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SECOND EDITION



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Target now 75 lakh jobs

Special vaccination drive today marking PM's birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government begins a special daylong drive at 9:00am today to administer the first dose of the Covid vaccine to 75 lakh people marking the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"Only those who have already registered and been waiting for vaccines will be jabbed," Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the health directorate, said in an online briefing yesterday afternoon.

In the first two hours, males aged 50 and above, females, and differently abled people will get vaccines on a priority basis, Khurshid said.

Expecting and lactating mothers will not be vaccinated during this campaign.

Everyone must carry the Covid vaccine registration card and the national identity card to the vaccination centres to get vaccines, according to a public notice published in the Facebook page of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday.

Each centre at unions and municipalities has a target to jab 500 people throughout the day while the target figure is 1,000 for each centre in the city corporation areas, according to the DGHS DG.

On Saturday, Health Minister Zahid Maleque

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From ashes she rises and prevails

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman devoted his life to making one dream come true: establish a democratic, peaceful and disparity-free society called "Sonar Bangla". Braving myriad hurdles, he was striving to take the nation to that promised land.

But the dream stopped dead in its tracks as he along with almost his entire family was brutally murdered on August 15, 1975, barely three and a half years after he shepherded the nation to liberation.

Sheikh Hasina, who along with her sister Sheikh Rehana, was abroad when the tragedy struck, took it upon herself to revive the Sonar Bangla dream and work towards that, keeping personal grief to her chest.

Fast forward to the present, she is leading the country quite deftly towards prosperity.

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SSC exams to start Nov 14, HSC on Dec 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's SSC and its equivalent examinations will begin on November 14 while HSC and equivalent exams on December 2.

The examinees will have to take the tests only in three optional subjects with a shortened syllabus and the exams will carry fewer marks.

They will not have to sit for tests in compulsory subjects like Bangla, English and Mathematics.

Usually the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations take place in February while the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent tests in April.

But the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the exams this year, severely disrupting the academic life of students.

The routines published yesterday show the SSC exams will conclude on November 23 and HSC on December 30.

The exam duration for each paper will be one and a half hours and there will be no break between MCQ

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SHOTS FOR HIGHER EDN STUDENTS

Half yet not registered

- About 24.34 lakh univ students yet to register
- 21 lakh NU students do not have NID card
- UGC weblink to continue registration
- Academic council, syndicate can fix reopening date

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Although the government said any university or its affiliated colleges could resume in-person classes if all their students completed the Covid-19 vaccine registration by yesterday, more than half the tertiary-level pupils across the country failed to do so within the deadline.

Most students do not have their national identification (NID) card, which is mandatory for vaccine registration through the government's Surokkha app.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) opened a weblink for such students to enable them to use their birth certificates to register. But a large number of them have not used the link yet, several top UGC officials told The Daily Star yesterday.

UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah, however, thinks resuming in-person classes at universities and their affiliated colleges will not be a big challenge.

"The Covid-19 infection rate has come down significantly. It is now under five percent. If universities can ensure health guidelines properly, they can resume classes upon approval of their academic councils and syndicates," he said.

UGC Member Prof Muhammed Alamgir hoped that a huge number of students would get their first dose of the vaccine as the government today conducts a special daylong campaign aiming to inoculate 75 lakh people.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Now time to strengthen climate journalism

AGENCIES

The fourth annual World News Day, a worldwide campaign for global news organisations to draw audience attention to the value of fact-based journalism, will take place today.

This year's campaign focuses on climate change and will highlight the critical importance of journalism in providing trustworthy information about the planet's future.

The campaign, with nearly 500 news organisations involved, comes as 2021 is being declared the hottest year on record and amid mounting concerns over global warming's likely consequences.

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MORE ON PAGE 8, ONLINE

Happy Birthday

Dear Prime Minister, the Champion of Change

Long live the Leader, long may it continue—your love and care for the people. You led us into becoming the 37th largest economy of the world with a GDP of US dollars 350+ billion (it was just 91 billion in 2008; and the ranking 62nd). Your leadership also made possible our transition into a 'developing' country in no time. We are confident, soon it will be half a trillion dollars economy, and soon we will gain the status of a 'developed' nation.

Let the ongoing pace of progress continue.

May you stay healthy and stay blessed.

Congratulations
We are proud of the UN's 'SDG Progress Award'

শ্রেষ্ঠ জন্মদিন

উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রযাত্রার রূপকার
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

অসাধারণ নেতৃত্ব এবং দেশ ও জাতির উন্নয়নের রূপকার
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জন্মদিনে কেডিএস পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে শুভকামনা

From the house of KDS

Happy Birthday & Congratulations

to
The Achiever of the Prestigious SDG Progress Award
Dreamer of Digital Bangladesh and Pioneer of Presenting the Country Globally
Our Honorable Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**

BANGLADESH UPDATE

1,212
New cases in 24hrs

15,54,371
Total cases

27,439
Deaths

15,12,681
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

47,63,652
Deaths

23,26,72,955
Total cases

LENDING AT HIGH INTEREST RATE

Shut them down, take legal action

HC asks govt about financial and microcredit institutions, cooperatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately shut down the offices of unauthorised financial and microcredit institutions and cooperative societies and to take appropriate legal actions against them for lending at high interest rates.

In response to a writ petition, the court also ordered the finance secretary and Bangladesh Bank to form a committee to look into the activities of such unauthorised institutions and cooperative societies and submit a report to the court in 45 days from formally receiving the order.

Moreover, the HC asked the microcredit regulatory authority to make a list of names of local money lenders that have no licence and give the list to the court in 45 days.

At the same time, the court issued a rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why their failure to monitor and supervise the activities of unauthorised institutions and cooperative societies should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries at the ministries of finance and social welfare, governor of Bangladesh Bank and microcredit regulatory authority's chairman are the respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman and Justice Md Zakir Hossain issued the order and rule after hearing a writ petition seeking an order to ban informal money lending businesses.

During the hearing, lawyer Syed Sayedul Haque Suman told the HC bench on September 20 that unauthorised financial institutions

have embezzled crores of Tk from the people in the name of money lending. Jubok, which had misappropriated Tk 2,600 crore in 2006, had no licence to as a lender, he said.

Syed Sayedul Haque Suman, on September 7, submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC -- also challenging the failure and inaction of the respondents regarding informal moneylenders from lending money with exorbitant interest rates.

The petitioner also sought a directive from the HC on the respondents to identify the unauthorised moneylenders across the country.

Informal money lending businesses are present at every village across the country in the name of cooperative societies, the petition mentioned.

Many people also individually run money lending businesses and take high interest rates, it said. Such individuals collect weekly and monthly instalments from borrowers even though they have no registration to do this. Poor borrowers often become hostage to the lenders and end up being destitute.

A borrower reportedly has to give Tk 500 to Tk 1000 in interest every week for a loan of Tk 10,000, Sayedul Haque Suman said in the petition, adding that such money lending businesses are illegally functioning in broad daylight and need to be banned.

He also requested the HC to issue a rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why the failure and inaction of the respondents to prevent informal money lenders from lending money at high interest rates should not be declared illegal.



A TALE OF TWO REALITIES... Rakib Hossain shows his work to the teacher during class at the Nobab Katra Government Primary School near Zakir Raihan Road in the capital yesterday. Just a few months ago amid the pandemic-induced closure of schools in July, Rakib and his younger brother Rifat, inset, were selling masks on street corners in front of DMCH to help their parents make ends meet. Rifat is also studying in another class of the same school.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

From ashes she rises and prevails

FROM PAGE 1

Once dubbed as a "bottomless basket" by former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, Bangladesh is now among the most vibrant economies in the world. It is now considered a "role model" for the strides it made in various sectors including education, health, agriculture, and empowerment of women.

And for that to happen, she was unwavering in the face of numerous odds.

Of all she has done, infrastructure development might be one of her brightest legacies.

Aware of the challenges of globalisation in the 21st century, she placed a roadmap in her party's manifesto "Charter for Change - Vision 2021" before the 2008 election.

After having made good on many of her pledges from Vision-2021, she placed in 2014 "Vision 2041" to help Bangladesh graduate to a developed country.

The longest-serving prime minister of Bangladesh, Hasina turns 75 today.

The eldest among the five children of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, she was born at Tungipara in Gopalganj on September 28 in 1947.

She spent her childhood at Tungipara and started her schooling there. When Bangabandhu was elected a legislator, his family moved to Dhaka in 1954.

Hasina got into student politics while in college and was elected the vice-president of the students' union at Government Intermediate College (now Begum Badrunnesa Government Girls' College) for the 1966-67 term.

As a student leader, she took part in the Six-Point Movement of 1966 and the student movement of 1969, which saw off the Ayub Khan regime.

In 1968, Hasina got married to nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah. She and her younger sister Rehana survived the August 15 bloodbath as they were in the then West Germany.

After a long exile, she returned to the country from India in 1981.

Since then, she has survived at least 19 attempts on her life, the worst being on August 21, 2004, when grenades were hurled at an Awami League rally.

In 1981, while in exile in India, Hasina was elected the president of the Awami League, one of the oldest political parties in the country. She has been leading the AL since then and has taken it to power four times.

During her term as head of the government, Hasina initiated war crimes trials, setting up two special tribunals. Several notorious war criminals were executed after completion of the trial proceedings. Also, under her watch, the trial of Bangabandhu murder case was completed after the scrapping of the infamous indemnity ordinance.

Since being elected the prime minister in 2009, Hasina has indeed been steering the country towards development.

However, like any other leader, Hasina has her share of controversies. There are allegations that under her tenure the country has witnessed some backsliding with regard to public trust in the electoral system and the rule of law; it has also seen weakening of institutions, shrinking of space for media and freedom of expression. And a functional parliament remains a far cry.

Prime minister for three times on the trot and only two years away from the next general election, Hasina now faces a stiff challenge: a seal of people's approval.

Only a free and fair election can help ensure that development and democracy go hand in hand.

Half yet not registered

FROM PAGE 1

UGC officials said about 24.34 lakh students -- around 54 percent of the total 44.34 lakh studying in universities and their affiliated colleges -- did not register with Suorkkha or the UGC weblink until yesterday.

Most of those students are from colleges under the National University. So, reopening those colleges would be a challenge, said a UGC member, adding that the registration rates among public and private university students were comparatively better.

On August 26, a meeting attended by officials of the two education ministries and other stakeholders had decided that in-person classes at universities and their affiliated colleges would resume from mid-October after vaccinating all students by September.

The government later moved away from the stance. On September 14, it said any university can resume in-person classes if all its students complete the online registration by September 27.

REGISTRATION

One-hundred and seven private universities, 50 public universities and their affiliated colleges have 44.34 lakh students in total, according to the latest UGC annual report.

There are about 3 lakh students at public universities, excluding the National University, the Open University, Islamic Arabic and medical universities.

The private universities have some 3.50 lakh students and colleges affiliated with universities including National University have 37.84 lakh students.

About 90 to 95 percent of about 15,300 public university teachers have received both doses of the vaccine, said UGC officials.

UGC acting secretary Ferdous Zaman yesterday afternoon said about 18 lakh students have so far registered for the vaccination with the government app.

Of them, about 5 lakh students received the first dose and 1.5 lakh got both doses, he said.

UGC officials said most of the students not registering were from the

NU.

Contacted, NU Registrar Mahfuz Al-Hossain said at least 21 lakh students of colleges under the university did not have NID cards.

"These students are facing trouble while registering for the job. We have instructed all students to register with UGC-provided weblink," he said.

The UGC had asked all public universities to provide it with the number of students without the identification card. Till Sunday, 35 public universities informed the UGC that 15,093 students did not have the card.

Meanwhile, 48 private universities informed the UGC that about 21,000 students did not have the NID card, said UGC sources.

In line with a decision of the meeting on September 14, UGC opened the weblink where university students without NID cards can register and then the UGC would forward lists with their details to the health authorities.

After that, those students will be able to complete the registration using the government's Suorkkha app.

UGC had asked all students to complete their registration by visiting the weblink by today. UGC Member Prof Sazzad Hossain yesterday said around two lakh students registered with the link.

"The registration process using the weblink will continue," he said.

PUBLIC UNIVS PREPARE FOR REOPENING

Dhaka University on Sunday reopened the central and other libraries for masters and honours fourth year students, who had received at least one dose of the vaccine.

It will reopen dormitories for such students on October 5.

On Friday, Bangladesh Agricultural University reopened its halls for students of masters and honours final year. They will also have to take at least one dose.

Patuakhali Science and Technology University is set to resume in-person classes for vaccinated students of masters and honours seventh semester from September 30.

The government resumed in-person

classes at all schools and colleges on September 12 following a Covid-induced closure of about 18 months.

About 1.5 lakh students of medical, dental colleges and other health institutions went back to the classroom on September 13 after taking both doses of the Covid vaccine.

Now time

FROM PAGE 1

David Walmsley, founder of World News Day and Editor-in-Chief of The Globe and Mail in Canada, said: "The challenges facing our planet need all of our attention and through your participation we can improve journalism and build a greater sense of urgency and relevance that helps us all."

Warren Fernandez, President of the World Editors Forum (WEF) and Editor-in-Chief of The Straits Times in Singapore, said: "Journalists have been at the frontlines covering the pandemic, helping communities and audiences stay informed, and safe. We now need to turn attention to the other major challenge our world faces -- the climate crisis -- and show how journalism can make a difference to save our planet. World News Day is an opportunity to go behind the scenes and show how communities are served when journalists do their jobs."

Last September, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, journalists from more than 180 news organisations rallied around World News Day to highlight the value of fact-based journalism in an age of misinformation. Dozens of countries were represented by World News Day's participating organizations with a global reach of 1.28 billion people.

World News Day 2021 is supported by Google News Initiative and Lippo Group. The flagship virtual event of this year's initiative will be a 75-minute Web show, entitled World News Day: The Climate Crisis.

[From newswire.ca, straitstimes.com]

Ex-DU student found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former Dhaka University student, who was preparing for job exams, was found dead at an apartment in the capital's Chankharpool area yesterday afternoon.



Masud Al Mahdi alias Apu, 27, completed his masters in Mass Communication and Journalism in 2018.

He had participated in different movements on the campus and was part of the Ducusu polls, his friends said.

His roommate Al Imran said three people, including Apu, used to live in a room on the seventh floor of an eight-storey building. The top five floors of the building are used as "mess" where nearly 200 students live.

"When I came to the room to have lunch, I found the door locked from inside. Then through the window, I saw him hanging from the ceiling fan. We broke open the door and informed police about it," he said.

On information, police rushed there and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue in the evening for autopsy.

His friends and juniors at the journalism department suspect he was murdered.

They demanded impartial investigation into the incident.

Jasim Uddin Molla, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Division Police, said the roommates of the victim said he died by suicide.

"We have collected evidence from the spot. We will be able to say for sure whether it was suicide or murder after investigation," he said.

Police recover body in building in Chattogram

Victim was the owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered a body from an under-construction building in Khulshi's Jalalabad area in the port city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Nezam Pasha, 65, the owner of the six-storey under-construction building where his body was found.

Md Shahinuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Khulshi Police Station, said Nezam had been constructing this building after he bought a piece of land in the area and he would come every week to pay off the workers and inspect the construction.

"On Sunday, he came to visit the site. After Asr prayers, he said he had chest pain and went to the building's caretaker Hasan's room to take some rest. Since then, Nezam had been unreachable and after finding his phone switched off, his family members went to the site yesterday and found his body."

Nezam's hands and legs were tied and the body was kept under garbage. On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for autopsy.

"Primarily, it seems that he was strangled to death. There are injury marks on his back too," the OC said. He added that Nezam's cash and the mobile phone remained missing and caretaker Hasan has been on the run since the incident.

Police were investigating whether it was a planned murder or an act of extortion as the family alleged that local goons earlier demanded money from them.

A murder case was filed in this connection with Khulshi police.

SSC exams

FROM PAGE 1

and written tests. Covid-19 health guidelines will be strictly followed during these examinations, the authorities said.

The results of the three optional subjects and the Grade Point Average (GPA) of the students' previous public examinations, including Junior School Certificate (JSC) tests, will be taken into consideration while preparing the final results.

On July 15, Education Minister Dipu Moni said SSC examinations would be held in November and HSC in December if the Covid situation improved.

Around 22 lakh students are expected to take the SSC and its equivalent exams and 15 lakh the HSC and its equivalent tests this year.

Last year, the education ministry held the SSC tests in February, but the HSC exams had to be postponed. The HSC results were prepared by averaging the grades in Junior School Certificate (JSC) and SSC tests.

Unusual UN meet to close without Taliban, Myanmar speeches

AFP, United Nations

The UN General Assembly in New York was set to end yesterday but without speeches by those in power in Afghanistan and Myanmar, one of many quirks at this year's diplomatic marathon that saw 100 leaders defy coronavirus fears to meet in person.

The UN representative of Afghanistan's former regime was expected to defy the Taliban with an address yesterday after the group requested its new foreign minister be allowed to speak instead.

The Taliban wrote a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last Monday requesting that Amir Khan Muttaqi be allowed to "participate."

The letter noted that Ghulam Isacqai, Afghanistan's UN envoy under Ashraf Ghani, who was ousted last month, "no longer represents" Afghanistan at the United Nations.

The plea was due to be considered by a committee that included the United States, Russia and China, but a UN official told AFP the meeting didn't take place.

A diplomat said the Taliban sent their request "too late," paving the way for Isacqai, whom the UN still recognizes as Afghanistan's representative, to speak.

If he does take the opportunity, he could demand a strengthening of sanctions against the Taliban, as he did during a Security Council meeting on September 9.

The week of speeches was originally due to end with Afghanistan, Myanmar and Guinea, but the situation of the

latter two countries also stirred up further intrigue going into the last day.

A high-level UN diplomat told AFP that "an agreement" had been reached between the United States, Russia and China preventing Myanmar's UN ambassador -- an outspoken supporter of the democracy movement who has refused junta orders to quit -- from speaking.

Kyaw Moe Tun, chosen by former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, is supported by the international community and has retained his seat at the United Nations following the February 1 military coup.

In May, the junta appointed a former general to replace him, but the United Nations has not yet approved the appointment.

Kyaw Moe Tun was the victim of a recent alleged conspiracy foiled by US investigators that plotted to either force him to resign or kill him if he refused.

He told AFP his plans for the General Assembly were "low profile."

Diplomats are, however, expecting to hear from Guinea's representative to the UN, Aly Diane, even though he is an appointee of the former president who was deposed in a military coup earlier this month.

It is another curiosity at this year's high-level meet, which saw some 100 leaders descend on the UN headquarters after last year's event was mostly virtual.

"How encouraging to see the General Assembly meet again in person," Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said Friday.

Target now 75 lakh jobs

FROM PAGE 1

said the government set the target to inoculate 80 lakh people today.

He also mentioned that students aged 18 and above who have registered would also be vaccinated.

However, there was no mention of students in the DG's briefing as well as in the DGHS circular yesterday.

Around 80,000 health staffers and volunteers will work in 16,153 vaccination booths during the campaign.

"The local health officials and other stakeholders, however, can increase the number of vaccination target and booths, if needed," Khurshid said.

For today's special campaign, the government will mainly use the Sinopharm vaccines.

There will be sitting arrangements in each centre for people to wait for half an hour to check any health issues after being vaccinated. A special team will also be present at each centres to tackle any side effects.

"Whatever the situation may be -- rain, cyclone, or anything else -- there is no way to stop the vaccination campaign," Khurshid said, adding that the EPI programme (regular

vaccination) must continue.

The DGHS runs different vaccination programmes round the year under the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

The health DG said they have already held coordination and advocacy meetings with local public representatives and civil society members to carry out the special campaign.

Besides, announcements were made through loudspeakers in this regard.

25 DIE, 1,212 GET COVID
Meanwhile, 25 people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, said a DGHS press release.

A total of 1,212 people tested positive for the virus during the period.

With the latest counts, the total number of Covid deaths in the country rose to 27,439 and the number of cases went up to 15,52,563.

The death rate stands at 1.77 percent. Against a total of 27,787 samples tested during the 24-hour period, the positivity rate was 4.36 percent. The rate remains below five percent for five days in a row.

Of the 25 deceased, 13 were males and 12 females.



The onslaught of dengue is showing no signs of stopping. In 24 hours till yesterday morning, there were at least two more deaths and 214 new hospitalisations. Amid such a crisis, mosquito nets have become a staple for city residents, whether or not they have a roof over their head. This photo was taken yesterday from the capital's Bangabandhu National Stadium area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

60pc returnee female workers unemployed

Says BILS report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty percent of 323 female returnee migrant workers in 12 upazilas under three districts are currently unemployed, according to a new report of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

The report states that one in three female returnees have lower socio-economic status than before.

Highest 22.6 percent of the female migrants returned home within 12 months of their migration and lowest 3.4 percent stayed abroad for 10 years or more, the report adds.

BILS disclosed findings of the report "Social and Economic Reintegration of the Returnee Female Migrant Workers: Success and Sorrows" at a programme at its auditorium yesterday.

In a broad sense, the reasons behind female migrant workers' return home include low wage and forced labour in the host countries, said the report's lead researcher Manirul Islam.

He said official data on returnee female migrant workers is not available, but in their estimate, on an average, 200 to 300 such workers return home each month.

Manirul, deputy director (research) of BILS, said at least a dozen ministries are responsible for returnee reintegration but a coordination gap in this regard among them was evident.

The report says 55 percent returns of the female migrants was either unexpected or forced.

The research was conducted in four upazilas each of Jashore, Faridpur and Chattogram districts between July and December 2020.

Most of the female migrants returned from the Middle East -- Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Jordan. Of them, 5.6 percent are aged between 18-25 years and 81.3 percent between 26-49 years.

Also, 24.5 percent female returnees are either divorced, widowed or were abandoned by their husbands, and 3.1 percent are unmarried.

Some 54.5 percent female returnees have no institutional education, and another 29.8 percent studied up to grade-V.

The report says 61 percent female returnees have debt burden of Tk 76,736 on an average. Thirty-eight percent respondents alleged they were abused physically in the destination countries, 52 percent were victims of forced labour, and 61 percent often suffered from lack of food and water while abroad, it says.

Besides, 10 percent of the female returnees were imprisoned abroad, it adds. Fifty-two percent female returnees thought "a change of social attitude"

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Killing an innocent woman to frame rival in polls

PBI arrests Mongla UP election candidate, two others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member candidate of a union parishad election got a woman killed, all to frame his rival so that he can't win.

None of them won eventually, but an innocent woman, with no connection to the politicians, lost her life.

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) investigated the incident for over a week and arrested three people in connection with the murder.

Although the feud started centring the UP member election of Chila union in Mongla, the killing took place in Baktarpur area in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

After murdering the woman, the killer left a photocopy of the

National Identity Card of the rival UP member candidate to frame him.

At a press briefing at its headquarters in Dhaka yesterday, PBI Chief Banaj Kumar Majumder said they arrested the mastermind, UP member candidate Halim Hawlader (52), the killer, Jamal Hawlader (50) and their associate, Moshir Rahman Milon Kabiraj, a tailor by profession, from Bagerhat's Mongla, and Dhaka's Lalbagh and Mirpur areas.

At the press conference, Banaj Kumar said, Halim wanted to frame opposition member candidate Billal Sardar in a case so that he gets arrested and can not come out of jail.

The PBI got a record of a

phone call where Halim was heard saying: "If Billal is not arrested, first a rickshaw-puller will die. If that does not work, then a woman will die."

Banaj said the election was scheduled to be held on September 20. According to the plan, Halim hired a man from Dhaka -- Jamal -- to kill someone in exchange of Tk 30,000 in late August.

Halim collected Billal's NID copy and handed it over to Jamal, said the PBI Chief.

"The killer did not know whom to kill. The victim did not know why she was killed. They killed an innocent person only to gain influence..." said Banaj Kumar.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Govt politicised the entire state machinery: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government has politicised the entire state machinery, including the administration and law enforcement agencies.

"I saw in the newspaper a few days back that judges were appointed on a temporary basis, and this too has been done in a partisan manner," he said.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader said people are being appointed to the administration, law enforcement agencies and all other state organisations based on political consideration.

"This is how, they (govt) have politicised the entire administration and the state."

ASM Hannan Shah Smriti Parishad arranged the programme at Jatiya Press Club, marking the fifth death anniversary of the late BNP standing committee member.

On September 27, 2016, Hannan Shah died at a hospital in Singapore, aged 77.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

WATERLOGGED FOR 70 DAYS

Khulna's Bastuhara colony an island now



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A woman wades through the ankle-deep pool inside the colony.

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

It started around 70 days ago. Due to heavy rainfall, almost a third of Khulna city went underwater, including the low-lying Bastuhara colony area. But while the rest of the city has since recovered, the water is yet to drain out of Bastuhara.

As a result, around 10,000 residents of the area have been suffering endlessly.

Visiting the area recently, this correspondent found almost all the roads underwater. Many were forced to stay indoors, with women and children being the worst sufferers. Residents were seen using bricks to prevent filthy water from flowing into their homes.

Rickshaw-pullers were seen dropping passengers outside the colony to avoid the water, leaving the residents to wade through the ankle-deep pool.

Although most shops remained open, customers were sparse.

At this point, even a brief shower waterlogs the area all over again, locals said. Despite repeated promises by

public representatives, no initiative has been taken to resolve the issue, they alleged.

Abdur Rob, a stationary shopkeeper and resident of the colony, described to The Daily Star how unbearable it has become to live there, not just because of the waterlogging, but also the additional troubles it brings, like mosquitoes, snakes, and water-borne insects.

He pointed at some influential quarters for the disaster. "They have built illegal establishments occupying land on both sides of the nearby Bastuhara canal, the main source of discharging water from Bastuhara, Khalishpur, and Boyra," Rob alleged.

"Besides, lack of proper maintenance and mindless dumping of garbage is gradually filling up the 40 to 50 feet wide canal," he added.

Another element of concern is the ongoing road construction in the area, especially since the roads are higher than the households, which means water is spilling over into the houses,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Repeatedly fined, biker sets vehicle on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incurring huge losses in his sanitary business during the pandemic, Shawkat Ali bought a motorbike two months ago to use it for ride-sharing services.

But ever since he got it down to the street, he kept getting bludgeoned with fines for violating traffic rules.

Yesterday, right as the 46-year-old was about to be charged for a similar violation, the frustration inside him finally came out.

In broad daylight, Shawkat pulled out the bike's fuel pipe, lit a fire, and torched the bike then and there. He even obstructed people who tried to douse the flame.

A video of the incident soon went viral on social media. In the footage, Shawkat could be heard shouting in exasperation.

When The Daily Star contacted him over cellphone, he said, "I set it on fire myself. I cannot bear it anymore. Last week, traffic police filed a case against me, and another was



Screengrab from video that went viral on FB. filed today [yesterday]."

For Shawkat, the last straw was when a traffic sergeant stopped him at the capital's Badda Link Road around 9:30am. Debpryo Barua, the sergeant, took away his documents and started filing a case on charge of obstructing traffic.

Following the incident, police took Shawkat to Badda Police Station around noon, said Officer-in-Charge Abul Kalam Azad.

Contacted around 7pm, Shawkat said he

was still in the office of deputy commissioner and not in a position to talk. "You understand I cannot talk," he said when this correspondent wanted to meet him.

OC Azad said, "He [Shawkat] was severely affected financially and was going through some psychological issues. He is burdened with debt after incurring around Tk 9 lakh in losses at his shop."

Narrating the incident, eyewitness Azam Khan said he, Shakhwat, and several other ride service providers stopped their bikes at the left turning point of the road for passengers, when the sergeant approached them.

While everyone else managed to drive away, Shawkat stood there bargaining with a passenger. The sergeant proceeded to catch up to him and asked for documents to penalise him Tk 5,000.

"Shawkat begged repeatedly not to penalise him, but to no avail," Azam said.

Zakir Hossain, additional deputy

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Rejoinder, our reply

Chattogram Veterinary Animal Science University (CVASU) has sent a rejoinder to the report "Destroying Forest in the name of research centre" published on The Daily Star on September 22. We are publishing the full and unedited rejoinder along with our reply.

REJOINDER
CVASU under an initiative established a research centre at Dorianagar adjacent to Marine Drive titled "Coastal Biodiversity, Marine Fisheries and Wildlife Research Centre" taking proper approval from appropriate authority in 2015. The then minister for education Nurul Islam Nahid, MP laid the foundation stone of the research centre on 22 November in 2015.

With the maritime victory under the sturdy leadership of honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina comes the new scope of research. The government has taken up multifaceted steps to reap the benefits of maritime

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Migrant workers' struggles since the coronavirus outbreak is a well-known public concern by now. Yesterday saw the latest round of their ceaseless tribulations, when they went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital to get vaccinated and stood in line for hours under the scorching sun.

Free Kirtankhola of illegal occupation

Residents, activists demand at World Rivers Day event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

On the occasion of World Rivers Day, citizens of Barishal have demanded a Kirtankhola river free from pollution and illegal occupation. Prominent citizens and activists of Barishal made the demands while speaking at a programme yesterday morning.

The programme, titled "Nadi Kathan", was organised by the city-based rivers day celebration committee "Sammilito Udjapon Parshad" on the banks of Kirtankhola, where Deputy Commissioner Jasim Uddin Haider was present as chief guest.

Speakers said Kirtankhola is not safe anymore. Industrial pollution from various factories has spread throughout the river. Although all industrial establishments are required to have Effluent Treatment Plants to reduce pollution, only one out of seven such establishments in the city has one, they said.

The deputy commissioner said they have undertaken an initiative to evict illegal occupants from the seven canals connected to the river.

During his speech, environmental activist Anwar Zahid said it is a matter of concern that the water of Kirtankhola river has lost salinity.

Meanwhile, Rafiqul Alam, divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said although there are 4,000 illegal occupants in the area, authorities have taken action against only 60 organisations.

Among others, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association executive director Rizwana Hasan, eminent citizen Sharmil Murshid, and LRD executive director Shamsul Huda attended the programme virtually.

Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 3
victory. The research centre is a part of such initiatives.

Multiple researches kicked off on marine bio-research and coastal fisheries resources after setting up the research centre. Financed by the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, scientists were able to devise the technology to farm soft shell crab and green oyster.

The research centre has taken all preparation to produce coral prying hatcheries using salty water of Bay of Bengal. Once it goes into production which will use Malaysian technology, it will bring about a revolutionary change in the fisheries sector.

This research centre will also contribute to determine the strategy to deal with the impacts of climate change on coastal areas and its environment.

CVASU is the only university that arranges a six months internship programme out of twelve universities that confer fisheries degree. When other universities could not start classes physically or hold exams, our students taking vaccines have been staying in the research centre. Fifty-seven students (28 female and 20 male students) from the fisheries science department are doing their internship.

Besides that foreign students too come and stay in the research centre to research on coastal environment and climate change. Ten students from Malaysian university Terengganu did their internship staying in the research centre over a period of one month in 2017. Another batch comprising 12 students from Putra University of

Malaysia stayed in the centre for one week and completed their research.

It is not feasible for the students to perform research by staying in hotels and motels in world-class tourist site like Cox's Bazar. In such a reality, the five-storey building was built to facilitate the accommodation for researchers and students.

It is saddening to see responsible daily newspapers like The Daily Star run a fictitious and motivated report at a time when the research centre is moving forward with its various research activities and earned reputation for its contribution to the socio-economy of the country. The information of hill razing destroying the forest in the report is completely unfounded, false and not compatible with reality. No such devastation of hill cutting and forest clearing took place there. Rather the research on coastal biodiversity and marine research is being praised in every quarter. The university authority deems the report was done intentionally to tarnish the reputation of the university.

OUR REPLY

In the rejoinder, the university authorities did not specifically point out the reason it found the news report "fictitious" and "motivated". The rejoinder mainly detailed the "research centre", the internship it arranged, how many students stayed at the centre and how it was going to help the fisheries sector in bringing positive changes.

Our report did not say anything about who is residing in the dormitory; neither did we raise any question about the research the university has been pursuing. Instead, the report said how the CVASU violated the condition of the lease

agreement that clearly says the university could only build a research institute there.

The university authorities did not build any research centre that the rejoinder claimed. The CVASU constructed a dormitory in the protected forest. The five acres of forestland, which was leased out to CVASU, got the status of protected forest in 1935. The university authority took the lease on condition that they would build a full-fledged "Institute for Coastal Biodiversity, Marine Fisheries and Wildlife Research", which they did not. This is a clear violation of the lease condition.

Although the rejoinder claimed that no incident of hill razing happened, a forest department survey found the university authorities cut hills and destroyed forest even beyond the leased area. The Department of Environment filed a case against the CVASU vice-chancellor for cutting hills. The case is under trial in the environment court.

The Department of Environment, in a report prepared after a field visit on October 24, 2016 in the area, found the hills were levelled by five to six feet. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the report, which instructed the university authorities to stop it.

At that time, the razed area amounted to 165 decimals (five bighas). The field report said the way the hill was razed, it bifurcated the hills and uninterrupted forest, causing danger for wildlife. An elephant was found dead inside the razed area on June 10, 2017, which locals alleged died by falling from the hills.

We stand by our report.

60pc returnee

FROM PAGE 3
towards them have happened after their return while 45 percent mentioned they were overlooked, avoided or not invited to social events.

Only 15 percent returnees have some sort of investment and 15 percent female returnees are satisfied with their present occupation.

Of the respondents, 11.8 percent are now self-employed, nine percent are domestic workers, 8.7 percent day labourers, 5.6 percent run small businesses, and 3.7 percent have jobs. Ninety percent respondents demanded that social security protection be provided for them.

Addressing the programme, BILS Executive Council Member Shakil Akhter Chowdhury said about 10 lakh Bangladeshi female migrant workers have gone abroad.

"The picture of their sufferings especially in the Middle East countries is worrisome," he said, adding upon return home they face even more challenges in socio-economic reintegration.

Shakil said, during their migration abroad, female migrant workers are not being provided with proper information and training.

As a result, they often experience a gap between their expectations and what they are being offered in the host countries, he added.

Killing an innocent

FROM PAGE 3
Jamal contacted his friend Moshuir, who gave him a target -- one Parul Begum, who used to make children's clothes and sell them by herself.

"Parul, a divorcee, used to live alone in Dhaka as her daughter lived in village. She also needed support. Jamal pretended to be in love with Parul and convinced her to rent a house in Nama Bazar area of Savar on September 7 posing as a couple," Banaj said.

"Once they moved in, on the first night, Jamal strangled her to death with a scarf. Later, he left a copy of Billal Sardar's NID card next to the body," said the PBI official. "After recovering the NID copy, we investigated and confirmed that Billal was not involved in the murder. Then we contacted him to know whether he has any enemies. He named a few people, including rival member candidate Halim," the PBI Chief added.

"Our investigation found frequent contact between Halim and Jamal. After arresting Jamal, we took him to Savar and the caretaker of the house he and Parul rented identified him," he added.

Banaj said among the arrestees, Jamal and Moshuir gave confessional statement before a Dhaka court.

However, talking to The Daily Star, Gazi Akbar Hossain, chairman of Chila union, said Halim was framed in the incident following a feud with his rival Billal Sardar.

"Halim was a two-time UP member on one of the remotest unions of the country. He went to Dhaka only once and does not know his way around there. How can he hire a man in Dhaka and plan the killing?" asked the union chairman.

Govt politicised

FROM PAGE 3
Fakhru alleged that the government talks about democracy and fair elections after filing cases against 35 lakh BNP leaders and activists, making over 500 party leaders disappeared and killing over 1,000 others.

"You've deliberately created a situation where no one can vote or get justice here," he said.

He said there is no alternative to waging a united movement to get rid of such a situation in the country.

Speaking at the programme, BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas said their party will not join any election under the Awami League government.

He urged the BNP leaders and activists to get ready for a movement to force the government to step down and hold the 12th parliamentary election under a non-party neutral administration.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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“বৃক্ষরোপণে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জাতীয় পুরস্কার/২০২১” প্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা রাজশাহী, নাটোর, নওগাঁ ও চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ জেলার জনসাধারণ, শিক্ষা/ধর্মীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থা, বৃক্ষ রোপণ/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবন ও এনজিও প্রধানগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বৃক্ষরোপণে কৃতিত্বপূর্ণ অবদানের জন্য নিম্নোক্ত ১০ (দশ)টি শ্রেণীতে “বৃক্ষরোপণে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জাতীয় পুরস্কার/২০২১” প্রদানের জন্য আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনের জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরম বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, রাজশাহী কার্যালয় এবং রাজশাহী, নাটোর, নওগাঁ ও চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ জেলার সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, রেঞ্জ অফিস ও উপজেলা নার্সারী কেন্দ্রসহ রাজশাহী, নাটোর, নওগাঁ ও চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ জেলার সকল উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের দপ্তর হতে সংগ্রহকরতঃ প্রতিটি শ্রেণীর জন্য পৃথক পৃথক আবেদনপত্র যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র/উপজেলা নার্সারী কেন্দ্রে অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও সভাপতি “বৃক্ষরোপণে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জাতীয় পুরস্কার/২০২১” প্রদান সংক্রান্ত উপজেলা কমিটির নিকট আগামী ৩০/১১/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে দাখিলের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। এতদ্বিধয়ে অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি বর্ণিত দপ্তরসমূহে যোগাযোগপূর্বক জানা যাবে।

পুরস্কারের জন্য নির্ধারিত শ্রেণীসমূহঃ

ক	প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়/উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়/এবতেদায়ী মাদ্রাসা/সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা
খ	কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
গ	ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/উপজেলা পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ঘ	অধিদপ্তর/পরিদপ্তর/সেক্টর কর্পোরেশন/প্রতিষ্ঠান
ঙ	এনজিও/ক্রব/স্বচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা
চ	ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ে বৃক্ষরোপণ
ছ	ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন নার্সারী
জ	বাড়ির ছাদে বাগান সৃজন
ঝ	বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক সৃজিত বাগান
ঞ	বৃক্ষরোপণ/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবন

আহম্মদ নিয়ামুর রহমান
পরিচিতি নম্বর-১৩২৩৮
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
ফোন নম্বরঃ ০৭২১-৭৬১৬৭৭
জিডি-১৭৩১ ই-মেইলঃ divisionalforestraj@gmail.com

Repeatedly
FROM PAGE 3
commissioner of traffic, Gulshan division, said finding several parked bikes blocking the road, the sergeant went to the spot. As the sergeant took his bike's papers, Shawkat wanted to know if any case would be filed. "The sergeant told him he has to face a case as he obstructed traffic," the ADC said.

Shawkat, however, later admitted what he did was a mistake, the official said.

He further said no case was filed against Shawkat. They also did not fine him.

He said Shawkat informed them that he was earlier fined Tk 1,000 by Ramna traffic division on August 16.

After around 12 hours, Shawkat left the DC (Gulshan) office.

Meanwhile, App-based Drivers' Union of Bangladesh is slated to go on a 24-hour voluntary work abstention from 12:01am today, to press home their six-point demand.

Belal Ahmed, coordinator of the platform, said they are holding the protest programme after talking to 35 unions of app-based service providers in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Sylhet.

Their demands include recognition of app-based service providers as labour, 10 percent fixed commission from all ride-sharing services, end to police harassment, and dedicated parking spaces.

Asked if yesterday's incident has any link with their programme, he replied in the negative.

Waterlogged
FROM PAGE 3
said Anjumam Ara Lucky a resident, of the colony's Road No 5.

"The floor inside my house has remained flooded since July 15. We are forced to keep all our perishable valuables, including our stove, on the bed," she said. "Our two children can't even go outside to play or walk."

Yunus Ali, a resident of Road-11, told The Daily Star, "It's inhuman that no one from any government agency or Khulna City Corporation are taking any action to remedy the situation. Small traders and hawkers of the area cannot store their belongings at home, as the floors have been underwater for months."

Contacted, Md Mahafuzur Rahman, councillor of Ward-9, said the colony is situated in a low-lying area, where sewers are narrow. Rainwater moves towards the colony from adjacent areas, he added.

"The city corporation is trying to drain out water to clean drains," he added.

Contacted, Md Abdul Aziz, chief conservancy officer of Khulna City Corporation, said they have assigned cleaning staffers of the corporation to drain the water after any downpour, but due to its location being in a low-lying area, this proves to be a difficult task.

He also shifted part of the blame on to the residents. "They always dump garbage in the sewers, clogging them," he said.

Md Aminul Islam Munna, panel mayor-1 of KCC, told The Daily Star that in order to improve the situation, a project worth Tk 843 crore has been undertaken to alleviate waterlogging and develop drainage system.

"Under the project, we have also started development works of 27 drains at a cost of Tk 65 crore," he said.

INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

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(Ashim Kumar Roy)
DGM & Division Head

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আপীল বিভাগ
তারিখঃ ২৭/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ

রুদ্দি কাগজ/পুরাতন পেপার বুক বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট, আপীল বিভাগের ৩য় তলায় গোড়াউনে রুদ্দি (Useless) কাগজ তথা পুরাতন পেপারবুক (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী সাপেক্ষে আগামী ৭/১০/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে আপীল বিভাগের অতিরিক্ত রেজিস্ট্রার মহোদয়ের কক্ষের সামনে রুদ্দি দরপত্র বাগে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। উক্ত তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে কোর্ট অফিসার শাখায় যোগাযোগ করে বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট, আপীল বিভাগের গোড়াউনে রুদ্দি উক্ত রুদ্দি কাগজ/পুরাতন পেপারবুক সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।

শর্তাবলী

- ১। দরপত্রে রুদ্দি কাগজ/পুরাতন পেপারবুক এর প্রতি কেজির মূল্য পৃথক ভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- ২। দাখিলকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৩। আগামী ৭/১০/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকার দরপত্র দাখিলকারীদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে। দরপত্র বাজা খোলা হবে।
- ৪। কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক গৃহীত ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধ দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে কার্যদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। উপরিবর্ণিত রুদ্দি কাগজ/পুরাতন পেপারবুক Digital Weight Machine দিয়ে ওজনকরতঃ ওজন মাপিক রুদ্দি কাগজের সমুদয় মূল্য বাদন নগদ অর্থ নিলাম কমিটির সভাপতির নিকট তৎক্ষণাতঃ পরিশোধ করতে হবে এবং সম্পূর্ণ টাকা পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে গেট পাশ সংগ্রহপূর্বক নির্দিষ্ট তারিখের মধ্যে মালামাল নিজ খরচে ডেলিভারী নিতে হবে। Digital Weight Machine টি মালামাল ডেলিভারীর দিন কার্যদেশ প্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নিজ খরচে বহন করতে হবে।
- ৫। নিলামকৃত মালামালের কোন ত্রুটি ধরা পড়লে কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।
- ৬। জামানত হিসাবে দরপত্রের সাথে ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা পে-অর্ডার/চেক ড্রাফট দাখিল করতে হইবে (ফেরতযোগ্য)। এক্ষেত্রে ব্যাংক/নগদ অর্থ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- ৭। নির্ধারিত তারিখের (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) মধ্যে রুদ্দি কাগজ/পুরাতন পেপারবুক ডেলিভারী নিতে বাধ্য হলে কার্যদেশ ব্যতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে।
- ৮। অসম্পূর্ণ, শর্তযুক্ত, কাঁটা-ছেঁড়া বা ফুইড ব্যবহারকৃত দরপত্র এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পরে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য নহে।
- ৯। কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বোচ্চ দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহে এবং সকল দরপত্র ব্যতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

আবেদনক্রমে:
২৭-০৯-২০২১
মোহাম্মদ মেহেদী হাসান
ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার
বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট
আপীল বিভাগ, ঢাকা

জিডি-১৭৩৩

SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited
Head Office: City Center, 90/1 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Request for Proposal

Supplying, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Microsoft Windows 10 professional Operating System, Manage Engine AD Audit Plus, Manage Engine Self-Service Plus, LAPS Solutions

Social Islami Bank Limited hereby requests the intending eligible vendors to submit proposals for Supplying, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Microsoft Windows 10 professional Operating System or latest version of Windows Professional Operating System, Manage Engine AD Audit Plus, Manage Engine Self-Service Plus and LAPS Solutions for the bank. For detail specifications, tender instructions and information please visit Bank's website: <https://www.siblb.com/media#tender>.

Vice President & Head
Logistic Support Division
Phone: 09612001122 Ext- 50292, 50299
E-mail: chspd@sibl-bd.com

16491

CHITTAGONG STOCK EXCHANGE
CAREER OPPORTUNITY
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The Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (CSE), one of the demutualized stock exchanges of Bangladesh is seeking competent Leader to fulfill the post of:

Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO)

CSE invites applications from the qualified professionals having profound understanding of Bangladesh Capital Market rules, regulations and act as well as in depth knowledge on money market of the country. The candidate is expected to have decision-making authority concerning enforcement matters and an advisory role on disciplinary procedures and regulatory policies. The CRO shall report directly to the Regulatory Affairs Committee but will also have an administrative reporting to the Managing Director of the Exchange.

Please visit CSE website www.cse.com.bd for job details and application procedure and apply within **October 10, 2021**.

Shortlisted candidates may appear for interview at CSE Dhaka and Chattogram office.

The Head of Human Resource
Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited
CSE Building, 1080 Sk. Mujib Road
Agrabad, Chittgaong-4100
Email: hr@cse.com.bd

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
erecruitment.bb.org.bd

তারিখঃ ১১ আশ্বিন, ১৪২৮
তারিখঃ ২৬ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২১

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক 'সহকারী পরিচালক (জেনারেল)' পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনুষ্টিতব্য MCQ Test-এর সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক 'সহকারী পরিচালক (জেনারেল)' পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে গত ০১/১২/২০১৯ তারিখে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৫৬/২০১৯ এর সূত্রে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের মধ্য থেকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট হতে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকারী প্রার্থীদের MCQ Test আগামী ১২/১১/২০২১ তারিখ শুক্রবার সকাল ১০:৪০টা হতে ১১:৪০টা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনদ্বয়ের মধ্যে অবস্থিত বিভিন্ন কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। পরীক্ষার নির্ধারিত কেন্দ্র, কেন্দ্র ভিত্তিক আসন বিন্যাস এবং পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় নির্দেশনাবলী যথাসময়ে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে এবং জাতীয় দৈনিক পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৩০২৭
তারিখঃ ২৭-০৯-২০২১

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
মোঃ গোলাম মোস্তফা
মহাব্যবস্থাপক

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

GD-1736

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

Tender Notice

Tender No. NSU/21-22-01

North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ distributors/ business partners/ agents for supplying server, photocopier, Interactive flat digital panel board, desktop computer, mvp screen and digital duplicator for North South University as described in the tender schedule.

Detail of the items mentioned below:
Lot: 1- Interactive flat digital panel board.
Lot: 2- Photocopier.
Lot: 3- Server
Lot: 4- MVP screen
Lot: 5- i7 desktop computer
Lot: 6- i5 desktop computer
Lot: 7- Digital duplicator

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days till **October 24, 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 quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **October 25, 2021** by 2.15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202
E-mail to: procurement@northsouth.edu, www.northsouth.edu

Feed prices worry Mymensingh fish farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Just when Mymensingh's 1.12 lakh fish farmers were looking forward to turn the corner and start recovering from losses they incurred during Covid-19 restrictions, the rising prices of fish feed are eating away their profits.

The aquaculture industry in Mymensingh -- one of the largest fish producing hubs in the country -- suffered Tk 400 crore in losses, mostly due to unavailability of transport during lockdowns.

Abu Raihan, a commercial fish farmer in Dhanikhola village of Trishal upazila, said fish feed prices rose significantly in recent months.

Price of one kilogram of feed has gone up by Tk 4 to 5 over the last three months, raising the cost of production close to the sale price, sometimes even higher. "For example, per kg Pangas is being sold for Tk 82 to 84 while the production cost is around Tk 90," said Raihan.

Ataur Rahman Khan, another fish farmer from Boilor village in the same upazila, said he suffered losses during the pandemic months and he might lose another Tk 4 lakh this year due to the rising prices of fish feed.

Contacted, Dilip Kumar Saha, district fisheries officer in Mymensingh, said dealers of fish feed might be involved in raising its prices, as he found production at different fish feed factories going on in full swing during his recent visit at some of the factories in the district where a few of the factory owners had faced a supply shortage of ingredients.

Against an annual demand of 1.26 lakh tonnes of fish in Mymensingh, around 1,12,000 fish farmers in the district have been producing nearly 4 lakh tonnes of fish each year, he also said.

Tofail Ahmed, senior fisheries officer in Trishal, said around 7,500 fish farmers in the upazila incurred losses due to the pandemic and now the hike in fish feed prices is likely to deal another blow to the industry on which around seven lakh people depend in Mymensingh.

Khaled Masud Sujon, who works as a fisheries executive at Quality Feeds Ltd in Mymensingh, said the prices of fish feed has gone up by Tk 4 to per kg in the last seven months, as prices of ingredients including soyabean, rice bran, oil cake and maize also went up.

The prices of fish feed are not likely to fall any time soon, as the prices of ingredients continue to rise, he added.



Fish netted at a commercial fishing pond in Salimpur village in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Thakurgaon, Panchagarh hospitals struggle to cope with child patients



Failing to make a space inside of the child ward, the guardians are seen attending their ailing children in Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital's compound.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The number of child patients with fever, cough and other cold-related diseases saw a sharp rise as the kids are most vulnerable to the situation when the temperature falls or goes up sharply, doctors at the hospital said.

"I admitted my pneumonia-affected two and a half months old son to the hospital on Wednesday morning. We are staying on the corridor due to shortage of space in

In the last two days, at least 203 patients were admitted to the children's ward of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital although there are only 45 seats at the ward.

In Panchagarh, 39 patients were admitted at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital against 12 beds.

During a visit on Thursday, this correspondent saw a single bed being shared by three, four patients, most of them were forced to stay on the verandah and corridor. Those who failed to make a space inside the hospital with their ailing children were seen staying under trees in Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital's compound.

Besides, over 200 patients receiving treatment at the outdoor every day. Most of them suffering from cold-related diseases, hospital

sources said.

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Patuakhali district administration, in cooperation different hotel-motel and tourism-oriented organizations, brings out a colourful procession in Kuakata yesterday, marking the World Tourism Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Youth found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Naval police recovered the body of a young man from Kathpatti Launch Ghat area yesterday, a day after he went missing on Sunday.

The deceased, Sheikh Mohammad Mahtab, 30, was son of Sheikh Mohammad Hasan of Narayanganj's of Siddhirganj upazila.

Quoting the victim's family members, Sub Inspector of Mukterpur Naval Police Outpost Mohammad Al-Amin said Mahtab went out of his house on Sunday and remained missing since then, he said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তর
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দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ভবন
৯২-৯৩ মহাখালী বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১২
www.ddm.gov.bd

নং- ৫১.০১.০০০০.০০৭.৯৮.০০৬.২১.১১৩

তারিখ: ২৭/০৯/২০২১ খ্রি.

অকেজো গাড়ি বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ত্রাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন সমাপ্তকৃত সিডিএমপি প্রকল্পের এবং দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তরের বিভিন্ন জেলায় নিম্নবর্ণিত অকেজো সাস নম্বরযুক্ত গাড়িগুলো "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" এবং উহার রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ট্যাক্স টোকেন ও ফিনেন্স সনদ "যে অবস্থায় যে পর্যন্ত নবায়ন আছে" ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত আগ্রহী দরদাতাদের নিকট হতে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অকেজো গাড়ির বিবরণ ও বর্তমান অবস্থান নিম্নরূপ:

(ক) সমাপ্তকৃত সিডিএমপি প্রকল্প:

ক্র: নং	গাড়ির নম্বর	গাড়ির ধরন	গাড়ির অবস্থান
১।	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-৮-৫১-৬১৫৪ নং	মাইক্রোবাস	দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ত্রাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের ৪ নং ভবন
২।	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-৮-৫১-৪৮৬৯ নং	মাইক্রোবাস	দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ত্রাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের ৪ নং ভবন
৩।	ঢাকা-মেট্রো-গ-১৭-২১৪৬ নং	কার	দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তরের গ্যারেজে

(খ) বিভিন্ন জেলায় সাস নম্বরযুক্ত ২৬ (ছাব্বিশ) টি জিপ অকেজো গাড়ি:

ক্র: নং	গাড়ির নম্বর	গাড়ির ধরন	গাড়ির অবস্থান	ক্র: নং	গাড়ির নম্বর	গাড়ির ধরন	গাড়ির অবস্থান
১	সাস-৬৫-২৭৫৮নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ফরিদপুর	১৪	সাস-৬৫-২৮৮২ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, রংপুর
২	সাস-৬৫-২৮৮৪ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, গাজীপুর	১৫	সাস-৬৫-২৮৯৫ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সুনামগঞ্জ
৩	সাস-৬৫-২৮৮৭ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ফেনী	১৬	সাস-৬৫-২৮৪৭ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, মুন্সিগঞ্জ
৪	সাস-৬৫-২৫২৬ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, কুমিল্লা	১৭	সাস-৬৫-২৮৮৫ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, লালমনিরহাট
৫	সাস-৬৫-২৮৮৬ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, -ঐ-	১৮	সাস-৬৫-২৪৭১ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, কিনাইদহ
৬	সাস-৬৫-২৭৪৫ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, লক্ষীপুর	১৯	সাস-৬৫-২৭৪০ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ
৭	সাস-৬৫-২৭৪৪ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী	২০	সাস-৬৫-২৫২৪ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, খাগড়াছড়ি
৮	সাস-৬৫-২৬০১ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, নড়াইল	২১	সাস-৬৫-২৮৭৭ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, রাজবাড়ী
৯	সাস-৬৫-২৫২৫ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, নীলফামারী	২২	সাস-৬৫-২৪৬৮ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, কিশোরগঞ্জ
১০	সাস-৬৫-২৫২৮ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, নীলফামারী	২৩	সাস-৬৫-২৭৫৭ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, কিশোরগঞ্জ
১১	সাস-৬৫-২৭০৮ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, নীলফামারী	২৪	সাস-৬৫-২৮৭৯ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, মাদারীপুর
১২	সাস-৬৫-২৮৯২ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী	২৫	সাস-৬৫-২৭৩৯ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, গাইবান্ধা
১৩	সাস-৬৫-২৫৭৩ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, যশোর	২৬	সাস-৬৫-২৬০০ নং	জিপ	জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ঝালকাঠি

সিডিউল বিক্রয়, দাখিল ও খোলার বিবরণ:

দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	আগামী ১৩/১০/২০২১ তারিখ বিকাল-৪.০০ টা
দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	আগামী ১৪/১০/২০২১ তারিখ বিকাল-৩.০০ টা
দরপত্র বাজার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	আগামী ১৪/১০/২০২১ তারিখ বিকাল-৩.০০ টা

শর্তাবলী:

- উপরোক্ত যানবাহনগুলো সংশ্লিষ্ট স্থানে যে কোন কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।
- দরপত্রের সিডিউল নির্ধারিত মূল্য ৫০০.০০(পাঁচশত) টাকায় (অফেরতযোগ্য) (ক) ক্রমিক উল্লিখিত সমাপ্তকৃত সিডিএমপি প্রকল্পের গাড়িগুলো দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তরের যানবাহন শাখা হতে এবং (খ) ক্রমিক উল্লিখিত গাড়িগুলো সিডিউল সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় হতে উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময়ে ক্রয় করা যাবে।
- দরপত্র দাতা ক্রয়কৃত সিডিউলে দর উল্লেখপূর্বক সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র দাখিল করবেন। দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রে অন্যান্য চাহিদাকৃত কাগজ প্রত্যাঙ্গিত সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- দরপত্রে যানবাহনের দাখিলকৃত মূল্য অংকে ও কথায় স্পষ্টভাবে গাড়ির নম্বরের পার্শ্বে পৃথকভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। লেখায় কোনরূপ কাটাকাটি বা ঘষামাজা গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- দরপত্রের সাথে প্রতিটি গাড়ির জন্য উদ্বৃত্ত মূল্যের ১৫% হারে জামানত যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে জমা দিতে হবে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে (ক) ক্রমিক উল্লিখিত সমাপ্তকৃত সিডিএমপি প্রকল্পের গাড়ির জামানত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকরী এবং (খ) ক্রমিক উল্লিখিত গাড়ির জামানত সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার অনুকূলে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। দরপত্র গৃহীত হওয়ার পর নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে প্রতিটি গাড়ির সমুদয় মূল্য জমা দিতে ব্যর্থ হলে জামানতের অর্থ বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে।
- (ক) উল্লিখিত সমাপ্তকৃত সিডিএমপি প্রকল্পের গাড়িগুলোর সিডিউল দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তর, দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ভবন, ৯২-৯৩, মহাখালী বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা এর (লেভেল-০২) এবং (খ) উল্লিখিত গাড়িগুলোর সিডিউল সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার জেলা ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ের টেকার বাক্সে উল্লিখিত তারিখে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে জমা দিতে এবং প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ ঐ দিনই উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) নির্ধারিত সময়ে খোলা হবে।
- যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং কোন বিষয়ে কোন সংশয়ের সৃষ্টি হলে সে ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
- বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

২৭.০৯.২০২১

(ড. মো: হাবিব উল্লাহ বাহার)
(উপসচিব)

উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন-২)

ফোন- ০২-২২২২৮৬০১৭

GD-1730

Grant access or face action

US warns Iran as IAEA inspectors blocked from nuclear site

REUTERS, Vienna

Iran must stop denying the IAEA nuclear watchdog access to a workshop making centrifuge parts as agreed two weeks ago or face diplomatic retaliation at the agency's Board of Governors within days, the United States said yesterday.

The workshop at the TESA Karaj complex makes components for centrifuges, machines that enrich uranium, and was hit by apparent sabotage in June in which one of four International Atomic Energy Agency cameras there was destroyed. Iran removed them and the destroyed camera's footage is missing.

TESA Karaj was one of several sites to which Iran agreed to grant IAEA inspectors access to service IAEA monitoring equipment and replace memory cards just as they were due to fill up with data such as camera footage. The September 12 accord helped avoid a diplomatic escalation between Iran and the West.

"We are deeply troubled by Iran's refusal to provide the IAEA with the needed access to service its monitoring equipment..." a US statement yesterday said.

Iran's envoy to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi, said that before the deal, Iran indicated that monitoring equipment at Karaj was "not included for servicing" because of ongoing investigations and Sunday's report "goes beyond the agreed terms of the JS (Joint Statement)".



Members of the Communist Party of India (CPI) protest against farm laws during a nationwide strike, in Mumbai, India yesterday. Indian farmers opposed to reforms they say threaten their livelihoods aim to renew their push against the changes by holding nationwide protests a year after laws on the liberalisation of the sector were introduced. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLASHES WITH ANTI-COUP DISSIDENTS IN MYANMAR

Military launches air strikes

REUTERS

Myanmar's military launched air strikes at the weekend after clashes with fighters opposed to the junta in the Sagaing region, according to media and a militia member, as phone lines and the internet were also severed in some districts.

The Southeast Asian country has been in crisis since the army seized power on February 1, ending a decade of tentative steps towards democracy and triggering outrage at home and abroad and the setting up of People's Defence Forces (PDFs) to take on the military.

The DVB news portal reported the air strikes occurred as the army staged an offensive in the Pinlebu area of Sagaing in northwest Myanmar, citing residents who heard aircraft and explosions on Saturday night before phone lines and the internet went down.

A member of the Pinlebu PDF, speaking from outside the area, also confirmed by telephone that air strikes had taken place, but said there had been no casualties amongst his group.

"We cannot contact them due

to the internet and phone lines blackout," the activist, who declined to be identified, said of his opposition colleagues.

Reuters could not independently verify any of the claims and a spokesman for the military did not answer calls seeking comment.

- Phone lines, internet severed in some districts in northwest
- NUG says more than 25 govt soldiers killed
- Arms cache including rocket propelled grenade seized in fighting

The National Unity Government (NUG), a shadow administration set up by ousted lawmakers and others opposed to the junta, said an arms cache including a rocket propelled grenade, small arms and shells had been seized in the fighting. It said more than 25 government soldiers had been killed.

There has been an upsurge in bloodshed in areas like Sagaing after the underground NUG declared an

uprising on September 7 and called on PDFs to target the junta and its assets.

Earlier in the conflict, the military had at times shut down the internet, particularly in cities, in a bid to curb demonstrations.

Since Thursday, the military had cut internet access in 11 conflict-hit districts in Chin State and in the Magway region, the Myanmar Now news portal reported, citing residents and members of PDFs.

Last week, thousands fled from the town of Thantlang in Chin State, bordering India, after fighting in which a Christian pastor among those killed.

Some militia groups have also claimed responsibility for blowing up scores of telecommunication towers run by Mytel, a partly army-controlled company.

US-based democracy watchdog Freedom House said in a report published last week that internet freedom slumped by 14 points in Myanmar - the largest annual decline ever recorded on its 100-point scale - after the coup.

Covid cuts life expectancy by most since WW2: study

REUTERS, London

The Covid-19 pandemic reduced life expectancy in 2020 by the largest amount since World War Two, according to a study published yesterday by Oxford University, with the life expectancy of American men dropping by more than two years.

Data from most of the 29 countries - spanning most of Europe, the US and Chile - that were analysed by scientists recorded reductions in life expectancy last year and at a scale that wiped out years of progress.

Life expectancy fell by more than six months compared with 2019 in 22 of the 29 countries analysed in the study.

The university said most life expectancy reductions across different countries could be linked to official Covid-19 deaths. There have been nearly 5 million reported deaths caused by the new coronavirus so far, a Reuters tally shows.

"The fact that our results highlight such a large impact that is directly attributable to Covid-19 shows how devastating a shock it has been for many countries," said Dr Ridhi Kashyap, co-lead author of the paper, published in the International Journal of Epidemiology.

There were greater drops in life expectancy for men than women in most countries, with the largest decline in American men, who saw life expectancy drop by 2.2 years relative to 2019.

Overall, men had more than a year shaved off in 15 countries, compared to women in 11 countries. That wiped out the progress on mortality that had been made in the previous 5.6 years.

In the United States, the rise in mortality was mainly among those of working age and those under 60, while in Europe, deaths among people aged over 60 contributed more significantly to the increase in mortality.

Kashyap appealed to more countries, including low- and middle-income nations, to make mortality data available for further studies.

World's crisis manager steps down

German Chancellor Angela Merkel endured as others came and went over the past 15 years

CNN ONLINE

It's a lesson many politicians -- mostly male -- have learned the hard way over the past 15 years: never underestimate Angela Merkel.

The German Chancellor is preparing to step down later this year, having long ago cemented her position as one of the world's most successful political leaders.

In her time in office, she has dealt with five UK prime ministers, four French presidents and seven Italian prime ministers. When President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Wednesday, he'll be the fourth American commander-in-chief she's worked with.

Yet despite her track record, Merkel, the leader of the world's fourth-biggest economy, has spent much of her political career having to prove herself.

Her counterparts have tried to overpower or even humiliate her. Vladimir Putin once brought a Labrador dog into his meeting with



the Chancellor who is famously afraid of dogs. Donald Trump told her she was stupid. Silvio Berlusconi once left her waiting for 15 minutes while he chatted on the phone.

When she became the first woman to take Germany's top job in 2005, many deemed her too inexperienced and uncharismatic to last.

Bild, Germany's most-read newspaper, marked the occasion with a front-page photo and a headline reading "Miss Germany!" Even within her own party, she was referred to as "das Mädchen," German for "the girl."

But while other leaders have

come and gone over the intervening years, Merkel has endured, enjoying an unparalleled popularity. "Das Mädchen" became nicknamed "die Mutti," a mother figure and symbol of stability.

Political scientist Joyce Mushaben, said Merkel was seen as a "temporary" leader when she first rose through the ranks of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party.

Mushaben, a Merkel biographer and professor of University of Missouri-St. Louis, said the key to Merkel's success lay in the unique mix of her background and her abilities.

Her experience of growing up as a pastor's daughter in Communist East Germany has deeply influenced her political decision-making, and as a former scientist with a doctorate in quantum chemistry, she often approaches problems in the same way as complex calculations, Mushaben said.

'Convenient scapegoat'

PM Imran Khan says Pakistan should not be blamed for Afghan war's outcome

DAWN ONLINE

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan must not be blamed for the outcome of the war in Afghanistan and for the losses of the United States, stressing on setting eyes on the future to avoid another conflict instead of continuing with a blame game.

"Today, with Afghanistan at another crossroads, we must look to the future to prevent another violent conflict in that country rather than perpetuating the blame game of the past," he wrote in an op-ed for The Washington Post today.

The premier emphasised that Pakistan "surely" could not be blamed for the fact that "300,000-plus well-trained and equipped Afghan security forces saw no reason to fight the lightly armed Taliban".

The underlying problem, he said, was an Afghan government structure lacking legitimacy in the eyes of the average Afghan.



He also expressed "surprise" over the recent Congressional hearings on Afghanistan, where "no mention was made of Pakistan's sacrifices as a US ally in the war on terror for over two decades".

"Instead, we were blamed for America's loss," he added.

Prime Minister Imran recalled that since 2001, he had repeatedly warned that the Afghan war was "unwinnable" and pointed out that given their history, the Afghans would never accept a protracted foreign military presence.

Even an outsider including Pakistan could not change this reality, he said.

"Tragically, instead of facing this reality, the Afghan and Western governments created a convenient scapegoat by blaming Pakistan, wrongly accusing us of providing safe havens to the Taliban and allowing their free movement across our border," the prime minister said.

MORE NEWS

S Korea's President Moon raises dog meat ban

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in raised banning the eating of dogs in the country yesterday, his office said, a traditional practice that is becoming an international embarrassment. The meat has long been a part of South Korean cuisine with about one million dogs believed to be eaten annually, but consumption has declined as more people embrace dogs as companions rather than livestock. The practice is now something of a taboo among younger generations and pressure from animal rights activists has also been mounting. "Hasn't the time come to prudently consider prohibiting dog meat consumption?" Moon told Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum during a weekly meeting, according to the presidential spokeswoman.

Encrypted messaging app Signal hit by brief outage

Encrypted instant messaging app Signal was hit by a brief outage late Sunday that interrupted services on the platform at the same time as localised interruptions on other social media services. Signal blamed hosting issues for the disruption, which internet outage monitor DownDetector said began at 11:05 pm Eastern Standard Time (0305 GMT), citing user reports. The site logged reports of interrupted service in the United States, Europe, Hong Kong and other parts of the world. Service had largely returned to normal by 3:00 am (0700 GMT), according to Signal's developers.



India exam cheats caught with Bluetooth flip-flops

Ten people have been arrested in India for planning to cheat in fiercely competitive teaching exams using Bluetooth devices concealed in their flip-flops, police said. Cribbing has long been a problem in India and, for Sunday's government exams in Rajasthan state, police had permission to snap mobile internet access while the tests lasted. But one group planned to get around this with devices hidden in the soles of their flip-flops that could receive ordinary calls which would be transmitted wirelessly to tiny receivers hidden in their ears. The plan was for accomplices outside to call the hidden contraptions and dictate the correct answers to the exams. But the group of would-be teachers were arrested acting suspiciously outside the examination hall before the exams and the devices in their footwear were discovered.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



SEPTEMBER 28

1939 - Warsaw, Poland surrenders to Germans after weeks of resistance.

1994 - In Europe's worst peacetime maritime disaster, 852 people drowned when the ferry Estonia sank about 20 miles from the Finnish island of Utoe, en route from Tallinn to Stockholm.

1995 - Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord at White House ceremonies establishing Palestinian self-rule in most of the West Bank.

SOURCE: REUTERS

জয় বাংলা

আগ্নীমানে শুচি হয়ে বারবার আসো
তুমি ভূমিকন্যা'-
তোমারই হোক জয়

৭৫ তম
জন্মদিন

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী বঙ্গবন্ধুকন্যা
জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনার

জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু



রাষ্ট্রপতি
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
বঙ্গবন্ধবন, ঢাকা।
১৩ অক্টোবর ১৯৪৮
২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সভাপতি মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার ৭৫তম জন্মদিনে তাকে জানাই প্রাণঢালা শ্রুভেচ্ছা ও উষ্ণ অভিনন্দন।

১৯৪৭ সালের ২৮শে সেপ্টেম্বর দেশের এক ঐতিহ্যবাহী রাজনৈতিক পরিবারে শেখ হাসিনার জন্ম। শৈশব থেকেই তিনি দেখেছেন তাঁর পিতা বাঙালি জাতির অবিসংবাদিত নেতা স্বাধীনতার মহান স্থপতি জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্ব, সংগ্রামী জীবন এবং দেশ ও গণমানুষের রাজনীতি। যুক্ত হয়েছেন ছাত্রলীগের রাজনীতিতে। সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণ করেছেন পাকিস্তানবিরোধী আন্দোলনসহ বাঙালির অধিকার আদায়ের সকল লড়াই-সংগ্রামে।

জাতির পিতার কন্যা হওয়া সত্ত্বেও তাঁর চলার পথ কখনো কুসুমাস্ত্রীর্ণ ছিল না। ১৯৭৫ সালের ১৫ই আগস্ট কালরাতে তাঁর পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান স্বাধীনতারবিরোধী ঘাতকচক্রের হাতে সপরিবারে নির্মমভাবে নিহত হন। শহিদ হন মা শেখ ফজিলাতুন নেছা মুজিব, ভাই শেখ কামাল, শেখ জামাল, শিশু শেখ রাসেলসহ অনেক আপনজন। শেখ হাসিনা ও তাঁর বোন শেখ রেহানা তৎকালীন পশ্চিম জার্মানিতে অবস্থান করায় প্রাণে বেঁচে যান। মা, বাবা, ভাইসহ আপনজনদের হারানোর বেদনা বুকে ধারণ করে তাদের পরবর্তী ছয় বছর লন্ডন ও দিল্লিতে চরম প্রতিকূল পরিবেশে নির্বাসিত জীবন কাটাতে হয়। ২০০৪ সালের ২১শে আগস্ট বঙ্গবন্ধু এজিন্ডিতে গ্রেপ্তার হামলাসহ বছরের তাঁর উপর হামলা হয়েছে। মহান আল্লাহর অশেষ রহমতই প্রতিবার তাকে এসব বিপদ থেকে রক্ষা করেছে।

১৯৮১ সালে ১৪-১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি অনুষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের জাতীয় কাউন্সিল অধিবেশনে তাকে সর্বসম্মতিক্রমে বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সভাপতি নিৰ্বাচিত করা হয়। নানা চড়াই-উতরাই পেরিয়ে স্বজন হারানোর বেদনা বুকে নিয়ে ১৯৮১ সালের ১৭ই মে তিনি স্বদেশ প্রত্যাবর্তন করে গণতন্ত্র পুনরুদ্ধারের আন্দোলন শুরু করেন। এরই ধারাবাহিকতায় '৯০ এর গণআন্দোলনের মাধ্যমে স্বৈরাচারের পতন হয়, বিজয় হয় গণতন্ত্রের।

১৯৯৬ সালের ১২ জুন সাধারণ নির্বাচনে বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ বিপুল ভোটে জয়লাভ করে এবং শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে সরকার গঠিত হয়। এ সময় ঐতিহাসিক পার্বত্য শান্তিচুক্তি এবং প্রতিবেশী ভারতের সাথে গঙ্গা পানিবন্ধন চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরিত হয়। ২০০৮ সালের ২৯শে ডিসেম্বর নবম, ২০১৪ সালের ৫ই জানুয়ারি দশম এবং ২০১৮ সালের ৩০শে ডিসেম্বর একাদশ জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে তাঁর নেতৃত্বে আওয়ামী লীগ সরকার টানা তিনবার ক্ষমতায় আসে। এসময় বঙ্গবন্ধু হত্যার বিচারের রায় কার্যকরসহ যুদ্ধাপরাধীদের বিচার কার্যক্রম শুরু ও রায়ের বাস্তবায়ন, সমুদ্রে বাংলাদেশের ন্যূনতম অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা, ভারতের সাথে দীর্ঘদিনের অমীমাংসিত স্থল সীমানা নির্ধারণ তথা ছিটমহল বিনিময় চুক্তি সম্পাদিত হয়।

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর বলিষ্ঠ নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশ আজ স্বল্পোন্নত দেশ থেকে উন্নয়নশীল দেশে পরিণত হয়েছে। পদ্মা সেতু, কর্ণফুলী টানেল, মেট্রোপলিটন রূপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রের মতো বৃহৎ প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়িত হচ্ছে। মিয়ানমার থেকে জোরপূর্বক বিতাড়িত ও নির্বাসিত লক্ষ লক্ষ রোহিঙ্গা জনগোষ্ঠীকে দেশে আশ্রয় দিয়ে তিনি বিশ্বমানবতার ইতিহাসে এক উজ্জ্বল দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করেছেন। এ জন্য তিনি আন্তর্জাতিক অঙ্গনে 'মাদার অব হিউম্যানিটি' অভিধায় ভূষিত হয়েছেন। জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের নেতিবাচক প্রভাব মোকাবিলা, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি, নারীর ক্ষমতায়নসহ দারিদ্র্যবিমোচনে অসামান্য অবদানের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ তিনি দেশি-বিদেশি অনেক পুরস্কারে ভূষিত হয়েছেন এবং দেশের জন্য বয়ে এনেছেন বিরল সম্মান। দেশকে জাতির পিতার স্বপ্নের সোনার বাংলায় পরিণত করতে তিনি রূপকল্প 'ভিশন ২০২১' এর সফল বাস্তবায়নের ধারাবাহিকতায় 'ভিশন ২০৪১' কর্মসূচিসহ বাংলাদেশ ব-ঐগণ মাহাপরিকল্পনা (ডেপ্টা প্লান ২১০০) গ্রহণ করেছেন।

করোনাভাইরাস মহামারি গোটা বিশ্বকে এক চরম অনিশ্চয়তার মুখে ঠেলে দিয়েছে। মহামারি করোনার প্রভাবে গোটা বিশ্বের অর্থনীতিতে নেতিবাচক প্রভাব পড়লেও মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার সমন্বিত ও সাহসী পদক্ষেপের ফলে সরকার করোনার প্রভাব মোকাবিলা করে অর্থনীতির প্রবৃদ্ধি ধরে রাখতে সক্ষম হয়েছে। অর্থনীতির চাকাতে সচল ও ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত জনগোষ্ঠীর জীবনযাত্রা অব্যাহত রাখতে সরকার প্রায় ১ লাখ ৩২ হাজার কোটি টাকার ২৮টি প্রপোজনা প্যাকেজ ঘোষণা করেছে। কোভিড-১৯ এর ভ্যাকসিন প্রদানেরও ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। পর্যায়ক্রমে দেশের সকল নাগরিককে ভ্যাকসিনের আওতায় আনার কার্যক্রম চলছে। করোনা মহামারির সফল মোকাবিলা, অর্থনীতির পুনরুদ্ধার ও জীবনমান সচল রাখার ক্ষেত্রে মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের সংবাদ সংস্থা রুমেবার্গ প্রণীত 'কোভিড-১৯ সহনশীল রাইংকিং'-এ বাংলাদেশ দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় শীর্ষ এবং বিশ্বে ২০তম স্থান অর্জন করেছে। এর মাধ্যমে বিশ্বে বাংলাদেশের ভাবমূর্তি আরও উজ্জ্বল হয়েছে। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর গতিশীল নেতৃত্ব, সঠিক সিদ্ধান্ত ও অদম্য সাহসিকতায় বাংলাদেশ করোনা পরিস্থিতি সাফল্যের সাথে মোকাবিলা করে যাচ্ছে।

জাতি হিসেবে আমরা এক ঐতিহাসিক মুহূর্ত অতিক্রম করছি। জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকীর সোপান বেয়ে আমরা পৌঁছে গিয়েছি স্বাধীনতার সুবর্ণজয়ন্তীর স্বর্ণতোরণে। করোনার অব্যাহত চোখ রাজনৈতিক অগ্রাহ্য করে জাতি সাড়ুখরে উদযাপন করছে মুজিব শতবর্ষ ও স্বাধীনতার সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী। আমরা নিরসনেদেহে অত্যন্ত ভাগ্যবান। জাতির পিতা আমৃত্যু যে সোনার বাংলার স্বপ্ন দেখে গেছেন, তাঁর কন্যার সুদক্ষ হাতেই সেই স্বপ্নের বাস্তব রূপায়ণ স্বচক্ষে দেখে যাওয়ার এবং তার অংশীদার হওয়ার বিরল সুযোগ আমরা পেয়েছি।

শেখ হাসিনা তাঁর পিতার মতোই গণমানুষের নেতা। রাজনৈতিক প্রজ্ঞা, বিচক্ষণতা, গতিশীল নেতৃত্ব, মানবিক মূল্যবোধ দিয়ে শূন্য দেশেই নন, বহির্বিপক্ষেও তিনি অন্যতম সেরা রাষ্ট্রনায়ক হিসেবে নিজেকে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছেন। জাতির পিতার আদর্শকে বুকে ধারণ করে তাঁর নেতৃত্বে আজ বাঙালি জাতি এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বঙ্গবন্ধুর আজীবন লাগিত স্বপ্ন সুখী-সমৃদ্ধ 'সোনার বাংলা' গড়ার পথে।

আমি মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার সুস্বাস্থ্য, দীর্ঘায়ু, সুখ-সমৃদ্ধি ও অব্যাহত কল্যাণ কামনা করছি।

জয় বাংলা।

খোদা হাফেজ, বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

মোঃ আবদুল হামিদ

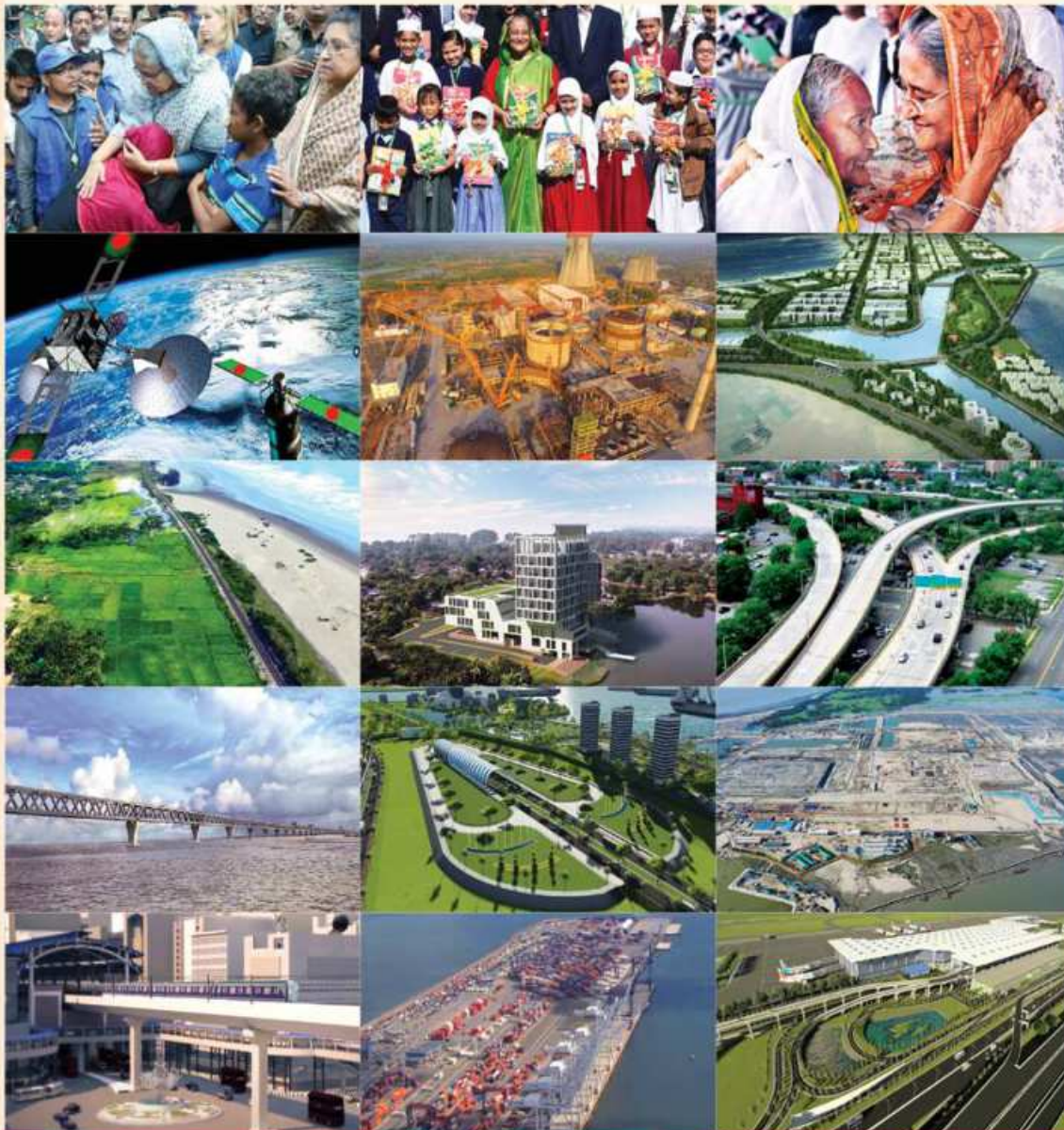


সোনার বাংলার মেয়ে শেখ হাসিনা
রফিকুল ইসলাম

আমাদের প্রিয়নেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা আজ পঁচাত্তরতম জন্মদিনে পদার্পণ করলেন। তাঁকে অভিনন্দন! তাঁর জন্ম ১৯৪৭ সালের ২৮শে সেপ্টেম্বর অর্থাৎ দেশ বিভাগের অব্যবহিত পরে। পাকিস্তানে জন্মগ্রহণ করলেও তিনি স্বাধীন দেশের আনন্দ উপভোগ করতে পারেননি। পাকিস্তান ছিল আমাদের জন্য আর এক পরাধীনতা। জন্ম থেকেই যদি একজন শিশুকে এই শিক্ষা দেওয়া হতে থাকে যে 'তোমার বর্ণমালা বাংলা নয় বরং উর্দু' তাহলে সেই শিশুর মানসিক বিকাশ কি হতে পারে? হাসিনা এই সংঘাত পেরিয়ে বাংলাকে আপন ভাষ্যরূপে ভালোবেসে গড়ে উঠেছেন। শেখ হাসিনার স্কুল ও কলেজ জীবন কেটেছে এক বিচিত্র অভিজ্ঞতায়। পিতা শেখ মুজিব পাকিস্তানি আধিকারিক দেশ বিরোধীদের বিরুদ্ধে সংগ্রাম করে জেল-জুলুম খেতে তাঁর ছাত্রজীবন অতিবাহিত করেছিলেন কিন্তু তিনি তাঁর ছাত্রজীবন ধরে রাখতে পারেননি, তা কেড়ে নেওয়া হয়েছিল ফলে শুরু হয়ে যায় তাঁর পূর্ণাঙ্গ রাজনৈতিক জীবন। হাসিনা তাঁর ছাত্রজীবনে পিতার কাছ থেকে এই শিক্ষা পেয়েছিলেন। তিনি শৈশবে ভাষা আন্দোলন দেখেছেন, '৫৪র সাধারণ নির্বাচন প্রত্যক্ষ করেছেন, বাবাকে মন্ত্রী হতে দেখেছেন এবং মন্ত্রিত্ব ত্যাগ করতেও দেখেছেন। তিনি পাকিস্তানের সামরিক শাসনের অভ্যুত্থান লক্ষ করেছেন। দেখেছেন সেই শাসনে তাঁর পিতার বন্দিদশা।

ইতোমধ্যে দেশে সামরিক শাসন আমলে দেখা দিলো আওয়ামী লীগের মধ্যে চরম বিশৃঙ্খলা। উপায়ান্তর না দেখে আওয়ামী লীগ নেতারা দিল্লিতে নির্বাসনরত শেখ হাসিনার শরণাপন্ন হলেন এবং দেশে ফিরে আসার অনুরোধ জানান। শেখ হাসিনা তখনও আওয়ামী লীগ করেননি বা দলের নেতৃত্ব দেননি, তবুও তিনি ওদের ফেরাতে পারলেন না। তাই দেশে ফিরে এলেন। ফিরে এসে প্রাথমিক ধাক্কাটা সামলে নিয়ে আওয়ামী লীগের নেতৃত্ব গ্রহণ করলেন। শুরু হলো তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে ষড়যন্ত্র, চক্রান্ত ও হত্যার পরিকল্পনা। কিন্তু তিনি দমে গেলেন না। সামরিক ও পাকিস্তানি চক্রান্তের বিরুদ্ধে ক্রমে দাঁড়ালেন। নিজ দলকে এক সূত্রে আবদ্ধ করলেন কিন্তু তাঁকে সরিয়ে দেবার চক্রান্ত থেমে থাকলো না। একুশে আগস্ট তার চরম বহিষ্করণ ঘটলো। হাসিনা বেঁচে গেলেন কিন্তু আইডি রহমানকে জীবন দিতে হলো। শত পাকিস্তানি চক্রান্ত সত্ত্বেও হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে আওয়ামী লীগ নির্বাচনে ক্ষমতা দখল করলো যা ছিল একান্তভাবে হাসিনার দক্ষ নেতৃত্বের ফলে বাংলাদেশ আবার বাংলাদেশে পরিণত হলো; কিন্তু পরের নির্বাচনে আওয়ামী লীগকে জোর করে হারানো হলো। তারপর চললো আন্তর্জাতিক চক্রান্ত যাতে আওয়ামী লীগ আর কোনোদিন ক্ষমতায় আসতে না পারে; কিন্তু শত্রুপক্ষের সমস্ত চক্রান্তকে ব্যর্থ করে দিয়ে আওয়ামী লীগ আবার ক্ষমতায় ফিরে এলো। শুরু হলো বাংলাদেশের নবযাত্রা। বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতির পথে এগিয়ে চললো। শত ষড়যন্ত্র ও চক্রান্ত বাংলাদেশের অগ্রযাত্রাকে রুখতে পারলো না। শেখ হাসিনার ব্যক্তিত্বে বাংলাদেশ এমনভাবে এগিয়ে চললো যা বাংলাদেশের মানুষ স্বপ্নেও কল্পনা করেনি- শেখ হাসিনার নব নব উদ্ভাবনশক্তি বাংলাদেশে অগ্রগতির নব নব পথ উন্মুক্ত করতে লাগলো।

একুশ শতকের বিশ্বে শত প্রতিকূলতা সত্ত্বেও বাংলাদেশে অগ্রযাত্রা এ বাস্তবে কী বিস্ময়কর! আর এটা সম্ভবপর হয়েছে শেখ হাসিনার উদ্ভাবনী শক্তির এবং সাহসী মনোবলের জন্যে। শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বের বিকাশ শত প্রতিকূলতার মধ্যে বাংলাদেশকে ভালোবেসে। শেখ হাসিনা যদি একজন যথার্থ দেশপ্রেমিক না হতেন তাহলে বাংলাদেশকে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যেতে পারতেন না, বাংলাদেশ সেই ভিত্তিরে ছিল সেই ভিত্তিরেই থাকতো; কিন্তু বাংলাদেশ আজ শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে এক নতুন পথের যাত্রী। এটা সম্ভবপর হয়েছে শেখ হাসিনার অপারিসীম দেশপ্রেম এবং দেশকে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যাবার জন্যে অকুতপূর্ব মনোবলের জন্যে। আমরা তাঁর দীর্ঘ ফলপ্রসূ জীবন কামনা করি।



ওবায়দুল কাদের এমপি
সাধারণ সম্পাদক
বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ

সাধারণ সম্পাদকের কথা

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সভাপতি মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার ৭৫তম শ্রুভেচ্ছা জ্ঞানদিনে প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন। ১৯৪৭ সালের ২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর জাতির পিতা শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ও বঙ্গমাতা বেগম ফজিলাতুন নেছা মুজিবের জ্যেষ্ঠ কন্যা শেখ হাসিনা পিতা-মাতার জন্মগ্রহণের আশ্বিনের এক সোনালি রোদুর্ভাগ্যে দুপুরে জন্মগ্রহণ করেন।

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশ আজ মাথা উঁচু করে দাঁড়িয়েছে বিশ্ব দরবারে। জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান সোনার বাংলার যে স্বপ্ন দেখিয়েছিলেন, সেই স্বপ্ন আজ বাস্তবায়িত হয়েছে তাঁরই সুযোগ্য কন্যা দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনার হাত ধরে ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশের মাধ্যমে। তাঁর সুদক্ষ রাষ্ট্রপরিচালনায় সুশাসন, স্থিতিশীল অর্থনীতি, কৃষি উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি, উন্নয়নে গতিশীলতা, শিক্ষার প্রসার, স্বাস্থ্যসেবা নিশ্চিতকরণ, কর্মসংস্থান, বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি, সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বেষ্টনী, খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা, নারীর ক্ষমতায়নসহ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে এসেছে সাফল্য।

দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনার পরিচালিত সরকার জনকল্যাণমুখী ও সুসংযত কর্মকাণ্ডের মাধ্যমে একটি সুখী, সমৃদ্ধ, সমতা ও ন্যায়বিচারভিত্তিক গণতান্ত্রিক দেশ বিনির্মাণের পথে জাতিকে অগ্রসরমান রেখেছে। নিজস্ব অর্থ ও জনগণের অংশগ্রহণে পদ্মা সেতুসহ দেশের বৃহৎ স্থাপনাপ্রকল্প- রূপপুর পারমাণবিক প্রকল্প, কর্ণফুলী টানেল, পায়রা বন্দর, মেট্রোপলিটন, মাতারবাড়ি পাওয়ার প্ল্যান্ট, এলিভেটেড এগ্রুপ্রসেসিং ইত্যাদি দ্রুতগতিতে সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পথে।

বঙ্গবন্ধুর ঘৃণ্য হত্যাকাণ্ড ও যুদ্ধাপরাধীদের বিচারের আওতায় এনে শান্তির বিধান করে জাতির কলঙ্ক মোচন সম্ভব হয়েছে বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সম্মানিত সভাপতি শেখ হাসিনার রাষ্ট্রনায়কোচিত মুক্তিযুদ্ধের-চেতনাদৃষ্টি সাহসী ভূমিকার কারণে। কেবল জল-স্থল নয় আন্তর্জাতিক ও আন্তর্জাতিক পৌরবয়ম বিচারপন। বঙ্গবন্ধু স্যাটেলাইট উৎক্ষেপণের মধ্য দিয়ে মহাকাশেও এক টুকরো বাংলাদেশ স্থাপন করে তিনি আমাদের স্বপ্ন ও আত্মবিশ্বাসকে গণনচরী করেছেন। আজ দেশ ও পৃথিবীর নিপীড়িত মানুষের আশা-ভরসার স্থল 'মাদার অব হিউম্যানিটি' শেখ হাসিনা।

বর্তমান পৃথিবীর অন্যতম প্রাজ্ঞ রাজনীতিক ও সফল রাষ্ট্রনায়ক জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা বহু বন্ধুর পথ অতিক্রম করে, নানা চড়াই-উতরাই পার হয়ে শ্রোতের উজানে নৌকা ভাসিয়েছিলেন। এই এগিয়ে যাওয়ার প্রত্যয়দীপ্ত সংগ্রামে একের সঙ্গে বেঁচেছেন বহুকে। দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনা এখন একটি প্রত্যয়ের নাম। লক্ষ্য অর্জনের পথে আমরা ধাপে ধাপে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছি। এক সময় যে দেশকে একটি বোঝা হিসেবে মনে করা হতো, সে দেশ এখন উন্নয়নের মডেল। বিশ্বব্যাপ্তির মধ্যে অভিযোগ ও হুমকি অগ্রাহ্য করে নিজস্ব অর্থায়নে পদ্মা সেতু নির্মাণের মধ্য দিয়ে আত্মশক্তিতে বলিমান জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনার দৃঢ় সিদ্ধান্ত জাতি হিসেবে বাঙালিদের সম্মান উর্ধ্বে তুলে ধরেছে। শিক্ষা ও স্বাস্থ্যসেবাতেও আমাদের অর্জন কম নয়। এই করোনা সংকটকালেও উন্নয়নের অব্যাহত ধারায় প্রায় সকল ক্ষেত্রেই আমাদের অর্জন ইতিবাচক। আন্তর্জাতিক সমীক্ষাগুলোতে এই তথ্যগুলো প্রশংসার সঙ্গে উল্লেখিত হচ্ছে। এ সকল অর্জন সম্ভব হয়েছে শেখ হাসিনার অসাধারণ দেশপ্রেম ও কর্মনিষ্ঠার জন্য। স্বল্প-সামর্থ্য নিয়ে যে বিপুল রোহিঙ্গা শরণার্থীকে বাংলাদেশ আশ্রয় দিয়েছে, সেটিও শেখ হাসিনার মানবিক বোধের পরিচায়ক। একজন লেখক-সম্পাদক হিসেবেও তিনি দেশে ও বিদেশে সমাদৃত হয়েছেন। সরল ও অনাড়ম্বর জীবন, উদারমৈত্রিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গির জন্য তাঁর যে ভাবমূর্তি তৈরি হয়েছে- তা অমূল্যবোধী ও শত্রুর। পৃথিবীর নানা দেশ ও প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে তিনি যে সম্মান অর্জন করেছেন, তার আলোয় আমরাও আলোকিত হয়েছি, যা আমাদের দেশের সম্মান বৃদ্ধি করেছে।

আমাদের প্রাণপ্রিয় মাতৃভূমিসহ প্রায় সমস্ত পৃথিবী আজ করোনা মহামারির ক্রাণলগ্ন্যে বিপন্ন। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর বিচক্ষণ, মানবিক নেতৃত্বে সমস্ত দেশবাসীকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে আমরা এই সংকট মোকাবিলা করছি। সরকার ও দলের সকল স্তরের নেতাকর্মী সর্বোপরি সর্বস্তরের জনগণের ঐকান্তিক প্রচেষ্টায় ইনশাআল্লাহ আমরা পরিত্রাণ পাবো।

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনার শ্রুভেচ্ছা জ্ঞানদিনে তাঁর সুদীর্ঘ সুস্থ জীবন ও কল্যাণ কামনা করি।

ওবায়দুল কাদের এমপি

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু
বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

Why is BIWTA filling up the Turag again?

Officials of the government body must be held accountable

THE latest initiative of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to build permanent structures in Dhaka's Cabtoli, Amin Bazar, and Diabari areas by filling the Turag River is shocking. In 2005, the BIWTA constructed landing stations in the same areas by filling up the riverbanks for a government water taxi service. Despite pouring a huge amount of money into launching the service, the project was an utter failure as the landing stations remained abandoned since the suspension of the service.

The latest plan to construct large concrete jetties on the banks of Turag River indicates that the BIWTA has learned nothing from its previous failure. As this daily reported on Monday, multiple private and government structures have also been set up bordering the landing stations by illegally filling the river. According to experts, the construction of these illegal structures violates a High Court directive, as one of the landing stations has been constructed around 150 feet inside the river's boundary demarcation pillars, and the BIWTA has kept filling up the riverbank near the landing station. Moreover, large jetties are being constructed near the landing station's south portion, around 100 feet inside the river's boundary demarcation pillar nos. 210, 211 and 212. Similar construction works were being done near other demarcation pillars as well.

We fail to understand why the BIWTA would choose to ignore an express directive of the High Court imposing a ban on the construction of any structure obstructing the natural water flow of a river. Environmentalists have pointed out that such action may encourage others to also encroach upon the river. And they have also asked whether all this was being done for the interest of any vested quarter, and to legitimise other riverbank grabbers. We believe this is a legitimate question.

In this connection, the comments made by the chairman of the National River Conservation Commission are pertinent. At a recent webinar, he admitted that rivers were becoming "victims of greed" of influential and vested quarters. This newspaper has also, time and again, reported on the continuing river encroachment by influential individuals and groups, and the lack of government action to hold them accountable. This trend must change, and the culture of impunity that is fuelling such illegal activities must be eradicated. But how can that be done, we wonder, when the government bodies themselves are guilty of such encroachment?

We call upon the authorities concerned to immediately look into the matter and ask the BIWTA high-ups to explain why they have taken up this initiative, despite the obvious environmental concerns and a High Court order, risking the life of the Turag River. Additionally, we call on the government to immediately halt said construction work and to clear the riverbank of all such obstructing structures—government or private.

DU's decision to keep 'gono' rooms closed commendable

The authorities must see this through and ensure compliance with health guidelines before reopening

AS the Dhaka University authorities are preparing to reopen its 18 dormitories on a limited scale on October 5, ahead of resuming in-person classes, students who were staying in the 'gono' rooms before the pandemic are naturally worried about whether they will be able to get any regular seats in the dorms. Although students currently pursuing their master's degrees and those who are in honours final year are supposed to return to the dormitories first, students of other academic sessions will be allowed into the dorms gradually. However, how the university authorities will provide seats to these 'gono' room residents as they have decided to end the 'gono' room culture—to maintain the Covid-19 safety guidelines—has become a big question.

Reportedly, the university authorities have decided to vacate seats occupied by former students in the dorms and allot them to the 'gono' room students. To ensure this, they have made a list of the former students who have been staying in the dorms illegally for a long time, and another list of first- and second-year students to whom these seats will be allotted. Although the hall authorities have said that they will ensure the allotment, we don't know how they plan to do it. As far as we know, the university authorities took such initiatives in the past as well, but could not implement them allegedly due to the influence of the ruling party's student wing. And students of 'gono' rooms fear that if the administration cannot prevent the stay of "illegal" former students at the dormitories, they may have to live outside the campus, further spiralling into uncertainty.

Besides, it also remains to be seen how the authorities ensure that only honours final-year and master's students will stay in the dorms at the beginning. In a sign of things (troubles) to come when the university finally reopens, we have already seen the chaos that was created in the university libraries on Sunday, when students entering the libraries after the long closure hardly maintained health guidelines and got into a scuffle with the proctor. The incident raises alarm as to what will happen when the university dorms reopen and the classes resume.

We hope the Dhaka University authorities will remain alert and take all the necessary preparations so that such incidents do not recur. Maintaining health safety guidelines and social distancing should be a priority for the university authorities as they reopen. We hope other universities will learn from DU's experience in phased reopening, and reopen their own doors only after taking proper measures to avoid untoward incidents.



C R ABRAR

TODAY, September 28, is observed globally as World News Day. This is not your usual "industry celebration" day, but one to highlight the importance of the institution of news media and the critical role that journalists play in gathering, presenting and interpreting facts, in unearthing the background of events, in exposing corruption and abuse of power, in holding the state and non-state actors accountable and—through all these processes—in augmenting democracy. It is a day to sensitise the wider society about the challenges that the journalist community faces in performing their duties. At the same time, it is also a day of reiteration of what constitutes ethical journalism, the hallmark of this noble profession. Coincidentally, the day is also marked as the International Day for Universal Access to Information (designated by Unesco).

Journalism as a trade has experienced massive transformation in this age of communication technology, augmented by digitalisation. The centuries-old paper-based news industry now faces a serious challenge from its online counterparts. The local newspaper industry, even in the Global North, faces threats from Facebook, Google, and other sites that "siphon off" the bulk of the revenue. While some in the industry have successfully adapted to the new reality, others have had to pull down the shutters. In addition, social media has emerged as an alternative source of information. Unfortunately, such systemic transformations have not necessarily been accompanied by the growth of responsible and credible journalism practices, promoting, celebrating and facilitating professional excellence. Therefore, the need for gathering, presenting, and interpreting trustworthy news and information has become ever more important. An essential prerequisite to attain such lofty goals is protecting the right of the journalists to perform their tasks freely and without fear.

One may recall that in the long-drawn struggle for democracy during Pakistani days, ethical journalism played a critical role. On the one hand, it challenged and exposed the authoritarian practices of those at the helm of the state; on the other, it conveyed the alternatives (such as that of the theory of two economies) offered by the opposition platforms that helped galvanise the people to rally, and protest, and demand change. Unfortunately, instead of further

facilitating press freedom, successive governments in independent Bangladesh have adopted laws and administrative practices that act as barriers to that aspired principle. Included among the laws are provisions of the Special Powers Act, the Printing Press and Publication Act, the Information and Communication Technology Act, the sedition and defamation clauses of the Code of Criminal Procedure and, no less importantly, the Digital Security Act. Needless to say, these laws, particularly the DSA, have been applied to stem dissent on a number of occasions, and it is the journalist community who disproportionately bore the brunt.

The rampant application of the DSA severely restricts freedom of expression. Stating that 14 of the listed 19 offences under the law are non-bailable, the president of the Editors' Council noted, "Even if the law is not invoked, its sheer existence is enough to destroy journalistic initiatives." This may entail that an accused may have to spend months behind the bars before the trial process even begins. It also takes a toll on his/her reputation and social standing. The law also extends enormous power to the police to conduct searches on the premises of news establishments or seize computers and other equipment on "mere suspicion."

The defamation provision is another legal instrument to intimidate journalists. While in most countries, defamation

pursue their vocation.

There have been occasions where journalists had to endure physical assault, illegal detention, and harassment from the state functionaries for performing their professional tasks. In mid-March 2020, Ariful Islam's reports on the irregularities of Kurigram district administration resulted in 30 to 40 people, including a senior official of civil administration, raiding his house in the



Free press ensures the accountability and transparency of various branches of the government and state institutions in a democracy.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

middle of the night and detaining him. Arif was taken to the DC's office, where he was tortured blindfolded and threatened with an "encounter." He was then sent to jail for a year on charges of "possessing alcohol and marijuana" by an illegal mobile court sanctioned by the deputy commissioner.

The non-state actors also constitute a threat to journalists. On unmetten numbers of occasions, particularly during mass protests such as the road safety or quota movements, along with the protesters, reporters (carrying visible identity documents) were attacked and their equipment and vehicles vandalised by the supporters or members of the affiliated organisations of the ruling establishment, inflicting bodily harm on journalists. There is little evidence that effective actions were taken against the attackers for violating the law.

Likewise, reporters are also subjected to attacks and intimidation for publishing news and posting opinions on social media platforms, triggering displeasure of the powerful quarters. Golam Sarwar's case provides a classic example. This Chattogram-based journalist was involuntarily disappeared last November, and he reappeared after three days. While in illegal custody, Sarwar was

The onus lies on the state and other stakeholders to ensure that freedom of expression and ethical journalism can flourish.

is treated as a civil offence, under Bangladesh law, it is a criminal offence. The law explicitly stipulates that the plaintiff has to be an aggrieved party, but in practice, defamation cases filed by individuals, who had no *locus standi* to file them, were admitted by the magistrate.

While the state retains a plethora of legal provisions to clamp down on the media if it so decides, thus far there is no law for the protection of the media from arbitrary intrusion and closure, and from arrest or questioning of journalists and the whistleblowers. This works as a great impediment to freedom of the press, and curtails journalists' ability to effectively

That sinking feeling from Down Under



ANDREW SHENG

TWO weeks ago, US President Joe Biden, in announcing on video the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) pact, called Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison "that fellow from Down Under" in what appears to be a senior moment. The fact that the military alliance has upset a lot of people from China, France, and even their own commentators should not have been surprising.

Has Australia, one of the four advanced OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries from the Asia Pacific region (the others being Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand), seriously thought through AUKUS implications on her Asian neighbours?

First, do eight nuclear submarines by 2040 make serious military sense for Australian security? We can understand that a maritime power in the South Pacific with lots of coastal waters to patrol needs a strong navy. But as former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating rightly pointed out, China is a land-based power and, being several thousand kilometres away from Australia, does not pose a military threat to Australia. Assuming that the nuclear submarines will be similar to those planned by the United States, which will acquire 12 of the Columbia-class nuclear submarines for USD 128 billion by 2030 (US Government Accountability Office), Australia may be paying at least USD 85 billion for equipment that may be obsolete by the time they come onstream. Even the US director of national intelligence has admitted that China's GDP (22.8 percent of world GDP) would outclass that of the United States (20.8 percent) by 2040. Twenty years is a long time to improve defences against submarine attacks. Submarines have, at best, deterrent effects under conventional warfare, but their real threat comes from carrying nuclear missiles. But even the potential of carrying such missiles would invite enemy nuclear retaliation.

This is exactly why Asean (Association

of Southeast Asian Nations) countries like Malaysia and Indonesia showed serious concern that the AUKUS deal may become a catalyst to the nuclear arms race. If that is the case, Australia would lose her status as a haven for nuclear-free living, something that New Zealand cares seriously about, which is why she distanced herself from the deal.

Second, which businessman would spend nearly the same amount of money that he earns to point a gun at his best customer? China imported USD 100 billion in 2020 from Australia, with the latter earning a trade and service surplus of USD 55.5 billion. Then to spend USD 85 billion (with likely huge overruns based on

Australian military intelligence is an oxymoron when they recently ordered 70-tonne US Abrams tanks that are too heavy to carry by train or across the Northern Territory bridges by road to defend the Northern Australian coast.

Her Asian neighbours would be much happier if Australia took the lead in the Asia-Pacific region on climate change, rather than spending on arms. Amongst the rich countries, Australia has the highest per capita emission rate, similar to the US. But out of 200 countries, Australia ranks fifth or sixth among the biggest global emitters, so her voice on fulfilling the requirements of the Paris Agreement matters. Unfortunately, given the huge



US President Joe Biden, in the East Room of the White House, is joined virtually by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to introduce AUKUS partnership on September 15, 2021.

PHOTO: REUTERS

past experience) on defence against your top trading customer defies business logic.

Third, the Anglosphere military alliance created a split with Europe, already sore after Brexit and Kabul. France is not only the first foreign ally of the United States (helping in the US Independence War against Britain), but also has serious Indo-Pacific interests, with 93 percent of her maritime economic exclusivity zone—10.2 million sq-km, the second largest in the world—located there.

Fourth, you have to ask whether the

asked to surrender his freedom to pursue his chosen vocation in exchange for "freedom" from harassment and torture. He claims that a politically influential family in Chattogram filed two defamation cases against him. In one instance, Tk 100 crore compensation was sought. So far, he failed to secure any redress from the law enforcement authorities.

The prevailing adverse regulatory framework, coupled with arbitrary administrative practices and high-handedness of the politically and financially powerful connected with the corridors of power, have created an environment of self-censorship. This has led to a situation in which it is not only the veracity of facts that concerns news editors and chief reporters, but also if the facts being dealt with are "DSA proof."

Over time, journalism has also been adversely affected by changes in the pattern of the ownership of media houses due to corporatisation, which are increasingly guided by overtly pecuniary, business, and other interests. Gone are the days when there was little meddling of owners with contents of the news and opinions expressed, and the editors enjoyed full discretion in running affairs of the media. However, over time, there has been gradual erosion in the authority of professional editors as the corporate houses increasingly began to interfere on such matters. Instead of letting the media perform its professed goal of serving the nation by disseminating credible facts and information, news outlets have become a handy tool for corporate houses to pursue their business and political interests, often resorting to publishing or running fake news to malign their business and other rivals. Such "predatory corporate control" has increasingly become stark in the Bangladeshi context, eroding the ethical foundation of media in general.

In this age of the "tsunami" of news portals that are built around "unedited, unverified, unsourced news and deliberate promotion of alternative facts," this aberration of the mainstream media is worrisome. Such a development not only dampens ethical journalism, but it also does a disservice to the people and weakens democracy. As the nation marches forward in the economic terrain, the need for accountability and transparency of various branches of the government and state institutions has become all the more important. Therefore, the onus lies on the state and other stakeholders to ensure that freedom of expression and ethical journalism can flourish—as real news, truth, objectivity, balance, and fairness do indeed matter.

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that by 2030, their lands could become uninhabitable due to rising seas, water salination, reef destruction, and more natural disasters.

The latest World Bank model suggests that the global decline in biodiversity and collapse in ecosystem services such as wild pollination, food from marine fisheries, and timber from native forests could result in a decline in global GDP worth USD 2.7 trillion by 2030. The injustice is that the poorest countries—including those in Asia Pacific—will bear most of such ecosystem and GDP losses. In particular, many indigenous people whose livelihood depends on nature will bear the brunt of these losses.

Why are we not surprised that, on September 13, 2007, when the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by 144 member countries, the four votes against it were from the Anglosphere countries of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States? In all four rich countries, the record of treatment of the indigenous people have been shameful, such as the unmarked graves of indigenous school children in forced assimilation schools in Canada. According to Human Rights Watch, Aboriginal and Torres Islander people comprise 29 percent of the Australian adult prison population, but just three percent of the total population. In the United States, states with large native populations have incarceration rates for American Indians up to seven times that of whites.

The AUKUS military alliance essentially signals to the world that money spent on real war is preferred to money spent on social justice at home and concerns for the people and the planet. Who really profits from the nuclear submarine contract? Look no further than the exclusive submarine suppliers such as General Dynamics (US) and British Aerospace (UK).

The AUKUS deal essentially confirms that Australia opts to sink or swim with their rich Anglosphere few, rather than the global many.

Who said the world was fair?

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There's still time to save Gazipur

The city corporation needs to be developed in a planned manner



NAWSHAD AHMED

THE Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) area has seen a fast population growth over the last two decades. The city's present population is estimated to be more than four million. With an area of 329.53sq-km, it is bigger than Dhaka North and Dhaka South combined. The GCC was established in January 2013. The city is one of our main centres of employment, industries, business, and entertainment partly as a result of its proximity to the capital city, which contributes about one-third of the country's total GDP and has about 30 percent of the country's total urban population.

Due to a wide range of economic and social activities, and a fast-growing job market, Gazipur city has attracted people from adjacent districts—especially from the rural areas. Therefore, in-migration is a major factor behind the growth of the city population. With the population growth, the demand for public utilities and services has grown manifold, but the city's infrastructure and services have failed to keep pace with that demand, resulting in a great deal of suffering for the residents.

About one-third of the ready-made export-oriented garment factories of the country are located in Gazipur. There are many other industries in the city as well: aluminium, textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, ceramics, packaging, and others. The garment factories are employing hundreds of thousands of people—mainly women. Two export processing zones and the Tongi industrial area are located in the GCC area. A number of important public offices and facilities—including Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural

University, National University, Islamic University of Technology, Bangabandhu Safari Park, Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory, and Bangladesh Ordnance Factory—are also situated there.

There is a large number of brick kilns on both sides of Turag and Bangshi rivers, and in the western and southern parts of Gazipur city, which are polluting the environment severely. Illegal encroachment of rivers, canals, and wetlands is also rampant there.

Millions of garment workers, rickshaw pullers and other low-income workers and their families live on the outskirts of the city, which are very crowded and have limited access to services and facilities. Besides, thousands of people who commute to the city on a daily basis face a tremendous traffic problem. Thousands of air- and water-polluting factories, workshops, vehicle repair shops and brick fields are located in and around these places, posing a risk to public health.

The GCC authorities, in recent years, have been putting in increased efforts to improve the condition of the city roads and drains. But the challenges of maintaining domestic water supply, street lights, sewerage, and garbage



A modern city is equipped with a functioning, commuter-friendly road system. Gazipur needs that desperately.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

collection and disposal are enormous. There is also a lack of hospitals, schools, community centres, parks and shopping facilities. The city corporation's total budget was Tk 5,007 crore in 2020-2021 fiscal year, which has gone up four times to Tk 20,986 crore in 2021-2022.

To provide quality public services, first and foremost, a proper plan for land use is required, based on which the development of transportation network, civic services, appropriate environmental protection, and more healthy living options—such as greener surroundings, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, economic zone, parks and playgrounds, etc—should be undertaken. Since there is no master plan, the city's development along with its services and

facilities is taking place in a haphazard manner. Most of the internal roads are very narrow and not maintained properly, and drains are mostly open. Many residents of the city travel to Dhaka to obtain basic services, such as medical treatment, shopping, schooling of their children, etc. In a city where it is difficult to move around due to traffic congestion, people waste inordinate amounts of time on the road to meet their day-to-day service requirements.

Some parts of the city have densely developed residential and commercial areas. Many land owners found it quite lucrative to build multi-storey buildings with the help of real estate developers. The vertical growth of the city, on the one hand, made it possible to house the upper middle-class

families with affordable accommodation in developed areas; on the other hand, it exerted severe pressure on the existing infrastructure and services. The number of private vehicles, trucks and buses on Gazipur's roads increased manifold over the years, adding to the traffic gridlocks in the city.

Four national highways and six regional highways pass through Gazipur city, providing a crucial transportation network to connect to other parts of the country. The existence of a good road system has been the main attraction for investors in Gazipur. However, the transportation network needs further improvement to cater to the growing needs of people, and to transport products throughout the country. The work on the planned metro rail and elevated expressway projects should be expedited.

The GCC has recently taken an initiative to prepare an urban development plan that will take into account land use, drainage, and environmental management, traffic and transportation management, and industrial and recreational facilities. This plan should be comprehensive and drawn up to build a healthy city. A team of town planners, transport engineers, urban economists, geologists, hydrologists, water and sanitation engineers, environmentalists, agriculturists, waste management experts, civil engineers, architects, and sociologists should contribute to developing this plan.

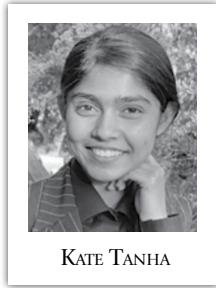
The city still has a large geographical area under agriculture and forest coverage, which is highly likely to be transformed for other uses in line with the growth of population and establishment of new industries and businesses in the future. But the forest lands and water bodies should be preserved at all costs to keep Gazipur as an environmentally balanced city. If properly planned, there is a good prospect of developing Gazipur city in an aesthetically beautiful manner.

Dr Nawshad Ahmed is an economist, urban planner, and a former UN official.

There is a large number of brick kilns on both sides of Turag and Bangshi rivers, and in the western and southern parts of Gazipur city, which are polluting the environment severely.

Ghosts in the classroom

As schools reopen, are we paying enough attention to the culture of bullying?



KATE TANHA

IT was the best of times, it was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens at the beginning of "A Tale of Two Cities." No other quote in the literary canon captures my experience in the Bangladeshi education system as succinctly as Dickens'. School

changed my life for the better, but it also nearly took it away. I titled this piece "Ghosts in the classroom" because, in fourth grade, that's what I thought every time my stationary went missing and the contents of my pencil box were scattered outside my classroom window. Spooky! I couldn't even consider the possibility that the "ghosts" were my classmates who began to bully me and damage my possessions to punish me for my strong academic performance in our class.

Apart from my academic strengths, multiple axes of my identity set me apart. I am from Dhaka. In Dhaka, I grew up in a single-parent household as a child of a Hindu-Muslim couple. After my father left, my mother and I struggled to make ends meet, with no assurance about how we would afford next month's rent and school fees. Yet, my mother insisted that I have the best possible education available in town. Due to her efforts, I was eventually admitted to one of the premier English medium educational institutions in the country. Let's call it "School Y."

I received an excellent primary education at School Y. I studied in an interdisciplinary curriculum, which placed self-inquiry and social action at the centre of my learning. In class, I explored ancient civilisations, the solar system, different religious customs around the world, human migration, the environment—the list goes on. Every day was an adventure. However, I felt weighed down by a pile of secrets, such as the whereabouts

of my father, my religious identity, and the poverty in which we lived. Then, in the fifth grade, my class teacher kept me back during lunch to ask if anything was bothering me, and immediately I broke down in tears as all the pain inside my heart welled up and escaped my lips. Her presence made the classroom feel safe.

On the other hand, my classmates threw my stationary, which I could barely afford, out the window. Additionally, a barrage of comments

a single woman in our society possibly do to afford to send her daughter to a private school? My classmates found a particularly unflattering photo of me taken after a dance performance. In an anonymous Facebook group, that image was posted over the name of a male student in my class.

Looking back, what surprises me the most is that no mature adult in the school intervened. No one ever confronted my abusers. I suppose a scholarship student who

We need bold, urgent action in Bangladesh to end bullying, which haunts our educational institutions and the society at large. Besides legal policies and changes at schools, we need honest and rigorous education in anti-bullying for students and teachers alike.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The culture of bullying that plagues our schools needs to be dealt with properly.

circulated in the classroom about my weight. During report card days, my mother, who felt defeated at every other aspect of her life, proudly entered the school grounds to learn once again that I had topped the class. After classes resumed, the bullying got worse.

When I cut my hair short (described in Dhaka as a "boy cut"), the comments became more hurtful. My classmates called me a "hijra." During the winter, I wore a sweater made out of jute (once a dominant industry in our country), and they called me "bosta" (sack). Rumours went around about the exact nature of my mother's profession; what could

paid half price wasn't worth the trouble of angering students and parents who paid the full price. After all, School Y often suspended me for weeks on end when my mother couldn't pay tuition fees.

My mental health deteriorated. I became a Unicef statistic: one in three children globally experience bullying (including leaving children out of activities, making inappropriate sexual remarks, and cyberbullying). Subsequently, I developed an obsessive desire to lose as much weight as quickly as possible. Over three months, I went from 67 kilograms to 45. But I wasn't ready to stop dieting or exercising. I

continued with week-long fasts. I ate only a few carrot sticks and ran on the elliptical for five hours every day. Eventually, my family and I realised that I had an eating disorder called anorexia nervosa. As a result of my condition, I was hospitalised and force-fed, because the psychiatrists didn't know how to treat me.

When I returned to school, the taunting continued. Then, the head of our school threatened to expel me because I reflected poorly on the school's reputation! School Y was no longer a safe haven.

We know about Samin, a 10th grader who was bullied about his weight, who wanted to die from the humiliation, and who developed anorexia, like myself, but unlike me, who passed away.

Who is responsible for Samin's death, for my painful childhood experiences? The bullies? The families that fostered a sense of unhealthy competition and judgemental attitude about weight? The teachers and school authorities who failed (or refused) to intervene? The school board for not enacting responsible policies to deal with bullying incidents, and prioritising profits before students' lives? The country which is yet to develop the legal framework to create and implement effective anti-bullying laws in schools? Or a world where violence and domination reign and the weak suffer?

Notwithstanding my difficult childhood experiences, things worked out fine. After changing schools, I received numerous awards in my high school years, including a US Department of State-funded exchange

programme and a summer camp opportunity in Mahindra United World College in India. In 2017, I joined Minerva University in San Francisco, where I pursued a dual undergraduate degree in computer science and politics on yet another full scholarship. As a college student, I had the opportunity to travel worldwide, and I worked in different sectors, including education, public policy, and computational social science, at some of the world's preeminent institutions. In October, I will begin my graduate degree in development studies at the University of Cambridge on a fully funded scholarship. It's not been easy, but these accomplishments would not have been possible were I stopped in my tracks in the seventh grade.

We need bold and urgent action in Bangladesh to end bullying, which haunts our educational institutions and the society at large. Besides legal policies and changes at the school administration level, we need honest and rigorous education in anti-bullying for students and teachers alike. Additionally, bullied students should be empowered to seek help, and schools must develop systems to support them with adequate counselling services and other interventions.

If we come together, I know that we can ensure a safe, dynamic, and best-of-times experience in school for every child in Bangladesh.

Kate Tanha grew up in Uttara, Dhaka, and is currently pursuing her MPhil degree in development studies at the University of Cambridge in the UK.

QUOTABLE Quote

LAURENCE STERNE
Irish novelist (1713 – 1768)

Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Group of actors
- 5 Informal farewell
- 9 Tall boot
- 10 Make ashamed
- 12 Battery end
- 13 In itself
- 14 Goal
- 16 Buddhism branch
- 17 Fencing sword
- 18 Chances to hit
- 21 Crimson
- 22 Empties out
- 23 Release
- 24 Pilfers
- 26 Fall mo.
- 29 Snoopy, for one
- 30 "Gone with the Wind" plantation

DOWN

- 1 Party nibble
- 2 Found darling
- 3 Grassy plant
- 4 Grove growth
- 5 Keg need
- 6 Lincoln nickname
- 7 Lord of the jungle
- 8 Good qualities
- 9 Bottled buy
- 11 Coop group
- 15 Small pie
- 19 Gift attachments
- 20 Life story, for short
- 22 Bargain
- 23 Table part
- 24 Tennis star Williams
- 25 Kilt pattern
- 26 Try out
- 27 Makes blank
- 28 Shows nervousness
- 29 Pleads
- 30 Barter
- 33 Stepped down
- 35 Luau instrument
- 36 Chapel seat

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BEETLE BAILEY

THE BASES ARE LOADED IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH, AND THE CROWD STARTS TO CHANT.

HAM-MIE! HAM-MIE!

AND IT'S A GRAND SLAM!

WHIFF!

REALLY? IF I CAN IMAGINE THE CROWD, I CAN IMAGINE THE HOMER!

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

REBA EPIC SALEM STOWE KIT PUT BAN SLICES CART SCORECARD COLON SHOREWARD WHOA SPLEEN ARRUSO APE LINEN KAPOW KNEAD EVERT SETTO ARTS

BABY BLUES

DON'T TURN RIGHT! GO STRAIGHT AHEAD!

WHAT'S SARGE YELLING ABOUT?

HE'S TRACKING THE PIZZA DELIVERY GUY ON HIS PHONE

WHY IS HE GOING SO SLOW?!

BY MORT WALKER

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Keep children away

FROM PAGE 12
similar viral loads in their nasopharynx and can spread the virus to others.

Like adults, pre-existing medical conditions have been suggested as risk factors for Covid-19 in children.

The risk of Covid-19 infection from schools can be reduced if the "three Cs" -- crowded places, close-contact settings and confined spaces with poor ventilation -- are avoided.

Apart from these "three Cs", washing hands frequently and wearing masks are part of the comprehensive strategy to suppress transmission.

It is not certain how long the Covid-19 virus survives on surfaces. Its survival time depends on a number of factors, including the type of surface, temperature, relative humidity and specific strain of the virus.

Children may become infected if they touch surfaces contaminated by the virus and touch their eyes, nose or

mouth without washing their hands.

There is currently no evidence that people can get Covid-19 from foods and water. But before handling food, children must wash hands with soap or disinfect with sanitisers properly.

Children must also wash their hands before they put on masks. The mask must cover the nose, mouth and chin.

After returning from school, the mask should be washed every day if it is a fabric one or disposed of if it's a surgical one. They should not use masks with valves.

To ensure students' safety, the roles of parents and teachers are very important.

Until children are vaccinated, prevention is the key to protect them from Covid-19.

Dr Rukhsana Parvin is Assistant Professor of Department of Pediatrics, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College.

Rights activists condemn case

FROM PAGE 12
Judicial Magistrate's Court against Shaheen Anam and Banche Shekha Executive Director Angela Gomes under the Bangladesh penal code, accusing them of wantonly causing provocation with intent to cause riot and criminal intimidation.

Taking the case into cognisance, the court directed Police Bureau of Investigation to probe the matter and submit a report by December 21.

On Friday, Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 67 organisations on human rights and women and development, expressed grave concern over the filing of the case.

Quoting media reports, it said some Hindu "fundamentalists" filed the case against them for taking initiatives to amend respective acts to ensure equal rights to inherited property for Hindu women.

In its statement, Moulik Odhikar Surokha Committee yesterday said discussions and research regarding reform to Hindu inheritance law have long been held by various quarters such as government institutions, including Bangladesh Law Commission, non-

government organisations and other platforms.

In that vein, national-level coalition "Hindu Ain Pranayaney Nagorik Udyog" proposed a draft "Hindu inheritance law-2020".

Making such a proposal and holding discussions in this regard are basic rights guaranteed by the country's constitution, while disagreeing with that stance and those discussions and giving a different opinion are also basic rights enshrined in the constitution, reads the statement.

But filing criminal cases against specific individuals as a means of opposing such research and discussion is equivalent to diminishing the freedom of speech, it reads.

"We are worried that now, besides the government, different individuals and institutions are also resorting to the criminal justice system to tarnish freedom of speech, freedom of thought and conscience.

"In such instances, all of us irrespective of race, religion, and opinion will be the sufferers," Moulik Odhikar Surokha Committee's press statement added.

SPD narrowly wins vote

FROM PAGE 12
this month.

Scholz, who served as finance minister in Merkel's outgoing 'grand coalition', said a government led by him would offer the United States continuity in transatlantic relations.

"The transatlantic partnership is of essence for us in Germany... So you can rely on continuity in this question," he said, adding it was important for

democracies to work together in a dangerous world even allowing for occasional "conflicts".

Scholz said he hoped to agree a coalition before Christmas, "if possible".

However, his conservative rival Armin Laschet, 60, said he could still try to form a government despite leading his CDU-CSU bloc to their worst ever national election result.

Dhaka for quick release of funds

FROM PAGE 12
Station in Sirajganj, which will ultimately shorten the Dhaka-Bogura travel distance by 112 kilometres and time by three hours.

India would provide Tk 3,146.59 crore or 56.39 percent of the total project cost in soft loans.

LOC PROJECTS
Under three LoC funds, the BR took 17 projects, out of which nine have already been completed. Six other projects are now being implemented.

The six projects are: construction of the Khulna-Mongla Port rail line; construction of the third and fourth dual gauge lines in the Dhaka-Tongi section and dual gauge double line in Dhaka-Joydebpur section; rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section; conversion of the meter gauge into a dual gauge line from Parbatipur to the Kaunia section; construction of double line in the Khulna-Darshana section; and construction of dual gauge line from Bogura to Sirajganj.

The physical work of three projects have started and have already witnessed several revisions. But the physical work of three others are yet to start, despite being approved around three years ago.

The Khulna-Mongla Port rail line project taken to construct 64.75-kilometre-long rail line in December 2010 was supposed to be completed within three years of its approval.

But the project's physical work did not kick off even six years after approval. In the meantime, the cost of the project rose to Tk 3,801 crore -- 120 percent higher than the original estimate.

The delays did not end here.

The project authorities sought another Tk 633.4 crore and a one-and-a-half-year extension of the project's last deadline in June this year. As of August, the project witnessed 86.72 percent progress.

The deadline was extended up to December 2022 while the cost revision proposal is now pending with the Planning Commission, sources said.

The Ecneec had approved the project for building the third and fourth dual gauge railway tracks on the Dhaka-Tongi route and doubling the dual gauge track on the Tongi-Joydebpur route in November 2012. The cost of the project was Tk 849 crore and the deadline was June 2015.

After several revisions, the cost rose to Tk 1,106 crore and deadline was set to June 2023. But the project witnessed only 51.40 percent progress till August this year.

The project for the rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section, taken up in 2011, went through similar processes. It witnessed 24.40 percent progress till August, even though the revised deadline is December next year.

The project for Parbatipur-Kaunia section was taken up in February 2018 while the Khulna-Darshana project in May 2018 and the Bogura-Sirajganj project in October 2018.

The physical works of none of these have started yet, although the Bogura-Sirajganj project is well ahead. The project authority hoped to start physical works by mid-2023.

Delay in land acquisition, changes in design, lengthy tendering process due to the requirement of taking

concurrence from the Indian side at all phases and complexities over releasing payment are among the reasons behind the delay in project management, BR officials said.

WHAT THE RAIL MINISTER SAYS

At yesterday's programme, Sujon sought India's cooperation for the development of railway's infrastructure and rolling stocks; and to improve the BR's capacity.

He also hoped for the simplification of the payment system for projects, which are being implemented under LoCs, because it causes delay.

"I want to urge India through its High Commissioner present [at the programme] over the matter," the minister said.

"I would request them to consider whether payment can be simplified so that the main projects can be implemented within the deadline while maintaining standard."

In his speech, Vikram Doraiswami said, "Rail is in our common DNA. Indian and Bangladesh have a long history of working on railways and infrastructure of railway [that] we both inherited from the colonial period.

"We believe sincerely and honestly that we are ideally suited to be each other partners for the development of railways in Bangladesh," he said, adding that India will stand by Bangladesh railway for everything, including capacity building and execution of projects.

Railways Ministry Secretary Salim Reza and BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder also spoke at the programme.

Prof M Nabi's death anniversary observed

CITY DESK

The 15th death anniversary of Professor Emeritus M Nabi Alam Khan was observed yesterday.

He was a former professor and head of cardiac surgery at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases.

He was also former professor of thoracic surgery at National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital.

Relatives and well-wishers were asked to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



Roushan Ara passes away

CITY DESK

Roushan Ara Chowdhury passed away in a city hospital on Sunday evening. She was 67.

She used to work as a project manager of Pathfinder International. She was also a college teacher in her early career, said a press release.

Roushan left behind her husband, two sons, a daughter and their families. She was buried at her home in Ishwardi, Pabna.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Dinosaur fossil

FROM PAGE 12

extant vertebrates," the scientists wrote in the study.

While fossils of armoured, herbivorous dinosaurs, such as the famous Stegosaurus, have been widely uncovered from the northern continents, the researchers say this is the first time the remains of one have been found from Africa.

Over the years, several armoured dinosaurs have been unearthed, some with rows of bony plates embedded into their skin, and those which grew spikes from these bony plates, and others with a large bony club at the end of their tails.

However, the newly discovered dinosaur stands out.

Palaeontologists say the protective spikes in this ankylosaur is particularly peculiar since the feature, which would have lined the sides of this animal, are actually fused to the rib bones themselves.

Abducted teenager tortured

FROM PAGE 12

Speaking to The Daily Star, Salam said he had a dispute with Ekram Hossain Sumon over business transactions.

"Ekram with the help of the other accused abducted Faisal and me at knife point from Natore town's Station Market area around 6:30pm on Saturday. They took us to the Jubo League's temporary office in Kanaikhal area by motorcycles."

He said the abductors demanded a ransom of Tk 3 lakh, accusing them to be thieves. As he refused to pay the ransom money, Rabiul Awal Bappi and his associates pulled out the nail of Faisal's left-hand index finger with pliers.

"Jubo League leader Roni, his brother Bappi and their associates then asked me to bring my wife's gold jewellery."

Salam said he at one stage gave away his motorcycle to the abductors. The abductors then let him go on

condition that he would pay them another Tk 2 lakh for the release of his employee Faisal.

The accused also threatened that they would kill Faisal if Salam disclosed the matter to police.

Feeling insecure, Salam that night informed police about the incident.

Police early on Sunday detained Ekram from his home in Nabinagar village and recovered Salam's motorcycle from there.

After gleaning information from Ekram, law enforcers picked up Abir from his home in Natore town.

The plaintiff alleged that accused Bappi was threatening him with life over the phone if he did not withdraw the case. "I am now felling insecure. I want safety of my life."

Speaking to this correspondent, Faisal said, "I am not going out of home for the threat to my life. The criminals and their relatives are threatening to kill me as I disclosed

the matter to police."

Ruhul Amin Biplab, acting general secretary of Natore district Jubo League, confirmed that Roni, Bappi, and Shubho hold the posts in Jubo League and Chhatra League.



"This is a brutal incident. Those involved in the incident should be brought to justice quickly and exemplary punishment should be meted out to them," he said.

Police said Faisal was admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital on Saturday night. He left the hospital on Sunday morning fearing fresh attacks.

Natore Superintendent of Police Liton Kumar Saha said they were conducting raids to arrest the rest of the six accused.

Asked about the threat on the plaintiff's life, the SP said he was not aware of it.


Meanwhile, a Natore court sent the two arrestees to jail on Sunday after police produced them before it.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE MOTHER OF HUMANITY
HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA
MAY YOU STAY WITH US FOREVER AND LEAD US TO
A GREATER TOMORROW**

WE WISH YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Founder: Freedom Fighter
Dr. H.B.M. Iqbal



**On this auspicious occasion,
Dr. H.B.M. Iqbal, Chairman of
The Premier Bank Limited expresses his
warmest wishes and most sincere gratitude
to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh**

Sheikh Hasina
for granting permission to initiate the
Sheikh Hasina University of Science & Technology

The Premier Bank Limited

308 accused in 172 cases

FROM PAGE 12

and are being harassed as the trials have not been completed. The UK-based rights organisation observed that repetitive lack of coordination, opacity in action planning and acute absence of accountability at the policy-making level, to deal with the first and second wave of the pandemic have deepened the crisis in the country.

Faruq Faisal, regional director for Article 19 South Asia, said: "The government has used various excuses to curtail the right to information and the freedom of the media to an alarming level. Even the government has often come up with inaccurate and inconsistent information on overall crisis management, health care and vaccination.

"Instead of acknowledging the reports of irregularities and corruption in the health sector published in the media, the government has resorted to repression against the media and journalists. Disappointingly, the centennial Official Secrets Act of the colonial period, including the deeply flawed DSA are being used to do so."

He further added that obtaining information is a fundamental right of citizens.

"Citizens have an equal right to protection and privacy of their personal data. However, there are often disturbing incidents like eavesdropping on private mobile phones and secret phone conversations being leaked," said the statement quoting Faisal.

The statement also expressed concern at the proposed "Personal Data Protection Act" saying that it would be used as a tool to control dissent in the name of protecting personal data and further impede independent expression.

The statement added that the constitution of Bangladesh protects the right to information and fundamental freedoms of the people.

Kosygin calls for political

FROM PAGE 12

The trial commenced on August 11, 1971. The court, however, adjourned on the same day. On September 8, 1971 the services of AK Brohi was procured as the defence counsel, and the examination of the prosecution witnesses started.

FOUR PAKISTANI HC EMPLOYEES DEFECT
Four more employees of the Pakistan high commission in New Delhi switched their allegiance to Bangladesh along with their families. The four members of the staff are Mufizur Rahman, stenographer, AK Azad, upper division assistant, Mohammad Zainul Abedin, lower assistant, and Chulam Mustafa, dispenser.

Mufizur Rahman told a news conference at the Bangladesh mission that a large crowd of people had helped them get down from a bus after they had told them that they were being taken to Pakistan forcibly. The people arranged for another bus from the border which brought them to the Bangladesh mission.

ON THE WAR FRONT
In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani troops in Likhaldari area today. They killed six enemy soldiers and injured three.

In the Mymensingh-Sylhet sector, Mukti Bahini today raided the Gafargaon Police Station and killed two police personnel. On the same day, Mukti Bahini ambushed the Pakistani Patrol at Dewanganj, killing two Pakistani soldiers.

Mukti Bahini ambushed enemy troops today in Barmi and Joydebpur area in Dhaka district, killing 12 enemy soldiers and injuring seven.

Mukti Bahini attacked the Pakistani position today with mortars in Kayampur near Kosba of Cumilla district. The battle continued for three hours. Mukti Bahini killed 35 enemy soldiers and injured 15. Besides, they captured five bayonets and 250 rounds of Chinese bullets.

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

Happy Birthday to Our Visionary Leader from North South University



SHEIKH HASINA

Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Congratulations to Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for being Conferred the 'SDG Progress Award' by the UN Sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)



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the top 500 in QS Graduate Employability Ranking 2022**



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY



WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY RANKINGS | 2022

Messi, Guardiola meet again

AGENCIES

On a night when Shakhtar Donetsk host Inter, Liverpool travel to Porto, Real Madrid welcome FC Sheriff and AC Milan play Atletico Madrid, the focus will still be on the game between Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City at the Parc des Princes as PSG's Lionel Messi reunites with City coach Pep Guardiola.

There was a time when a reunion between Messi and Guardiola looked distinctly possible, but on Tuesday they will be on opposite sides.

However, PSG are yet to reveal whether the six-time Ballon d'Or winner will form part of their plans for a heavyweight continental clash, but Messi has been pictured in full training.

As it turns out, things could have been very different if certain series of events took place a bit differently.

City announced the £100 million (\$139m) signing of Grealish from Aston Villa on August 5, the same day Barcelona revealed Messi would not be staying at the Camp Nou.

A year ago, when Messi tried to force his departure from Catalonia, City appeared the most likely destination.

In the end Barcelona prevented the



six-time Ballon d'Or winner from leaving then and 12 months later, Messi was prepared to stay put until it became clear the financial mess at the Camp Nou meant he could not.

If City had anticipated Messi becoming available, they might have moved for him. But instead they focused their sights on Grealish and were trying to sign Harry Kane, a move that ultimately didn't happen.

Meanwhile, certain members of the City squad may be hoping that Messi loses his race to be fit enough for Champions League duty on Tuesday, but Ruben Dias is not one of them as the Portuguese defender is desperate to test himself against the best.

Messi has been nursing a knee problem of late, but Dias is hoping to see the Argentine shake off that ailment and line up alongside fellow superstar forwards Neymar and Kylian Mbappe when the Premier League title holders pay a visit to the French capital.

"Whether it's Messi, Mbappe, Neymar or [Mauro] Icardi, PSG have amazing strength in depth and no matter who it is we face, it'll be a tough test. Everyone is looking forward to this game for exactly that reason," Dias said ahead of the game.

"Messi is a phenomenal player and as a professional, you want to play against all those sorts of names," Dias added.

Messi has played just three games for his new club and is yet to score. He has sat out PSG's last two matches with a knee problem but the feeling is that Mauricio Pochettino has been saving him for City.

After being held 1-1 by Club Brugge in their opening game, PSG need a positive result against City to stop their rivals taking control of their Champions League group.



PHOTO: FEROZ AHMED

'The confidence is very, very high'

SPORTS REPORTER



Captain Jamal Bhuiyan believes Bangladesh can pull off something special in the upcoming SAFF Championship as the national football team depart for Maldives this afternoon to take part in the regional football extravaganza, starting from October 1 at the National Football Stadium in Male.

"I think we are strong and confident as a group from playing together for so long," said Jamal Bhuiyan at a press conference arranged to address the preparation of the men in Red and Green ahead of the 13th edition of the regional tournament yesterday.

"We've been working hard in the last few practice sessions to perform our best in the tournament. Of course, our goal is to reach the final and become champions but we've to take one match at a time," said Jamal, who also led his side in the last edition of the SAFF tournament where Bangladesh were ousted from the group stage due to goal difference despite having equal six points with Pakistan and Nepal.

Ahead of the SAFF Championship, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) released the long-serving British coach Jamie Day and appointed Bashundhara Kings' Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon as the interim coach, who also stated the objective of playing the final by displaying an entertaining and attacking brand of football, in contrast to his predecessor.

"We're working to show that we are playing and understanding the new set of principles of attack and defense of the team while working on the set-pieces. The most important thing is that the players and coaches have good understanding to make things happen.

"I can't promise the results or the trophy,

but I can assure you that the boys have already started implementing new ideas. We want Bangladesh football to progress to greater heights and for that, we need to prove that we can beat all teams of the subcontinent region," said the 44-year-old coach.

Jamal and his teammates only had four days training under Bruzon and are due for two more sessions ahead of the first match against Sri Lanka.

"On day one, the coach had let us know what style he wants to play. What formation he wants to implement is familiar with most players at the club level, so I think we'll adapt easily before the first game against Sri Lanka," Jamal expressed his optimism.

Bruzon echoed Jamal's optimism and seemed pleased with the progress of his charges so far. "The confidence of everybody is very, very high. The group, focused on the process, is getting clear ideas with each daily practice and convinced that we can click this time," said the Spaniard, further adding that they are now only focused on the crucial opening match.

"Right now, all analysis is revolving around Sri Lanka. If we can beat them, then we're going to play a half-final against India in the next match. Otherwise, we're going to face difficulty in getting points because the next rivals are tougher.

"The road to the final is going to be a very long one because four games are a lot of games indeed. But winning the first game will greatly amplify our chances," concluded Bruzon, who also has experience of working with the clubs at Maldives and India.

Bruzon has declared the final 23-man squad, reduced from 27, in which Bangladesh left out Manik Mollah, Atikuzzaman, Mehedi Hasan and Elea Kingsley, who is yet to receive clearance from Asian Football Confederation.



PHOTO: TWITTER

BCB awaits ICC's instructions on WC protocols

SPORTS REPORTER



All participating boards, including the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), are expected to receive a clear guideline regarding the health security measures for the upcoming World Cup from ICC.

"In the next few days, all the boards are expected to get specific instructions regarding health safety protocols, traveling guidelines and quarantine protocols for the upcoming T20 World Cup to be held in Oman and the UAE," informed BCB's chief physician Debashish Chowdhury told the media yesterday.

Bangladesh are all set to travel to Oman on October 3 to take part in a

preparation camp for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup. The cricketers will undergo coronavirus tests on October 2 and will remain in a strict home quarantine before leaving for Muscat.

The Tigers will also spend a day in room quarantine in Muscat before starting their training.

"Members of the world cup squad will undergo coronavirus tests on October 2 and will leave for Oman the next day. We will begin our training after completing one day quarantine in the hotel," added Debashish.

Meanwhile, according to the ICC's regulations, all the teams will have to stay for a mandatory six-day quarantine before the Super 12 stage in the UAE.

Bangladesh will travel to Dubai on October 21 after completing the qualifier stage. And if the Tigers require

to follow ICC's mandatory six-day quarantine rule upon arrival in the UAE, then Bangladesh could even miss their first Super 12 match scheduled on October 25.

Even if ICC sticks to its quarantine protocol, the BCB, however, has planned for an alternative way that will see the Tigers stay in bio-bubble in Oman and travel to Dubai via private transportation.

Bangladesh will start their training camp on October 5 in Oman. The Tigers will then travel to Dubai to take part in two official practice games on October 12 and 14 respectively.

Mahmudullah Riyad and his troop will then return to Oman to participate in the qualifier stage and will face Scotland in the first qualifier game on October 17.



IM Sankalp Gupta outshines GMs

SPORTS REPORTER



Indian International Master (IM) Sankalp Gupta grabbed the title of Joytu Sheikh Hasina International Grand Masters Chess Tournament at the close of ninth round game at Aarokanon Ballroom of Hotel 71 in Paltan yesterday.

Sankalp played a draw against compatriot IM Aronyak Ghosh to secure seven points, the highest, from nine matches of the tournament which also saw three more IMs grab the next top-three spots, ahead of nine Grand Masters (GM) of the tournament.

Three IMs - Mitrabha Guha, Aronyak Ghosh and Sayantan Das and two GMs - Ziaur Rahman and Masoud Musadeghpour - secured equal 6.5 points from nine matches and their position was decided by tiebreaker in which IM Mitrabha, who was sharing the lead with Sankalp after the penultimate round, finished second despite a loss to Iranian GM Masoud in the last match.

IM Aronyak Ghosh and IM Sayantan Das, who beat compatriot IM Srijit Paul, became third and fourth.

GM Ziaur Rahman beat Indian Sanket Chakravarty to finish fifth followed by GM Masoud, who became sixth with 6.5 points.

GM Enamul Hossain Razib became 16th with 5.5 points after a draw with IM Koustav Chatterjee while FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed finished 22nd with five points.

A total of 62 players including nine GMs and 14 IMs took part in the tournament, sponsored by Canadian University, Bangladesh.



Pedro became only the third player to score for both teams in the Rome Derby when he doubled Lazio's lead against former club AS Roma on Sunday. Lazio beat Roma 3-2, ending their four-match winless run in Serie A and Pedro decided to celebrate the occasion with an eagle on his hand.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF



'Magical moment' as Hamilton hits 100 wins

Lewis Hamilton described becoming the first driver to win 100 Formula One races as "magical" on Sunday while his Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff hailed the landmark as "mind-blowing". The 36-year-old Briton reached his century by winning the rain-lashed Russian Grand Prix at Sochi. Seven-time world champion Hamilton also moved back to the top of the drivers standings by two points from Max Verstappen, who finished second in a Red Bull. "It's a magical moment," said Hamilton. Hamilton won his first F1 race in Canada in 2007 as a 22-year-old and behind the wheel of a McLaren. He was also the sport's first black race winner. His 99th victory came on home ground at Silverstone in July this year but it was achieved in controversial circumstances.

Moeen announces retirement from Tests

England all-rounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from test cricket, the country's cricket board said on Monday. Moeen, who made his test debut in 2014, scored 2,914 runs in 64 Tests at an average of 28.29 and picked up 195 wickets with his off-spin. "I've enjoyed test cricket but that intensity can be too much sometimes and I feel like I've done enough of it and I'm happy and content with how I've done," Moeen said. Having played little test cricket since the 2019 Ashes, Moeen was recalled for the home summer series against India and played in three matches.

Team Europe win fourth consecutive Laver Cup

Andrey Rublev and Alexander Zverev clinched the Laver Cup for Team Europe with a 6-2, 6-7(4), 10-3 win over Team World's Reilly Opelka and Denis Shapovalov on Sunday in Boston. Team Europe entered the final day of the event needing one victory from any of the four scheduled matches to secure the win and wasted no time as they picked it up in the lead encounter for an insurmountable 14-1 lead.



Bangabandhu Tunnel
is being built with BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT **BSRM**
building a safer nation



Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress
using Shah Cement



RAILWAY PROJECTS UNDER INDIAN LOC

Dhaka for quick release of funds

6 running behind schedule; consultants picked for Bogura-Sirajganj rail link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon yesterday sought India's cooperation for the quick release of funds for the projects which are being implemented under the Indian Line of Credit (LoC), in order to maintain deadlines.

The minister made the request as six railway projects under the Indian LoC fund are running behind the schedule, while several of them already saw a huge cost escalation.

Sujon was speaking at a contract-signing ceremony in relation to an Indian-funded project at Rail Bhaban where Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami was present as a guest of honour.

The Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday signed a contract with an Indian joint venture firm for consultancy services for a project to construct a direct rail line from Sirajganj to Bogura.

Under the Tk 97.56 crore contract, RITES Ltd and Aarvee Associates Architects Engineers and Consultants Pvt Ltd of India will work for updating the project's feasibility study, detailed design, and preparing tender documents.

They will also provide construction supervision services when the physical work of the project will start, expectedly by mid-2023.

Project Director Abu Zafar Miah and Sanjay Agarwal, executive director (regional projects) of RITES signed the contract on behalf of their respective organisations.

The BR is implementing the Tk 5,579.70 crore project to build an 86.51km dual gauge rail line from Bogura to Shaheed M Mansur Ali

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Even though the removal of the BGMEA building from the capital's Hatirjheel area is almost complete, the pollution left behind in the water is still there. The stench has become a constant source of suffering for locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

308 accused in 172 cases in 8 months

Article 19 statement says on Bangladesh's Digital Security Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Article 19 recorded 172 cases filed under the Digital Security Act from January to August in Bangladesh, it said in a statement yesterday.

Three hundred and eight people of different professions have been charged in these cases. Of them, 41 are journalists.

Of the accused, 114 were arrested immediately, many of whom are still awaiting bail.

Last year, 197 cases filed against 368 people were recorded, said the statement, sent to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

The number of cases recorded in 2019 and 2018 was 63 and 34 respectively. Most of the victims of these cases are still in custody

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Abducted teenager tortured

Pro-AL men held him with his employer for ransom, case doc says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Eight people, including three local Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders, have been accused of abducting a businessman and his 15-year-old employee from Natore town and pulling out the nail of the latter's left-hand finger for collecting ransom money.

Police picked up two of the accused -- Ekram Hossain Sumon, 35, of Nabinagar village in Natore, and Md Abir, 26, of Chakrampur area in Natore town -- on Sunday, hours after the incident took place.

Victim businessmen Abdus Salam filed a case with Natore Sadar Police Station on Sunday, accusing the eight. The other victim is Faisal Hossain, an employee at Salam's mobile phone shop.

Among the six other accused are: Roni Ahmed, general secretary of Natore municipality ward-4 Jubo League, his brother Rabiul Awal Bappi, executive member of the Jubo League unit, and Abdullah Hel Shubho, president of the municipality Chhatra League.

Jubo League and Chhatra League are pro-Awami League organisations.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Kosygin calls for political settlement

SEPTEMBER 28, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDIRA'S MEETING WITH SOVIET LEADERS

Talks between Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Soviet leaders began today.

The Indian side gave a detailed analysis of the situation in East Pakistan and expressed concern at the failure of the world opinion to urge Pakistan to create conditions conducive to the dignified return of refugees. It was pointed out that Pakistan trying to intensify atrocities in East Pakistan would inevitably have repercussions on India. The Soviet leaders were also informed that the Bangladesh crisis might escalate after the monsoon, and only an immediate political solution would meet the needs of the situation.

Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin stressed the need for a political settlement in East Pakistan which would take into account the legitimate interests of its population, and called upon Pakistan President Yahya Khan to undertake the most effective steps for the liquidation of this hotbed of tension.

WARNING AGAINST CONTEMPT OF COURT

In a press note issued today by the chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, people were asked to refrain from saying or doing anything which might constitute a contempt of court as to the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The press note disclosed that the trial of Bangabandhu was in progress and, so far, the prosecution had examined 20 witnesses in support of the charges brought against him.

It may be mentioned here that a special military court was convened by the chief martial law administrator of Pakistan to try Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on camera for "waging war against Pakistan and for other charges".

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Rights activists condemn case against MJF ED, others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moulik Odhikar Surokha Committee, a platform of human rights activists, yesterday termed as "false" the case filed against Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam and others.

In a press statement, Moulik Odhikar Surokha Committee (Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights) hoped that the complainant will withdraw the case and that money from the state coffers and labour will not be expended in investigating and conducting the "ill-motivated and harassing" case.

Earlier, different rights organisations issuing separate statements expressed grave concern over the filing of the case and demanded immediate withdrawal of it.

On September 21, one Akash Ghosh filed a case with the Narayanganj Chief

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Dinosaur fossil with 'bizarre' spikes found in Africa



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have discovered a new species of dinosaur with "bizarre" bony spikes projecting from its ribs, an advance they say will fill an "important gap in evolution."

The new species named Spicomellus afer is the oldest of a group of dinosaurs called ankylosaurs -- known for the extraordinary bony armour -- and the first of its kind to be discovered in the African continent, according to the researchers, including Susannah CR Maidment from the National History Museum in the UK.

The spiky ribs seen in the dinosaur which lived about 160 million years ago is also a "bizarre" feature that is not seen in any other vertebrate species living or extinct, says the study, published in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution.

"The specimen consists of a rib with spiked dermal armour fused to its dorsal surface, an unprecedented morphology among extinct and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Keep your eyes on tomorrow's special issue on

WORLD HEART DAY 2021

Present status of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) treatment facilities in Bangladesh, heart-healthy lifestyle changes and insights from doctors and experts.



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 28

Fajr 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



Star HEALTHLINE

Covid-19: KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM THE '3 CS'

DR RUKHSANA PARVIN

The government reopened schools and colleges after 18 months, instructing authorities to strictly maintain health rules. The government is supposed to monitor whether the educational institutions are ensuring health guidelines. But are students sufficiently prepared to maintain those? Although elderly people are at greatest risk, children are not immune to Covid-19. Recent evidence suggests that children likely have

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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GERMANY ELECTIONS

SPD narrowly wins vote

Seeks three-way alliance to replace Merkel-led coalition

REUTERS, Berlin

German Social Democrat Olaf Scholz vowed yesterday to strengthen the European Union and keep up the transatlantic partnership in a three-way coalition government he hopes to form by Christmas to take over from Angela Merkel's conservatives.

Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) came first in Sunday's national election, just ahead of the conservatives, and aim to lead a government for the first time since 2005 in a coalition with the Greens and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

Scholz, 63, projected a sense of calm assurance when asked whether the close election result and the prospect of prolonged coalition negotiations sent a message of instability in Germany to its European partners.

"Germany always has coalition governments and it was always stable," he said in fluent English, standing beside a statue of Willy Brandt, a Cold War-era SPD chancellor awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for fostering dialogue between East and West.

The SPD, Germany's oldest party, won 25.7% of the vote, up five percentage points from the 2017 federal election, ahead of Merkel's CDU/CSU conservative bloc on 24.1%, provisional results showed. The Greens came in with 14.8% and the FDP won 11.5%.

The SPD's recovery marks a tentative revival for centre-left parties in parts of Europe, following the election of Democrat Joe Biden as US president in 2020. Norway's centre-left opposition party also won an election earlier

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

MORE NEWS

60pc returnee female workers unemployed **PAGE 3**

Khulna's Bastuhara colony waterlogged for 70 days **PAGE 3**

Tk 210cr e-commerce payment stuck at gateways **PAGE B1**



শুভ জন্মদিন

ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশের রূপকার, উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রযাত্রার নেত্রী মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনার জন্মদিনে জানাই প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন

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