

# The Baily





Your Right to Know

# Rogue IPTVs on the prowl

They masquerade as news channels with little or no regulatory watch, letting loose thousands of freewheelers with boom and cam to make a living

Right opposite the bus Gabtoli terminal, there is a blue building squeezed between bus counters -- a hotel as seedy as it gets. A narrow flight of stairs takes customers up to the bare-bones rooms

Hotels like these are the chosen venues for sex workers to practise their trade, which makes them susceptible to police raids, and naturally, extortion. But the hotel's regular roster of extorters include

an unlikely bunch of people -- self-proclaimed

The hotel's manager, a squat middle-aged man, pulled out a bunch of business cards from his shirt pocket.

"The reporters ask for Tk 200-Tk 500 depending on the situation. The editors have to be given Tk 1,000. Every day I get upwards of 10 such visits from

these people. If I don't pay them, they will call the police to conduct a raid. Then they will film the raid and broadcast it," said the manager, who requested anonymity for both himself and his

These so-called reporters and editors belong to a special breed of new media -- online television channels, broadcast out of a cheap server set-up, and can be viewed either on their websites or

on dedicated streaming applications and websites. Colloquially, they are called IPTVs, in reference to the technology being used for the broadcast, hich is internet protocol.

Industry insiders will say with conviction that the main revenue model for a lot of these online television channels is sponsored programming, and often extortion.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



### Chart roadmap for the ones left behind

Says Hasina after receiving SDGs progress award; joins **UNGA** opening session

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for charting out a bold and ambitious global roadmap to put the world back on the SDGs track so that no



one is left behind as the pandemic has pushed many countries way behind from

"We have already entered the Decade

E-COMMERCE INDUSTRY

## Still left to run without reins

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and SUKANTA HALDER

E-commerce firmly began to put down roots in Bangladesh back in 2009 and since then has gone on to become a mainstay in the retail landscape. Yet, in all these years, the government did not feel the urgency to come up with a definitive e-commerce policy or assign a regulatory body for the fast-growing industry to ensure discipline.

And it is this loophole that rogue players like Evaly and Dhamaka Shopping exploited to the hilt to expropriate money from unassuming consumers.

While there is a National Digital Commerce Policy 2018, it was not until July this year that the commerce ministry came up with the standard operating procedure and guidelines.

By this time, the rogue e-commerce players have run amok with people's

The policy also mandates the formation of an e-commerce regulatory authority, which the government is yet to do, prompting Supreme Court lawyer Md Anwarul Islam Badhon on Monday to submit a writ petition as public interest litigation to the High Court on the matter.

This begs the question: why was the government so negligent on this sector, one of the pillars of its much-cherished Digital Bangladesh vision? SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

#### Rassel placed on another day's remand

Evaly customers, sellers call for his release COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mohammad Rassel, chief executive officer of Evaly, on a day's remand in a case filed over embezzlement of about

Tk 35.85 lakh from a

businessman. The court, however, sent Rassel's wife Shamima Nasrin, also the chairperson of Evaly, to jail after rejecting both the remand and bail prayers for her in the case.

The couple was produced before the court SEE PAGE 2 COL 6 ROAD TRANSPORT SECTOR

## 1 feud, 2 strikes, same demands

Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary

A feud between two major factions of road transport owners and workers has led to calling of two separate strikes of goodsladen vehicles in the span of a week.

The first spell of a 72-hour strike started yesterday, halting the operation of goods transportation from major sea and land ports, while a 48-hour strike would start from Monday.

Although their demands are almost the same, they still called "work abstention" from different platforms just because they

are locked in a long-standing conflict. One faction is backed by two major platforms in the road transport sector while the other is dominated by transport agencies and some truckers' associations.

On August 25, Bangladesh Truck-Covered Van, Tank Lorry, Prime Mover Owners and Workers' Coordination Council called a 48-hour work abstention from September 27 to press home their 10-point demand. Their demands include withdrawing murder cases against drivers under section 302 of the penal code for road **RELATED STORY ON B1** SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Helpline: 16267

NUSDAT-UTS

## 6<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi), the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

**Bereaved Family Members** 



Stop violence against women For a healthy and happy society



Manusher Jonno Foundation and its Partner Organisations Supported by : UKaid





Police taking Evaly CEO Mohammad Rassel to a court in Old Dhaka yesterday after completion of his three-day remand. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Healthcare workers' recruitment scrapped

Ministry cites 'ambiguity in answer scripts'; fresh process soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry has cancelled the process for appointing 2,839 for the posts of medical technologists, technicians and cardiographers due to "ambiguity in the answer scripts of the written test".

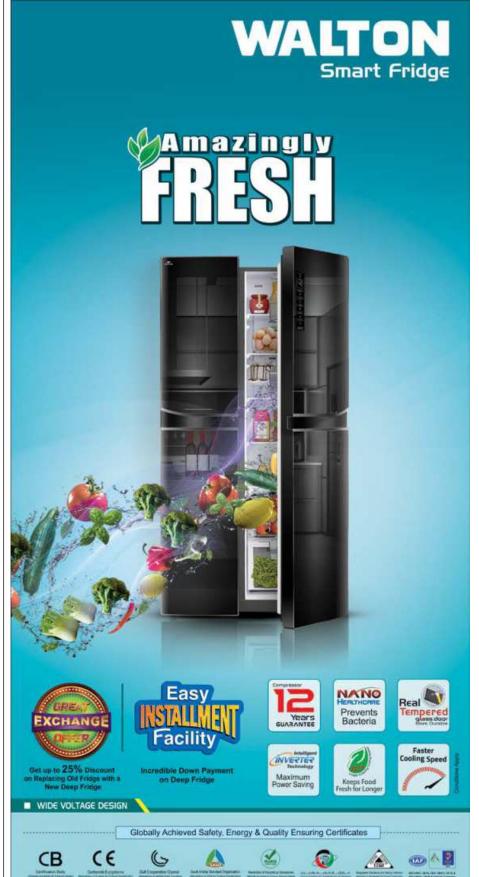
In a circular issued on Monday, the ministry has also directed the director general of the health directorate to publish a fresh recruitment circular and complete the appointment process within a shot time.

Candidates who applied for written tests earlier will be eligible to take the fresh examination. They will not need to apply afresh, said the circular.

On April 13, the ministry had postponed the appointment process and formed a four-member probe committee, led by Additional Secretary Nazmul Haque Khan, to investigate anomalies in the recruitment test, which came to light through a report run by Bangla daily Prothom Alo the previous day.

Based on the report of the investigation committee, the ministry issued the circular cancelling the appointment process. The circular said as the investigation report stated about ambiguities, the health directorate has been directed to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1







**CITY** 







4,718,150



**230,105,042** Total cases

## Locals confine cops after fisherman

Our Correspondent, Patuakhali

allegedly by policemen in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila yesterday.

The victim Sujan Hawladar, 30, son of Abdus Sattar of Baliatali village, was chased and tortured by policemen

A severe tension was prevailing in the

According to locals, members of Banatibazar Naval Police Outpost, led by Assistant Sub-inspector Mamun, chased Sujan's fishing trawler on the

Four of the five fishermen on the trawler managed to escape but Sujan was held and tortured, they said, adding that at one point Sujan fell unconscious

As the news of Sujan's death spread, hundreds of agitated locals, including fishermen, went to the spot and confined the policemen.

The victim's relatives rushed him to

on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, after six hours of confinement, additional police force was deployed in the area and the team headed by ASI Mamun was rescued on promises of justice for Sujan.

ABM Humayun Kabir, chairman of Baliatali union, said 20 to 25 policemen from Kalapara and Mahipur police stations went to the spot, assured justice for Sujan, and rescued the confined policemen.

Sub-inspector Shahidul Islam, incharge of the Banatibazar Naval Police Outpost, said he was on leave when the incident happened.

Asked, ASI Mamun denied the allegations and said the raided Sujan's trawler as he used the current net for fishing.

"He was already lying on the net when we went there," he said. s

Khandaker Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kalapara Police Station, said the reason behind Sujan's death would be identified once the autopsy report is done.



Vehicles line up at a CNG filling station in the capital's Moghbazar around 1:00pm yesterday. The CNG filling stations in the city are seeing long lines of vehicles as they would remain closed from 6:00pm to 10:00pm every day in line with a government order to increase supply of gas to power stations.

#### Positivity rate lowest in over 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Covid-19 positivity rate has gone down to 4.69 percent -- the lowest in the past six and half months.

Earlier on March 7, the positivity rate was 4.30 percent.

After the second wave of the pandemic began in the country from the second week of March, the positivity rate continued rising and reached its first peak at 23 percent on April 16.

It then went down to 7 percent in the middle of May.

From early August, the transmission of the virus started declining steadily.

In the past 24-hours till 8:00am yesterday, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 1,562 new Covid-19 cases after testing 33,327 samples countrywide.

With this, the total number of confirmed cases reached 15,45,800.

In the same period, 26 Covid-19 patients died in the country -- the lowest in four months, raising the total number deaths rose to 27,277, which is 1.76 percent of all confirmed cases.

## Enhance diplomatic efforts

BNP grassroots ask high-ups

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A section of BNP's grassroots said the party should improve diplomatic efforts and bring all democratic forces under a single platform to hold the next election under a non-partisan interim government.

They also said the unity of the party should be cemented under the leadership of party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

The party's Dhaka and Faridpur districts leaders said this to BNP highups during a meeting at the party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday. The party is holding a series of closed-

door meetings to learn what the grassroots activists think should be their strategy ahead of the next parliamentary polls. In the first day of the second round

of meetings, 126 party's executive committee leaders were invited but 48

The jurisdiction of the committee was

to examine whether the appointment

process was right, whether there was

any inconsistency in the answer scripts,

and to identify those involved, if there

deputy secretary and also a member

of the appointment committee, and

Dr Abul Hashem, deputy director

(administration) of the health directorate, had written to then Health

Division secretary

They said most of the candidates

The two alleged that Tk 15-20 lakh

Mannan about the anomalies in the

who sécured abnormally high number

in the written test could not do as well

was taken as bribe from each of a group

Akhter Jahan, then

All participants opined for waging movement demanding election under a non-partisan interim government but stressed on restoring party discipline

They also said it wouldn't be possible to topple the government without a united movement.

After the meeting, party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told Journalists that they held the meeting to devise the strategy of

In 2018, the party held its last executive committee meeting at Le Meridian hotel just four days before Khaleda landed in jail.

No executive committee meeting has been held since.

#### Rogue IPTVs on the prowl "I am Haji Md Moktar Hossain,

Legally, IPTVs cannot broadcast news. The National Online Mass Media Policy 2017 (amended in 2020) outright states that IPTVs can only broadcast other sorts of entertainment or informationbased programmes.

However, by tuning into the channels for a few weeks, one would realise that most of the IPTVs and online channels are clearly violating this rule.

"News" makes up a sizable portion of the contents of many of these IPTVs with several having full-fledged news segments complete with newscasters, studios and correspondents carrying boom mics.

**HOW ARE THEY RUN?** 

"Correspondent business" is the main revenue model for a majority of these channels, confirmed multiple owners of IPTVs, all of whom vehemently insisted that they are not a part of this. They also requested anonymity, fearing reprisal from their colleagues.

So, what is "correspondent business"? It is the practice of using an organisation's correspondents to gather sponsored news and advertisements but all done under the desk -- from which correspondents receive a cut.

But it can go the other way as well -- correspondents receive money from a party to get a news item aired and pay the editor for the coverage. All these organisations run on

workforce of two-three people including an editor, but employ freelance correspondents often down to the upazila level. They are armed with business cards and press cards, but since there is no contract, they work on an asneeded basis. There is no way to know the exact number of these "journalists" active for over 600 channels known to be in operation. However, in a conservative guesstimate, the number would be several thousands.

authorised mainstream organisations, sponsored contents come with a tagline such as "done in partnership with", "sponsored by", or "powered by", or are published outside the regular news platforms, in the form of supplements. This is to maintain transparency.

The management of IPTVs this correspondent spoke to said they do not pay their correspondents any salaries, so it is up to the correspondents to earn their keep.

"I used to have correspondents but don't anymore since the information ministry has said we cannot broadcast news. I don't have any revenue coming in, so I cannot pay my correspondents, said Jamal Uddin Zaman, a retired military officer who now runs AlifTV.

"All the correspondents worked for me as volunteers. If they came to me and asked me if they could air a news piece, I gave them space," said Zaman.

He was speaking out of his Mirpur office, in a building with bare cement walls, whose stairs are still under construction. The rest of the five-storey structure is rented out to low-income

AlifTV's office also doubles as an ad studio and production house. "I have one producer, one director who works both as a cameraperson and an editor. My two news presenters have full-time jobs and work here voluntarily. One works in a bank," he said.

Asked about his revenue model, Zaman said, "I get all my earnings by making dramas and ads." He pulled out a bunch of leaflets to prove his point.

Ubaydulla Rumi, AlifTV's district's Ishwarganj Mymensingh upazila correspondent, explained why he continues to work for free for the organisation. "It is because I am still learning. I was told I will get some honorarium, but I have not received any yet. If I wanted to join an organisation as a correspondent, I would have needed to pay them, but I didn't need to pay AlifTV.

a lot of coverage on the personal achievements of political candidates and party members -- small events like distribution of blankets or distribution of rice under the government's Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme.

Taranagar union chairman candidate. We had no roads before. I built two roads..." Hossain droned on for 12 entire minutes about his initiatives in the area, in a video published by an online television on September 7, 2021. The television's business card was

among those found at the Gabtoli hotel's reception desk, but we are refraining from naming the television channel to protect the source who gave us the card. The channel has nearly 56,000

subscribers on YouTube, and has an office on Hatkhola Road in Tikatuli. It is full of videos similar to that of Moktar's lengthy personal interviews that can only be categorised as self-marketing.

Similarly, most of AlifTV's Ubaydullah Rumi's bylines are PR coverage of events or activities organised by local representatives, like the farewell ceremony for the UNO, or food and fish-fry distribution.

"I do positive news to inspire people to do positive activities," Ubaydullah

Voluntary correspondents and a lack of transparency about sponsored content leaves space for conflict of interest, opined Robaet Ferdous, associate professor of Mass Communications and Journalism at Dhaka University.

For example, when JATV ran a threeminute report on June 23, 2021, about a local school's headmaster in Mirzapur union of Birampur upazila of Dinajpur, the school cried foul. The headmaster, Abdul Motaleb

Babu Master, had taken Tk 450 from the students as registration fees, said the report. The headmaster claimed those were session fees that accumulated during the time of the pandemic.

The report interviewed several locals who said that was extortion in the name of registration fees. One of the interviewees included a guardian who said he was told by the headmaster, "If you cannot pay the school fees and keep your daughter in school then you should marry her off to someone who

The headmaster, however, kept insisting to the television on camera that the money is for session fees, and that he was being framed by a group with whom he is currently in conflict over a plot of land.

This hyper-local issue about a disagreement between guardians and teachers was covered by a reporter of the television who travelled from Dhaka, confirmed the television's editor Kibria

Following the airing of the piece, the local union parishad chairman, Faruk Azam, hosted a press conference, accusing the journalist of having an ulterior motive. "None of the local journalists knew this reporter. The local reporters did not cover this. This journalist from Dhaka was paid off," he

Kibria Chowdhury countered the allegation. "We maintained everything. spoke to the headmaster himself. spoke to everyone in the locality. I sent a reporter to the locality for this news because local correspondents often do not have the capacity to cover news like this," he said. When asked about whether the office bore the travel costs, he declined to comment. The whole debacle about IPTVs

first came to the spotlight when businesswoman named Helena Jahangir was arrested, and one of the charges brought against her was that she was operating Joyjatra TV as an extortionist outfit.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) found upon interrogation that in 50 districts, Helena appointed representatives from whom she collected Tk 50,000 to Tk 1 lakh each at a time, and Tk 10,000 to Tk 20,000 monthly.

The investigators said Helena also collected Tk 10,000 to Tk 20,000 from different upazila representatives at a time and monthly charges ranging

Jahangir Alam, an additional secretary at the home ministry, said taking action against any unlicensed media their jurisdiction. A SILENT DIGITAL REVOLUTION

IPTVs are all unlicensed. To their credit,

many had applied for licences after the information ministry invited them to get registered, but the ministry has been sitting idle for the last four years. The deputy secretary (TV-2) of the

information ministry, Ruzia Sultana, said that right now around 600 applications for IPTVs are pending with he ministry.

Policy 2017 clearly states that no media can operate without a licence from the relevant body. All of the organisations this correspondent spoke to said they have applied for registration and have been waiting between several months to several years for a decision.

Both JATV and AlifTV claim to have applied for a licence to operate.

Information Minister Mahmud said on Tuesday that the ministry has already taken many initiatives, including giving registrations to IPTVs, to bring discipline to the

ministry could take a decision about the licences, BTRC closed down 59 internet protocol televisions (IPTVs) on Sunday for not possessing valid licences to operate.

or consultation of the information ministry, confirmed several ministry officials. In addition, the information minister also pointed fingers at BTRC.

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

But even inviting IPTVs to get registered in 2016 was too little too late.

The first IPTV was established in as early as 2011, claimed Emrul Kaysar, general secretary of IPTV Owners' Association. "I bought the domain Bangla21tv, and then later on, we launched JagoBD," he said. JagoBD is one of the most well-known platforms

"Our national television was the first satellite channel to adopt the internet protocol technology in 2014, and stream their content online," he claimed. Since then all satellite channels have started

In addition, in the last one decade, the number of IPTVs has exploded from

It would be unfair to assume without and with that comes new business.

Emrul Kaysar, for example, runs Times24TV by providing technological

gave the Federation of Bangladeshi associations in North America the technical support to run their virtual convention last time," explained Kaysar. FOBANA's annual convention is year-after-year, the biggest Bangladeshi gathering in the US.

"Most of my programmes target the diaspora, so I don't have any correspondents or reporters," he explained. The TV, which has been in operation since 2014, airs shows with

working with this technology since 2011. People like Helena and Jamal turn to tech experts like Kaysar to set up these online TVs.

professionals in the market who can set up IPTVs professionally and provide server space and streaming services, said industry insiders.

Nazmul Hasan, who goes by the moniker IPTV Techmaster, has a fascinating video titled "Launch an IPTV for Tk 20,000".

configuration and a good internet connection," he explained.

organisations was not necessarily in include encoding software, a switching software and a streaming software. Then you will need a streaming server. From your PC you will push content to the streaming server. The streaming server will give an output to your website or other platforms," said Hasan.

"The streaming servers in Bangladesh are not very good. We provide you with servers outside the country. We can guarantee that you will get buffer-less streaming," said Hasan. "If you have a computer already, then

you will need Tk 50,000 to set it all up. For the server space you will need to pay Tk 20,000 every month," he added. And so for pennies and peanuts, you too can have your own television channel. DÚ Associate Professor Robaet

Ferdous appreciated the plurality of media that IPTVs provide. "We need freedom of expression, but with that freedom comes the responsibility to be an ethical media."

journalist Amanullah Veteran commented that extortion was always there in journalism. "It is just that the nature of it has changed.

"If one is to be ethical in one's professional pursuits, one has to be moral, honest and fair as a journalist. To be ethical, one has to be moral, truthful and objective in reporting facts, incidents, speeches and remarks of news sources. If the journalist is not ethical, there will be confusion resulting from false news as is now happening in the present day world.'

## Rassel placed on

FROM PAGE 1

on completion of a three-day remand in another case filed with Gulshan Police Station.

Dhaka's Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasibul Hague passed the orders after Investigation Officer Nazmul Huda, also a sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station, produced the couple before it with a seven-day remand prayer for each, said Tapash Kumar Pal, the additional public prosecutor.

The defence, however, submitted a petition seeking bail along with the cancellation of the remand prayer.

On September 17, Kamrul Islam Chokdar, a vendor of Evaly, filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station against the couple and 10 other employees of Evaly over unpaid dues against goods supplied.

The 10 others accused are Evaly vice-president Akash, manager Zahedul Islam Himoy, senior key accounts manager Tanvir Alam, senior executive commercial Jawadul Haque Chowdhury, head of accounts Selim Reza, accounts manager Jubair Al Mahmud and its four staffs - Sohel, Akibur Rahman Turja, Rezowan and Sakib Rahman.

Police are yet to arrest them at the time of filing the report.

On September 16, the Rapid Action Battalion of the police arrested the couple during a raid at their flat in the capital's Mohammadpur after a customer filed a case with Gulshan Police Station over embezzlement of Tk 3.1 lakh.

#### **HUMAN CHAIN DEMANDING** RELEASE OF RASSEL, SHAMIMA

Around 100 customers and sellers yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka demanding the immediate release of Rassel and Shamima. The human chain was jointly

organised under the banner of the Bangladesh E-commerce Merchant Association and Bangladesh E-commerce Welfare Association. The protestors then carried various

placards in favour of the release of the Sakib Hasan, a customer, said that many people gave Evaly a lot of

They would not get back their money or the products if the top bosses of the company stay behind

money for products or sold products

"The couple should be released for the great welfare of the sellers and customers soon," he added.

# 'tortured to death'

A fisherman was beaten to death

before his death, alleged locals.

Ramnabad river.

on the net of his trawler.

Kalapara Upazila Health Complex where

leaders were absent. Party's top leaders expressed anger over this, said meeting sources. A total of 28 leaders spoke in the meeting.

before launching any movement.

restoring democracy in the country.

Healthcare workers' pass the written exam. As the country's understaffed health sector had been struggling to provide A source in the probe body said the committee was asked to submit its healthcare to Covid patients, the health report within five days of its formation. ministry took the initiative to appoint a

arge number of staffers.

203 technicians on an emergency basis without any examination in accordance with an order issued by the president. Iftekharuzzaman. director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), yesterday said, "This cancelation of the appointment process

Last year, the ministry also appointed

right. So the Prothom Alo should be thanked. "However, the cancellation of the appointment process is not enough. Actions have to be taken against officials involved in the anomalies. Besides, the

look into the matter," he said. He also suggested making the investigation report public for the sake

## of the candidates for confirming they

Abdul

arrange a re-test.

were any.

Service

written test.

in the viva-voce.

accidents, solving driving licencerelated complexities, withdrawing the "additional" advance income tax and allowing them to update their vehicles' documents without having to pay any

fine amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

This faction is backed by Shajahan

Khan-led Bangladesh Road Transport

Workers Federation and Moshiur Rahman Ranga-led Bangladesh Road Transport Owner Association. On August 28, its rival group, made up of Bangladesh Covered-Van Truck Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association and Bangladesh Truck Drivers Workers Federation, called a 72hour work abstention from yesterday to press home their 15-point demand. Their demands include withdrawing "additional" income tax, giving "heavy licences" to those driving heavy vehicles

medium vehicles to get one for heavy vehicles), and changes in the Road Transport Act-2018.

directly (currently, a driver has to

get light licence and then licence for

LONG-STANDING FEUD EXPOSED AGAIN The Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, an umbrella organisation of more than 200 unions of road transport workers across the country, has had a strong grip over the

association is one of the two major platforms of transport owners across the country, with its strong hold over transport owners in the capital. Both the federation and the association have members from the associations of passengers and goods-

On the other hand, the owners'

workers' unions for a long time.

often represent the sector in negotiations with the government. But a section of leaders – from both owners' and workers' bodies -- of goodsladen vehicles have been trying to form a separate platform, sources said.

laden vehicles, and these organisations

This section is led by Mokbul Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Covered-Van Truck Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association, and Talukder Mohammed Monir, president of a truckers' union based at Dhaka's

of public interest.

The division surfaced after the Road

Tajul Islam, president of Bangladesh Inter-District Truck Drivers Union and a vice president of the federation, was the

hour strike demanding changes in the

for any protests; rather they wanted to go for negotiations with the government for bringing changes in the act. In November 2019, when the

The feud once again came to the fore last month when the two factions called strikes on separate dates to press home the same demands.

of the other one that called a strike on September 27 and 28. Osman Ali, general secretary of the federation, alleged the platform led

announced our work abstention to foil our programme," he told The Daily Start last night. He added that Monir was involved

with the federation earlier but his

membership was suspended due to his

allegiance with the transport agency's organisation. and the association continued their absolute sway over both the passenger and goods-laden vehicles' associations, they began working to form a separate

He said they have called the strike to press home their demands, and if their demands are met the other faction would not have to enforce their strike.

proves that the report on anomalies was

Anti-Corruption Commission should

1 feud, 2 strikes, same demands

Transport Act-2018 was passed at the Iatiya Sangsad in September 2018. In October 2018, Bangladesh Truck, Covered-van Goods Transport Owners-Workers Unity Council, led by Mokbul Ahmed as its convener, had called a 48-

member-secretary of the Unity Council, and Monir was joint convener. At that time, leaders of the federation and the association did not want to go

government was starting to implement the act, the Mokbul-led faction called a separate strike against the law.

Tajul later left the Mokbul-led faction and became member-secretary

government. "They called the strike after we

by Mokbul is actually working for the

Mokbul said that when the federation platform for the unions of goods-laden

For most IPTVs, promotional PR content accounts for the bulk of news programming. For example, there seems to be

between Tk 2,000 and Tk 3,000. High officials in the police said they have often received complaints of extortion by these media platforms, but

The National Online Mass Media

unregulated sector. However, before the information

This was done without the knowledge

for streaming television channels at the moment.

internet streaming services.

sufficient evidence that extortion is the revenue model for all unlicensed media. The underbelly of the media world, internet televisions cater to audiences that traditional media skips out on --

and media support to programmes by the Bangladeshi diaspora.

titles like "Australia Times". Kaysar is a broadcast engineer by training and education, and has been

There are less than a dozen

"You need a PC with good

"Then there are a few types of software that you need to install. These

## 'An opportunity to loot public money'

Eminent citizens on extension of law for purchasing power from rental plants amid overcapacity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At a time when the country is producing surplus electricity, the recent government decision to extend a controversial act would only create opportunities for some quarters to loot public money, said eminent citizens at a webinar yesterday.

They also said it will compromise accountability in the energy and power sector.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the webinar titled, "The Extension of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision), Changing the BERC Act, Extension of the Period of Agreements with Rental Power Plants and Crisis of Good Governance".

The government has decided to extend the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010 for another five years even though the country has overcapacity in power generation and there is no emergency situation, they said.

The law was enacted in 2010 when the government wanted to produce more electricity within a short period as a matter of national emergency. According to energy ministry, the deadline is being extended to ensure reliable, uninterrupted and affordable electricity throughout the country. The tenure of the special provision was extended thrice before -- for

two, four and three years respectively. "An emergency situation occurs for a certain period, not for an unlimited time, but that seems to be the case for the country's power and energy sector," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh

Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela). Prof Dr Badrul Imam, professor of Geology at Dhaka University, said, "We have surplus power now. Why, then, will we extend the agreement with rental power plants?"

Terming the act a 'black law,' CAB member, Sved Raju, in his keynote speech, said, "Through this law, the government is purchasing power from rental plants without tenders, extending agreements to buy power at an



facilitate road crossing for pedestrians, as the area didn't have a foot overbridge. However, even after the overbridge was built recently, the divider is yet to be closed, and people are still crossing the busy Dhaka-Chattogram highway the same way rather than using the footbridge only a few yards away. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAFIUL ISLAM

#### We're assessing the situation before taking any stance

Says foreign minister on Taliban issue

Bss, New York

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has said Bangladesh is assessing

the situation in Afghanistan ahead of taking any stance regarding ties with the new Taliban regime, but decided to offer humanitarian assistance to Afghan people under the "UN umbrella".

"We are watching the developments there," he told a media briefing in New York on Monday (New York local time) when asked what was Bangladesh's stance on the Afghan issue as it was likely to dominate the weeklong **UN General Assembly** debate that started yesterday.

Momen said Dhaka preferred to wait to observe the nature of the new government and see what policies they would take and "on the basis of that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## **DESTROYING FOREST** in the name of research centre

CVASU builds 5-storey dormitory, structure in protected forestland at Cox's Bazar

Mostafa Yousuf

Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Science University (CVASU) has built a dormitory in a protected forest -- which was leased out to them by the land ministry for building an institute for coastal biodiversity, marine fisheries and wildlife research, amid strong opposition from the forest department.

The five acres of forest land, given to CVASU, is in Doria Nagar of Cox's Bazar, an area which has already been experiencing a massive onslaught on its forest land due to Rohingya influx.

The land ministry changed the status of the protected forest in 2015 to facilitate the lease to CVASU. Once in possession of the forest, the university authorities constructed a five-storey dormitory in 2018, violating the lease conditions that prevent them from using the land for any other purpose than building the institute.

They also built a tin-shed structure, which will be used as a hatchery, which is yet to begin its work.

This land is an important habitat of the endangered Asian elephant, which has been in a dire state due to destruction of habitat, grabbing of the forestland and continuous deforestation in the region.

Besides, the forest is home to various species of deer, wild dog, monkeys and

- >> 5-acre protected forest land leased out to CVASU in 2015 to construct research
- >> Land ministry changed status of land so they could lease it
- >> In 2018, authorities constructed 5-storey dormitory instead, violating lease
- >> This forest is an important habitat of endangered Asian elephants and home to deer, wild dogs, monkeys and badgers







Establishments constructed in the area so far include the five-storey dormitory -- that CVASU said is for "research" -- and two tinshed hatcheries, while hills were levelled around a hundred yards to the west.

Administrators, academics and political leaders check-in at the dormitory when they go on excursions in Cox's Bazar, the most sought-after tourist spot of the country, alleged locals.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found a foundation stone within the boundary of the dormitory, which reads: Nurul Islam Nahid, former education minister, laid the foundation stone of Institute of Coastal Biodiversity, Marine classes.

Fisheries and Wildlife Research, dated November 22, 2015.

Inside the dormitory, this correspondent saw there were a total of 44 rooms (including two for VIPs). The correspondent was not allowed to enter any of the rooms.

There were also around a dozen employees, including cleaners, cooks and security staff, to look after "research guests". There are also some students of the university who reside there for practical

Khan tea gardens in Sylhet.

Deondi Tea Garden in Chunarughat upazila

of Habigani, said, "Most female tea workers

who visit my chamber suffer from urinary

tract infection (an infection in any part of the

urinary system -- kidneys, ureters, bladder

A hundred yards to the west of the five acres of forest land was a vast field, made by levelling hills, prompting the Department of Environment (DoE) to file a lawsuit against the university authorities in 2018.

An inspection report of DoE in 2018 attributed the death of an elephant due to the steep cutting of hills by CVASU.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kamal Hossen, professor of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chittagong University, criticised SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Farmers remain most neglected

Says Fakhrul at meeting with newly-formed partial committee of Krishak Dal

Stating that farmers are now the most neglected section of people in Bangladesh, BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged them to get organised for waging a strong anti-government movement.

"No one is now happy in Bangladesh, and our farmers are the most neglected ones. They don't get fair prices for their produce. They also don't get any help or incentive from the

government, even at this horrible time of coronavirus," he The BNP secretary general made the remarks while talking to the members of the newly-formed partial committee

of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal at BNP chairperson's Gulshan "The central committee of the Krishak Dal was announced at a critical juncture of the nation. So, they've bigger responsibilities in organising farmers throughout the

country by reaching out to them," Fakhrul further said. "Our responsibility now is to organise ourselves and forge unity. There's no other alternative to that," the BNP

Krishak Dal president Hasan Jafir Tuhin also spoke at the event.

On Monday, BNP announced a seven-member partial committee of its associate body, five months after its national council. Tuhin has been made president while Shahidul Islam Babul general secretary.

Dengue death toll 59 13 died in Sept so far **34** in Aug, **12** in July **246** more hospitalised yesterday Total infected 16,222



#### FEMALE TEA GARDEN WORKERS

## Workplace sanitation still a far cry for them

MINTU DESHWARA and HASAN MEER, Back from Sreemangal

For the last 20 years, Chinami Madraji has been working at a tea garden in Moulvibazar. Rain or shine, the 35-year-old mother of five works for eight to 10 hours a day. However, there is no toilet facility or fresh

water supply in the garden sections (working areas) for her to relieve or cleanse herself in between work. "We are forced to relieve ourselves out in the open and cleanse ourselves with water

from nearby waterbodies. Otherwise we have to go to the labour lines (residential areas of workers), which is around four miles away," she told The Daily Star recently.

Not just Chinami, hundreds of tea garden workers, mostly women, have to face this

According to a survey conducted by this newspaper among 100 female tea garden workers of 10 tea gardens in three districts of Sylhet division, it was found that 80 percent of them work at least eight hours a day; 60 percent urinate at least three times during work out in the open; 80 percent relieve themselves daily during work in the open and 10 percent use soap for cleaning, even though this is crucial amid the pandemic, while 70 percent use sand.



estate in Sreemangal.

have no sanitary latrine facilities at work sections and almost all of them are suffering from various chronic illnesses. Fifty percent of them get treatment at dispensaries, 20 percent at home or from quacks and 20 percent at government hospitals.

The survey was conducted in the middle of this year at Kurma, Dalai, Alinagar, Rajghat, Gazipur and Patharia tea gardens and urethra) and about 50 percent of them



In **3** districts of Sylhet division, there are 135 tea gardens where 46,450 registered female workers, 15,153 casual female workers work FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS WITH

100 WORKERS OF 10 TEA GARDENS

- 80pc work at least 8 hrs a day
- >> 60pc urinate at least 3 times during work out in open
- >> 80pc relieve themselves daily during
- work in open >> 10pc use soap for cleaning
- >> 70pc use sand

The survey also found that the workers in Moulvibazar; Lalchand and Deondi tea face uterine (relating to the uterus or womb) gardens in Habiganj and Khadimnagar and problems. They lack proper sanitation facilities at workplaces or even at home to Sunil Biswas, a private practitioner of some extent.'

"Though they [female tea garden workers] use cloths during menstrual period, it must be changed every six hours, otherwise their reproductive organs may get infected, followed by lower abdominal pain and inability to conceive," stated Dr Chowdhury

Jalal Uddin Murshed, civil surgeon of Moulvibazar.

According to the Statistical Handbook on Bangladesh Tea Industry 2020, there are 166 gardens in the country with a total of 1,40,164 tea workers.

In the three districts of Sylhet division, there are 135 tea gardens where 46,450 registered female workers and 15,153 casual female workers work.

According to experts and activists, because of the hard labour of the workers, the industry has been booming since the first commercial garden was established at Malnichhara in Sylhet district in 1854. During the sector's 166-year history, the industry saw the highest ever production of 9.67 crore kilogrammes of tea in 2019.

However, the living standard of the workers of this thriving industry, majority of whom are women, is way below standard, with not even proper sanitary latrines in the labour lines and the garden's work sections, they said.

Besides daily wage, the workers are also provided with other benefits such as housing, ration and treatment. But that seems to have little to no impact on improving their present conditions, they added.

Philip Gain, director of Society for SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



After coming across the story of battery-rickshaw driver Fatema Begum on The Daily Star, young entrepreneur Maruf Ahmed decided to help her out knowing of her struggles. Yesterday, the two met each other at the capital's Malibagh Chowdhury Para, where Maruf gifted her a brand new battery-rickshaw. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

#### **Appoint 29 doctors for prisons** immediately: High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to appoint doctors to remaining 29 posts at the prisons as early as possible to provide treatment to prisoners.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order verbally during hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md JR Khan Robin on February 18 in 2019.

Shafiqul Islam, lawyer for the IG prisons, submitted a report to the HC, saying that 112 physicians have already been appointed at 68 prisons and 29 posts of doctors at prisons are now lying vacant.

#### Man held over making fake NIDs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested one Zia Uddin (32) for making and selling fake National ID cards, birth registrations, and character certificates from the port city's Jalalabad.

The arrestee is the owner of Bakhtiar Traders, a computer composing shop at Zila Parishad Residential area.

OC Md Kamruzzaman of Beyezid Bostami Police Station said, "Sazzad Hossain, personal assistant of ward councillor Sahed Iqbal Babu, caught Zia while he was preparing the fake documents at his shop and informed police." A case was filed.

#### Awareness on vaccination stressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

People especially in remote areas are yet to be aware about Covid-19 vaccination, said speakers at a meeting in Khulna yesterday. Health department and CARE Bangladesh organised the programme at School Health Clinic Conference room

Addressing as chief guest, Jasim Uddin Hawladar, director (health), Khulna division, said, "We need to be aware about two issues -- vaccination and following health guidelines -- to curb coronavirus.'

Civil Surgeon Niaz Mohammad chaired the programme. | Tea Association (BTA), the representative

#### 1 killed, 15 hurt as bus falls in ditch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A passenger was killed and 15 were injured as a bus fell into a ditch in Kalihati upazila of Tangail vesterdav.

Sayed Ali Khan (60) from Kochpur in Porsha ıpazila, Naogaon died on he spot, said police.

Aminul Islam, one of the injured passengers, said the Dhaka-bound bus from Naogaon was being driven recklessly.

At one stage, the driver lost his control over the steering at a turning point in Narandia, causing the accident, he said.

Mohammad Alauddin, assistant director of fire service in Tangail, said, on information, they rescued the injured and took them to a hospital.

METRO RAIL

## 2 held for stealing project materials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab arrested two members of an "organised theft gang" on Monday on charges of stealing materials of Metro Rail project in Dhaka.

The elite force also recovered materials worth around Tk 5 lakh, a pickup, and an auto-rickshaw during the raid at Pallabi, said Joyita Shilpi, deputy director of Rab-4, yesterday. The arrestees are Ashique (19) and Harun (40).

Rab members came to know about the gang while investigating a case filed with Turag Police Station following the death of one Nazmul (18), who turned out to be a member of the gang, Joyita told The Daily Star.

Nazmul died from electrocution on September 6 while cutting wire at the project with fellow gang members. Meanwhile, detectives claimed to have arrested seven

theft gang members on Monday -- who used to break into office buildings in Dhaka and loot cash and valuables from the capital's Demra and Cumilla's Kandirpar. Mahbub Alam, joint commissioner (DB South) of

Dhaka Metropolitan Police, confirmed it yesterday during a press briefing at DMP media centre. The arrestees are Jamal Uddin, Shafiq Bhuiyan alias

Bacha, Shafiq's wife Mukta Akter, Jasim Uddin, Kader Kibria alias Babu, Shakil and Al Amin.

CHILD MURDERED AFTER RAPE SC affirms death penalty

of 2 convicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday affirmed the death sentence of two convicts for killing a child after abducting and raping her in Patuakhali in 2005. A five-member bench

headed by the chief justice dismissed the appeals filed by the convicts, challenging the HC verdict that confirmed their death sentence. According to the case statement, convicts Nur Alam Howlader, Md Miraj Khalifa and Zafar Gazi from Gachiani village under Dashmina upazila killed Tanya after abducting and raping her on September 20, 2005.

The HC delivered the verdict in 2012. During case proceedings, Zafar died.

## Destroying forest

the move of leasing out a forest and not utilising it for the cause it was given.

"I went to the spot where I found two tin-shed structures. Sometimes in the name of development, we don't hesitate

to sacrifice forests," he said. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said the dormitory has to be demolished and the CVASU authorities must be asked for compensatory afforestation.

"The lease must be revoked. They must afforest the area three times the forest they damaged," she said.

Contacted over phone, Dr Mohammed Nurul Absar Khan, dean, faculty of fisheries and also in-charge of the facility, told The Daily Star that the research institute was "still in review" and that the hatchery was in its final stages. When asked why there was a dormitory in violation of

the lease, he said, "I don't owe you an explanation in this regard." Meanwhile, Cox's Bazar Forest Division (South)

declined to comment on the construction of the dormitory.

About the status of the case filed against CVASU authorities, Sheikh Nazmul Huda, deputy director of DoE (Cox's Bazar), said he joined at the end of 2019 and was not aware of the issue.

"We will look into the matter," he said.

Contacted, Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury told The Daily Star that he was unaware of the issue and that he would also "look into it."

## Workplace sanitation still a far cry for them

Environment and Human Development (SHED), who conducted a survey on tea workers in 2015-16, said, "There is no sanitary latrine in any of the workplaces at the tea gardens even though there is a clear provision to arrange lavatory and washroom services under section-51 of Labour Rules 2015.

He said section-50 of the rules also emphasise arranging fresh water for workers. Mohammad Mahbubul Hasan, deputy nspector general of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments in Sreemangal, confirmed that there are no toilets in the tea garden sections (workplaces) except a couple of exceptions.

"Tea garden owners or managers have epeatedly been asked to provide the service. Even notices have been issued, but to no avail," he informed.

He also said there is no provision in the Bangladesh Labour Act to impose a fine in this regard. Hence, garden authorities are repeatedly making excuses and getting away with it.

Even the state-owned gardens lack this

facility for workers, he added. Rambhajan Kairi, im immediate-past Rambhajan general secretary of Bangladesh Tea Vorkers' Union, said, "We have discussed the issue with tea garden authorities but to no avail. They [authorities] don't seem to understand that a healthy worker will work more productively... the law must be implemented," he said.

Contacted, a top official of Bangladesh

body of the tea estates in the country, said 4 this year. they have toilet facilities and access to clean water for workers at factories but not at the gardens where they work in the open.

About the labour law to ensure toilet facility at workplaces, the official said the law is for the general purpose of the country's industries. "This [tea sector] is over a century-old sector, which used to have a different set of laws, and is still tradition-oriented."

However, if any organisation is interested in setting up the facilities such as mobile toilets, they can send their proposals in writing about their plans regarding implementation, support and maintenance, the official said, adding that they will look into it then.

Mohammad Ali, director of Bangladesh Tea Research Institute, said, There are no toilets in the tea gardens' work sections. However, we are providing toilets and potable water to the tea workers' residences. There are plans to do so in the workplaces as well."

Asked, Maj Gen Md Jahirul Islam, chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board, said they will look into the matter first and then respond. He suggested contacting the officials responsible for tea gardens in the

A PENDING RTI APPLICATION

To get more evidential data about sanitary latrines, this newspaper applied to the divisional office of the labour department in Sreemangal, Bangladesh Tea Workers' Union and Bangladesh Tea Board, under the Right to Information (RTI) act on April

In the application, detailed data on availability of sanitary latrines at the tea gardens and data on legal obligations in this regard were sought.

In response, the office of the labour department informed that they do not have any such data; the union denied receiving such application (mailed through the post office), and the tea board is yet to provide any information.

OF EFFORTS AND HURDLES

Meanwhile, some non-government organisations are working to change the situation at tea gardens. The Institute of Development Affairs

(IDEA), under the project Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), has been working to ensure sanitation for tea workers.

However, they continue to face challenges.

Pankaj Ghosh Dostidar, manager of the project, said, "We've been trying to make the garden owners and managers understand the issue of workers' health safety, but mostly in vain. We even tried to convince them to permit us to work in this regard, but they turned us down.

Contacted, Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), said, "This issue must be included in the discussion on the overall protection of tea workers. The owners must come forward in this regard.'

"Besides, the government will also have to play a vital role to ensure the health safety of the women tea workers' considering their

contribution to the sector's development," said the eminent economist.

However, there are notable exceptions within the industry which prove that changes for the better are not just possible, but also profitable.

The Ispahani Group, for instance, have ensured sanitary latrines at work sections in all their three tea gardens.

Md Syduzzaman, senior manager of Mirzapore Tea Estate in Moulvibazar, said that this has led to increased productivity among workers.

"This also reduced diseases among workers notably. Earlier, 20 percent of female workers used to be absent due to illness, which has reduced to 10 percent, he said.

The correspondents visited Mirzapore Tea Estate recently and saw the two toilet facilities beside a "resting shed" for workers. "We also provide potable water to

workers," Syduzzaman said. About the issue, Tahsin A Choudhury, chief operating officer-estates of Finlay Tea, said each of their labour quarters has been constructed with toilet facilities.

He said the public health department (Sreemangal) has taken a programme to bring all the tea workers under toilet facilities by the next two years. They have already started working in this regard.

"Besides, we have already introduced a mobile toilet under cooperation of Unicef Bangladesh on a trial basis," he added. About setting up toilets at workplaces, he said, "It's a good initiative, which may be forwarded through BTA.



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**Invitation for Tender** 

Sealed tenders are invited from the bona-fide contractors/manufacturers/ dealers/distributors/ suppliers for supply of the following items. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender

SL No	Nama of the items	Schedule Price (Non-refundable)
1	80 TR Air Handling Unit (Re-tender) - 02 Sets	Tk.3000
2	Well Pump Motor (2 <sup>nd</sup> re tender) – 01 No.	Tk.1000
3	Vacuum Dry Machine (Re-tender) – 01 No.	Tk.1000
4	Switchgear Operational Batteries - 01 Lot	Tk. 1000
5	Hot Water Tank Temperature Controller Valve - 02 Nos	Tk. 1000
6	Air Handling Unit 50 TR Complete – 02 Sets	Tk. 2000
7	50 TR AHU Cooling Coil – 02 Sets	Tk. 1000
8	Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP)	Tk. 3000

Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasin Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to October 13, 2021 during office hours. Tender will be received up to 02:30 pm on October 14, 2021 and will be opened on the same day at 03:00 pm in presence of bidders, if any.

Tender must be supported by an Earnest Money amounting to 5% of quoted price for SL No. 1 to 7 and Fixed Earnest Money Tk. 400,000/-(four lac only) for SL No. 8 in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favor of SONARGAON HOTEL. Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel authority reserves the right to accept/reject

any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason

Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164

## An opportunity to loot

excessive price, making decisions to import and building infrastructures without being held accountable.' Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal said it's a "black

law" because it does not allow anyone to raise questions even when the actions may be anti-people. She questioned whether the government is running the

state for the interest of the people or for someone else. Buet Prof Dr Ijaz Hossain argued, "The extension of the special act must mean that the crisis situation is still going on. In that case, the government should apologise to the nation for failing to manage the crisis for the last nine years."

22,000 MW when at most 13,000 MW is being used in a day, he highlighted, pointing out that for this overcapacity, the government is paying more than Tk 14,000 crore as rent to quick rentals. "It is absurd," he said. Architect Mubasshar Hussein, CAB adviser (energy) Prof

The country has power generation capacity of 21,000-

Shamsul Alam, Barrister Tureen Afroz and DU professors MM Akash and Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan also spoke at the event. CAB chairman Ghulam Rahman conducted the webinar.

#### We're assessing

FROM PAGE 3

we will take our decision ".

But, he said, Bangladesh by now has decided to offer humanitarian assistance to Afghan people by sending materials like medicines, responding to a call by the UN secretary general.

He, however, recalled that in recent past some Bangladeshis went to Afghanistan and got involved in militant activities after return. "We have uprooted militancy in Bangladesh with a 'zero tolerance' policy against any kind of terrorism and will not allow them in our soil," he said.



Reference: 06.3/185/

#### বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000. Real Estate Department

Dated: 21/09/2021

#### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the national e-GP Portal for the following works:-

e-render is invited through the haddrial e-of it oftail of the following works.						
	e-Tender	Name and Description of Works	Last Date of Tender	Closing &		
	ID		Document Selling	Opening Date		
			and Downloading	& Time		
	611489	Reconstruction of Boundary wall in plot	06-10-2021 up to	06-10-2021 at		
		no: F-4 of road No: 04, CDA Residential	11:00 AM	03:00 PM		
		area, Chattogram. The Works consist of				
		Box cutting & Sand filling, RCC work,				
		Brick work, Barbed wire, Cement				
ı		plaster, White washing etc.				

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fee for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System portal has to be deposited online through any registered bank's

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from

e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



#### DEATH OF STUDENT HC issues rule on Prothom Alo over compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court yesterday

issued a rule, asking the Prothom Alo to explain why it should not be ordered to pay Tk 100 crore compensation to Dhaka Residential Model College and family of its student Naimul Abrar Rahat, who was electrocuted in 2019.

The HC bench issued the rule, following a petition filed by the college and Abrar's father. Petitioners' lawyer SM Abdur Rauf said his clients filed the petition in June, seeking HC directive on Prothom Alo to pay Tk 50 crore to the college and Tk 50 crore to Abrar's family.

On November 1, 2019, Abrar was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Prothom Alo's youth magazine Kishor Alo on the college premises.



## BANGLADESH BANK

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE DEPARTMENT **HEAD OFFICE** DHAKA.



#### Re-ROEI: Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for hiring Consulting firm (National).

Website: www.bb.org.bd

- 1. Name of Procuring Entity
- Expression of Interest (EOI) EOI Ref. No. & Date
- Procurement Sub-Method
- Budget and Source of funds Project Title
- Assignment Title
- EOI Closing Date and time

Assignment

Brief Description of the

- Bangladesh Bank. Selection of Consulting Firm. SFD(GBMS)1003/6/2/2021-2350 Date:21 September 2021
- Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
- Foreign Grant. Up scaling regulatory landscape of Green Banking for Shariah Based Banks and
- Financial Institutions in Bangladesh. : Hiring Consulting Firm (National) for Development of Training Manual and Comprehensive Training Program for Bangladesh Bank Officials on Shariah

: GCF RPSP Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department,

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has received financing from Green Climate Fund (GCF) to implement a policy framework or a white paper on Shariah based green

: 11 October 2021 at 05.00 pm.

Based Green Banking.

- financing. To carry out the project successfully, consultancy service is needed to develop training manual and arrange comprehensive training program for Bangladesh Bank officials on Shariah Based Green Banking, including Sustainable Financing. : Consultant firm should be locally enlisted. The firm should have established credible credentials, expertise, and track record in undertaking comprehensive
- 11. Other Details

Qualifications and

experience

development of training manuals on Shariah Based Green Banking, including Sustainable Finance, for banking and financial sector. The experts employed by the firm for the project should demonstrate experience and knowledge of Islamic finance and financial regulatory landscape of Bangladesh. Expected term of the assignment is 08 (eight) months. The prospective consulting firm shall submit all supporting documents (in person, or by mail, or by email) to the address below. Interested candidates may obtain "Terms of

Reference (ToR)" from the website of Bangladesh Bank

**Procuring Entity Details** 

- Name of the Official Inviting EOI Designation of the Official Inviting EOI Address of the Official Inviting EOI
- - : Khondkar Morshed Millat. General Manager (Project Director).
  - : GCF RPSP Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, 19th floor, 2nd Annex Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka-1000. Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI : Phone: 9530320, E-mail: gm.sfd@bb.org.bd

This Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) is in compliance with relevant government rules and regulations e.g. Public

(https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php).

Application/proposal will not be accepted after EOI closing time.

Procuring Entity reserves all right to accept or rejects any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever. The details EOI and ToR are available at BB website (https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php).

Procurement Rules 2008. By responding to this EOI, consultant firms are conforming to those rules and regulations. The

Date: 21-09-2021

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা



(Khondkar Morshed Millat) General Manager (Project Director) Phone: 9530320 E-mail: gm.sfd@bb.org.bd.

GD-1701

GD-1700

কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

DCP: 48/2021-2938

## Bridge on Dhaleswari precarious as erosion hits approach road

Construction of the bridge on a sharp curve, indiscriminate sand lifting near the bridge by influential quarter blamed for the situation

Our Correspondent, Tangail

The approach road of the bridge on Dhaleswari river in Charabari area of Tangail Sadar upazila was badly damaged again due to heavy rains and increased current on the river for the last couple of weeks, leaving the very important bridge precarious for movement.

The bridge on Charabari-Torabganj road connects five unions of the char areas with the district headquarters.

Hundreds of vehicles, including heavy ones, and thousands of people of Katulee, Hugra, Kakua and Mahmudnagar in Sadar upazila and Bharra union in Nagarpur upazila move through the bridge every day.

In 2006, Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the bridge for developing road communication between the district headquarter and char region.

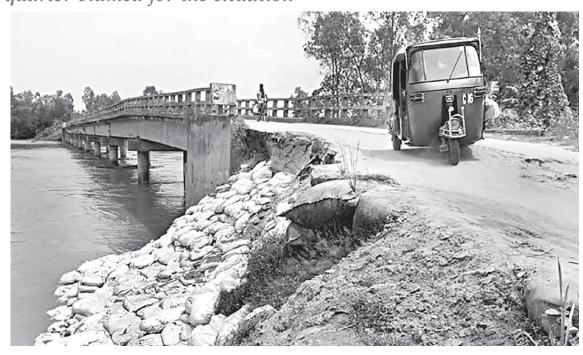
However, the approach roads of the important bridge were damaged

> The approach roads of the bridge got damaged on several occasions due to floods and rains since its construction.

on several occasions due to floods and rains since its construction. Every time, the authorities prevent the damages temporarily by felling sand bags.

Large portion of the both approaches of the bridge was also damaged during last year's flood and authorities temporarily protected the erosion in the same

This year, erosion has hit the east side approach road of the bridge Katulee union parishad, said over



The approach road of the bridge on Charabari-Torabganj road connecting five unions of the char areas with the district headquarters lies in a precarious condition.

and the LGED has dumped some sand bags again to keep vehicular movement normal on the bridge.

Abul Hossain, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver, however, said although some sand bags were dumped, it is still very risky to get down from the bridge through the damaged approach. "Accident can happen any moment," he said.

Local LGED officials said erosion hit the approach roads of the bridge every year as the river has changed its course due to filling its west side with sand and increased current on the east side.

Local people, however, blamed wrong site selection to construct the bridge and indiscriminate sand lifting near the bridge during the dry season for the last few years as the main reasons for the regular

Iqbal Hossain, chairman of

one lakh people of char areas take straightened at the point to protect their crops, vegetables and other products to the different places by different vehicles, including heavy trucks, through the road.

immediately, bridge can be damaged snapping communication with the char areas and causing sufferings to the people," he said.

Asked about the matter, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Tangail, said they along with senior officials of the district administration as well as local public representatives visited the bridge after the approach road was damaged last year.

"The bridge was constructed on a sharp curve. So, the current of the river strongly hits the approach. The course of the river needs to be

the bridge but it will be a private land related complicated issue," he

"The LGED has constructed the "If steps are not taken bridge and they are the authority to do anything about it," he added. Contacted, AKM Hedayet Ullah, upazila engineer LGED in Tangail, said they have already taken steps to check the erosion and protect the damaged approach road.

"Now there are two options in our hands. One is to construct two more slabs at the two ends of the bridge and also hold protection works on the approaches with concrete blocks. The other is to construct a new bridge in place of the old one," he said.

"We have already sent a proposal to the higher authorities to construct a new bridge there,"

## Chart roadmap for the ones

of Delivery and Action of the Agenda. Yet the goals seem to be far away for many countries... the pandemic has pushed them further behind. We need to chart out a bold and ambitious global roadmap to put us back on the SDGs track," she said.

The PM was addressing the 9th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development virtually on Monday.

Earth Institute, Columbia University, Global Masters of Development Practice, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network organised the event.

Hasina said no country can achieve SDGs alone. "We need enhanced global collaboration and solidarity to advance this

To pull back the countries which are way behind the track of attaining SDGs in right time, Hasina put forward a five-point proposal in this regard.

The proposals are: Ensuring vaccines for everyone, everywhere, closing the huge resource gap in implementing the 2030 Agenda, focusing on job creation, social protection, women empowerment, and science, technology, and innovation to deal with the impacts of the pandemic, making Covid-19 recovery measures complementary with climate actions and focusing on enhanced monitoring and support mechanism for SDGs implementation.

Hasina said the UN should have

enhanced coordination in this regard. "It's also imperative to ensure there're adequate and timely support measures to withstand emergencies and shocks to avoid any slide

She said scaling up preparedness for pandemic and other emergencies should be done with a priority at every level as the pandemic has upset the whole world, claiming countless lives and taking its toll on livelihoods.

The PM also mentioned that Bangladesh's achievements in MDGs were highly significant and it was recognised by the international community as a "development miracle". "Our SDGs journey buildson the successes of MDGs."

About the climate change, she said Bangladesh is the pioneer in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts and it has recently submitted an ambitious and updated NĎC.

According to the Sustainable Development Report 2021 published by the University of Cambridge, Bangladesh has improved the most on the SDG Index since 2015.

She said the government has taken up a coordinated effort involving the government, the private sector, the civil society, and other stakeholders to ensure the "whole of society

SDGs PROGRESS AWARD On Monday, Hasina was honoured with

the "SDGs Progress Award" in recognition of Bangladesh's achievements in sustainable development from 2015 to 2020.

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and other organisations, including the Earth Institute of Columbia University and the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia

University, jointly gave the award. Hasina accepted the award at the 9th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD). She dedicated the award to the people of

Bangladesh. The PM also extended her sincere thanks to ICSD for honouring the people of

Bangladesh with the award.
MEETING ON WOMEN LEADERS

Addressing the High Level Meeting on Women Leaders yesterday, Hasina said the world needed to act urgently to stop the rollback of hard-earned women empowerment due to the pandemic.

"Our hard-earned progress is at risk of rollback. We need to act urgently to stop this. For that, we must place women at the front and centre of Covid recovery," she told the meeting at the Trusteeship Council of the UN

She highlighted three points -- localising the Advisory Board on Gender Equality, nurturing women-led organisations and convening a leaders' summit to reinforce common agenda for gender equality -- to bring women's progress back on track.

At the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference, the PM pledged to raise women's participation in the workforce to 50:50 by 2041. "Recently, at the Generation Equality Forum Paris, committed to ensuring gender equality in ICT sector by 2041. I stand by those commitments," she said.

**UNGA SESSION** 

Yesterday, Hasina attended the opening session of the high-level general debate of the 76th United Nations General Assembly

The UNGA general debate will continue till September 27 with participation of heads of states and governments from across the

Hasina will deliver her speech in the highlevel general debate on Friday. PM PLANTS TREE

The Bangladesh premier on Monday planted a honey locust tree, unveiled a bench at UN gardens and dedicated these to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his birth

She planted the deciduous tree at the North Lawn of the UN Headquarters in the morning (local time).

The PM arrived in New York on Sunday to ioin the UNGA for the 18th time as the head of the Bangladesh government.

## Still left to run without reins

The Daily Star spoke with a host of government agencies that could have stepped up and what emerged was a

contemptible picture of blame-shifting. The commerce ministry only formed the e-commerce cell when some companies were found to be involved in false marketing, said Hafizur Rahman, an additional secretary of the ministry.

The cell, which Rahman helms, was formed in February this year -- about six to eight months after the deluge of customer complaints against Evaly the most infamous of the rogue e-commerce platforms, began.

After one too many allegations surfaced against Evaly last year, a multipronged investigation was initiated by several government agencies, including the Directorate of National Consumer Right Protection (DNCRP), commerce ministry, home ministry, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Bangladesh Bank.

They all came back with truly shocking findings and yet the e-commerce platform was allowed to operate as normal, ensnaring more gullible consumers and vendors along the way.

Not just that, a handful of new players with a similar strategy as Evaly like Dhamaka Shopping, which did not even get the permit from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, were

জনাব সৈয়দ সানোয়ার সাহিল

দৈনিক পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হলো।

ব্যবস্থা গৃহীত হতে পারে।

জিডি-১৬৯৫

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ

জুনিয়র টেকনিশিয়ান,

allowed to enter the fray.

Asked about the commerce ministry's lethargic response, Rahman said the responsibility lies with all related government agencies like the Bangladesh Competition Commission (BCC), the DNCRP, the BB and the ACC.

Had any aggrieved customer filed a complaint against those companies, the DNCRP could have taken the action against them, he said.

Contacted, Md Mofizul Islam, chairperson of BCC, said his organisation commission like the Bangladesh back as August 12 last year, when the company announced an 80 percent to 150 percent discount on products.

We have sent notice to the Evaly to stop the such a big discount and a case was filed by the BCC," Islam said.

However, the BCC did not take the same step against the other e-commerce platforms that were advertising as deep discounts as nobody lodged any complaint of anti-competitive business practice against them.

"The BCC's job is to keep watch on anti-competitive issues to protect the interests of consumers and businesses," Islam added.

Bablu Kumar Saha, director-general of the DNCRP, said the onus also lies on the customers in protecting their interests.

If they put in complaints, the DNCRP takes action, he said, adding that his

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ

অভিযোগনামা গঠন

আপনি গত ১৮/০৫/২০২১ তারিখ হতে অদ্যাবধি অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত আছেন।

আপনার অনুপস্থিতির বিষয়ে আপনি দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ

(এসপিসিবিএল) কর্তৃপক্ষ অথবা আপনার শাখার কারো সাথে যোগাযোগ করেননি এবং ছুটির

আবেদনও প্রেরণ করেননি। উপরম্ভ কর্মস্থলে যোগদানের জন্য গত ২৩/০৬/২০২১ তারিখে আপনার

স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানায় পত্র প্রেরণ করা হয়। তথাপি আপনি অদ্যাবধি কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করেননি।

ইতোপূর্বে আপনি বহুবার অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত ছিলেন এবং এজন্য আপনাকে

একাধিকবার দন্ড প্রদান করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু আপনার আচরণ/অভ্যাসের কোন পরিবর্তন হয়নি। এভাবে

অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত থাকা অনাকাঞ্চ্চিত ও অনভিপ্রেত। আপনার এ ধরনের কর্মকান্ড

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এর কর্মচারী চাকুরী প্রবিধানমালা ১৯৯৩ এর ৭ম

অধ্যায়ের ২(খ) এর ৩৫ ও ২(ঙ)-১ নং অনুচ্ছেদ অনুযায়ী অসদাচরণ (misconduct) ও ডিজারশনের

দায়ে অভিযুক্ত হিসেবে গণ্য বিধায় কর্মচারী চাকুরী প্রবিধানমালার ৭ম অধ্যায়ের ৮(ক) এর ২ (iii) নং

ধারা অনুযায়ী আপনার বিরুদ্ধে ০৮/০৮/২০২১ তারিখে অভিযোগনামা গঠনপূর্বক ০৯/০৮/২০২১

তারিখে আপনার বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানায় রেজিস্টার্ড (with AD) ডাকযোগে অভিযোগনামা প্রেরণ

করা হয়েছিল। জবাব দাখিলের নির্ধারিত সময় অতিবাহিত হলেও আপনি আপনার বিরুদ্ধে আনীত

অভিযোগের কোন জবাব দাখিল করেননি। সে প্রেক্ষিতে এসপিসিবিএল কর্মচারী চাকুরী প্রবিধানমালা,

৯৩ এর ৭ম অধ্যায়ের ৮ (ক) (২) (iii) মোতাবেক আপনার বিরুদ্ধে আনীত আলোচ্য অভিযোগনামাটি

এমতাবস্থায়, দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এর চাকুরী প্রবিধানমালা ১৯৯৩ এর

৭ম অধ্যায়ের ৫(খ) এর ২ ও ৪ নং অনুচেছদের আওতায় কেন আপনাকে গুরুদন্ড প্রদান করা হবে না

তার লিখিত জবাব পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের ৭(সাত) দিনের মধ্যে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক মহোদয়ের নিকট

দাখিল করার জন্য আপনাকে নির্দেশ দেয়া হলো। অন্যথায় আপনার বিরুদ্ধে একতরফাভাবে শাস্তিমূলক

ওয়াহিদা নাসরিন

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)

organisation settled 85.9 percent of the customer complaints that were lodged between July 2018 and June this year.

Rogue e-commerce platforms have cropped up in Bangladesh because of the government agencies' laxity in duty, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute.

"Only the formation of a cell is not enough for monitoring such a big industry.

He went on to recommend a curities and Excl finance and home ministries, the National Board of Revenue, the BB and the private sector for the proper

functioning of the sector. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, echoed the same.

Companies in many sectors in Bangladesh grow without following proper rules, which ultimately raises questions on governance, he said.

Md. Abdul Wahed Tomal, general secretary of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), said the association has informed about the flouting of rules by some companies to the central bank, commerce ministry and the other agencies but no action was taken as there was no particular law in this





ফোনঃ ০৮৫১-৫৮৮০০, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৮৫১-৫৭৫৬৬

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

web: http://zp.brahmanbaria.gov.bd, email- ceo.zp.brahmanbaria@lgd.gov.bd,

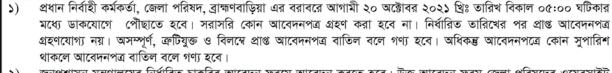
স্মারক নং-৪৬.৪২.১২০০.৩০১.০৫.০১৫.২১-২৬৫

তারিখঃ <u>০৫ আশ্বিন ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ</u> ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

"নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

স্থানীয় সরকার,পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ (জেলা পরিষদ শাখা) বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর ০৪ আগষ্ট ২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখের ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০৪২.১১.০০৪.১৭.১৭১৫ নং স্মারকের ছাড়পত্র মোতাবেক জেলা পরিষদ, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়ায় নিমুবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের জন্য শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে স্ব-হস্তে লিখিত দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম	পদের	গ্রেড ও বেতন	বয়সসীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
নং		সংখ্যা	ক্ষেল (জাতীয় বেতন		
			ক্ষেল,২০১৫)		
٥٥	নিমুমান সহকারী-কাম-	০১(এক)টি	(১৬তম গ্রেড)	<b>১</b> ৮-৩০	(ক) স্বীকৃত যে কোন শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে
	মুদ্রাক্ষরিক/কম্পিউটার		৯৩০০-২২৪৯০	বছর	এইচ.এস.সি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং
	অপারেটর				(খ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায়
					২৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজীতে ৩০ শব্দের গতি।
০২	অফিস সহায়ক	০২(দুই)টি	(২০তম গ্রেড)	<b>১</b> ৮-৩০	স্বীকৃত যে কোন শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক
			৮২৫০-২০০১০	বছর	স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ
೦೦	নৈশ প্রহরী	০১(এক)টি	(২০তম গ্রেড)	<b>১</b> ৮-৩০	অষ্টম শ্রেণির স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমমান
			৮২৫০-২০০১০	বছর	পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ



জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের নির্ধারিত চাকরির আবেদন ফরমে আবেদন করতে হবে। উক্ত আবেদন ফরম জেলা পরিষদের ওয়েবসাইট www.zp.brahmanbaria.gov.bd হতে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।

আবেদনকারীর বয়স ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখে ১৮-৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান/সন্তানদের এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ১৮-৩২ বছর। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

যাদের বয়স ২৫/০৩/২০২০ তারিখে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে রয়েছে, তারা আবেদন করতে পারবে। কোটা সম্পর্কিত সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চুড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

এ নিয়োগ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী। সন্তোষজনক শিক্ষানবিশকাল সমাপ্তির পর বিধি মোতাবেক নিয়োগ স্থায়ী করা হবে।

আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে (ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সম্পর্কিত সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও অন্যান্য সনদ (খ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধন সনদ (গ) সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদ (ঘ) ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সদ্য তোলা রঙিন ছবি (ঙ) ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক চারিত্রিক সনদপত্রসহ সকল কাগজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি ১(এক) সেট সংযুক্ত করে দিতে

মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের সময় চাহিত কাগজপত্রাদির মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা প্রমাণক হিসাবে সরকারের সর্বশেষ নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক উপযুক্ত প্রমাণক হিসাবে মূল সনদ প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

চাকুরিতে প্রার্থীগণকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে। কোন অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য

খামের উপর পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

আবেদনকারীকে লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ দেয়া হবে না।

দরখাস্ত বাছাইয়ের পর কেবলমাত্র উপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হলে প্রার্থীগণকে নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য ডাকা হবে।

জেলা পরিষদ তহবিল ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়ার হিসাব নং ২০৫০৭৭৭০২০০৭৪৪৪৫৭ (মুদারাবা সঞ্চয়ী হিসাব), ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিঃ, এর অনুকূলে ০১ নং ক্রমিকের জন্য ২০০/-(দুইশত) টাকা এবং ০২, ০৩ নং ক্রমিকের জন্য ১০০/-(একশত) টাকা জমা দিয়ে চালানের মূল কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

১৪) আবেদনকারীর নাম, ঠিকানা উল্লেখ পূর্বক ১০/-(দশ) টাকা মূল্যমানের অব্যবহৃত ডাকটিকেটযুক্ত ৯.৫X৪.৫ইঞ্চি বিশিষ্ট পৃথক ফেরত খাম জমা দিতে হবে।

চাকরির শর্তাবলী এবং বেতন ভাতাদি/সুযোগ-সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে জেলা পরিষদ আইন, ২০০০ এবং স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকরি বিধিমালা, ১৯৯০ ও সংশোধনী ২০০৬ এবং সরকার কর্তৃক সময় সময় জারীকৃত নির্দেশনাবলী প্রযোজ্য ১৬) চাকুরিতে নিয়োগের পূর্বে পুলিশ ভেরিফিকেশন ও সিভিল সার্জন কর্তৃক স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা করা হবে।

১৭) কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনে যে কোন শর্ত সংযোজন, সংশোধন এবং পরিবর্তন করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। কর্তৃপক্ষ অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ

নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যে কোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত নিয়োগ স্থগিত/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী

মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা জেলা পরিষদ, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া

## 4 to die, 1 gets life term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

four people to death and one other to life term with a case for killing Nur Mohammad in 2018.

38, an office staff at Kushtia Sadar sub-registrar's office, Saidul Islam, 38, a peon at Mirpur sub-registry office, and Kamal Sheikh, 40, and their friend Mashiul Alam, 40, while the lifer is Monwar Hossain, 38, of Baniapara village in Kumarkhali

On October 8 in 2018, the convicts had a quarrel with Nur over different issues at his rented flat in

stabbed him to death.

A court yesterday sentenced

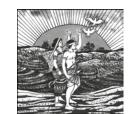
the convicts had a nexus served at Khoksa, Mirpur and Kumarkhali subregistrar's offices and they all were involved in illegal money transactions.

the town's Arupara area. At one stage, they strangled Nur first and then

for murder

imprisonment in connection Kushtia Sadar Sub Registrar The death sentence awardees are Faruk Hossain,

According to prosecution, with slain Nur, 51, while he



City Edition

ROUNDTABLE



## Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Sustainable Development and Realisation of Rights

The Daily Star, Association for Land Reform and Development and Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum organised an online discussion titled "Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Sustainable Development and Realisation of Rights: Responsibility of State and Citizens" on August 7, 2021. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.



KHUSHI KABIR, Coordinator, Nijera

Indigenous people generally follow the custom of communal ownership of land. Therefore, their land was not registered during the British colonial period. But the ensuing Pakistani state did not respect the traditional land ownership rights of the indigenous people. The state itself participated in stealing the land of these people. For example, when the Kaptai Dam was built, a large group of indigenous people had lost their land without getting any form of rehabilitation support from the government. Unfortunately, this has been continuing even in independent Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Government signed the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord in 1997. There were high hopes that things would improve for the indigenous people in Bangladesh. But this accord has never been implemented properly. The indigenous communities living in Bangladesh's plainlands are also facing various forms of oppression. Their rights as indigenous people are also at stake. Today, we will discuss how the rights of the indigenous people can be realised and ways in which we can include them in our sustainable development



**BARRISTER RAJA DEVASISH ROY**,

Nearly 50 years have passed since the ILO Convention 107 was ratified by Bangladesh. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord was also signed in 1997, and it has been 24 years since the signing of the Accord, yet nothing has changed. Indigenous people are still suffering to this day, and it might even be that their suffering has gotten worse.

There is a lack of implementation of the Peace Accord, and simultaneously a lack of political representation for indigenous people. Almost all the local mayors and chairmen are Bengalis. Anyone trying to implement or demand rights for the indigenous people is baselessly accused of crimes.

Our constitution has provisions for freedom of speech and religion, but these are not implemented with the same legal power for the indigenous people. Disputes over land are normally settled by the court or the land commission. However, in the case of indigenous people, no such legal procedure is used. Instead, their land is simply taken by force. For cases of land of Bengalis being stolen by an indigenous person, the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs has a provision to provide financial support to the victims. Unfortunately, no such provisions exist for indigenous people for situations where their land is stolen by Bengalis.

On top of all these legal failures, the government has no separate facilities or programmes for indigenous people with regards to food, water, healthcare, education and employment.

We must make equal rights of indigenous persons an important part of our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Otherwise, the government will continue to ignore its

We will start observing the "International Decade of Indigenous People's Language" in 2022. Since Bangladesh is known all over the world for the Language Movement, we should ensure that we observe this occasion properly. We have published primary level books in four different tribal languages (Sadri, Chakma, Marma and Tripura) but no teachers have been trained to teach these books in our primary

The census will begin in September of this year, and our primary goal should be to identify the exact number of indigenous people, their socio-economic conditions, their access to healthcare and technology and basic utilities such as water and electricity. This information will enable policymakers to better understand the kinds of measures that are necessary.



SANJEEB DRONG, General Secretary, Bangladesh Indigenous People's

When we talk about the rights of indigenous people, we are referring to their constitutional rights as citizens of Bangladesh.

There is a quote that says, "The true measure of a society can only be judged on the basis of how it treats its most vulnerable members." If we look at the situation of the minorities in our country, especially the indigenous people, can we really be proud of our society? While our country continues to improve economically, the indigenous people rarely reap the benefit from such economic growth. Figures of growth and per capita income are meaningless to the indigenous communities as these figures do not translate into their experiences of living in Bangladesh.

We must close the gap between the existing socioeconomic status of the indigenous people and the average Bengali citizen of the country.

The five demands that I would like to put forth are:

- 1. Establish a national indigenous people's commission.
- 2. A separate allocation for the creation of an Indigenous Development Policy should be made within the national budget.
- established for indigenous people, along with a separate Land Commission.

3. A separate ministry needs to be

- 4. The Government of Bangladesh must implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- 5. Indigenous people who have suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic should be provided with financial incentives.



FAZLE HOSSAIN BADSHA, MP, Convener, Parliamentary Caucus on IP and Minority

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission has yet to get any work done. We have still not been able to discuss the reasons behind this in the Parliament. We have been demanding a Land Dispute Resolution Commission for plainlands indigenous peoples for the last 15 years but to no avail. The census is biased and motivated to claim a number lower than the actual figure of Bangladesh's plainland indigenous population. We can prove the inaccuracy of the census.

Indigenous peoples' lands are grabbed

We must prepare primary education textbooks using indigenous mother languages and train teachers from the communities. Otherwise, indigenous education will not be at the level of mainstream education.



JUSTICE (RETD.) MD. NIZAMUL HUQ, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Chief Legal Adviser, BLAST

To bridge the gap between the indigenous people and the Bengalis, a peace treaty was discussed in around 1993, and in 1997, it was ratified. However, it seems as though this Chittagong Hill Tracts Treaty was only ratified on paper. At the time, the treaty helped indigenous peoples, who had taken shelter in India, return to Bangladesh. However, it did nothing to repair the relationship between the indigenous peoples and the Bengalis. It has been 24 years since we signed the treaty, yet it still has not been properly implemented. The plainland indigenous peoples are gradually being displaced. The government, political parties, intellectuals, etc., should come forward to solve these problems.



**ADVOCATE RANA** DASGUPTA, General Secretary, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian

**Unity Council** 

Part of the preamble of the Constitution states, "Further pledging that it shall be a fundamental aim of the State to realise through the democratic process a socialist society, free from exploitation a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens." Article 23A states, "The State shall take steps to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities." Article 23A was inserted in the 15th Constitutional Amendment. Unfortunately, it still does not recognise the indigenous peoples.

We thought that the ratification of the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Treaty would

SHAMSUL HUDA, Executive Director, Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)

There needs to be structural reform in the administration. The spirit of the Constitution was not centralisation of power. Rather, it was about the devolution of power and authority. Local governments were meant to be strengthened. Therefore, in line with the main spirit of the Constitution, we need decentralisation of power. Ministries should be empowered and not used as mere post-boxes. The Land Commission lacks human resources and budget. There should be separate budget allocations for the commission to ensure it can function properly.

Free and prior consent should be taken from all indigenous peoples when it comes to matters regarding their land. Land grabbers should be tried under the law. Our laws should be amended to ensure that those who are stealing the land from the indigenous people are held accountable.



**PROF DR SADEKA** HALIM, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dhaka University

When the Constitution was drafted in 1972, there should have been a louder voice to clarify indigenous peoples' position in the Constitution. The four fundamental principles of the Constitution are nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism which, I believe, make our Constitution quite progressive. Bangabandhu's definition of secularism was that the state would avoid discrimination based on religion in political, economic, and social rights and opportunities of citizens. In line with this, the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord was signed. However, this treaty has many limitations, the main one being land management. The customary land rights of the indigenous peoples are not officially recognised. The only countries where this recognition exists are the Philippines, Nepal and New Zealand. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 107 clearly stated, "Indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy the full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination." Although Bangladesh ratified the ILO convention 107, our policies do not reflect this.

Organisations that work with indigenous women were able to lobby to include a line in the National Women Development Policy to provide support to indigenous women based on their specific context. If the government can acknowledge indigenous people in one of their national policies, then why can't they do the same in the constitution?

Inclusive and sustainable development cannot take place until the rights of the indigenous peoples are recognised in the Constitution. The philosophy of "Leave no one behind" is based on human rights, so excluding indigenous peoples from development is a human rights violation. Only four out of 230 countries specifically mention indigenous peoples in their indicators for sustainable development.

I recommend redesigning our census to include a category for the different groups of indigenous people in Bangladesh. Once we have established an estimate for our indigenous population, we can then target specific policies and programmes to improve their situation.



**ROBAET FERDOUS**, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University

The four pillars of our constitution are nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism. But, in recent years, Bangladesh has been moving away from these ideals. We have been oppressing the indigenous people ethnically, linguistically, culturally, etc. The areas where indigenous communities reside are slowly being turned into modern colonies, where the rich and powerful rule as the colonisers, using the law enforcement agencies to oppress the indigenous people.

In these areas, indigenous people are raped, their lands grabbed, and their identities erased. Sometimes those controlling the lands give the indigenous people Bengali and Muslim names to erase individual indigenous identities. As conscientious citizens, we must support their struggle for equal rights. There is a term in anthropology called 'unpeople', which means anyone whose existence is deemed worthless and expendable. The way we treat the indigenous people in our country reflects the term 'unpeople'.



MYENTTHEIN PROMILA, Executive Member, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples

While many countries are celebrating International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, we, indigenous people of Bangladesh, are still fighting for our existence. We claim Bangladesh to be a secular and democratic country, but the reality is quite opposite for the indigenous people.

Women in Bangladesh suffer from discrimination, gender-based violence, cultural stigma, sexual harassment, etc. The situation for indigenous women is worse. They are neglected ethnically, structurally, and communally. In the media, we often see reports of indigenous women being abused. But do we raise our voices as a nation and stand up for their rights? Do we march in protest? If we do, then why are only a few organisations in Bangladesh working with indigenous women?

In the last two decades, the number of indigenous people has significantly decreased. There were once 237 Rakhine villages in Barishal. At present, 192 of these villages have become extinct. On the few occasions that we talk about indigenous people, it's about the Chittagong Hill Tracts. But what about the indigenous communities in the rest of the country? Sometimes, their land is stolen for the purpose of developing roads and other forms of infrastructure. But is this kind of development worth it, if it comes at the cost of the indigenous community?



SULTANA KAMAL, Human Rights Activist and Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh

Our constitution has been changed 17 times, yet none of these amendments address the issue of inclusion of indigenous people. Even today, we are saying that they should all be considered as Bengali, which is clearly an attempt to deny their individual ethnic identities. We have failed to listen to their voices and their demands for recognition.

The whole purpose of Bangladesh's Liberation War and the Language Movement was to allow the people of Bangladesh to speak in the language of their choice and to practice the cultural values they believe in. But if we continue to deny the existence of the indigenous people, then how are we any different from our oppressors?

Indigenous people have been deprived for so long. Their rights have been denied, their land has been stolen and they have been denied access to essential facilities from the government. Even beyond the issues of land grabbing, the indigenous people have also been deprived in terms of health care, education, and employment. We must acknowledge and oppose the role the military is playing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. There is no question, that the people living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are being denied their constitutional rights.



SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN, Commercial Supplements Editor, The Daily Star & Moderator of the

August 9, 2021 is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and this year's theme is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract". If we look at the situation of indigenous people in Bangladesh, we will see that they suffer from discrimination on a regular basis. The state even denies them their indigenous identity.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- > Establish a national indigenous people's commission.
- > A separate allocation for the creation of an Indigenous Development Policy should be made within the national budget.
- A separate ministry needs to be established for indigenous people, along with a separate Land Commission.
- The Government of Bangladesh must implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. > Indigenous people who have suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic should be provided
- with financial incentives. A census should be undertaken to get a comprehensive overview of the existing situation of
- indigenous people in Bangladesh. > Include tribal languages in our primary education system.
- > Establish government programmes to provide indigenous people with food, healthcare and
- Incorporate ILO Convention 107 into our national policies.
- Reform laws to ensure that those stealing land from the indigenous people are adequately

under many excuses (e.g., they do not have proper documents). Bengalis forge documents to sell off the lands of indigenous people, and the state helps them displace indigenous people. To solve these issues, there should be a separate ministry or department for plainlands indigenous peoples, which would be connected to the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs.

Our National Education Policy recommends that indigenous communities receive education in their mother language. Yet, there are no research efforts on the part of International Mother Language Institute to revive the 14 indigenous languages that have gone extinct. Although textbooks have been written using the indigenous mother languages, there are no teachers from the indigenous communities to help deliver these classes. Bengalis have been appointed to take these classes instead, which is unacceptable.

bring peace to the hilly areas. However, there is no peace to be found there. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission exists but is not effective. The indigenous peoples feel that the state deceived them.

In 1947, 29.7 percent of the East Bengal population consisted of minority groups. During the first 25 years of Pakistan's rule, this number declined by 9.7 percent to 20 percent. This 20 percent of the population voted for Bangabandhu, faced genocide during the liberation war, were victims of rape, had their houses burned down, and had to flee the country. During the golden jubilee of our independence, we saw that this number further declined to 11.6 percent.

A commission for minorities and indigenous peoples should be formed. There should also be a minority and indigenous peoples' protection act.

#### **MORE NEWS**

#### **Sudan thwarts coup attempt**

linked to Bashir regime Sudan's fragile transitional government said it foiled an attempted coup early yesterday involving military officers and civilians linked to the ousted regime of longtime President Omar al-Bashir. Information Minister Hamza Baloul said the coup attempt was thwarted and those behind it "brought under control". "We assure the Sudanese people that order has been restored and the leaders of attempted coup both military and civilian have been arrested and are being investigated," he said in a televised address. "Authorities are pursuing supporters of the defunct regime who participated in the coup attempt."

#### **Unvaccinated Bolsonaro eats** pizza on New York sidewalk

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro ate pizza on the sidewalk in New York ahead of the UN General Assembly, likely because he doesn't meet the city's Covid-19 vaccine requirements for indoor dining. The Big Apple currently requires anyone wanting to eat inside to provide proof of at least one shot and Bolsonaro says he is not vaccinated. "Luxury dinner in New York," tweeted Brazil's secretariat minister Luiz Eduardo Ramos alongside a photo of Bolsonaro enjoying a slice outside with several members of his delegation. Tourism minister Gilson Machado also posted a photo of Bolsonaro with slice in hand, writing on Instagram that it was pizza and Coca-Cola for dinner.



#### Biden admin doubles US refugee admissions

The Biden administration announced Monday that it would double the number of refugees it will accept in the coming fiscal year to 125,000, amid rising pressure from people fleeing Afghanistan and other countries. President Joe Biden has reversed a trend begun by predecessor Donald Trump to push down the number of refugees accepted

each year to a few thousand. Trump set the official cap for the current fiscal year, ending on September 30, at just 15,000, and actually admitted far less than that. Biden overrode that number after he came into office, pushing it back up to 62,500. For fiscal 2022, the level will rise to 125,000. "Today,

the State Department is reaffirming our commitment to refugee resettlement in line with our long tradition of providing a safe haven and opportunity to individuals fleeing persecution," said spokesperson Ned Price. "With the world facing unprecedented global displacement and humanitarian needs, the United States is committed to leading efforts to provide protection and promote durable solutions to humanitarian crises," Price said

> in a statement. SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Canada's Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, accompanied by his wife Sophie Gregoire and their children Ella-Grace and Xavier, waves to supporters during the Liberal election night party in Montreal, Quebec, Canada yesterday. Trudeau acknowledged he will need to work with other parties after he fell short of winning a majority in parliamentary elections, leaving him once more dependent on opposition legislators to govern. PHOTO: REUTERS

World faces 'decisive decade' Says Biden in his first address to UN, vows to take global leadership role on crises from climate to pandemic

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden yesterday pledged cooperation with allies through "a decisive decade for our world" in his first address to the United Nations.

His reassurances come amid tensions with allies over the US' Afghanistan withdrawal and a major diplomatic row with France over a submarine deal.

Biden campaigned on returning America to a global leadership role, which he reaffirmed yesterday. "I believe we must work together like never before," said the president.

Biden said the United States does not seek a "new Cold War," in a reference to relations with China.

"The United States is ready to work with any nation that steps up and pursues peaceful resolution to share challenges even if we have intense disagreement in other areas."

He vowed to pivot away from post-9/11 conflicts and take a global leadership role on crises from climate to the pandemic.

#### **LEADERS' SPEECHES AT UNGA**

UN chief urges US-China dialogue, warns of divisions

Palestinian state 'best way' to resolve

conflict with Israel: Biden Brazil is committed to environmental protection: Bolsonaro

A sovereign and democratic Palestinian state is the "best way" to ensure Israel's future, he said. "We must seek a future of greater peace and security for all people of the Middle East.

He renewed offer to 'return to full' nuclear deal 'if Iran does the same'.

Biden also pledged to work with Congress to double funds by 2024 for helping developing nations deal with climate change to \$11.4 billion per year, which would help achieve a global goal set more than a decade ago to mobilize \$100

billion per year to support climate action in vulnerable countries.

Opening the UN General Assembly, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned of growing divisions between the United States and China and urged dialogue, reports AFP.

"I fear our world is creeping towards two different sets of economic, trade, financial and technology rules, two divergent approaches in the development of artificial intelligence -- and ultimately two different military and geopolitical strategies,' Guterres said.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro told the assembly that his country's environmental laws should serve as a model for the world, reinforcing his government's commitment to eliminating illegal deforestation, reports Reuters.

The far-right leader, who has pushed to open more of the Amazon rainforest to mining and agriculture, has come under criticism for surging deforestation under his government.



On one hand, you're raising fresh funds to avert a crisis and on the other hand money that is theirs -- belongs to them -- they cannot use. I think freezing the assets is not helping the situation. I would strongly urge the powers that be that they should revisit that policy and think of an unfreeze."

PAK FM SHAH MAHMOOD **QURESHI CALLS FOR UNFREEZING OF AFGHAN** 

## Macron, Modi vow to 'act jointly'

**TENSIONS IN INDO-PACIFIC REGION** 

AFP, Paris

President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday vowed to "act jointly" in the Indo-Pacific region, the French presidency said, as a row with Australia and the US intensifies.

In telephone talks, both leaders said they would "act jointly in an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific area", days after Australia pulled out of a submarine contract with France in favour of US submarines as part of an alliance with Washington and the UK. Macron assured Modi of France's continued

"commitment to the strengthening of India's strategic autonomy, including its industry and technology base, as part of a close relationship based on trust and mutual respect". The statement from Macron's office said France and

India's shared approach would be aimed at promoting "regional stability and the rule of law, while ruling out any form of hegemony".

Macron's discussion with the Indian leader came before a planned conversation with US President Joe Biden.

France is furious with the US for secretly leading talks about a new strategic alliance, AUKUS, and a deal for the delivery of American nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, calling the move "a stab in the back".

#### **EXPOSING EMAILS OF 250 AFGHAN INTERPRETERS**

## UK apologises for error

Britain's defence ministry has apologised after it accidentally revealed the email addresses of more than 250 Afghan interpreters seeking to move to the UK.

it had left behind hundreds of Afghans eligible for relocation in the rushed evacuation following the Taliban takeover. The BBC reported that an email sent by

The error came as the UK acknowledged

a defence ministry team promising help with relocation mistakenly copied in the addresses of more than 250 people, so they were visible to all recipients. Many addresses also contained

photographs. The ministry reportedly sent another message 30 minutes later, advising the recipients to change their email addresses. An interpreter told the broadcaster the

mistake "could cost the life of interpreters, especially for those who are still in Afghanistan".

A defence ministry spokesperson said

late on Monday that an investigation had been launched into a "data breach of information from the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy team".

"We apologise to everyone impacted by this breach and are working hard to ensure it does not happen again," said the spokesperson. The data breach prompted anger from

minister Johnny Mercer, who called it a "criminally negligent performance". In August, The Times newspaper reported that it had found contact details of staff and job applicants left behind at the British embassy compound in Kabul,

Conservative MP and former veterans

potentially endangering them. Prime Minister Boris Johnson earlier this month said 311 people were left behind who were eligible under the UK's Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, such as

"We will do everything we can to ensure that those people get the safe passage that they deserve," he told parliament.

#### Sweden blocks naming baby 'Vladimir Putin

AFP, Stockholm

Sweden's tax authority has rejected a couple's request to name their newly born "Vladimir Putin," arguing the name was inappropriate.

The Swedish Tax Agency ruling said that under the country's law "first names can only be names that cannot cause offence, or be assumed to cause distress, to the person carrying the name". It added that "surnames are not suitable as first names, and this also applies to names that resemble surnames," said the ruling.

The tax agency also refused to consider "Vladimir" and "Putin" as two separate first names.

## বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়

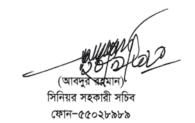
সদস্য ভবন শাখা www.parliament.gov.bd



#### উন্মক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

١.	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	:	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।
٧.	অর্থের উৎস	:	জিওবি।
೨.	দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি	:	\$2.00.000.600,060,060,2022,200
	নম্বর ও ও তারিখ		তারিখ: ২০-০৯-২০২১.
8.	দরপত্রের ধরণ	:	ওপেন টেন্ডার।
¢.	প্যাকেজ নম্বর	:	প্যাকেজ-৪৬ (খ)
৬.	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	:	পর্দা, ম্যাট্রেস, সোফার ফোম ও কভার ক্রয়।
٩.	দরপত্রের সংখ্যা	:	। থী¢০
ъ.	সরবরাহের সময়	:	চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।
۶.	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	:	(১) দরপত্র তফসিলের সাথে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (২) ২০২১-২০২২ কর বর্ষের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে তার সর্বশেষ আর্থিক বছরের পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদ), (৩) বিন সার্টিফিকেট (১৩ ডিজিট), (৪) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলডেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, (৫) সরকারি সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানে সংখ্লিট্ট কাজের পাঁচ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, (৬) দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ ও (৭) এনআইডি-র কপি। বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী ছাড়াও দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে এবং সকল কাগজপত্র সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।
١٥.	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	:	১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
33.	দরপত্র জামানত	:	দরপত্রের সাথে সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (সদস্য ভবন শাখা), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অনৃক্লে ৭২,০০০/- (বাহান্তর হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ফেরত যোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে।
۵٩.	টেন্ডার ভ্যালিডিটি	:	দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন থেকে ১২০(একশত বিশ) দিন।
೦.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	:	সহকারী সচিব (অর্থ-১), (দক্ষিণ পশ্চিম ব্লক, লেভেল-৫, কক্ষ নম্বর-৫২৩) বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
١8.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ০৯-০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৮ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ অপরাহ্ব ৫-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ।
<b>3</b> €.	দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্হান	:	দাখিল : ২১ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ, রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার, সকাল ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যস্ত।
			খোলা : ২১ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ, রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার, বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা।
			স্হান : উপসচিব(প্রশাসন-১) এর কার্যালয়, কক্ষ নম্বর-৭৪১, ব্লক-পূর্ব, লেভেল-৭।
১৬.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	:	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
۵٩.	টেভার আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	i	আবদুর রহমান, সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (সদস্য ভবন শাখা), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭, ফোন নম্বর-৫৫০২৮৯৮৯।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের www.parliament.gov.bd ওয়েব সাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।



## Honour your pledges

UN chief, UK PM urge world leaders to deliver on their commitments toward \$100b per year climate fund

REUTERS, United Nations

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged leaders of the world's major economies including the United States to deliver on their commitments toward a \$100 billion per year climate fund with less than six weeks to go before a UN climate summit.

Johnson and UN Secretary-General António Guterres hosted a roundtable of world leaders on Monday evening to address major gaps on emissions targets and climate finance.

"Too many major economies – some represented here today, some absent - are lagging too far behind," Johnson said. "I'll stress that again for this to be a success we need developed countries to find that \$100

billion. The closed-door meeting during the annual high-level week of the UN General Assembly includes leaders and representatives from a few dozen



countries representing industrialized nations, emerging economies and vulnerable developing countries.

Those involved in the roundtable included the United States, China, India, EU nations as well as Costa Rica, the Maldives and a mix of developing and middle income countries and

industrialized nations. Johnson told reporters that he is to ensure a successful outcome at hopeful the United States can deliver on a promise to step up its share of money toward the \$100 billion annual goal but "we've been here before" and climate finance commitments.

"we're not counting our chickens." US Climate Envoy John Kerry, who represented the United States at Monday's meeting, said Washington would deliver more climate aid ahead of the October 31-November 12 COP26 Climate Change Conference

in Glasgow, Scotland. Guterres told reporters after the roundtable that he heard "encouraging declarations" about raising financial support to help developing countries

deal with climate change. One UN official described the discussions as "brutally honest" about expectations for the summit and that there "was a collective sense of 'we're

in trouble'.' The roundtable discussion aimed the conference even as reports show major economies being far off track on their emission reduction goals and

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LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2021, ASHWIN 7, 1428 BS

### The problem with the reckless use of antibiotics

A Chattogram study finds majority of people, including newborns, resistant to antibiotics

E are deeply concerned about the findings of a recent study—funded by the Research and Publication Office of the University of Chittagong, and supported by the Disease Biology and Molecular Epidemiology Research Group, Chittagong which revealed that overuse and misuse of antibiotics have caused resistance in people of all age groups in the port city.

The study was conducted on 1,000 patients from two Chattogram hospitals, around half of whom were children, between 2018 and 2020. The ineffectiveness of antibiotics is such that 47 percent of the infants and children were found to be infected by at least three types of antibioticresistant germs. Additionally, 40 percent of participants aged 15 years and above showed resistance to at least three antibiotic drugs, while 70 percent of the participants were resistant to at least one antibiotic.

While the participants of the study were all from Chattogram, considering the tendency of Bangladeshis to self-prescribe antibiotics and other medicines—and the carelessness with which these drugs are sold by many unlicensed pharmacies across the country—one may not be wrong to assume that the situation is similar in the rest of the country. The research found that such resistance can be passed down from mothers to their children. Other major causes include patients getting infected by antibioticresistant pathogens in hospitals, irrational use of antibiotics without doctors' prescription/advice, and through the consumption of dairy and poultry products laced with

The researchers of the study emphasised regular monitoring and clinical detection of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and their plasmids—specific genetic structures to prevent public health disasters. Otherwise, they fear the treatment of children using antibiotics will be nearly impossible in the future.

Again, there can be no denying of the haphazard manner in which major medicines such as antibiotics are sold over the counter in Bangladesh. But the findings of the Chattogram study confirm that it is high time to put a stop to this culture. The people of the country must be made aware of the dangers of consuming antibiotics unless they have been prescribed by a licensed doctor. Additionally, legitimate pharmacies must practise selling such drugs to people only at the reference of a doctor. We hope that steps will be taken by the authorities to not only find ways around such resistance when treating patients, but to also crack down heavily on the reckless retail of antibiotics.

## Why is our public transport in decline?

The authorities should focus on creating an efficient and affordable public transport system

planned public transport system is not only the best way to ease traffic congestion and ensure safer roads, but can also contribute to reducing energy consumption, decreasing air pollution and fighting climate change. Across the world, experts continue to advocate for the use of public transport as a strategy to improve public health, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and create a more functional society.

Yet, in Bangladesh, we are witnessing a sharp decline in the numbers of buses and minibuses. What's even more worrying is that, according to the data from Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), the number of private cars and microbuses have started to increase again this year. Only 1,075 buses and 220 minibuses have been registered so far this year, as opposed to 9,470 cars and a whopping 198,000 motorcycles. This is despite the fact that small vehicles, including motorcycles, have routinely been identified by road safety advocates as one of the major causes of accidents—which have gone up by 40 percent in the first seven months of this year, compared to the same

Why is Bangladesh taking this backward step, when most countries in the world are moving towards public transportoriented commuting systems? According to experts, a lack of coordinated planning and policies is the main reason behind this state of affairs. Past decisions taken by the authorities—such as reduction of motorcycle registration fees, and the provision for easy car loans—have contributed towards the situation as well. We are confused as to why such incentives are being provided towards private transport, while the route permits for buses have been suspended for a long time, when all the data suggests that a greater use of public transport and footpaths would be the most beneficial for Bangladeshi citizens—both in terms of efficiency and affordability.

As there is little scope for increasing road space in the capital, we urge our policymakers to prioritise planned public transport instead. Experts have suggested revamping the BRTC bus service, introducing bus franchise systems, and prioritising the Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) services. Most importantly, the plans for bus route rationalisation to bring Dhaka's chaotic bus operations under control must be implemented without further delay.

#### **LETTERS** TO THE EDITOR letters@thedailystar.net

#### Interns deserve fair treatment

In Bangladesh, millions of graduates are struggling to get jobs because they lack experience. Many organisations help with enhancing the job seekers' experience through internships, but most of them don't pay the interns at all, although they work almost full-time. There should be a proper policy to pay the interns.

**Mohammad Yasin Islam** Student, Jagannath University

## The empty seats in our classrooms

What can we do to ensure that school dropouts don't increase as a result of the pandemic?



closure, one of the most protracted education gaps in the world that was caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the children of Bangladesh finally returned

to their classrooms on September 12. Once classes resumed, the media was awash with heartwarming photos and videos of students coming together, chatting excitedly as they walked into their classrooms, and being welcomed back to school by their teachers.

Throughout the pandemic, education experts have not only stressed on the catastrophic learning losses that would result from prolonged school closure, but on the adverse impacts on the mental health of isolated students as well. The joyous reactions of the returnees were testament to the fact that their concerns were not overstated.

As we welcome the younger generation back to the physical learning environment, it is clear that simply returning to school is not enough; the students need all the support they can get to recover from learning losses—especially those who were not able to access online education due to the digital divide.

However, there is another matter of great concern that is starting to become apparent: the empty seats in the

This week, The Daily Star published the story of Nargis Nahar, from Kurigram Sadar upazila, who graduated from Class 8 of Sardob High School in 2020 with eight other female classmates. When she returned to school last week, she realised she was the only one there—all the other girls had become victims of child marriage and had dropped out. According to the head teacher of her school, one sixth grader, two seventh graders, four eighth graders and three 10th graders had also been married off during the pandemic. Out of 63 previously enrolled female students, only 15 girls returned to school when it reopened.

This state of affairs has been seen in many schools across the country. On September 7, Prothom Alo released a shocking report of 50 different cases of child marriage—students from the same school—in Alipur union in Satkhira, all of which took place during the Covid shutdown. A study conducted by Brac estimates that child marriage may have increased by 13 percent during the pandemic—the highest in 25 years.

However, it is not only girls who are at risk. In December last year, The Daily Star ran a photo story of nine-year-old Nayeem, who was selling cigarettes and betel leaves during school closure to support his family (his mother had lost her job as a domestic help). The picture of the round-faced, smiling boy, hard at work on the streets when he should be in school, garnered attention; Nayeem received support from a social organisation and returned to school. But have other children—who have been forced to take up jobs during the shutdown, especially after the pandemic pushed their families further into poverty—had similar luck? In Nargis' school in Kurigram, out of the 162 enrolled male students, only 50 boys have returned.

The fact that fewer students are returning to school is corroborated by government data: according to a Prothom Alo report on September 19, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) has been collecting daily data on student attendance, which was, at the time, around 60 percent. While it is still early days and attendance may increase, there is no denying that child marriage and child labour have gone up during the pandemic, and this could easily translate into an increased rate of school dropout in the country if concerted efforts are not made immediately. This trend has been observed all over the world, from Brazil and the US to India and South Africa, with girls being affected the worst. According to Unicef, in South and West Asia, 2.8 million women and girls may not be able to return to education after the pandemic—from pre-primary to tertiary

At present, it is difficult to estimate to what extent the dropout rate might increase. In 2019, the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis) reported that the dropout rate of boys at the secondary level had already increased to 36 percent, the highest since 2011, and the dropout rate of girls continued to be persistently higher—it was 40.19 percent at the time. A report by Save the Children from July 2020 warned that Bangladesh was among 28 countries that faced moderate to high risks of school dropout, especially for female students. Their concerns were echoed by the government: in June last year, the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) finalised its stakeholder engagement plan on the Covid-19 situation, where it warned of a pandemic-induced rise in dropout rates, which would most likely be linked to increased incidences of early marriage, adolescent fertility, and child labour—especially among children from disadvantaged families. At the time, the DPE proposed strengthening monitoring mechanisms, as well as re-enrolment campaigns involving participatory community actions and awareness programmes, to bring children back to

Are these plans still on track? How quickly will they be implemented? According to *The Daily Star*, the education authorities have developed a Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan with an estimated budget of Tk 768 crore. Details have been given in a yet-to-be released position paper, jointly prepared by the Economic Relations Division and Brac, on how a bulk of these recovery funds will be concentrated on arranging facilities at schools to follow health protocols, and on developing remote learning.

However, around 11 percent of the funds will be directed towards student assessment and teachers' training. This is crucial for preventing dropouts, since research suggests that one of the biggest predictors of school dropouts is falling behind in studies, especially from lowquality schools. But dropouts can be

meals for all of the 1.41 crore government primary school students by 2023 is likely to have an important effect on reducing dropouts as well.

Of course, the question of the day is, when will these plans actually translate into action? And in the time that it takes for this to happen, how many students will be lost to child marriage and child labour? The lag between proposing and implementing government projects has become so notorious that even the country's premier has publicly criticised the delays, urging speedy implementation.

Certain things, for example, could easily be done right now, such as the collection of gender segregated data to track the changes in school enrolment. Although the DSHE has been attempting to do so via a Google Doc link on their website, this is hardly likely to reach the rural



Nayeem, a third grader, was forced into child labour during the pandemic, but after his photo in *The Daily Star* drew attention, a social organisation helped him return to school. Not many children have been so lucky. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

prevented only if these assessments are followed up by remedial education to help the students who have fallen behind.

The position paper, which was obtained by The Daily Star, also recommended the introduction of two to three years' back-to-school campaigns with a focus on dropout-prone areas, but the initial report on the paper does not clarify how much resources will be committed to prevent school dropouts specifically. Targeted and specific incentives for going back to school like stipends or school feeding, have been recommended as a strategy as well.

A January 2021 research paper from the Asian Development Bank confirms that stipends have a positive impact on reducing dropouts— "a conservative estimate shows that the development benefits of the [female secondary] stipend programme outweigh its cost by more than 200 percent"—and the Tk 19,280 crore government project proposal (announced in August last year) to provide daily school

and marginalised areas, where we most urgently need this data from. Instead, it would be more practical to partner with NGOs and local leaders, who can also conduct visits to families with school dropouts and motivate them to send their children back to school.

There is no denying the fact that education recovery in Bangladesh will be a long and difficult journey, and the focus will be on ensuring that students are safe in their classrooms and able to recover from learning losses. But we cannot leave behind the students who have not made it back to their classrooms yet—and perhaps never will, if we delay in reaching out to them. In this case, such a delay will not only be a waste of time and potential; it can be the anvil that comes crashing down on the dreams of many Bangladeshi children.

# Delivering climate finance is the key to COP26 success

Rich countries have to buckle up and make their due contribution to tackle



United **Nations** Secretary-General Antonio Guterres held a highlevel meeting on climate change in New York, where Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

was one of the

**٦**HIS week,

leaders invited to add momentum to the actions needed to tackle climate change before the upcoming climate conference, COP26, hosted by the United Kingdom and scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November this year. One of the most urgent issues is the

delivery of USD 100 billion every year from the developed countries to support the developing countries to tackle climate change, which was promised to begin from

I will provide a history of this pledge, its lack of success so far, and what needs to be done now on an urgent basis for the developed countries to retain any semblance of credibility going into COP26 in November.

The annual fund of USD 100 billion to be provided by the rich countries to the poorer countries in climate support was first proposed by former US President Barack Obama, at the climate summit held in Copenhagen, Denmark back in 2009. However, as the Copenhagen meeting ended in failure to achieve an agreement, the idea was reintroduced in 2015, at COP21 in Paris, and was enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

The pledge by the developed countries was that they would provide USD 100 billion a year, from 2020 onwards, and the amount would be increased after five years.

An associated demand from the developing countries was for half of that amount to fund adaptation efforts in the most vulnerable developing countries, and the other half to support mitigation efforts.

The developed countries had a good five years to plan how to deliver this promised amount, but they did not prepare at all.

As a result, 2020 has come and gone with no concrete idea of how much climate finance has been provided, by who, and to whom. There is even no agreement on how much each of the countries (that have taken the pledge) is supposed to contribute to that USD 100 billion fund, and how it should be delivered, or who should track the payments.

climate change.

The latest figures provided by the

Development Assistance, show that in

as reported by the developed countries,

went into supporting adaptation efforts,

while 80 percent went into mitigation

works in the form of loans, rather than

Organisation of Economic Co-operation

and Development (OECD), which tracks

2019, the total amount of climate finance,

was USD 79.6 billion only. Another aspect

of this was that only 20 percent of the fund

Not only is this amount well short of USD 100 billion, but even the amounts claimed to have been provided are highly suspect, as was demonstrated by Oxfam, who went through all the claimed amounts provided by the developed countries and found that only USD 20 billion would be counted as genuinely new funding to tackle climate change, while the rest was double counting of development assistance that was already being provided

will owe USD 100 billion for 2020 and another USD 100 billion for 2021.

From the perspective of the developing countries, this has become an issue of credibility for the developed countries in any further discussion going forward.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) countries, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, have demanded that the developed countries present a plan for delivering USD 500 billion to cover five years—from 2020 to 2024. They also demanded that half of this amount be directed to support adaptation activities in the most vulnerable developing countries.

This is what the UN secretary-general is trying to get the developed countries to abide by.

An important aspect of this situation is that USD 100 billion per year is no longer an adequate amount to tackle the impacts of climate change, which will require trillions of dollars from now on. This will require all the countries to mainstream the tackling of climate change—both through mitigation and adaptation—into national development investments, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. This will mean that every country, both rich and poor, must mainstream their climate change investment into national development investments going forward. Bangladesh is a pioneer in taking this initiative by allocating nearly eight percent of the national budget, amounting to well over USD 2 billion, to tackle climate change, to 20 ministries as well as through civil society organisations. This is an example that many other countries will need to follow going forward.

Hence the totemic annual funding of USD 100 billion is not going to make a

was neither new, nor in addition to development assistance. Now let's come to 2020, for which we don't have any updated figures available, although the developed countries themselves acknowledge that they did not reach the USD 100 billion target, and they are now scrambling to put together a USD 100 billion package before COP26. They

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Hence the majority of the climate finance

should recall that by November 2021, they

huge difference in practical terms, but is mostly a symbolic test for the developed countries to retain an iota of credibility as they come to Glasgow in November. Let's see if they can pass the test.

Dr Saleemul Hug is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh

## Learning to value people, not cars

The spirit of World Car-Free Day should not be limited to just a day; it should be put into practice every day



aliens came to Earth. If they landed in just about any major city, they would be forgiven for believing that people are simply batteries for automobiles.

and that automobiles are the true life form, with everything designed around their needs for housing, fuel, and socialising with other automobiles on congested streets.

If the aliens were to land in Dhaka, they would undoubtedly conclude that whatever the dominant life form is, it is extremely fond of pollution, congestion, noise, and danger. Why else would someone design a city in a way to maximise them all?

If, however, the aliens had the good fortune to drop in during a World Car-Free Day celebration, they might get a vastly different impression. Ah! People, not cars, are the major life form. People are joyous, sociable creatures who enjoy interactions outdoors in a convivial and safe environment. They respect the rights of people on foot and on bicycles to move about safely. Rather than forcing people to the margins, they assign automobiles to that unenviable

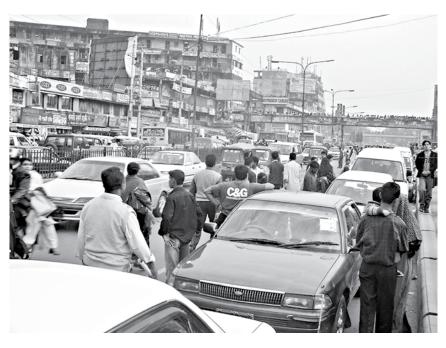
Around the world, countless cities—

including Dhaka—celebrate World Car-Free Day on September 22 every year. This day serves as a useful reminder that the automobile was meant to serve us, not vice versa.

We pour our money into vehicles and the infrastructure to serve them. We lose blood and limbs in the inevitable crashes that occur when people operate heavy vehicles at a speed more than 30km/hour. We accept that we will breathe filthy air, and that millions of people worldwide will die prematurely each year from air pollution. We prioritise the rights of cars over the rights of people. And what do we get in return? Endless congestion and ugly,

None of that is inevitable. People have lived in cities for thousands of years; automobiles are a recent entrant. Given all the disasters they have wreaked, it is well past the time to consider whether allowing, nay, inviting them into our cities was a wise

There is a saying that if we aspired to make our cities polluted, dangerous, and congested, we could hardly have chosen a better way than to make them auto-centric. If, on the other hand, we wish to have cleaner air, safer streets, easier travel, and more active, happy residents, then we should make major changes. Those changes involve both a carrot and a stick. The carrot is in making better transport options walking, cycling, rickshaws, and public



Remember how Dhaka streets looked during the lockdowns? It could become a reality, instead of what this photo shows, if we start devaluing the use of cars.

PHOTO: COURTESY

transit—attractive, convenient, and affordable. The stick involves making trips by cars (and motorbikes) more cumbersome and expensive, by not allowing them everywhere and by charging both for the time and space occupied when they are parked.

In our globalised world, it is easy to see the results of different approaches.

Car-centric cities around the world are congested, polluted, and dangerous. Cities that reward people for moving about without a car are vastly more

It will not be easy to break the stronghold that the three-headed monster—car, fuel, and road construction companies—has over our governments. All of us are, to some degree, susceptible to the propaganda they put out, genuinely believing that modernity means cars, and that pollution, congestion, and crashes are inevitable. But we can work to liberate ourselves and our governments from the monster's malevolent influence. We can demand that the rights of children to walk and cycle safely to school, and for adults to commute safely and conveniently without a car, should take precedence over the "right" of people to drive and park.

We can make our demands clear through our actions and words. We can learn more about urban planning and transport, and how they play out in different cities. How some cities are striving to become "15-minute cities" where everything important is within a 15-minute walk or bicycle ride of residences. How some cities have started to convert roads for cars into bicycle avenues, or to convert road space on weekends temporarily into a space for lively, fun social gatherings, during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

Most important of all, we can dare to believe in, dream of, and work for something infinitely better than the polluted, car-centric cities that our alien visitors will otherwise discover.

Debra Efroymson is executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh, and author of "Beyond Apologies, Defining and Achieving an Economics of Wellbeing."

## The vaccine apartheid must end

ANIS CHOWDHURY and JOMO KWAME

ACCINE costs have pushed many developing countries to the end of the Covid-19 inoculation queue, with most lowincome nations not even lining up. What's worse, less vaccinated poor nations cannot afford fiscal efforts to provide relief or stimulate recoverylet alone achieve Agenda 2030.

#### Excluding by appropriating

Developing countries now account for more than 85 percent of global pandemic deaths. By early September, The Economist estimated actual Covid-19 deaths worldwide at 15.2 million, rather than the official 4.6 million

In six of the 10 countries with the highest fatality rates, less than a 10th of their populations were fully vaccinated as of August 10. In the other four, no more than a third were fully vaccinated.

Now, as rich nations buy up more vaccines for third shots, vaccination inequities are becoming starker. Buying up hundreds of millions of doses, they penalise poorer countries who are already doubly deprived. Rich countries will likely have about 1.2 billion extra doses by the end of

More than 5.41 billion vaccine shots have been administered worldwide, with 81 percent in only 10 high and upper middle-income

12, despite earlier official hesitation. US President Joe Biden expects to launch a campaign for a further 100 million booster shots this month.

France began administering boosters to people over 65 years old from September. The UK has announced offering a third dose from late September. Germany, Belgium and other European countries followed suit.

Now, the vaccine supply will decline further as Pfizer and Moderna sell booster doses. Two new Pfizer-BioNTech facilities have been approved to manufacture boosters in France and Germany. Meanwhile, Moderna is scaling up booster production in Massachusetts and New Hampshire in the US. Almost all the 3.2 billion Pfizer and Moderna doses to be produced this year have already been purchased by the US and Europe.

The WHO DG lambasted this "scandalous inequity" at the World Health Assembly in May. The UN health agency has repeatedly called for delaying booster provision, arguing that the most vulnerable people worldwide should be vaccinated first.

Pfizer and Moderna have not provided details on their booster prices. An economist has estimated that, sold at present prices, the booster shot sale would represent roughly a 50 percent increase in revenue over the longer run.

to recommend Covid-19 vaccine boosters. A European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control report this month affirmed that "there is no urgent need" for booster shots, except for those in frail health.

The WHO noted on August 18 that the current data did not support the case for booster shots. Scientists described official decisions approving third booster shots as "shocking" and "criminal." When US authorities approved boosters, two top vaccine officials quit in protest.

Independent research on Pfizer's two-dose vaccine suggests that it provides long-term immunity for years, contrary to the company's

> As rich nations buy up more vaccines for third shots, vaccination inequities are becoming starker. Buying up hundreds of millions of doses, they penalise poorer countries who are already doubly deprived.

latest claims. Also using mRNA technology, Moderna's vaccine should have similar longer-term

As Covid-19 vaccines are still new, such expectations remain subject to confirmation. As with most vaccines, 'memory response" triggers antibody protection when someone vaccinated is infected, even after natural

response levels have waned. Perhaps most worryingly, as big pharmaceutical companies transform their business strategies to generate more profits from boosters, their incentives change. They have less reason to develop vaccines fully immunising against the Covid-19 virus, or even to ensure that everyone is vaccinated.

#### Apartheid booster

Supplying boosters reduces vaccines available to others. Supplies to poorer countries have already been greatly reduced by rich countries securing many times more than what their populations need.

Some have even abused the COVAX scheme, which is purportedly designed for equitable distribution of vaccine doses to poorer countries. COVAX aimed to deliver a billion vaccine doses in 2021, but had only delivered 217 million by August,

Meanwhile, many rich countries countries to affordably produce tests, vaccines, treatments, equipment, and

rejected WHO's Covid-19 Technology Access Tool (C-TAP) initiative to share technologies and research knowledge in order to accelerate affordable production of and access

GD-1693

to such technologies—terming the initiative "nonsense." Vaccine equity necessary

#### There is also a practical reason behind seeking vaccine equity. We are all safer when everyone is vaccinated. New, more vaccine-resistant variants are emerging, endangering everyone. Rich countries protecting their own citizens will not prevent new mutants from emerging. New infections risk

more dangerous mutations. The Delta variant, first reported in India in late 2020, surged in March as few there had been vaccinated.

triggering a resurgence with new,

Ironically, the Serum Institute of India has the world's largest vaccine production capacity by far, but it has been largely underutilised for Covid-19 vaccines.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warns that highly infectious variants could derail economic recovery, cutting global output by USD 4.5 trillion by 2025. But the Economist Intelligence Unit estimated the world economy could lose USD 2.3 trillion in 2021 alone, due to delayed vaccinations, with developing nations losing most.

As the WHO DG said: "Vaccine

inequity is the world's biggest obstacle to ending this pandemic and recovering from Covid-19... Economically, epidemiologically and morally, it is in all countries' best interest to use the latest available data to make life-saving vaccines available to all."

Anis Chowdhury is adjunct professor at Western Sydney University and the University of New South Wales, Australia. He has worked in senior positions at the UN in New York.
Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor, is a former assistant secretary general for economic development at the UN. He received the 2007 Wassily Leontief Prize for **Copyright: Inter Press Service** 

#### বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় সদস্য ভবন শাখা www.parliament.gov.bd



١.	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	:	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।	
۹.	অর্থের উৎস	:	জিওবি।	
٥.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি	:	\$\$\$.00,000,600,060,060,\$00,\$00,000,000,000,0	
	নম্বর ও ও তারিখ		তারিখ: ২০-০৯-২০২১।	
8.	দরপত্রের ধরণ	:	ওপেন টেন্ডার।	
¢.	প্যাকেজ নম্বর	:	পাকেজ-৪৮	
৬.	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	:	মানিক মিয়া অ্যাভিনিউস্থ ৩ নং সংসদ-সদস্য ভবনের ৩৬টি ফ্ল্যাট এবং শেরেবাংলা নগর সদ্য ভবনের ২০টি অফিস কক্ষের জন্য আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়।	
٩.	দরপত্রের সংখ্যা	:	० अपि ।	
ъ.	সরবরাহের সময়	:	চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।	
<b>b.</b>	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	:	(১) দরপত্র তফসিলের সাথে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (২) ২০২১-২০২২ কর বর্ষের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে তার সর্বশেষ আর্থিক বছরের পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদ), (৩) বিন সার্টিফিকেট (১৩ ডিজিট), (৪) আইএসও সার্টিফিকেট (৯০০১ : ২০১৫), (৫) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্দি সার্টিফিকেট, (৬) ব্যাংকে এক কোটি টাকা থাকার প্রমাণক অরিজিনাল ষ্টেটমেন্ট (২৮ সেন্টেম্বর ২০২১ হতে ১৮ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখের মধ্যে), (৭) সরকারি সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানে আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহে পাঁচ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, (৮) এক কোটি টাকার আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ কাজের কার্যাদেশ, (৯) দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ, (১০) ম্যানুফ্যাকচার প্লান সার্টিফিকেট, (১১) উড সিজনিং অ্যান্ড ট্রিটমেন্ট সার্টিফিকেট, (১২) লেকার সার্টিফিকেট, (১৩) Forest Stewardship Council Certificate (FSC), (১৪) Import Registration Certificate (IRC) ও (১৫) এনআইডি-র কপি। বর্ণিত শর্তাবেলী ছাড়াও দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে এবং সকল কাগজপত্র সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।	
٥٥.	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য		২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।	
33.	দরপত্র জামানত	:	দরপত্রের সাথে সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, সদস্য ভবন শাখা, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় এ অনৃকূলে ১,৪৫,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পয়তাল্লিশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার (ফেরত যোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে।	
۵٩.	টেন্ডার ভ্যালিডিটি	:	দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন থেকে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।	
٥٥.	প্রি টেভার মিটিং	:	১২ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকার যুগ্ম-সচিব (প্রশাসন-২), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষ।	
١8.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	:	সহকারী সচিব (অর্থ-১), (দক্ষিণ পশ্চিম ব্লক, লেডেল-৫, কক্ষ নম্বর-৫২৩) বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংস সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।	
<b>3</b> ¢.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ০৯–০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৮ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ অপরাহ্য ৫–০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন) ।	
১৬.	দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্হান	:	দাখিল : ২০ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ, রোজ বুধবার, সকাল ০৯-০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যস্ত।	
			খোলা : ২০ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ, রোজ বুধবার, দুপুর ১২–১৫ ঘটিকা।	
			স্থান : উপসচিব(প্রশাসন-১) এর কার্যালয়, কক্ষ নম্বর-৭৪১, ব্লক-পূর্ব, লেভেল-৭।	
<b>١</b> ٩.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	:	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যভিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাভিলের ক্ষমত সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
<b>3</b> b.	টেভার আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	:	আবদুর রহমান, সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (সদস্য ভবন শাখা), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা–১২০৭, ফোন নম্বর–৫৫০২৮৯৮৯।	

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের <u>www.parliament.gov.bd</u> ওয়েব সাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

সিনিয়ব সহকারী সচিব ফোন–৫৫০২৮৯৮৯



It's an outrage that some countries are stocking up on Covid-19 jabs to administer third shots as boosters, when a large segment of the world population is still waiting to get their first shots. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

countries. Meanwhile, the poorest countries have only received 0.4 percent.

In January, the World Health Organization (WHO) directorgeneral voiced caution: "I need to be blunt: the world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure—and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries.

#### **Profits booster**

In early July, Pfizer and BioNTech announced plans to get emergency authorisation for booster vaccine doses. Pfizer then met with US officials to press their case, while Moderna applied for approval this

Following the Israeli president's third shot on July 30, nearly a million boosters have been administered in the US since August

Moderna raised its 2021 vaccine sales forecast for its first two doses to USD 19.2 billion in May. So, booster sales should add about USD 10 billion. Meanwhile, Pfizer raised its own forecast by more than 70 percent to USD 26 billion, with booster sales bringing USD 13 billion more.

#### Profits over science

go against most of the scientific advice. The case for boosters is not scientifically established. The majority of scientists do not agree that boosters are the best way to deal with new threats. Citing lack of credible data, scientists have opposed boosters in reputable journals,

including Nature. On August 6, the European Union's drugs regulator noted that there was not enough evidence

according to Unicef. Rich countries' practices actually

continue to block the request to the World Trade Organization to temporarily suspend Covid-related intellectual property rights. This waiver would enable developing other such needs.

Earlier, Big Pharma leaders

3 quarters of AL

them are AL rebel candidates.

where independents won.

Party insiders said almost all of

A Workers Party of Bangladesh contender bagged a chairman post.

EC data shows that AL candidates

Voter turnout in Monday's union

stood second in 23 union parishads

parishad elections, held in seven

districts, was 69.03 percent. Voting

took place in eight unions using

electronic voting machines (EVMs)

and the turnout was 69.78 percent

Among the unions that went to

polls using EVMs, the highest turnout

was 77.95 percent in Gangarampur

union of Khulna's Batiaghata and

the lowest turnout 56.16 percent

in Charbata union of Noakhali's

highest turnout was in Dakope union of Khulna's Dakope and the lowest

turnout 43.76 percent in Musapur

Earlier, AL candidates won 148

chairman posts. Twenty-eight of them

were elected unopposed in 204 union

parishad polls held as part of the first

phase of the elections on June 21 this

each from Jatiya Party and Jatiya

Party (Manju), and one from Islami

held in 13 districts, was 64.73 percent.

Voter turnout in June 21's elections,

At least three people were killed

and dozens others injured in polls

violence Monday and three more were

Meanwhile, rights body Ain o

Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday said the

trend of candidates winning the local

government elections and by-polls to

the parliamentary seats uncontested

will have a long-term negative impact

People's right to choose their

representatives by casting votes has

been curtailed and many "qualified"

candidates have lost their interest

in taking part in polls as a result of

the trend of uncontested winning.

'It is an ominous sign for culture of

democracy," the rights body said in a

Many political parties and individuals lost their interest in

joining the election as there is a

perception that someone participating

in an election with the ruling party

ASK added that many lost their

interest in voting due to EC's failure to

perform their duties properly. It is EC's

ticket would win the polls, it said.

on the country's democracy.

killed during the polls of June 21.

Andolon Bangladesh won.

As many as 49 independents, three

union of Chattogram's Sandwip.

Of the unions where voting was held in traditional ballot papers, the

FROM PAGE 12

## Sisters found dead on roof

Our Correspondent, Sylhet

Police recovered the bodies of two siblings from the roof on their house in Sylhet city's Majumdari area early

The victims are Rani Begum, 38, and Fatema Begum, 27, daughters of Kalim Ullah of the area.

Khan Mohammad Mainul Jakir, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station in the city, said they recovered the bodies on information. Those were hanging from an iron rod on the

The bodies were sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for

autopsies, he added.

According to locals, the sisters used to live in the house with their mother and two brothers.

Rezaul Hasan Ludhi, councillor of Sylhet City Corporation, said the deaths were mysterious.

"Some of the victims' relatives, living in a nearby house, told us that the duo previously claimed to the relatives that they might be murdered by someone," he said.

Asked, the police official said the reason behind the deaths could not be confirmed before receiving autopsy reports. However, they were looking into the family's claims too.

## Pro-JP leader arrested

incident. Ali's wife abetted him in the rape. Later, he raped the girl multiple times over five months, threatening to make the video public.

At one stage, the girl informed her mother, and they moved to another area of the city. But Ali and his men continued to threaten the girl and her family, the OC said.

Talking to The Daily Star, a senior Jatiya Party leader, preferring anonymity, demanded exemplary punishment of Ali, if he is found

Pólice drives are on to arrest Tamanna, the OC said.

Meanwhile, a fifth-grader girl was raped allegedly by her cousin, who is a railway employee at Kishoreganj Railway Station, on Monday.

Another girl was raped allegedly by her neighbour in Dinajpur's Parbatipur on Sunday.

The accused in the Kishoreganj incident is Mahmudul Hasan Sagor, 25, a fourth-class employee of Kishoreganj Railway Station, police

The 11-year-old victim's brother filed a case against Sagor with Kishoreganj GRP Police Station on Monday night.

Quoting the case statement, Mohammad Enamul Haque, officerin-charge of the station, said Sagor took the victim to the station saying they were going a birthday party of his friend on Monday evening, but he tactfully took her to the VIP Rest House on the second floor of the

Later, he forcibly took her to its toilet and raped her after tying her hands and legs, said the OC.

Hearing the girl's screams, on-duty GRP police personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the girl, but Sagor managed to flee. The victim narrated

the whole story, said the police

Medical tests of the victim were done at Kishoreganj General Hospital and a local court also recorded her statement yesterday afternoon, said

The accused was not arrested as of filing this report around 7:00pm vesterdav.

Joynal Miah, station master of Kishoreganj Railway Station, said the railway authorities have suspended Sagor and formed a five-member committee to investigate the incident.

In the other incident, a 15-yearold girl was raped in Dinajpur's Parbatipur on Sunday, the day set for her marriage.

After the incident, her marriage did not take place.

Accused Abdur Rahman Bablu, 46, of Rajapur village of the upazila, was sent to jail after he was produced before a Dinajpur court on Sunday.

The victim's grandfather said the girl, her two siblings and her mother have been living in his house after her father died a couple of years ago. Recently, the grandfather arranged

her marriage.

Bablu, a neighbour, raped the girl after calling her to his house on Sunday morning, he said. Hearing the girl's scream, villagers

rushed there, rescued the girl, and took her to Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex, said the grandfather.

On information, a police team went there where the villagers handed over the accused to police, said Imam Zafar, officer-in-charge of Parbatipur Police Station.

The girl was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for medical tests, the OC said.

[Our Mymensingh and Dinajpur correspondents contributed to this report.

## Moner School gets

Goalkeepers Global Goals awards tools," Faizah said. for their work supporting the Global Goals in their local communities.

Of them, Jenifer Colpas of Colombia was awarded with the 2021 Progress Award and Satta Sheriff of Liberia with the 2021 Campaign Award, according to the press release.

The main award -- the 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award -- was given to Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Nations under-secretarygeneral and executive director of UN

Launched as a continuation of a three month-long project in 2018, Moner School is an initiative to educate people as well as give them a space where they can talk about mental health freely and get help whenever they need.

"We just wanted a place where people can write letters anonymously, so we can set up a meeting with a counselor," Faizah, a final semester honours student of Business Administration in Khulna University, told The Daily Star.

From there, seven strangers who met through a youth platform project, began the task of getting people's stories, putting them in touch with counselors, and meeting their needs.

Three months later when the project ended, five members of the original group, including Faizah, made this their passion project, and the Moner School was born.

Now, the Moner School is an anonymous online platform that works with the youth to enlighten them about the importance of mental health care through training, workshops, a 24/7 online mental health first aid service, and talk therapy.

"We're trying not only to provide counseling sessions or therapy, we're also trying to make people understand how important mental health is, as well as train them on mental health

So far, Moner School has served around 900 youths from inside the country and a few others from several foreign countries, according to Faizah.

About her inspiration behind her effort, she described her own life history. For Faizah and her mother, their courage to prioritise their own mental health was the first step in healing from a personal tragedy that dismantled

their sense of security. Faizah said her father was killed when she was 13.

Home was no longer safe, and the trauma of losing her father was hers to bear alone. It wasn't long before her mother recognised her daughter's depression and got her the help she needed

Years later, when Faizah's mother felt the full brunt of her loss, it was Fairah who returned the favor. As they emerged out of their own suffering, Faizah was called to pursue a career in mental health.

Faizah continues to make mental wellness and education a part of her day-to-day life. When life gets too noisy, she takes a pause and practices mindfulness through walking and meditation.

And with the expertise of psychologists and psychiatrists, she can access the training and tools to create a stronger online community for her peers and build on that for years to

About the winners, Mark Suzman, CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said, "These award winners show how women are leading the way in coming up with innovative solutions needed to rebuild our communities and nations.

"This year's winners continue to inspire us as they work tirelessly to create a more equal, resilient, and compassionate world.

## Girls to return to school 'soon'

Say Taliban, appoint hardline battlefield commanders to key Afghan posts

AGENCIES

The Taliban said yesterday Afghan girls will be allowed to return to school "as soon as possible", after their movement faced international fury over their effective exclusion of women and girls from education and work.

spokesman hardliners' The meanwhile announced the remaining seized Kabul in an offensive that Afghans' freedoms.

shocked the world.

The Taliban were notorious for their brutal, oppressive rule from 1996 to 2001, when women were largely barred from work and school, including being banned from leaving their homes unless accompanied by a male relative.

One month after seizing power and pledging a softer version of members of Afghanistan's all-male their previous regime, the Islamists government, weeks after the militants have incrementally stripped away at



A demonstrator is handled as police officers disperse a protest against Covid-19 regulations in Melbourne, Australia yesterday.

### Why no steps taken against misleading ads? FROM PAGE 12 and chairperson of Bangladesh and Chai and chairperson of Bangladesh and chairperson of Bangladesh

to stop running such advertisements. In the rule, the HC asked the

respondents to show causes why they should not be ordered to initiate legal proceedings against those connected to the advertisements.

The respondents have also been asked in the rule to explain why their inaction to stop running such advertisements and the creation of unfair trade practices should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to the ministries of information and broadcasting, commerce and cultural affairs; director general of Directorate of National Consumers Rights Protection

Competition Commission have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Mahmud Hassan Talukder issued the rule following a writ petition challenging the legality of running such advertisements.

Supreme Court lawyer Kamrul Islam submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC on September 15, saying some business organisations run such advertisements circulating in order to attract the consumers to their products and services.

Consumers Rights Protection victimised.

Competition Commission can take appropriate legal action against the perpetrators under the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 and Bangladesh Competition Commission Act, 2012, but they have not acted under the laws, he said in the petition. Kamrul Islam told The Daily Star

that different business organisations like e-commerce firms Evaly and E-orange have attracted consumers to their products and services by offensive, fraudulent, confusing advertisements and therefore, the The Directorate of National consumers have been cheated and

## Weeks gone, PM's directive not carried out

After visiting the HSIA yesterday, the ministers said the labs will be temporarily shifted inside the airport.

After around three months' suspension of flights between Dhaka and the UAE, the Gulf country last month set a condition that foreigners must test negative for Covid-19 in tests taken a maximum of six hours before boarding flights destined for

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 6 instructed the ministries and the health directorate concerned to set up labs at the country's three international airports in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet within two to

On September 15, the expatriates' welfare ministry announced that on the basis of the recommendations made by the health directorate, they have given permission to seven healthcare facilities to set up labs at the HSIA. The next day, Caab, at a meeting,

asked representatives of the seven organisations to set up their labs on the rooftop of the two-storey car park.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Democratic

Party President Nurul Amin had

expressed the view that power should

be transferred to civilian hands when

the National Assembly had been fully

constituted and there should not be

Speaking at a reception in Lahore

yesterday, he said time was not yet

ripe for the transfer of power in

the true sense because of "peculiar

circumstances" prevailing in East

"any transfer by instalment".

Although the representatives of the Those problems have almost been seven healthcare facilities argued that it would not be possible for them to set up the RT-PCR labs in an open space due to various complications, Caab remained rigid in their stance.

Caab even said organisations that face problems setting up labs in the space offered can choose not to take the job, meeting sources said.

After the ministers' visit yesterday, sources with knowledge developments said when necessary infrastructure is set up at the rooftop of the car park, the temporary lab facilities will be relocated there.

Talking to reporters, the two ministers yesterday could not say for certain when this would be done.

Dr Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the Prime Minister, Ahmed Munirush Salehin, expatriates' were present, among others, during the ministers' visit.

Asked when the lab would be installed, Imran Ahmad said it should have been set up a week ago, but it is taking a little time due to the involvement of different ministries. open space.

POPE EXPRESSES SYMPATHY

unfortunate and helpless people.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Pope Paul expressed his sympathy for

the "millions of refugees pouring into

India" and said the Vatican would

help alleviate the sufferings of those

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector,

Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani

troops in Tentuabaria and killed three

Mukti Bahini today discharged

two mines towards Sapta Dinga,

Pakistani soldiers and injured five.

'It is a conflict between two states'

solved, he said. Regarding installation of the labs

at the rooftop, Imran Ahmad said it would take around 10 days to make the rooftop fit to set up the labs.

He said work inside the airport to set up labs will start within two to three days. "If any organisation now says

they don't have the equipment or if they say they will have to import equipment, then I will say that they can go home. They will have to set up the labs within the next three days, Imran Ahmad said. Asked when the labs will be set up,

Zahid Maleque said his ministry has done its job and they have handed over the rest of the work to the expatriate welfare ministry.

In another programme in the welfare secretary, the Caab chairman city, Zahid Maleque expressed disappointment over the selection of venue by the Caab, saying the rooftop of the car parking building is not a suitable place to set up the labs.

A disappointed health minister asked how a lab could set up in an

an oil tanker belonging to Burma

Eastern, which anchored at the

Pashur river for refuelling on her way

to Chittagong. The mines hit the oil

tanker, and it sank in the river. The

guerrillas subsequently discharged

two more mines towards Pakistani

ship Imtiaz Baksh. The ship was badly

damaged, and the barge Liaquat

containing 6,784 bags of government

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist

sajen1986@gmail.com

and researcher. He can be contacted at

#### responsibility to ensure competitive, participatory and impartial elections.

Thank you FROM PAGE 12

statement.

You are sending us back to work with a clear mandate to get Canada through this pandemic and to the brighter days ahead. What we've seen tonight is that millions of Canadians have chosen a progressive plan.

CBC and CTV projected that Trudeau's Liberal government would hold a minority of seats in the House of Commons, meaning he will need another party's support to govern.

Elections Canada showed the Liberals leading in 156 electoral districts nationally, one more than they held before the election, including 110 in vote-rich Ontario and Quebec.

#### Japanese sisters

FROM PAGE 12 family.

The sisters later recalled their difficult younger days. Growing up, they said they were bullied because of prejudice against children of multiple births in Japan.

Busy with their own lives for decades, the sisters rarely met until they turned 70, when they started making pilgrimages together to some of the 88 Shikoku temples and enjoyed being reconnected.

## They tried to kill Sinha

Pakistan," he said.

Amin, Nezam Uddin, and Ayaz Uddin, locals of Marishbunia village -- went to him and requested him to announce through his mosque's loudspeaker that Sinha and his team entered into the village to rob.

"Jahirul told the court that he did not agree to do this. Then, the three people went to another nearby mosque in the area and succeed," the source added.

The trio was also talking to then inspector Liaqat Ali over the phone at that time, he added.

Seeing the gathering, Sinha and his team quickly left the area, boarded his car and started heading towards Cox's Bazar via the

on Marine Drive," added the source, quoting Jahirul. The defence then cross-examined his statements. Later, the court recorded the statement of another witness

"Later, I came to know that Sinha was shot dead at the checkpoint

Sadar Hospital. "I was on duty that night. Sinha was brought dead to the hospital. After scrutinising the body, we could assume that Sinha was alive till few moments after he was shot," the source said

Ronadir Devnath, the then medical officer of Cox's Bazar District

quoting Devnath. The body of Sinha bored with three holes on the back including one on the waist and the rest two on the middle of the back. Those wounds occurred due to the use of firearms, the doctor testified.

His fourth and fifth ribs were broken. His left lung was torn. There were four parallel wounds on the left throat of Sinha's body. Beneath these wounds, the muscle was torn, which was caused by one side sharp object, the court source said, quoting the doctor. After placing his testimony, the defence cross-examined his



wheat sank.

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208



### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed construction firms having experience for successful completion of similar works in any single works worth of Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies/Private Organization During the last 5(five) years.

01. EDCL(Bogura)/PUR/ LT/2021/353 Cephalosporin Factory Compound (Road-01) and existing office compound (Road-2)at EDCL, Thanthania, Bogura. Construction of RCC Road near Cephalosporin Factory Compound (Road-01) and existing office compound (Road-2)at EDCL, Bogura, (Details as per Tender Schedule, BOQ & drawing)	No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Schedule Schedule
	01.	LT/2021/353 Dt. 21/09/2021 Work Site:EDCL,	Cephalosporin Factory Compound (Road-01) and existing office compound (Road-2)at EDCL, Bogura, (Details as per Tender	

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka & Bogura Plant on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays) fom 26.09.2021 to 11.10.2021. No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

The interested bidders may drop their offer along with relevant papers to the tender box kept at the purchase Department of EDCL, Dhaka & Bogura till 12.00 PM on 12/10/2021, which will be opened on 14/10/2021 at Dhaka office at 12.30PM (subject to receive of offers from Bogura Plant) in presence of the bidders/their representative (if any).

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any

General Manager Procurement Deptt. For: Managing Director.

(5"x3)



Bangladesh women's cricket team players pose for a selfie at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday after congregating for four days of training there. The 20-member squad, which will move to Sylhet for two more weeks of training and practice matches following the Dhaka-leg, will take part in ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe in November-December. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## The idea is to play as freely as possible'

The upcoming T20 World Cup in Oman and UAE will present Bangladesh's dashing opener Liton Das with a chance to play his first-ever T20 World Cup, and given his sheer ability to play fluently all around the wicket, he may well become the X-factor the Tigers will be looking at to provide the necessary afterburners at the top of the order. The Tigers' opener discussed his expectations for the upcoming tournament and on batting without adherence to any particular ploy during an interview with The Daily Star's Abdullah Al Mehdi.



The Daily Star (DS): Your role and responsibility as the Tigers' main opener?

Liton Das (LD): You have to see that T20 is a game of very limited time frame. The team wants its opener to give a good start and I feel that my role

DS: Will there be an anchor role or aggressive intent from both openers at the World Cup?

is to give a good start to the team.

LD: The thing is that everyone plays according to the options that the match situation presents. There is no strict framework here or script here on how one will play today or tomorrow. We play according to the situation and it's just not me but anyone else in the team.



world in all formats?

LD: It's very difficult to define that actually since my career has just begun a while back. It's not even that I am a very good and very successful player. What he DS: What are the expectations and much research on it or thinking DS: What are your remarks on said, it's something that will challenges at T20 WC? batting coach Ashwell Prince saying come much later [in my career]. you can be a top 10 batter in the To prove something like that, about challenges. There is no time freely as possible.

good performances. There is no there is nothing better than giving alternative to performances so there is no point in me thinking like that about what others are saying because at the end of the day it's me who will have to perform and I will have to do all the work required to do that.

DS: Would it be difficult to adjust to livelier wickets at WC after playing in Mirpur?

LD: We are going there seven or eight days in advance and we will be doing a camp there so I think by that time we will have adjusted. Also, we have played at Abu Dhabi before. So I don't think we will have that much problem in terms of being able to adjust.

I will have to put up a lot of to relax. As per as expectations go, your team something good. There is nothing bigger than the team winning and the target will be to perform in a way which helps the team and contributes to the team winning matches.

> DS: Are you more aware now of your past mistakes?

LD: Every player makes mistakes. No player can go out there and say that I will score 10 runs tomorrow or play a faultless innings. Someday a batsman will keep making mistakes on his way to a hundred while another batsman, who has been batting really well, will get out. Cricket is that kind of a game that doing too too much on these aspects can be LD: International cricket is all foolhardy. The idea is to play as

## STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & STAR

Delhi vs Hyderabad Live from 8:00 pm T SPORTS La Liga Sevilla vs Valencia

Live from 11:30 pm Real Madrid vs Mallorca Live from 2:00 am (Thursday)

## 'We all love you'



SPORTS REPORTER

"He left me alone."

Veteran coach Osman Khan could not hold back tears as he struggled to utter those few words about his long-term comrade Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, who breathed his last on Tuesday at the age of 74.

Osman Khan could add only a few more words in tribute after Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury's body was brought to Bangabandhu National Stadium in the afternoon. Borrowing those words, many in the cricket fraternity who were close to Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury or fans of his lucid writing could easily say he left us alone.

How can one imagine a life in the cricket arena without the lyrical descriptions from this versatile personality! Will we not miss his captivating mini-previews on Facebook ahead of matches? It will be equally hard to believe that we will not read anything charming after any cricket match, regardless of whether Bangladesh suffered a heavy defeat.

His richness of Bengali words amused many generations and alas we will not be surprised any more by an unfamiliar use of words and ask ourselves where he got it from. Without a doubt, our cricket literature will be poorer without his words.

But cricket and Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury cannot be separated.

He was a former cricketer, coach and organiser in addition to being an eminent sports writer. Renowned sports journalist Utpal Shuvro rightly added another category to his profile, that of 'cricket philosopher'. When someone could not think of life without cricket and did everything for the game, sacrificing material the game, he is undoubtedly a cricket gentleman's game.

That is why former pacer Golam bright without him.

Nowsher wrote on Facebook: "Today I lost one of my most important personalities, whose contribution to every step in my life is undeniable. Jalal Bhai, you will be remembered. We all love you."

Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury started in the Dhaka League for Udity Club in the mid-1960s and went on to play for Young Pegasus, Town Club and Dhanmondi Club and represented Bangladesh Railway in the National Championship competition. He was a member of the first Bangladesh side in post-independence Bangladesh (Tour of MCC in 1977).

Then he coached prominent Dhaka League teams including Abahani and Mohammedan and had been associated with the national team on a number of occasions. He was one of the coaches of the Bangladesh 1979 and 1997 ICC Trophy squads. He was the head coach of Bangladesh in the ICC U19 World Cup in 2002.

However, all that information hardly reflected Chowdhury's life because his influence on many generations of cricketers and cricket writers is immeasurable.

"I made a hundred against Wari Club in 1978 and suddenly received an envelope while I was watching a football match. It contained a one hundred taka note and a few encouraging words. It was from Jalal Bhai, who left for Patiala to do his diploma in cricket coaching. He was a fatherly figure in our cricket," former Bangladesh captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain said.

This was the true character of Chowdhury. He tried to appreciate even a small contribution towards cricket, but always in a silent manner achievements out of pure love for which embodied the spirit of the

Cricketing life will be a little less

## Want others to challenge me'



The election of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will be held on October 6 at the boardroom of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The results of the election will be published the day after, on October 7. The BCB president Nazmul Hassan mentioned after attending the board's

HIGHLIGHTS

Draft voters list submission:

September 22

Final voters list publication:

September 23

Distribution of nomination

papers: September 24 and 25

Submission of nomination

papers: September 27

Last date for nomination paper

withdrawal: September 30

Date of election: October 6

Date of publication of results:

October 7

12th and final meeting of this term earlier yesterday that the board has already seen and handed over the voters list consisting of 171 voters to the election

commission. A total of 171 counsellors will elect 23 directors in three categories -- 10 directors will be elected in category one, 12 directors will be elected in category two and only one director

in category three.

Meanwhile, Hassan, who will be the board president for a third successive term if elected, said he would like to see other candidates step forward and run for

presidency. "As long as I am in the BCB, I feel like no one will come forward and stand for this position [presidency] until I die. I want others to challenge me. I want other candidates to step up and run for the presidency. But no one expresses their willingness. This is not a good sign," said Hassan.

The BCB president also mentioned that he has not formed a panel for this election to encourage others to

"I do not have any panel. Anyone can stand for the presidency. Every time we create a panel and no one else steps up. Nothing of that sort exists this time and no one can say that he is my candidate. I hope that this election will be held," reiterated Hassan, who had earlier said that he had been advised by doctors 'to stay away from cricket'.

## Bruzon only for **SAFF Championship**

SPORTS REPORTER



Oscar Bruzon will guide the national team only in the upcoming Championship and not in three

tournaments as previously stated, National Teams Committee (NTC) chairman and Bangladesh Football Federation vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed confirmed vesterday.

The Spaniard was supposed to take charge and start preparations for the SAFF Championship yesterday, but that did not happen. Instead, he will conduct his first training session ahead of the regional tournament today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium after an introduction to the

media at the BFF House. After attending a meeting with BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and Bruzon, Nabil said: "We discussed future work plans with the coach as the SAFF Championship is scheduled to get underway from October 1.



media at the BFF house tomorrow [Wednesday].

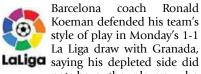
"I can't disclose the clauses of the agreement at the moment. However, everything has been finalised and Bashundhara Kings will release him and he will work with us. There was no discussion about a long-term contract. He will only work for the SAFF Championship," Nabil added.

"We don't have any problem if he goes back to Bashundhara Kings. We will introduce the coach to the We want to thank Bashundhara for

allowing their coach to work with the national team. We believe he will be a good coach for the national team in this interim period because he knows every player and has been in Bangladesh for the past three years."

Nabil also informed that they would appoint the coaching staff according to Bruzon's requirements and added: "Jamie, who is a bit ill, will fly home tomorrow [Wednesday] along with goalkeeping coach Les

## 'Not the Barca of eight years ago'



not have the players who could execute their trademark tiki-taka passing game.

Ronald Araujo's last-minute header rescued a point for Barcelona as they limped to their second draw in four games, which left them in seventh place on eight points, five behind leaders Real Madrid who have played



Koeman said his team, who were without a host of players due to injuries, could not play their short passing game because they failed to find space.

"We had to sacrifice our style of play a little bit to try and get the result, by putting crosses in rather than playing down the middle," Koeman told reporters. "If you look at the squad list for the game, it's the only thing we

"We can't play tiki-taka if there aren't any spaces. So that means we have to try and find another way to play. For me that's what has to be talked about, the fact that we tried everything to get a point. "We know it's maybe not Barcelona's football, but this Barcelona is not that of eight years ago."

## Mariners steal the show on third day

SPORTS REPORTER



2016 Premier Division Hockey League champions Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club stole the show on the third day of the fiveday transfer window by signing national players Biplob Kujur, Sohanur Rahman Sabuz, Fazle Rabbi and Milon Hossain alongside former national captain and penalty corner

specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan

"We formed a good team with the inclusion of young players. Our team's average is 21, but we are hopeful of regaining the league title. We have already selected 15



foreign players, and I will choose seven players from that list," said Chayan.

"Abahani and Mohammedan formed good teams on paper but, hockey is not played on paper. If so, Mariner Youngs wouldn't have been champions in 2016 and Mohammedan wouldn't have been champions in 2018. Keep judgments on paper aside. Let's see which team performs better on the ground."

Chayan was also happy to get a transfer after a three-

"The players were happy to be part of the league after three years, but we want the federation to hold the league regularly because the football and cricket leagues are held every year but hockey is not.

Squad: Biplob Kujur, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Sadikul Islam Meraj, Parvez Hossain Pappu, Ashikur Jaman Limon, Sohanur Rahman Sabuz, Irfanul Haque, Milon Hossain, Saijuddin, Rohan Sabbir, Tasin Ali, Shahrukh Ahmed Shah, Sahidur Rahman Saju, Khalilur Rahman, Fazle Rabbi.



### Bangabandhu Tunnel is being built with BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT @ BSRM





## Weeks gone, PM's directive not carried out

Ministers now say RT-PCR lab can't be installed at place designated at airport

RASHIDUL HASAN

Over two weeks after the prime minister instructed to set up RT-PCR laboratories at the Dhaka airport within two to three days, two ministers said yesterday that the current venue is not suitable and will be shifted elsewhere in the

Therefore, the fate of around 35,000 Bangladeshi expatriates waiting to return to their workplaces in the United Arab Emirates continues to be in limbo.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) had offered the rooftop of the two-storey car park to the north of the main building of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in the capital as the venue for Covid-19 tests of outgoing passengers.

The expatriates waiting to return to the UAE alleged that the situation has arisen due to a serious lack of coordination among the ministries and departments concerned .

Lending credibility to their assertion is the fact that just three days after Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said that the labs would be operational in three to four days, Expatriate Welfare Affairs Minister Imran Ahmad and Health Minister Zahid Maleque said the venue is not suitable yesterday.

The organisations chosen by the health directorate to conduct the Covid-19 tests had earlier also said the same.



A huge quantity of hilsa in Chandpur's Boro Station Machh Ghat causes a reduction of price by Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 per mound. Wholesalers purchase the fish from the market and send those across the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

ALAM PALASH

#### **UP** ELECTIONS 3 quarters of AL runners become chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League candidates won 76 percent chairman posts in Monday's 156 union parishad elections.

Elections were held in 160 unions, but results of four union parishads were withheld for various reasons, including violence, **Election Commission** officials said yesterday.

The polls were the final part of the first phase postponed due to the pandemic.

Independent chairman contenders bagged 23 percent chairman posts and those from Workers Party

of Bangladesh the rest. BNP and several other parties boycotted the polls. According to the EC

statistics, AL chairman candidates became victorious in 119 unions. Of them, 43 were elected unopposed. It also shows that 36

independent candidates SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## **Moner School** gets global recognition

Co-founder Faizah wins Gates foundation's award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fairooz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh has been announced the winner of 2021 Goalkeepers Global Goals Changemaker Award by the Bill &

the Global Goals by 2030.

Melinda Gates Foundation. The Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards re an annual recognition of remarkable individuals taking action to help achieve

With the 2021 Changemaker Award, the Gates Foundation recognises Fairooz Faizah Beether for her work promoting good health and well-being under the Sustainable Development Goal- 3 (SDG-3), according to a press release.

Faizah has co-founded Moner School, an online platform that aims to raise awareness about mental health and ensure equal access to mental health care across the country.

Faizah was among the three who were given this year's three additional SEE PAGE 10 COL 1 ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## 'It is a conflict between two states'

**SEPTEMBER 21, 1971** 

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH WANTS INDEPENDENCE AND NOTHING ELSE: FATEH

Abul Fateh, one of the principal delegates of Bangladesh to the UN, told a news conference in

New Delhi today that nothing short of independence would satisfy the people of Bangladesh. "Our purpose is to make a massive effort to present our case to the world. This is in addition to our military measure to free our country from Pakistan," he added.

He pointed out that when the conflict started in March it took the form of genocide by an ethnic minority against the majority. Hence, it was not an internal issue. The international convention on genocide also gives it the colour of an international issue.

"This is the way we view it," Fateh said. "It is a conflict between BHUTTO'S DOUBTS OVER 'RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY'

Pakistan People's Party Chairman ZA Bhutto today voiced his feeling that chances of restoration of parliamentary government in the country were slim if transfer of power to elected representatives was not implemented by the end of December.

He made the assertion when asked to comment on the revised timetable which delayed by-elections to the National Assembly from East Pakistan by two weeks. He insisted that the National Assembly must meet before the end of the year. He said the situation prevalent in East Pakistan should not be allowed to delay the elections.

"If elections can be held in Vietnam, they can be held in East SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

### They tried to kill Sinha labelling him as a robber'

Witness tells court

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

Labelling him as "robber", some locals, patronised by police, tried to kill Maj (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan in a mob beating, hours before he was shot dead.

Maulana Hafez Jahirul Islam, an evewitness of Sinha murder, testified before the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday, said sources.

The plotters are Nurul Amin, Nezam Uddin, and Ayaz Uddin. All three of them were later made accused in the Sinha murder case.

Jahirul, of Marishbunia village at Teknaf's Baharchhara union, is an imam of a local mosque. According to a court source, Jahirul testified that the trio -- Nurul

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Japanese sisters certified as world's oldest twins



AP, Tokyo

Guinness World Records has certified two Japanese sisters as the world's oldest living identical twins at 107, in an announcement Monday coinciding with Respect for the Aged Day, a national holiday in Japan.

Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama were born the third and fourth of 11 siblings on Shodoshima island in western Japan on November 5, 1913.

They were separated after elementary school, when Kodama was sent to work as a maid in Oita on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu. She later married there, while Sumiyama remained on the island where they grew up and had her own

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

### Why no steps taken against misleading ads?

HC asks authorities STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of offensive, fraudulent, confusing and misleading advertisements to attract consumers, fostering unfair trade practices.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

#### Pro-JP leader arrested over rape of teen

Two more girls raped STAR REPORT

A Jatiya Swechchhasebak Party leader has been arrested on charge of raping a teenager for months.

Hossain Ali, 50, president of the party's Mymensingh district unit, from the city early Monday. Earlier, father of the

A team of Rab-14 held

14-year-old girl lodged a complaint with Rab-14. After interrogation, Rab

handed over the arrestee to

Kotwali Police Station. The girl's father then lodged a rape case with the police station, accusing Ali and his wife Tamanna Begum, said Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge of the station.

In the afternoon, the arrestee was produced before a Mymensingh court, which sent him to jail, police said.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Ali first raped the girl, who was a neighbour, in January this year and filmed the



Fire fighters conducting a rescue operation at Narandia in Tangail's Kalihati upazila as a bus turned turtle in a roadside ditch yesterday morning. One passenger was killed and 15 more were injured in the accident. Story on page 4.

РНОТО:

## 'Thank you, Canada'

Says Trudeau after winning another minority in election, claims 'clear mandate'

REUTERS, Montreal

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hung onto power on Monday as his main rival conceded defeat. Trudeau said he had won a clear mandate to govern although he fell short of his goal for a majority win.

Trudeau, in power since 2015 and governing with a minority of House of



Commons seats since 2019, decided to gamble on an early vote and capitalize on his government's handling of the pandemic, which included massive spending to support individuals and businesses and a push for high vaccination Instead, he will end up where he started after an

unexpectedly tight election race characterized by a lackluster campaign and voter anger at an election during

"Thank you, Canada — for casting your vote, for putting your trust in the Liberal team, for choosing a brighter future," Trudeau said in an early morning tweet.

Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, whose party placed second, conceded defeat as results trickled in late into the night. Trudeau spoke to supporters shortly after, pledging to work with other parties for the good of all Canadians. During a small gathering in a hotel ballroom, he said: