



# The Daily Star

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Your Right to Know

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## 80 lakh Covid shots in a single day!

Special vaccine campaign to mark PM's birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will run a special campaign tomorrow to inoculate 80 lakh people with the first dose of Covid-19 vaccines and mark the birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

"Those who have been waiting to get vaccines after registration will get priority in the campaign. Only the first dose, mainly the Sinopharm vaccines, will be administered on that day," he said while announcing the programme in an online briefing.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

The premises of a vaccination centre in Khulna Sadar Hospital is crammed with people waiting for their Covid shot. Volunteers at the centre said it is almost impossible to maintain social distancing when the crowd is so large.

## Turnout in class dropping off

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The number of students in classrooms of secondary schools has been dropping since September 12, when the schools reopened after over one and a half years.

According to Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) data, absenteeism has been growing in secondary schools for the last two weeks.

On September 12, 67 percent of the 43.31 lakh students of 14,817 schools attended classes. On September 18, 48.01 lakh students of 16,690 schools attended classes, and on Saturday, 56 percent of 42.33 lakh students of 15,860 attended classes. The number of schools vary because not all the schools report to the DSHE every week.

Educationists attributed the growing absenteeism to families needing the children to work, parents unwilling to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### DECLINING ATTENDANCE



September 12

43.31 lakh students of 14,817 schools (67%)

September 18

48.01 lakh students of 16,690 schools (58%)

September 25

42.33 lakh students of 15,860 schools (56%)

'They sold off the cattle I bought online'

Tipu Munshi recounts how he got duped

STAR REPORT

Amid widespread criticism of authorities' lacklustre monitoring of errant e-commerce companies, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday described how even he was once cheated by an online company.

Back in 2020, he

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION

## In the throes of pandemic

"I worked for 15 days and was paid for those days. Then, a colleague did the same work and my turn came after the rotation of other colleagues."

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION DESCRIBES HIS HARDSHIP AMID THE PANDEMIC-INDUCED CLOSURE

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and RASHIDUL HASAN

Jewel Mia, a temporary employee of Motel Sylhet, has been working for the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation for the last four years.

Although not a permanent staffer yet, he had a decent life with a regular monthly salary and some extra money he got after the motel fulfilled its monthly target.

All that changed suddenly when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ARREST OF GOVT OFFICIALS

## HC questions legality of prior permission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the provision in a law that requires police to take the authorities' permission before arresting civil service officials on charges relating to their jobs.

According to section 41 of the Government Service Act, 2018, until a court accepts the charges against a civil servant, law enforcers cannot arrest the individual without the approval from the ministry concerned.

The HC issued a rule asking authorities concerned of the government to explain

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



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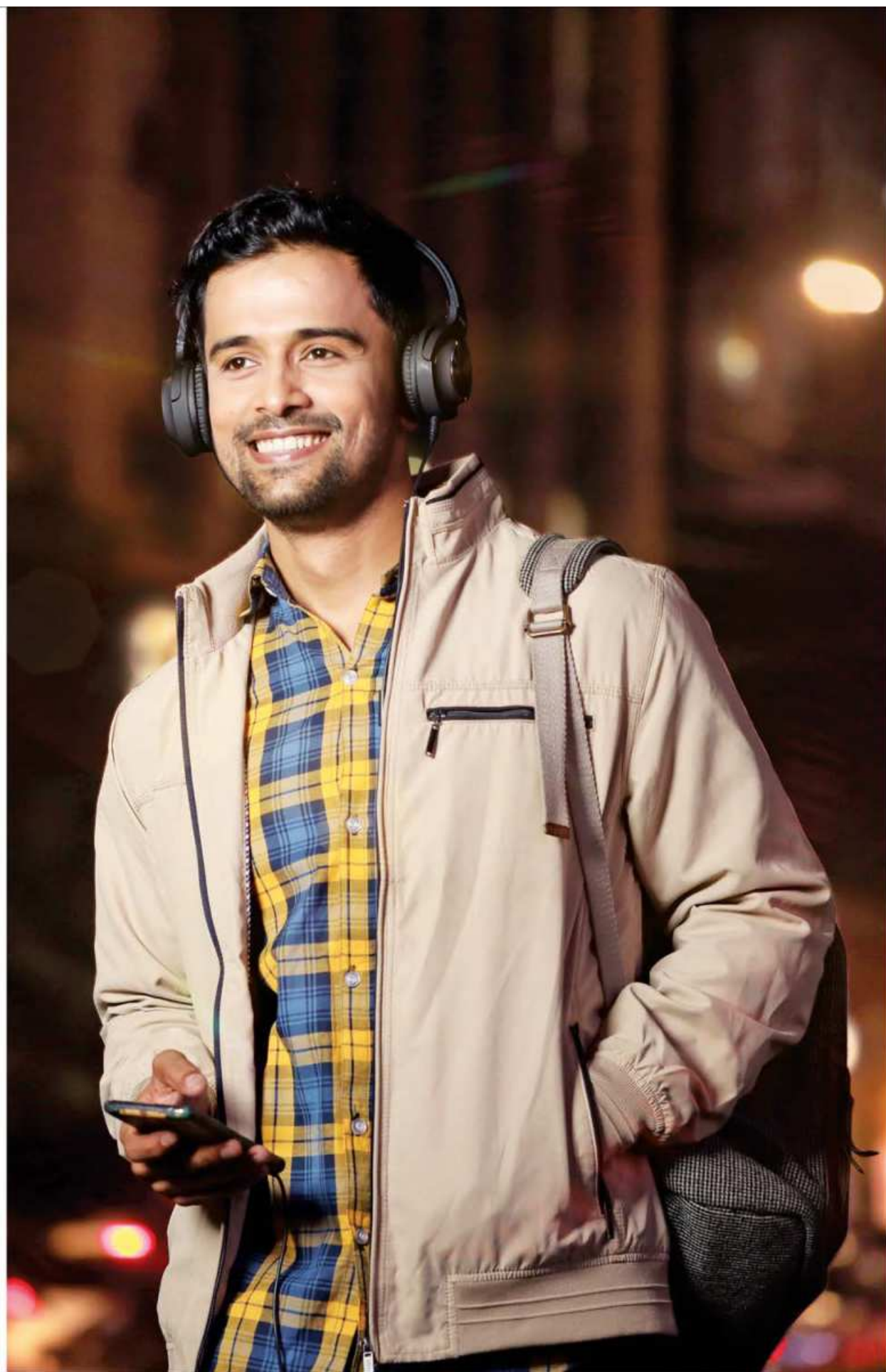
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BANGLADESH  
UPDATE



980  
New cases in 24hrs



15,51,351  
Total cases



27,414  
Deaths



15,11,479  
Recoveries

GLOBAL  
UPDATE



4,760,643  
Deaths



232,532,186  
Total cases

ERRORS IN TEXTBOOKS

# HC summons NCTB chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed utter dismay about the errors regarding the history of the country's Liberation War in some textbooks of secondary and higher secondary levels, saying such mistakes in the books are unfortunate.

The court also summoned the chairman and member concerned of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) directing them to appear before it on November 10 for hearing their explanations about the errors.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order in response to a writ petition filed by Md Alamgir Alam, guardian of a student of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, containing the errors in the books.

At the same time, the bench issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to take steps to amend the mistakes in the textbooks.

Petitioner's lawyer Ali Mustafa Khan told The Daily Star that his client has found more than 100 errors about the history of Bangladesh's Liberation War in some textbooks of secondary and higher secondary levels.

It has been written in the book named Bangladesher Itihas O Bishwa

Savyata (History of Bangladesh and World Civilisation) of Classes IX and X that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a political leader in 1969.

This is incorrect as Bangabandhu was the president of Nikhil Pakistan Awami League (All Pakistan Awami League) then, he said.

In the same book, it has been stated that Bangabandhu was the president of the then Mujibnagar Government, which is a blunder as he was the president of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Khan said.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has wrongly been termed as Sheikh Mujib instead of Bangabandhu in different pages of the book titled as "Bangladesh O Bishwa Parichoy (Bangladesh and World Identification)" of Classes IX and X.

It has been wrongly written in the book named "Bangladesh O Bishwa Parichoy" of Class VII that election was held in the provinces of East Pakistan on December 17, 1970 though the elections were held in all provinces of the then Pakistan, he said citing the petition.

In the petition, Alam requested the HC to pass a directive on the authorities to amend the errors in the books.

Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state during the hearing.

## Turnout in class dropping off

FROM PAGE 1

send children to school amid the pandemic, and students feeling that they can make better preparation for the exams at home rather than attending only two classes at schools every day.

Attendance of class-X students fell by 15 percentage points, class-XII students by 11 percentage points and class-V students reduced by 2 percentage points, the data shows.

Attendance at secondary schools was between 75 and 80 percent in the pre-pandemic period, according to DSHE Director (Monitoring and Evaluation), Professor Amir Hossain.

The current absenteeism is more prevalent among students from rural, urban poor and underprivileged groups, he said.

Prof Amir believes that many of the families hit by the coronavirus restrictions are likely to have engaged the students in income generating activities.

However, the poor attendance does not mean that these students have dropped out. "Ninety-three percent of the SSC examinees are submitting their assignments to the schools."

DSHE collects the daily attendance rate of class-V students who will sit for the Primary Education Completion Exams. It also collects student attendance rates of class-XI, -XII, and -X.

Students reading in the aforesaid grades are supposed to attend classes in person every day.

According to DSHE, the attendance rate in class-V was 71 percent on September 12 and it dropped to 69 percent on Saturday.

In class-X, and in the classes held for the SSC candidates, 76 percent

and 69 percent students attended on September 12 and 61 percent and 62 percent respectively two weeks after.

Attendance rates in classes -XI and -XII were 59 percent and 53 percent on September 12 and 50 percent and 42 percent on Saturday.

Mahbubur Rahman, a parent from the capital's latrabari, said, "I will send my son to school, when I see that coronavirus infections are not rising after the schools reopened."

An HSC candidate of Dhaka Commerce College said, "I can prepare for the exam better at home. The commute takes a lot of time."

Prof Amir said the government has plans to increase the number of classes next month.

Campaign for Popular Education Deputy Director KM Enamul Hoque said many students are not attending classes because they are working.

"Many students are finding it hard to understand the lessons because of learning losses during the closure. They are losing their interest in joining the classes," he said.

Teachers, school management committee members and parents should work together to get the students back to school, he added.

Prof Amir said school teachers are contacting the absent students and trying to bring them back to the classrooms.

Meanwhile, two class-X students of Bogura Zila School, who had attended classes, tested positive for coronavirus, Shayamapada Mustafa, headteacher of the school, told our correspondent in the district.

The teacher added that no other students have shown symptoms.

## 80 lakh Covid shots

FROM PAGE 1

Starting from 9:00am, the campaign will be conducted in 16,153 centres set up in around 4,600 unions, 1,054 municipalities and 433 wards in the city corporation areas across the country.

Males aged 50 and above, females above 25 and students 18 and above will get priority.

Mothers-to-be and lactating mothers will not be vaccinated during this campaign.

To receive vaccines, people have to carry registration cards or National Identity cards.

Around 80,000 health workers and volunteers will be deployed to conduct the vaccination programme, the minister said.

The minister, however, did not mention whether people who registered would get text messages for getting the shots.

In reply to a query, he said, "People will be able to know in time."

Asked, Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, additional director general (planning and development) of the health directorate, told The Daily Star, "One who has registered for a certain centre, like upazila health complex, will go to nearby centres in his or her union."

"Due to technical barriers, it may not be possible to mention the name of centre in text messages. But there will be an announcement through loudspeakers," Prof Flora said.

On August 7-12, the government vaccinated around 34 lakh people in a similar special campaign which was marked by chaos and shortage of vaccines.

Since then, the government did not hold any special campaigns due to the shortage of vaccines.

In the last one month, the health officials often said the government will inoculate two crore people each month and 10 crore by December in total.

Asked about this target, the minister

said, "It will depend on vaccine availability and our capacity. We will try to administer two-three crore jabs each month. We will try."

"We have received around five crore vaccine shots so far. Of those, we have administered four crore. We hope we will get enough vaccine doses by December and January," the minister added.

About the chaos in the vaccination centres last time, Maleque said, "You know we have thousands of vaccination centres. This was positive that people came en masse. In the past, people were not interested in taking vaccines, now they are ... We have had experiences. Now there will be no problem."

For the second dose, a similar campaign will be held a month later, the minister added.

The country has received a total of 4,94,29,940 doses of Covid vaccines.

Of those, around 4.02 crore jabs were administered as the first and second doses as of Saturday.

The government has also signed a contract to buy six more crore doses of Sinopharm vaccine which, according to officials, will start to arrive by this month.

Besides, the government has been trying to buy 10 crore vaccine jabs through the World Health Organization.

Despite this, the uncertainty over vaccine supply is not over and it would slow the vaccination drive, experts said. 21 DIED, 980 INFECTED

The health directorate reported 21 deaths from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

In the same 24 hours, 980 more people tested positive for the virus.

With this, the number of Covid-19 deaths in the country rose to 27,414 and the number of confirmed cases to 15,51,351.

Yesterday, the positivity rate was 4.41 percent, below five percent for the fourth day in a row.



The moment the mother and son reunited after 70 years in Nabinagar, Brahmanbaria, Saturday morning. Abdul Quddus Munshi, aged over 80, ran away from home in childhood and had not since seen his mother Mongolun Nesa, aged about 110. The reunion has been possible because of a Facebook post about Quddus and his family made by a man in Rajshahi, where Quddus settled.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

## In the throes of pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

in March last year.

The tourism authority was forced to close down the motel and sent employees on unpaid leave. In the first three to four months, the BPC did not pay them any salary. Then, it started rotating its skilled and multi-task staffers.

"For example, I worked for 15 days and was paid for those days. Then, a colleague did the same work and my turn came after the rotation of other colleagues," Jewel, not his real name, told The Daily Star over the phone.

"We had been now living a miserable life. I had to take loans from my relatives just to support the family," he said.

Other temporary workers of BPC, and even its permanent staffers, have faced severe hardships as the state-run corporation incurred huge losses due to the pandemic.

BPC establishments -- hotels, motels, restaurants, bars -- either remained closed for months or provided only limited services.

It had to count losses of around Tk 40 crore in the last two fiscal years and has been struggling to pay salaries to its existing staffers and provide pension facilities to its retirees, show BPC documents.

The BPC wrote to the cabinet division recently seeking its directives upon all government agencies to avail its services on a priority basis. The BPC even offered 30 percent commission to the government agencies for use of its

hotels, motels, auditoriums, etc.

The dire straits of the tourism authority are reflective of the state of the rest of the country's tourism sector amid the pandemic.

According to Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB), the tourism sector has incurred a loss of around Tk 20,000 crore in 2020 alone.

Although all tourist spots were allowed to open from August 19, the sector is still struggling as inbound and outbound tourism is still virtually non-existent.

Inbound tourism refers to visits of foreign tourists to the country and outbound tourism means locals visiting other countries -- the latter is also a source of income for travel agencies operating under the tourism sector.

Against this grim backdrop, the country observes World Tourism Day today with its slogan of "Tourism for Inclusive Growth".

### BPC IN DIRE STRAITS

Founded in 1973, BPC operates 23 hotels and motels, seven restaurants and 11 bars in different parts of the country. It has some 430 staffers, including the casual employees.

The corporation bears its expenditure with revenues from these establishments.

In a letter to the secretary of the civil aviation and tourism ministry on July 31, BPC Chairman Hannan Mia said all tourism spots, following the government's directives, remained shut or provided limited services amid the

pandemic.

"As a result, hotels, motels and restaurants of the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation were almost without customers or guests, and the agency made huge losses," reads the letter.

It incurred losses of around Tk 40 crore in 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years due to the pandemic, it mentioned in the letter.

In 2018-19, it earned Tk 113.47 crore and Tk 97.34 crore in 2019-20, show BPC documents.

"Because of the huge losses, a serious crisis arose with regards to paying salaries to staffers and pensions to retirees," he wrote.

Following his letter, the civil aviation and tourism ministry wrote to the cabinet division on August 17 seeking the division's directive to all ministries and divisions to procure BPC services.

The cabinet division on August 19 wrote to all secretaries to take necessary steps regarding the request of the BPC. Different ministries, including the road transport and bridges ministry, have already issued the same directives to its agencies.

Contacted, Hannan Mia said they have spent Tk 20 crore from their savings to meet the necessary expenditures.

"We have sought Tk 10 crore from the government to meet our three-month expenses, but the money may not be required as the government has opened tourist spots," he told The Daily Star on Saturday.

"We hope we will be able to turn it

## They sold off

FROM PAGE 1

was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony of Digital Haat, an online buying and selling platform of sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha.

Commerce Minister inaugurated it by buying a cow for Tk 1 lakh but the sacrificial animal was never delivered.

"I waited to get delivery of the cow," he said.

After six or seven days he was informed by the online company that the cow which was shown to the minister was sold to another buyer.

As a solution, the online company told the minister that since the selected cow was sold, they wanted to give him another one at Tk87,000 and a goat.

Without mentioning the name of the online company, the minister said he agreed to the new proposal.

This year, before Eid-ul-Azha, the minister ordered his sacrificial animal online but this time the company delivered his chosen cow.

Munshi shared this unfortunate experience with an e-commerce company at a workshop on healthy competition in the markets for economic journalists, jointly organised by Economic Reporters Forum and Bangladesh Competition Commission (BCC) at the latter's office in Dhaka.

## HC questions

FROM PAGE 1

in four weeks why section 41 of the law should not be scrapped.

During hearing a writ petition, the HC also asked the respondents to show causes as to why they should not be directed to refrain from giving posting to suspended deputy commissioner Sultana Pervin, and suspended executive magistrates Rintu Bikash Chakma and Nazim Uddin, who allegedly assaulted journalist Ariful Islam Regan in Kurigram last year.

Another executive magistrate named SM Rahatul Islam, who was also suspended along with the aforesaid officials, was recently posted to Barishal.

In yesterday's rule, the HC also asked the respondents to explain why Rahatul's posting should not be declared illegal.

Writ petitioner Ariful's lawyer Ishrat Hasan told The Daily Star that the officials suspended after the incident in March 2020 are all fugitives in the eye of law.

Sultana, Rintu, Nazim, Rahatul and secretaries to the ministries of cabinet, home, law and public administration are respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule after journalist Ariful Islam Regan filed a writ petition challenging the section of the law in question and seeking necessary directives.

Ariful's lawyer Ishrat Hasan said in the early hours of March 14, last year, a mobile court of Kurigram district administration, led by three assistant commissioners -- allegedly following DC Sultana's directives -- sentenced Ariful to one year in prison after arresting him at his home on charges of possessing drugs.

The HC on March 23 last year directed police to record a case in which Ariful accused Sultana, the three executive magistrates, and several Ansar personnel of assault and attempted murder.

The accused officers are fugitives in the eyes of law as they have yet to surrender to a trial court in connection with the case, the lawyer said, but police cannot arrest them because of section 41 of the Government Service Act.

The provision of the law is discriminatory and it is contradictory to the constitution, she said.

## বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল

২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী  
পুরাতন ৮৬ বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০।

### বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, প্রত্যাহারপূর্বক নিম্নবর্ণিত ৫ (পাঁচ) ব্যক্তি (ক্রমিক নং : ১-৫) গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী চীনের তাইশান মেডিকেল ইউনিভার্সিটি এর এবং ১ (এক) ব্যক্তি (ক্রমিক নং : ৬) Samara State Medical University, Russia এর ডুয়া সার্টিফিকেট দাখিল করিয়া বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল হইতে রেজিস্ট্রেশন গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। বিষয়টি প্রমানিত হওয়ায় তাহাদের রেজিস্ট্রেশন বাতিল করা হইয়াছে এবং তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে চীফ মেট্রোপলিটন মেজিস্ট্রেট কোর্ট নং-১২ ঢাকাতে মামলা দায়ের করা হইয়াছে। (মামলা নম্বর যথাক্রমে :- ২৭২/২১, ২৬৯/২১, ২৬৮/২১, ২৬৭/২১, ২৭০/২১ এবং ২৭১/২১।

	১। আসীম কুমার মিত্র, পিতা: বোপেন্দ্র নাথ মিত্র, গ্রাম: মোল্লার কুল, পো: কাহালপুর, উপজেলা : মোল্লারহাট, জেলা: বাগেরহাট, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82969, Date- 02.07.2017)
	২। সৌমেন্দ্র নাথ বিশ্বাস, পিতা: জগন্নাথ চন্দ্র বিশ্বাস, গ্রাম: স্বরূপপুর, পো: হাকিমপুর, উপজেলা : চৌগাছা, জেলা: যশোর, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82972, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৩। মো: রমজান খান, পিতা: ইব্রাহীম খান, গ্রাম: আটিপাড়া, পো: সিরাজপুর, উপজেলা : সিংগাইর, জেলা: মানিকগঞ্জ, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82973, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৪। মোফাজ্জেল হোসেন, পিতা: আব্দুর রহমান, গ্রাম: ভাষানচর, পো: অম্বিকাপুর, উপজেলা : ফরিদপুর সদর, জেলা: ফরিদপুর, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82974, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৫। মোহাম্মদ মোবারক হোসেন, পিতা: মো: আব্দুল করিম, গ্রাম: চৌরাপাড়া, পো: লক্ষনখোলা, উপজেলা : বন্দর, জেলা: নারায়নগঞ্জ, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82975, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৬। একেএম মেহেদী হাসান, পিতা: একেএম সাহাবুদ্দিন, রাশেদ ভীলা, দক্ষিণ চর্যা, কুমিল্লা- ৩৫০০, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 28171, Date-26.05.1999)

এমতাবস্থায় তাহারা নিজেদেরকে চিকিৎসক বলিয়া পরিচয় দিতে কিংবা চিকিৎসা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করিতে পারিবেন না। যদি চিকিৎসা কার্য চালাইয়া যান তাহা হইলে আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থা সমূহকে অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

(ডা: মো: আরমান হোসেন)  
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বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল



# Fear of illegal occupancy looms

## DU students worry ahead of dorm reopening; no more 'gono' rooms, say authorities

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The Dhaka University (DU) administration has decided to end the crammed “gono room culture” at its dormitories, shifting students who were staying there before the pandemic to regular dorm rooms amid concerns over health safety.

The university authorities said they would first vacate seats occupied for long by former students and gradually allot those rooms to students housed in the gono (mass) rooms.

However, students fear that if the administration cannot prevent the stay of “illegal” former students at the dormitories, it will create uncertainty for those living in the mass rooms.

Wishing anonymity, a first-year student said if the administration fails to vacate seats occupied by former students on time and close the gono room, he may have to stay outside the campus to pursue his education.

The student, who is from Sylhet, said he had stayed at such a room in Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall for three months before the pandemic, as the hall authorities did not allot a regular room to him.

The 18 DU dormitories for students, including five for female students, were closed in March last year amid the surge in Covid-19 positive cases in the country. Besides, DU has an international dormitory for foreign students.

The DU administration is preparing to reopen the 18 dorms in a limited scale on October 5 ahead of resumption of classes.

At DU, a gono room is a makeshift accommodation, usually a four-bed room, where 30 to 35 students, mostly freshers, live in crammed conditions.

There are allegations that students who are involved in ruling party politics “control” those rooms. They take advantage of regular students by allowing them to stay there.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Ahead of dorm reopening, DU staffers were at work putting finishing touches to the halls yesterday. Other than cleaning plaques, walls, gates, and setting up handwashing facilities, they also rearranged “gono” rooms -- which used to house up to 30-35 students -- to be suitable for four people's use.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# First day of library reopening descends into chaos

DU CORRESPONDENT

After 18 months, Dhaka University authorities (DU) reopened its central, departmental, and institutional libraries for honours final and masters students yesterday, as per a previous decision.

However, what was supposed to be a festive occasion soon turned sour during a teacher's group's visit -- lead by DU proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani -- at the science faculty library around 10am, as a confrontation threatened to turn into a scuffle.

As the library gates opened around the same time, this correspondent saw staffers prepared at the entrance with hand sanitisers, masks, and temperature measuring instruments.

But this was for nought as students started pouring in as soon as the gates opened, cramming into the library almost by force, said a science faculty library staffer.

During their visit, the teachers -- also consisting of DU librarian Nasiruddin Munshi; general secretary of Teachers' Association Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan; and assistant proctor Liton Kumar Saha -- asked students about their neglect of the health guidelines and asked them to produce vaccination certificates.

The situation became tense once the assistant proctor attempted to slap a student due to misconduct.

Other students soon came to their fellow's aid and surrounded the assistant proctor. During the chaos, agitated students also harassed two campus reporters who were trying to capture photos and videos of the incident.

Liton Kumar told The Daily Star that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# A fraudster in many guises

## CTTC arrests man who amassed crores illegally

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MASUK HRIDOY

Sometimes he introduced himself as an officer at the land office, sometimes as an officer in the deputy commissioner's office and at other times as an influential person in a government office.

In the last eight years, 48-year-old Abul Kalam Azad, a resident of Nabnagar area of Brahmanbaria district, played many roles to deceive people.

During this period, he embezzled at least Tk 20 crore to Tk 25 crore in name of settling property dispute and giving jobs. With the money, he now owns two buildings, a flat in Mohammadpur and multiple cars.

He also used one of his fake identities to get married multiple times. One of his wives is now working as a police sub-inspector at Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

He also used a part of the embezzled money to take part in the UP chairman election.

Azad contested for the chairman post from the Laur Fatehpur Union Parishad of Brahmanbaria in 2011 and 2016 from Jatiya Party. In the latest polls this year, he was campaigning to take part in the UP election for the chairman post, but this time from BNP.

He took around Tk 1 crore from a developer company by forging documents of state agencies. The developer company -- Happy Homes Limited -- then filed a case

with Shahbagh Police Station.

While investigating the case, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit arrested Azad and two of his associates -- Mobarak and Nur Hossain -- from Dhaka on Wednesday.

Confirming the development, Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star on Friday that Azad has four to five members in his gang.

Azad is the ringleader, he said.

There were also four to five cases filed against him and the other arrestees, added Tohidul.

A victim of Azad's scam, Sharif Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of Happy Homes Limited, said they had built a building at 25-27 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Dhaka on a 54-katha land.

In 2005, the district commissioner's office issued a notice for compensation as some land was acquired for a road extension project. But the developer company faced indefinite delay in collecting the money, Sharif said in the complaint.

Later, the High Court ordered that Tk 17.52 crore be paid as compensation for the land. However, the developer company has not received money even after 13 years, the complaint reads.

Azad appeared at the scene to solve the problem.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# Dengue claims two more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two more dengue patients died while 242 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of them, only 57 patients are from outside Dhaka.

With the new cases, a total of 7,001 patients were diagnosed during the running month out of a total 17,357 infected. Of the total infected, 2,126 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 7,698 persons were diagnosed in August, 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected in May, according to the DGHS.

According to the DGHS, till now 61 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people died in July, 34 in August and 15 in September.

Among the deceased, 56 have died in Dhaka division, two in Chattogram and Khulna and one in Rajshahi division.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,043 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 229 in other divisions of the country, the DGHS data showed.

# Project that never ends...

In 8yrs, Ruet-Kharkhari road expansion work in Rajshahi sees multiple redesigns, cost increases and revised deadlines



PHOTO: STAFF

Left unfinished for 8 years, the project area has turned into a cattle grazing field. Lead into and out of the fields under the flyover daily, the herds have made a mess of the surrounding roads with their droppings too. These photos were taken recently.

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Even after eight years, Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) could not complete a 5km road expansion and construction work of the city's first ever flyover.

Throughout the years, the design has been changed multiple times and new features added, increasing project implementation cost by Tk 119 crore.

“We want to complete the works in a way that is beneficial for people. This is why we're taking our time with it,” project director Md Abdullah Al Tariq told The Daily Star recently.

Beside the cost increase, and its toll on people's coffers, people are also the victim of the delay as commuters of a traffic-logged city.

According to documents and officials, RDA took up the project in February, 2013.

They planned expanding the five-kilometre Ruet to Kharkhari road (15.85

AT A GLANCE	
<b>EXPANSION OF 5KM RUET TO KHARKHARI ROAD</b>	
➤ Project initiated Feb 2013	
➤ Initial Cost Tk 87.36cr	
➤ 1st Deadline June 2016	
➤ New cost Tk 159cr	
➤ 2nd Deadline June 2018	
➤ Updated cost Tk 206.63cr	
➤ 3rd deadline June 2021	
➤ 4th Deadline June 2022	

metres wide), at a cost of Tk 87.36 crore. The project was scheduled to end in three years, by June, 2016.

By 2016, it was already half-way there. But then the RDA authorities decided to

add an 810-metre flyover over a railway track on the road, increasing the total cost to Tk 159 crore.

The project was rescheduled to end by June of 2018, officials said.

But the works remained incomplete till 2019, when the authorities redesigned the flyover into a double-lane one and planned the road into four lanes.

The authorities also increased the height of the flyover to nine metres from seven, following a requirement by the railway authorities, the officials said.

New plans were also taken up for constructing drain and footpath on both sides of the road, raising the project cost to Tk 206.63 crore.

This time, it was rescheduled to end by June of 2021.

But it still could not be completed in time, and was further extended till June, 2022. But again, perplexingly, the works have remained suspended since July this year.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

# We see no outcome from PM's New York trip: Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said he saw “no outcome” of the prime minister's visit to New York, to attend the UN General Assembly.

“She could not even bring back a solution to the Rohingya crisis. We think that so far the prime minister and this government have not played a positive role in the Rohingya issue,” he said.

The BNP leader came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after paying homage at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman at Dhaka's Chandrima Udyan.

“You will notice from her entire speech that there is no democracy in the country. The rights of the people have been taken away, the Election Commission has been completely destroyed... All the elements needed to build a democratic state have been destroyed,” he alleged.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



At its peak, the mercury reached 35°C in the capital yesterday. This meant the usual hustle and bustle at the Kamalapur Railway Station took twice the toll on commuters. Soon after their arrival at the station, people rushed to its drinking fountains and splashed water on their faces. Inset, a father helping a child drink water out of a bottle.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# HC annoyed at failure to form land appellate tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed annoyance and disappointment at the government's failure to form the Land Survey Appellate Tribunal in the last 17 years after formulation of the law to this effect and even after this court had directed for doing so.

“The government could not form the Land Survey Appellate Tribunal in last 17 years after formulation of the law. But, why? It is disturbing for the court. Talk to the land secretary to know the reasons and inform this court what step has been taken to establish the tribunal.”

“If no step is taken, the land secretary will be summoned to know his explanation,” the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman told Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar while hearing a writ petition.

DAG Bagmar told the HC bench that the Land Survey Appellate Tribunal has been formed in 2013 but appointment of its judge is under process.

The bench expressed the dissatisfaction while hearing a petition filed by 10 people of Demra area in Dhaka challenging two verdicts of the Land Survey Tribunal over a four katha of land.

The HC bench issued status quo on the Land Survey Tribunal verdicts about the land and also issued a rule on the authorities concerned to explain why the verdicts

The government could not form the Land Survey Appellate Tribunal in last 17 years after formulation of the law. But, why? It is disturbing.

HC BENCH OBSERVES

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1





Reuters photojournalist in Bangladesh Rafiqur Rahman received an award from Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury during a discussion held by Ataus Samad Smrity Parishad marking the ninth death anniversary of the prominent journalist at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Shawkat Mahmud, Riazuddin Ahmed and Golam Rahman were also present on the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR

## HC annoyed

FROM PAGE 3  
should not be scrapped, writ petitioners' lawyer Nosib Kayser told The Daily Star.

According to the State Acquisition and Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 2004, the government is supposed to form the tribunal headed by an HC judge in order to hear and dispose of the appeals arising out of the judgment, decree or order of the Land Survey Tribunals.

The HC on July 25, 2019 in a verdict directed the land ministry to form the tribunal in 90 days in line with the law. The full text of the HC verdict was released on October 13 last year.

**LAND FOR SALE**  
13 Acre high land beside Dhaka-Dinajpur highway, 4 km away from Rangpur city. Suitable for industry, resort, housing like projects. Contact: 01711-070673

## A fraudster in many guises

FROM PAGE 3  
He met with the developer company and demanded Tk 8 crore to solve the problem, according to the victim and police. Azad even showed the developers pay orders, checks and exemption orders from the DC office – all of which were forged.

He allegedly collected around Tk 1.12 crore between June 2019 and March 2021 and then stopped all communication with the developer. Whenever the company wanted to meet him, he would threaten them, said victim and police.

ADC Tohidul said during primary interrogation, Azad admitted to taking Tk 92 lakh. "We have produced him before the court seeking a 10-day remand. The court has fixed next week for the hearing," he said.

Local and police sources said, Azad left his village home Nabinagar in 2000 after his HSC exams and moved to Dhaka to start a transport business. In the beginning, he forged documents from Nilkhet and used the names of various government and non-government organisations to commit fraud activities, said investigators.

Locals claimed that they knew Azad as a businessman and an influential person.

In the last couple of years, Azad also took money from local youths promising he would give them jobs, but afterwards, he would stop all communications with them.

In the locality, Azad has allegedly sold one piece of land to multiple persons and collected money by forging documents.

OC Aminur Rashid of Nabinagar Police Station, said that there are three fraud cases and one warrant issued against Azad.

Talking to the correspondent, Lau Fotehpur village inhabitant Jewel Chowdhury, said Azad took money from many people, promising them jobs. His cousin gave Azad Tk 6 lakh in this regard, he claimed.

Shariful Islam, organising secretary of Nabinagar Upazila Jubo League, said Azad took Tk 15 lakh from him with a promise to arrange a land in Savar.

He also took Tk 6 lakh from Mizan and Tk 10 lakh from former vice-chairman of Nabinagar Nazmul Karim, added Shariful.

## We see no outcome

FROM PAGE 3  
There was no mention how she would quickly transform the country into a truly democratic state and turn the electoral system into a democratic system, Fakhrul said. "We expect that they will resign and organise elections to be conducted by a neutral Election Commission, under a neutral interim government," he added.

## Fear of illegal occupancy looms

FROM PAGE 3  
Prior to the pandemic, an estimated 3,500 students had been living in the gono rooms.

It is unclear how many DU dorm seats are currently occupied by former students.

Sources at the university said a proposal to end the "gono room culture" was made at a meeting of the university's Provost Standing Committee with Vice Chancellor Prof M Akhtaruzzaman as chair last month.

On September 18, the DU Syndicate, the highest governing body of the university, approved the proposal.

The DU authorities took a similar decision to vacate seats occupied by former students several times in the past but failed to implement it allegedly due to influence of the ruling party's student wing.

However, considering the Covid-19 situation, this time the university administration is taking a headline to implement the decision which is pivotal to ensuring social distancing, said authorities.

Prof Abdul Bashir, provost of Bijoy Ekattor Hall, said they have already identified rooms occupied by former students. Besides, the hall authorities have prepared a draft list of first- and second-year students. The vacant seats will be allotted to them, he said.

Prof Saiful Islam Khan, provost of Sir AF Rahman Hall, said they have also prepared a list of "illegal" students who have occupied dormitory seats for a long time.

As per the university's decision, after reopening of dormitories, students currently pursuing their master's degree and those who are in honours final year will be allowed in the dormitories first.

Once these students complete their exams, they will leave the dormitories. Later, students of other academic



### DORM RULES

- Mask a must for students
- Not allowed to sleep on floors
- Hand-washing facilities
- Outsiders not allowed to stay
- Students must clean own rooms, surroundings
- Crowding not allowed
- No gathering at guest rooms
- Students prohibited to go outside in groups

sessions will be allowed in the dorms gradually.

When the university reopens, students will finally be allowed as per allotted seats. Hall authorities will ensure the allotment, said Prof Bashir, also convener of Provost Standing Committee. "We will be monitoring and supervising the halls regularly and it will not be impossible to stop the [former] students from entering," he added.

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader reportedly said students of different universities and colleges who are involved in student politics mainly "control" the gono rooms.

Many also do "business" over this. Such activities should be stopped forever, he told a virtual programme recently.

DU VC Prof M Akhtaruzzaman said the hall authorities will ensure students' stay at dorms as per a decision taken by the university administration. Hopefully, students will cooperate with them, he said.

Recently, this correspondent visited nine of the 13 dormitories for male students and found workers were

washing and cleaning the floors while some were busy painting the walls.

The authorities have also set up hand-washing facilities for students there.

### CRAMMED CONDITION

The Daily Star talked with 10 DU students who had been living in gono rooms before the pandemic-forced closure. They narrated their horrid experiences of living in the cramped situation.

A student of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall said while staying at a gono room it was hard to have good night's sleep. Some even developed skin disease living in such close proximity to others.

"Above all, it's very hard to concentrate on studying," he added.

Another student of the same hall said, "I lived with 30 to 35 of my friends in a room."

He alleged that while staying at a gono room he was forced by "political big brothers" to participate in political meetings and programmes.

A student at Kabi Jashimuddin Hall said he caught a cold as the so-called big brothers made him walk around the campus on a winter night.

## 'Irreparable loss for the feminist movement'

ASK expresses condolences over death of Kamla Bhasin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) mourned over the death of Kamla Bhasin, a pioneering feminist icon, author, poet, and rights activist in the Asia Pacific.

"It is an irreparable loss for the feminist movement," said a press release sent by ASK yesterday.

Bhasin was a true inspiration for millions who came forward to challenge patriarchy, break all shackles and build a more equal and humane world, it said.

She passed away at the age of 75 in Delhi on Saturday, after a spirited battle against liver cancer.

ASK believes her work will pave way for the future generation to cultivate their ideologies on feminism, gender and equality.

Bhasin was the founder and advisor of Sangat, a South Asian Feminist Network, co-chair of the worldwide network, Peace Women Across the Globe and South Asia Coordinator of One Billion Rising.

She believed that the amalgamation of feminist theory with community action and mobilisation will usher an effective change within the society.

Bhasin's involvement and advocacy in challenging gender inequality and patriarchal attitudes towards the establishment of equal rights for women and men will always be remembered, reads the release.

## First day

FROM PAGE 3  
there was no tension in the library. They only attempted to talk to the students as they rushed into the library.

Proctor Golam Rabbani said, "Students have been asked to follow health rules for their own safety. Former students are not allowed to enter the library; it is only open to regular students. We look forward to working with students to keep the peace. Teachers serve as guardians for students. Teachers have the authority to instruct and guide their students. This is something students should consider."

The authorities decided to reopen dormitories on October 5 and library on September 26. Students and library custodians were given instructions on how to maintain health guidelines. But on the first day of library reopening, students were seen flouting the guidelines left and right, this correspondent saw.

Date: September 27, 2020

**Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children**

**Invitation for Tender**

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendors for supplying Services for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh. For details please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

**Description, submission time & date:**

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule (Virtual through Zoom - details in Tender Schedule)	Last date of Tender Submission
I	Group Life and Medical Coverage Insurance	IFT/SCI/BDCO/FY-21/00004	October 06, 2021 at 12:00 PM	October 21, 2021 on or before 02:00 PM

**Special Instruction: (a)** All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods/Services will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. **(b)** If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

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**TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING MICRO BUSES**

**Tender No. NSU/ 21-22-04**

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide vehicle rental service providers to hire 20(Twenty) nos micro buses. The micro buses must be minimum: 11 seater and 2000 cc (approximately) with 2016 registration Toyota HIACE or equivalent is preferable; for providing transport services to the Faculty & Officials of North South University (NSU) as per the terms and conditions stipulated in the tender schedule.

Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from the Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on all working days till **October 20, 2021** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (one thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the total monthly quoted price for rental service in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favour of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **October 21, 2021** by 2.00 P.M. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:15 P.M on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

**Director (Administration)**  
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
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**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
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**প্রধান কার্যালয়**  
মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০  
বাংলাদেশ

“মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার  
দেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার”

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১১৩/২০২১

তারিখঃ ০৮ আশ্বিন ১৪২৮  
২৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১

**ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভূক্ত রাজশাহী কৃষি উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক-এ ‘মাইনটেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ার’ পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের সময়সূচি ও পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের তালিকা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় কর্তৃক প্রচারিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৫০/২০২১, তারিখঃ ১৮/০৩/২০২১ মোতাবেক রাজশাহী কৃষি উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক-এ ‘মাইনটেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ার’ (JOB ID-10131, ২০১৯ সাল ভিকিট) এর ১টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রার্থীদের ২ ঘণ্টাব্যাপী ২০০ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৫/১০/২০২১ তারিখ (মঙ্গলবার) বিকাল ৩.০০টা হতে ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন (দক্ষিণ) এর মধ্যে অবস্থিত নিম্নবর্ণিত কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ঠিকানা	আসন সংখ্যা
১.	সেন্ট্রাল উইমেন্স কলেজ	১৩/২, অভয়া দাস লেন, টিকাটুলি, ঢাকা-১২০৩	১৩৭
২.	পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে ( <a href="https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd">https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd</a> ) ইতিমধ্যে আপলোড করা হয়েছে। প্রার্থীগণ পরীক্ষা করার অব্যবহিত পূর্ব পর্যন্ত ওয়েবসাইটে হতে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।		
৩.	সামাজিক দূরত্ব মেনে সারিবদ্ধভাবে কেন্দ্রের অভ্যন্তরে প্রবেশ এবং প্রয়োজনীয় চেকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরীক্ষা করার কমপক্ষে ০১ (এক) ঘণ্টা পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোনো প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না।		
৪.	প্রবেশপত্র (০১ কপি) ব্যতীত কোন ধরনের কাগজ, বই, মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্ট ওয়াচ বা অন্য কোন ইলেকট্রনিক্স ডিভাইস নিয়ে পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশ করা যাবে না।		

মাস্ক পরিধান ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না এবং কোভিড-১৯ সংক্রান্ত স্বাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে চলতে হবে।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

মোঃ আজিজুল হক  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক  
ও  
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-২৯৯৫  
তারিখঃ ২৬/০৯/২০২১  
জিডি-১৭২৬

**বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংক ম্যানেজমেন্ট**  
প্রতি- ৪, মেইন রোড-১, সেকারান-২, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২১৬।

**তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

আগামী ২০২২-২০২৪ সালে অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানে (ক) মুদ্রণ সামগ্রী তৈরি ও সরবরাহ (খ) স্টেশনারি দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহের তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য অত্র ইনস্টিটিউটের নির্ধারিত ফরমে নির্ধারিত মানদণ্ড অনুযায়ী প্রকৃত, প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ীদের কাছ থেকে পৃথক পৃথক ভাবে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরখাস্ত আগামী ৩১ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে। তবে বিদ্যমান তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের মধ্য থেকে অন্তর্ভুক্তির ক্ষেত্রে অতীতের কাজের মান, প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবস্থান/দূরত্ব, যোগাযোগের সমস্যা ইত্যাদি বিশেষভাবে বিবেচনায় নেয়া হবে। বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য উপরোক্ত ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

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

স্মারক নং-বঙ্গবন্ধুবিজ্ঞান/২০২১/২৬-২৯/১০৬৮ তারিখঃ ২৬/০৯/২০২১

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ-এর সিনিয়র ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগের সহকারী অধ্যাপক/প্রভাষক পদে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

আবেদন ফর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা এবং নিয়োগের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট [www.bsmitu.edu.bd](http://www.bsmitu.edu.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

আবেদনপত্র পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ২৬/১০/২০২১ বিকাল ০৫.০০টা।

জিডি-১৭২৪ রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

**World Health Organization**  
Bangladesh

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. HQ/HEP/HP/TF: Awareness campaign on the harms of tobacco and benefits of quitting tobacco.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: **23:55 hrs, 01 October 2021 (Geneva time)**.

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from:  
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement notice>

Interested bidders are requested to submit their proposals as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents.

**শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ**  
**ফরম গ্রহণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD**  
**POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

**Memo No. 27.12.2947.188.07.001.21-464** **Date. 22-09-2021**

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Laying of Sub-marine cable work through Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Boaring method under Shariatpur PBS. Tender submission deadlines are mentioned below. Tender document purchasing price & Tender security amount will be in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order in favor of General Manager, Shariatpur PBS from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh (except the Banks debarred by BREB).

Tender ID No	Sub Package No	Description of Works	Opening Date & Time
614068	STP/SMC-02/2021-22	Laying of 0.61 km Sub-marine cable work through Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Boaring method at Padma branch river under Shariatpur PBS	14-10-21 10:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e- GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered banks' branches for all Tender ID up to **13-10-2021** Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**NB. Join venture not allow.**

**বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড**  
**BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD**  
বাপবিবো/জন (২১০০ – ৩২ ) ২০২১-২০২২

Superintending Engineer  
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board  
Faridpur Zone, Faridpur.  
Telephone : 0631-66006  
E-mail : [serebfaridpur@gmail.com](mailto:serebfaridpur@gmail.com)

GD-1729











# Legacy of the Kumar of BHAWAL

WAQAR A KHAN

Prior to the abolition of Zamindari in East Bengal (Bangladesh) in accordance with the 'East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act of 1950', the Bhawal zamindar estate was the second largest feudal landholding in the Dhaka district. In terms of size (area), revenue and prestige it was second only to the Dhaka Nawab estate of the Khawja family. In fact, its enormous landholdings within Dhaka city began right from today's Bangla Motor, embracing much of Tejgaon, going all the way up to Savar and beyond. Most of the land to the north of the city fell under the Bhawal estate. In the early 1960s, on our way to school in the Dhaka cantonment area, we had to regularly pass by an attractive period building with a large pond where stork, heron, kingfisher, kite, duck and geese frolicked. The attractive old building stood on the opposite side of the former Dhaka airport at Tejgaon. This unique historic edifice looked somewhat incongruous



The dwarf towers of the Nymph with a dome on top represent two different religious references: Christian and Islamic

in its setting, ensconced as it was amidst a picturesque setting redolent in luxuriant foliage, thereby attracting my attention and curiosity. There was no other comparable, large and impressive colonial era mansion like it anywhere around, unless one went all the way to the Ramna area of Dhaka city. One day, I asked my driver to stop by this old two-storied building ringed by huge old banyan, neem and rain trees of crowning glory for a good look. This eye-catching mansion was once the *Baganbari* or pleasure-villa of the Bhawal zamindar. Built in 1933, it is called the Nymph which was built by Kumar Ram Narayan Roy on a sprawling twenty bighas of land. I had never heard of this Kumar of Bhawal before. The information was given to me by a Hindu gardener of the horticulture department who was then working at the site. His forefathers had all been malis (gardeners) of the Bhawal zamindars. As I wandered around in the vast pristine compound of the Nymph, a gentle spring breeze swayed the branches, boughs and rustled the leaves of the ancient trees. The blissful quietude of the sylvan surroundings seemed to cast a entrancing spell, as I savored the languorous ambience of the place. Little did I know then that come nightfall this peaceful place, was said to be occasionally haunted by the ghost of a young woman clad in a diaphanous white sari. The most macabre part of the story was that the ghost carried her severed head in her own hands!

My subsequent visits later on to the Nymph left me a bit baffled regarding its hybrid architectural styles and antecedents. Therefore, I sought the wise counsel of a distinguished veteran architect Abu H. Imamuddin, requesting him to take a look at some photographs of the Nymph. I had passed on to him and enlighten us by describing its salient architectural features. He most graciously obliged and wrote, "Just by observing the building without any knowledge of its original plan, makes it difficult to provide an accurate architectural assessment of it. However, in brief here is a general impression of the



The front façade of the Baganbari called the Nymph built in 1933

building. It seems that the building underwent a number of alterations and modifications over time, corresponding to the changes of ownership and the need for functional usage. The weak relationship of the inner and the outer façade is distinctly visible. The inner façade resembles the architecture of the British colonial era that flourished in Dhaka after the partition of Bengal. There are massive corner columns with decorative arches. However, the outer façade looks like a latter addition having eclectic architectural characteristics. The repetitive motifs on the railings in the outer verandah may have been adapted from the Bungalow design, atypical of the mansions of the local landlords of that period. On the roof, the dwarf towers with a dome on top represent two different religious references: Christian and Islamic. The parapets around the roof having a regular undulating pattern with projected pillars topped by spherical heads, represents a common recurring feature in the design of the colonial bungalow. The curious screen wall shown having a vertical slab built with pinwheel designed blocks, may have been placed much later for some specific functional need. The pattern of the design suggests that it is of a latter addition to the building. The overall complex architectural taxonomy of the building makes it hard to classify it into any specific category".

Now a brief on the Bhawal Raj, the second Kumar, the *Sannyasi*, and the most celebrated judicial court case in the history of the British Raj in colonial India. The *zamindar* Raja Bahadur Rajendra Narayan Roy Chaudhuri of Bhawal died in 1901, leaving behind his widow, Rani Bilashmani Devi, and six children—three daughters: Indumayi, Jyotirmayi and Tarinmayi and three sons: Ranendra alias *baro* (eldest) Kumar, Ramendra alias *mejho* (second) Kumar and Rabindra alias *sejho* (youngest) Kumar. In 1904, citing gross mismanagement, the Bhawal estate was taken over by the Court of Wards. Meanwhile, the nationalist quarters and the vernacular print media in Bengal raised a big 'hue and cry' for the forcible takeover of one of the premier *zamindar* estates of East Bengal. Meanwhile, a great



Side view of the two storied Nymph showing attractive architectural features

tragedy descended upon the Bhawal Raj family. Rani Bilashmani died in 1907, of illness. In 1909, the second Kumar suddenly died in Darjeeling, amongst conflicting reports that he was both cremated and also that his dead body had mysteriously vanished from the cremation grounds during a sudden thunder shower, before being consigned to the flames. The matter would have ended there. But soon there arose unsubstantiated charges of a palace conspiracy and dark nefarious family politics were hinted at. It was further alleged that the

Kumar was poisoned by his own wife, Srimati Bibhabati Devi, in connivance with her secret paramour the family doctor. Soon strange news of a wandering *Sannyasi* resembling the lost Kumar also started to emanate from various parts of India, complicating the already fluid situation. To make matters worse, the eldest Kumar also died in 1910, probably as a consequence of his excessive drinking habit, followed by the death of the youngest Kumar in 1913. All three Kumar's had died childless. The Bhawal Raj was now bereft of any legitimate male heir to the zamindari. In 1915, the Court of Wards under the Board of Revenue, went into action again and took over the management of the estate. Thus, the stage was set for a confrontation which would increasingly take on a fervently patriotic, nationalistic and anti-colonial overtone against the British Raj in support of the beleaguered Bhawal Raj.

However, powerful factions within the Bhawal Raj family coalesced to reverse the situation in their own favor. In this the widow of the youngest deceased Kumar, Srimati Ananda Kumari Devi, played a pivotal role. She adopted a boy, Ram Narayan Roy, as the new Kumar of Bhawal. Surprisingly, contrary to their negative policy against the Bhawal zamindar estate, this move was endorsed by the British Raj as evidenced from a rare photograph where the Earl of Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal on his visit to Dhaka in 1919, had himself 'anointed' the boy-Kumar's eventual assumption to the 'guddi' (throne) of Bhawal as the heir-apparent and possibly later as the Raja. However, all this would dramatically change the scenario with the miraculous appearance of a strange *Sannyasi*, naked except for a loincloth, smeared in ash and long matted hair, on the Buckland Bund near the Ruplal House in Dhaka in 1921. He bore a striking resemblance to the missing second Kumar of Bhawal. For months he refused to identify himself. In the meantime, his advent had aroused great curiosity and speculation. Later on, during his subsequent visits to the Bhawal Rajbari, the *Sannyasi* was hugely welcomed and recognized by the tenant-farmers as their second Kumar. The tenants thronged in record numbers to the palace premises and started paying him his share of the rent, even before he was lawfully declared as the lost Kumar. Thereafter, supported by a powerful faction of the Bhawal raj family, thousands of tenant-farmers, sympathetic public and media, the *Sannyasi* finally changed his stance. He claimed that he was indeed the lost Kumar of Bhawal who being poisoned by his own family, was saved by a group of Naga Sadhus who had nursed him back to health. In the meantime, he had wandered all these years throughout India with the Sadhus having lost his memory, until his arrival in Dhaka. Through all this unfolding high drama the widow of the second Kumar, Srimati Bibhabati Devi, adamantly refused to meet the *Sannyasi* declaring him as an interloper. However, the biggest loser from this sensational development would be, Srimati Ananda Kumari Devi, the widow of Rabindra the youngest of the deceased Kumar's, her adopted son Kumar Ram Narayan Roy who was the 'heir-apparent' to the Guddi of the Bhawal zamindari, and the palace coterie that had staunchly supported them.

At last, on April 24, 1930, lawyers working for the claimant (*Sannyasi*), supported by the sisters and elder sister-in-law of the Kumar, filed a declaratory lawsuit in the court of the first sub-judge of Dhaka district, claiming

the name and property of Ramendra Narayan Roy against his widow Bibhabati Devi and other shareholders who were represented by the Court of Wards. The trial began on November 30, 1933. Both sides summoned an over abundance of witnesses (literally hundreds), whose statements were often contradictory. However, judgment was delivered on behalf of the plaintiff the *Sannyasi* in 1936.

On October 5, 1936, the government filed an appeal against the judgment of the lower court in the Calcutta High Court, again in the name of the wards of the Court of Wards. The hearing began on August 14, 1939. On November 25, 1940, the Calcutta High Court upheld the verdict and the appeal was dismissed. In 1943, the colonial government in consultation with the lawyers representing Rani Bibhabati then filed for a leave to appeal against the judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the Privy Council in London seeking redress. However, the war and the German blitz in London delayed the hearing which finally began in 1945. After a prolonged hearing, the Privy Council in London also dismissed the appeal in its judgment in favor of the *Sannyasi*, on July 30, 1946. The next evening the claimant (*Sannyasi*) finally declared lawfully as the second Kumar of Bhawal went to offer puja at a Kali temple in Calcutta, where he suffered a stroke and died two days later. His funeral rites were performed on August 13, 1946. Divine retribution for an imposter? That is exactly what Srimati Bibhabati Devi and those of her ilk concluded.

Through this protracted Bhawal *Sannyasi* case, the deprived and frustrated Kumar Ram Narayan Roy grew into manhood as a tall, heavyset, fair and handsome young man, devoted wholesale to a life of indolence and pleasure. As a privileged feudal in those days, he became

personnel and their families.

And, as for the mysterious lady ghost at the Nymph, only a few air force personnel during both the Pakistani and Bangladeshi periods had ever claimed that they had indeed seen it. But for those overwhelming majority of people who only heard of it, but never saw nor believed in it, conclude with a 'wink and a chuckle' that it was fabricated by someone in a fit of drunken stupor at the bar, whose fervid imagination had given currency to it. However, the story persists to this day. The Nymph is the only remnant of a zamindar era Baganbari (garden-house) from the colonial days in Dhaka city. It has miraculously survived the vicissitudes of time and escaped the greed of men due to its fortuitous location in the cantonment area, thereby remaining well preserved. However, regretfully nobody knows what really happened to all those expensive chandelier, candelabra, furniture, rich Persian carpet/rug, monogrammed cutlery pieces and decorative artifact that had once graced the interior of the many roomed Nymph! We, therefore, urge the concerned authorities of the Bangladesh Air Force to take moral responsibility and ensure that this wonderful heritage building remains unaltered. The Nymph will soon turn a 100 years old in 2033, besides being an unique historical mansion with a story to tell. It should be declared a heritage building to be preserved for posterity. Meanwhile, it remains one of the best kept secrets in Dhaka city!

In 2004, I was told an interesting story by a prominent member of the erstwhile Dhaka Nawab family. She narrated that as a young school girl in the early 1950s, she had once espied with wide-eyed wonderment from an upper floor window of her house in Dhaka, the fairytale visage of a beautiful stately carriage (Brougham) driven by two handsome horses, as it



Kumar Ram Narayan Roy poses under a gorgeously ornate silver kiosk during his investiture ceremony at the Bhawal Rajbari, 1919

drawn to a hedonistic lifestyle of -shikar, musical soiree, cavorting with dancing girls (baijee/tawaif), given to binge drinking and spending endless nights of sensual pleasure with his companions. To give proper vent to his amorous proclivities, he built an exclusive pleasure villa in 1933, called the Nymph at Tejgaon away from the prying eyes of his family and the din and bustle of the Bhawal palace at Joydebpur. However, it is not known if Kumar Ram Narayan eventually regained his short-lived rights as the sole heir to the Bhawal zamindari until its abolition in 1950, on the sudden death of the *Sannyasi* in 1946, declared as the rightful second Kumar of Bhawal. After the abolition of zamindari in 1950, following the partition of British India in 1947, the huge landed property including the Nymph of the Bhawal zamindars was taken over by the Dhaka Cantonment Board, and handed over first to the Pakistan Air Force and after 1971, to the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) to be used as their Officers Club and mess. At present it is used as the BAF Ladies Club. Sadly, the beautiful large pond which once lent so much glamour to the adjacent Nymph, has now been mindlessly filled up and turned into a big lush green airy field for recreational purpose for the BAF

slowly came up the driveway to her house. She had run down bubbling with excitement to welcome the august visitor. The carriage door was emblazoned with a gorgeous family crest. Soon an imposing figure - a large, fair, immaculately attired aristocratic gentleman emerged from the carriage. Hugely impressed and in awe, she welcomed him with courteous regard, introduced herself and politely ushered the guest into the living room. With an affectionate pat on her head the visitor said in a rich baritone voice, "go tell your father that his friend Ram Narayan Roy is here to see him". It was the same little Kumar of Bhawal shown here in the picture. The storyteller, now a distinguished elderly lady further added wistfully that her father and the Kumar of Bhawal, had been childhood friends and were of the same age.

My heartfelt thanks to the following retired Bangladesh Air Force Officers for most graciously sharing their interesting reminiscences and photographs of the Nymph: Air Vice Marshal A.G. Mahmud, Group Captain M. Shaukat-Ul Islam and Air Commodore Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury.

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



The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2021, ASHWIN 12, 1428 BS

## Frame law immediately to constitute a new EC

*Only a non-partisan body can engender trust in the people of the country*

DESPITE our much-vaunted march of democracy since its resurrection from the bonds of the *khaki*, our democratic institutions have fared badly because of the characteristic propensity of the political party in power to fill vital institutions with “our men,” or “our women” for that matter. The blame lies not just with the current regime—all political parties have been more or less guilty of this delinquency.

Unfortunately, the worst sufferer of such a biased attitude has been the Election Commission (EC). With every successive government, the commission has been made more blatantly partisan. It is no wonder that one of the reasons for the decay of democracy in Bangladesh is the loss of people’s trust in the electoral system. With every election, fewer and fewer people have exercised their right to choose their representatives, knowing that their votes matter little, the result being a foregone conclusion. The turnout in local elections—the most recent of them held only a few days ago—testifies to our views. And this ominous state has been acknowledged even by some serving members of parliament.

Can a nation that suffered unimaginable losses in terms of human lives—to establish the right and freedom to choose their own representatives and have them run their own affairs, and not by those who defile and distort the system to “get elected”—countenance such a state of affairs? We certainly do not want a repetition of the 2018 general election, nor the dozens of local elections held since then.

Through our columns, we have been calling for enactment of appropriate laws to govern the formation of the Election Commission. We, therefore, endorse and strongly reiterate the call of those who have been demanding such a law, including that of 53 eminent personalities who recently also called for reforms, so that the civil administration and the law enforcement agencies are made resistant to all extraneous pressures and inducements.

We wonder at the reluctance of the party in power to do so. After all, our constitution mandates such a law. However, while we are calling for enactment of a law for Election Commission formation, we are aware that any law can be circumvented—as we have seen happen many times before. But a law in place would at least restrict the ruling party’s ability to ride roughshod over the provisions indiscriminately.

Only a credible institution can retrieve the faith of voters in the electoral system which, as of now, stands severely sapped. Also, it is in the interest of the ruling party that elections are not only claimed free and fair, but are actually so. Only a free, transparent and unencumbered Election Commission can ensure that. We also believe that, despite the process of selection of the commission members, everything depends on the quality of the individuals holding the posts, the strength of their moral fibre, and their obligation to the people and their conscience. In a democracy, it is not the verdict of the court but of the people that renders validity to an election, and to the people elected.

## Why construct a market inside Dhupkhola field?

*It indicates a lack of appreciation for history on the part of authorities*

IN a city already devoid of enough playgrounds, the decision by the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) to build a market inside the Dhupkhola field is disconcerting, to say the least. The Dhupkhola field is not just a playground where people play different sports—it is a place where residents from nearby neighbourhoods come together to hang out and spend time with their friends and families. Therefore, constructing a market inside the field will most certainly change the entire characteristic of the field.

The Dhupkhola field also has a rich history of producing athletes who have gone on to represent Bangladesh at the highest levels of their respective sports. The first Test centurion of Bangladesh, Aminul Islam Bulbul, is just one cricketer of note who trained in the field. Mohammad Rafique, considered one of the best spinners Bangladesh has ever produced, is another. Former national team footballers such as Ataur and Mamun Babu also trained in Dhupkhola field. There are currently three cricket academies based in the Dhupkhola field, where around 500 cricketers practise on a regular basis. Who is to say that the next great Bangladeshi cricketer will not emerge from there? And what will happen to the fate of these 500 athletes once the market eats up a significant chunk of the field?

According to the DSCC plan, the authorities will construct a five-storey market to house the 394 shops set up around the fields, which will take up 0.62 acres of the field area. The city corporation is also going to construct walkways, seating arrangements, parking spaces, and a cafeteria, which will further reduce the field’s space. All these will bring down the total size of the field to 4.01 acres from 7.47 acres. Right now, the 7.47 acres of the field area is split into three parts: Jagannath University field, East End Club playground, and an open field for everyone to use. The construction of the market, by significantly reducing the total field size, will affect everyone who wishes to use it.

Research by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) shows that the city’s fields barely meet 10 percent of the public demand. When open playgrounds are already in such short supply, why is the DSCC taking up a project that will reduce them even further? There seems to be no logical explanation to this. The director of the Dhupkhola Math (field) Development Project justified the decision by saying that the facilities were being built because of “space constraints.” But what about the lack of playing fields in Dhaka? How will the authorities make up for that? We urge the authorities to seriously reconsider their decision and find an alternative site for the market’s construction.

# Building a healthy e-commerce sector needs strong actions



MACRO MIRROR  
FAHMIDA KHATUN

THE recent crisis that has been created in the emerging e-commerce sector of Bangladesh is another example of financial fraudulence in the country. There have been complaints, for quite some time, about malpractices by a number of e-commerce companies. But those complaints fell on deaf ears, and the companies continued their business right under the nose of the relevant authorities. However, the problem could not be ignored for long as it became too big and unavoidable. The owners of e-commerce platform Evaly have been arrested for fraud, and cases have been filed against them under the existing law of the land. If they are proven guilty, they may have to stay behind bars for three to seven years, according to legal experts.

But will it help those who have lost their money? This is the most important question in the whole Evaly episode right now. Judging by our previous experience, getting back the customers’ stolen money is a distant reality. Though the measures taken by the authorities are a positive move, it will not solve the problems faced by the affected people. Recovery of the money by confiscating the assets of Evaly seems to give a little hope. It has been reported that the value of Evaly’s assets seems to be much less than the amount customers have paid the company to purchase products. The legal battle is a long process, and the affected people may not get their money back. Indeed, there have been similar cases before where the affected customers were not fully compensated. One may recall the misappropriation of customers’ deposits by the sponsor of the Oriental Bank Ltd in 2007, and the collapse of the bank. Till today, many clients of the bank have not gotten their money back. Not too long ago, people were also cheated by multilevel marketing companies that allured innocent people with the promise of higher returns on their deposits. The deceit of those businesses was unearthed a few years into their operations, and the culprits were put behind bars. But the cheated customers did not get their money back. Several low-income people lost their lifelong savings.

Will the customers of Evaly get their money back? When and how? As discussion on the solutions to the Evaly problem continues, there have been demands for compensation from the government. This is, indeed, a dangerous proposition. Government money is taxpayers’ money, and that money is for the development of the country and to support the poor. We are still in the middle

of the Covid-19 pandemic; a good number of people in the country—who lost their jobs during the pandemic—are yet to get their jobs back and earn their living like they used to before Covid hit the country. Public money is to support people during such difficult times, generate jobs, and create opportunities for the people. Why would the hard-earned money of our taxpayers be used to compensate for a crime committed by two greedy individuals? This will only encourage malpractice in this sector as well as in others. The government’s objective should not be encouraging bad practices, but to root out the greed of deceitful businesses like Evaly.

E-commerce is a new but potential sector for Bangladesh. It is a source of employment for the youth. In Bangladesh, the capacity of the job market to absorb all of the aspiring young population is limited. This sector creates opportunities for them. But this prospect is not for the unemployed youth only; many smart and promising young citizens, who could easily find good jobs but do not want to work for others, have started their own businesses with innovative ideas. They have created jobs for others; they have set examples of ethical business. Several successful e-commerce businesses are also attracting foreign investment because of their reputation. Having a large population, Bangladesh is an attractive destination for the e-commerce industry. As our per capita income is increasing, consumerism is also expanding. It will continue to do so as the country is expected to do better in the

*Since the unveiling of the Evaly scam and the dishonest practices of a number of other e-commerce businesses, the issue has become the centre of our attention.*

coming days. But unethical practices of a few e-commerce companies have damaged the customers’ confidence. If this is not remedied, it will not only have a negative impact on youth employment, but also on the overall economy. So, policymakers must address customers’ concerns without delay.

With the unveiling of fraudulent practices of a few e-commerce companies, the role of regulatory bodies has come into question. The Ministry of Commerce and the Bangladesh Bank have critical roles to oversee and monitor such businesses. These malpractices have been

going on for several months. Why these were not tracked and stopped by the responsible departments are questions that must be answered. Going forward, there is a need for coordination between these and other relevant bodies, such as law enforcement agencies, e-commerce associations, the financial organisations which facilitate payments, and a consumer rights protection department, for a healthy e-commerce sector. Following the Evaly debacle, the Ministry of Commerce has launched Digital Commerce Operation Guidelines, 2021. It has instructions on product delivery, payment, information



The e-commerce sector in Bangladesh has immense potential; it must be protected from unscrupulous business practices.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

to customers, etc. It also mentions that if companies fail to comply with the guidelines, the government can shut them down. Also, consumers can lodge complaints with the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection and relevant courts. There are demands from some groups that these guidelines should be more comprehensive and stringent. There are also suggestions for new laws. However, e-commerce companies do not want a separate regulatory body. They want facilitation, not regulation. Legal experts suggest that the existing laws can be amended to take measures against the fraudulent companies. But having good laws is not the solution to the problem—proper implementation of the law is the key.

Since the unveiling of the Evaly scam and the dishonest practices of a number of other e-commerce businesses, the issue has become the centre of our attention. Affected and agitated customers are on the street demanding their compensation; news and expert analyses are also pouring in. Many have been trying to say that the customers who have been ordering recklessly from the e-commerce company in question have also been greedy. This is an inappropriate analogy. The Evaly owners got involved in the crime of

did not realise that such discounted rates are impossible, and businesses cannot sustain through such irrational practices. This cannot be a business model. This is a cheating model.

Given the importance of the issue, it may continue to be the topic of discussion for some time—perhaps before another, more serious incident happens! However, this issue is important not only because customers have lost over Tk 1,000 crore to Evaly; the problem is much bigger than that. It is about this whole practice of becoming rich overnight through malpractices and corruption, and yet receiving acceptance and even accolades from our society. They occupy the cover pages of magazines, they are projected as role models and are discussed in the media and elsewhere, and they take the centre stage of programmes attended by powerful people. They would shamelessly show off their wealth, while others would admire them. At times, the power of their money is stronger than the power of policymakers. Hence they stay above the law. They get away with crimes. The Evaly scam is yet another test case for the policymakers to prove its commitment to the common people of the country.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

# In fashion, ‘sustainability as usual’ may no longer be enough



RMG NOTES  
MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

CAN we decouple business growth from climate impacts? This is the thorny question that no politician wants to answer right now, and it is easy to understand why. On the one hand, all our leaders recognise that “business as usual” is no longer an option on a planet where we are already seeing evidence of global change on a daily basis. The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, states that many of the changes observed in global climate are unprecedented in thousands—if not hundreds of thousands—of years. It says that the changes are widespread, and that the role of human influence on climate is undisputed.

At the same time, if one considers the above argument in light of Bangladesh’s most successful export industry, it is evident that we may have a problem. Fashion creates millions of jobs in lesser developed countries, such as Bangladesh. If the “fast fashion” tap were to be switched off—in the name of protecting the environment—many of these jobs would be gone, and the societal impact would be huge.

Our leaders recognise this conundrum—this balancing act between societal and environmental impacts. It is for this reason that the idea of decoupling economic growth from climate impacts is so appealing. Such a decoupling would mean that economic growth would become a sustainable goal for all of society.

Is this even possible? Until relatively recently, decoupling of this nature has been viewed as a fanciful notion. This is because the majority of historical data and projections illustrate the intrinsic link between material and energy use and

the consequent carbon emissions/climate impacts.

As a consequence, many people have difficulty reconciling the sustainability goals of a business model—fashion, in this case—which is dependent upon selling more and more business units. In short, they say we can’t have our cake and eat it.

I personally have one foot in this camp, and believe that the idea of “sustainability as usual” may no longer

solution where we can separate traditional GDP growth from climate impacts. Within the textile industry, this is via recycling and the circular economy. I have written about this issue before, but I believe it deserves growing scrutiny in countries like ours, which are so heavily dependent upon labour-intensive manufacturing industries, such as clothing production. It is in our own interest to embrace solutions that can separate growth from the impacts of



The RMG sector of Bangladesh requires a rethink of business operation model to avert climate crisis.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

climate change, given that our industries are so dependent on carbon-intensive manufacturing.

How can we do this? One way is to shift to the use of renewable energy, as I have previously discussed in my column.

But a complete rethink of our RMG manufacturing base may also be required, if we are to shift towards a less resource-intensive operating model in line with circular economy principles.

The three major principles around circular economy are: smarter use and manufacture of products; extension of product lifespan and its parts through reuse, repair, refurbishment, and

remanufacturing; and useful application of materials such as repurposing, recycling, and material recovery.

While not all of these ideas will be easy to apply in the RMG manufacturing space, many of them could extend the useful life of garments. For example, textile materials can be repaired and refurbished, and alternative markets can be found for them. Is our garment industry ready to explore these ideas?

If all of this sounds quite radical, that’s the intention. I said sustainability as usual might not be an option moving forward, and as manufacturers we need to think about what this new landscape might entail if we are to remain relevant to our fashion buyers. Be in no doubt: our buyers are looking for solutions in these areas. When they talk about “going circular,” it is us, their manufacturers, that they are relying on to enable them to achieve their goals.

What can we do now to prepare for a less resource-intensive, circular environment, where GDP growth is decoupled from carbon emissions?

Most experts agree that several steps will be required for textile manufacturers. One is to phase out the use of unsafe materials and the discharge of microfibres (another huge issue for our customers). This will require more innovative garment design and smarter production processes.

The second is changing the way clothes are designed, a step to be taken in collaboration with our buyers.

Step three is designing products keeping recycling in mind, so that the products are recoverable at the end of their “life.”

Taken together, these actions would initiate a major step for our RMG sector. At some point, we may need to think very differently about our business models as part of a broader societal shift away from a linear business model. These are difficult questions, but now is the time to think about their answers.

Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).



# ‘I’m not a wall that divides. I’m a crack in that wall.’

Feminist icon, educator, and author Kamla Bhasin passed away on September 25, 2021, at the age of 75. The Daily Star pays tribute to her rich legacy by reprinting an interview first published in 2016.



MEETING Kamla Bhasin is like getting a booster shot of energy and optimism. Her vivacity and enthusiasm will catch you unawares and force you out of whatever cynicism is afflicting you. And cynicism in a world so full of injustice and superficiality is a comfort that is hard to let go of. But Kamla has given feminism a much-needed sanguine spin. She is kind of a brand ambassador for “South-South cooperation,” bringing together men and women from South Asia to learn from each other’s experiences, in the hope of bringing greater understanding and camaraderie in a region so divided by political, economic, and religious rifts.

For the last 40 years, she has been coming to Bangladesh speaking on uncomfortable things like patriarchy, gender inequality, and sexual violence. Kamla talks about such sensitive issues with simplicity, wit and clarity, making her one of the most compelling speakers one could have the privilege of listening to. I remember one such lecture—perhaps a good 10 to 15 years ago—that had left me riveted. Hence my elation at the prospect of interviewing her a few days ago.

Clad in her newly acquired Grameen check kurta—“for my birthday,” as she puts it (she was born on April 24, 1946)—Kamla looks very much the “development feminist” she calls herself. She is still the silver-haired champion of the marginalised, with piercing eyes and that straightforward eloquence that makes her the perfect interviewee.

I know my time with her is limited, yet cannot resist from asking her to begin from the beginning.

It was 1975. Kamla, then a twenty-something young woman, was working for FAO and was assigned to identify innovative development work in Asian countries and create networks between people across countries. “At that time, none of us, not a single NGO, knew anyone across the border,” Kamla explains. “Indians didn’t know Bangladeshis, Bangladeshis didn’t know Indians, Nepalīs didn’t know Pakistanīs—there was NO contact. So, the purpose was what later became known as South-South cooperation at the people level.”

At the time—mid- to late-70s—this was

no easy task. There was a lot of animosity, says Kamla, between the countries. But Kamla persistently pursued the idea and eventually managed to hold a South Asian workshop in Dhaka attended by women from all these countries. It was for the first time that Bangladeshis realised that “not everyone in Pakistan was responsible for the atrocities, that there were people there who were actually against those policies, that governments don’t represent our people, and that we need to start to rebuild those bridges—at least among our civil society actors.”

It was also when Kamla met Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury and was completely wowed by what he had achieved with Gonoshasthaya Kendra. “If anyone has thought ‘out of the box’ in South Asia, it was this man. The way he started training women paramedics, drivers, security guards, was amazing. In our jargon, we call this ‘gender transforming’—when you change the definition of a woman or a man, you transform gender. Now gender is a social definition—of a man or a woman. Think of a girl who can drive a car, ride a bicycle. So when this man gave them jobs as



Kamla Bhasin (1946-2021). PHOTO: COLLECTED FROM TWITTER

*“We didn’t become feminists by reading western feminist theories. We became feminists by looking at the realities of women in the villages.”*

paramedics, the first thing he told them is that you have to ride a bicycle and that was, for me, a revolution for Bangladesh.”

Thus, for Kamla, such development miracles also organically became lessons in gender politics. There was also a kind of awakening in the world in general. In ’75, the first global conference on women had taken place (in Mexico) and NGOs in the field, says Kamla, were realising two things: Firstly, development from the top was not reaching the poor—it was reaching the elite of the villages of our countries. Secondly, they realised that development was not reaching women, and these kinds of insights were

coming from Africa, Latin America and Asia based on the work of the NGOs that were working with people, not governments.

She was invited by development activists from all over South Asia to hold gender training workshops. She challenged patriarchy and even the language of patriarchy: “The word ‘swami’ (husband), for example, means *malik* or owner. But the constitution says that Bangladeshi women cannot have an owner or master—they can have a partner—so *swami* is anti-Bangladesh Constitution as far as I’m concerned; similarly, ‘*pati*’ is against the Indian Constitution. No Indian citizen can have a *pati* controlling her. Even the word ‘husband’ is sick—it comes from animal husbandry; to husband is to control or domesticate.”

Kamla’s deep understanding of gender issues at the grassroots level comes from her own experience growing up in the villages of India—her father, a medical doctor, was posted at various villages where she attended school up until matriculation. She went to a government university and got her bachelors and master’s degrees “with second division—so had a bad education but learnt a lot of common sense.” Later, she went on to study sociology of development at the Muenster University in Germany with a fellowship.

In 2002, she resigned from the UN and gave all her time to the feminist network

she had helped to set up, called Sangat, an informal network of which anyone can be a member.

Kamla rejects the notion that feminism is a western concept. From a development worker, she also became a feminist development worker, and therefore, at the conscious level, a feminist. This is the story of many others, says Kamla.

“We didn’t become feminists by reading western feminist theories,” she adds. “We became feminists by looking at the realities of women in the villages—e.g. what was dowry doing to women, about domestic violence, how women were being treated at home and in society...”

But feminist theory in the formal sense was also important, and Kamla and her fellow activists started inviting to their workshops academics—social scientists, political scientists, and economists who were feminists and working on feminist theories. The marriage between theory and action was created.

Kamla also started writing about these issues in courses, which became very important resource material—booklets on understanding patriarchy, gender. They were also translated into 25 to 30 languages. The movement that Kamla and her fellow activists started, moreover, got rid of binary divisions: “One of my slogans is: ‘I am not a wall that

divides, I am a crack in that wall.’ So all these walls of nationalities—Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian—we become cracks in these walls and we go across borders and make friends. Pakistani women were the first to apologise for the genocide here—Pakistani feminists.”

Cultural expression was the most effective tool to reach the messages of equality. From the very beginning, music, dance, and posters have been part of Kamla’s work, especially in reaching an audience that was mostly illiterate. She wrote a hundred songs and compiled them into CDs and had posters with slogans such as “Zero tolerance for violence against women,” “Men of quality are not afraid of equality,” “Honour killing—no honour in killing,” etc translated in the vernacular.

But despite such dedication and innovative feminist efforts, we are in a world where violence against women is alive and kicking, and objectification of women is at its zenith. When I ask why, Kamla’s answer is simple: “Capitalist patriarchy” along with religious and cultural patriarchy. She cites the pornography industry which is a billion-dollar industry that reduces women (and children) into objects of sex. The cosmetics industry, says Kamla, promotes the idea that a woman is just a body, and unless she decorates herself in this way, she is nothing. Women have been reduced to being just bodies—perfected through surgeries and procedures. “So once you are a body, what’s the harm in raping you or groping you?” Kamla asks. In a capitalist patriarchy, she says, everything saleable is sold and profit predominates over people.

Patriarchy, says Kamla, is equally damaging for men because it dehumanises and brutalises them.

“One other thing,” she adds, “our struggle for gender equality is not a fight between men and women. It is a fight between two ideologies—two ways of thinking. One ideology is that patriarchy is better, that men are superior. The other says, no, equality is better, men and women are different and equal, and equality is good for all. And that men must realise that unless women are free, men cannot be free.”

With that provocative comment, my interview with this innovative, compassionate development feminist comes to an end. I still have so many questions, but reluctantly I relent, remembering that she has a birthday to celebrate.

Aasha Mehreen Amin is senior deputy editor, Editorial and Opinion, *The Daily Star*. The interview was originally published on April 30, 2016.

## PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# We need to talk about geoengineering



THERE is ultimately no way to stabilise the climate without addressing the fact that humans are emitting far too much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, year after year. But cutting emissions is not the only response to the climate crisis, nor was it the one that scientists proposed over half a century ago in the first-ever government report on climate change.

To address the problem of “Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide,” noted former US President Lyndon B Johnson’s Science Advisory Committee, the “solution” could not be to emit less of the stuff, because that apparently seemed unimaginably costly and difficult to do. Instead, the committee suggested that the effects of excessive CO2 in the atmosphere might be mitigated by brightening the world’s oceans to radiate more heat back into space.

Since then, many additional methods of “geoengineering” have been proposed by both scientists and science-fiction authors alike. Some ideas are more realistic than others, and none can substitute for the top-order priority of severing the link between economic activity and CO2 emissions. Nonetheless, emissions represent only the first of many links in the long causal chain from economic activity to climate crisis.

Economic activity produces emissions that drive up atmospheric concentrations, which in turn increases temperatures, thereby creating new conditions that are damaging to human welfare. Whereas cutting CO2 and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions addresses the first part of the chain, climate adaptation concerns the latter end—from changing temperatures to the impact on society. But the tail end should not necessarily come last in the sequence of our response. If anything, we should have introduced more aggressive adaptation measures a long time ago.

This delay owes much to a previous, long-standing fear among environmentalists that the mere mention of adaptation would undermine the primary aim of cutting carbon emissions. According to this argument, adaptation would create a “moral hazard”: the

idea that insulating people from the consequences of their actions will lead them to engage in even riskier behaviour (think seat belts or condoms).

Most environmentalists have since changed their tune, however. In the mid-1990s, then US Vice-President Al Gore avoided discussing adaptation, lest it detract from carbon-cutting efforts. Yet, by the early 2000s, he and most others had begun to include it as a point of emphasis alongside mitigation. And by 2013,

vulnerable to deforestation and natural disasters. Other more high-tech methods could put carbon back into the geosphere, storing it permanently underground (from where it came before it was burned as fossil energy).

As with adaptation in earlier decades, the prospect of carbon removal brings moral hazard to the fore, raising many difficult political questions. With so many opportunities for mitigation available, can we really justify subsidies for expensive

in the discussions of solar geoengineering. By reflecting more of the Sun’s radiation, this potential intervention aims to break the link between atmospheric CO2 and rising temperatures. It would not address ocean acidification and other problems directly tied to higher atmospheric concentrations, but it could have its own advantages. Chief among these is that the effects could be virtually immediate, reducing temperatures within months and years, rather than decades and centuries.

Serious discussions of solar geoengineering have long since moved on from the Johnson White House’s ideas about brightening the world’s oceans. The most-discussed method today envisions the seeding of small reflective particles into the lower stratosphere to mimic the global cooling effects of large volcanic eruptions.

Some describe this scale of geoengineering as a “last ditch” option that should be reserved only for a planetary emergency. Others emphasise that it should be viewed only as a potential complement to serious emissions reductions and other interventions—from adaptation to carbon removal—with each addressing climate risks differently.

But again, those who merely argue for more research into solar geoengineering usually meet with strident “moral hazard” objections, as if simply studying the issue will distract from emissions cuts. We must move beyond that argument. Remember, adaptation measures used to be viewed the same way.

Regardless of whether one believes that solar geoengineering is inherently dangerous, potentially useful, or both, one should support more careful, open, and transparent research into the matter. We are not in a position where we can peremptorily reject potential solutions to the climate crisis. If nothing else, geoengineering research could help to educate those who are still dragging their feet on emission reduction.

After all, by failing to break the other links in the climate chain, we are making it more likely that either carbon removal or solar geoengineering will become a key element in the 21st century climate policy portfolio—whether one likes it or not.

Gernot Wagner, clinical associate professor of environmental studies at New York University, is author of “Geoengineering: The Gamble” (Polity, 2021).

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(Exclusive to The Daily Star)



Geoengineering research could help to educate those who are still dragging their feet on emission reduction. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

adaptation was a key tenet in a climate policy blueprint issued by President Barack Obama’s Council of Advisers on Science and Technology.

But mitigation and adaptation do not exhaust all the options. Carbon removal specifically breaks the second link in the chain—from emissions to concentrations. Technically, emissions could stay the same, while removal sucks enough carbon out of the atmosphere to decrease concentrations, lessening the net effect and giving rise to many a “net-zero” climate commitment.

That sounds like a win-win. But it turns out to be a rather expensive proposition, especially when looking beyond trees and other “nature-based” solutions. While they remove carbon from the atmosphere, they retain it in the biosphere and are

carbon removal technologies? Moreover, why should big polluters be let off the hook?

That second question goes to the heart of many political debates around climate and economic policy more broadly. Is climate change caused by too much pollution, or is it a problem of economic growth itself? Those who believe it is the latter argue for a full-scale reining in—or rechanneling—of economic activity and market forces; some even call for “degrowth” and other more sweeping societal transformations. Given these associations, it is easy to see why those on the left would be suspicious of carbon removal, and why those on the right might be eager to embrace it.

The political dynamics driving the carbon removal debate are even stronger

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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15 Young fox		42 College study	26 Stinging insect
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## FRIDAY’S ANSWERS

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## Graft charges

FROM PAGE 12

two separate cases against Mannan and Syeda Hasina with Ramna Police Station on August 21 and October 21, following two graft investigations.

On August 24 that year, a Dhaka court granted bail to Mannan considering his illness and status as a former state minister in the Awami League government. His wife Syeda Hasina got bail from another Dhaka court on October 24 the same year.

In May 2015, the ACC pressed charges against the couple in the graft cases.

According to the charge sheets, Mannan illegally amassed Tk 74.94 lakh and concealed information about his properties worth Tk 4.59 lakh, while his wife Syeda Hasina illegally amassed Tk 3.45 crore and concealed information about properties worth Tk 1.86 crore.

## UK cops arrest

FROM PAGE 12

Detective Chief Inspector Neil John, from the Met's specialist crime command, called the arrest a "significant development".

Two other men arrested this week on suspicion of murder have been released pending further investigation.

Hundreds of people held a vigil on Friday evening in the southeast London neighbourhood of Kidbrooke, where Nessa lived and her body was discovered last Saturday.

The murder echoes the high-profile killing in March of 33-year-old Sarah Everard, which focused attention on what is being called an epidemic of violence against women.

## People with clout

FROM PAGE 12

Saving the rivers is not possible unless the government is willing, they added.

With the slogan 'Save the rivers of Sundarbans to save the Sundarbans', Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and River Keepers Bangladesh formed a human chain on the Marine Drive Road in Mongla, Bagerhat.

Nur Alam Sheikh chaired the programme where the speakers said biodiversity in the rivers of the Sundarbans is under serious threat as some fishermen use poison to catch fish.

In 2005, the United Nations launched "Water for Life Decade". Following that, river enthusiasts have been observing World Rivers Day.

## Kosovo accuses Serbia of trying to provoke conflict

AFP, Pristina

Prime Minister Albin Kurti of Kosovo accused neighbouring Serbia of trying to "provoke a serious international conflict" after two vehicle registration offices near their border were attacked early Saturday.

The increase in tension occurred on the sixth day of ethnic Serb protests against the ethnic Albanian-led government's decision to require drivers with Serbian registration plates to put on temporary ones when entering Kosovo.

A registration office was torched in the small town of Zubin Potok and another damaged in Zvecan, though there were no casualties, the prime minister said.



People participate in a Solidarity With Afghan Women rally outside the United Nations headquarters, during the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, in New York, US on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## India calls for political settlement

FROM PAGE 12

problems of the country's agricultural economy, particularly those having a definite bearing on the future development of the country, such as land ownership and land tenure system, co-operatives, introduction of modern techniques of farming, irrigation, etc.

**SWARAN SINGH'S SPEECH AT UN** India's Minister for External Affairs Swaran Singh today called upon the UN and all other international organs "to impress on the military regime of Islamabad that force will not succeed and therefore a political settlement between the military regime and the already elected members is essential". He was speaking in the general debate which opened in the UN General Assembly.

However, the Bangladesh foreign ministry was critical of this Indian stance, and, referring to Swaran Singh's speech at the UN, regretted in an internal report on the international situation that "the powers which were sympathetic to us and were considered to be trusted friends have also now turned against the concept of an independent Bangladesh".

INDIRA FLIES TO MOSCOW

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi flew into a rousing reception in Moscow today on a three-day visit. Her talks with Soviet leaders would start tomorrow. According to a spokesperson, the subject to be discussed at the prime ministers' talks would include follow-up action to the Indo-Soviet Treaty, economic cooperation, expansion of cooperation in other fields as well as Bangladesh issues.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Rangpur-Dinaipur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini today ambushed the Pakistani patrol in Joymonirhat of Dinaipur district. They killed six Pakistani soldiers there. In a surprise raid Mukti Bahini forced Pakistani troops to abandon their position in Usalja. Seventeen Pakistani soldiers were killed in the action. Mukti Bahini captured some arms and ammunition. In another operation, Mukti Bahini ambushed a mixed patrol of Pakistani soldiers and razakars near Khanpur and inflicted 15 casualties on the enemy. On the same day Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops position near Chakramari and killed seven enemy

soldiers. Mukti Bahini disrupted railway communication between Parvatipur and Badarganj by blowing up a railway bridge.

In the Mymensingh-Sylhet sector, Mukti Bahini today ambushed a Pakistani patrol near Gafargaon in Mymensingh district and killed two Pakistani soldiers. On the night of September 27, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops guarding the bridge near Rahimpur, killing one enemy soldier. In another operation, Mukti Bahini attacked Pakistani troops near Baotali and killed three Pakistani soldiers.

In the Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattogram sector, Mukti Bahini raided the Pakistani position at Kaipur, killing eight enemy soldiers and injuring seven. Two enemy boats were destroyed in the area. On the same day, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani positions at Sripur and Ajnapur areas and killed 11 Pakistani soldiers. In another operation, Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops near Monoharpur and Koteswar, killing four of the enemy.

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

## RT-PCR tests at HSIA now likely

FROM PAGE 12

Meanwhile, the six healthcare facilities that set up the rapid PCR labs at the airport are waiting on the UAE authorities to sign off on their standard operating procedures.

Asked about the government's slow response to setting up the rapid PCR tests that saw many migrant workers' work visas expire, he said: "The government gave its best effort to this end."

The Gulf state had imposed a flight ban from Bangladesh on May 12 following a huge spike in cases in the preceding weeks and the emergence of the highly transmissible Delta variant of the coronavirus.

While the ban was lifted on August 4, it came with a condition: a negative result from a PCR test done six hours before departure for entry.

Such a rapid test result is possible if there are testing facilities at the airports. But none of the Bangladeshi airports has them -- yet.

As a result, more than 20,000 UAE residents from Bangladesh, including migrant workers and professionals, are yet to re-join their workplaces and risking losing their jobs.

The stranded expatriates had been demanding for speedy setup of the testing facility at the Dhaka airport but the government's response has been slow-moving.

Of the 10 countries that require rapid PCR tests for entry to the UAE, only Bangladesh and Nigeria are yet to set up the testing facilities at the airports.

Last fiscal year, the expatriate Bangladeshis in the UAE accounted for about 10 percent of the \$24.8 billion of remittance the country

received, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

For passengers travelling to the UAE passengers, two tests must be carried out before departure: one 48 hours before the flight and the other within six hours. The latter test will be conducted at the airport.

Initially, the six RT-PCR labs have been set up inside Terminal-1 of the airport. Later, those will be shifted to the designated space on the rooftop of the multi-storied car parking building of the airport.

On September 15, the expatriates' welfare ministry announced that based on the recommendations made by the health directorate, they have permitted seven healthcare facilities to set up labs at the HSIA.

However, one of the healthcare facilities later withdrew itself from the initiative.

## Afghans at risk

FROM PAGE 12

AFP from the UNFPA headquarters in New York.

The doctor from Panama warned that women and girls would bear the worst of it.

"It is urgent, for women and girls in particular who were already suffering. This is one of the countries with the highest death during childbirth and pregnancy rates.

"We cannot underscore enough that even during a transitional period, women and girls have human rights and these are to be respected," she said.

Kanem repeated calls made by the international community to the Taliban, who swept to power last month as the United States withdrew its last troops, ending Washington's 20-year war there.

"The women of Afghanistan have made clear over years that they want their education, they want their health care, and that they're also ready, willing and able to design programs and to be able to lead in their communities," she said.

Taliban leaders have tried to portray the group as more moderate

than when it last ran Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. Then, women were banned from school or work and only allowed to leave home with a male chaperone.

They have promised to change, saying they will respect women's rights within the framework of Islamic sharia law, but many remain sceptical.

But not a single woman was appointed to the provisional government and the Islamists seem to be incrementally stripping away Afghans' freedoms.

Kanem notes that in a country ravaged by decades of conflict, many women, particularly in areas most affected by violence, are the sole breadwinners.

"We're all anxiously hoping that there will be regularity and ability of delivery of goods" to people in small communities where many of the UNFPA's staff are women, she said.

"We have said that we want to be able to maintain a functioning health system.

"(It's) pretty challenging right now with the airport having been closed, with certain professionals who have left the country," Kanem added.

## BIWTA filling up the Turag

FROM PAGE 12

There is a V-shaped bend of the Turag river at Diabari point. A landing station was constructed around 150 feet inside the river's boundary demarcation pillars. A truck station has been set up there.

In a recent visit, it was noticed that BIWTA has kept filling the riverbank near the landing station.

Large jetties are being constructed near the landing station's south portion around 100 feet inside the river's boundary demarcation pillar no. 210, 211 and 212.

The demarcation pillars were set up by BIWTA and the Ministry of Shipping.

The BIWTA is also filling the river bank at the landing station's north portion to construct Eco-Park.

Another jetty is being constructed near Amin Bazar landing station around 150 feet inside the river boundary demarcation pillars no. 109, 110 and 111.

Another landing station at Gabtoli was constructed around 150 feet inside the demarcation pillar. Now, construction works for large jetties are ongoing on the north side of the landing station.

Besides, a two-storied government building has been constructed by the Department of Agricultural Marketing in the space between the landing station and the under-construction jetty.

Contacted, Paribesh Bachao Andolan Chairman Abu Naser Khan said large concrete structures like jetty would obstruct the natural water flow

of the river.

There is a High Court directive that imposes a ban on the construction of any structure obstructing the natural flow of river water. Besides, such construction on the riverbank would encourage further encroachment, he added.

"In the case of road communication, we can see that parking spaces are being constructed by widening roads. Similarly, jetties should be constructed by widening rivers instead of filling it," Khan said.

Contacted, Bangladesh Poribesh Bachao Andolon General Secretary Sharif Jamil said constructions of such structures inside river boundary demarcation pillars are a violation of the High Court directive.

The Turag is on the verge of extinction due to the construction of such structures as landing stations and jetties, he viewed.

Such government projects are being undertaken for the interest of vested quarter and to legitimate other riverbank grabbers, said Jamil.

He also demanded that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) should quiz the officials involved in such projects.

However, BIWTA Executive Engineer Motiul Islam, also Dhaka's Circular Waterway Project's deputy chief director, denied the allegations of violating any HC directives.

The jetties are being constructed following the High Court directives that allow construction of jetties and walkways for goods transportation and public movement, he claimed.

## Three dead, dozens injured after US train derailment


AFP, Washington

At least three people were killed and dozens more injured when a US train derailed Saturday afternoon in northern Montana, with rescuers rushing to safely evacuate everyone on board.

Around 141 passengers and 16 crew members were traveling from Chicago

towards the Pacific coast when eight of the 10 cars came off the tracks at around 4 pm (2200 GMT).

"We are deeply saddened to learn local authorities are now confirming that three people have lost their lives as a result of this accident," rail operator Amtrak said, adding that there were also "reported injuries".



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INVITATION FOR TENDERS

1	Procuring Entity Name	ICT Division, BASIC Bank Limited
2	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
3	Invitation Reference No. & Date	BASIC/HO/ICTD/Digital On-Boarding/e-KYC/2021/001
4	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
5	Budget and Source of Fund	BASIC Bank's Own Fund
6	Tender Publication Date	27/09/2021
7	Tender Last Selling Date	13/10/2021 at 4.00 PM
8	Tender Submission Date & time	14/10/2021 at 3.00 PM
9	Tender Opening Date & time	14/10/2021 at 3.30 PM
10	Name & Address of the Office for purchase and submit Tender	ICT Division: Peoples Insurance Bhawan (5th Floor), 36, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	1) Minimum 3(Three) years' experience in ICT business as a registered company/entity in Bangladesh 2) Must have at least 2(Two) years proven experience in supplying/implementing Software in any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh / Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successfully supplying software to BASIC Bank Limited. The participating company must submit relevant document(s) as proof of its experience as mentioned here. 3) Must have experienced on installation, implementation, commissioning, migration and go live operation of the Digital On-boarding / e-KYC System with at least 3 (Three) scheduled Banks. The participating company must submit relevant document(s) as proof of its experience as mentioned here. 4) Service Provider must have BASIS certification.
12	Brief Description of Goods	Digital On-Boarding System / e-KYC Software
13	Price of Tender Document	Tk 1,000/-
14	Performance Security	10% of work order value in the form of Pay order / Bank draft / Bank guarantee from any schedule bank in favour of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office.
15	Lot details	
	Lot No	Identification
	1	Digital On-boarding System / e-KYC Software
		Location Security Amount (Tk.) Completion Time
		Dhaka 50,000.00 120 Days
16	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Helal Uddin
17	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager
18	Address of Official Inviting Tender	BASIC Bank Limited, ICT Division: Peoples Insurance Bhawan (5th Floor), 36, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
19	Contact Details	Phone: 02-9555087, 223382960; E-mail: basicitd@basicbanklimited.com
20	a) The tenders should be bound to obey the all terms, conditions, rules & regulations of PPR -2008. b) The procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders (partly or fully) at any stage without showing any reasons. c) The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest priced quotation d) If any "Force Majeure" arises in the specified date mentioned in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) and invitation for Tender, the event will take place in the next working day.	

Md. Helal Uddin  
 DGM, ICT Division

## Project that never

FROM PAGE 3

Project director Md Abdullah Al Tariq said the work has been delayed due to the need to acquire additional land for the project.

"Seventy percent of the works are almost complete," at a cost of around Tk 158 crore, he said.

Fittingly, seizing the opportunity, some locals have turned the incomplete road and flyover into a cattle grazing field. During a visit to the area, this correspondent saw parts of the unfinished road filled with cow dung.

After months out in the open, the iron rods have caught rust.

This correspondent spoke to a guard at the spot. "Locals don't pay heed to us when we ask them to take the cattle elsewhere," he lamented.

Auto-rickshaw driver Shahidul Islam said, "The road caused a lot of pain for years up to 2013, when the authorities began the works. But somehow, it's managed to get worse now."

Shahidul now needs to repair his auto-rickshaw almost every week, due to the wear and tear the vehicle is subjected to by the uneven road.

Though the project director has assured there's only a few months of works left, and they'll be able to complete it in time, it remains to be seen whether that's actually the case, said locals.

## Oldest bone tools

FROM PAGE 12

we have identified bone tools (this old) that were used to make clothing," Moroccan archaeologist Abdeljalil El Hajraoui said.


The international team discovered more than 60 tools in Contrebandiers (Smugglers) Cave, less than 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the North African country's capital.

They had been "intentionally shaped for specific tasks that included leather and fur working", the team wrote in a study published in the journal iScience.

The discovery could help answer questions on the origins of modern human behaviour, said El Hajraoui, a researcher at the National Institute of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (INSAP).

"Sewing is a behaviour that has lasted" since prehistory, he told AFP.

"Tools like those discovered in the cave were used for 30,000 years, which proves the emergence of collective memory."



### পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গপ্রতিষ্ঠান)

পদ্মাভবন, স্ট্র্যাটোরোড, সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০

সূত্র নং-২৮.২২.০০০০.৭০০.১১.০৬৪.২১/৮৩০

তারিখঃ ২৬/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ

**বিষয়ঃ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী**

গত ০৯/০১/২০২০ তারিখে দৈনিক কালেরকন্ঠ, দি ফিন্যান্সিয়াল এক্সপ্রেস, ১১/০১/২০২০ তারিখে দৈনিক যুগান্তর, দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক এবং ১২/০১/২০২০ তারিখে দৈনিক পূর্বদিক ও দি ডেইলি স্টার পত্রিকায় পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রেক্ষিতে ইন্সটিটিউট অব বিজনেস এডমিনিস্ট্রেশন (আইবিএ), ঢাকা কর্তৃক গত ২২/০১/২০২১ তারিখে ঘৃষ্ঠি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ নিম্নোক্ত পদের প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা কোম্পানীর প্রধান কার্যালয়, পদ্মাভবন, স্ট্র্যাটোরোড, সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম এ নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়সূচী মোতাবেক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

পদের নাম	লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের সেরা নং	তারিখ	সময়
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The girls of Panchagarh leap into the air in delight as they celebrate victory over their Naogaon counterparts in the final of the Walton 2nd National Youth (Under-17) Handball Competition at the Shaheed (Captain) M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Reality check for Chelsea

REUTERS

Chelsea tasted defeat for the first time this season as Pep Guardiola's Manchester City earned a statement 1-0 win at Stamford Bridge on a day that Manchester United were beaten by Aston Villa and Liverpool were held by Brentford.

Manchester United slumped to a first Premier League defeat that paved the way for Liverpool to go top later, although Juergen Klopp's side had to be settle for a point as Brentford secured a 3-3 draw in a thriller.

Liverpool have 14 points from six games with City, Chelsea, United and Everton all on 13 points. Brighton & Hove Albion could go top with 15 points if they beat Crystal Palace on Monday.

Tuchel had enjoyed mastery over his Man City counterpart Guardiola, winning all three matches against him since arriving at Stamford Bridge in January -- a sequence culminating in the Champions League final victory.

But this time Guardiola won



Mohamed Salah scored his 100th Premier League goal for Liverpool but the league leaders were still held to a draw by Brentford as the two sides played out a 3-3 thriller on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

the tactical battle as his side dominated possession and barely gave Chelsea, who were joint top before the lunchtime kickoff, a sniff.

Jesus's low shot on the turn in the 53rd minute earned City the win and but for Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy they would have enjoyed a bigger margin.

Victory made Guardiola City's most successful manager in terms



of wins with 221 since taking charge in 2016.

"I am so proud," Guardiola said. "What we have done in these five years -- players, backroom staff and all at the club -- working together to improve the club. It's an honour.

"Hopefully we can make more (wins) and the next manager can come and break the record. It means we have won many games.

It's why we have won a lot of titles."

It was a reality check for Chelsea whose cautious approach backfired completely.

"We were excellent but only in the last 20 metres of the match, not in the other 80 metres," Tuchel said.

"Part of performance is to make an opponent underperform and City did that. They were stronger, sharper, had more precision."

West Ham United, who beat Manchester United in the League Cup in midweek, followed up with a 2-1 victory against Leeds United thanks to a late goal by Michail Antonio at Elland Road.

Norwich City's horrendous start to the season continued as they made it six defeats from six games with a 2-0 loss at Everton.

Jamie Vardy scored twice for Leicester City and once for Burnley in a 2-2 draw, although Burnley had a late 'winner' cancelled out by a VAR check. Watford also had a late goal disallowed by VAR as they came back to draw 1-1 at home to Newcastle United who are still without a league win.

## Sabina hits four versus Hong Kong

SPORTS REPORTER

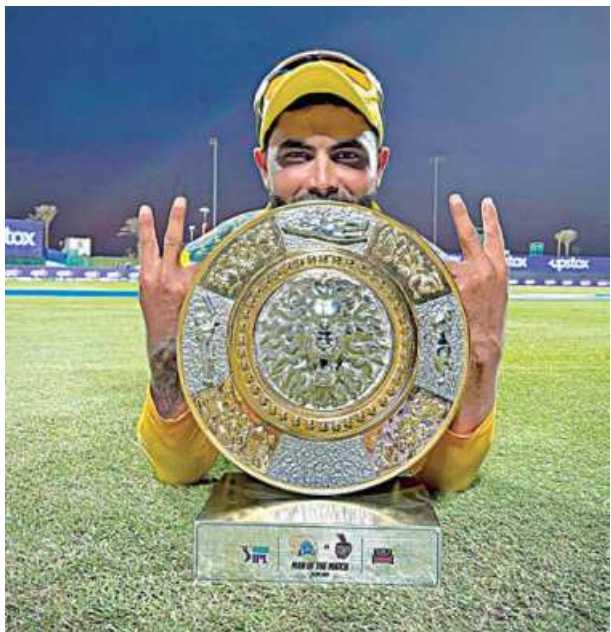
Bangladesh, inspired by four goals from prolific striker Sabina Khatun, registered a massive 5-0 win against Hong Kong in a women's international friendly at the JAR Academy training ground in Uzbekistan yesterday.

Both teams had travelled to Uzbekistan to play their respective group matches in the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, but were ousted from the group stages of the tournament and decided to play the friendly.

At the tournament, Bangladesh suffered 5-0 defeats to Jordan and Iran in Group G while Hong Kong lost 1-2 to eventual group champions Philippines and played out a goalless draw against Nepal to finish second in Group F.

However, Bangladesh seemed to find some solace for their 5-0 drubbings, repeating that margin in a win after taking a 5-0 lead.

Young forward Saraban Tahura gave Bangladesh an 18th-minute lead before Sabina doubled it in the 43rd minute. In the second half, Sabina netted again in the 53rd minute before completing her hattrick four minutes later. Bangladesh's captain wrapped up the win with a fourth strike in the 85th minute.



Ravindra Jadeja won a thriller for Chennai Super Kings (172-8 in 20 overs) as his back-end pyrotechnics during 8-ball 22 ensured a two-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders (171-6 in 20 overs) in an Indian Premier League match at Abu Dhabi yesterday.

PHOTO: TWITTER



REUTERS

Paulo Dybala scored a superb goal before leaving the pitch in tears with an injury as Juventus beat Sampdoria 3-2 in Turin on Sunday, their first home victory in the Serie A season.

The Argentina international fired a low shot into the bottom corner after 10 minutes but limped off soon after with an apparent muscular problem, which could rule him out

of Wednesday's Champions League clash with European champions Chelsea.

Leonardo Bonucci doubled Juve's advantage from the penalty spot before Maya Yoshida quickly pulled one back for Samp, stretching the home side's run without a league clean sheet to 20 games.

Manuel Locatelli scored his first goal for the Bianconeri in the second half, but Antonio Candreva's late strike meant Juve had a nervy

ending before claiming their second consecutive league win.

Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata will miss Juventus' next two games, against Chelsea and Torino, after picking up injuries in a Serie A win over Sampdoria, coach Massimiliano Allegri said on Sunday.

Massimiliano Allegri's side climb to ninth place in the table on eight points, three points clear of 14th-placed Sampdoria but eight adrift of league leaders AC Milan.

One of Italian football's most famous names returned to a Serie A scoresheet on Saturday when Daniel Maldini netted in a 2-1 win for AC Milan over Spezia on his first league start for the club. The 19-year-old followed in the footsteps of his father Paolo and grandfather Cesare, two Milan greats, by scoring in Italy's top flight with a 48th-minute header, which sent the Rossoneri top of the table. Italian media said it was the first time three generations of the same family have started in Serie A, with Paolo Maldini's last goal coming in 2008 and Cesare's in 1961. "It was a very strong emotion," the 19-year-old Maldini told DAZN.



## Tigers set to begin red-ball tune-up

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's focus has been on the shortest format of cricket with the T20 World Cup looming, but the selectors showed a willingness to prepare for the longest version of the game as well, with the stage set for the start of a fresh season of the National Cricket League from next month.

The first-class competition was initially postponed and later cancelled earlier this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, after having already announced 20-member squads for participating teams, the country's premier first-class competition is now tentatively slated to begin from mid-October.

That means members of Bangladesh's T20 World Cup squad will not be able to participate from the start of the tournament since they are scheduled to travel to the middle-east in the first week of October.

Selector Habibul Bashar nevertheless opined that the NCL would be good preparation for players ahead against Pakistan in November a two-match Test series.

"We have a few Test matches right after the World Cup. It's a good opportunity to prepare players. We didn't get much of a chance to play Tests. Obviously, there is a difference between a practice match and

a competitive match. I think the NCL will be adequate preparation for the Pakistan series," Bashar told media yesterday.

The former Bangladesh captain expressed hope that it would be a competitive competition considering the amount of time the players have to prepare.

"This time we are starting the NCL with enough time on hand. Teams will get sufficient time, around a month, to prepare. The players will undergo a fitness test on October 1 and are expected to start skills training by October 5. As the pitches will also get plenty of rest, we are hoping to have a competitive league this time around," he added.

The Tigers fared horribly in the previous World Test Championship cycle, failing to register a single win. But Bashar is confident of a better showing in the second cycle, starting with the series against Pakistan.

Despite the fact that a majority of players will be engaged in the T20 World Cup, the upcoming NCL will help prepare red-ball only cricketers, including the likes of Test skipper Mominul Haque, Saif Hasan, Shadman Islam, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Abu Jayed and Ebadot Hossain.

"I think the NCL is going to be very good preparation for us ahead of the Pakistan series. We also had two four-day practice matches between the A team and High Performance squad and I think that was also very fruitful," Test opener Shadman Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.



Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed bowls under the supervision of local coach Mizanur Rahman Babul while Tigers' T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad looks on during training ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### U-19s to tour Sri Lanka in October

Bangladesh U-19s will tour Sri Lanka in October for a five-match one-day series, the SLC confirmed in a media release today. Bangladesh will reach Sri Lanka on October 7. The first one-dayer is slated to be played on October 15 and the series will end with the fifth and final one-dayer on October 25.

### 'Sorry I am late'

Pele on Saturday praised "outstanding" Lionel Messi for breaking his record as the top goal scorer in a South American national team but apologised for the delay in offering his congratulations. Messi's hat-trick in a World Cup qualifier for Argentina against Bolivia on September 9 came just four days after Brazilian legend Pele had undergone surgery for a suspected colon tumour. "Hi @leomessi, sorry if I'm late. However, I didn't want to pass up the chance to congratulate you for another record broken earlier this month," Pele wrote on Instagram. "Your talent when playing soccer is outstanding! I hope you achieve even more, alongside



my friends @k.mbappe and @neymarjr (at PSG)." Messi surpassed Pele's record of 77 international goals and now boasts 79 in his career.

### India end Australia's 26-match winning streak

Australian women's world record 26-match winning streak in one-day internationals came to an end after India pulled off their highest-ever run chase to defeat Meg Lanning's team by two wickets in the third ODI on Sunday. India held their nerve to win with three balls to spare after half-centuries from Shafali Verma and Yastika Bhatia helped them chase a target of 265 in Mackay. The 38-year-old Jhulan Goswami also starred for India, picking up three wickets before clinching the victory with a boundary in the final over.





### Bangabandhu Tunnel

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# BIWTA filling up the Turag again

Experts say it's building multiple jetties violating HC order

TARUN SARKAR

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has taken an initiative to build permanent structures in the capital's Gabtoli, Amin Bazar, and Diabari areas by filling the Turag.

The government body has come up with the initiative as part of its plan to construct large concrete jetties on the riverbanks.

In 2005, the same authorities constructed landing stations in the same areas by filling the riverbanks as the government introduced a water taxi service to facilitate commuters.

Despite spending a huge amount of money, the government failed to popularise the service that has been remaining shut for many years.

The landing stations have remained abandoned since then with the suspension of the service.

During a recent visit to the areas, this correspondent noticed that multiple private and government structures were set up adjacent to the landing stations by illegally filling the river.

The newly-planned large jetties will be constructed near these landing stations.

Contacted, environmentalists said that construction of such illegal structures by filling the river violates a directive of the High Court.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Demarcation pillars have been installed inside the Turag river. Taking advantage of this, land grabbers encroach on the river and construct illegal establishments, including brick kilns. The photo was captured from Savar's Shyamlashi area recently.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON

## People with clout killing our rivers

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday observed World Rivers Day, vowing to save the country's rivers from pollution and encroachment.

The theme of the day was 'waterways in our communities' with a specific emphasis on the need to conserve and repair urban waterways.

The day is observed on the fourth Sunday of September every year to raise awareness and to promote conservation of rivers.

Youth-led organisation Green Voice held rallies, marched, and formed human chains in 51 places in the country.

Politically influential people are mainly responsible for killing the country's rivers through encroachment, they said at the programmes.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## RT-PCR tests at HSIA now likely from Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The RT-PCR tests at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, mandatory for travel to the UAE, where a large population of expatriate Bangladeshis reside, is expected to start from Tuesday.

However, the start date of rapid PCR tests at the airport depends on the success of the trials, said M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

Experimental tests were carried out yesterday at the labs that were finally set up on Saturday after missing several dates promised by ministers.

The health directorate would inform CAAB how the test run fared.

Based on the health directorate's feedback, CAAB will inform the concerned airlines to start selling their tickets, Rahman told reporters yesterday.

For this, 48 hours will be required.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

### ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## India calls for political settlement

SEPTEMBER 27, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**TAJUDDIN'S MEETING WITH SECRETARIES**

Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad today held meeting with secretaries of different ministries of the exiled government. The finance secretary reported on his recent visit to Delhi in connection with formalisation of trade and commerce with India.

Various problems of the zonal administrative councils, particularly the question of strengthening the zonal administration through decentralisation of the Government's functionaries were discussed. The prime minister desired that the secretaries' committee should further deliberate on this issue and come up with specific suggestions to make the zonal administrative councils more effective and efficient.

The prime minister advised the agriculture secretary to help the Planning Commission in matters connected with agriculture. It was desired that the agriculture secretary should devote his attention to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



## Graft charges framed against ex-minister Mannan, wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday formed charges against former state minister for housing and public works Abdul Mannan Khan and his wife Syeda Hasina Sultana in two graft cases.

The couple, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Mohammed Ali Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka read out the charges against them, court sources said.

The judge then set October 28 for starting the trial of the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Oldest bone tools for clothesmaking found



AFP, Rabat

Archaeologists in Morocco have identified clothesmaking tools fashioned from bone dating back 120,000 years, the oldest ever found, one of the researchers said.

"It's a major discovery because while older bone tools have been found elsewhere, it's the first time

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## SABINA KILLING UK cops arrest 38-yr-old man on suspicion of murder

AFP, London

Police in Britain investigating the murder of Sabina Nessa, a 28-year-old British-Bangladeshi teacher who was found dead in a southeast London park last weekend, said they arrested a 38-year-old man yesterday.

Primary school teacher Nessa was killed after leaving her home to go to a bar just a five-minute walk away, in the latest case to galvanise public concern about women's safety in the UK.

Detectives from London's Metropolitan Police took the suspect into custody in the early hours of yesterday at an address in East Sussex, a county southeast of the British capital.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



## BACK TO STUDIES

Students studying on the verandah of Dhaka University's Science Library yesterday. Students rush into the library, bottom, as the authorities reopened the library and department seminars. The authorities also got locked into altercations with students for not "maintaining health safety guidelines".

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Afghans at risk of 'imminent' famine

Warns UN agency

AFP, New York

Afghanistan is at risk of "imminent hunger" with winter approaching and services disrupted by the return to power of the Taliban, a UN official warned in an interview with AFP.

Natalia Kanem, director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said via video that the situation in the country was dire.

"It would not be an exaggeration to

say" that at least a third of Afghanistan's population of around 33 million is affected by "imminent hunger," Kanem warned.

Harsh winters, disrupting the ability to transport supplies to isolated areas of the mountainous country, plus the coronavirus pandemic will aggravate an already complicated situation, she added.

"There is a lot of anxiety over how we're going to deliver health care, where the next meal is going to come from," Kanem told

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:15	6:00	7:30
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:30	6:05	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



### Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.

(A Joint Venture Company of BPDB and NTPC Ltd.)

Borak Unique Heights (Level-17), 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/FLY ASH/EOI/2021/809 (818) Date: 23/09/2021

**CORRIGENDUM NO. 01 TO REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ENLISTMENT OF APPLICANTS**

The contents of Memo No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/FLY ASH/EOI/2021/809 Dated: 26/08/2021 published in various leading dailies for the subject EOI are hereby modified to the following extent:

The Last date to free download and submit the Applications by Interested parties for Enlistment have been extended up to 11/10/2021 with few amendments.

For more details and other information, please visit our website at [www.bifpcl.com](http://www.bifpcl.com). Interested parties may submit the Applications for Enlistment (Hard copy/through e-mail) on or before 11/10/2021 at aforesaid Dhaka/ Rampal address.



**Md. Mofijul Islam,**  
Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL