



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## EVALY DEBT

# Only a part peeled

The e-commerce firm owes at least Tk 408cr to 1,026 sellers

ZYMA ISLAM

Evaly owes at least Tk 408 crore to 1,026 sellers, according to its own data obtained by The Daily Star.

This amount is nearly double what Evaly disclosed on September 5, when the e-commerce platform told the commerce ministry that it owes Tk 205.86 crore to its merchants.

The actual figure may be much higher as there may be more databases that this newspaper could not get. The daily was given access to several of the payment-tracking datasheets maintained by the beleaguered



company, by sources within. The datasheets log in meticulous details, separate bill and invoice numbers, the dates of the invoices, the total amount due to each merchant, and whether or not the merchant was paid (through online or bank transfer or cheques).

Evaly owes Artisan approximately Tk 32 crore, according to Evaly data.

Contacted for verification, Artisan's Operations Manager Aupo Hasan said they cannot confirm the exact figure, but it would be something like that.

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No students are returning to their flooded classrooms in Hatgachha High School in Monirampur, Jashore. Around 50 such educational institutions in several upazilas of the district, known as Bhabadah region, have been waterlogged.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## COVID TEST AT HSIA Govt to pay fees of workers going to UAE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The expatriates' welfare ministry will pay Tk 1,600 in fees for the RT-PCR test for coronavirus at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for each migrant worker going to the United Arab Emirates.

Minister Imran Ahmad made the announcement yesterday while addressing a views-exchange meeting with expatriate Bangladeshis at the Bangladesh Embassy in Abu Dhabi, said a press release.

The minister is visiting the UAE to attend the Global Business Summit in Dubai.

Six RT-PCR labs have been set up at the airport

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## AD-FREE FOREIGN CHANNELS Cable operators want a year to comply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly two days after shutting down foreign TV channels, cable operators yesterday said they would seek one or one and a half years from the government to ensure international advertisements are not aired in Bangladesh by those channels.

They came up with the decision at a meeting of Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh at a hotel in the capital's Banani, said COAB founding president SM Anwar Parvez.

"We have already digitised our system but providing Set Top Box [STB] to every

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## Zeal for repatriation cost him his life

Say people close to slain Rohingya leader

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA AND MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

About four months before his assassination, Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah's organisation took an initiative to form repatriation committees in every refugee camp to facilitate the return of the refugees.

His Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights was forming these committees to make Rohingyas aware why they should go back home.

The initiative angered different Rohingya groups that maintain that refugees should return only after the Arakan state is liberated.

"As Mohib formed the committees, he started receiving threats. But Mohib had an unwavering determination," said a close aide of Mohib who was assassinated on Wednesday night.

Mohib and his followers formed several committees in the Lombashia camp and were about to expand it gradually to other camps.

Mohib, a leading voice for the Rohingya cause, was among the 700,000 refugees who came to Bangladesh in 2017 fleeing a violent military crackdown in Myanmar.

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## Mohib Ullah killed for wanting to return: FM

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday vowed to bring the killers of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah to justice soon.

He said a vested quarter killed Mohib Ullah as he wanted to return to his home country of Myanmar.

"The government will take stern action against those involved in the killing. Nobody will be spared," he said.

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## RingID embezzled Tk 212cr in 3 months

Had no authorisation to collect money from customers; CID arrests director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Evaly, Dhamaka Shopping and Eorange, the jig seems to be over for another unscrupulous company, the social networking platform RingID, after one of its directors was arrested yesterday.

The police arrested Saiful Islam from the capital's Gulshan following a case filed on September 30 by an aggrieved user of RingID at the Bhatara Police Station under the Digital Security Act and Multi-Level Marketing Control Act.

Saiful is the brother of Shariful Islam,

the managing director of RingID, which was established in July 2015 as a social networking platform with a dizzying range of features including live broadcasting, voice and video calls, instant messaging, stickers, media cloud, newsfeed, secret chat, multimedia sharing, online wallet.

Shariful's wife, Ayrin Islam, is the co-founder and chief executive officer of Ring ID, which had sponsored cricket tournaments a few years ago, like Evaly.

Ayrin and Shariful were arrested earlier on December 28, 2016 following a case

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A teen leaps from a bridge in Chandrima Udyan into the lake during the hot and humid afternoon yesterday. Last year a child died while swimming in the very lake.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Ziauddin Bablu passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Secretary General, and former MP and minister Ziauddin Ahmed



Bablu died yesterday at a city hospital.

He was 67.

Infected with Covid-19 in August, Bablu was undergoing treatment at the Bangladesh Specialized Hospital. He died at 9:12am, JP said in a press release.

He is survived by his wife, a son, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his demise.

Bablu was elected MP from Chattogram-9 in the 2014 Jatiya Sangsad election. Born in Chattogram on

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Everyone has the right to know about any changes and development of his/her life

Manusher Jonno Foundation and its Partner Organisations Supported by: UKaid

## 433 in jail under DSA

Amnesty gives UN figures until July 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh had at least 433 prisoners under the Digital Security Act as of July 11 this year, Amnesty International told the United Nations' Human Rights Council (HRC) yesterday.

The figure was 358 exactly a year ago (July 11, 2020), said the rights body during the Council's 48th session.

"The longest serving prisoner detained at least until 11 July 2021 under the law has been detained since December 24, 2018," said Saad Hammadi, the South Asia Campaigner for Amnesty International, briefing the Council.

Amnesty reviewed the recommendations made during Bangladesh's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to see which ones have been implemented so far.

Every four years, the HRC reviews Bangladesh's human rights situation as part of its UPR. The last time Bangladesh went through the process was in 2018.

Bangladesh was reviewed and it agreed to implement 178 of the suggestions to improve the human rights situation in the country.

Switzerland, Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, New Zealand, Canada and some other countries had recommended that Bangladesh take measures to ensure freedom of press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of political association.

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**589**  
New cases in 24hrs



**15,57,347**  
Total cases



**27,555**  
Deaths



**15,17,642**  
Recoveries



**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**4,809,300**  
Deaths



**235,310,448**  
Total cases

## 80 villages inundated in Bhabadah

MOKAMMEL SHUVU

Around 80 villages have been flooded in at least six upazilas of Jashore and Khulna districts due to incessant rain last month.

Many villages in Abhaynagar, Monirampur and Keshabpur upazilas of Jashore and Dumuria upazila of Khulna have been inundated, said Ranajit Bawali, convener of Bhabadah Pani Nishkason Shagram Committee.

These villages fall under the Bhabadah waterlogged region, which has been a lifelong woe for hundreds and thousands of inhabitants of at least six upazilas in Jashore, Khulna and Satkhira, he said.

Locals are fearing that the much-talked Bhabadah water logging problem may reappear in region as the water has been stagnant and hasn't receded in the past week.

Meanwhile, Jashore Water Development Board has been trying to pump out the stagnant water to solve the problem from the beginning of the year.

Ranajit, however, said there is no option to solve the problem except for using tidal river management (TRM) system.

Shibapada Biswas, a resident and high school teacher of Dumurtola village in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila, said, "A road that goes through either side of marshland is the only stretch of land that hasn't yet gone underwater. The rest of the village has been under the knee to waist-deep water since mid-

September. Incessant rain for the last several days caused the flooding, which resulted in countless sufferings for us."

He and other locals said the Water Development Board's (WDB) initiative of pumping out water and sealing the Hori river at Bhabadah Sluice gate point in "impractical".

The Met office recorded 334 mm rainfall in Jashore during September.

Jashore WDB Executive Engineer Tahaudul Islam said the inundation happened due to the nonstop rain within a short period since the beginning of September.

The pumps that were installed are not capable of pumping out such huge quantities of water, he said.

"I heard around 80 villages have gone underwater but we don't have our statistics in this regard."

The engineer said it might take longer for the water to recede from the villages.

If more powerful pumps are installed, the problem may be solved, he hoped.

After already spending almost Tk 2.5 crore on the pumping project -- including setting up the pumps, paying electricity bills, and doing some river excavation work -- the WDB has proposed another water-pumping project at an estimated cost of Tk 50 crore.

However, locals rejected WDB's proposal at a meeting in Jashore on September 25 attended by Azadur Rahman Mallick, joint secretary of the Water Resources Ministry.

## RingID embezzled Tk 212cr

FROM PAGE 1

filed by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission over dues pertaining to revenue-sharing and licence fees from their interconnection exchange and international gateway operations.

They later secured bail from the High Court and left for Canada.

The two have been accused in the case along with 22 others, which include officials and agents of RingID.

In the last quarter of 2020, RingID pivoted into a business model that exploited the affiliate marketing programme, which is rather popular globally to drive sales and generate significant online revenue.

Affiliate marketing is a process by which an affiliate earns a commission for marketing another person's or company's products. Typically, the affiliate promotes a product and earns a piece of the profit from each sale made.

Often, directing people to a company's site is enough to get the affiliate the commission.

RingID posed as an affiliate and to maximise its commission from companies, it dipped into its sizeable pool of users for clicks.

It tempted users with two types of memberships: Silver and Gold.

For Silver membership, one has to pay Tk 12,000. The user can then earn up to Tk 7,500 per month by clicking on about 50 advertisement links.

For Gold membership, one has to pay Tk 22,000. He/she can then earn up to Tk 15,000 a month by watching about 100 advertisements per day.

Between May and July, RingID collected a total of Tk 212.3 crore by selling such memberships, said a press release from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the police, which made the arrest.

If the existing members brought in newer ones, they were rewarded too, giving RingID the vestige of notorious multilevel marketing companies like UniPay2U, which had collected more

than Tk 5,000 crore in a little over a year of its operation a decade ago.

Besides, like e-commerce sites, RingID was also conducting transactions through e-wallets in the name of selling various products at unusual discounts, the CID said.

In the primary interrogation, Saiful, who was placed in a two-day remand yesterday, admitted that RingID did not have the authorisation to collect such deposits from users, the CID said.

In the time of the pandemic, many were thinking of making easy money, which is why they fell for RingID's offer, according to Rezaul Masud, special superintendent of the CID's Cyber Intelligence and Risk Management cell.

"We just got the amount for three months. If we look into the amount they collected for the full year, the amount will be four times higher," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

About one lakh purchased RingID's membership.

"If someone gets Tk 7,000 a month from investing Tk 12,000, why would people not jump in? Their business has a kind of multi-level marketing model with fraudulence," Masud added.

In this vein, Anki Begum, the aggrieved user and whose complaint with the police led to Saiful's arrest, and her family had put in upwards of Tk 20 lakh in RingID.

They are yet to see any returns on their investments.

Two more cases have since been filed against RingID with Jashore's Kotwali Police Station, said Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The Bangladesh Bank has already been requested to freeze RingID's bank accounts to curb money laundering.

An inquiry team of CID is also working in this regard.

Contacted, Ayin told The Daily Star in an e-mail reply that the allusion of the Ponzi scheme to RingID's 'Brand Promoter Model' is incorrect.

"The 'Brand Promoter Model' is like the Affiliate Marketing Programme that in fact very popular worldwide."

## Ziauddin Bablu passes away

FROM PAGE 1

December 31, 1954, Bablu completed his HSC from Notre Dame College in Dhaka. He also obtained Bachelor's in Arts, Master's in English Literature and another Bachelor's in Law from Dhaka University.

Active in student politics from a young age, he served as the general secretary of DU's English Departmental Association from 1974 to 1975.

From 1979 to 1983, he was a member of the Dhaka University Senate. From 1981 to 1983, he was the General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal).

During that time, he also served as the general secretary of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU). From 1988 to 1990, Bablu was the cabinet minister of power and energy during the Ershad regime.

As he was known as a JP leader who sympathised with Awami League, he also served as an advisor to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from 2013 to 2014 with the rank and status of a cabinet minister.

Bablu was first elected a member of parliament in 1988 from the Chittagong-7 constituency and was later elected MP from Chittagong-9 in 2014.

He was also appointed special assistant to late Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad.

Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu was in the good books of AL leaders, party insiders said.

But recently, he became vocal against the ruling AL's oppression, absence of rule of law and governance issues, they added.

He was with among other few leaders who played vital role to convince Ershad to participate in the national election in 2014 where more than half of the MPs were elected unopposed.

Ershad first appointed him as the party's secretary general in 2014 but removed him from the post in 2016.

In 2020, Bablu was made JP secretary general again Moshir Rahman Ranga was removed from the post.

The JP made the change in a sudden move "to appease the government" as Ranga was vocal against their activities, party sources said.

His first wife Farida Sarkar died in 2005 from cancer. They had a son.

In April 2017, Bablu married Dr Mehe Zebunnesa Rahman, a relative of HM Ershad.

President M Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, different ministers, state ministers, BNP Secretary General Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, JP Chairman GM Quader, different distinguished personalities and organisations in separate messages expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Bablu.

In separate condolence messages, PM Hasina and the President prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathies to the bereaved family, reports BSS.

Bablu's body was taken to the JP central office in the capital's Kakrail in the afternoon for party leaders and activists to pay their final respect.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Gulshan Azad mosque after Esha prayer. He was laid to rest at the Mirpur martyred intellectual grave.



Parents and anxious family members taking care of sick children on the premises of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital as the 45-bed paediatric ward is at capacity. The number of child patients with cold-related diseases and diarrhoea has shot up at hospitals in the district due to what physicians say is a fluctuation of temperature between day and night.

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

## Only a part peeled

FROM PAGE 1

"We have decided that we will not be making any comments on Evaly," he said.

In November last year, Evaly and Artisan signed a memorandum of understanding according to which customers could purchase gift cards of the clothing brand from Evaly at up to 60 percent discount, to be used across the country.

Of the 1,026 merchants this newspaper tracked, most are owed between Tk 5 lakh and Tk 30 lakh each.

Around 70 sellers are owed over Tk 1 crore and over 10 sellers over Tk 5 crore each.

This includes the mega chain Shwapno. Sabbir Hasan Nasir, executive director of ACI (Logistics) Ltd (Shwapno), confirmed that the figure owed by Evaly to them is Tk 5.6 crore.

Evaly owes Tk 5.8 crore to Partex Beverage Ltd, which owns products like Mum drinking water and RC Cola.

Nahid Yousuf, brand manager of Partex Beverage Ltd, confirmed that the amount would be in that region. "If Evaly shuts down, it will ultimately be us who would suffer and not be able to get our money back," he said, adding that they had been in business with Evaly for a year.

Evaly owed the highest amount of debt -- Tk 139 crore -- to as many as 500 sellers, in June 2021. This was also the month when Bangladesh Bank submitted an inspection report on the company to the commerce ministry.

Currently, Fair Electronics is owed about Tk 100 crore. This figure has recently been determined by the company, a source informed The Daily Star last week. The newspaper could not independently verify this.

Fair Electronics Limited, Samsung's local assembly partner in Bangladesh, used to supply mobile phones and consumer electronic products to Evaly.

The company started its business with Evaly in April/May 2020. Evaly sometimes deposited 10 percent or 20 percent money against the total orders and then bought goods from the company.

The rest was supposed to be paid as per an agreement.

The company has not provided any mobile phone to Evaly since May this year, and consumer electric products were delivered the last time in July.

The source said, "Whenever they [Evaly] said they would take goods but wouldn't deposit money, Fair Electronics stopped supplying them products."

The source added, "If Evaly is declared bankrupt, they will sue them. And then, they will file a case on charges of extortion."

"Fair Electronics learnt from various government sources that the authorities are considering auctioning and selling Evaly's assets. If something like this happens, the arrears will be calculated and distributed. That's good too."

Out of 1,143 unique merchants' data checked by this newspaper, only 17 percent had no money due from the e-commerce firm.

However, this newspaper has incomplete data on liabilities, since the company itself claims it has over 35 thousand registered merchants.

As many as 552 small traders -- each owed Tk 10 lakh and less -- are still waiting for their payments.

This includes Muslim Uddin, the owner of Lungi Market. The son of a weaver from Sirajganj, Uddin came up with the idea of taking the humblest of men's clothing from traditional markets to the internet.

"When I first thought of selling lungis and gamchhas online two years ago, I chose Evaly. I had been running my online business solely through the platform," said Uddin.

Today Evaly owes him Tk 7.8 lakh in uncleaned bills.

"For a small seller like me, this is a large amount. I don't know how to get it back, and if I don't, I will lose all my investment," said Uddin.

Banasree-based toy shop Toyghor claims it is owed around Tk 3 lakh by Evaly. Evaly's own data shows an amount of Tk 1.8 lakh.

"Our company is a small one. None of our toys is worth over Tk 2,000 or Tk 3,000. We used to get the bills regularly in the first month or two, but then they stopped paying," said Shipon, manager of Toyghor, which has been selling

means in two days the company racked up an amount of debt equivalent to what it has in its banks.

This data too was given by Evaly's employees.

Highly-placed sources in the police, who are investigating Evaly, said they were looking money-laundering trails and whether Rasel siphoned off the company's money to personal coffers.

On the other hand, a presentation made to new recruits on June 15 showed the hundreds of crores of taka of monthly sales by Evaly.

It showed that Evaly's gross merchandise value (GMV) in May this year was Tk 800 crore.

Gross merchandise volume is a term in e-commerce that shows the total sales value for merchandise sold through a marketplace over a specific timeframe. It is calculated by taking the sale price per item charged to the customer and multiplying this by the number of items sold.

Between January and April 2021, Evaly's gross merchandise value ranged between Tk 500 crore and Tk 600 crore. This was a meteoric rise from the company's GMV stood at less than Tk 50 crore.

With monthly sales worth several hundreds of crores of taka but almost nothing in the banks arises the question: where has all this money gone?

Iftekhazuzaman, executive director of Transparency International, Bangladesh, told The Daily Star in an interview published last week: "Now, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit should look into the money laundering aspect of it, to trace the money of the customers who have paid Evaly for undelivered products. If the money is not in the bank, then where is it?"

Rab informed the media that the e-commerce firm used to take money from new customers to clear debt owed to old customers.

The dramatic rise in Evaly's gross merchandise value came during a time when it was being investigated by a whole host of government agencies for financial irregularities.

In late August, the BFIU informed the public that it would freeze Evaly's assets for investigation. Later in September, the National Board of Revenue and the Anti-Corruption Commission joined the fray.

In February this year, by the time the central bank jumped on the bandwagon, the beleaguered company's GMV had shot up from Tk 50 crore to Tk 500 crore.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), wrote in The Daily Star recently, "The commerce ministry and the Bangladesh Bank have critical roles in overseeing and monitoring such businesses. These malpractices have been going on for several months. Why these were not tracked and stopped by the responsible departments are questions that must be answered."

Contacted over the phone, Evaly Executive Director Ehsan Sarwar Chowdhury told this correspondent to send queries via WhatsApp.

The questions were sent via the messaging app, but The Daily Star was yet to get the reply till 10:45pm yesterday.

[Sukanta Halder contributed to this report]

## Zeal for repatriation cost him his life

FROM PAGE 1

His efforts received widespread recognition after a group led by him organised a massive rally in 2019 inside a Rohingya camp.

Later that year, he was invited to Geneva to address the UN Human Rights Council and to the White House, where he spoke with then president Trump as part of a meeting with survivors of religious persecution.

Mohib's followers said his determination to return to Myanmar led to his death.

He recently established a connection with several anti-government groups in Myanmar that are also in favour of Rohingya repatriation, they added.

On Wednesday night, minutes before he was shot dead, Mohib spoke to several members of his organisation about returning to Myanmar, his wife Nasima told The Daily Star earlier.

His brother Ahmed Ullah said

Mohib was scheduled to talk with several leaders of the National Unity of Government in Myanmar through WhatsApp on Friday.

Sixty-year-old Mohammad Sultan, a resident of camp-7 in Kutupalong, said the committees to popularise the idea of repatriation were supposed to be formed in his camp as well.

"Mohib was an optimist. He would always talk about going back to Myanmar. He became an icon of hope. Sadly, he had to be buried here, far from Myanmar," Sultan said.

These correspondents visited Kutupalong and Lombashia camps in Myanmar that are also in favour of Rohingya repatriation, they added.

Most of them wished not to be named and said the gunmen who killed Mohib should be identified and punished for the sake of security at the camps and to send a message to the criminals that they are not above the

law. "There are bad people in the camps. If a towering figure like him gets killed then where is our safety?" asked Aziz Khan, a resident of camp-5.

He said law enforcers should play a more active role to ensure security at the camps.

"Security has now been beefed up at Mohib's house. If it was ensured earlier, he would not be killed," said a Rohingya man, adding that criminals were roaming everywhere in the camps but people would not dare raise their voice against them.

Meanwhile, police on Friday night arrested Abdus Salam, 30, of Lombashia camp and Ziaur Rahman, 32, of Kutupalong camp during raids on the camps, said Armed Police Battalion (APBN) officers.

Another Rohingya man was arrested that morning in connection with the assassination.

## Battle for abortion rights hits America's streets

AFP, Washington

The abortion rights battle was set to take to the streets across America yesterday, with hundreds of demonstrations planned as part of a new "Women's March" aimed at countering an unprecedented conservative offensive to restrict the termination of pregnancies.

The fight has become even more intense since Texas adopted a law on September 1 banning almost all abortions, unleashing a veritable legal guerrilla warfare and a counterattack in Congress, but with few public demonstrations until now.

Two days before the US Supreme Court, which will have the final say on the contentious issue, is due to reconvene, nearly 200 organizations have finally called on abortion rights defenders to make their voices heard from coast to coast.

## Cable operators

FROM PAGE 1

home is a big thing to implement," he told The Daily Star last night.

Digitisation means cable TV households will receive digital TV signals via an STB. Every cable operator will have to transmit digital signals that can be received at the customer's home via the box.

"We will request the information minister to allow us to continue broadcasting the foreign channels for the time being keeping the viewers' interest in mind," he added.

Millions of cable television and Direct-to-Home [DTH] viewers have not been able to watch foreign channels since October 1 as the operators were unable to ensure a "clean feed" policy.

Anisur Rahman of the capital's Mohammod area used to watch BBC and CNN for the latest global news and National Geographic, along with his children.

"But I haven't been able to watch those channels for the last two days," he said. "I don't feel good about it. I want those channels back as soon as possible."

Talking to The Daily Star, several other viewers echoed the same.

Zahidul Karim, public relations officer, Beximco Holdings Ltd which owns Akash DTH, said, "We have already initiated negotiations with the foreign channels and are trying to find the best possible solutions in accordance with the laws so that our customers can get back the services as soon as possible."

"It may take some time as there will be a testing period..."

Meanwhile, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the government did not shut any foreign TV channels as Bangladesh's sky is open, reported UNB.

"The agents of foreign channels and operators have stopped broadcasting as they failed to air advertisement-free programmes or clean feed. There's no restriction on broadcasting foreign channels that are transmitting clean feed," he said.

"Foreign TV channels have been airing programmes in Bangladesh over the years ignoring our laws. Every year the country is losing around Tk 2,000 crore worth investment because of the broadcast of foreign channels with advertisements," he said.

Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) and others concerned have welcomed the government's initiative and hoped that the foreign TV channels will soon start providing clean feed to Bangladesh, said Hasan Mahmud.

## Mohib Ullah

FROM PAGE 1

This was the minister's first remarks after the global condemnation of the Rohingya leader's murder.

Police on Thursday night registered a murder case in this regard, a day after the killing took place at Ukhiya camp in Cox's Bazar.

The FIR was filed with Ukhiya Police Station against unidentified persons following a complaint from Mohib Ullah's brother Habib Ullah, OC Sanjur Morshed of the police station said.

Unidentified assailants opened fire on the 44-year-old Rohingya leader on Wednesday night. He was first rushed to a local medical facility and later shifted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Mohib Ullah was buried in Ukhiya's Lambashia camp-1 on Thursday afternoon after a namaz-e-janaza, which was attended by a large number of Rohingya refugees from camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas. Formerly a teacher in Myanmar, the slain human rights activist was popularly known as Master Mohib Ullah among the Rohingyas. He was the head of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights at Kutupalong camp.

## Govt to pay fees

FROM PAGE 1

in Dhaka recently to carry out rapid PCR tests on departing passengers. Each test costs Tk 1,600.

Addressing the meeting yesterday, Imran Ahmad said migrant workers are the "remittance warriors" of Bangladesh. And their contribution to the country's economy is immense.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, who is also visiting the UAE, attended the views exchange as the special guest. The event was chaired by Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Mohammed Abu Zafar.

### 188 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 188 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday of which 30 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

This year, 7,841 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in September which is the highest in a single month. At least 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, 43 in May and the rest from January to April.

With the new cases, a total of 18,550 people were hospitalised this year. Of the total infected, 2,367 are from outside Dhaka.

According to the DGHS, 68 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people have died in July, 34 in August and 22 in September.

Among the deaths, 63 have died in Dhaka

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Migrant workers queued up in front of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital to get their jobs yesterday. An unusually hot day even by the capital's standards, they had to go through considerable stress, having to stand under the sun for hours before making it inside the hospital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AMI PROBASHI APP

## 5 lakh migrant workers sign up for Covid job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About five lakh migrant workers have registered through the Ami Probashi app to get inoculated for Covid-19, said Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) Director General Shahidul Alam yesterday.

As a result, the government has earned about Tk 10 crore in revenue from app registration fees, he told a programme, marking the launch of a new online registration process at the capital's BMET training facilities.

The DG said because the workers registered through the app, they were able to get hassle-free services. BMET organised the launch programme at its conference



**AT A GLANCE**

- Govt earned Tk 10cr from app registration fees
- Workers must sign up with BMET before registering on Surokkha app
- Must pay a registration fee of Tk 200
- App ensures hassle-free service
- With the app, aspirants can enrol with 64 training centres

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## Polls must be held under neutral govt

Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday warned that his party will not accept any general election in the country if it is not held under a neutral government.

"We will not accept any game in the name of election. Election must be held under a neutral government and it must be conducted by an impartial election commission," Fakhru said while addressing a discussion held at the Engineers Institution auditorium in the capital.

Demanding formation of a caretaker government during election time, the BNP secretary general urged the ruling Awami League to step down from the government and to allow people to exercise their right to vote.

The BNP leader also urged party men to organise a mass uprising through uniting people and all political forces.

He also called upon the party leaders and activists to be disciplined.

Commenting that the present government has no public support, Mirza Fakhru said, "Politically they are completely bankrupt. They know that if the election is



SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## No more caretaker govt: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is now unwilling to take part in the polls and that is why they kept their politics limited to mass media and social media, avoiding the political field as well as streets.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said this at a press conference at his official residence in the capital.

The minister said there will be no benefit in threatening the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Awami League. "We know about your [BNP] evil attempts to fish in troubled water," he said.

The AL general secretary said BNP is now saying that they would join polls if a neutral caretaker government is formed but the party knows it very well that the issue of caretaker government is a settled one.

"Who scrapped the caretaker government system? It was scrapped in light of a verdict of the High Court. The caretaker government was an interim system. It cannot run for a long period," he mentioned.

Quader said when a country's democracy marches forward, people's trust and confidence in the government and election system also increase.

The EC is a constitutional body and the government has no interference in any activities of this institution, he added.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Tejturi Bazar Blast One succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A resident, who was injured in an explosion at a building in the capital's Tejturi East Tejturi Bazar on Friday night, died early yesterday while undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Zikrullah Jitu (30) died in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital. He suffered 64 percent burns, confirmed Opuurbo Hasan, officer-in-charge of Tejturi Police Station.

The blast occurred around 8pm on Friday, leaving two people injured, said Inspector Md Bacchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital Police Outpost.

"They were brought to the hospital by one Nahid around 11pm. They used to live on the second floor of a six-storey building, where

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Provide students with psychological support

Say speakers on reintegrating them into classrooms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students returning to schools following 18 months of closure should be provided with proper mental health support to reintegrate them into the classrooms, academics said yesterday.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic has caused major disruptions to the daily life of students, their study habits have been significantly affected, which necessitates the additional care, they added.

The speakers made these observations at a workshop titled "Learning Gap Mitigation and Psychosocial Support for Students in Post Covid-19 Education System" organised by Dafodil International University (DIU) at its permanent campus. DIU's head of general educational

Digital dependency, which has increased during the pandemic, is breeding isolation and loneliness among students.

**PROF NEHAL AHMED**  
CHAIR OF DHAKA EDUCATION BOARD

Schools need to transform the way they monitor their students to facilitate those suffering from mental health issues.

**SYED MIZANUR RAHMAN**  
DIU HEAD OF GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SM Mahub-ul-Haq Majumder urged teachers to step up in this hour of need.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## DU 'Kha' unit exam held across country

ADMISSION FOR 2020-21

47,639 vied for 2,378 "Kha" unit seats  
18,853 participated from the capital  
Rest of the divisional cities hosted 28,786

DU CORRESPONDENT

All eight divisional cities of the country played host to Dhaka University's (DU) "Kha" unit (Faculty of Arts) admission test for the 2020-21 academic year yesterday.

Much like the "KA" unit exam held on Friday, yesterday's session passed without any untoward situation, said university authorities.

Expressing satisfaction, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman said, "The admission test was held fairly and went smoothly everywhere."

He said this after inspecting an examination centre at DU Arts Faculty Building around noon.

"Everyone, including the law enforcement agencies, was active in maintaining order, especially against any kind of fraudulence," added the VC.

The exam started at 11am across all

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## 'He wrote to change the world for the better'

Says Serajul Islam Choudhury on Abul Mansur Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Mansur Ahmad has explained the world in his own way. He thought and wrote about the world in all its complexities -- exploring politics, economics and literature -- and envisioned how to create changes for the better, observed Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury of Dhaka University.

He must be remembered for his unique contribution to history, Prof Serajul noted during a prize giving ceremony for an essay competition on the eminent writer-historian organised by the Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

"Abul Mansur Ahmad was involved in every major movement in some form, including the peasant movement, language movement,

anti-Ayub movement and mass uprising movement of 1969. He was a journalist, lawyer and politician, but all in all he was an intellectual," said Prof Serajul Islam, who was the chief guest at the event.

"He explained the world through his own lens and wanted to create changes to the existing system. That is why he drafted the historic 21-point demand. He also drafted the explanation of the six-point demand. He played the role that an intellectual ought to play," he added.

Praising the writing of Abul Mansur Ahmad, Prof Serajul Islam said, "No Bengali Muslim after him has quite managed to write satires as powerful as 'Aina' and 'Food Conference'. No one would dare to write such articles today."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Awardees of the essay competition on eminent writer-historian Abul Mansur Ahmad along with dignitaries at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. At the event, organised by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad, a total of ten youths received prizes under three categories. Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury was the chief guest at the programme, where Prof Fakru Alam, director of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Research Institute for Peace and Liberty; Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Arif Khan, president of Reading Club Trust, were also present.

PHOTO: STAR



Prachyanat performed their landmark play, "Circus Circus", at the Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival yesterday. The festival's ninth instalment, which kicked off on Friday at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and will conclude on October 12, features renowned and promising theatre troupes from all over the country.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI WORSHEH

## Rabindra University students call off protest

Unlock admin building following education minister's assurance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Students of Sirajganj's Rabindra University yesterday withdrew their movement for demanding termination of teacher Farhana Yeasmin Baten, following "education minister's assurance".

Around 11am, the protesters opened the gate of the administration building, where they left the acting vice-chancellor and several officials confined since Friday to press home their demand.

Shamim Hossain, a spokesperson for the protesting students, told The Daily Star, "Education Minister Dipu Moni called me this morning [Saturday] and based on her assurance, we are withdrawing the protest programme."

Shamim said, "The minister assured us of justice, and she is sympathetic to our demand."

"But we will continue the peaceful sit-in programme in front of the academic building," Shamim added.

Hours after Rabindra University was declared closed for an indefinite period, the administration issued a notice on Friday confirming that the university will not remain closed. However, exams will remain suspended till further notice.

The aggrieved students have been demonstrating, seeking permanent expulsion of Farhana.

On September 26, the teacher asked university employees to trim male students' hair before allowing them to enter the examination hall. Farhana, herself, trimmed hair for many other students, alleged the agitators.

Unable to bear the humiliation, one of the students tried to die by suicide, sparking protests.

## Follow Gandhi, Bangabandhu's ideology

Law minister urges all

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday urged all to follow the ideology and messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to maintain peace and harmony in society.

"Both Mahatma Gandhi and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman worked to spread the message of peace through practicing politics of non-violence," he said.

"If their footprint and ideology of non-violence can be followed, peace will be restored in society and the state," he stated.

The minister came up with the remarks while addressing a programme as chief guest on Noakhali's Gandhi Memorial

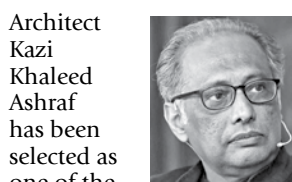
SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

If their footprint and ideology of non-violence can be followed, peace will be restored in society and the state.

ANISUL HUQ

AGA KHAN AWARD  
Architect Kazi  
Khaleed Ashraf  
selected as jury  
member

CITY DESK



Architect Kazi Khaleed Ashraf has been selected as one of the members of the Master Jury for the 2020-2022 cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, said a press release.

The selection was announced recently. The jury, which independently selects recipients of the USD 1 million award, will convene in January 2022 to select a shortlist from hundreds of nominated architectural projects.

Kazi Khaleed Ashraf is the director-general of Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He is involved in townscape and urban design for several cities and towns in Bangladesh, and is currently directing a multi-disciplinary research project on the Padma river.

After teaching at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Pennsylvania, Temple University and Pratt Institute in the US, Ashraf established Bengal Institute as a major centre of urban investigation and architectural activism.

Ashraf received a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, master's from MIT, and BArch from Buet in Dhaka.

Bangladesh-S Korea ties to reach new height: envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As a natural and trustful partner of Bangladesh, South Korea is committed to further contributing to Bangladesh's path towards a bright future, said South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-keun yesterday.

He made the remarks at a programme ahead of National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea today, held virtually due

to the pandemic, according to a statement from the South Korean embassy in Dhaka.

The Korean embassy has prepared a special website for the virtual celebrations which include congratulatory video messages from Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen; Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP; Archbishop George Kocherry, dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Dhaka, and DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam, among others.

Book on journo Muniruzzaman to launch tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A commemorative book on late journalist and acting editor of the Daily Sangbad Khandaker Muniruzzaman will be launched tomorrow.

Khandaker Muniruzzaman Smarak Sangkalan committee will launch the book around 3pm at Jatiya Press Club, said a press statement.

Bangla Academy Director General Mohammad Nurul Huda will be chief guest at the programme to be presided over by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem.

Freedom fighter Khandaker Muniruzzaman, who upheld progressive ideals, secular politics and freedom of speech, passed away on November 24 last year.

Earlier, he was undergoing treatment at his Shantinagar home after testing positive for Covid-19.

Muniruzzaman was in charge of the editorial department of the Daily Sangbad for many years and was its acting editor since January 2010.

188 hospitalised

FROM PAGE 3

division, two each in Chattogram and Khulna divisions and one in Rajshahi division.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,004 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 210 outside the capital, the DGHS data shows.

COVID FALLOUT

Child marriage on the rise in Cox's Bazar: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recent study on the impact of Covid-19 on child marriage in Cox's Bazar has shown a rising trend in the number of child marriages in the district since March 2021.

Notably, the highest increase -- 82 percent -- came from Eidgaon upazila, while Ukhiya upazila was second with a 75 percent increase, the study found.

Carried out by COAST Foundation, the study surveyed 32 union parishads and three municipalities across the nine upazilas of the district.

Jahangir Alam, assistant director of COAST, presented the findings at a virtual press conference yesterday.

Md Mujibul Haque Munir, joint director

of the organisation, said child marriage eats up nine percent of women's income and one percent of the total national income.

"Preventing child marriage by 2030 could save 11 percent of our educational budget," he added.

The study was conducted from August 4 to September 26 this year. It covered 384 families who had a member or a close relative marry off their underage daughter during 2020 and 2021.

Around 63 percent respondents said child marriage rates increased due to the pandemic -- and its economic fallout --, while 47 percent cited school closure as the main reason behind the spike in the rate.

The conference was moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, executive director of COAST Foundation.

He wrote to change

FROM PAGE 3

"There is an insight in everything he wrote," commented Serajul Islam Choudhury.

Referring to a passage in the book 'Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchash Bochor', he said, "He (Abul Mansur Ahmad) said that the politics of Bengal came to an end when Chittaranjan Das died. Bengal politics then became a part of Indian politics. Had we kept the politics of Bengal separate from that of All India Congress or All India Muslim League, the history of the region would have been different."

"The death of Chittaranjan Das did not only mean that we have lost a great leader, it also meant the leadership that was supposed to keep Bengal politics independent had passed away -- that was the insight of Abul Mansur Ahmad."

"Then came Gandhi, Jinnah and their politics -- but that was not the politics of Bengal, not the politics of the peasants, the politics Abul Mansur Ahmad believed in," said Serajul Islam Choudhury. He urged the youth to dream of changing the world and take action to make that dream come true.

Special guest at the programme, Prof Fakrul Alam, director of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Research Institute for Peace and Liberty, said Abul Mansur Ahmad was an indelible part of history.

If the youth does not learn the history, there is no future of the country, he added. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, delivered the closing speech

at the prize giving ceremony.

Arif Khan, president of Reading Club Trust, was also present at the event, conducted by Emran Mahfuz.

Prior to the award ceremony, a day-long workshop on "Research Editing and Creative Practice" was held with 70 participants. Most of them were award winners from the last four years' essay competitions. Rakhil Raha, editor-in-chief of "Sompadana", Prof Mohammad Azam of DU and Prof Sumon Sajjad of Jahangirnagar University conducted the workshop.

AWARD WINNERS

Ishita Farzana won the first prize in the category of "Abul Mansur Ahmad and his cultural thoughts" while Asmaul Hussain won second prize and Tasneem Tisha and Mostafizur Rahman jointly received the third prize.

Aziz Sartaj Zayed, Muhammad Nuruddin Shaheed and Sulaiman Mahmud won the first, second and third prizes respectively in the category of "Abul Mansur Ahmad and his nationalism".

Mohammad Muhibullah, Alif Noor Sharmi and Kamrul Hasan Masuk bagged the first, second and third prizes respectively in the category of "Today's Media and Abul Mansur Ahmad's Journalism".

The first prize in each category was Tk 10,000, second prize Tk 5,000 and third prize was a set of books by Abul Mansur Ahmad. Each of the winners received a certificate and a crest.

Follow Gandhi, Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 3

High School campus.

Gandhi Ashram Trust (GAT) in Noakhali and Indian High Commission in Dhaka jointly organised the event on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the International Day of Non-Violence, and inauguration of the renovated

Gandhi Memorial Museum in Noakhali.

GAT president Justice Soumendra Sarkar chaired the function, moderated by its director Raha Naba Kumar. Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Indian High Commissioner Vikram K Doraiswami, former minister and cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor also spoke at the event.

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প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা: স্বাস্থ্য অবিদগ্ধ, মহাবন্দী, ঢাকা কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম ৪০ নম্বর বা তদুর্ধ্ব প্রাপ্ত নম্বরধারীরা আবেদন করতে পারবে।

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DU 'Kha' unit exam

FROM PAGE 3

centres concurrently. A total of 47,639 examinees vied for 2,378 seats during yesterday's exam. Of them, 18,853 sat for the test in the capital, while the other seven divisional cities hosted as many as 28,786 students.

The venues outside Dhaka were Chittagong University, Rajshahi University, Khulna University, Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet, Barishal University, and Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur. The exam for "Ga" unit will be held on October 22, while the "Cha" unit exam will take place on October 9. The "Gha" unit test is slated to be held on October 23.

Meanwhile, a candidate currently imprisoned in Dhaka Central Jail was able to participate in the entry test as university authorities arranged special facilities according to a High Court directive, said Prof Abu Md Delwar Hossain, dean of the arts faculty.

No more caretaker

FROM PAGE 3

He said those who introduced "multi-party mockery" in the name of multi-party democracy and those who don't practice democracy within their own party are now talking about democracy.

Pointing to BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Quader questioned why Fakhrul didn't join parliament even after being elected in polls and what type of democracy that is.

The minister said parliamentary polls will be held in due time as per the constitution like in other democratic countries. So, there is no need to make evil attempts to create chaos centring any settled issue, he said.

Meanwhile, AL joint-general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday said "caretaker government will not be formed" again in Bangladesh.

He said this while talking to reporters at Chandpur at a programme.

He said there is a verdict of the country's highest court that a caretaker government will never be formed in Bangladesh.

"If a democratic political party does not participate in the election, it falls under their democratic rights..." he added.

Provide students

FROM PAGE 3

Among others, Dhaka Education Board controller of examinations Prof SM Amirul Islam; college inspector Prof Abu Taleb Md Moazzem Hossain; and school inspector Prof Mohammed Abul Mansur Bhuiyan also spoke at the workshop.

Around 100 college principals from different districts attended the programme.

One succumbs

FROM PAGE 3

the blast took place from accumulated gas," he said. "The other injured, Yasin (35), suffered 50 percent burns," Bacchu said, citing doctors.

Jitu and Yasin used to live with three others in a room of the building's second floor.

The OC said two of their roommates, who were detained for interrogation, have been released. An unnatural death case was filed.

Polls must be held

FROM PAGE 3

held in a fair manner, they will not get 30 seats. That is why they are politicising all state organs," he added.

Among others, BNP leaders Mirza Abbas, Aman Ullah Aman, Abdus Salam, Abdul Awal Mintu and AZM Zahid Hossain and others spoke at the programme.

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Reference: 09.2/37 (Vol-V) Date: 03/10/2021

Tender is invited from the reputed Internet Service Provider (ISP) for Procurement of Secondary Dedicated Data Connectivity for Storage (DC) to Storage (DRS) of Capacity 100 Mbps and Procurement of Dedicated Internet connectivity for DRS (Karwanbazar) of Capacity 50 Mbps in Monthly Payment basis for 03 (three) years. Necessary informations are given below:

01.	Procuring entity	IT Operation Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL, Bhaban (Level-06), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
02.	Procurement method	Through Open Tendering Method (OTM) of Public Procurement Rules, 2008 and The Public Procurement Act, 2006 (Corrected up to 2019).
03.	Invitation for Tender No.	BDBL/ITOD/OTM/2021/7-8
04.	Source of funds	BDBL own fund.
05.	Brief description of the goods and services	1. Lot-1: Procurement of Secondary Dedicated Data Connectivity for Storage (DC) to Storage (DRS) of Capacity 100 Mbps. 2. Lot-2: Procurement of Dedicated Internet connectivity for DRS (Karwanbazar) of Capacity 50 Mbps.
06.	Name & address of receiving tender document	IT Operation Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL Bhaban (Level-06), 8 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
07.	Last date and time for selling tender schedule	17/10/2021 up to office hour.
08.	Last date and time for submission	18/10/2021 up to 03.00pm.
09.	Date, time and place for tender opening	18/10/2021 at 03.30pm (Intending tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening of tender).
10.	Eligibility of tenderer	For Lot-1: • A declaration that the bidder has not been blacklisted/debarred by any government agency must be submitted. • Bidder must have established backbone connection with at least 2 leading NTTN Company and/or Telco. Copies of valid agreement must be submitted. • The bidder is required to have 3 (three) or more vendor certified network engineers, such as CISCO, JUNIPER, Mikrotik, etc. Documents and CVs must be provided as proof. • The bidder must offer end-to-end solution with the last mile connectivity by OFC. • The Bidder must have 10 years of experience in ISP sector and 10 years of providing Data connectivity services in Banking sector including Govt. Banks. • Bidder should submit at least 05 (five) effective Data Connectivity Work Order/NOA from 05 (five) Different Banks of Bangladesh. • Bidder must submit Company profile with all Certification. • Bidder must submit valid ISP License. • Up-to-date income TAX paying certificate. • Up-to-date VAT certificate. • Bidder must have MPLS connectivity, necessary documents must be provided. • Bidder must have to offer without those POP location for this link, which are i. For DC Motijheel Dainik Bangla Mor, Alam Tower, Monjuri POP and 28, Dilkusha, Dilkusha Center, Radio POP. ii. For Near DC Robi, TK Bhaban, Karwanbazar and Panthapath, Firoz Tower. Documents must be provided as proof. • Bidder should provide NTTN or intercity carrier list for this link. For Lot-2: • A declaration that the Bidder has not been blacklisted/debarred by any government agency must be submitted. • Bidder must have established a backbone connection for at least 2 (two) leading mobile phone company. • Bidder must have at least 5 (five) years experience in providing Internet connectivity throughout the country. • The bidder is required to have 2 (two) or more vendor certified network engineers, such as CISCO, JUNIPER, Mikrotik, etc. • The bidder must offer end-to-end solution with the last mile connectivity by OFC. • The Bidder must have 10 years of experience in ISP. • Bidder must submit Company profile with all certification. • Bidder must submit valid ISP License. • Up-to-date income TAX paying certificate; • Up-to-date VAT certificate.
11.	Tender security	For Lot 1: Tk 14,000.00 (fourteen thousand). For Lot 2: Tk 7,500.00 (seven thousand five hundred). Tender Security Money only will be required in the form of Pay Order in favor of Bangladesh Development Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
12.	Price of tender schedule	Tk 1,000 (Taka one thousand) only (non-refundable).

BDBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender either in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever. If occur any government holiday then the tender opening date will be shifted to next working day.

**Engr. Md. Reazul Islam**  
Deputy General Manager  
IT Operation Department  
02-57160451

GD-1765

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK LTD  
Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000  
IT Operation Department

Reference: 11.2/203/ Dated: 30/09/2021

**Tender Notice No. BDBL/ITOD/OTM/EGP/2021/04-06**

e-Tenders have been invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following goods.

S/N	e-Tender ID	Description	Method of procurement	Last date of selling document	Last date of receiving document	Date of tender opening
01	615137	Supply of 50 Nos. Desktop Computer with Licensed OS, 10 Nos. Laptop with Licensed OS & 50 Nos. UPS with Multi-plug	(OTM)	17-Oct-2021 02:45pm	17-Oct-2021 02:45pm	17-Oct-2021 03:00pm
02	613118	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 12 Nos. Vertical ICT PDU With IEC Lock	(OTM)	17-Oct-2021 03:20pm	17-Oct-2021 03:20pm	17-Oct-2021 03:30pm
03	613119	Supply & Configuration of 25 Nos. Branch Level Router, 02 Nos. Switch with 4x10G SFP Module & Port & 47 Nos. Manageable Switch	(OTM)	17-Oct-2021 03:50pm	17-Oct-2021 03:50pm	17-Oct-2021 04:00pm

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to banking hours 17/10/2021. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (01762625528-31). (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Engr. Md. Reazul Islam**  
Deputy General Manager  
Tel: 02-57160451

GD 1764

## ENCROACHMENT ON GOVT LAND IN KUAKATA

## The mayor at it again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The Kuakata municipality mayor, who illegally built a kitchen market on public land several months ago, has demolished a 100-foot section of a boundary wall that demarcated a piece of land belonging to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in the town.

Mayor Anwar Hossain Hawladar was physically present at the spot around 11:00am on September 25 when about a dozen of workers and municipality employees used a bulldozer to dismantle the wall of BWDB's 'Dhansiri inspection bungalow' on Kuakata-Patuakhali highway, said Arif Hossain, executive engineer of BWDB in Kalapara.

All the bricks, iron rods and rubble of the five-foot-high wall were removed by the workers in front of the mayor, he also said.

BWDB bungalow employee Masum Mia said he tried in vain to stop the demolition work as the workers carried out the task at the directive of the mayor.

By the time WDB's Sub-Divisional Engineer Shawkat Iqbal Mehraj, Assistant Revenue Officer Tariqul Islam and Branch Officer Syed Tariqur Rahman arrived at the scene, the dismantling of the wall was already complete.

Except for the bulldozer, neither the mayor nor any of the workers were seen when they reached the spot, said Syed Tariqur Rahman, adding that he heard from locals that the mayor tore down the wall in order to build structures on the BWDB land.

Arif Hossain, executive



Workers using cement bags to remove rubble after a part of the wall belonging to BWDB was torn down in Kuakata town along Kuakata-Patuakhali highway. The photo was taken on September 25.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

engineer of BWDB in Kalapara, said the area of the piece of land that the mayor has cleared by dismantling the wall is about five decimals and its estimated value could be at least Tk 30 lakh.

They informed their higher authorities of the incident and legal action would be taken in this connection, he added.

Contacted, Mahipur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Moniruzzaman said

the incident was not reported to the police yet.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Kamal Hossen said as soon as he found out about the incident, the demolition of the wall was stopped at the directive of his office and next course of action would be taken upon hearing versions from both the mayor and officials of the BWDB. Asked, Mayor Anwar said foul

smell was being emitted from garbage piled up on the land that they cleared. "People couldn't pass by the area due to the stench. Such smell is inadmissible in a tourist area."

With 'Tourism Day' coming up next month, they had been cleaning up tourist hotspots in Kuakata and as part of the initiative, they tore down the wall to remove the garbage, he claimed.

## Faridpur General Hospital limps for shortage of doctors, staffs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Medical services for 1.913 million people (2011 census) in Faridpur district is limping amid an acute shortage of doctors and staff at Faridpur General Hospital, one of the frequently sought after medical destinations.

The hospital was established in 1917 with 20-bed and later it was upgraded to 50-bed in 1985 and finally, it was upgraded to 100-bed in 2002 without arranging adequate manpower, said the hospital sources.

There are only 14 doctors against 37 posts, no sub-service superintendent against one, three pharmacists against four, 14 office assistants against 20, two cooks against six, one ward master against one and eight sweepers against 16 at the hospital, added the sources.

At present, there is no senior consultant at surgery, skin, ENT and orthopaedic departments and no junior consultant at the ophthalmology, cardiology, radiology and pathology departments. The posts have been lying vacant for long.

Besides the posts of anaesthetist, pathologist, radiologist, two sub-registrars at gynaecology department, two sub-registrars at surgery, a sub-registrar at ENT, two sub-registrars at medicine department, two posts of EMO, a medical officer, one blood bank officer and one medical officer (herbal) are also lying vacant.

The current employees also do not perform their duties properly, the patients alleged.

Patients crowd in front of the doctors' chambers while the doctors idle away their time on different excuses, they claimed.

Emergency patients who come to the hospital in the afternoon or at night are often deprived of services.

During a visit to the hospital recently, this correspondent saw at least 120 patients at different wards and many outdoor patients waiting in front of the doctors' chambers.

Some patients and their attendants claimed that medical representatives often

visit doctors during duty hours.

Hamidur Rahman Khan, 50, from Manan Mondal Dangi village said, "I have been suffering from fever for two days. So, I came here to visit a doctor and have been waiting in the queue for two hours."

Md Lablu Kabiraj, 40, a resident of Luxmipur area who came to the hospital with his ailing son, said "There are a good number of patients in this hospital. So, we have to wait for long. If the number of doctors was higher, we would not need to wait for longer."

Ganesh Agarwala, residential medical officer (RMO) at Faridpur General Hospital said, "At least 600 patients take treatment outdoor at our hospital daily as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital was declared Covid-19 dedicated hospital. But we have not enough



Medical services at Faridpur General Hospital are being hampered due to shortage of doctors and other staffs. The photo was taken from the children's ward at the hospital recently. PHOTO: STAR

doctors to extend treatment and handle such a greater number of patients daily."

"Additionally, I would like to add that the hospital quarter was declared abandoned 12 years ago. The consultants do not stay at their quarters at the hospital compound," he added.

Enamul Haque, Civil Surgeon in Faridpur said, "We are suffering a lot for the shortage of doctors and other staffs. We have sent our demand to the higher authorities no steps have been taken yet."

## 433 in jail under DSA

FROM PAGE 1

The US recommended that Bangladesh decriminalise defamation and "hurting religious sentiment" while France, Sweden and Norway specifically said that the Digital Security Act needs to be changed.

Amnesty International said no progress has been made in these regards.

"Amnesty International has found a concerning pattern in which the authorities weaponised Sections 25 [publication of false or offensive information], 29 [Publication of defamatory information], and 31 [Offence and punishment for deteriorating law and order] of the Act to target and harass critical voices," said the

organisation.

According to the country's Department of Prisons, Bangladesh had 185 prisoners under Section 25, 162 persons under Section 29 and 163 persons under Section 31 as of 11 July this year, it added.

"An analysis of print and online news by Amnesty International shows that more than 100 journalists have been sued under Bangladesh's draconian Digital Security Act between January 2019 and July 2021, and at least 40 of them were arrested," said the organisation.

Amnesty said it analysed the cases of 10 individuals charged with criminal defamation charges, and in six of them the complainant was either a law enforcement

official or someone else other than the person said to be defamed.

"In those cases, the authorities also included assumption that social media posts by the individuals were "about to" deteriorate law and order. Satire and criticism were treated as false, offensive or derogatory," said the rights body.

About the Rohingya refugee crisis, the organisation said conditions in Myanmar are "not conducive for the safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return" of the Rohingya refugees.

This was in response to a recommendation made by Japan to continue a constructive dialogue with Myanmar with the aim of repatriation.

## Careful what you

FROM PAGE 12

ADC Junaed said the arrestees used to take Tk 500 to Tk 30,000 from their victims.

This correspondent talked to two girls who had paid the group Tk 4,000 and Tk 5,000.

"I had to pay as the hackers threatened to make my photos public," said one of them.

Hearing the arrest of the three, the girls visited the cyber and special crime division and found that their contents were still in the suspects' phones.

The hackers used to send voice message to their victims during ransom negotiations.

The Daily Star collected some of these clips. In one of them, the suspects were heard saying, "Pay the money or else you will be in danger. It is about your life."

Muhammad Shariful Islam, deputy commissioner of DB's Cyber and Special Crime Division, told The Daily Star that Rajoir and Shibchar areas of Madaripur and Bhanga area of Faridpur have turned into a "safe heaven" of these hackers.

"We have arrested around 200 people in last one and half years from these areas," he said.

DC Shariful said frauds like the trio had been active in the region for quite a while. They used to trick people over mobile financial services before and posed as "fixers" of all problems.

Due to enhanced security in MFS, they tricksters had to be move to other methods

DB police suggested not clicking any unknown URL, not giving personal IDs or passwords in any unknown portal, activating two-factor authentication, and not keeping sensitive photos and videos on social media.

## More Metro rail

FROM PAGE 12

and the Traffic Department of Mongla Port.

Unloading of the equipment was supposed to be done by yesterday.

SPM Bangkok left Kobe for Mongla on September 14.

## Traffickers tricked

FROM PAGE 12

whereabouts," the official said.

Contacted, Pallabi Police Sub-inspector (SI) Sajib Khan said that several police teams and intelligence agencies were looking for the missing girls.

According to the complaint, three youths including two siblings and a girl tempted the three to go abroad.

The family member of the missing girl alleged that the accused girl, who is a familiar face on TikTok, may have had a hand in trafficking the girls.

Police said that they were quizzing the trio.

According to the complaint, the three girls left their homes around 9:00am on Thursday without telling anyone.

One girl took Tk 6 lakh, another took 2.5 tolas of gold and the other girl took Tk 75,000 along with their mobile phones, the complaint added.

Sources in Pallabi Police Station told The Daily Star last night that a case in this regard was being filed.

## Election schedule

FROM PAGE 12

In the early morning of October 3, an ambush was laid in Amjadhat area in Belonia. A small enemy party was moving to the company headquarters, probably for food. The party was ambushed at 5:00 in the morning. Two of them were seriously injured and carried away by the rest of the party. It was learnt that the two injured soldiers had died later.

Another ambush was laid near Karalia Tila in Karerhat on that night. Two Pakistani soldiers and three razzakars were killed while they were on patrol duty. Mukti Bahini forces returned to their base safely.

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini today ambushed Pakistani troops near Gaveshpur in which they killed five enemy soldiers and wounded four others. On the same day seven Pakistani collaborators surrendered to Mukti Bahini with mines and rifles in Chandpur area of Jashore district.

In the Mymensingh-Sylhet Sector, one Pakistan army vehicle was blown up due to explosion of a mine laid by Mukti Bahini on Kamalpur- Bakshiganj Road of Jamalpur. They killed seven and wounded six others of enemy forces. On the same day another column of Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani positions in Dhanbari area of Tangail district. Freedom fighters wounded a large number of occupying soldiers there.

THANT URGED TO SEND COMMISSION

The Natun Bangla, weekly organ of the National Awami Party (Muzaffar), urged the UN Secretary General U Thant to send an international commission to Bangladesh to probe the Pakistan Army brutalities before which even the "ghost of Hitler will be ashamed."

LABOUR PARTY CONCERNED AT BLOODSHED

British opposition Labour Party expressed "horror and concern" at the present bloodshed in Bangladesh. In a statement it said a political solution could be reached there only after military repression had ceased and Bangladesh political leaders including Sheikh Mujib released from detention.

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

## Great

FROM PAGE 12

1949, told AFP.

"When you open the newspapers, you only see news of violence against women," she said.

"When women learn this martial art, they feel physically and mentally strong and it makes them confident to work and travel alone."

Kalari, which contains elements of dance and yoga, can involve weapons such as swords, shields and staffs. Reputedly 3,000 years old, and mentioned in ancient Hindu scriptures, it remains infused with religion in the present day.

India's British colonial rulers banned the practice in 1804 but it survived underground before a revival in the early 20th century and after independence in 1947.

In recent decades it has come on in leaps and bounds, thanks in no small measure to Meenakshi, who won a national award in 2017.

Now it is recognised as a sport and practised all over India.

Inside Meenakshi's kalari hall, her bare-chested son Sanjeev Kumar, a lungi tied around his waist, puts barefoot pupils - boys and girls alike - through their paces on the ochre-red earth floor.

## Covax provided shots to be given

FROM PAGE 12

that they would give directives to expedite the issuance of accreditation to vaccine testing capacity of the National Control Laboratory of Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA)," the health minister said.

Referring to the success of Bangladesh in inoculating the eligible population, he said, "Bangladesh held a massive vaccination campaign on September 28 to bring more people under inoculation coverage. On that day, over 80 lakh people were vaccinated across the country."

Meanwhile, Tedros in a tweet praised the health minister for his efforts to suppress Covid-19 transmission among the people, including the marginalised communities.

"We discussed Bangladesh's good progress on vaccination and I reiterated WHO's support to

achieve vaccine equity," he wrote.

According to the health ministry, the government has decided to purchase 16.5 crore more vaccines from China and other countries to expedite the countrywide vaccination campaign, says BSS.

Bangladesh set a target to vaccinate 80 percent of the country's population by 2022 under an accelerated inoculation campaign, it added.

Bangladesh has so far approved eight Covid-19 vaccines to control the deadly disease.

The approved vaccines are Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, CoronaVac, Pfizer, Covishield, Sputnik V, AstraZeneca and Sinopharm.

In the meantime, 24 people died from Covid-19 in the past 24-hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

The total number of Covid-19

deaths in the country now stands at 27,555 and the death rate at 1.77 percent.

At least 589 new infections were recorded during the period after 17,283 samples were tested across the country, taking the total number of people infected to 15,57,347, added the DGHS press release.

The current positivity rate is 3.41 percent, while the total positivity rate is 15.93 percent.

At least 741 Covid-19 patients have recovered during the same period.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 15,17,642 and the recovery rate at 97.45 percent.

Among the 24 deceased, 15 were men and nine women. Of them, two were between 21-30, one between 31-40, six between 51-60 and 15 above 60 years old, added the release.

## 4 held over Thursday's incident

FROM PAGE 12

lawmaker, the OC said.

"We have been conducting drives to arrest the other accused including Ruhullah," he added.

Asked about the guns used in the incident, the OC said that they had not recovered any yet.

Meanwhile, the health condition of the seven victims was improving, said on-duty doctors at the surgery ward of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The patients had shotgun pellets on their bodies, a doctor said, adding that Abdul Malek was released on Friday evening.

Tension prevailed at Tulatoli village since the incident happened. A fearful atmosphere was prevailing among the villagers.

Locals and injured people alleged that the contractor company put the dredging materials on their agricultural field which disrupted cultivation but the company did not talk to them about compensation, rather it was "forcibly" using their land in assistance with the local influential people.

Officials of the contractor company, however, claimed that they were ready to pay the land owners but they did not want

compensation rather they just wanted the company "to leave the area with dredging materials".

After the incident, the injured people and other villagers alleged that the attack was conducted by Ruhullah Chowdhury, brother-in-law of Awami League lawmaker Abu Reza Muhammad Nezamuddin Nadvi, and his men who acted in favour of SS Dredger, the contractor company.

Both Ruhullah and officials of SS Dredger refuted the allegation against them.

Nadvi did not receive his phone despite repeated attempts by this correspondent.

## Merck's pill cuts it by half

FROM PAGE 12

patients -- roughly half of whom received either a five-day course of the pill, while the other received a placebo.

All the patients had lab-confirmed Covid-19 with symptoms that developed within five days of them being assigned to

their respective groups.

Of the patients who received molnupiravir, 7.3 percent were hospitalized by day 29, compared to 14.1 percent of those on a placebo -- a relative risk reduction of around 50 percent.

Efficacy was said to hold up against variants of concern,

including Delta, and the drug had a good safety profile.

The results were compelling enough that an independent data monitoring committee in consultation with the FDA decided to halt the trial early, which could indicate they felt it would be unethical to continue with a placebo arm.

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# 'Bullying acts'

Taiwan rebukes China over record fighter jet incursion

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan yesterday accused Beijing of bullying and damaging regional peace after Chinese fighter jets and bombers made their largest ever incursion into the island's air defence zone.

Beijing marked its National Day on Friday with its biggest aerial show of force against Taiwan to date, buzzing the self-ruled democratic island with 38 warplanes, including nuclear-capable H-6 bombers.

Democratic Taiwan's 23 million people live under the constant threat of invasion by China which views the island as its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.

Under President Xi Jinping, Chinese warplanes are crossing into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) on a near daily basis. Xi has described Taiwan becoming part of the mainland as "inevitable".

But Friday's incursion sparked a particularly sharp rebuke from Taipei.

"China has been bellicose and damaging regional peace while engaging in many bullying acts," Premier Su Tseng-chang told reporters yesterday.

Friday's show of force came the same week Beijing accused Britain of "evil attentions" after it sent a frigate to sail through the Taiwan Strait.

China claims the strait as its own waterway, along with most of the disputed South China Sea. Most other nations view them as international waters open to all.

Beijing has ramped up pressure on Taipei since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who views the island as "already independent" and not part of a "one China".

Last year, Chinese military jets made a record 380 incursions into Taiwan's defence zone, and the number of breaches for the first nine months of this year has already exceeded 500.



Women's rights advocates take part in the nationwide Women's March, held after Texas rolled out a near-total ban on abortion procedures and access to abortion-inducing medications, in Austin, US, yesterday. Women's rights advocates was scheduled to join 660 marches planned around the United States yesterday to protest against recent efforts to restrict abortion access.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Quotes of the day



“Is this what the accountability that Biden promised looks like? MBS (Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman) took Jamal from me and the entire world. Will you hold him accountable or will you reward these murderers?”

HATICE CENGIZ, SAUDI DISSIDENT JOURNALIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI'S WIDOW, QUESTIONS US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S COMMITMENT TO HOLD SAUDIS ACCOUNTABLE THREE YEARS AFTER THE WRITER'S BRUTAL MURDER

# Global Covid deaths hit 5m

US death toll crosses 700,000; Delta variant sweeps the world

REUTERS

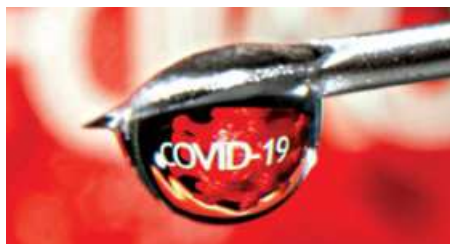
Worldwide deaths related to Covid-19 surpassed 5 million on Friday, according to a Reuters tally, with unvaccinated people particularly exposed to the virulent Delta strain.

The variant has exposed the wide disparities in vaccination rates between rich and poor nations, and the upshot of vaccine hesitancy in some western nations.

More than half of all global deaths reported on a seven-day average were in the United States, Russia, Brazil, Mexico and India.

While it took just over a year for the Covid-19 death to hit 2.5 million, the next 2.5 million deaths were recorded in just under eight months, according to a Reuters analysis.

An average of 8,000 deaths were reported daily across the world over the last week, or around five deaths every minute. However, the global death rate has been slowing in recent weeks.



More than half of the world has yet to receive at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, according to Our World in Data. The United States, which has been battling vaccine misinformation that has caused about one-third of the population to avoid inoculations, surpassed 700,000 deaths on Friday, the highest toll of any country.

US cases and hospitalizations have been trending lower, but health officials are bracing for a possible resurgence as cooler weather forces more activities indoors.

Russia reported 887 coronavirus-related deaths on Friday, the largest single-

day death toll it has recorded since the pandemic began and the fourth day in a row it has set that record. Only 33% of Russia's eligible population has received a first vaccine dose.

As a region, South America has the highest death toll in the world accounting for 21% of all reported deaths, followed by North America and Eastern Europe contributing more than 14% of all fatalities each, according to Reuters analysis.

However, India, one of the first countries ravaged by the Delta variant, has gone from an average of 4,000 deaths a day to less than 300 as its vaccination campaign is rolled out.

About 47% of India's eligible population has received a first shot, with officials administering around 7,896,950 doses per day over the past week, a Reuters analysis of Our World in Data showed.

The Delta variant is now the dominant strain around the globe and has been reported in 187 out of 194 World Health Organization member countries.

## NORTH KOREA'S RECENT MISSILE TESTS

# UNSC fails to agree on joint statement

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting Friday on North Korea's recent missile tests but failed to agree on a joint statement, diplomats said.

The closed door meeting lasted just over an hour. It was requested by the United States, France and Britain.

The goal was to examine North Korea's launch early this week of what it called a hypersonic gliding vehicle. On Friday North Korean state media said the country has tested a new anti-aircraft missile.

"France wanted a public statement but Russia and China said that this was not the time, that they needed more time to analyze the situation," a diplomat from a country that is part of the Security Council told AFP.

In 2017 at the behest of the Trump administration, the Security Council imposed tough economic sanctions against North Korea three times after it staged a nuclear test and several involving conventional missiles. The council passed them unanimously each time. But since then the council has failed to reach a common stance on North Korea.

Several times China -- Pyongyang's key ally -- and Russia have requested in vain the partial lifting of sanctions against North Korea.

## MORE NEWS

### UK army to deliver petrol from Monday amid fuel crisis

The British army will begin delivering petrol to fuel stations tomorrow after fears over tanker driver shortages led to panic buying and forced the government to offer visa waivers to foreign truckers to plug the shortfall. "Almost 200 military tanker personnel, 100 of which are drivers, will be deployed from Monday to provide temporary support as part of the government's wider action to further relieve pressure on petrol stations and address the shortage of HGV drivers," the government said in a news release issued Friday. Motorists queued at fuel pumps across Britain at the beginning of the week, draining tanks and fraying tempers. Business minister Kwasi Kwarteng said the situation is improving and emphasized that there was no national shortage of fuel in the UK.

### US official calls for Pakistan action on militants before visit

A top US official called Friday for Pakistan to take action against all extremist groups ahead of a visit to Islamabad, which has sought reconciliation with militants both at home and in Afghanistan. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman will meet on October 7-8 with officials in Pakistan, which has long faced US accusations of playing a double game in Afghanistan where the Taliban swept back to power in August. "We seek a strong partnership with Pakistan on counterterrorism and we expect sustained action against all militant and terrorist groups without distinction," Sherman told reporters. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said in an interview aired Friday that his government had opened talks with Pakistani Taliban about laying down their arms. Sherman will also visit India and Uzbekistan.

### Trump asks US judge to force Twitter to restart his account

Former US president Donald Trump asked a federal judge in Florida on Friday to ask Twitter to restore his account, which the company removed in January citing a risk of incitement of violence. Trump filed a request for preliminary injunction against Twitter in the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida, arguing the social media company was "coerced" by members of the US Congress to suspend his account. Twitter and several other social media platforms banned Trump from their services after a mob of his supporters attacked the US Capitol in a deadly riot on Jan. 6. That assault followed a speech by Trump in which he reiterated false claims that his election loss in November was because of widespread fraud. Before he was blocked, Trump had more than 88 million followers on Twitter and used it as his social media megaphone.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



QATAR VOTES IN FIRST LEGISLATIVE POLLS A Qatari woman casts her ballot at a polling station in the capital Doha, yesterday, during the country's first ever legislative vote. The candidates are mostly men, with just 28 women among the 284 hopefuls running for the 30 available council seats. The remaining 15 seats will be appointed by the all-powerful Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. Analysts say the vote is a symbolic nod to democracy and will not lead to power shifting away from the ruling family.

PHOTO: AFP

## CLIMATE CHANGE

# Big nations must 'stretch to do more'

Says Kerry ahead of crucial COP26

REUTERS, Milan

The world's major economies must "stretch to do more" at next month's UN climate talks to show they are serious about wanting to tackle global warming, US Climate Envoy John Kerry said yesterday.

The COP26 conference in Glasgow aims to secure more ambitious climate action from the nearly 200 countries that signed the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming to well below 2.0 degrees Celsius - and to 1.5 degrees preferably - above pre-industrial levels.

"We now have about 55% of global GDP (gross domestic product) committed to undertake tracks that will hold the temperature to 1.5 degrees. There are other countries now sharpening their pencils," Kerry said during a pre-COP26 meeting in Milan, Italy.

"Well below 2.0 degrees Celsius means well below ... the common sense meaning of that is not 1.9, 1.8 or 1.7 (degrees)," he added.

New energy and funding pledges from the United States and China have raised negotiators' hopes, but many G20 countries - including major polluters such as China and India - have yet to announce updates of their short-term climate action plans.

Climate activists have called for a transparent climate finance system and more grants to help the people most exposed to the impact of climate change. Wealthy nations that pledged a decade ago to mobilize \$100 billion a year to help vulnerable countries adapt and transition to cleaner energy are still short of their 2020 goal.

Kerry said he expected donors to fulfil the \$100 billion pledge, but added that a post-2025 finance plan "with an emphasis not just on billions, but on trillions" would be required.



## SEPTEMBER 19

**2333 BC** - State of Gojoseon (Modern day Korea) founded by Dangun Wanggeom during the reign of the Chinese Emperor Yao.

**1932** - Iraq became independent after the British mandate ended, and joined the League of Nations.

**1990** - Reunification of East and West Germany. West German flag is raised above the Brandenburg Gate on the stroke of midnight.

SOURCE: WEBSITES

# Duterte to retire

AFP, Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday said he will not run for vice president in 2022 and will retire from politics, potentially paving the way for his daughter to contest the country's highest office.

Duterte, who polls show remains almost as popular as when he was swept to victory in 2016 on a promise to rid the country of drugs, is constitutionally barred from seeking a second term as leader.

"The overwhelming... sentiment of the Filipinos is that I am not qualified and it would be a violation of the constitution to circumvent the law, the spirit of the constitution" to run for the vice presidency, Duterte, 76, said.

"Today I announce my retirement from politics."

Duterte made the surprise announcement at the venue where he was expected to register his candidacy. He did not specify when he would leave politics. His close aide, Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, registered for the vice presidency instead.

The tough-talking leader has not yet announced his preferred successor, but many expect it will be his daughter, Sara, who has been the front runner in recent polls.

Yesterday, Sara registered to run for her third term as Davao mayor, state media reported. But she has until November 15 to make a late entry into the presidential race -- as her father did in 2015.

The election season kicked off Friday with candidates vying for thousands of posts from president to town councillor.



# Either you or your near ones

Report says Afghan interpreters summoned by Taliban

AFP, The Hague

Afghan interpreters who worked for the Netherlands have been summoned to appear in court by the Taliban who have threatened their families, Dutch public television NOS reported on Friday.

The interpreters are in hiding but their family members will be held responsible if they fail to show up in court "and severely punished to teach other traitors a lesson," said a letter from the Taliban, which was aired by the broadcaster.

NOS said the recipient, who worked for the EU's policing agency Europol in Afghanistan, was accused of taking "dishonourable and forbidden money" from foreigners.

"We will take revenge. If we are not able to get hold of you, we will settle scores with your near ones," said another letter to an interpreter whom the Taliban accused of being responsible for the deaths of some of their fighters.

Just after taking power, the Taliban declared a general amnesty for Afghan government and military officials. But despite their pledges not to avenge themselves, a confidential United Nations report said the Taliban were tracking down people who worked with foreign forces.

# Man marries rice cooker

AGENCIES

An Indonesian man named Khoirul Anam has created a stir on social media by 'marrying' his rice cooker. Khoirul Anam shared a series of pictures last week that show him dressed up in fancy wedding finery for the ceremony. The white-coloured rice cooker he 'married' was also decked up for the occasion - it appeared alongside Anam in a sheer white veil.

Photos that he shared on Facebook show them sitting side-by-side as the marriage was solemnised. One of the photos shows him kissing the cooker. In another, the appliance is placed next to him as he signs their marriage papers.

In a short caption accompanying the post, Anam said he decided to marry his rice cooker as it was "Fair, obedient, loving and good at cooking." The photos sparked much amusement on Facebook, collecting nearly 10,000 'likes' and over 1200 comments.

Bizarre as it may sound, the story only got stranger when, four days later, Anam 'divorced' the kitchen appliance, citing that it could only cook rice. The Indonesian man announced the divorce on Facebook.

Of course, the whole wedding and the subsequent divorce was nothing more than a social media stunt for entertainment. Local news websites report that Anam is a well-known celebrity in Indonesia who participates in outlandish stunts for the entertainment of his followers.



# BNYCFP ended with a renewed commitment to act for the youth

STAR HEALTH REPORT

The sixth session of the Bangladesh National Youth Conference on Family Planning (BNYCFP) ended on recently in Dhaka in hybrid format with two days of sessions.

The conference host SERAC-Bangladesh was joined by its partners including Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, USAID, Bangladesh Youth Health Action Network (BYHAN), Coalition of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh (CYOB), Jhpiego, Population Action International (PAI), Marie Stopes Bangladesh, Population Reference Bureau (PRB), Pathfinder International and UNFPA Bangladesh in organizing this largest youth gathering in the country on reproductive health and family planning.

More than five hundred youths joined the event with the theme "Commit and Act For Youth", where policymakers, high-level government officials, international and national experts on health and family planning spoke and shared experiences.

The conference opening plenary was chaired by Dr Mohammed Sharif, Director (MCH-Services); Line Director (MC-RAH), MCH-Services Unit



of Directorate General of Family Planning, whereas attended by the former Director-General of Family Planning Quazi AKM Mohiul Islam, UNFPA-Bangladesh, Chief of Health Dr Vibhavendra Raghuyamshi, Senior Country Director of Pathfinder International Bangladesh, Ms Caroline Crosbie, Senior Program Officer of Advance Family Planning and youth speaker, Mr Mervyn Christian, MPH and young city champion, UN-Habitat-Botnar, Md Nazmul Hasan.

On the first day, 500 young people actively joined in multiple sessions conducted by Pathfinder International, Population

Reference Bureau, Population Action International, IYAFP and other potential partners.

On the second and final day, the conference secretary-general and SERAC-Bangladesh's Executive Director SM Shaikat moderated the closing session chaired by Director General of Family Planning Shahan Ara Banu, NDC, and the Minister of Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque, MP joined as the chief guest. Speakers and special guests included UNFPA Country Representative Dr Asa Torkelsson, Health Advisor of the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) Dr Shehina Ahmed, and a youth

representative Khadija Kalam.

SM Shaikat, Executive Director of SERAC-Bangladesh in his speech highlighted, the standard and scopes of the adolescent-friendly health services need expansion with more allocation of budget and increasing numbers of service providers, which is an area government and non-government actors have roles to play.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque said that, adolescents are the futures of the country. The government is trying its best to ensure health services at all levels in the country. The service facilities are equipped with information and services

on family planning, sexual-reproductive health. He emphasised that the vision of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was to secure primary healthcare for everyone and freedom from hunger and poverty. This vision needs to focus more on the health and well-being of the young population.

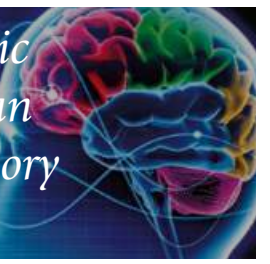
DGFP chief Shahan Ara Banu confirmed her departments' commitments for youth and adolescents family planning services and information from national and grassroots levels. She reiterated that the National Adolescent Health Strategy 2017-2030 has been in operation to support the 1,103 centres for adolescents service. It is also a priority to extend the service hours of these centres until 5 pm, and the implementation is in progress.

The closing session was preceded by multiple plenary sessions by Jhpiego, UNFPA Bangladesh, Marie Stopes Bangladesh, CYOB, and Population Reference Bureau. Experts, policy makers, and youth representatives shared their ideas and exchanged ideas to improve the sector's current situation.

The organising host of this conference, SERAC-Bangladesh, declared the 7th season in 2022 during their closing remarks.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Brain magnetic stimulation can enhance memory performance



Memories of past events and experiences are what define us as who we are. Yet, the ability to form these episodic memories declines with age, certain dementias, and brain injury. A study by the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom, shows low-frequency repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation or rTMS stimulation can improve memory performance by reducing the power of low-frequency brain waves as memories form.

Based on current knowledge of the brain and the effects of rTMS, the researcher's hypothesised that they could improve episodic memory, and in the process, generate targets for future memory-related therapies.

The researchers first analysed past data from 40 college students who had been asked to memorise lists of words. Half of the students received slow rTMS over the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex while memorising the words, and the other half received rTMS over a control region of the brain. Then, in a new experiment, researchers collected data from 24 college students who each performed a similar memory task under both rTMS conditions.

Analysis of both datasets revealed that the slow rTMS applied to the prefrontal region led to the reduced power of low-frequency (beta) waves in the parietal region of the brain, which is known to be involved in attention and perception.

The electrophysiological results suggest that frontal stimulation affects a broader network and improves memory formation by inhibiting parietal areas. These are complex but exciting effects that require further experiments to better understand their neural basis.

## HEALTH bulletin



### Beating challenges to global child and adolescent health

The latest special issue of PLOS Medicine outlined different aspects of child and adolescent health and development and the social determinants of health. It focused specifically on the health of infants, children, and adolescents in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The guest editors pointed out that "there are legitimate concerns that COVID-19 has negatively impacted progress in achieving the SDGs globally, and that urgent directive strategy are needed before hard-earned gains from the 2000-2015 MDG period is reversed."

The research studies included papers examining the drivers and determinants of child and adolescent health in diverse and challenging contexts. Adversity brought by poverty, pollution, worsening climate, and experiencing violence and conflict can impact child health. Reports on crucial health issues and interventions across childhood and adolescence included severe bacterial infections among neonates, anti-infection measures and nutritional supplementation to improve neonatal and child outcomes, cash transfers combined with additional interventions to improve child health in low- and middle-income countries, and sexual and reproductive health factors among adolescent girls.

The guest editors noted that to maintain the focus on child and adolescent health concerning the SDGs: "it is necessary to recognise and attend to the health inequities among children and adolescents arising from differentiated exposures to dynamic social contexts around the globe, including urban poverty, environmental degradation and extreme climates, violence and conflict, and unsafe school, family, and social environments".

## Beware of some common masking errors

STAR HEALTH DESK

To protect yourself and others from COVID-19, you should wear a mask when you are indoors around other people. But common errors can leave you unprotected. Here are some mistakes you may be making -- and how to fix them.

### You do not wash up before (and after) masking up

Before putting on your mask, wash your hands or use a 60% alcohol hand sanitiser to keep germs away. Handle your mask by the loops or ties, not the front or face. To remove it, grasp the ear loops or untie the strings. Then rewash your hands.

### You do not wash a new mask

Even if it is brand new, numerous things are likely touched, especially if handcrafted. So, wash it in hot water with residue-free detergent. Rinse it well. Then dry. Then soak your mask for 5 minutes in 2 teaspoons bleach or a gallon of bleach.

### You do not store it right

The mask is easily thrown upon the dashboard or seat. Meantime, your mask needs a clean home. Put it in a dry paper or mesh bag if it is not damp or dirty. Put it in a clean pocket or handbag if you are out to dine but not on the table. Next, wash your hands, then reapply.

### You don't do a dirty mask

Masks attract germs and viruses. They can cause infections if worn against the face for too long. After each use, wash your mask in hot water. Or wash it in hot, soapy water for 20 seconds. Dry on high or in direct sunshine. Wear a clean spare.

### Your mask has seen better days

It is time to retire your mask if it has holes or tears or is worn, sprung, or stained beyond repair. Also, make sure to wash your masks right away if they get moist from spit or sweat. Damp masks also do not function as well.

### You reuse disposable masks

Disposable masks are one-time use. With a reusable one, check it leaves no side gaps. The blue side should be facing out. After using a disposable mask, put it into a garbage bin. If you remove your mask to eat, replace it afterwards.

### You don't tweak your mask to fit

If your mask is too big, don't cross the ear loops. Instead, knot each one to shorten it. Put the knots behind your ears to keep the mask from cinching. A hijab can be worn over the mask and secured with a safety pin or paper clip.

### You use a coffee filter

A filter on your mask does improve protection. Look for PM 2.5

filters. The tight weave catches tiny raindrops. The pores of a paper coffee filter are 20 micrometres, too large to act as a barrier. If your mask lacks a filter pocket, try one with many layers of fabric or wear two.

### You pull it from your face to talk

Talking with a mask on is weird at first. So it is normal to touch or tug at your mask to be heard. The mask should be worn loosely enough to allow you to breathe freely and move your mouth freely.

### You wear your mask below your nose

Make your nosepiece if your glasses fog up. Join a few wire twist ties. Make a tiny incision in the upper band of your mask and insert the twist ties.

### You wear your mask above your chin

Your mask should cover your chin and the bottom portion of your face. This is because viruses can enter via your chin and reach your mouth, nose, and eyes.

### You don't baby your face

Wash your face with a mild cleanser to prevent breakouts and rashes. Then, apply moisturiser for additional protection. Your dermatologist can advise you on the finest components for your skin. It is also recommended to remove your mask every 4 hours for 15 minutes.

Source: WebMD

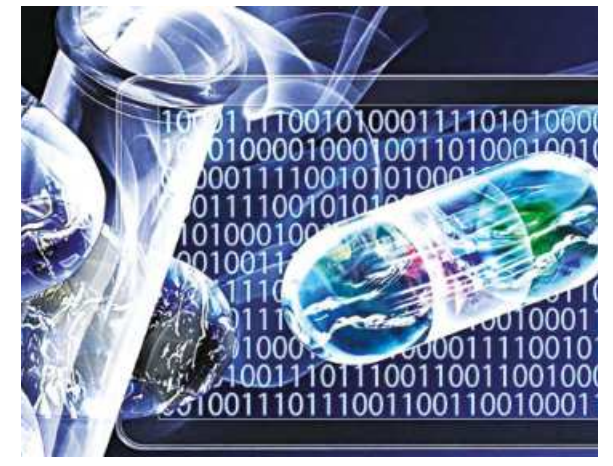
## Can AI foresee the next virus transmission from animals to human?

Most emerging infectious diseases of humans (like COVID-19) are zoonotic - caused by viruses originating from other animal species. Identifying high-risk viruses earlier can improve research and surveillance priorities. A recent study at the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom, suggests that machine learning using viral genomes may predict the likelihood that any animal-infecting virus will infect humans, given biologically relevant exposure.

Identifying zoonotic diseases before emergence is a major challenge because only a tiny minority of the estimated 1.67 million animal viruses can infect humans.

The researchers are using viral genome sequences to develop machine learning models. They found that viral genomes may have generalisable features independent of virus taxonomic relationships and may preadapt viruses to infect humans. They were able to develop machine learning models capable of identifying candidate zoonoses using viral genomes.

These models have limitations, as computer models are only a preliminary step of identifying zoonotic viruses that can potentially infect humans. These models predict that viruses might infect humans; the ability to infect is just one part of the broader zoonotic risk, ability to transmit between humans, and the ecological conditions at the time of human exposure.



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- Consultation with Physician

\* Mammogram for women over 35 years



**Breast Cancer**  
AWARENESS MONTH



## DSA cases kept in limbo

*Unlawful detention without trial under the DSA is a breach of constitutional rights*

FRIDAY, October 1, marked three years since the Digital Security Act (DSA) came into force in Bangladesh. From its very inception, we have warned against the indiscriminate use of this draconian law which, instead of protecting online spaces and making them safer, has been used to clamp down on freedom of speech and target independent journalism. Recent research from the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) now verifies that our claims of the DSA being used as a tool to harass and silence certain individuals are not unjustified.

According to the think tank, which tracked details of 668 out of more than 1,500 cases filed under the Act in the last 20 months or so, only two cases have been disposed of so far. However, scores of DSA cases against journalists, teachers, politicians, students and others remain pending.

CGS data revealed that from 1,543 individuals accused, charges were pressed against only 1.17 percent, despite the fact that the law stipulates an investigation report must be submitted within 60 days of filing the case. This wanton disregard of the existing provisions of the law, which has led to the unlawful detention without trial of those accused under the DSA, is a serious breach of the fundamental rights that a Bangladeshi citizen is accorded under the country's Constitution. We cannot forget that writer Mushtaq Ahmed was locked up under the DSA for over nine months and denied bail six times before he died—receiving the worst punishment even before being given a trial. Yet, there has been no serious inquiry into why it took nine months to complete the investigation.

We are also gravely concerned to note that 13 children (under the age of 18) have been prosecuted under the DSA, including a ninth-grader who was sent to a juvenile correction centre for allegedly insulting the prime minister on Facebook. But an overwhelming majority of these cases are not filed by aggrieved persons—in 507 of the 577 cases logged by CGS, those filing the cases were not the direct victims of the incidents. Only 76 cases were filed by law enforcement; 85 percent of the accusers were ruling party activists. The sheer folly of being allowed to lodge a DSA case against just about anyone, without even being affected by their alleged “crime”, should not be lost on anyone, especially when it leads to situations like that of farmer Abu Zaman, who despite not even owning a smartphone or having internet access, was on the run in March this year after being accused under the DSA.

This reckless use of the controversial law has shrunk civic spaces and created a culture of fear in the country. We call upon the government to immediately remove this threat to freedom of expression and democracy, and rescind the DSA before more innocent citizens fall victim to it.

## What are the authorities doing to save the Buriganga?

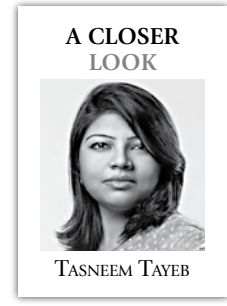
*Stop illegal occupiers, excavate the riverbank to restore its natural flow*

AS grabbing of our rivers goes on across the country without any break despite the High Court's order to save them at all costs and despite it terming them as “living” entities, we have come to know about yet another incident of encroachment of the riverbank of Buriganga. According to a report published by this newspaper on Saturday, in the capital's Kamrangirchar area, local syndicates are again encroaching upon the banks of the river setting up truck stands, businesses of construction materials, motor workshops, etc. While visiting the site recently, our reporter found dozens of trucks, pickups and small vehicles parked on the filled-up riverbank while trading of wood, sand, brick and stone was also going on at different spots. Moreover, household waste was also being dumped on the site.

What we do not understand is what the authorities responsible for looking after the river are doing when its banks are constantly being filled up and used for illegal purposes. Although the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) conducted some drives recently, they could not evict all the occupiers. And the BIWTA's plan to construct walkways and plant trees on the banks of the Buriganga may seem harmless, but it is, in fact, a violation of the High Court's directive, as the court strictly prohibited such initiatives. Moreover, according to Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA), the way the demarcation pillars were set up on the banks of the Buriganga was faulty.

Therefore, what the authorities must do now to save the Buriganga, the lifeline of Dhaka, is re-demarcate the riverbank boundaries and excavate the filled-up stretches of the riverbank on an urgent basis. The BIWTA can build walkways later, after proper demarcation is done. The authorities should take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the natural flow of the river. In addition, all the illegal businesses set up there must be evicted without further delay. Action must also be taken against the river grabbers as per our laws. Needless to say, the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), the guardian of the country's rivers, has an important role to play here. The government must strengthen the commission and give them enough power so it can really work to protect our rivers.

# Who will speak for the Rohingya refugees now?



TASNEEM TAYEB

with the Tatmadaw unleashed their scorched-earth campaign to wipe out the existence of the Rohingya from Myanmar in 2017.

Once in Bangladesh, Mohib and his family might have heaved a sigh of relief at having escaped the Myanmar military crackdown. Unfortunately, the sense of relief was not meant to last long. Mohib was brutally murdered in the Rohingya camp in Kutupalong, Cox's Bazar, on the evening of September 29, 2021. Assassins shot at Mohib at close range as he spoke



Rohingya leader Mohibullah.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

with people in front of his office.

Mohib's family suspect the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) for his murder. Mohib's brother informed the media that he had received multiple death threats recently—from many unknown phone numbers—and he suspects that ARSA committed this atrocious act. But what made Mohib a target for ARSA?

Mohib was a leader who had played a proactive role to promote the cause of his community. Over the last few years, he emerged...one of the few from the Rohingya refugee community—to have boldly raised the concerns of the Rohingya community and worked towards ensuring a safer and respectable life for them. Mohib spoke on international platforms, including the UN Human Rights meeting in Geneva, and met the US president,

to highlight the cause of the Rohingya refugees.

Mohib also established the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH), a rights group, which unearthed and documented the sufferings of the Rohingya refugees at the hands of the Myanmar military.

However, it was Mohib's unflinching commitment towards a peaceful resolution to the Rohingya refugee crisis that might have made him a potential target for the ARSA. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army is known for its ruthless terrorist activities. Fortify Rights earlier suspected the militant group to be behind the abduction and torture of at least five Rohingya refugees. And Mohib's resolve to take a peaceful path to promote the Rohingya cause angered the ARSA who threatened him even earlier this month. Nur Khan Liton, a Rohingya rights activist told the AFP, “His [Mohib's] peaceful activism angered ARSA.” ARSA might as well have acted on their threats.

trafficking that led to the killing of seven people and left many families without shelter. There are also speculations that people within Mohib's own organisation might have been behind this, due to differing opinions. Or even the other factions who felt threatened by Mohib's rising popularity and greater acceptability among the refugees.

Police have arrested a suspect—a man named Mohammad Selim alias Lomba Selim, was arrested from Ukhiya on October 2. “They fired five rounds of bullets and fled immediately. Our search mission is on to arrest the killers,” deputy police chief in Cox's Bazar, Rafiqul Islam, was quoted by Reuters. However, the killing of Mohib has raised multiple questions about the security situation in the Rohingya camps. If ARSA indeed has committed this crime, that too in full public view, then the possibility of their active presence and operations in the camps cannot be ruled out. If this turns out to be the case, then it is high time the government revisit its security strategy in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. ARSA's presence in the Rohingya camps is not just a threat to the security of the Rohingya, it is a security threat for the country and the region.

Even if any other quarter has carried out the assassination attack on Mohib, this incident has nonetheless exposed the security lapse in the camps. How can murderers just kill a man in public and get away with it?

As of writing this column, the police informed the media that they were investigating the murder. The bullet shells are being scrutinised to trace them back to the killers. Witnesses are being interviewed. The police initially suggested that the witnesses saw four to five men shooting at Mohib before fleeing the scene. Given the tight security that is supposed to be in place at the Rohingya camps, how could this have happened?

The current state of security affairs in the Rohingya camps reflects poorly on the living conditions in the camps. While human trafficking, drug trafficking and sex trafficking have remained constant threats in the Rohingya camps, the murders of various individuals at the camps over the years have exposed the security loopholes in the area. Unfortunately, not much has been done to rectify the situation. As a result, an honest man, a father of nine, an activist, died for supporting the right cause. According to a Reuters report, in view of the threats, Mohib had earlier sought security support from the Bangladesh authorities and the United Nations. But he was provided with none it seems. Why?

Rafiqul Islam suggested that Mohib did not file any official complaint. “If he did, we could have considered that,” Islam was quoted as saying by Reuters.

In the Rohingya refugee crisis,

Myanmar looks after its own interests and thus they are unwilling to take the refugees back. While Bangladesh is trying its best to accommodate the refugees, it cannot continue to host them in Cox's Bazar for long. And even if the refugees are shifted to Bhashan Char, this will not be a sustainable solution. Unfortunately, Bangladesh has not been able to secure international support to force Myanmar into taking back its people amidst peaceful conditions. And the international community—due to the various economic and political interests in Myanmar of many influential countries—are not helping the cause of the Rohingya refugees either. For them, economic and political gains perhaps come before human rights.

So, the refugees are caught in a limbo. They have nowhere to go, and they do not have a voice of their own. As Mohib was once quoted by *The Guardian* as saying, “Imagine you have no identity, no ethnicity, no country. Nobody wants you. How would you feel? This is how we feel today as Rohingya.” Today the Rohingya are an unwanted people, and their only voice was Mohib. And now that voice has been taken away from them.

Who will now speak for the Rohingya refugees? Who will be their voice?

Mohib was more than just another Rohingya refugee. Mohib was an influencer and he could have played a constructive role in aligning and promoting the concerns of the Rohingya in the coming years as well. He could have also played an instrumental role in the safe repatriation of the refugees.

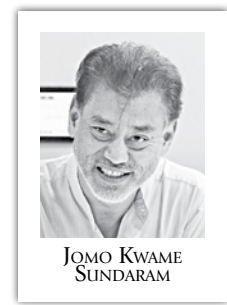
“For decades we faced a systematic genocide in Myanmar. They took our citizenship. They took our land. They destroyed our mosques. No travel, no higher education, no healthcare, no jobs... We are not stateless. Stop calling us that. We have a state. It is Myanmar,” Mohib had said. And at the end of the day he wanted to go back to his state, provided the conditions were right for his people.

The killing of Mohib is not just a major loss for the Rohingya community, but also for the Bangladesh government as it lost the one person who could have been helpful in mobilising support for safe Rohingya repatriation. While Mohib's assassination has left a void in the leadership space for the Rohingya, it has also sent...a very alarming message to those who are working to support the cause of the refugees through peaceful means.

While the void cannot be filled so easily, the killers of Mohib should be immediately apprehended and brought to justice. The security situation in the camps needs to be reassessed. Further bloodshed at the Rohingya camps must be avoided at all costs.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem\_tayeb

## Biden disappoints: Must do more, not less



JOMO KWAME SUNDARAM

US President Biden's earlier support for a vaccine patent waiver raised hopes for his summit more than a week ago. However, it proved disappointing, not only for efforts to end the pandemic, but also for US leadership in these challenging times.

Most rich countries have opposed most developing countries' request to temporarily suspend World Trade Organization (WTO) intellectual property (IP) rules to more quickly contain the Covid-19 pandemic. Expectations were high as Biden had supported a patent waiver, albeit only for vaccines.

With their IP, suppliers control production, supplies and prices. The industry claims it can meet all pandemic-related needs. But although it has no intention of meeting these needs, it insists the waiver is unnecessary. Hence, unless rich country governments stop opposing it, forthcoming WTO meetings will not achieve much.

Rich defend mRNA vaccine duopoly Covid-19 vaccine supplies and prices are controlled by a few companies. Although BioNTech developed one of the two approved mRNA vaccines, it is now largely manufactured and marketed by Pfizer outside Europe.

BioNTech's relationship to Pfizer is complementary, but not one between equals. By contrast, Moderna is a vaccine development start-up, with limited marketing and other capacities, especially outside the USA.

Meanwhile, able to pay more, rich countries have taken most vaccines, far, far more than enough. The duopoly initially sold more than 90 percent of their vaccines to rich countries, charging up to 24 times actual production costs.

Then, more vaccines started reaching MICs before recent efforts to push booster shots. Meanwhile, only 2.2 percent in low-income countries (LICs) have received at least one dose. Without drastic improvements, most in LICs will not be fully vaccinated by 2023.

until everyone is. Meanwhile, the October 2020 WTO waiver request to temporarily suspend IP rights for Covid-19 tests, treatments, equipment and vaccines has garnered broad support.

**Vaccine technology not for sharing**

Most global initiatives to make vaccines less unaffordable to MICs, such as COVAX, do not address the massive supply shortfall and high prices. Meanwhile, vaccine suppliers jealously protect their monopolies, claiming nobody else can safely produce them.

While at least 80 developing countries have been producing generic

vaccine supplies to developing countries, they have only contracted to supply vaccine ingredients to companies in rich countries and China.

**State-subsidised super-profits**

Despite benefiting from taxpayer funds, legally enforced patent monopolies and low taxes, People's Vaccine Alliance research shows the three have used their mRNA vaccine duopoly to secure super profits. Their vaccines sell for USD 41 billion over production costs estimated at USD 1.20 per dose.

As a charity has noted, “Instead of partnering... to make sure that we have



US President Joe Biden speaks as US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield listens during a virtual Covid Summit of the United Nations General Assembly.

PHOTO: AFP

medicines and vaccines for decades, not all can produce the novel mRNA vaccines without access to new technical knowledge and materials. Yet, MSF has identified “mRNA vaccine-capable” manufacturers in developing countries, including four in Africa alone.

MSF estimates such manufacturers can establish the capacity to produce up to 100 million doses annually within ten months for between USD 127-270 million. But they would still need access to mRNA vaccine technology and reliable supplies.

But Pfizer and Moderna have both refused to share the needed. Now, instead of transferring technology or increasing

enough vaccine doses for everyone, these pharmaceutical companies prioritise their own profits by enforcing their monopolies and selling to the highest bidder.”

Moderna and Pfizer pay little in taxes despite making many times more than the pre-pandemic average profit rate of eight percent for Fortune 500 companies in 2019. In the first half of 2021, Moderna—which had never made a profit before—Paid a seven percent US tax rate while Pfizer paid 15 percent, still well under the US statutory rate of 21 percent.

**Perverse incentives**

This new situation has created various perverse incentives prolonging the

pandemic. Suppliers can make a great deal more in the medium term from tests, treatments, protective, other equipment and booster shots, supposedly for new, more dangerous variants.

Pfizer—already a large, diversified pharmaceutical conglomerate—has recently been growing by taking over businesses selling Covid-19 needs. With the prospect of more profitable booster sales, vaccine suppliers have little incentive to rapidly end the pandemic.

With Covid-19 now endemic, they continue to limit access to their vaccine technology to ensure scarcity and set prices to maximise profits. Hence, despite not having developed its own vaccine, Pfizer is now dominant.

**What Biden must now do**

Meanwhile, Biden has been under growing pressure to do much more. Probably more than anyone else, economist Dean Baker has long shown how the US can lead international cooperation to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, making the case for an inclusive international vaccine summit half a year ago.

Baker has argued how existing patent arrangements are not only inequitable, but also inefficient and wasteful. He has shown patent advocates as not only self-interested, but also dishonest. Instead, direct public funding would better incentivise new drug development.

US law—specifically Section 1498 of its commercial code—allows the government to require patent licensing in emergencies. Moderna, Pfizer and their scientific personnel can thus be induced to help rapidly scale up production internationally to vaccinate the world.

Also, the waiver proposal must be swiftly approved by the WTO to quickly enable more affordable access to tests, treatments, equipment and other materials urgently needed to better fight the pandemic until it can be ended altogether.

At his summit, Biden vowed to expand vaccine output in Africa and Asia. He can still do the right thing. This could well open a new era of multilateral cooperation instead of the dog-eat-dog new Cold War we are lurching towards. Perhaps there is still hope.

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, received the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought in 2007. Copyright: Inter Press Service



# Creating research-capable institutions in Bangladesh

SYED SAAD ANDALEEB and HAIDER A KHAN

Is it possible for Bangladesh to create research-capable institutions similar to ones that are already playing a key role in other Asian countries, driving rapid economic development in the knowledge-intensive era of the fourth industrial revolution?

Today, knowledge is the new currency. East Asia and Southeast Asia are being increasingly recognised as knowledge centres producing high quality research. Although their journey in research is relatively recent, they have fared well, driven by a knowledge seeking culture, in vying with the world's elite research institutions and rising to research prominence.

In contrast, while research in South Asia suggests that it is growing, doubling in quantity every six years, it appears rather lacklustre from a global perspective where, over the last 50 years, viewed in 10-year blocks, the South Asia region published 1.08 percent, 1.54 percent, 1.82 percent, 2.31 percent and 3.94 percent of total global knowledge production. In this uninspiring record of research, India alone published the lion's share (84 percent) compared to 6.4 percent by Pakistan and 3.2 percent by Bangladesh.

These numbers corroborate articles, public discourse, and recent commentaries on the poor state of research in our higher education institutions (HEIs), depicting their lethargic and unimaginative knowledge production capabilities. Different quarters often rue when our universities, especially elite universities such as University of Dhaka (now in existence for a 100 years) and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), both well-regarded within the country, fail to figure prominently in the global rankings published annually. This is not to say that such rankings are flawless; but where is the alternative?

Scholars from the advanced West, e.g., Willem Van Schendel, agree with the assessment made by some of us who are from Bangladesh but know intimately the Western, as well as the advanced Asian research

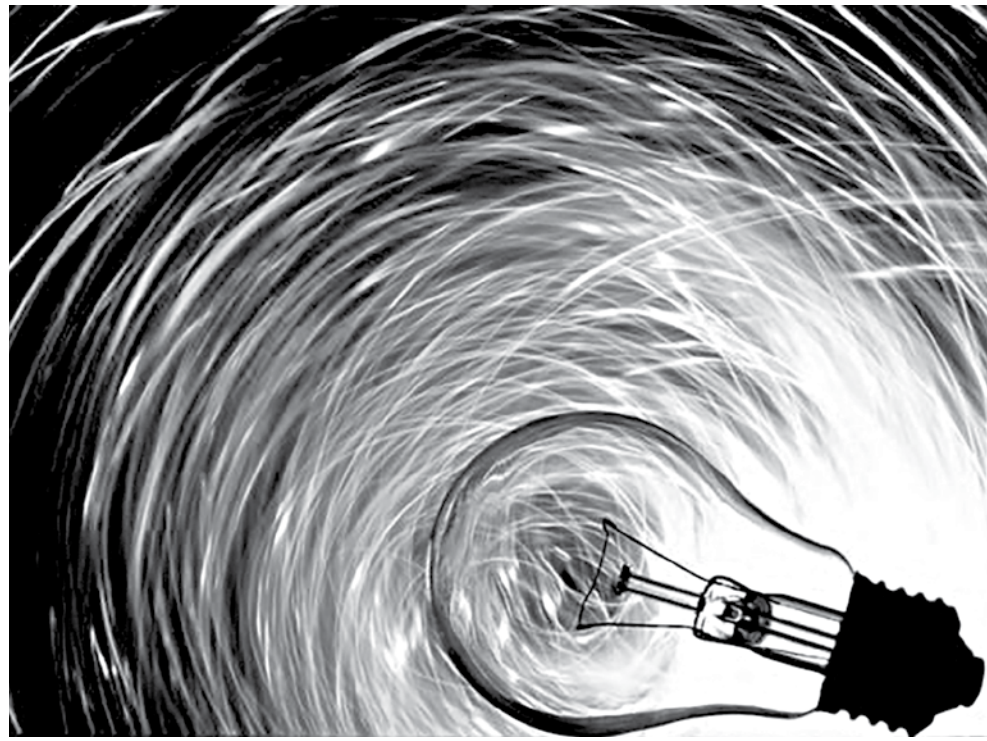
systems. Putting it baldly, Bangladesh lacks substantially in research capability in spite of its incredible human resource base and institution building potential. Consequently, research related to development of Bangladesh by even recognised local scholars remains nearly invisible abroad and often remain unutilised locally for policy purposes.

The dearth of research in Bangladesh's HEIs has been attributed to many factors. Most prominent among these, in our view, are the following:

Funding is probably the most immediate factor. Neither the public sector nor the private sector provides a level of funding that can enable our universities to play in the same league as the Southeast Asian success stories. Another factor is the brain drain phenomenon which has many reasons; but the lack of funding in Bangladesh reinforces other reasons for not returning such as poor administrative support, promotion of undeserving faculty, lack of opportunities to pursue research (in industry and the government), political uncertainties, and a lack of social demand for knowledge.

We have heard, experienced, and reported many complaints regarding the heavy burden of teaching loads. From personal experiences and formal research, we have verified, especially among the private universities, that driving up revenues trumps other loftier goals. While a part of the revenues is used for development of physical infrastructure, the academic administrators do not prioritise research over teaching. If there's no research, what is one teaching?

These and other related factors culminate in what we term "a serious lack of vision for and appropriate incentives" to engage in research. Unsurprisingly, faculty members ask, "Why should I do research?" The payoffs are better for teaching in multiple institutions or for engaging in parochial academic politics that is more conducive to advancement and benefits. Thus, poor "layered" management systems, from the policy level to university administration, are further skewed by rational political and economic calculations that stifle



research which, in turn, fails to serve our national interest.

If Bangladesh wishes to turn around this dismal situation and join the other Asian developing countries, poised to benefit from the fourth industrial revolution, we must ask some hard questions. Key among these urgent questions are:

1. Why have resources not been mobilised or once mobilised not efficiently allocated to promote research?
2. Why have we failed to create an effective research promoting and talent gathering institution like the National Science Foundation in the US and similar entities in Europe, Japan, China, Singapore, Thailand, etc.?
3. What is the correct strategy from here onwards? Building specialised research institutes or modern comprehensive

universities run by competent people with clear goals and little bureaucratic interference? What incentives need to be in place to attract and retain a pool of talented researchers?

4. What are some priority areas (biotechnology, artificial intelligence, mechanisation in agriculture, conflict resolution, trust in government, etc.) in which focused research is to be launched for local impact?
5. How will we know that good research is being conducted and relevant outcomes being produced for the nation's benefit?

A pragmatic approach may be a pilot project in founding a Research Oriented University of Science and Technology (ROUST) with relevant social sciences and humanities disciplines as a part of a comprehensive 21st century research

university programme. The curriculum for such a ROUST may be based on benchmarking with successful universities we wish to emulate. Which models should we follow: specialised versus comprehensive institutions? Why are we not debating these questions?

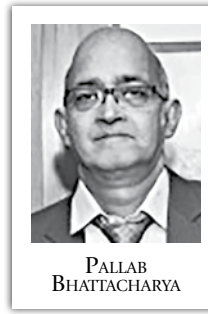
We might reflect on the fact that up until the founding of two research-oriented universities in the US in the late 19th century—based on the German research university model—the traditional US universities were quite weak in scientific-technical research except perhaps in agriculture. But that changed quickly with the founding of research universities which were replicated throughout the US; after WW2 American research universities became models for the rest of the world. Today, the exemplary success of small Asian countries like Singapore shows that given the political will, resource mobilisation, and a solid brand of governance, Bangladesh can follow the ROUST approach with careful planning and resource allocation.

Both of us have done theoretical, as well as relevant empirical research on developing tertiary education with research as a strategic component. Our findings point to the urgent need for Bangladesh to formulate a comprehensive public-private partnership within at least a medium-term strategic science and technology development plan.

Once we have such a plan, we must be prepared to implement it and learn by doing. To this end, the sooner a high-level working group is comprised of the leading thinkers, both within Bangladesh and from among the expatriates with solid track records and international reputation, and activated to take the research agenda forward, the better. Many other Asian developing countries have already stolen the limelight and are leagues ahead of us. Do we have the luxury of losing more precious time?

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb is Distinguished Professor Emeritus (Marketing), Pennsylvania State University. Professor Haider A Khan is John Evans Distinguished University Professor (Economics), University of Denver.

# Congress Party lurching from crisis to crisis



**F**UNCTIONAL feud and mutual recrimination among leaders in public, either at state or national level, are nothing new to India's main opposition party—Congress Party. In fact, they are as old as the party itself. But in recent weeks, the turmoil triggered by internecine quarrels has taken a different dimension because it once again underlined the political ineptitude and continued drift in the party's top leadership.

The crisis in the Congress' unit in Punjab and the unceremonious ousting of one of its most prominent state leaders Amarinder Singh after the party high command engineered a revolt against him—led by cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, who defected from the Bharatiya Janata Party four years ago—is the latest illustration of the ills plaguing the country's oldest party once known as the natural outfit for governing an ethnically, religious and linguistically diverse country like India.

Spurred by the party's predicament in Punjab and elsewhere in the country in the wake of steady desertions in its rank and file, a clutch of its senior leaders spearheaded by Kapil Sibal has questioned the top leadership (read interim party President Sonia Gandhi and her children Rahul and Priyanka,) for allowing the party to be rudderless.

Sibal could not perhaps be more scathing of the Gandhi family. Without naming them, he told the media on September 30 that there was no knowing who were taking decisions in the party. Sibal was backed by many of the group of 23 senior leaders of the Congress who have been demanding organisational elections and a course correction in the party. Within hours of Sibal's criticism of the party high command, he had to face the music as



**Chief Minister of the northern Indian state of Punjab Amrinder Singh salutes in front a war memorial during a ceremony to mark Infantry Day in a garrison in Srinagar, October 27, 2005.** PHOTO: REUTERS

a group of activists of Congress and its youth front staged a protest outside his residence in New Delhi and vandalised his car. Several of the group of 23 "change-seekers," including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shashi Tharoor and Anand Sharma, condemned in unequivocal terms the "orchestrated hooliganism" in front of Sibal's house. The group of 23 in the Congress was formed last year and it had shot off a letter to Sonia Gandhi demanding organisational poll and collective leadership.

However, the dissident group had gone silent since then and failed to be vocal when needed most after the Congress' dismal performance in the assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Puducherry in May this year, raising question marks over its efficacy as a pressure bloc.

With just four months remaining for the assembly poll in Punjab, the Congress is struggling to set its house in order in the agrarian state where the raging farmers' unrest against the three farm laws piloted by the federal government last year had put the party on a strong wicket. What was the need for a leadership change in Punjab so close to the electoral battle? One of the reasons that reportedly prompted the high command to show Amarinder the door is to blunt the anti-incumbency.

The biggest advantage for the Congress in Punjab is that its main political rival in Punjab Shiromani Akali Dal, a former ally of the BJP, is yet to shake off the negative fall-out of its long association with the saffron party even after nearly a year of parting of ways over the farm laws issue. The sudden removal of Amarinder as Chief Minister and anointment of Charanjit Singh Channi last week and Sidhu as state Congress chief a couple of months ago were initially considered by some analysts as a "master stroke." That is because Channi, a Dalit Sikh in a state where Dalits formed a very sizable chunk of the electorate, fitted into the Congress high command's political messaging of identity politics for not just Punjab, but for the rest of the country ahead of state assembly polls in six states, including the most crucial one of Uttar Pradesh. But much of the effect of "master stroke" fizzled out as Sidhu resigned as state Congress chief, living up to his reputation as a mercurial person, a trait that first came to the fore during his cricketering career when he walked out of India's tour of England in 1996 following a spat with the then team captain Md Azharuddin. Sidhu has now acquired the tag of a "habitual quitter". He had resigned

from the BJP in 2016 and after a brief dalliance with the Aam Aadmi Party joined the Congress.

But the "master stroke" seemed to have boomeranged when Sidhu resigned as state Congress President as he is reportedly sulking at not getting the chief ministership and resenting Channi's choice of portfolios for his ministerial colleagues and some key bureaucratic appointments. The entire drama in Punjab Congress has shown how deeply divided the party is.

What has particularly aroused anger in the Congress is a meeting Amarinder had with senior BJP leader and Indian Home Minister Amit Shah on September 29, sparking speculations about his joining India's ruling party and drawing a sharp reaction from the Congress. But a day later, Amarinder tamped down the speculations but made it clear he was not going to join the BJP after being "humiliated" by the Congress high command. This too set the tongues wagging on whether the former army officer was preparing to float a new party and jump into the upcoming state assembly elections in Punjab and hurt the Congress party. The Congress' retort to the Shah-Amarinder meeting stood in sharp contrast to the same when other leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada, Sushmita Dev, Luizinho Falerio and some in Tripura left the party and joined either the BJP or the Trinamool Congress. In fact, the Congress had maintained a studied silence when the TMC poached the former's leaders in Tripura, Assam and Goa, raising the question if the weakened pan-India party, buffeted by defeat in two successive general elections in 2014 and 2019, was succumbing to regional parties.

Amarinder is too astute a politician. Emerging from the meeting with Shah, the former chief minister went on record as saying that he discussed the farm laws issue with the home minister and pressed for repeal of the laws. Amarinder knows farmers are central to politics in Punjab and that it

would be political harakiri if he was seen to be hobnobbing with the BJP in Punjab where there is widespread resentment against the farm laws.

It is not just in Punjab the Congress is facing factionalism. The party is beset with the same problems in two more states—Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan—it rules with a section of Congressmen demanding change of guard. It required a lot of fire-fighting by the party high command to deal with this internecine war.

Questions are being raised once again about the functioning of the Congress high command and about the correctness of the decisions taken by it. The party has been without a regular president for more than two years now after Rahul Gandhi quit from the post in May 2019, taking responsibility for the party's debacle in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, after which his mother was installed as interim president.

The removal of Amarinder and choice of Sidhu and Channi are being seen as the handiwork of Rahul and Priyanka, as much as their recent induction into the party-fold of young leader Kanhaiya Kumar of the Communist Party of India is. Ironically, Kanhaiya Kumar has, as a former firebrand leader of the CPI's student front in Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, was highly critical of the Congress and the BJP in the same breath. He had alleged that the Congress alone was enough to destroy India. Kanhaiya should know the difference between politics in the confines of JNU and a party's electoral politics. He had hoped to cash in on his image as a student leader in the Lok Sabha poll as a CPI candidate in 2019 but ended up losing to a BJP rival in his home state of Bihar. It is the difference between politics in a well and in an ocean.

A lack of coherent strategy is costing the Congress and leading to its shrinking appeal as a national-level challenger to the BJP.

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

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**GLORIA ANZALDUA**  
American scholar (1942 – 2004)

○ Awareness of our situation must come before inner changes, which in turn come before changes in society. Nothing happens in the 'real' world unless it first happens in the images in our heads.

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Pump, e.g.
- 5 Obsessed captain
- 9 Squall
- 10 Bar supply
- 12 Happened
- 13 City on the Missouri
- 14 Set out
- 16 Meditative school
- 17 "\_\_\_ Maria"
- 18 Approval
- 20 "Camelot" lyricist
- 22 Track figures
- 23 Pueblo material
- 25 Prayer finish
- 28 Low points
- 32 Decline

**DOWN**

- 1 Tried hard
- 2 Professional dancer
- 3 Words of approximation
- 4 Came into view
- 5 Hilo hello
- 6 That fellow
- 7 In awe
- 8 Decapitate
- 9 Katey of "Sons of Anarchy"
- 11 Smooths, in a way
- 15 Raptors' home
- 19 Worked the garden
- 21 Billionth: Prefix
- 24 Atlantic resort
- 25 Visibly shocked
- 26 Bit of time
- 27 Sevilla's nation
- 29 Serving as a symbol
- 30 Frees of suds
- 31 Wise ones
- 33 Wrinkly fruits
- 37 Zhivago's love
- 39 Massage

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**BEETLE BAILEY** BY MORT WALKER

**BABY BLUES** BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

S	E	L	F	M	I	L	L
A	V	A	I	A	M	O	U
L	E	D	G	E	Z	O	R
A	N	Y	A	M	E	N	D
D	E	M	A	N	D	S	V
D	A	R	E	S	B	O	N
R	E	D	P	A	L	O	S
R	A	M	S	C	A	N	D
E	R	A	C	I	N	D	E
G	A	L	A	H	A	D	M
I	M	A	G	E	A	L	O
S	I	D	E	S	S	E	R
S	E	E	S	S	T	E	P



# DAY OF GERMAN UNITY



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 2021, ASHWIN 18, 1428 BS

## MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR



for the thirty-second time. I am convinced that it can also be a day of joy for our neighbours, for our allies and partners, and, why not, for the whole world.

Since the 3rd October 1990, united Germany has become an even stronger partner for all those who want to work for a more peaceful world and for all those who jointly want to tackle the manifold challenges that threaten all inhabitants on earth: Terror and war, pandemics and diseases, climate change, dignified living conditions for everybody through the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am celebrating the Day of German Unity Day for the first time in Bangladesh. On the one hand, I am a bit sad that due to the pandemic the Embassy cannot celebrate this particular day with our Bangladeshi friends and

partners at the usual national day's reception.

On the other hand, I am glad to be in Bangladesh, a longstanding partner and friend with whom we share the vision of a multilateral world order and a rule-based international system. Additionally, Germany and Bangladesh are maintaining very close and successful business relations. I am confident that they can be even further expanded in the future for our mutual benefit.

In this sense, I would like everybody – especially in Bangladesh – to share the joy and happiness of this particular day together with us Germans.

Long live the friendship between Bangladesh and Germany!

H.E. Achim Tröster  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Bangladesh

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends of Germany, today is the third of October, and on this day, we Germans celebrate our National Day.

We call it "Day of German Unity" – it commemorates the 3rd October 1990, when Germany regained unity in freedom and democracy after having been separated for over 40 years.

I guess it is evident that this day is a day of joy for Germany, today

## Germany assumes responsibility



PHOTO: PICTURE ALLIANCE/DPA | HANNIBAL HANSCHKE

Germany is counting on multilateralism. Did you know how strong the country's international involvement is? 15 examples.

1. Germany is a member or an observer in more than 80 international organizations and is party to several hundred multilateral agreements.

2. Germany is the second largest contributor to the development system of the United Nations.

3. Germany is the second largest donor of humanitarian aid to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

4. Germany is the fourth largest contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

5. Germany is the largest state donor to the World Health Organization (WHO), and by far the largest contributor to the WHO

Contingency Fund for Emergencies.

6. Germany is the second largest contributor to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and supports the participating organizations, such as the WHO, Gavi and Global Fund.

7. Germany is the second largest donor to the United Nations World Food Programme.

8. Germany is ranked fifth among the major refugee receiving countries.

9. Germany is currently taking part in multilateral missions and operations with almost 4,800 members of the armed forces.

10. Germany is the fourth largest shareholder in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

11. Since 2008, Germany has financed more than 730 climate protection and biodiversity projects

in more than 60 developing and emerging economies within the International Climate Initiative (ICI).

12. Germany initiated Resolution 2467 which was passed by the UN Security Council to end conflict-related sexual violence and augment the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda.

13. In 2022 Germany will take over the G7 presidency and wants to use it to promote multilateralism.

14. In 2023 Germany will take on the leadership of the NATO spearhead Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF).

15. In May 2021 the German government published the White Paper on Multilateralism in support of its efforts to strengthen and further the international order.

SOURCE: WWW.DEUTSCHLAND.DE

## DAAD – Change by Exchange

The Germany Academic Exchange Service has supported over 2.6 million students and researchers.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding body for the international exchange of students and researchers. From its headquarters in Bonn, it operates a global network of 18 offices, 51 information centres (ICs), 500 lecturers and language assistants as well as 17 centres for German and European studies. Every year it supports over 140,000 German and international students and researchers.

The DAAD Artists-in-Berlin programme is one of the world's most renowned scholarship programmes for artists. Nearly 2.6 million scholars from Germany and abroad have been supported by the DAAD since it was founded in 1925. The DAAD also supports



PHOTO: PICTURE ALLIANCE/JOKER | HELMUT METZMACHER

the internationalisation of German higher education, promotes German studies and the German language abroad, assists developing countries in setting up strong universities, and advises decision-makers in the

fields of education, international cultural relations and development policy. The DAAD's motto is "Change by Exchange".

SOURCE: WWW.DEUTSCHLAND.DE



# THE 5

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### T SPORTS

La Liga  
Elche vs Celta Vigo  
Live from 06:00 pm  
Espanyol vs Real Madrid  
Live from 08:15 pm  
Getafe vs Real Sociedad

### Live from 10:30 pm

Granada Vs Sevilla  
Live from 01:00 am (Monday)  
GTV & S  
TAR SPORTS HD 1  
IPL  
Bangalore vs Punjab

### Live from 04:00 pm

Kolkata vs Hyderabad  
Live from 08:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS HD 2  
English Premier League  
Tottenham vs Aston Villa  
Live from 07:00 pm

### Liverpool vs Manchester City

Live from 09:30 pm  
TEN 2  
BUNDESLIGA  
Bayern Munich vs Eintracht Frankfurt  
Live from 09:30 pm

## A winning start yet in search of winning tactics

ANISUR RAHMAN from Male



Bangladesh football team apparently had a hidden pressure to get off to a winning start in the SAFF Championship and the charges of interim coach Oscar Bruzon did it after switching to a brand of possession-based football from a defensive one.

It is not that the footballers are new to possession-based football rather they once adapted well to such playing style under Dutch coach Lodewijk De Kruijff before they switched to a counter-attacking version while prioritising a solid back-line under British coach Jamie Day.

Nevertheless, the boys in red and green did look a bit nervous initially against Sri Lanka, who are ranked 205th and 16 places behind Bangladesh in FIFA ranking but the charges of Bruzon gained control of

the midfield as the match progressed.

Even though Bangladesh had 58 percent of ball possession, during which they strung 15 to 20 short passes on several occasions, they couldn't stabilise the Sri Lankan backline, unlike how Maldives treated Nepal in the second game of the tournament.

Now, the question is how far can Bangladesh progress in the tournament with such an approach – possession without penetration – against comparatively stronger sides like India, Maldives and Nepal.

"Sri Lanka played a high-defence, so it was really tough to penetrate them in their half to create scoring opportunities," said match-winner Tapu Barman,

who yesterday had a full rest at the Turf Ground due to a minor ankle problem.

"Look, in the second half, we played better football compared to the first," said the centre-back. Midfielder Mohammad Ibrahim believes the players need some time to adjust with the playing style.

"The players who have already worked with Bruzon, have good understanding with the coach but the rest of the players need some time," said Ibrahim.

"It's not that only forwards will score in total football. You will see some time that the midfielders and wingers also score goals but to be honest, the coach hasn't gotten much time to work on the finishing aspect."

The Bashundhara winger wants to continue playing the same way in the upcoming matches.

"We've proved yesterday that we can play possession football but we have to improve it day by

day. I think we have to increase communication among the forwards, and then the next matches will be easier for us," believes Ibrahim, who played in the midfield instead of his usual wing position.

Ibrahim seemed optimistic about solving the scoring issue.

"You saw how many chances we created against Sri Lanka which we never did in the past matches. As we have started playing open football, the scoring problem will be gradually solved, I believe."

Regardless of what Ibrahim believes about the solution of the scoring problem upfront, Bangladesh are definitely going to face an uphill task while attempting to penetrate the backlines of India, Maldives and Nepal, as all three opponents are superior to Bangladesh in terms of skill, technique and tactics and, of course, FIFA ranking.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## INDIA on everyone's mind

ANISUR RAHMAN from Male

After a light training session at the Turf Ground in Male yesterday afternoon following a 1-0 win over Sri Lanka in the opener of SAFF Championship on the previous day, Bangladesh players were waiting for the team bus when suddenly Tapu Barman asked a reporter whether Bangla food was available somewhere near the team hotel.

The reporter replied in the affirmative, giving a condition that they have to India

"India-Bangladesh matches are always high-voltage ones. All players, including myself, are excited to play matches against them because we could not win in the World Cup Qualifying at Salt Lake despite playing better than them. If we can win here, it will really be a great achievement."

MIDFIELDER MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM

in the next match. Left-back Yeasin Arafat, who was sitting beside Tapu, instantly responded to the reporter's condition by joking, "Let us eat first and be strong."

Though the charges of Oscar Bruzon were in joyous mood throughout yesterday's training session, they know the measure of the challenge against India, who are 82 places ahead of Bangladesh in FIFA ranking.

Moments after Yeasin's joke, one of the Bangladeshi expatriates who were watching the training session from outside the main gate, shouted towards the players, "Just beat India, we won't mind even if you don't win the title."

There is huge enthusiasm among the expatriates regarding Monday's match against seven-time champions India, who last December beat Bangladesh 2-0 in a World Cup qualifying fixture and are taking this championship as part of their preparation for next year's Asian Cup Qualifiers.

India have always been a hurdle for

Bangladesh in SAFF Championships as the Blue Tigers beat the men in red and green twice in final and two more times in semifinal stage.

However, Bangladesh, except for the last meeting, had managed to hold India to draws in previous three meetings and midfielder Mohammad Ibrahim is seeking inspiration from those matches.

"India-Bangladesh matches are always high-voltage ones. All players, including myself, are excited to play matches against them because we could not win in the World Cup Qualifying at Salt Lake despite playing better than them. If we can win here, it will really be a great achievement," said Ibrahim, who frightened the India defence with his speedy runs down the left flank at Salt Lake in September, 2019.

Midfielder Sohel Rana, who had his first training session in Maldives yesterday following his recovery from fever, said, "Matches against India have different excitement. If we want to stay in good position on the table, we must play well against India. We are thinking match by match and want to have another good result against India."



## Tigers head for preparation camp

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh cricket team will leave for Oman tonight to engage in a preparation camp for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup.

A 21-member contingent including 14 cricketers will fly as all returned negative results in Covid-19 tests. Apart from 12 cricketers from 15-member world cup squad, pacer Rubel Hossain and leg-spinner Aminul Islam will also accompany the team for only participating in the training camp in Muscat.

Opener Liton Das went to Muscat with his wife four days back while ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and pacer Mustafizur Rahman will join the team in Abu Dhabi on October 9 after completing their IPL commitments.

"I am accompanying the team as there is an issue of bio-secure bubble," Bangladesh Cricket Board's physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury told

### WARM-UP MATCHES

October 12: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka Abu Dhabi  
October 14: Bangladesh v Ireland. Abu Dhabi

### QUALIFIER MATCHES

October 17: Bangladesh v Scotland. Muscat  
October 19: Bangladesh v Oman. Muscat  
October 21: Bangladesh v PNG Muscat

The Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh will spend a day in room quarantine in Muscat before starting their training on October 5 in Oman, after which the Tigers will travel to Dubai to take part in two official practice games on October 12 and 14 against Sri Lanka and Ireland respectively.

Mahmudullah Riyad and his troop will then return to Oman on October 15 to participate in the qualifier stage and will face Scotland in their first qualifier game on October 17.

Bangladesh will play their second match against Oman on October 19 and the last match against Papua New Guinea on October 21.

If Bangladesh qualify, then they will travel to Dubai on October 21 to play the Super 12 stage, starting from October 23.

Meanwhile, according to the ICC's regulations, all teams will have to stay for a mandatory six-day quarantine before the Super 12 stage in the United Arab Emirates but this will not be applicable for Bangladesh as they will enter the bio-secure bubble from October 5.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Koeman won't be sacked after Atletico game'

Ronald Koeman will stay on as Barcelona coach regardless of the result against Atletico Madrid on Saturday, club president Joan Laporta has said. Koeman's future has been in serious doubt after Barca were beaten 3-0 by Benfica in the Champions League on Wednesday, a defeat that leaves them bottom of the group. But Laporta, speaking ahead of Saturday's game against La Liga champions Atletico Madrid, said: "Koeman will continue as Barca coach. He has the benefit of the doubt regardless of today's result."

Laporta has reportedly been considering Roberto Martinez, Xavi Hernandez and Andrea Piro as potential replacements but the job would be a huge challenge, given Barca's atrocious financial situation.

### Immobile out of Nations League finals

Lazio and Italy striker Ciro Immobile has been ruled out of next week's UEFA Nations League finals after picking up a thigh injury, the Serie A club said on Saturday. The 31-year-old limped off the pitch during Thursday's Europa League win over Lokomotiv Moscow, and a note on Lazio's website said he sustained a muscular injury in his right thigh. "He will be monitored in the next few days to determine when he can return," the note said. Immobile will miss Sunday's Serie A trip to Bologna, as well as Italy's Nations League double-header, with Sky Italia reporting that the injury will keep him out for seven to 10 days.



## 'We have to learn and the time is now'

REUTERS



Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Everton in the Premier League on Saturday after Andros Townsend's equaliser cancelled out Anthony Martial's opener for the home side.

It was another disappointing result for United, following their home defeat to Aston Villa last week, but continued the impressive start that Everton have made under Rafael Benitez.

Both teams are on 14 points, together with leaders Liverpool who face Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday.

Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes criticised the team's second half display and said the players needed to start learning the lessons from repeat errors.

United led 1-0 at the break thanks to an Anthony Martial strike set up by Fernandes, but they lost their way in the second half and had to share the points after Andros Townsend's equaliser.

"I thought we played really well first half, created a lot of chances. Second half we slow it down, once again we make that

mistake," the Portuguese midfielder told MUTV.

"We have to learn and the time is now. We cannot do it anymore. We did it so many times. We cannot slow it down when we are winning. We have to make it quicker, score another one or two and then after that you can slow it down a little and make them run more," he said.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer responded to the challenge of the quick turn-around from Wednesday's Champions League win over Villarreal by starting Cristiano Ronaldo, Paul Pogba and Jadon Sancho on the bench -- although all three were brought on in the second half but the switch did not have the desired effect of finishing the game off.

United have picked up just one point from their last two home games, with Saturday's draw following last week's loss to Aston Villa and 14 points leaves them in the leading pack, Fernandes was not happy with the return.

"It is not good enough, we should have more points, but this is what we have now. We have to look forward now to what we can do until the end of the season," he said.



## CLUB CUP HOCKEY Abahani, MSC in same group

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani and Mohammedan have been placed in the same group of the Club Cup Hockey tournament, which will get underway at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium on October 7.

The two traditional rivals have been pitted alongside Ajax SC and Police SC in Group A while Mariners Youngs Club, Sonali Bank SC, Azad SC and Bangladesh SC have been pitted in Group B.

The 10-day tournament will get underway through the match between Ajax SC and Mohammedan while Abahani will square off against Police SC in the second match of the day.

Defending champions Abahani will meet Mohammedan on October 9.

After the group phase, the top two teams will advance to the semifinals to be held on October 14 while the final of the tournament is slated for October 16 at the same venue.

The Club Cup will end a three-year hiatus for domestic hockey in the country. The eight teams playing in the Club Cup will be joined by four other teams for the Premier Division League, which is expected to begin on October 20.



Spinner Axar Patel celebrates one of his three wickets as Delhi Capitals bounced back after a blip in the last match to overcome struggling Mumbai Indians by four wickets and five balls to spare in the Indian Premier League match at Sharjah yesterday.

PHOTO: TWITTER

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# Careful what you click

Cops tell how 3 suspects made phishing links to blackmail over 200 social media users

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They have no degrees. Some of them have not even completed primary education. Yet, they learnt how to trick Facebook users into giving them their social media IDs and passwords.

Watching YouTube videos, they learnt to make "phishing links". They send the links to unsuspecting users making it appear as though it was sent by a friend.

The links usually look like invitations to contests and when one clicks on them, a pop-up appears asking the user to login again. The moment the user does that, their data has gone to the hackers.

The hackers, now in control of the users' social media account, blackmail them and extort money from them.

Cyber and Special Crime Division of police's Detective Branch (DB) has disclosed the technique following the arrest of three suspects from Shibchar, Madaripur on September 29.

The arrestees are Obaidur Rahman Nobel, 20, Shamim Sarder, 21, and Sajib Khalifa, 21.

Nobel is a seller of women's purse. He studied up to SSC. Shamim is an electrician and he has studied up to class-IV. Sajib is a tailor and he studied up to class-III, said police.

Over the last two years, the three managed to hack around 2,000 Facebook users, Junaed Alam Sharker, additional deputy commissioner of cyber and special crime division of DB, told The Daily Star.

The ADC said that after taking control of an account, the hackers go through messages and personal address book details. They exploit their victims using personal pictures or videos found in their accounts.

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Encroachers have filled up significant portions of the Gumti river to run their sand trade right next to Meghna-Gumti bridge in Daudkandi, Cumilla. Similarly aggressive encroachment has caused the death of several rivers in the country.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Covax provided shots to be given to 20pc people by Dec

Health minister claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under the Covax initiative, around 20 percent people of the country will be vaccinated by December this year, said Zahid Maleque, Health and Family Welfare Minister.

He also said that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has agreed to send Covid-19 jabs in phases for 40 percent of the country's population.

"We will get vaccines for 40 percent people of the country under the Covax facilities very soon... Alongside that, we'll continue purchasing vaccines from other sources."

Zahid made the comments following a meeting with the Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general (DG) of the World Health Organization (WHO) Geneva, Switzerland, on October 1.

In the meeting, Tedros has also assured Bangladesh of providing technical support for the manufacturing of Covid-19 vaccines, reads a press release.

"Besides, the WHO DG has assured us

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**ROAD TO FREEDOM**  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Election schedule declared

OCTOBER 3, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**ANOTHER DEFECTION TO BANGLADESH**  
The First Secretary of the Pakistani Embassy in Katmandu, Mustafizur Rahman, switched his allegiance to the Bangladesh Government on October 3. Mustafizur Rahman, a 29-year-old Bangalee, who was also head of the chancery, told a news conference at his residence that he had taken this "bold" decision after six months of "the worst mental agony in my life."

He said he had communicated his decision to the Nepalese Prime Minister, KN Bishit, from whom he sought permission to stay on in Nepal as the special envoy of the Bangladesh government till it was liberated, he had also sought the Nepalese government's protection for himself and his family-wife and two children- "from physical, mental or material harm" that may be caused by West Pakistanis living in Nepal.

**BY-ELECTIONS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED**  
The Pakistan Election Commission today declared polls schedule for by-elections for the 88 seats in the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan which had been rendered vacant on account of the disqualifications (including one death). The elections were scheduled to be held between December 18, 1971, and January 7, 1972.

**ON THE WAR FRONT**  
Since the beginning of October, raids and ambushes by Mukti Bahini increased in intensity, frequency and ferocity which made enemy forces more nervous.

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# Traffickers tricked them

Fears family of one of the 3 missing college girls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of one of the three college girls, who left their Pallabi homes with cash, gold jewelry, and other valuables on Thursday, fears that the girls have been tricked by human traffickers.

Police are yet to trace the three college students, all of them 12th graders and aged around 15.

The mother of one of the missing girls submitted a written complaint with Pallabi Police Station on Friday.

Shah Kamal, assistant commissioner of Pallabi zone, told The Daily Star that they could not trace the missing girls and did not know whether they were inside or outside the country.

"We are securitising their mobile phone call lists and trying to identify their possible connections and

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# Great-grandmother keeps Indian martial art alive



AFP, Kerala

Deftly parrying her son with a bamboo cane, Meenakshi Amma belies her 78 years with her prowess at kalari, thought to be India's oldest martial art.

The great-grandmother in Kerala, southern India, has been a driving force in the revival of kalaripayattu, as the ancient practice is also known, and in encouraging girls to take it up.

"I started kalari when I was seven years old. I am 78 now. I am still practising, learning and teaching," the matriarch of the Kadathanad Kalari Sangham school, founded by her late husband in

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# More Metro rail cars, locomotives arrive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Eight more cars and four engines of metro rail reached Mongla port around 11:00am yesterday.

Thai-flagged ship MV SPM Bangkok brought the train sets.

The ship is carrying 32 packages for the metro rail, including the train sets, said the ship's local agent Ancient Steamship Company Ltd's General Manager Ohiduzzaman

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## PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 3

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

# FIRE ON FARMERS 4 held over Thursday's incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Police yesterday arrested four men for their alleged involvement in injuring seven farmers with gunshots at Tulatoli village in Satkania upazila of Chattogram on Thursday.

The arrestees got engaged in an altercation with the farmers over putting dredging materials on agricultural land by the Sangu. The attackers were a Water Development Board (WDB) contractor's men, said complainants.

Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Satkania Police Station, said they arrested the accused during raids in different areas of the upazila yesterday.

The arrestees would be produced before a district court, he added.

Earlier on Friday, a victim named Abdul Malek filed a case against 15 named people, including Ruhullah Chowdhury, brother-in-law of Chattogram-15 (Satkania)

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Hundreds of imported cars remain exposed to the elements sometimes for months on end at the Chattogram Port. While there are some sheds to keep vehicles, but those are almost always beyond capacity. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

# COVID HOSPITALISATIONS Merck's pill cuts it by half

AFP, Washington

US pharmaceutical company Merck said it will seek authorization of its oral drug molnupiravir for Covid-19 after a trial showed that the drug can reduce hospitalization by 50 percent.

A simple pill to treat the coronavirus has been sought since the start of the pandemic and Friday's announcement was hailed as a major step towards that goal.

Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, told reporters: "The data are impressive," and he highlighted that the trial results showed there were no deaths among patients who received the drug compared to eight deaths in the placebo group.

The US has procured 1.7 million courses of molnupiravir should it be greenlighted, with the option to buy more, and global health agency Unitaid said it was working with a partnership called ACT-Accelerator to secure supply for low- and middle-income countries.

Until now, Covid therapeutics such as monoclonal antibodies and Gilead's remdesivir have been administered intravenously.

"It's very exciting to have more options that are easy to deploy," Natalie Dean, a biostatistician at Emory University who specializes in infectious diseases, told AFP.

"You can have something that's similarly effective, but if one is much easier to use, that's going to have a bigger population-level impact."

But experts also stressed that if approved the drug is not a miracle cure and should complement highly effective vaccines, rather than replace them.

In a late stage clinical trial, Merck and its partner Ridgeback Therapeutics evaluated data from around 770

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