



NOBLE PEACE PRIZE
Is this Greta Thunberg's year?
SEE PAGE 5

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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Your Right to Know

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Budget boosted for job campaign

Govt raises allocation to Tk 17,000cr this FY for Covid vaccines as it secures supply of 24cr doses

VACCINE PROCUREMENT

- ✦ ADB budget support Tk **7,990cr**
- ✦ Govt to spend from its own fund Tk **3,310cr**
- ✦ Govt released from ADB's fund Tk **6,299cr** to buy **10.5cr** doses under Covax facility
- ✦ Per dose to cost \$**6**

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

The government will spend an estimated Tk 17,000 crore this fiscal year to procure Covid-19 vaccines as it has secured access to around 24 crore doses from multiple sources.

The amount, which includes transportation and other costs associated with administering the jobs, exceeds the 2021-22 fiscal year's allocation of Tk 14,200 crore for vaccination.

The funds include loans from development partners. The government will readjust the allocation at the end of this fiscal year, according to officials of the finance and health ministries.

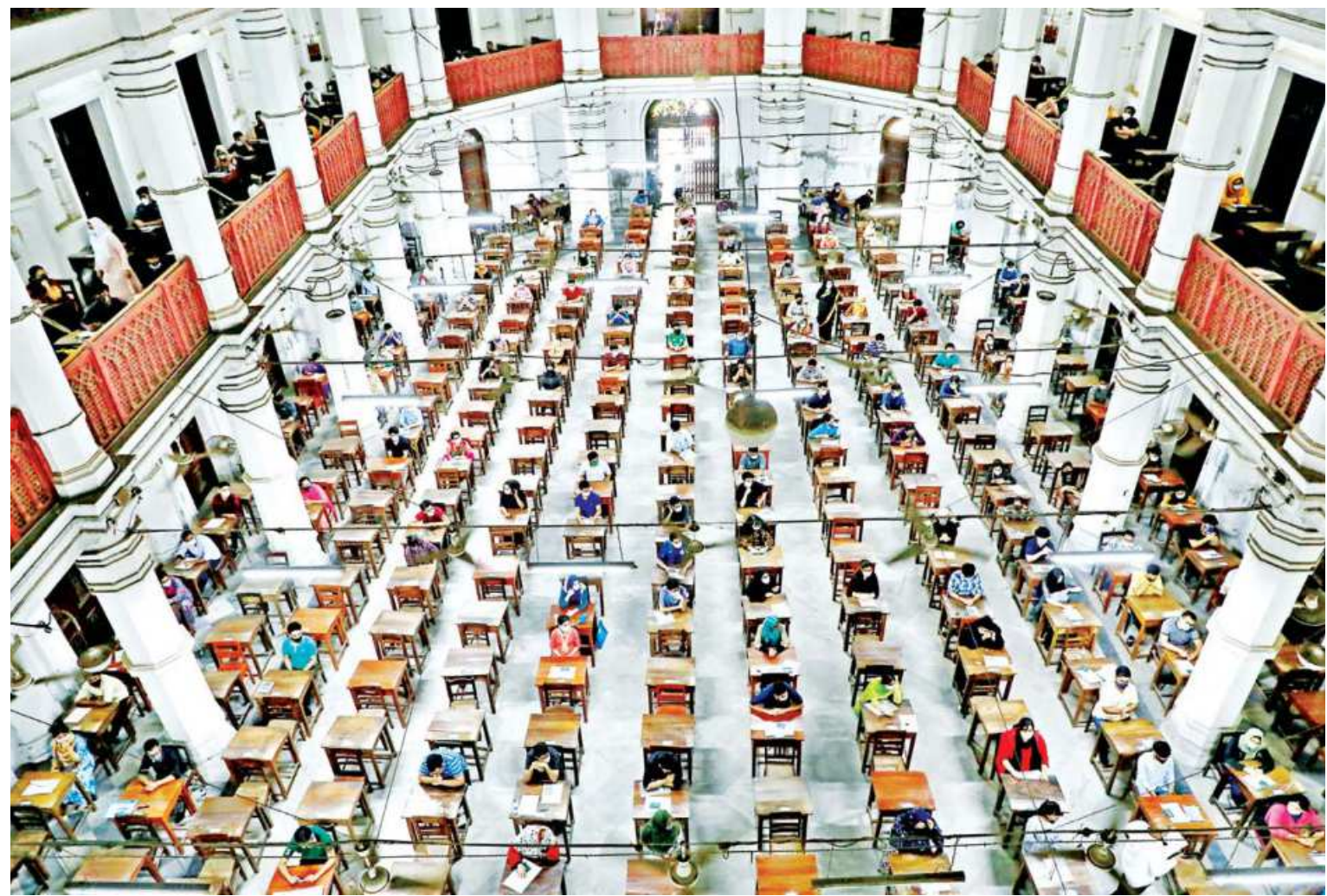
The finance ministry earlier this month

released Tk 6,299 crore (\$741 million) of Tk 7,990 crore (\$940 million) it received from the Asian Development Bank to buy 10.5 crore doses from two Chinese drug makers under the Covax facility.

Of the doses, around 7.5 crore shots will be procured from Beijing-based biopharmaceutical company Sinovac while the rest will be from Sinopharm, a Chinese state-owned company, finance ministry officials said.

"The vaccines will start coming to Bangladesh from next month. By December, we hope to get all the 10.5 crore doses," a top official of the ministry told The Daily Star, preferring anonymity.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Admission seekers at an exam hall at Dhaka University's Curzon Hall before the start of the undergraduate entrance exam yesterday morning. The university for the first time held the exam in all eight divisions of the country amid the pandemic. Story on page 3

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ROHINGYA LEADER MOHIB ULLAH KILLING

Caught between fear and distrust

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Life in Lambashia Rohingya camp in Ukhia appeared normal. People roaming here and there. Grocers busy with customers. Kids playing on the street. Youths gossiping and watching videos on their smartphones.

But beneath this regular life, there was an underlying fear and distrust. To feel this unease, one only needs to spend a little while at the camp that still reels from the shock of the killing of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah.

Everyone would just start walking with heads down when asked why it happened or who might be the killers. These correspondents tried to talk to at least 50 people and most of them declined to say anything on the record.

They would, however, recall how great a leader Mohib was and what the camp dwellers lost because of this tragedy.

"If Mohib was spared, the Rohingyas would have been able to return to their motherland one day," said a 50-year-old man while preparing to offer Juma prayers.

He requested not to disclose his identity, as "spies of the criminals were everywhere."

Mohib Ullah, 48-year-old chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, was killed by gunmen at his office Wednesday night.

His brother Habib Ullah filed a case with Ukhia Police Station against 20-30 unnamed people on Thursday night, said Ahmed Sanjur Morshed, officer-in-charge of the station.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Where shall we seek justice?

Wife of slain Rohingya leader asks in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star

Afnan, daughter of deceased Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah, peeps into her father's office in Lambashia camp of Cox's Bazar yesterday.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah came home in Lambashia camp in Ukhia after his Esha prayers on Wednesday night. His wife, Nasima, asked him whether he wanted to eat something.

Mohib nodded and smiled as he went to change his clothes. Nasima then gave him three rotis with some curry, and a fruit. As he finished his dinner, Nasima gave him a betel leaf.

Mohib, the leading voice for the rights of Rohingya people, would be assassinated in less than 10 minutes next to their home.

"We don't want justice. Where shall we seek justice?" Nasima asked between sobs as she spoke

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Viewers vexed as foreign TV channels blocked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the country's cable operators stopped broadcasting foreign TV channels yesterday, viewers expressed anger as they were unable to watch their favourite shows.

According to a government decision, programmes with advertisements on foreign channels cannot be shown in Bangladesh.

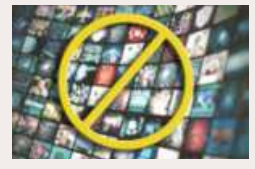
Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud on Thursday said mobile courts would be conducted to implement ad-free (clean feed) broadcast of foreign TV channels from October 1.

On the other hand, Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) says it is not possible to broadcast foreign channels by cutting advertisements. So they have stopped the broadcast.

This has left viewers angered.

"I spend my weekend watching sports and international news... I'm not finding any entertaining programmes in the channels now," said Taposh Barua, an official of a private company.

"I'm an avid football fan and like me there are thousands of people who love the game. We'll miss the sports," he said.



"Local media industry will be benefited if advertisements are not aired on foreign channels."
INFORMATION MINISTER HASAN MAHMUD

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

RABINDRA UNIV AGITATION

Closure no solution

Students say they want permanent removal of teacher Farhana

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Although Rabindra University in Sirajganj's Shahjadpur has been closed and teacher Farhana Yeasmin Baten suspended, aggrieved students continued their demonstrations seeking her permanent expulsion.

They confined the acting vice chancellor and several officials to the university's administrative building yesterday to press home their demand.

"Closing the university is not the solution. We want her [Farhana's] permanent removal," one of the agitators, told The Daily Star.

Another student, Roksana Raha of cultural heritage and Bangladesh studies department, said the university closed its academic and administrative activities to tame the demonstrations,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

We have built the bridge with your tax money

UP Chairman

WOW! That's Good

Being Accountable for Tax Payer Money Ensures Public Support

Manusher Jonno Foundation and its Partner Organisations Supported by: UKaid



Topu Barman celebrates his all-important goal.

Booters off to winning start

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Topu Barman's calmly converted spot-kick in the 56th minute helped Bangladesh off to a winning start in their SAFF Championship campaign as the men in red and green beat Sri Lanka 1-0 at the National Stadium in the Maldives yesterday.

Sri Lanka defender Duckson Puslas, who handled the ball inside the box on a chip from Biplu Ahmed and conceded the crucial penalty, was shown marching orders as he received his second yellow card of the game following the incident.

Duckson had already been cautioned in the first half for a reckless challenge.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"SAY NOT IN GRIEF 'HE IS NO MORE' BUT IN THANKFULNESS THAT 'HE WAS'."

Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed (Ifti)
(August 27th 1950 - October 2nd 2015)
Founding Chairman, Bonanza Group of Companies & Raj Overseas Ltd.

The memories of your calm strength, your indelible smile, and your unflinching fortitude guide us through these trying times.

We ask all friends and family to remember him in their prayers.

MORE NEWS

Asean envoy may not get permission to meet Suu Kyi

Myanmar's junta has said it was unlikely an Asean special envoy tasked with facilitating dialogue in the coup-hit country would be allowed to meet ousted pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

India-Australia to reach trade deal by end 2022

Australia and India hope to reach a long-pending landmark trade deal by the end of 2022, according to a joint statement released yesterday announcing the formal relaunch of stalled negotiations.

China likens Taiwan foreign minister to a 'shrilling' fly

China has launched a vituperative attack on Taiwan's foreign minister, evoking the words of revolutionary leader Mao Zedong to denounce him as a "shrilling" fly for his efforts to promote Taiwan internationally.



Les Paul's personal Gibson up for auction

A guitar that helped launch rock'n'roll will be for sale on Oct. 13, when Christie's in New York auctions inventor Les Paul's own personal guitar bearing his name.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

BLINKEN ON IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

'The runway getting shorter'

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken renewed warnings Thursday that time was running out for Iran to return to a nuclear deal, saying it was up to Tehran to act.



at some point will not be sufficient to recapture the benefits of the agreement because of the progress Iran has made," Blinken said.

SOURCE: AFP

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Is this Greta Thunberg's year?

The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced just three weeks before world leaders gather for a climate summit that scientists say could determine the future of the planet.



political dissident, such as exiled Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya or jailed Russian activist Alexei Navalny could get the coveted prize.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Quote of the day



It is essential for all humanity that we fulfil the promise of the Paris Agreement. I cannot emphasise enough that time is running out.

UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES

South Korean Marine amphibious assault vehicles sail to shore during media day for the 73rd anniversary of the Armed Forces Day, which falls on October 1, in Pohang, South Korea.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia sees record deaths, Australia to ease curbs India slaps reciprocal travel curbs on Covid-19 vaccinated UK nationals

AGENCIES

Amid surging infections, Russia yesterday reported a high for coronavirus deaths for a fourth day running as Australia said it will begin to reopen its borders next month.

A government tally reported 887 fatalities over the past 24 hours. Over the same period there were 24,522 new cases -- the highest total since late July.

As of Friday, just 29 percent of the population had been fully vaccinated, according to the Gogov website, which tallies Covid data from the regions.

Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said vaccinated Australians will be able to return home and travel overseas "within weeks" as 80 percent vaccination targets are met.

On March 20 last year Australia introduced some of the world's toughest border restrictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In Sri Lanka, officials yesterday lifted a near six-week lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus but maintained a night curfew and a ban on public gatherings and parties.

Meanwhile, UK nationals visiting India this month will have to undergo mandatory quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in retaliation for UK curbs on Indian citizens, a senior government source in New Delhi said yesterday.

The new rules, which take effect from Monday, follow the UK decision to require Indians vaccinated with AstraZeneca's Covishield to quarantine.

On Thursday, the World Health Organization lamented poor vaccination rate in Africa, where just two percent of the population, or less, have been fully vaccinated against coronavirus.

MYANMAR CRISIS

Number of people needing aid triples: UN

AFP, United Nations

Myanmar is facing a "severe crisis" with the number of people needing aid tripling to three million in the eight months since the military launched a coup.

Andrew Kirkwood described the situation as "very concerning."

"The people of Myanmar are really living in a severe crisis at the moment," he said in a virtual meeting with reporters.

"The United Nations was supporting a million people affected by the conflict here inside the country," he said.

But that number "now is three million, that's a tripling in over the last eight months" since the February 1 coup.

In a recent report UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an "urgent" international response to the political crisis created by the coup in Myanmar.



UK PETROL STATIONS RUN DRY

Panic-buying by motorists has left fuel pumps dry across major cities in one of the worst energy disruptions facing Britain in decades.

Global energy shortage or regional crises?

REUTERS

British gasoline stations running dry, surging power costs in the European Union ahead of winter, forced restrictions on energy use in China and rising oil, natural gas and coal prices.

You could be forgiven for thinking the world had suddenly been hit by an energy shortage, but you would be mostly wrong.

While the squeezes slamming consumers and businesses is acute, the disruptions have less in common than you may think.

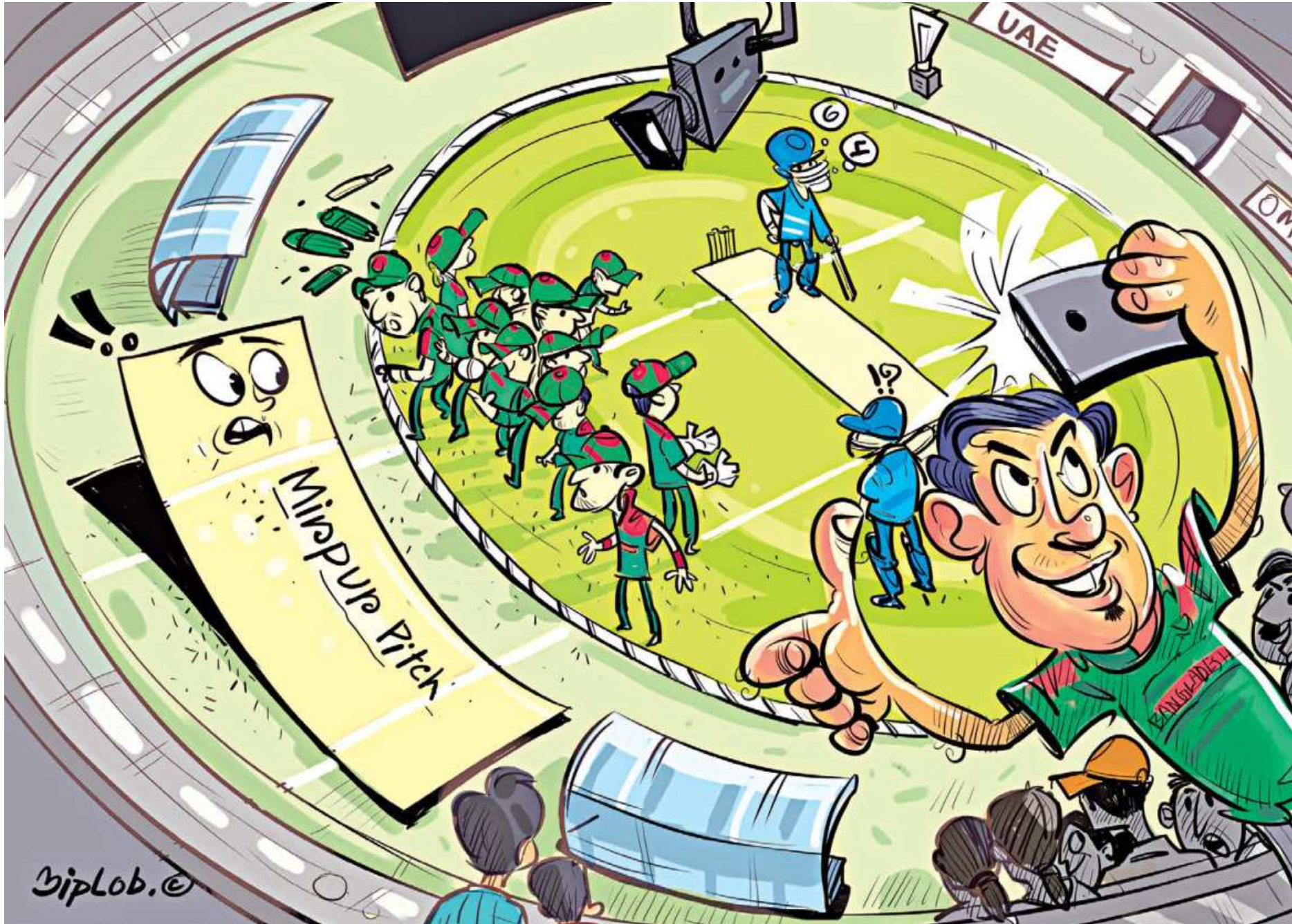
CHINA CRUNCH: Beijing has begun rationing electricity to energy-hungry businesses because of a crunch in coal supply triggered by stepped-up safety checks at Chinese mines which dragged output below year-ago levels for much of the first half of the year.

EUROPE'S POWER BILLS: The price of keeping the lights on in Spain has tripled, reflecting a broader spike in power bills across the EU in recent weeks.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Table with 17 rows detailing procurement information for the construction of a chancery building in Canberra, Australia. Columns include Ministry, Agency, Procuring Entity Name, Expression of Interest for Selection of, Invitation Reference No, Date of publication, Procurement Method, Source of Funds, Project Name, EOI closing Date and Time, Brief Description of the Assignment, Eligibility of Applicant (Bidder), Other Details, Name and Designation of the Official Inviting Eoi, Address of the Official Inviting Eoi, Contact Details of the Official Inviting Eoi, and a final note that the procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Eois.

Signed (Mohammad Sufur Rahman) High Commissioner and Project Director High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia GD-1760



Don't love me: Pitch

Cricket board's U-turn sees pitch being included in tournament squad

THE CLUELESSPONDENT

The controversial Merepoor Pitch arrived outside the gates of Intergalactic Cricket Council's (IgCC's) prison the day before yesterday.

Pitch waved at all satellites, orbiting above her head, and proceeded to reveal the following on its good length area: "Don't love me - Pitch."

Prior to this net-shattering event, the Alien cricket team complained to IgCC about Merepoor Pitch's radical behaviour, which led to their unprecedented thrashing against hosts Earth.

Around the same time, a petition was filed against Pitch, mainly led by Batriarchal Media Influencers (BMI), who vilified Pitch as it became an entity that's not only harmful for the country's chances at the upcoming Galactic Cup in the United Andromeda Ephemeris (UAE), but for the greater good of the game itself.

All BMI supporters believe the game should have a high Batriarchy Index that

favours high-scoring games over competitive ones, at all space-times.

The petition filed by BMI gathered serious momentum by the time the series was over, and so, in a string of dramatic events, Pitch was accused under Misbehaviour Act 42020 and went to IgCC's prison.

Meanwhile, a counter petition took off, led by a group who call themselves Ballinists, who have protested the medieval, sinister "pitch-hunting" that took place in a so-called modern society.

"We don't live in the dark ages anymore. You can't harass someone who only dared to express freely. It's way past time that we all should apologise to Pitch, especially the cricket board because their neutral stance on the whole matter is no less disgusting," Ballinist's lead activist posted on TriggerBook.

Which brings us to day before yesterday, when IgCC released the Pitch, having made a sufficient example of it.

Soon afterwards, Earth's leading newspaper The Daily Nebula asked Pitch what the meaning of her message was.

"It was meant mainly for all those BMI people, whom I trusted way more than I should've. What did I ever do wrong? You were all asking for a morale boost and I delivered! And whatever happened to home advantage?"

But surely Pitch was overdoing things a little -- she could have kept scores around the 150s and avoided all this hassle.

"Look, I got carried away in monsoon, a little too humidified on most occasions. And this isn't the first case. Go ahead and ask whoever made me the way I am, and interview pitches elsewhere while you're at it. Go interview Perth, that mean pitch, and ask if she faces the same treatment from her own country, planet or whatever?"

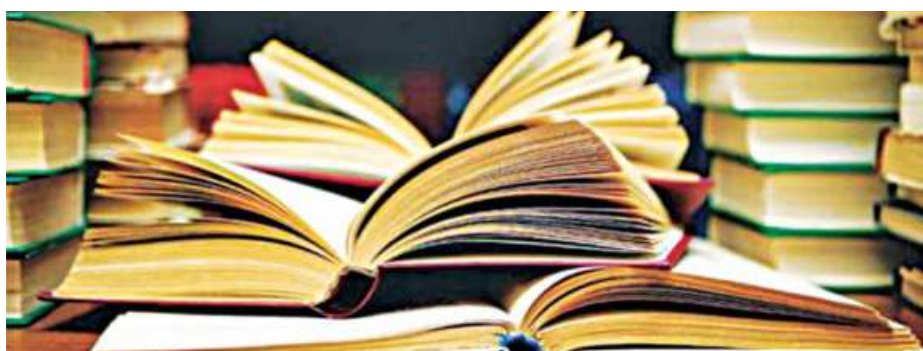
Back on Earth, Mother Earth Cricket Board's (MECB) Cheerperson Neel Bori Khan summoned the press outside the shopping mall nearest his home.

"We've faced strong backlash following our [absence of a] stance. But you all need to understand, we were on the back foot once this matter turned legal. But since Pitch is clean now, we can dance down the track, redeem ourselves and continue the cheerful momentum.

"And in that spirit, we have already pitched a radical proposal in the latest IgCC board meeting: We want to include Pitch in the Galactic Cup squad, and we'll do so by replacing our cheerful, young leg-spinner," the Cheerperson cheerfully told the media.

Nobody asked him the reason behind the latest decision or anything else for that matter, yet he continued.

"The reason is cheerfully simple, I mean, think about it: Why have a bowler who can turn the ball both ways when you can just have your favourite pitch behave in mysterious ways? And don't forget the injection of confidence, the winning mentality, the morale booster, the cheerful momentum. Cheers!"



Abandon literature, history books and embrace start-up hustle: CEO

STAR FARMVILLE CORRESPONDENT

A world-renowned CEO on Tuesday called on world leaders to abandon literature and history books in schools and colleges in favour of teaching start-up operations, technological innovations, and general profiteering.

The British magnate insisted that the perfect combination of Applied Science and Business will teach adolescents how to strike the industry with scientific innovation and expand their business to make massive profits.

"You want to be part of that 0.000000000001 percent that acquires over 60 percent of the economic pie," he said. "Motivation is a divine gift, but agile work culture is built. Remember, those who invest in other people's wealth through innovative start-ups are the ones who succeed. It's time world leaders prepare our kids for the future!"

He also said most people are lazy and use their brains for imagination without taking action. "All who 'MS Excelled' in the tech industry don't have enough time to read or practise literature. The wealthiest people on the planet are investors, stockholders in tech giants and owners of online businesses. Other than our nation's very own JK Rowling who we are not very proud of, there's not one author or littérateur that has made a fortune," he wrote in his tweet.

"Those who read history hold grudges, and those who read literature are crazy and depressed -- there, I said it," added the scientist. "The way forward is commerce, eh?"

When a Twitter user asked whether his emphasis on start-ups and investments had anything to do with his investment in a certain firm that is currently on life support in Chapasthan, the guru replied that the question just ignored his advice on ignoring history and promptly blocked the user.

Burnout generation result of social media becoming extension of workplace: Therapists

Socially anxious more susceptible to its effects

AMIAAR PARINAH

In a TimeLess Magazine article titled "Minds Turned to Ash" published nearly four years ago, columnist John Cohen explores the global case of burnout. He starts with the story of someone he calls Steve, who is so overwhelmed by the extra hours at work and the burgeoning to-do list that he ends up in therapy.

Burnout, according to the article, occurs when people find themselves taken over by an internal protest against all demands assailing them from within and without and when the momentary resistance to picking up a glass becomes an ongoing state of mind.

This term was not known before 1974 and it was German-American psychologist Herbert Freudenberger who applied the term to the increasing number of cases he encountered of "physical or mental collapse caused by overwork or stress".

That article and the mounting evidence from her real-life experience as a therapist is what prompted a four-year study, named "Perpetual Workday" led by Professor Dr Sloe Lee Daah Eeing.

The study spanning continents with over 1.2 million participants was finally wrapped up last week and the findings revealed.

Researchers have come across something extraordinary -- over the last few years, as the first generation of people made themselves comfortable with social media, they quickly



ILLUSTRATION: RIDWAN NOOR NAFIS

turned it into an extension of the workplace.

It all started with which high school people were going to, then soon moved to which college, then which university, and eventually to job updates. People posted their designations, shared content relevant to their workplace designations.

As time went by, and in the almost 20 years social media has been part of our lives, it has upended social norms as we knew it. The older crowd that first shied away from social media also came along onto different platforms. And, very soon, the platform became riddled with

co-workers and seniors, where an opinionated comment could draw criticism from the workplace.

"One respondent said he could not use swear words/curse/profanities on social media because his manager shimmied in and gave him an earful when he did use one following an office promotion," said Dr Sloe Lee Daah Eeing while revealing the study findings.

Everyone also feels compelled to remain at their most professional behaviour, or at least continue mingling with colleagues despite the end of the workday which results in delusions.

POETRY

Romeo's House, Verona.

NEEMAN SOBHAN

[Casa di Romeo, Via Arche delle Scaligere: Historians say this was the house of Cagnolo Nogarola, a Guelph supporter, like the Capulets, Juliet's family. But according to legend and literary texts, the Monacchi family, or the Montagues, lived here until the 14th century, and the V-shaped battlement was the 'swallow tail' symbol of the opposing faction, the Ghibellines, which Romeo's family supported.]

A marble tablet on the external wall bears a quotation from Shakespeare's 'Romeo & Juliet': "... I have lost myself; I am not here. This is not Romeo; he's some other where." (Act1, Scene1)]

At noon, we enter a park, leaving behind his house—a private home now, though a castle, really, whose walled, crenellated boundary allows no trespass, queues, nor keyholes; merely

leaps of fancy for those daring to 'dream things true' as the Bard's own hero once sighed in costumed flesh, or as mere modern meme of thwarted love, fated forever to elide

the world of shadows and shades of truth: the myths, the quotes on the marble plaque scenes staged and filmed, the 'wherefore' or 'forsooth', the blur of things neither white nor black.



PHOTO: NEEMAN SOBHAN

Having waited pointlessly like beggars at a door we claim our alms in photos, click and pose and leave the alley of half-lies, of legends and lore, to turn the corner and enter the groves

of this public garden, where, beneath cultivated trees and gazed upon from pedestals by stern statues of upright citizens unruffled by the breeze, we gather, as if school children led to learn

lessons of history, strict facts about the past to shoo away the pesky pigeon flights of poetry. Yet stretched on the grass, a strange light is cast on me by one bent ancient tree,

whose swallow-tail boughs hold up the sky of my dreaming, like medieval parapets guarding the green patch where I lie hugging my heart's defiant secrets.

It knows not to ask if he ever did exist or live in that barred, voiceless home, for today, I hear the wordless wind insist: We, too, will soon be tales in times' eternal tome.

Author of Piazza Bangladesh (2014), and Calligraphy of Wet Leaves (2015), Neeman Sobhan is an Italy based fiction writer, poet, and columnist, till recently teaching English and Bengali at the University of Rome.



Sunflowers

MITALI CHAKRAVARTY

I have journeyed long and journeyed far looking for sunflowers in the rain — fresh blooms, unwet, singing a song of freedom.

But freedom — it evades an explanation. We say the birds fly free — but are they free or bound by laws of nature, in sync with

Earth's harmony? Can you tell me where these sunflowers grow? Sunflowers that rise to the skies, flourish without sunshine.

I have wandered long and wondered more how clouds and flowers meet in a downpour. The sunflowers continue to sing of freedom.

Mitali Chakravarty likes to waft among clouds in quest of a world drenched in love and harmony and in that spirit founded the Borderless Journal.

Paradisaal Libraries

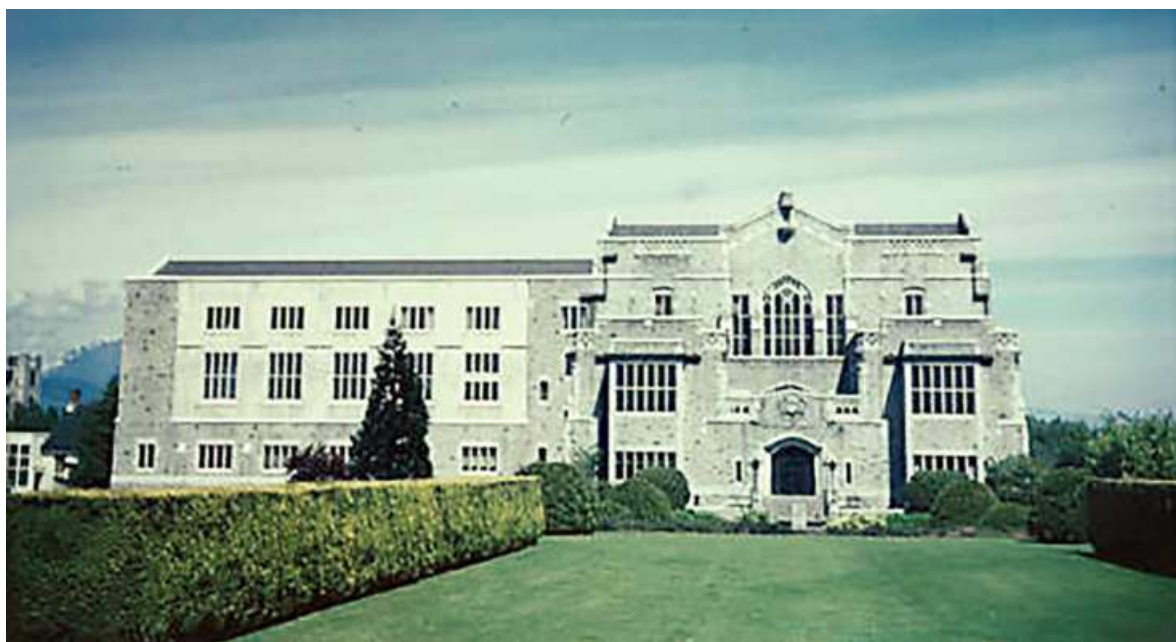
FAKRUL ALAM

1
Younger people might find this too dated, but I will stick by what Jorge Luis Borges once said: "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of a Library!"

Well, not always! Till I was in my second year at DU, I would spend at least a few days of the week in Dhaka's USIS and British Council libraries to read British/American newspapers or literary periodicals like *TLS* and *The New Yorker*, or to borrow novels that I could devour at home later. But there were lots of other things to distract us friends then. Bliss was playing basketball or

find out why Milton opted for the grand style, or tried to divert myself from Eliot's apocalyptic waste land musings by reading his hilarious book on practical cats, the 2nd floor collection of English department books seemingly had it all.

One other section I found fascinating was the reference section books in the ground floor. It had, for instance, twenty volumes of *Scrutiny* that I found superbly educative. But when I wanted to turn away from serious literary criticism, I would find Gershon Leghorn's 1968 book *The Rationale of the Dirty Joke* captivating, not really for



cricket or chatting with friends or ogling girls passing by when chatting!

It was only late in my second year at DU that one of my dearest school friends asked me soberly if I was going to get serious about doing very (and not quite) well in exams. For middle-class boys like us, he pointed out to me and two other friends, doing very well was important, for if you had a first and scored high in TOEFL/ GRE, you had a good chance of going to a North American university.

That was how I ended up spending almost all my days in the DU Main Library. At first though, it didn't seem like a place where we would be able to spend any time at all. There were too many rules and you had to be patient for there was always a queue to get books. The library staff, too, at first seemed to be overworked/indifferent, and patience I am temperamentally short of!

But I persevered. And that is how I became what we call a "serious" student, determined to spend as much time as I could in the DU library. I soon found out what a treasure trove the library was. Whether I looked for books on Sophocles or Shakespeare, or wanted to discover the "Elizabethan World Picture," or admire contemporary stars of Literature, or whether I wanted to

its psychoanalytic take on such humor, but for the kind of laughs we teenagers now turning men were still addicted to. There were abundant newspapers and periodicals as well—favorite reading of those who came to the library to keep up with news from all over the world.

But, of course, I was in the library to study. I kept doing that seriously, along with my three other friends. In a year's time, I found out that the library staff members on duty, especially in evenings when student attendance was thin, were not unfriendly at all. In the evening, they would even allow me to wander across the aisles stacking literature books. I found thereby access to some very old collection that had somehow become part of the stacks. Some were also in the "confined" section of the library—books like Sir Walter Raleigh's *the History of the World*, published, I remember even now, in a Victorian gilt-edged cover edition.

My reputation as a serious, 'bookish' student grew. But what cared I for such labelling, knowing that I had found a gateway to a paradise of sorts through reading? Keats' "Ode to Chapman's Homer," so beautifully vivid in depicting how a book is a magic carpet to glimpse paradise, seemed to fit my sentiments well. "Much have I traveled in the realms of gold/And many goodly

states and kingdoms seen," Keats wrote, but when he came across Chapman's book, he declared, he had become a "watcher of the skies/When a new planet swims into his ken." Going to the DU library was to add to the literary planets I was regularly placing in the firmament of my imagination to return with an enhanced understanding of the makers of literature in English.

When our eyes tired of reading, we would take tea breaks every couple of hours, spending a lot of time in Sharif Mia's canteen. Students, budding as well as established writers, and close couples would chat on in the canteen as Sharif Mia poured hot, steaming tea to relax fatigued eyes and recharge imaginations bent on exploring the world of knowledge. We four had made the library our base, but we would do classes, play and watch sports and cultural events taking place in the

However, the one major library of the world that I got to know really well for an extended period of time is the University of British Columbia's Main Library in Vancouver. Both while working on my Simon Fraser University M.A. dissertation and my doctoral dissertation for UBC, I would spend most of the day in this imposing Victorian style building.

gymnasium playing ground and TSC in between our reading sessions. The days went quickly and we knew we were spending them well, not only acquiring knowledge but also socializing and having fun.

II
I have been fortunate to spend three weeks doing research on Edmund

Burke in the British Library, when it was housed alongside the British Museum in Bloomsbury, London. It was a thrill to work in its reading room and read signs telling you that Charles Dickens, Karl Marx and Virginia Woolf and others had studied there. Once I could even imagine their presence in the round shaped reading room! People came from all over the world either to view the collections on display or visit the neighboring British Museum, or to do research.

However, the one major library of the world that I got to know really well for an extended period of time is the University of British Columbia's Main Library in Vancouver. Both while working on my Simon Fraser University M.A. dissertation and my doctoral dissertation for UBC, I would spend most of the day in this imposing Victorian style building. What I know from almost six years of work in this highly rated library is that one could get almost any book or periodical one wanted to access by going to the card catalogues and then to the stacks holding the books. And if they proved inadequate or confusing one could go the reference librarians on duty, whose knowledge of the library's holdings was simply amazing and whose enthusiasm to assist readers was always astonishing. And if even they could not help readers locate sources or things in print in the library, they could get it by letting us fill up the appropriate interlibrary loan form, wait a week or so and then have them!

I researched first on Herman Melville and the city, looking up his fictional works and poetry, letters, journals as well as old newspapers, reviews and books of criticism. Mid-nineteenth century New York came alive and Melville's leviathan imagination swam into my vision as never before! Later, I worked on Daniel Defoe, but now my research took me back to Francis Bacon and the history of science, mercantilism, colonial history, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century cartography. New worlds kept opening up and I felt like the young Keats again, travelling in "realms of gold," glimpsing islands and peoples having to do with British colonial expansion, and getting to

admire Defoe more and more, who seemed to know so much about the world outside Britain even in the eighteenth century.

Because I had taken a course on textual criticism, I had by this time also learned to appreciate book printing, design, editing, etc. I could view many of the antique books in the UBC collection as art objects, beautifully illustrated and lovingly bound together. Some had the unique smell that bibliophiles love. Many could be exhibition pieces and wonder-inspiring even in stacks!

I never ever felt bored. When I had enough of research, I would read my favorite newspapers and periodicals. The UBC library used to get the (now defunct) *Bangladesh Times*, which kept me in touch with happenings in my dear country. When my eyes got fatigued, and if the day was bright and sunny, I would head off to the neighboring Rose Garden, and laze in the sun for an hour or so, or have a cup of tea in the basement coffee shop, or head off for adda with my Bangladeshi friends or a friendly Canadian T.A. The UBC Main library, like all great libraries, had infinite variety, although only the fully initiated can appreciate the range of delights to be experienced in them!

III
And what will be the fate of the great libraries of the world in this superfast digitalizing world?

The DU library is now coveted, newspapers keep reporting, not for its book and newspaper collections, but for its spaces where students can study in relative silence for competitive examinations. The library, indeed, has been digitalized to a great extent and students who want to, can assess much information online. In contrast, and from what I can tell from the UBC Main Library website, it has not only digitalized completely but has also been attracting not only students and faculty members but also the general public to its 6 million books and displays sections. Now that the pandemic has stopped people from intermixing anywhere, there is even a "material picks up service", or so the webpage tells me.

There is no telling where digitalization and science will take us, but as I googled to find another suitable quote to end this piece I came across Albert Einstein's one: "The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." In this day and age, I guess, one has to add, digitally, virtually or in reality. Thankfully, paradise is still there to be glimpsed though its collections, if not the sheer delight of fingering books and leafing through them, page after pager, book after book!

Fakrul Alam is Director, Bangabandhu Research Institute for Peace and Liberty, and UGC Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka.



Topu Barman jumps in the air as his teammates chase him following his decisive strike against Sri Lanka in the opening match of the SAFF Championship at the National Stadium in Male yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Topu stars as Bangladesh get off to winning start

ANISUR RAHMAN from Male

Bangladesh's bid to play the final of the SAFF Championship got off to a positive note as they handed a single-goal defeat to Sri Lanka in the opening match of the regional football extravaganza at the National Football Stadium in Male yesterday. Central defender Tapu Barman converted a penalty in the 56th minute to separate both sides in a match where Bangladesh had the upper hand throughout. The strike from the Man of the Match Tapu was good enough to give his side the winning start, however, the margin of victory could have been widened had the likes of Rakib Hossain, Bipul Ahmed, Saaduddin not squandered a few scoring chances against a

team who played with ten men for over 40 minutes. On a rain-soaked ground with rousing expatriate spectators cheering from the stands throughout the 90 minutes, the men in red and green never felt like playing away from home. Head coach Oscar Bruzon apparently drafted the players, who had featured in the starting eleven from their respective clubs in the Bangladesh Premier League, in his own starting eleven. And his charges did not disappoint the interim coach in terms of ball possession as they had good exchange of passes from the outset of the game and launched attacks from both flanks. There had been an apprehension regarding Sri Lanka's expatriate forwards players - England-based Marvan Hamilton and German-based Ahmed Waseem Razeek, who however could not pose any real

threat in the match, even though a couple of moves from Waseem had the Bangladesh defenders in a spot of bother. Left-winger Rakib Hossain was in his usual elements and whipped a couple of crosses but left-winger Jewel Rana, top scorer among locals in the domestic league, looked nervous throughout the first half before Saad Uddin replaced him to inject some pace from the left flank. Right-back Bishwanath Ghosh was excellent as usual. His long throw-in wreaked havoc inside the Sri Lankan box and Tapu Barman almost capitalised one to break the deadlock in the ninth minute. Tapu claimed a hand-ball after his drive was blocked by a Sri Lankan defender but the referee had turned it down. Bangladesh tried to penetrate the Sri Lankan high-defence line by keeping the ball on their feet, but

were not decisive enough. Captain Jamal Bhuiyan drove wide once before Waseem broke free from the Bangladesh backline in the 37th minute but Tariq Raihan Kazi intervened at the cost of a corner. Following a fluid exchange of passes, Tapu came close to giving Bangladesh a lead before the interval but his close-range header off a Yeasin Arafat cross was brilliantly saved by Sri Lankan keeper Sujana Perera. After resumption, Oscar made three changes that added pace in the game, which led to the creation of more scoring chances in the second half. Bangladesh could have faced trouble when Queens Park Rangers forward Dillon De Silva fielded as a substitute but the backline kept him inactive to make sure Bangladesh got off to the best possible start.

I'm not fully satisfied, says Bruzon

SPORTS REPORTER from Male



"This goal is not mine, it is for all my teammates," central defender Tapu Barman said after striking the decisive goal against Sri Lanka to give Bangladesh a winning start in the SAFF Championship in Male yesterday. Netting the only goal of the game also saw Tapu join Mahbubur Rahman Sufil on five goals for the national team. "I'm happy to have scored the winner because I always try to help my team. We played really well today. I always listen to my coach and take four to five penalty shots every day during practice," Tapu said, opining his best goal was the one that helped Bangladesh play out a draw against Afghanistan in the World Cup Qualifiers. However, while Tapu may have found a reason to be satisfied, coach Oscar Bruzon was not overjoyed by the team's performance. "We were favourites according to the FIFA ranking. I think it was good for our side to play against Sri Lanka in the opening match because we set a tone of improvement," the Spaniard said at the post-match conference. "We could not be satisfied even with the playing style, only with our control of the

game. I repeat I am not fully satisfied with the performance. But we need to be aware that we should convert half our chances by improving our conversion rate," the 44-year-old added. Bruzon believes the result could have been different had the forwards converted the opportunities they created in the second half of the game. "My only worry is that we need to improve finishing, which is a long-standing problem. I think we created five to six scoring chances in the second half but could not finish. We are going to work on it in the coming days," Bruzon said. "Bangladesh can play very good football and Bangladesh can control the game. I think we formed excellent combination, short and long. If we had a better conversion rate, results could have been better today." "I think we knew that we should have full control of the game and we wanted to command the central areas in the opposing half. Sri Lanka defended deep in the first half and we went very close to their defence though we struggled to control some areas. "We created good openings from the left flank and, in the second half, we decided to change the formation to a 4-4-2 from a 4-1-4-1 to keep the backline solid. Saad Uddin replacing Jewel Rana also clicked well for us," added Oscar.



Expatriate Bangladeshis lent tremendous support to the men in red and green.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Focus now on consistency'

Despite being rated as one of the talented batsmen in the Bangladesh team, Soumya Sarkar had to face criticism regarding his consistency since he made his international debut six years back. During an exclusive interview with The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin, the 28-year-old shared his plans for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup along with a few other topics. The excerpts are below:



The Daily Star (DS): Having already played ODI World Cups in 2015 and 2019 and the 2016 T20 World Cup, this is going to be your fourth ICC World Cup. How important the upcoming event is going to be for you as a player and also for Bangladesh?

Soumya Sarkar (SS): Obviously the upcoming World Cup is very important for me as I was unable to do well in the previous events. My aim will be to become a regular performer for my team. World Cups are always special for any player as it's the biggest stage where you can showcase your talent and gain confidence.



DS: In the T20I series in Zimbabwe, you were adjudged the player-of-the-series. But you had a tough time at home against Australia in the next series and were only picked for the last match against New Zealand. What do you think went wrong?

SS: I normally play with positive intent but the Australia series at home didn't go well for me. I think my reading of the pitch went wrong as it was difficult to play my natural game in such pitches at home. I have worked on this aspect and it's very important to read the surface as a batsman. I want to focus on the positive side of my batting and I am mentally working on this aspect.

DS: Do you think it's the consistency that you need to work on to become a better

batsman in world cricket?

SS: To be honest, I have been thinking of this aspect for quite some time now and trying to work on being more consistent. If you have noticed, I was playing my natural game in Zimbabwe. But things went differently at home where my positive intent backfired because of the surface as it required a different approach. My focus is now on consistency as a batsman and yes, I am eyeing to compete among the best in the world and not just in my country. I am aiming to be among the top ten batters in the world and for that, you have to perform on a consistent basis and I realise it.

DS: Keeping the pitch in Oman and the UAE in mind, what are the areas you think Bangladesh can utilise with the bat, especially during the powerplay?

SS: We utilised the powerplay well in Zimbabwe. I think the batters will want to do the same in Oman and the UAE and play freely during the powerplay.

DS: Is there any specific area that you have worked on with batting consultant Ashwell Prince?

SS: He [Ashwell Prince] used to play shots on the back-foot really well as typical South Africans do. And I tried to learn a few tricks and tips from him about that shot. Though we didn't get the opportunity to work for a long time, I have been practicing those back-foot strokes individually.

A breath of fresh air

ANISUR RAHMAN from Maldives

The little Velana International Airport may not be that attractive upon arrival, especially after catching a sneak peek of the splendid beauty of Maldives from the sky. However, after stepping off the airport, which is linked to the capital city of Male with a bridge, the pristine water of the Indian Ocean is bound to completely sway the visitors in no time. Having flown out from the Hamad International Airport of Doha in the morning, it took over four hours to reach Maldives' airspace. Initially, from high above, the ring-shaped atolls in the blue water misled us to consider those as clouds. But when the aircraft had significantly descended, the view cleared up in high-definition to reveal lush green and hidden islands with picturesque resorts, resembling the ones generally found on internet search.

The mild and meditative waves of the crystal clear water must tempt one to go closer to it first, before boarding either water buses or taxi cabs destined for your place of stay.

We began heading towards Male on the hotel-provided microbus and the 15-minute journey impressed all of us to a great extent, especially the traffic system as the chauffeur neither had to overtake another vehicle, despite having ample space on both sides of the middle lane, nor did he ever resort to pressing any irritating horn. We got to know from the chauffeur that overtaking is forbidden in Maldives, although the

seemingly reckless bikers on the road disagreed, apparently.

On route, a lot of parked motorcycles caught our eyes. We got to know that the motorcycle, which costs around 40,000 Maldivian Rufiyaa (approximately 2600 US Dollar), is the most popular mode of personal transport in the 8.30-square-km city of Male.



Apart from male bikers, hijab-wearing female bikers dominate the streets, made of square-shaped zigzag concrete blocks which look similar to ones that Dhaka footpath had before the recently-laid red-yellow plates.

If Amsterdam is a city of bicycles and Dhaka is a city of rickshaws, then Male can be labelled as a city of motorcycles, no doubt.

It takes nearly one hour, or a few if you walk, to traverse Male from one end to another with the traffic being really thin except for the bikes. One of us found out that most of the Male roads have one-way movements that hardly cause any traffic jams. On top of it, no traffic police was seen anywhere.

The most interesting part of traffic is that the vehicles stop and wait until you cross the road via zebra-crossing and not the other way around, which is quite different compared to other sub-continent countries.

Interestingly, to see different shops with big glass windows, kept locked without any shutters or collapsible gates, may surprise you with the indication of the absence of robbers in the city.

It is common to have a view of the ocean's blue waters from the end of almost each narrow road, that basically joins the Male-surrounded ring road, and one can take a long breath of fresh air at the end of each road. Another pleasing aspect of the city is that the sky view is not hampered by high-rise buildings as it is in Dhaka. Except for a few high-rise buildings, most of the six or seven-story buildings and the trees virtually bear the beauty of the small town.

Finally, feeling lonely is not an option if you are from Bangladesh because invariably you will come across compatriots -- workers, companies' employees and businessmen -- surrounding you in airports, hotels, shops and almost every other place in the city of Male.



ZIARUL'S RECORD ON LAST DAY

Ziarul Islam of Bangladesh Army set a new national record, lifting 292 kilos in the 109-kg category on the concluding day of Mujib Borsho National Weightlifting Competition at the old National Sports Council building yesterday. Ziarul lifted 132 kilos in snatch and 162 kilos in clean & jerk -- both new records -- to lead Army to overall victory. Baki Billah of Ansar was adjudged best male weightlifter while Smrity Akter of Army was adjudged best female weightlifter of the competition.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangabandhu Tunnel
is being built with BSRM

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

Aktaruzzaman Flyover
Chittagong

Principal Cement Brand **SHAH CEMENT**

BURIGANGA RIVERBANK

Up for grabbing

BIWTA planning walkways when excavation of filled-up stretches needed

TARUN SARKAR

Local syndicates are out again to grab swathes of the Buriganga riverbank in the capital's Kamrangirchar, blocking the natural flow of the river.

Over the last few months and years, they set up at least two truck stands, dozens of construction material businesses and a motor workshop by filling up the riverbank in the area.

In several recent drives, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) cleared about 670 metres of the riverbank at Hujurpara, Sirajnagar and Kholamora under Kamrangirchar Police Station, but many illegal businesses still occupy the riverbank.

Experts and environmentalists say excavation of the filled-up riverbank is very crucial to ensure the natural flow of the river and to stop future occupation, but the BIWTA now plans to construct walkways there instead.

During a visit in early September, nearly 100 feet of riverbank inside the river-boundary pillars between Hujurpara mosque and Kholamora terminal area were found filled up.

One of the two truck stands has been set up between pillar 27 and 28 in Hujurpara. The other has been built on the east part of Kholamora terminal, filling up a large area of the riverbank between pillar 40 and 43.

Parking of different sorts of vehicles and loading and unloading of construction materials go on here with little regard for river protection laws and multiple High Court orders.

A signboard titled "Stand and Parking: Kholamora Terminal" has been hoisted there by Kamrangirchar unit of Bangladesh Inter-District Truck Drivers Union. Dozens of trucks, pickups and other small vehicles were seen parked there.

Nearby, a motor workshop has been set up to overhaul vehicles. It is not clear who set up the workshop, as there is no signboard to claim its ownership.

Trading of wood, sand, brick and stone is going on in full swing at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Trucks parked on the bank of the Buriganga at Kholamora ghat in the capital's Kamrangirchar. Influential locals encroached upon the river to make this truck stand. The BIWTA removed other structures that encroached upon the river, but the truck stand remains. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CHINA ANNIVERSARY

PM greets Xi, hopes strong cooperation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent a letter of felicitation to Chinese President Xi Jinping and hoped that exchanges and cooperation at various levels between the two countries will be further strengthened in the coming days.

The prime minister sent the letter on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Hasina, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, conveyed to President Xi and through him to the government and the friendly people of China her heartiest felicitations and warmest greetings.

"Modern China under the leadership of the Communist Party of China is a significant partner for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh," said the PM.

Hasina fondly recalled President Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh in 2016 during which the two leaders agreed to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh cabinet discusses Indo-Soviet talk

PHOTO: THE HINDUSTHAN STANDARD

OCTOBER 2, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CABINET MEETING HELD
The Bangladesh cabinet met today to review the Kremlin meeting between the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Soviet leaders, and to assess its implication on the War of Liberation. Earlier, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mahub Alam had a meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary TN Kaul, who had accompanied Indira to Moscow. Although no official comment on the cabinet talks was available, informed sources indicated that the cabinet was satisfied with the outcome of the Moscow talks and in particular with the growing realisation among the Soviet leaders of the extent and intensity of the Liberation War in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

UNAUTHORISED HANDSETS

BTRC begins to snap their connectivity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission yesterday started implementing the decision to disconnect unauthorised handsets from cellular connectivity.

The BTRC launched the programme after the deadline for mobile phone registration with the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) expired on September 30.

NEIR is a central database for International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI), a unique 15-digit identification or serial number that all mobile phones must have to remain connected to networks.

Mobile phones with proper documents have been automatically included in the database. The NEIR was launched

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Drawings by boxing legend Muhammad Ali up for auction



REUTERS, New York

A rare collection of sketches and paintings by American boxer Muhammad Ali - who loved to draw between fights - is going up for auction in New York next week.

The 24-piece collection, many of them in cartoon style and some of them signed, reflect Ali's interest in religion and social justice, but there are also some that picture him in the ring.

"Ref, he did float like a butterfly and sting like a bee!" reads the speech bubble from a boxer knocked out by an opponent with his arms raised in victory.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Low turnout as Mamata fights to retain her CM post

NDTV, The Hindu

The bypoll in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency in West Bengal, which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is contesting to retain her chief minister's post, saw a relatively low voter turnout amidst isolated disturbances, a senior Election Commission official said yesterday.

The constituency registered over 57 percent polling during Thursday's by-election, the official told PTI.

In April when the West

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

3kg crystal meth seized in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab officers yesterday arrested a Rohingya man with three kg of crystal methamphetamine in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.

Officers caught Abdul Latif, 64, carrying the haul in a shopping bag around 3:30pm near Shapla Chottor on Marine Drive, said Abdullah Mohammad Sheikh Sadi, senior assistant director at Rab-15.

Latif, a resident of Aliabad area, told Rab officers in primary interrogation that he brought the substance, popularly known as ice, from the border in Teknaf to sell it in Cox's Bazar and elsewhere, the officer said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



THE OLD NORMAL?... Hundreds of people shopping at a street market in the capital's Gulistan yesterday evening. Other than one or two people wearing masks, the picture is similar to those of pre-pandemic times. Covid-19 transmission has been steadily declining across the country and people have been ignoring the health safety guidelines.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 2

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Star HEALTHLINE

Asthma more prevalent in CHILDREN AGED 5-14

DR RUKHSANA PARVIN

Bronchial asthma is a condition in which airways are inflamed and become more sensitive. When sensitive airways are exposed to certain triggers, they overreact, become narrower and breathing becomes difficult.

If the condition is not managed well, it can lead to life-threatening asthma attacks. Asthma can begin at any age, but most children who have it, have their first symptoms by the age of 5.

Childhood

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Hyginex
Instant hand sanitizer

BEACON
Pharmaceuticals Limited