable to access justice due to their social or economic misfortune by exercising the Court's epistolary jurisdiction is indeed applaudable. But this epistemic or knowledge based ‘discretionary’ power is coupled with dilemmas, such as when any such event which satisfies a judge to intervene into the matter by initiating a case, it places him in a representative capacity. Furthermore, when the same judge renders rulings or deals with the same that

he himself initiated, it then makes him the judge of his own interest. It is important to note that *Tayeeb case* did not establish a general standard of maintainability of a writ petition, rather merely provided waiver of application requirement in exceptional cases. Drawing reference to this case in every matter at hand despite the merit of the case would thus be a wrong application of epistolary jurisdiction bypassing the actual text of the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh is showing great interest in *suo moto* rulings in recent days by introducing procedural amendment to facilitate *suo moto* rulings based on news report, letters, etc.

In a society where violation of human rights is prevalent, where social structure systematically bars the poor from accessing justice, where transparency and good governance is subjected to political consideration, an inevitable outcome would be victims becoming unable to reach the Court with their grievances. In such cases, Court cannot sit idle. In a grave case of violation or a case involving environmental matter which requires immediate attention, epistolary jurisdiction should be exercised as a timely weapon to address the cause and in such a case it should be seen not as a Court's being overenthusiastic but being active in fulfilling its constitutional obligation.

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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2021, ASHWIN 6, 1428 BS

Government should heed the UN’s concerns

Review DSA, address growing inequality and violence against women

THE UN has expressed its concerns over shrinking civic space, growing inequality and violence against women in Bangladesh. During a recently held discussion at the Foreign Service Academy, UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo mentioned how the pandemic had led to growing inequality and violence against women not only in Bangladesh, but across the world, and said that action on both national and global levels was needed to address these issues. Most importantly, she called on the government to make the Digital Security Act (DSA) compliant with international human rights standards.

Undoubtedly, the shrinking of civic space is a major concern in the country right now. Freedom of expression and opinion is under severe threat as people’s voices are being suppressed using laws such as the DSA. Cases of enforced disappearances have created fear among the citizens. Poverty has increased in society, while violence against women and children have become major issues of concern.

It is time for the government to seriously reconsider dropping some of the more controversial provisions of the DSA that have repeatedly been used against the citizens. The Editors’ Council and the TIB called for review of this law several times in the past. As the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has looked into the DSA and made some recommendations, we now hope that the law ministry will take steps to implement them. Needless to say, the DSA should be made compliant with the international standards. If Bangladesh wants to work as a functioning democracy, it needs to get rid of such repressive laws and work to protect civic space. We also need to ratify the convention on enforced disappearances, which the UN advised us to do.

Moreover, as Bangladesh is going to graduate from the LDC status, it should now focus more on eliminating inequality from society. There are several steps that the government can take in this regard, such as expanding its social safety net programmes and addressing corruption—which ultimately leads to increased poverty and inequality. At the same time, the government should make sincere efforts to stop violence against women and children in the country, which is also a major barrier to the country’s development.

An excellent decision by JS watchdog

The government project on an ECA in Cox’s Bazar must be scrapped

WE wholeheartedly support a parliamentary body’s decision to strongly oppose the public administration ministry’s plan to build a civil service academy in Cox’s Bazar on 700 acres of land that has been declared as a protected forest and ecologically critical area (ECA). According to the chairman of the parliamentary watchdog, it would be unacceptable for a government department to take the reserved forest land at a time when the government is trying to reclaim forest land that has been grabbed by different individuals and organisations. We, too, have previously mentioned in this column how this would set a dangerous precedent, and could open doors for private entities to follow suit.

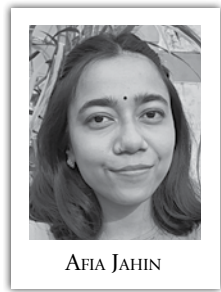
In 2018, the Cox’s Bazar district administration sought clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE) for the construction of the Bangabandhu Academy of Public Administration on the 700 acres of land adjacent to the Cox’s Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive. According to some sources, the name of Bangabandhu was used in the proposed name so that the project could jump through bureaucratic hoops with ease. As distasteful as that move was, it seemed to have worked somewhat, as the DoE cleared the project.

Nevertheless, according to the parliamentary watchdog, the respective government department and the Prime Minister’s Office were not properly informed about the type of land that the public administration ministry wanted to use. Otherwise, the construction of the training centre would never have been approved. Having been informed that the land has 100 acres of orchards created through social afforestation under the afforestation project in the coastal areas to address the adverse effects of climate change—and it’s a hilly area that is a habitat to different species of flora and fauna—the parliamentary standing committee has recommended that the government take steps to stop the project and relocate it to somewhere else.

It is clear that the environment and ecology of the area would be severely damaged if the project is set up there. Given that the area is already under serious pressure from the influx of the Rohingya, which has resulted in the razing of some 6,000 acres of forestland in southern Cox’s Bazar, further destruction of forest areas is not something we can afford. Therefore, we second the parliamentary body’s call to the DoE to withdraw its clearance for the project. We also ask the land ministry to reclaim the plot from the public administration ministry. The move to set up the training centre on the ECA is unconstitutional, and we hope that it is stopped and that no such initiatives are pursued in the future.

Are we headed towards another dengue crisis?

The experience of 2019 outbreak should have been enough for the authorities to prepare better this year



AFIA JAHIN

AGAINST all odds (read: the non-existent movement restrictions and the maintenance of health safety guidelines almost becoming a practice-as-you-please thing), it seems the rate of Covid-19 infections in Bangladesh is finally going down, and hopefully nearing the “safe” and much-desired mark of five percent or less. This is, without a doubt, a welcome development, given the phased reopening of schools and, soon, of universities. Lest we rest easy, though, the seasonal dengue menace has been making itself known in the country for the last few months.

15,701, with 5,345 people diagnosed this month alone.

Dengue has caused 59 deaths in the country so far this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). While most of the cases of infections have been reported in Dhaka, dengue—as any other virus—has started spreading outwards. For instance, of the 307 cases reported between September 14 and 15, about 20.52 percent were cases reported outside the capital. This is significant when we consider the fact that, of all the dengue cases this year until September 15, only around 10.79 percent were detected outside Dhaka.

However, the question now is not how we can combat this dengue surge, but why we did not anticipate this situation in the first place. Did the 2020 outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic wash away all the memories of the horrid dengue crisis that

the DGHS. While the monsoon months typically see bouts of dengue infections anyway, the current dengue situation could also have been handled better, with preparations based on the experts’ observation that dengue outbreaks seem to be worse every other year.

So, what can we learn from the errors made in 2019 in order to save our citizens, and our already exhausted healthcare system, from the burden of another dengue epidemic?

One of the major ways in which city corporations attempt to kill Aedes mosquitoes (carriers of the dengue virus) and prevent their breeding is by fogging—that is, the spraying of mosquito repellents in public spaces using fogging machines. However, in 2019, a study by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr;b) found that the insecticides sprayed by

would have given the authorities enough time to buck up and use insecticides containing malathion and deltamethrin instead of permethrin, as recommended by the researchers. Or to start their dengue awareness campaign earlier on. But it was not until July 15, 2019 that the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) held a meeting and decided to look into the effectiveness of its adulticides. Alas, the dengue epidemic of 2019 still happened.

When it comes to diseases like dengue, authorities such as the city corporations tend to put a lot of emphasis on the citizens’ own responsibility to save themselves from being infected. But there comes a point where it stops being awareness-building and starts becoming blame-shifting. No doubt, the public must take up preventive measures, such as wearing clothes that cover most of their bodies, spraying insecticides in their own homes, and get rid of stagnant water so Aedes larvae don’t get the chance to breed there. But it cannot be denied that the majority of places where mosquitoes can breed freely and undisturbed are public spaces, making them the responsibility of the authorities.

Conducting mobile drives and imposing fines on people whose private properties have been found to have Aedes larvae are all well and good. But equal vigilance is required to encourage people to keep their homes clean and to raise awareness about how dangerous the dengue virus—specifically the serotype-3 variant—can be. Additionally, bulking up our healthcare sector to deal with the increasing number of dengue patients, amid the still-dangerous Covid-19 situation, is also crucial. Back in July, when the Covid-19 numbers were at their worst, two of the dengue wards of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in Dhaka had to be re-assigned to accommodate coronavirus patients.

It is important to remember, no matter what the disease, that prevention is more desirable—and certainly a more intelligent option—than cure. Viruses will likely never disappear and will only mutate and exist among us as different, more dangerous variants. While dengue is seasonal, it is not as discriminative as Covid-19, in that it can infect people of all ages—including children. We must all work together—the state and the people, to the best of our respective abilities—in order to prevent a situation as bad as what we experienced in 2019, in this year and in the coming ones.

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



FILE PHOTO: STAR

The emergence of dengue outbreak has put even more burden on an already overwhelmed healthcare system in Bangladesh.

In fact, the beginning of the “dengue season” this year can be traced back to May, when 43 people were reported to be infected by the virus. By the end of July, the number of dengue cases climbed to 2,098 in the country. As of the morning of September 19, this number stood at

the country suffered in 2019?

Two years ago, the worst dengue outbreak in Bangladesh since 2000 left 101,354 sick with the dangerous serotype-3 variant of the virus—the same one is at work in 2021 as well—and caused at least 179 deaths, according to

the city corporations in Dhaka had no effect on adult mosquitoes, as they became resistant to one of the major chemical components of the insecticides: permethrin. This study was presented by the icddr;b to both the city corporations in May 2019. One would presume this

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

Will the BRICS ever grow up?



JIM O'NEILL

When is that influence going to show up? Given today’s global challenges and the enormous issues facing the BRICS (which subsequently became a real-world entity and was expanded in 2010 to include South Africa), the bloc’s ongoing failure to develop substantive policies through its annual summitry has become increasingly glaring.

This November will mark the 20th anniversary of the BRIC acronym, which I first used in a 2001 Goldman Sachs paper titled “Building Better Global Economic BRICs.” At that time, I offered four scenarios for how each country could develop over the next decade, and made the case for why global governance needed to become more representative and include these four rising powers.

That paper was followed by a series of others, starting in 2003, which showed how China’s economy could become as large as the US economy (in nominal dollar terms) by 2040; how India could surpass Japan to become the third-largest economy soon thereafter; and how the BRIC economies together could grow larger than the G6 (the G7 minus Canada).

But the bloc’s economic trajectory since 2001 has been a mixed bag. While the first decade was a roaring success for all four countries, with each surpassing all four scenarios that I had originally outlined, the second decade was less kind to Brazil and Russia, whose respective shares of global GDP have now fallen back to where they were 20 years ago.

If it weren’t for China—and India, to some degree—there wouldn’t be much of a BRIC story to tell. Yet, notwithstanding the difficulties the BRICs have faced, China’s growth alone is on track to lift the technical aggregate of all four economies

to match the size of the G6.

In terms of global governance, the only notable shift over the past two decades has been the rise of the G20 since it took centre stage in response to the 2008 global financial crisis. Representing the world’s 20 largest economies, the organisation seemed immensely powerful at the time, and it managed to implement policies of potentially lasting importance. But since then, it has generally been

of the attention this year has been on security and terrorism. After all, recent developments in Afghanistan will have serious, direct implications for Russia, India, and China. But this singular focus is disappointing, because it highlights the group’s limited joint ambitions.

Modi would seem to agree, saying: “We need to ensure that the BRICS are more productive in the next 15 years.” Beyond creating the BRICS Development Bank,



The overall accomplishment of BRICS since it was formed 20 years ago has hardly been noteworthy.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

a disappointment, saying much but achieving very little.

For their part, the BRICS held their first annual meeting as a political club in 2009, in Russia (the first to include South Africa took place in China in 2011). And this year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the BRICS leaders—virtually—for their 13th summit. Every leader made bold statements about what they had supposedly achieved together, and all discussed avenues for future cooperation. Yet, they have accomplished very little; lofty statements are usually accompanied by only scant policy moves.

Nothing in the bloc’s latest joint declaration suggests that anything has changed. Perhaps, not surprisingly, most

now known as the New Development Bank, it is difficult to see what the group has done other than holding meetings annually.

Following the bloc’s rather dismal second decade, there are many things that BRICS leaders could do collectively to help revive the kind of economic gains made in the first decade, all of which would be good for the rest of the world as well. In doing so, they could create a much stronger impression of their usefulness alongside the G20, strengthening the case for more substantive reforms to global governance.

For starters, the BRICS need to strengthen trade between themselves. China and India could both gain

enormously from a more open and ambitious trading relationship, which would redound to the benefit of the rest of the region, the other BRICS members, and the world. In fact, more India-China trade alone would visibly boost global trade.

Moreover, while the BRICS have little in common other than having large populations, they also share a significant exposure to infectious diseases. The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance that I led in 2014-16 showed that all of the BRICS were worryingly vulnerable to drug-resistant tuberculosis. And as Covid-19 has shown, most have healthcare systems that are poorly equipped to deal with pandemics. Unless they treat global infectious diseases more seriously, they will never be able to reach their economic potential.

Since the fall of 2020, I have had the privilege of serving on the World Health Organization’s independent Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development, which is chaired by former Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti. One crucial proposal from our initial call to action this past spring, now outlined in detail in our final report, is to establish a Global Health and Finance Board under the auspices of the G20. The reasoning is simple: unless we place global health challenges at the heart of regular economic and financial dialogues, we will remain ill-prepared for them. And as the pandemic has shown, global health challenges are also economic and political challenges.

This proposal already has the support of several key governments—notably those of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Italy, and the European Union. Yet, for reasons I fail to understand, the BRICS, especially China, seem to be opposed to it. Such resistance makes no sense and will have dire consequences for the rest of the world. It gives me and other long-time champions even more reason to doubt the group’s collective potential.

Jim O’Neill, a former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management and a former UK treasury minister, is a member of the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development at WHO.

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(Exclusive to The Daily Star)

A by-poll like no other

Trinamool Congress is pulling out all the stops to prepare for the by-election in Bhabanipur



DISCRETION is the better part of valour, but not quite when it comes to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. She has a penchant for rushing into political terrains where not many would dare to tread—a trait that has characterised her political career. Who else, for instance, would have been brave enough to take on senior Marxist leader Somnath Chatterjee and pull off the giant-killing feat in the Lok Sabha poll in 1984, when Mamata was a young feisty leader from the Congress party, contesting from Jadavpur constituency? Fast forward to September 2021: Mamata is no longer young, but remains as feisty and fleet-footed as ever, and has often defied conventional political wisdom. That is why when she chose Nandigram as her assembly constituency in the state assembly elections this year, she knew she was taking a calculated risk by moving out of her safe bastion of Bhabanipur in south Kolkata, her home and a cosmopolitan constituency from where she had won twice in the 2011 and 2016 elections. Many would say that Mamata had chosen Nandigram because her agitation in 2007-08 against land acquisition for industries by then Left Front government had catapulted her to power for the first time in 2011. But a decade is too long a time in politics for things to change. Nandigram disappointed Mamata by giving the victory to aide-turned-adversary Suwendu Adhikari of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the latter's home turf this year. But she knew she always had the option of winning a by-poll within the six-month mandatory timeframe provided under Article 164 (4) of the constitution, and retain her chief ministerial chair. But things did not turn out as smoothly as she might have thought about the by-election since her defeat in Nandigram on May 2. Mamata is, no doubt, a charismatic mass leader, and has been keen on getting elected as a member of the legislative assembly to shed the tag of an unelected chief minister.

It required several meetings between the Mamata-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Election Commission, as well as her own pleas with the poll body, to ensure that the Bhabanipur by-poll would be held before the six-month deadline expires in early November. Tension had been building up within the TMC as to when the Election Commission would announce the by-poll. When the schedule was announced with the polling to be held on September 30 and the

of EVMs without an iota of evidence. In fact, the Election Commission allowed the Bhabanipur by-poll even as it continued to postpone by-elections in three Lok Sabha and 31 other assembly constituencies across India, including four others in West Bengal itself, in view of the pandemic and flood situation there. Obviously, keeping Mamata in mind, West Bengal Chief Secretary HK Dwivedi had written to the commission seeking an early by-poll in Bhabanipur on the grounds of

In the last assembly polls in March-April this year, Bhabanipur gave victory to Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay by a margin of 28,000 votes against BJP nominee Rudranil Ghosh. Soon after Mamata's defeat in Nandigram, Sobhandeb vacated the Bhabanipur seat so that Mamata could contest the by-poll from there.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banarjee.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

result declaration on October 3, a sense of relief ran through the ruling party, which had at times apprehended—albeit without any basis—that if the Election Commission did not hold the democratic exercise on time citing Covid-19, Mamata would face the embarrassment of stepping down as chief minister. The poll body's decision to hold the Bhabanipur by-poll is a resounding rebuff to those in the opposition, including the TMC, who had been attacking it by questioning its fair play capability and the dependability

“constitutional exigency and public interest to avoid a vacuum” in the state. And the commission acknowledged that. It is going to be a battle between the unequals and two generations of politicians in Bhabanipur as Mamata, in her late 60s, is pitted against much younger rivals Priyanka Tibrewal, 39, of the BJP, and Srijib Biswas, in his early 40s, of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). The Congress party, which is in talks with Trinamool Congress for overall unity among the opposition parties to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha

poll, has decided not to field a candidate against Mamata in Bhabanipur. While Priyanka is not new to electoral politics as she had unsuccessfully contested the recent assembly elections from Entally constituency in Kolkata, Srijib is set to make his debut in elections. Priyanka's claim to fame is that she is among the petitioners on whose pleading the Calcutta High Court ordered a comprehensive investigation into the post-poll violence, an exercise that was stonewalled by the TMC. The TMC is leaving nothing to chance in Bhabanipur. The party's campaign is spearheaded by Mamata, and it has pressed into service its entire organisational machinery, deploying three senior ministers—Subrata Mukherjee, Firhad Hakim and Partha Chatterjee, Kolkata Municipal Corporation Administrator Debasish Kumar, Mamata's brother Kartick, and activists of the party's student front in different parts of the constituency. The BJP, on the other hand, has lined up a motley collection of its Bengal leaders led by state unit President Dilip Ghosh and at least three federal ministers to woo the voters of Bhabanipur. In the last assembly polls in March-April this year, Bhabanipur gave victory to Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay by a margin of 28,000 votes against BJP nominee Rudranil Ghosh. Soon after Mamata's defeat in Nandigram, Sobhandeb vacated the Bhabanipur seat so that Mamata could contest the by-poll from there. Although dominated by the Bangalee middle class, a sizable chunk of the 206,389-electorate in Bhabanipur consists of Muslims in Ekbalpur, Khidderpore and Mominpur areas, as well as Marwaris, Punjabis and Gujratis, who will be a key factor in tilting the scale. Almost three-fourths

of Sobhandeb's victory margin of 28,000 votes in the last assembly poll came from the Muslim-majority areas, while the TMC did not do that well in areas of non-Bangalee Hindus. The TMC was first off the bloc as far as publicity blitz is concerned in Bhabanipur—with banners, festoons, posters, and graffiti—all of which describe Mamata as “Bhabanipurer meye (Bhabanipur's daughter),” a hyper-local version of the slogan “Bangla taar meyekey chai (Bangla wants its daughter)” in the run-up to the state assembly election earlier this year. Considering that Bhabanipur has a significant number of non-Bangalee voters, the TMC has so far refrained from playing up the Bengal subnationalism card, which it had successfully done in the assembly elections. The religious symbolism in Mamata's campaign was quite evident as she herself visited a temple, a mosque and a gurudwara in Bhabanipur. In the cut-throat world of competitive politics, at times, past performance in an election counts little for the future. Therefore, Mamata rightly told the TMC workers not to take her victory in Bhabanipur for granted. She has raised the stakes in the outcome of Bhabanipur by-poll by telling them that the election result will have an impact on the forthcoming civic body polls across West Bengal and set the tone for the 2024 general elections. Whether this strategy pays off or not will be known on October 3, when the final vote counts of the by-poll are out. But for Mamata's presence, the Bhabanipur by-poll would pass off as just another routine democratic exercise.

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Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for The Daily Star. He writes from New Delhi, India.

China's strategic interests in post-US Afghanistan



AFTER the complete withdrawal of the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces from Afghanistan last month, the Taliban took over the country for the second time. Although the Taliban-led government has yet to be recognised by any country, China is one of the few that has expressed interest in developing friendly relations with the Taliban. China has reiterated its stand for non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and firm support for the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. While the US and its NATO allies have evacuated their embassy staff from Afghanistan, the Chinese embassy is still functioning normally in the country. China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi hosted a Taliban delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, head of the Afghan Taliban Political Commission, on July 28, in the northeastern Chinese port city of Tianjin. China has given a clear indication that it wants to make contact and establish effective communication with the Taliban. As per the policy, during an informal meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on September 16, China along with Russia, Pakistan and Iran agreed to strengthen communication and coordination, exert positive influence and play constructive role in order to stabilise the situation in Afghanistan. China has also announced USD 31 million worth of emergency aid to Afghanistan, which includes food supplies, medicines, and coronavirus vaccines. These developments imply that China has increased engagement with Afghanistan moderately

under the Taliban rule. It is important to note that China never established an official relationship with the Taliban when the group was previously in power in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. Then what is the reason behind China's remarkable policy shift towards the Taliban in post-US Afghanistan? Protecting its national interests is one of the key reasons why China is willing to build good relations with the Taliban. The Chinese government perceives the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM)—referring to the alleged Uyghur extremist group—as a direct threat to the country's national security and territorial integrity. According to Chinese news agency Xinhua, there are currently 200-300 ETIM members in Afghanistan. The fact of the matter is that the Wakhan Corridor, a narrow strip of territory in Afghanistan, borders China's Xinjiang province. Given that China is concerned about the possible connection between the Taliban and the ETIM, and a potential rise of terror attacks within its borders, the country seeks clear assurance from the newly empowered Taliban to break ties with all kinds of international terrorist forces. According to a press statement on the China-Taliban meeting issued by the Chinese foreign ministry, Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarked: “We hope the Afghan Taliban will make a clean break with all terrorist organisations, including the ETIM, and resolutely and effectively combat them to remove obstacles, play a positive role, and create enabling conditions for security, stability, development and cooperation in the region.” China has gained assurance from the Taliban that it will not allow any forces to use Afghanistan's land to endanger other countries—including China. The country has urged the new Taliban government to take effective measures to crack down on terrorism within its territory. Neil Thomas, analyst on



China's shift from its previous policy regarding the Taliban is geared towards protecting its national and economic interests.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

China and Northeast Asia at Eurasia Group, said: “Chinese authorities may also be trying to protect their country from terror attacks by building a relationship with the Taliban.” Thus, the Taliban attaches a great deal of significance to China to ensure an ETIM-free Afghanistan. China is also willing to develop good relations with the newly formed Taliban government to pursue its economic interests through economic diplomacy. As Afghanistan has been facing daunting challenges and uncertainties, China is considered to have emerged as the best partner in Afghanistan's reconstruction process, according to the

Global Times, a mouthpiece for the Chinese Communist Party. Chinese companies seek investment opportunities in Afghanistan's severely damaged infrastructures. It attempts not only to expand Chinese business through establishing a long-term industrial platform in Afghanistan, but also to facilitate the development of economic corridors across the region, under the framework of China's most ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project. Whereas building cross-border infrastructure connectivity remains the prime agenda of BRI, such investment opportunities can accelerate China's infrastructure projects in war-torn Afghanistan. It also opens the

door for the potential expansion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship and fastest growing project of the BRI, into Afghanistan. The Taliban has already expressed its desire to join the CPEC to protect overseas investment. Enhancing economic engagement with Afghanistan in sectors such as utilities and mining has been of significant interest for China for years. For instance, the China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC Group), a state-owned Chinese company, won the right to develop a large copper deposit and extract high-quality copper from the Aynak copper field near Kabul in November 2007. The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) signed a 25-year deal with Afghanistan in December 2011, to explore three fields in the basin containing about 87 million barrels of oil. These projects have been stalled due to the instability and security concerns in Afghanistan. Amid the dramatic power shift with the Taliban takeover, Chinese firms are eying a resumption of these projects. China also seeks to start new projects to extract rare earth metals and minerals in Afghanistan. In this regard, China plans to boost cooperation in the energy sector with the mineral-rich country. It is apparent that China's gradual engagement with the Taliban has both geostrategic and geo-economic implications. Being one of the neighbouring countries of China, it is crucial to restore long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan in order to ensure China's territorial integrity and national security. Hence there is a huge possibility of expanding China's BRI project to Afghanistan, which would, of course, depend on China's successful diplomacy with the Taliban.

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Sultana Yesmin has completed her PhD from the Central China Normal University in Wuhan, China. She is a former visiting research fellow at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS).

ON THIS DAY
IN HISTORY

ATIFETE JAHJAGA
Former President of Kosovo
(born April 20, 1975)

When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dispatch

5 Group of actors

9 North Pole name

11 Javelin's kin

12 Juliet's love

13 Heart, for one

14—tree (cornered)

15 Players at the plate

17 Improves

19 Writer Harper

20 Concise

21 Young fellow

22 Concerning

24 Spot to jot

26 Left, on a liner

29 Maximum amount

30 Manhattan

ingredient

32 Tops, as toast

34 Atlas page

35 Provinces

36 Mirror sight

38 Bakery buys

39 Gymnast

Comaneci

40 “Frozen” queen

41 Dealer's need

DOWN

1 Wash thoroughly

2 Skips a ceremony

3 Joe of the Jets

4 Expected

5 Golf course

6 Germany's Merkel

7 Trembling

8 Keyed up

10 Gets serious

11 A bunch

16 Craft show's kin

18 Warty creature

21 Easy gait

23 Chooses to participate

24 Like mice and men

25 Changes

27 Newly fashioned

28 Calamitous

29 Let up

30 Porgy's love

31 Command to

Spot

33 “See ya!”

37 Fuming

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7-28

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

M O P E S U P L I E D

O N E I L L I D L E

B E A D C U R T A I N

L E G I T

B E E R V E R B

R I M S P A R E R S

A P P M E L L E E

T E T H E R M A T E

D Y E D T E X T

L I T H E

D E A D C E R T A I N

O A H U S O U R C E

T R A P S E P T E T

BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

His 22-year streak comes

FROM PAGE 12

10 others in raids in Cumilla and Dhaka and recovered 4,725 dresses from their possession, he said.

The gang was also behind a theft of 11,000 pieces of clothes from a shipment Jayanti Knitwear Limited was sending to the UK on May 11.

A case was filed regarding that incident on September 12.

The buyers penalised Jayanti Knitwear \$28,908 for the missing products.

Such thefts are tarnishing the country's image, said Hafiz Akter.

In primary interrogation, Shahed admitted that he stole from 5,000 trucks and lorries.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed him on a one-day remand while two of the other arrestees, Abdur Razzaq and Imran Khan, made confessional statements in the court.

The others were sent to jail.

Shahadat Hossain Sumon,

additional deputy commissioner of DB, said garment factories usually outsource the job of shipping goods to Chattogram port.

"On the way, these trucks stops at a warehouse in Cumilla where the gang members take out several products from every pack on the truck and then reseal the packs," Shahadat told The Daily Star.

The robberies weren't detected until the shipment reached the buyers abroad, he said.

The gang used to sell the goods to local buyers who later shipped them abroad, said the ADC, adding that officers now know the names of 40 individuals, including the local buyers who will be arrested soon.

In his confession, lorry driver Imran said he was given Tk 15,000 by the gang on May 11 for stopping the lorry full of garment products at a warehouse in the capital's Matuail and allowing the robbers to steal.

Govt can ask for anyone's

FROM PAGE 12

published in the media. Another question that's being raised by the journalists is why the bank account details were asked for with the name of organisations. I think if someone is transparent, there's no reason to be worried about."

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan called the letter by BFIU unexpected. He said this when a delegation of senior journalists met him at his Secretariat office.

"I think there has been a misunderstanding and I personally believe that the letter should not have been issued in such a way," said the minister while talking to reporters after a meeting with the delegation.

The delegation comprised prime minister's ex-media adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, journalist leaders Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Kuddus Afrad, Abul Kalam Azad, Abdul Jalil Bhuiya, Omar Faruk, and Sajjad Alam Khan.

Asaduzzman said he talked to all organisations including National Security Intelligence (NSI), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and

Special Branch, Bangladesh Bank to discuss this issue.

He assured journalists that he would sit again with them to find out more about the issue and take action accordingly.

"Your reputation has been undermined. You are in pain," the minister said, adding, "It has to be ensured that such incident does not occur again."

IPTV

Asked about BTRC closing online TV channels, the information minister said regulatory bodies must be very careful about who they allocate domains to.

Mahmud said his ministry only gives registration to IPTVs, but they get domain allocations from the BTRC. "The question is how they got the domain allocations. I think one has to be very careful from now on before allocating a domain."

He said there would be a tripartite meeting of Information, Posts and Telecommunications and the ICT ministries on Wednesday to discuss the matter.

When does appendix

FROM PAGE 12

This pain is known as "appendicitis," and has notoriety among many who experienced it.

One may also lose their appetite, feel sick and even experience irritable bowel movements.

Since, the appendix has partly done its job of securing our immunity, it might at times be prone to damage by viruses or bacteria. Sometimes, it can get entangled with your large intestine and clog up your bowels. If, by any chance, the appendix ruptures, it can cause serious complications.

If one experiences a persisting pain near their abdomen, doctors' advice is an absolute must. But do know that you will have to prepare yourself for a swift surgery to take the poor

appendix out if necessary.

The procedure to remove appendix, otherwise known as appendectomy, has been the only cure to appendicitis for the past 120 years. Although some doctors may suggest antibiotics, it's not a one-size-fits-all treatment. Your doctor will only prescribe a surgery to you if there is no way out. The first step is to not panic. It is a standard medical procedure, done by experienced laparoscopic surgeons. Trust your doctor and prepare according to their directions.

Full recovery from the surgery takes a few weeks. However, one should be cautious not to engage in any activity that can strain their abdomen. A minimum of six weeks following the surgery is generally recommended to fully heal.

India to start exports

FROM PAGE 12

is set to quadruple to over 300 million doses next month, the minister said.

Total production could top 1 billion in the last three months of the year as new vaccines from companies such as Biological E are likely to be approved, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami said: "Supplies should start in reasonable quantities soon, with priority partners like Bangladesh being among the earliest recipients."

India had supplied 6.6 crore doses to nearly 100 countries before halting the vaccine export.

The announcement by the Indian health minister came a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to the US to attend the maiden in-person Quad summit where the vaccine issue will be come up prominently.

The summit will be attended by President Joe Biden of the US, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga.

Modi is also likely to hold a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina on the margins of the UN General Assembly session in New York, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

India wants to vaccinate all its 944 million adults by December and has so far given at least one dose to 64% of them and two doses to 22%.

India's inoculations have jumped since last month, especially as the world's biggest vaccine maker, the Serum Institute of India, has more than trebled its output of the AstraZeneca shot to 200 million doses a month from April levels, reports Reuters.

Indian companies have set up the capacity to produce nearly 3 billion Covid vaccine doses a year.

US to end travel bans for vaccinated passengers early Nov

AFP, Washington

The United States announced yesterday it will lift Covid travel bans on all air passengers in November if they are fully vaccinated and undergo testing and contact tracing.

Jeffrey Zients, coronavirus response coordinator for President Joe Biden, told reporters the new "consistent approach" would take effect "early November."

The easing of travel restrictions, imposed 18 months ago by Donald Trump as the Covid-19 pandemic first erupted, marks a significant shift by Biden and answers a major demand from European allies at a time of strained diplomatic relations.

Numerous safeguards will remain in place to suppress the spread of the virus, which has already killed more than 670,000 Americans and is

resurgent after what many had hoped was a lasting dip earlier this year.

"Most importantly, foreign nationals flying to the US will be required to be fully vaccinated," Zients said.

It wasn't immediately clear if the new rule only applied to US-approved vaccines or if other brands, such as those produced in China or Russia would also qualify. Zients said that would be determined by the US Centers for Disease Control.

Restrictions on vehicle movement from Canada and Mexico will remain in place. "We do not have any updates on the land border policies," Zients said.

Zients said passengers will need to show they were fully vaccinated before boarding planes to the United States, as well as providing proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken within three days.



A medical worker observes secondary school students after they receive a dose of the coronavirus disease vaccine at a school, in Putrajaya, Malaysia yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bangladesh's UN delegation announced

FROM PAGE 12

representative in the UN; and AMA Muhith, counselor, Bangladesh mission in the USA were already in New York and would join the delegation there.

DATES OF EAST PAKISTAN BY-ELECTIONS REVISED

The chief election Commissioner of the Pakistan Election Commission announced today a revised timeline for the by-elections to the vacant seats in the National Assembly and the Provincial Assembly from East Pakistan.

According to the revised schedule, nomination papers for election to the National Assembly and the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan would be received by the returning officers concerned on October 20 and October 21, 1971, respectively. The last date

for withdrawal of candidature would be October 28, 1971, in the case of both assemblies. Polls would be held for election to the two assemblies simultaneously, commencing from December 12, 1971, and would be completed by December 23, 1971.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani position in Patharghatha, killing five enemy soldiers and injuring three. On the same day, Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani troops and irregulars in Chaukiapara and killed three troops. In an ambush on the Pakistani troops in the same area, Mukti Bahini killed two soldiers and injured two others. Another group of Mukti Bahini raided Saidullapur Police Station in Rangpur district and recovered 12 shotguns. Several police

officers were wounded during the action.

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani troops in Barabari area and killed five. In the same area, they engaged another column of Pakistani troops and exchanged fire. In this action five Pakistani troops and three collaborators were killed.

In the Mymensingh-Sylhet sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops and Razakars in Gazipur Tea Garden area, killing five soldiers and eight Razakars. They also recovered five rifles. On the same day, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops and Razakars in Samanbagh Tea garden and nearby areas, killing seven Pakistani soldiers.

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

DGHS driver

FROM PAGE 1

government employee like Abdul Malek to possess illegal arms, the tribunal observed in the judgement.

The judge also observed that the "exemplary punishment" was meted out to Malek so that no government employees could even consider possessing illegal arms.

The accused could not show any licence or documents in support of the firearms and ammunition which were seized from his possession, the judgement said.

It is evident to the court that the accused was involved in illegal activities with the illegal arms as there is otherwise no reason to possess the illegal arms, the judge continued.

In the verdict, the judge said the prosecution was able to prove the

charges against Malek.

During a raid, a team of Rab on September 20 last year arrested Malek from Kamarpara area under the capital's Turag Police Station, along with a foreign-made pistol, a magazine, five rounds of bullets, fake currency worth Tk 1.5 lakh, a laptop and a mobile phone.

The next day, Alomgir Hossain, an inspector of Rab-1, filed a case with Turag Police Station under the Arms Act.

Investigation Officer Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury, also a sub-inspector of Rab, on January 11 submitted the charge sheet against Malek to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka in the arms case.

On March 11, the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka framed

charges against Malek in the case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu said the prosecution was satisfied over the judgement in the case.

However, defence lawyer Md Shahinur Islam said, "We have been denied justice.

"We will challenge the verdict at a higher court," he added.

MALEK'S REACTION ON JUDGEMENT

While being taken out of the courtroom, Abdul Malek expressed his strong dissatisfaction over the judgement.

"Rab did not find anything in my house," he said.

"Rab has framed me in a false case, I will go to a higher court for a fair trial," he shouted at the journalists.

Sinha fell to ground

FROM PAGE 12

I was on my way to the marina that night near Shamlapur Bazar to collect the money some fishermen owed me," he said, describing how he came to witness the murder on July 31, 2020.

Soon after the shooting, former officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das arrived there with a team of policemen, he said. After talking to Liaquat, Pradeep kicked Sinha multiple times.

"I saw the incident. A few moments later, the body was loaded on a mini truck which then left the scene."

Hamid claimed that he knew Liaquat and Pradeep before. But he learnt about the identity of Sinha after the incident.

The deposition began around 10:00am and went on until around 3:00pm. Judge Mohammad Ismail recorded it.

Two other eyewitnesses, Firoj Mahmud and Shawkat Ali, also testified at the court yesterday. Firoj is a rickshaw-puller and Shawkat is a wage labourer. Both of them are residents of Teknaf.

The court source said their account of the events were similar to that of Hamid's.

The lawyer of the accused then cross-examined their statements. The proceedings ended around 5:45pm.

All the 15 accused were present at the court yesterday, said Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam.

Yesterday was the first day of the third phase of witness testimony. It will end tomorrow.

The court summoned a total of 23 witnesses to testify in the three days.

From August 23-25, the court recorded the statements of Sinha's sister Sharmin Shahriar Ferdous and his associate Shahedul Islam Sifat in the first phase.

In second phase from September 5-8, local fish trader Mohammad Ali, auto-rickshaw driver Kamal Hossain, a local mosque's muezzin Hafeez Mohammad Amin and a local mosque's Imam Shahidul Islam made their depositions before the court.

There are 83 witnesses in the case.

On June 27, the court framed

charges against 15 accused. Of them, 12 are police personnel, including Pradeep, Liaquat, sub-inspector Md Shahjahan, and assistant sub-inspector Liton Mia. They were all suspended from the force.

Investigators submitted the charge sheet on December 13 last year.

The formal trial began on August 23.

Sinha, 36, was making travel documentaries for a YouTube channel called Just Go and was returning to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf when he was killed in police firing at a check point of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) in Shamlapur area.

Accused officers claimed that they tried to search Sinha's vehicle when Sinha pointed his pistol at them, prompting them to shoot back in self-defence. They also claimed that they seized drugs from the vehicle.

Sinha's elder sister Sharmin later filed a murder case with Cox's Bazar Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court accusing Pradeep, Nanda Dulal, and several others.

Gunmen kill police inspector in southeast Nigeria

AFP, Lagos

Gunmen have killed a police inspector in southeast Nigeria, police said yesterday, the latest attack in the restive region where dozens of officers have died this year.

In the attack on Sunday, gunmen ambushed a police patrol in the commercial town of Onitsha in Anambra state and opened fire, state police spokesman Ikenga Tochukwu said in a statement.

"The attackers drove in a Sienna vehicle... and started shooting at the patrol vehicle along Ukegbu

junction," he said.

"Unfortunately, during the exchange of gunfire, one police inspector paid the supreme price."

Other officers were wounded in the attack, he said.

No group has claimed responsibility for recent attacks, but police often blame the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), a proscribed separatist group demanding an independent state for the ethnic Igbo people.

IPOB denies its armed wing, Eastern Security Network, is involved in the attacks, but separatist agitation is on the rise in southeast and southwest

Nigeria.

Tochukwu said that "in a bid to escape the police responding team, the hoodlums set the patrol vehicle ablaze."

In nearby Enugu state, gunmen also attacked an electoral office and set parts of the building on fire.

Officials however said the blaze was put out before vital election materials and equipment could be damaged.

Dozens of police officers and other security personnel have been killed since the beginning of the year in targeted attacks in the southeast.

Bangladesh still

FROM PAGE 12

Finland, Singapore, and Denmark, and Germany are included in the top 10.

Bangladesh ranked 122th in the institutions pillar among the countries, 128th in the human capital and research pillar, 95th in the infrastructure pillar, and 95th in the market sophistication pillar.

It is 122nd in the business sophistication pillar, 92nd in the knowledge and technology outputs pillar and 123rd in the creative outputs pillar.

"This year's edition is being released in the middle of a continuing Covid-19 pandemic, which has taken a grim toll on lives and livelihoods, but also given us many examples of human ingenuity, resilience and adaptability," said Daren Tang, director-general of the WIPO, in the foreword of the report.

"Indeed, the GII 2021 finds that the innovative sectors of the global economy have remained strong, despite severe disruptions."

To overcome the pandemic and build back better, nations need to continue supporting the translation of great ideas into game-changing products, he said.

"How do we do this? This is the ultimate goal of the GII: to discover what works best in producing an ecosystem where people can achieve their highest potential, innovating and creating to improve lives everywhere."

Two die

FROM PAGE 12

around noon when they were working at the reactor building at unit-2 of the power plant, causing the casualties.

The injured worker was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for better treatment, the official said. He, however, could not confirm the identity of the injured.

Dr Asma Khan, Ishwardi upazila health officer, said the two workers died before they were taken to the health complex.

Md Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said the bodies would be sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsies.

An unnatural death case would be filed in connection with the incident, the OC added.

Scientists transform

FROM PAGE 12

environmental pollution," said Professor William Chen, director of the food science and technology programme at NTU.

The fruit's husks, which make up more than half of the composition of durians, are usually discarded and incinerated, contributing to environmental waste.

Chen added that the technology can also turn other food waste, such as soy beans and spent grains, into hydrogel, helping limit the country's food waste.

Compared to conventional bandages, the organo-hydrogel bandages are also able to keep wound areas cooler and moist, which can help accelerate healing.

The researchers say using waste materials and yeast for the antimicrobial bandages is more cost effective than the production of conventional bandages, whose antimicrobial properties come from more expensive metallic compounds like silver or copper ions.

A durian wholeseller, Tan Eng Chuan, said he goes through at least 30 crates of durians a day during durian season - as much as 1,800 kg. Being able to use the parts of the fruit that are ordinarily discarded, he said, was an innovation that would make enjoying it "more sustainable".



TOP-SCORERS	
Robson Da Silva (B. Kings)	21
Pa Omar Jobe (Sk Jamal)	19
John Okoli (Saif SC)	18
Kervens Belfort (Abahani)	17
Raul Becerra (B. Kings)	16

KINGS STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE

SPORTS REPORTER

The 38th minute of the first half saw Topu Barman jump in the air with both of his fists clenched with a sheer adrenaline rush that one might associate with a footballer who had just scored a late second-half injury-time winner. Although it wasn't a match winning goal, however, the central defender's towering header which had levelled the score-line, meant more than that in more ways than one.

Not only did he manage to redeem himself from his blunder earlier at the 28th minute, where he struck his own net, he also ensured his side, the already-crowned champions Bashundhara Kings, came back into the match and ultimately avoided ending their record-breaking campaign on a low.

And thus, Kings rounded off their Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) campaign by playing out a 1-1 draw against Abahani in the last match of the league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The stalemate left Abahani to avoid a defeat against Kings, who

FINAL STANDING OF 13TH BPL

	M	W	D	L	A/F	Points
Bashundhara Kings	24	21	1	1	59/9	65
Sheikh Jamal	24	15	7	2	53/28	52
Abahani	24	13	7	3	64/28	47
Saif SC	24	14	2	8	48/37	44
Ctg Abahani	24	13	5	6	38/28	44
Mohammedan	24	12	7	5	36/25	43
Sheikh Russel	24	11	3	10	36/31	36
Rahmatganj	24	6	7	11	23/31	25
Police FC	24	6	7	11	26/39	25
Muktijoddha	24	4	7	13	18/34	19
Uttar Baridhara	24	4	7	13	33/63	19



had beaten their main rivals four successive times earlier – thrice in league and once in Federation Cup – since Abahani beat

Bashundhara Kings in the maiden meeting between two sides in 2018. Kings secured 65 points from 24 matches while Abahani

finished third with 47 points from 24 matches.

Kings, who seized a back-to-back professional football league title with four matches in hands before going to play their maiden AFC Cup in Maldives earlier, celebrated their triumph in small scale in the last match of the league, whose fixtures had stretched to nearly eight-and-a-half month due to frequent breaks following the pandemic-induced lockdowns, the national team's engagements, unplayable grounds and the AFC Cup engagement of Kings.

The professional football league so far saw for the first time that the title race turned into a one-horse race with Kings maintaining an unstoppable status, in stark contrast to other title contenders like Abahani, Sheikh Jamal, Chattogram Abahani, Saif SC and Sheikh Russel KC.

There was a huge difference of 13 points between the champions and runners-up, who ended up closer to the sixth-placed one on the points table.

"Except the table-topper, the league was overall good and competitive among the rest of the six teams, which I really want to appreciate," country's lone UEFA

A license coach Maruful Haque said. "The league could've been more fruitful and competitive had the league not been interrupted frequently."

Maruf believes the interruptions gave champions Bashundhara Kings an edge to keep the momentum of their performance going.

"To be honest, all clubs don't have that standard of coaching who can maintain the same rhythm or tempo of his team's performance following frequent breaks.

"It was a really big challenge. So if the clubs could've that standard of coach, champions Bashundhara could've lost one or two more matches," said Chattogram Abahani coach, whose charges only beat Kings in the league.

Maruf was overwhelmed with the performance of some promising players but not pleased with most of the national players.

To make the professional football league more competitive in the upcoming season, Maruful reckons the federation should disclose a fixed league fixture, come out of traditional match allocation and improve the standard of the refereeing.

'Let me completely enjoy this trophy'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon, who will take over the reign of the Bangladesh national team today after leading his club to a second Bangladesh Premier League title yesterday, said he wants to celebrate the moment with his players and management before turning his focus to national duty.

The Spaniard, roped in temporarily by the Bangladesh Football Federation, saw champions elect Kings end the campaign with a 1-1 draw against Abahani last night.

"Let me lift the trophy of the BPL which is what I'm fighting together with our management and our boys for 13 months," Bruzon said before the trophy ceremony.

"Let me completely enjoy this trophy because there is a lot of sacrifice, effort and things going into it. Now it's time to be with my group," the Spaniard said, brushing aside questions on his upcoming task.

The 44-year-old coach said that despite the massive difference in points between the champions and the rest, it was not an easy task.

"We need to give importance to the BPL. I've said this two years before too that BPL is one of the toughest leagues in the subcontinent. It's very very difficult. It seems watching the points table that Bashundhara had an easy league but I can tell you that we have very strong rivals in Sheikh Jamal, Ctg Abahani, Sheikh Russel, Saif," Bruzon said.

The coach also praised young and up-and-coming players for the contribution in this journey, adding that he would have been happier with a win in the season's last match.



CAN SOUMYA REDEEM HIMSELF AT THE T20 WORLD CUP?

Despite Soumya Sarkar scoring in the double digits just once in his past six appearances, all in Mirpur, the Bangladesh team management kept faith in him as it overlooked his recent showing at home and included the left-hander in the 15-member squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup starting next month. Soumya, who is on a mission to redeem himself at the T20 extravaganza in Oman and the UAE, practised at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The 28-year-old, with more than seven years of experience in the international arena, might not find many opportunities like this to finally cement his place in the Tigers' squad.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Only 11 can play, we can't play more'

AGENCIES



Paris St Germain manager Mauricio Pochettino has defended his decision to substitute forward Lionel Messi in Sunday's 2-1 win over Olympique Lyonnais in the French Ligue 1 and said the Argentine was okay with being taken off.

Messi outshone his teammates in PSG's all-star attack for much of the game at the Parc des Princes but he had been -- slightly controversially -- taken off by the time substitute Icardi headed in a cross from the left to secure the win.

Three games into his Paris career Messi is still looking for his first goal, but he was unfortunate not to find the net in the first half when everything PSG did went through the six-time Ballon d'Or winner.

Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and



Angel di Maria were all on the field too but -- unfortunately for such a superstar attack -- there is only one ball and it seemed to be drawn to Messi's feet.

He was set up by Mbappe for a shot that was saved by Anthony Lopes in the 17th minute. Then he combined with Neymar for another effort that was turned



PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid forwards Vinicius Jr and Karim Benzema scored within the space of three minutes deep in the second half to propel their side to a 2-1 win at Valencia in La Liga on Sunday. Benzema has six goals already this season, indicating he is having an outstanding run in front of goal and he has become the first player since Lionel Messi in 2011-12 to be directly involved in 11 or more goals in the first five games of a La Liga campaign (six goals, five assists). This season has seen Vinicius very much come to the party too, bagging five goals from as many matches, also outperforming expectations substantially, and added a first assist.

Sonali Bank make a splash on Day 2

SPORTS REPORTER



two players in a special arrangement at a city restaurant yesterday.

With Abahani stealing the show on the first day, Sonali Bank stepped up and signed 15 players so far, including the likes of – talented goalkeeper Shakib Mahmud Ovi, a product of BKSP, and former national midfielder Kamruzzaman -- and other young players, while Mohammedan SC, Azad SC, Bangladesh SC, Wari Club and Ajax SC roped in some 15 players as well.

Following the loggerheads between Mohammedan and Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, hinging on a controversy over a player, defending champions Mohammedan signed up Sarwar Murshed and Tahmid Haque in a special arrangement in the presence of two Bangladesh Hockey Federation officials to oversee the registration.

Although Mohammedan were supposed to sign up Ashraful Islam, Mainul Islam Koushik, Sarwar Hossain, Ashim Ghope from the national colours on the same day.

NEWS IN BRIEF

India to start home season with NZ series

New Zealand will return to the sub-continent in November to play three Twenty20 Internationals and two Test matches in India, two months after abandoning their tour of Pakistan over safety concerns. The series against New Zealand will kick-start India's 2021-22 home season which includes four Tests, three one-dayers and 14 Twenty20 Internationals, the Indian cricket board said in a statement on Monday. West Indies will arrive in India in February to play six limited-overs matches, followed by Sri Lanka who will face their hosts in two tests and three Twenty20 Internationals. South Africa will tour India in June to play six Twenty20 matches.

Pakistan's bumper home season looks in disarray

After a decade spent trying to woo back cricket's international elite, Pakistan is facing the prospect of being declared the game's no-go area again, and the anger is palpable. A sense of deja vu swept the country on Friday when New Zealand abruptly pulled the plug on their first Pakistan tour in 18 years, citing a security alert. With England's board yet to make up its mind about, Pakistan's bumper home season looks in disarray. Cricket Australia said it was monitoring the situation.




Bangabandhu Tunnel

is being built with BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT





Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement



His 22-year streak comes to an end

Robber accused of stealing RMG goods from trucks gets arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, who has stolen ready-made garment products from thousands of trucks in the last two and a half decades, was arrested with 10 of his gang members, detectives told a press conference yesterday.

Since 1998, Shahed, known in his circles as Sylheti Sayeed, has stolen garment products from over 5,000 trucks and lorries.

The gang pulled off the robberies with the help of lorry drivers of shipping companies who received a cut.

Around 24 cases were filed against him over the years, said AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner of Detective Branch of police.

Last year, Shahed got arrested and was in jail for eight months in six cases filed in Chattogram. But he returned to the world of crime soon after he was released on bail, said Hafiz.

Shahed owns a two-story building, a brick kiln and several trucks in Moulvibazar, the officer said, adding that he has two wives.

On September 15, about 5,000 pieces of garment products belonging to Network Clothing Limited went missing from a shipment supposed to go to Germany.

A case was then filed with Tejgaon Industrial Police Station in Dhaka.

Detective Branch officers this week arrested Shahed and

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The gateman of this level crossing in Kadamtoli area of Chattogram city has to spread his arms to stop vehicles and allow a train to pass. Repairs are being done to the level crossing but no provision for stopping traffic, while the work goes on, has been kept. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

COVID VACCINE India to start exports in October

Says its health minister; neighbouring countries to get priority

STAR REPORT

India will resume exports of surplus Covid-19 vaccines from next month, prioritising the global vaccine-sharing platform Covax and neighbouring countries first as supplies rise, the country's health minister said yesterday.

"We will help other countries and also fulfil our responsibility towards Covax... Neighbouring (countries) first," Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told reporters in New Delhi, adding that only the excess supplies would be exported.

India, the world's biggest maker of vaccines, stopped exports of Covid shots in April to focus on inoculating its own population as infections exploded.

The country's monthly vaccine output has since more than doubled and

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Govt can ask for anyone's bank account details

Says info minister; home boss says 11 journos' reputation undermined

STAR REPORT

The government can seek bank account details of anybody for any reason, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said yesterday.

He came up with the remarks while responding to a question regarding the investigation of the bank account details of 11 journalist leaders by Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), reports UNB.

The BFIU of the Bangladesh Bank recently issued letters to the commercial banks asking for their account details.

"The bank accounts of MPs, government employees and the leaders of various business organisations are also sought. There's nothing wrong in asking for bank account details of anybody," he said during a programme of Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF).

He added that the fact that their bank details were sought were not supposed to be published in newspapers.

"This is a question as to why it was

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh's UN delegation announced

SEPTEMBER 21, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH DELEGATION TO UN

The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh announced today the composition and names of the members of the Bangladesh delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. The delegation, according to the press release, would be led by the country's Permanent Representative to the UN Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury. Justice Chowdhury who was also the Bangladesh Permanent Representative in the UK had already proceeded to New York from London.

The following members of the delegation would proceed from Mujibnagar to Delhi today en route to New York: MA Samad, MNA, political adviser to the Government of Bangladesh; Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, member of the consultative committee to the Government of Bangladesh; Phani Bhusan Mazumdar, MPA; Serajul Haque, MPA; Advocate Syed Abdus Sultan, MNA; Fakir Shahabuddin, MPA; Mafiz Chowdhury, MNA; Ashabul Haque, MPA; AFM Abul Fateh, ambassador-at-large; KK Panni, roving ambassador to Far-East and South-East Asia; and Dr AR Mallik, vice-chancellor of the Chittagong University.

MR Siddiqui, MNA and Bangladesh representative in the USA; Rehman Sobhan, an economist and ambassador extraordinary for economic affairs; SA Karim, Bangladesh deputy permanent

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INNOVATION INDEX Bangladesh still at 116th

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's ranking in the Global Innovation Index has remained unchanged at 116th out of 132 countries.

The country's score stood at 20.2, according to the ranking prepared by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

The 14th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII), which was released yesterday, captures the innovation ecosystem performance of the economies and tracks the most recent global innovation trends.

In South Asia, India improved its ranking by two places to 46th. Sri Lanka moved up six notches to 95th, and Pakistan advanced eight spots to 99th. Nepal slipped 16 spots to 111th.

Switzerland topped the list. Sweden came second, the US third, the UK fourth, and South Korea fifth.

The Netherlands,

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Scientists transform fruit leftovers into bandages



REUTERS

Scientists at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore are tackling food waste by turning discarded durian husks into antibacterial gel bandages.

The process extracts cellulose powder from the fruit's husks after they are sliced and freeze-dried, then mixes it with glycerol. This mixture becomes soft hydrogel, which is then cut into bandage strips.

"In Singapore, we consume about 12 million durians a year, so besides the flesh, we can't do much about the husk and the seeds and this cause

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Sinha fell to ground after multiple gun shots

Eyewitness tells court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An eye-witness yesterday told a judge that Maj (ret'd) Sinha Rashed Khan was shot dead by now suspended police inspector Liaquat Ali.

In his testimony to the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court, a local named Abdul Hamid said he was on his way to the beach to run an errand when he saw the shooting.

"When I was near the check point on Marine Drive, I saw police officer Liaquat Ali shoot Sinha. I heard multiple gun shots. Then, Sinha fell to the ground," said a source present in the courtroom, quoting Hamid as saying.

A resident of Teknaf's Shamlapur area, Hamid used to sell cooked food to fishermen on the beach.

"Like the other days,

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Two die in Rooppur nuke plant accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two workers were killed and another was injured in an accident in a reactor building of the under-construction Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna yesterday.

Md Moniruzzaman, 32, of Pabna's Ishwardi upazila, and Madhob Kundu, 44, of Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj, died on the spot, said sources at Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex.

Speaking to this newspaper on condition of anonymity, a project official said a big metal object fell on the workers

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A man carefully crossing what is left of a bridge in Bhakurta union of Savar. The rush of water broke a large chunk of the bridge this monsoon. The structure was damaged the previous season and a person drowned falling into the water that year. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 21

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:40	12:45	4:30	6:05	7:30

JAMAAT 5:15 1:15 4:45 6:10 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Star HEALTHLINE

When does appendix become UNBEARABLE PROBLEM?

STAR HEALTH DESK

The main function of an appendix is to boost our immune system in our formative years. The organ, an important part of our waste system, slowly loses its significance as we grow older.

Does this mean, we throw away our appendix? Not necessarily. But people within the age group of 10 to 30 can develop a sharp pain in their abdomen area that may come and go. Shortly, the pain travels to the lower-right side and becomes constant and severe.

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HygineX

Instant hand sanitizer

