



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## DIESEL PRICE HIKE FALLOUT IN NORTH Farmers stare at huge losses

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The new diesel price is driving up crop production cost by at least 30 percent in Rajshahi region and the farmers are fearing huge losses.

They said harvesting of Aman, now ongoing, and winter vegetables and Boro production would be affected as the farmers mostly depend on diesel-run machines to cultivate, irrigate, and harvest.

To explain the blow they have been dealt, they said if a farmer, for instance, used to spend Tk 100 for an hour of irrigation, he or she would now need to spend Tk 130. If they had spent Tk 300 for cultivating, now they would have to spend Tk 450. If they had spent Tk 150 to transport produce of one bigha of land, now they would need to spend Tk 200, said farmers.

It does not end there.

The farmers used to pay paddy threshers with 10kg of paddy for every bigha's harvest they processed. Now the threshers are asking for 20kg.

They said that the additional burden of production cost would make them poorer.

"I'm afraid I will not be able to meet the production cost of boro this year. I will try another crop next season."

ABDUL JALIL  
A FARMER OF SINGRA UPAZILA, NATORE



### FARMERS' DEEPENING PLIGHT

Irrigation cost rose from Tk 100 to Tk 130 (per hour), fuel cost for tilling land from Tk 300 to Tk 450, transportation cost from Tk 150 to Tk 200 per bigha.

Farmers in Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore and Rajshahi districts depend mostly on groundwater for irrigation. About 48% of the region's 6,91,437 hectares of irrigated land relies on diesel-run pumps.



There are 305 combined harvesters, 181 reapers, 27 planters, 42,771 power tillers, 1,541 tractors, and 33,518 thresher machines in the region. All are run on diesel.

Power tiller owners and transport service providers in Rajshahi region have already started charging higher.



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## Dhaka, Paris strike deal on defence cooperation



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and France have signed a letter of intent on defence cooperation, while also sharing the common vision for a free, open, peaceful, secure and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the two countries agreed to further develop the defence and security component of their partnership based on the needs expressed and each party's ability to respond to them using different methods, including through capacity building and potential technology transfer.

A statement issued by the office of French President Emmanuel Macron early yesterday said, "To that end, both countries agreed to strengthen dialogue and continue their cooperation, particularly in the area of training, which was launched during this visit."

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said, "Yes, we signed it [letter of intent]. It relates to training and technology transfer."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Paris on Tuesday after joining the COP26 in Glasgow. She was accorded a warm reception at Elysee Palace on the first day of her five-day visit.

The Presidential Guard gave the prime minister a salute on her arrival at the Presidential Palace. Hasina and Macron had a luncheon meeting, followed by a tête-à-tête.

Later, Hasina had a bilateral meeting with French Prime Minister Jean Castex at his official residence the Matignon.

In March last year, Florence Parly, the French armed force minister, during a meeting with PM Hasina in Dhaka had proposed to sell Rafales manufactured by Dassault Aviation.

Asked about the letter of intent (LoI) on defence cooperation, former election commissioner and security analyst Brig Gen (Retd) Dr M Shakhawat Hussain said signing the LoI does not mean that Bangladesh will buy the defence equipment.

French defence equipment, especially the Rafale, is very

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### CPD ON FUEL PRICE HIKE

## 'It's not a politically enlightened decision'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There was a lack of political foresight behind the government move to hike the prices of diesel and kerosene that has set off a domino effect on the economy, said the Centre for Policy Dialogue yesterday.

"This is neither logical from the economic point of view nor is it in line with government policy. We are saving money from one place but its impact will be everywhere," said Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the CPD, at a media briefing styled "Fuel price hike: how necessary was it?" yesterday.

With the view to arresting the losses of the state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) from the surging global energy prices, the government last week decided to hike the prices of diesel and kerosene by 23 percent, the biggest jump in a decade.

The move prompted the mass transport operators to call in a strike on

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## Now jet fuel price hiked

Finance minister says fuel price rise 'logical'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air travellers will have to pay more as Padma Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, has increased the jet fuel prices for the 11th time in the last 13 months.

Jet fuel now costs Tk 77 per litre, meaning the government agency has hiked the price by 67 percent since October last year, according to airline officials.

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## Leaks earned them Tk 60 crore

Syndicate which sold question papers of 4 recruitment tests comprised of bankers, staffer of a private univ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The question paper of Saturday's recruitment test for hiring 1,511 cash officers in five state-owned banks was leaked from Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), which was tasked with preparing the questions.

An ICT technician of the private university leaked the paper and handed it to a syndicate, which later sold it to thousands of jobseekers.

Ahead of the test, the syndicate members also set up 11 temporary booths at different places of Dhaka. At the booths, their "clients" were given the questions and they memorised the answers there.

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New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell upper cuts one during his side's semifinal fixture of the T20 World Cup against England at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The opener hit an unbeaten 72 off 47 deliveries as the Kiwis beat England by five wickets.

PHOTO: AFP

## Mitchell powers Kiwis into final

AFP, Dubai

Opener Daryl Mitchell smashed an unbeaten 72 to lead New Zealand into their first ever Twenty20 World Cup final with a thrilling five-wicket victory over England on Wednesday.

Chasing 166 for victory, New Zealand were in trouble at 13-2 and 107-4 when Jimmy Neesham turned the semi-final on its head with an 11-ball 27 to help achieve the target with one over to spare in Abu Dhabi.

With 20 needed off the final 12 balls, Mitchell smashed Chris Woakes for two sixes and a four before his 47-ball blitz triggered wild celebrations in the New Zealand dug out.

New Zealand will face either Australia or Pakistan in Sunday's final.

They suffered early blows after Woakes struck on the third ball to send Martin Guptill trudging back to the pavilion for four.

The fast bowler then got skipper Kane

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## UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2021

SECOND PHASE  
835 UPs go to polls today

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Elections to 835 union parishads of the lowest tier of local governments will take place today, amid fears of violence.

This will be the second phase of the staggered UP polls.

The numbers of violent clashes across the country, which left at least 18 killed and several hundred injured, during the election campaign of today's election have already made people wary.

Six people were killed during the first phase of the UP polls in June and September.

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## BNP sees gain from boycott

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP believes it has gained a lot by not taking part in the ongoing UP polls. It says the incompetence of the Election Commission has been further exposed, its activists have been spared being accused in false cases, and the ruling party's grassroots have weakened because of bitter infighting.

The opposition party has boycotted the ongoing union parishad elections but many of its leaders are contesting the polls as independents.

Top BNP leaders said it has been proved again that "this Election Commission and government cannot hold a free and fair election."

"The biggest thing proved is that there is no existence of the Election Commission. People have been deprived of their right to cast votes. The total electoral system has been destroyed and the government did it intentionally," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star.

After boycotting the 2014 parliamentary polls, the party contested the last general election and continued taking part in elections to local government bodies with its electoral symbol "sheaf of paddy".

After holding a standing committee meeting in February this year, the BNP announced that it decided not to contest the UP elections.

Party leaders said they contested local government elections thinking

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## Only Tk 50 shy of life?

Parents allege hospital staffer led their son to death for not getting a 'good tip'

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital authorities yesterday formed a four-member committee to investigate the death of a boy allegedly due to removal of his oxygen mask by a hospital employee for not getting a "satisfactory tip".

The victim, Bikash Chandra Biswas, 17, was the son of Bishu Chandra Biswas of Putimari village in Gaibandha's Saghata.

The hospital authorities said Asadul Islam Mir Dholu, 40, is not their permanent staffer. He was working as a cleaner at the hospital's corona unit on daily wages.

Victim's uncle Sachin Chandra Biswas told The Daily Star that Bikash, alongside studying, used to work part-time at a metal workshop at Kachua Bazar to support his family.

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Season-i2

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**

**235**  
New cases in 24hrs

**15,71,669**  
Total cases

**27,906**  
Deaths

**15,35,661**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**5,083,684**  
Deaths

**251,764,622**  
Total cases

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**5,083,684**  
Deaths

**251,764,622**  
Total cases

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

## UP POLLS IN RAOZAN All candidates in 14 unions to win uncontested

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The union parishad (UP) polls in Chattogram's Raozan upazila is going to create a history in the electoral culture of the country as all the chairmen and members of 14 unions are going to be elected uncontested.

Only the ruling Awami League-nominated candidates have submitted their nominations for the chairman posts, 126 general posts for members, and 42 seats reserved for women in member posts.

The last date for submitting nomination was November 2 while the date for verifying nomination papers was November 4.

The last date of withdrawal of candidacy is today for the polls scheduled to be held on November 28.

If no candidate withdraws candidacy, all the candidates would be declared elected uncontested on November 12, said Arun Uday Tripura, returning officer and Raozan Upazila Elections Office.

BNP leaders and locals alleged that many wanted to be candidates but could not due to fear of tyranny by the ruling party men.

"It is the local lawmaker who selects the candidates for chairmen and members in UPs, mayor and councilors in municipality and chairman and vice chairmen in upazila parishad polls for the last five years," a BNP leader said, seeking anonymity.

"No other candidate can submit nomination papers here. If anyone tries to do so, he or she has to come under

tyranny by the ruling party men," the BNP leader added.

BNP sources said Abu Jafar Chowdhury, former president of BNP Raozan municipality unit, got party nomination to vie for mayoral post in this year's municipal polls, adding, although he bought nomination paper, he could not submit it.

Contacted, Jafar denied making any comment on this issue.

Shahadat Hossain, president of BNP Chattogram city unit, said, "Raozan is a locality where one person and his party have suppressed all other democratic forces to turn the area into a hub of autocratic rule."

"No one can even submit nomination paper for polls without getting approval of that person."

Akter Kabir Chowdhury, president of Sushashoner Jonyo Nagorik's (SUJAN) Chattogram district unit, said "It's alarming for our democracy and electoral system."

Despite knowing everything, the state or the election commission has not taken any step, he added.

"The EC should take step to cancel the polls in Raozan UPs weighing the situation," he further said.

Contacted, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, lawmaker from Chattogram-6 constituency, denied all the allegations raised against him.

"I don't have any interest in UP polls. Our local leaders are working for the party nominated candidates."

Asked, he further said, "If none comes to vie in polls, what can we do?"

## Farmers stare

FROM PAGE 1

Prof Saidur Rahman of Bangladesh Agricultural University told The Daily Star, "Farmers will suffer losses if they don't get fair prices. Their woes will compound if the price falls due to good harvest."

He said farmers are the unsung heroes. They kept on feeding the nation during the pandemic. "But their protection needs have been ignored," he said, adding that the government should immediately take steps to protect the farmers.

Farmers in the region of Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore and Rajshahi depend largely on groundwater for irrigation most of the year.

According to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), 48.50 percent of the region's 6,91,437 hectares of land, which need irrigation, rely on diesel-run pumps.

The department says that there are around 5,464 low-lift pumps, 72,696 shallow tube-wells, and 471 semi deep tube-wells in the region.

The use of combined harvesters and other machines have increased in the region over the years. There are 305 combined harvesters, 181 reapers, 27 planters, 42,771 power tillers, 1,541 tractors, and 33,518 threshers in the region that also run on diesel.

In Golai village of Rajshahi's Godagari upazila, this correspondent met reputed farmer Boltu Sarder on Monday. He was stacking his aman paddy on a tractor trailer he owns.

"I'm yet to feel the pinch of the diesel price hike as I have stock. But transport service providers have increased fares by Tk 200 for moving paddy of every bigha of land," said Sarder.

He said he was already paying extra for threshing and winnowing.

"I used to pay them 10 kilogram of paddy for threshing paddy of one bigha of land. Now they are demanding 20 kilogram."

"In crop production, the rise of diesel price has a chain reaction. To be honest, if I sit and think about the expenditure, I start to think of changing my profession," he said.

Abdul Momin, another farmer of the same village, said, "Power tiller owners used to charge Tk 300 for

tilling every bigha of land once. Now they are charging Tk 450."

He said winter crops, including wheat, lentil, chickpea, and mustard, need tilling of land twice while paddy needs three times.

Abdul Hamid, a farmer from Bohora village in Tanore upazila, said he used hopper machines for winnowing paddy. Like the threshers, he said, hopper machine owners were asking for 20kg of paddy instead of 10kg for winnowing paddy of every bigha of land.

Majed Ali, a farmer of Godari's Jopgur village, said he would cultivate mustard, wheat, and lentil after harvesting Aman and before starting the production of Boro.

"But the pump owners have already increased irrigation cost by Tk 30 for every hour of irrigation," said Ali.

For preparing the land for Boro, he said, he would have to spend Tk 1,350 on power tiller for every bigha of land. The cost used to be Tk 900.

Abdul Jalil, a farmer of Chalan Beel area in Natore's Singra upazila, said, "With a good harvest being a possibility, I'm now in a dilemma over whether to go for Boro production this year."

Jalil fears fertilizer prices would go up as the price of diesel has a cascading effect.

"I'm scared of not being able to meet the production cost of Boro this year. I will try another crop."

He said he used to grow Boro on 80 bighas and needed to use at least 60 litres of diesel per bigha.

Nirmal Kumar Das of Mohor village in Tanore provides irrigation, power tiller, tractor, and threshing services to farmers.

"I have to raise the prices of every service as I'm buying diesel at a higher rate. I can't survive otherwise," he said.

Although diesel price is now about Tk 80 per litre, Nirmal buys diesel for Tk 85 a litre from local vendors in the remote Barind village under Talanda union. He has to transport the diesel to the pump at the fields, Das said.

Contacted, Sirajul Islam, additional director of the DAE Rajshahi region, said they were monitoring the reactions in the field.

The government raised diesel price by Tk 15 on November 4.

## Mitchell powers

FROM PAGE 1

Williamson's prized scalp for five after the batsman attempted a scoop shot to be caught at fine-leg.

Mitchell and Devon Conway put on 82 runs for the third wicket but Liam Livingstone struck with his leg spin to have Conway stumped for 46.

New man Neesham took the bowling head on as he smashed Chris Jordan for two sixes - one of them nearly caught at the boundary by Bairstow but his knee touched the rope - and a four to get 23 runs from the over.

He finally fell to Adil Rashid's googly with Eoin Morgan holding on to a catch at extra cover.

Earlier Moeen Ali smashed an unbeaten 51 to steer England to 166-4 after being invited to bat as Kiwi skipper Williamson won an all-important toss.

England lost their openers including Jos Buttler for 29, lbw off Ish Sodhi.

But Moeen hit back with his 37-ball knock and put on a key partnership of 63 with Dawid Malan, who hit 41, for

the third wicket.

Pace bowlers Tim Southee and Trent Boult kept a tight leash in the first three overs before Buttler smashed two successive boundaries.

In-form Buttler tried to rebuild but an attempt to reverse sweep leg-spinner Sodhi got him trapped lbw for 29 off 24 deliveries.

The opener, who moved past Pakistan's Babar Azam as the leading batsman in the tournament with 269 runs, reviewed the call but replays suggested the ball would have hit his off stump.

The left-handed Malan, who was dropped on 10 by wicketkeeper Conway off Neesham, hit the first six of the innings off Southee in the 16th over but departed next ball caught behind.

But Moeen launched an attack as he hit Sodhi for a six and then smashed Milne for two hits over the fence.

Livingstone hit 17 off 10 balls before departing and Moeen completed his first fifty of the tournament with a boundary off Neesham.



The father of 17-year-old Bikash Chandra Biswas wailing in front of Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital as his son died due to removal of oxygen mask allegedly by a hospital staffer for not getting "satisfactory tip". The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Only Tk 50 shy of life?

FROM PAGE 1

Bikash, a class-VIII student, was injured critically after a motorcycle rear-ended his bicycle when he was returning home from his workshop on Tuesday evening.

He was first taken to Saghata Upazila Health Complex and then moved to the Bogura SZMCH. Doctors there gave him oxygen support and referred him to the surgery ward.

Dholu, who was taking Bikash to the surgery ward on a stretcher from the emergency unit, demanded Tk 200 from his father for this work, said Sachin.

Bikash's father Bishu, a blacksmith in Putimari village, said, "I had only Tk 150 in my pocket. I gave that as his tip. But Dholu refused to take it and demanded Tk 200. Later, a man who was with Dholu took the money and put it in Dholu's pocket and tried to convince him."

"But Dholu became angry and removed the oxygen mask from

my son's mouth, saying that this oxygen cylinder was taken from the emergency unit. You should manage oxygen from somewhere else."

"Within a few minutes, my son started having breathing problems and became silent. Later, doctors declared him dead," the father added.

A four-member body has been formed to probe the incident, said Abdul Wadud, deputy director of the hospital, adding that the committee has been asked to submit its report within next five working days.

"Dholu is not a regular employee ... in our investigation, we'll find out how he gets access to the emergency room."

Quoting the victim's family, Shamim Hossain, sub-inspector of the medical outpost, who visited the spot immediately, told this correspondent that after the incident, other attendants caught Dholu and handed him over to on-duty Ansar

men at the hospital, but "they helped him flee the spot".

Contacted, Selim Reza, officer-in-charge of Bogura Sadar Police Station, said, "After the incident, our officers visited the spot and found the allegation against the hospital staffer was true."

Asked about the legal action, Deputy Director Wadud said they would take legal actions against those involved in the incident. They already filed a written complaint with police in this regard.

However, OC Selim said no such complaint was lodged while taking to this newspaper around 6:00pm yesterday.

Abdul Kader, platoon commander of Ansar at the hospital, refuted the allegation of helping Dholu flee the spot. They rather saved him from the people's wrath. "Later, he managed to flee the hospital, dodging the eyes of Ansar men."

## 'It's not a politically enlightened decision'

FROM PAGE 1

Friday, causing great suffering to the common people and bringing the conveyance of goods to a standstill.

Three days later, to appease the operators the government hiked the bus fare by as much as 28 percent and launch fares by up to 43 percent.

"How come a state that is so powerful in all aspects increase the price this way just because of a two-day strike? The price was increased unreasonably because of pressure from one group -- it is not a politically enlightened decision," Rahman said.

In both cases where the government had the power to administer, the decision of the government went against the consumers.

"This is not a morally acceptable decision," Rahman said.

The think-tank purported that the government had an option to not raise the fuel prices.

If the global oil price continues to escalate, the government would need Tk 20 crore per day and Tk 7,200 crore a year to offset the maximum amount of loss, said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the CPD.

According to the CPD's calculations, the government will generate additional revenue of Tk 7,838 crore from the BPC in the form of import duty and value-added tax.

The government could have temporarily withdrawn the import

duty and VAT to adjust the losses, according to Moazzem.

"The decision to raise the fuel prices is not a politically timely one and the government should back down from this decision. There was an opportunity for the government to subsidise it and offset the rise in world oil prices," he said.

If the decision was made with consultation with all the stakeholders and through a public hearing by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) as per the law, the opinion of the consumers would have been reflected, the CPD said.

The BERC is a platform for the government to hear out the people's problems.

"These decisions should be taken through a dialogue, not by bypassing the BERC and disabling it is not a solution," Moazzem said.

What transpired was the BPC, which had logged in profits of Tk 43,136 crore between fiscals 2014-15 and 2020-21, wrote to the energy ministry seeking an increase in the prices and it was done, Rahman said.

Because of the state of recovery of the economy from the fallout of the global coronavirus pandemic, the stability of fuel price is critically important given the 'strategic' nature of the commodity, the think-tank said.

The hike will have both immediate and medium-term impacts on various sectors of the economy and derail the

economic recovery.

The fuel price hike implies that there will be an increase in the transportation cost, agricultural cost and electricity cost. Thus, all production costs will increase leading to a spiralling of the cost of living.

For instance, the transport sector is passing on the burden of the hike to the consumers.

"The consumers have no one to pass on their burden," Rahman said.

Besides, the price hike of diesel and kerosene came at a time when the daily necessities are becoming dearer.

The prices of several commodities shot up in November from a year earlier, shows data from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Subsequently, the think-tank called for reinstating the earlier prices of diesel and kerosene immediately.

The government does not lower the fuel prices when there is a fall in prices in the global market, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the CPD.

In April last year, fuel prices hit a trough of \$23.3 per barrel following the coronavirus outbreak.

"But the fuel prices were not adjusted in the domestic market that time following the international rate. Yet, the moment it went up globally, so did the prices here."

There should be a price-setting mechanism instead of the existing arbitrary practice, she said.

## Dhaka, Paris strike deal

FROM PAGE 1

expensive, but Bangladesh can surely buy it if it has the capability and the need for it, he said.

"India is buying Rafale, but Bangladesh does not have open frontiers like that of India."

The Lol with France was signed less than a week after Bangladesh agreed in principle to buy five naval ships from the UK.

"Taking note of the French and European strategies concerning the Indo-Pacific, both parties agreed to work towards promoting regional peace and stability and to explore further opportunities for cooperation in maritime security and blue economy," the Lol said.

Highlighting their commitment to fully observing the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes, refraining from any threat or use of force, the two countries stated the importance of maintaining security and freedom of navigation and overflight in all seas and oceans.

The development came at a time when the Indo-Pacific region is drawing more global attention.

The US has formulated an "Indo-Pacific Strategy" for an open and rules-based region. On September 15, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced a

security pact called AUKUS for the region that experts say is aimed at countering China.

Bangladesh, however, maintains that it is with any initiative for socio-economic development in the region, but not for defence.

France and Bangladesh also underscored the need to ensure funding for the UN's Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya refugees and enable their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return to Myanmar as soon as possible.

Dhaka and Paris also signed Credit Facility Agreements on strengthening healthcare systems and on a water treatment plant.

Both the countries committed to strengthen connectivity in South Asia in order to facilitate exchanges between Europe and Asia.

They reaffirmed that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is one of the most serious threats to global peace and security and that all terrorist acts are criminal and unjustifiable.

"Both countries, therefore, jointly expressed their support for counter-terrorism efforts and agreed to enhance their cooperation, including under the aegis of the United Nations."

France complimented Bangladesh on being recommended by the UN to

graduate from the LDC in 2026.

Acknowledging Bangladesh's submission of the National Plan of Action on the Labour Sector to the European Union, France stressed the need for its comprehensive implementation and encouraged Bangladesh to pursue its export led growth and economic diversification.

The high-level discussions also covered upgrading of bilateral relations, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which both countries will celebrate next year and major international and regional issues.

Both sides recalled the historic leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and Bangladesh acknowledged the valuable support of the government and people of the Republic of France during the 1971 Liberation War.

They expressed their wish to strengthen cooperation in order to improve the global governance mechanism and stimulate sustainable economic recovery and growth from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Education Minister Dipu Moni, PM's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikau, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Bangladesh Ambassador Khandaker Mohammad Talha accompanied the prime minister.

## 21 survive Turkey building collapse with no deaths

AFP, Istanbul

Twenty-one people survived being buried under heavy debris when a two-storey building collapsed in eastern Turkey, the government said, with no fatalities reported as search operations ended early yesterday.

The incident occurred Tuesday afternoon on a busy street in the city of Malatya, as residents filled shops on their way home from work.

"Search and rescue operations in the collapsed Malatya building have come to an end. Thank God there are no victims," Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu tweeted early yesterday.

Earlier, interior ministry spokesman Ismail Catakli said rescue workers had pulled 13 people from the rubble, while eight others managed to escape on their own.

Five of those rescued were still hospitalised, but their injuries were not life-threatening, regional governor Aydin Barus said.

## Leaks earned

FROM PAGE 1

The members also distributed images of the question paper among jobseekers through online messaging app -- WhatsApp.

Detectives claimed to have gleaned the information from five people, including the technician and three officials of the state-owned banks, arrested over the scam at different places of the city in the last couple of days.

"We have evidence that the question paper was leaked. Eighty-five out of the 100 questions were found to be identical with the leaked ones," AKM Hafiz Akhtar, additional commissioner (detectives) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday.

Hafiz claimed that the same syndicate leaked question papers of at least three other recruitment tests and has amassed more than Tk 60 crore from several thousand jobseekers.

At least two lakh jobseekers took the recruitment test on Saturday from 3:00pm. The one-hour exam was supervised by Bangladesh Bank's Bankers' Selection Committee.

The DB official said the syndicate was supposed to get Tk 7-15 lakh from each jobseeker. It took 20 percent of the money before the MCQ test. It was supposed to take 20 percent before the written test and the rest after the job is secured.

The DB has got a list of around 200 jobseekers who bought the question paper. It, however, believes the total number of such frauds would be more than 2,000, he said.

The arrestees are: Muktaruzzaman Royel, 26, the ICT technician of the university; three bankers -- Jane Alam Milton, 34, senior officer at Rupali Bank in Savar, Shamsul Haque Shyamol, 34, officer at Janata Bank in Gulshan, and Mostafizur Rahman Milton, 38, senior officer at Pubali Bank in Chawk Bazar; and Raisul Islam Swapan, 36, who got the syndicate clients.

A case was filed with Badda Police Station under the Digital Security Act and the Public Examinations Act against 28 people over the scam.

Police were trying to arrest all the accused.

The DB said they got a tip-off a day before the exam and conducted an undercover operation on the test day. A DB official impersonating as a jobseeker contacted Swapan and paid him in advance for the question paper. Later, Swapan took the officer to a booth in Badda, where the accused was caught red-handed along with the questions, Hafiz said.

A DB team waited till the exam ended at 4:00pm and found that the questions had in fact been leaked.

The DB said Muktaruzzaman, one of the kingpins of the racket, leaked the questions taking help from one of his colleagues. He then handed the question paper to Milton who gave it to Shyamol. Shyamol distributed copies of the paper to different booths. The DB also recovered WhatsApp chat history and screen grabs proving that money exchanged hands between the criminals and jobseekers. "We are considering them as important evidence in the case," said a DB official.

At the briefing, DB Joint Commissioner Harun-or-Rashid said AUST could not avoid its responsibility for the question paper leak.

AUST Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Fazli Ilahi said they suspended three of their staffers, including Muktaruzzaman, over the matter. "They were not part of any examination committee. We will launch an investigation into the incident," he said, adding that they would cooperate with police.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bank yesterday sought explanation from the private university in connection with the incident.

Md Serajul Islam, spokesperson for the central bank, said the BB sent a letter to AUST and asked it to reply within November 14.

The central bank will take the next step based on the reply, he added.



Although Tuesday's accident at Azimpur -- which killed schoolboy Zihad Hossain after a wall collapsed on him -- captured the public's attention, this has been a long-standing problem all across the city. For example, right beside Azimpur at Palashi Residential Area, there are similar tilted walls, which might collapse anytime and spell disaster for unsuspecting pedestrians. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## No more seating service buses

Transport owners to implement decision from Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than four and a half years after a failed attempt to stop operation of "seating service" buses in Dhaka city, bus owners have decided to give a crack at it again.

Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association yesterday said it would get rid of the seating and gate-locking service within the next three days, in a bid to stop overcharging passengers.

Seating service buses do not take standing passengers. After all the seats are occupied, helpers lock the gate. Such buses also take higher fares from commuters.

"We are receiving some allegations over seating and gate-locking service... So, bus owners must remove notices of such services plastered on the vehicles in the next three days," said Khandaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of the association.

"The [service] is not legal... If anyone operates buses like this after the deadline, we will ask BRTA [Bangladesh Road Transport Authority] to dump the buses through executive magistrates," he said.

Enayet also said they would put



stickers on buses in the next three days to differentiate between CNG and diesel-run buses. CNG-buses are not supposed to charge according to the new rate.

The association will form 11 vigilance teams, which will work with mobile courts of BRTA and Dhaka Metropolitan Police from today, so

that no bus operator can overcharge passengers.

Enayet was speaking at a press conference organised by his association and Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, amid major allegations of bus operators overcharging in Dhaka and Chattogram.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Train fare to remain same, for now

Says railways minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh Railway (BR) will incur more losses due to the fuel price hike, its authorities will not increase railway fare for now, considering public opinion.

"We are not considering to raise train fare for now," Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, authorities have asked BR to assess the impact of the fuel price hike on railway operations, Sujon said.

On November 3, the government hiked diesel and kerosene prices by 23 percent, or by Tk 15 per litre, to cut losses

The matter is not that the railway was making profits anyway, and the rise of fuel prices will force it to incur losses. We, however, have asked [authorities concerned] to assess how much more losses we will have to incur due to the hike.

**NURUL ISLAM SUJON**  
Railways Minister

of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, following the global rise of fuel prices.

After the strike of transport associations centring the hike, the government on Sunday raised bus and launch fares by up to 28 and 43 percent, respectively.

BR sources said trains are facing a huge pressure of passengers, after the hike of bus fare, which is likely to increase in the coming days, creating trouble for the railway.

Trains are run by diesel-run locomotives, so the operation cost of BR will increase further, which will ultimately increase

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Tk 945cr project to save 4 canals awaits approval: Taposh

BSS, Dhaka

A Tk 945-crore project taken by Dhaka South City Corporation to re-excavate and protect four major canals and its seven branches from encroachment awaits government approval, said DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday.

"We have taken the project to re-excavate, preserve and protect Shyampur, Jirani, Manda and Kalunagar canals and its seven branches," said the mayor during an interview with the news agency at his Nagar Bhaban office in Dhaka.

A proposal titled "Canal Restoration, Renovation and Aesthetic Environment Creation Project" is now awaiting approval of the planning commission, he said.

Taposh said necessary measures will be taken to keep the water-flow normal in the canals and its branches round the year.

The canals will be given a facelift, after necessary infrastructure including parks and roads are built, keeping the natural beauty and environment in mind, he added.

The mayor further said DSCC will continue mobile

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## How to select an election commissioner

Shujan places draft of proposed law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) yesterday placed the final draft of the proposed law on "Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner's Appointment Act 2021."

The civil society platform said they will hand over the draft to Law Minister Anisul Haq soon, in a bid to help the government enact the much awaited law.

Shujan placed the draft of the law through a webinar.

According to the draft, selected citizens of Bangladesh -- with a minimum age of 45 years, knowledge of law with proven administrative skills, honesty and supposed impartiality, holding a minimum bachelor degree from a recognised university, and at least 20 years working experience in any

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

### DRAFT AT A GLANCE

- Any citizens (min age 45) with certain qualifications will be eligible to be EC
- Search committee to consist of 7 members, with at least one woman
- Preliminary list to have min 15, max 20 persons, including at least 5 women
- President will make final appointment

The last two ECs utterly failed to perform their functions properly. The government is tricking people when it comes to forming a search committee to appoint CEC and ECs.

JURIST SHAHDEEN MALIK

## Dengue cases cross 25,000 mark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of dengue patients this year has crossed the 25,000 mark yesterday.

Meanwhile, at least 163 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday of whom 32 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 1,410 were diagnosed during the running month out of a total 25,065 infected. Of the total infected, 3734 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 5,458 were diagnosed in October, 7,841 in September, 7,698

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



With winter rolling out, traders of all scales have started to bring out their stock of blankets. At this wholesale market at Fulbaria, near the capital's Gulistan area, blankets of all shapes and sizes are sold to retailers, at all price levels -- from Tk 300 all the way up to Tk 10,000. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Control prices, BNP urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP standing committee has demanded that the government lower prices of diesel, kerosene and LPG, considering public sufferings.

At a virtual meeting on Monday night, the BNP policymaking body also urged the government to take prompt, effective steps to lower prices of daily essentials, including rice, pulses, edible oil and salt.

The meeting discussed the overall impact of the fuel price hike on citizens' lives and the economy, said a press release signed by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Democracy yet to get institutional shape

Says Obaidul Quader marking Noor Hossain Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said democracy is yet to get an institutional shape in Bangladesh.

"Our democracy was unshackled on this day (November 10, 1987), but democracy is yet to get an institutional shape to this day," he said.

"The sacrifice of Noor Hossain is a glorious milestone in our history. Our long-cherished democracy was set free in exchange of his blood, along with the tough movement waged under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina," he said.

The road transport and bridges minister came up with the remark while talking to reporters after paying homage at Shaheed Noor Hossain Square in the capital yesterday morning, on the occasion of Noor Hossain Day.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, a young pro-democracy activist, was killed in police fire near Zero Point in the city while participating in a pro-democracy procession to oust the autocratic regime of HM Ershad.

His death strengthened the movement and expedited

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Five die as truck, auto-rickshaw collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Five people died and two others sustained injuries in a collision between a truck and an auto-rickshaw on Trishal-Balipara road in Mymensingh yesterday morning.

The deceased are Abdus Sattar (40), CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, and four passengers -- Md Kalimuddin, (85), Mina Akter (45), Salam Nabi (35), and Sohrab Uddin (50), hailing from different villages of Trishal upazila.

Quoting witnesses and locals, Trishal Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Mainuddin said the accident took place in

Rampur area around 9am.

Abdus Sattar and Kalimuddin died on the spot and five others sustained injuries, the OC said.

On information, police and fire service personnel rushed to the spot, rescued the injured, including nine-year-old Rony Mia, and took them to Trishal Upazila Health Complex, the police official said.

Later, they were transferred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where Mina, Nabi and Sohrab died, he added.

Their bodies were handed over to their family members, said the OC, adding that police seized the truck but the driver managed to flee.



The mangled auto-rickshaw after the collision on Trishal-Balipara road in Mymensingh.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Shipbreaking yard owners on 'indefinite strike'

VAT commissionerate conducts drive at Sitakunda over tax evasion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Shipbreaking yard owners enforced an indefinite strike yesterday morning after Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate in a drive seized documents from at least four yards in Sitakunda of Chattogram on charge of evading VAT.

The papers of Vatiari Steel Shipbreaking Yard, Premier Trade Corporation, Mahinur Shipbreaking Yard and SN Corporation were seized during the drive between Tuesday afternoon and 8:30pm.

"All of our associations pay VAT. No question of VAT evasion was raised before. On Tuesday, our papers were seized for the first time. Protesting it, we have suspended all operations in Sitakunda shipbreaking yards," Nazmul Islam, assistant secretary of Bangladesh Ship Breakers and Recyclers Association (BSBRA), told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Customs, Excise and VAT Commissioner of Chattogram Akbar Hossain said, "Sometimes, we seize documents for conducting organisational audit if we receive any VAT evasion complaint. It's part of our regular job. The papers have been seized following law."

"We didn't create any obstacle in operations. We have started investigation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

অব্যাহত উন্নয়নের ধারাবাহিকতায় জয়পুরহাট ও দিনাজপুরের বীরগঞ্জ এক্সপোর্ট ইমপোর্ট ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর

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## 'Buriganga River Fair' on Nov 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To raise awareness over pollution at the river, the "Buriganga River Fair" will be hosted on November 27 at the Basila Government Primary School field.

The fair will be jointly organised by Waterkeepers Bangladesh Consortium and Buriganga River Morcha, speakers announced at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity's Sagar-Runi Auditorium yesterday.

Waterkeepers Bangladesh coordinator Sharif Jamil said the day-long fair will host discussions, cultural performances, a debate competition, boat race, and more.

DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam will serve as the chief guest, while Bela chief executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan will deliver special speech at the session moderated by eminent activist Sultana Kamal.



**TREASURE FROM THE TRENCHES...** A crowd gathers around an electronic device shop set up on the footpath and surrounding empty spaces near Janata Tower at the capital's Karwan Bazar. The sellers collect second-hand mobile phones, chargers and a range of other electronic devices from scrap shops all over the city. These are then sold to their customers, most of whom live on limited incomes and are elated to shop at a bargain. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Democracy

FROM PAGE 3

the fall of the autocratic ruler and restore democracy in the country. Different political and socio-cultural organisations paid tributes to Noor Hossain by placing wreaths at the Noor Hossain Square and recalled his contributions towards the restoration of democracy in the country.

## Tk 945cr project to save 4 canals

FROM PAGE 3

courts all over the year to evict illegal occupiers.

After 34 years, DSCC took charge of the canals, box-culverts and drains from Wasa on December 31 last year, according to Taposh.

DSCC started drives against illegal occupants and waster collection work from January 2 this

year, he added.

Through several drives from January 11 to March 23, some 730 decimals or 7.30 acres of land adjacent to the canals of Jirani, Manda and Shyampur were recovered from illegal occupation.

A total of 155 cases were filed and fines worth Tk 4,91,900 were imposed, while portions of 145

permanent and 220 temporary establishments were demolished during the drives.

After recovering the illegally occupied land, as many as 2,727 boundary pillars have been set up.

The mayor said they have already collected 8 lakh tonnes of waste from canals, box-culverts and drains since taking charge of them

from Wasa. After clearing the waste, their capacity of holding water has increased, reducing water-logging significantly.

As part of the long-term plan, Taposh said DSCC has completed a pre-work survey to revive the original Buriganga channel, while a process is underway to appoint a consultancy firm to this end.

## MN Larma worked to uphold equal rights: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's people should work together to establish the secular Bangladesh that Manabendra Narayan Larma dreamt of, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

Throughout his life, Larma worked to uphold equal rights and dignity for all people, irrespective of religion, caste, and gender, they said.

The speakers made the remarks at a commemorative meeting marking the 38th death anniversary of Larma at Bangladesh Medical Association's auditorium in the capital. Manabendra Narayan Larma, popularly known as MN Larma, was a leader of Jumma people and the founder of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

The national committee to observe the 38th death anniversary of MN Larma organised the programme, chaired by rights activist Khushi Kabir.

Politicians, social workers, cultural activists, lawyers, academicians, rights activists, and representatives from indigenous communities spoke on the occasion.

Apart from discussions, the organisers paid tributes to Larma by lighting up candles, rendered protest songs, and recited poems to mark the day.

## CID official sent to jail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A Chattogram court yesterday sent a sub-inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to prison over a case filed by ACC for the illegal amassing of Tk 1.38 crore.

Chattogram Metropolitan Sessions Judge Ashfaqur Rahaman sent SI Nawab Ali to jail after she surrendered before the court seeking bail, said Public Prosecutor Advocate Mahmudul Islam.

The ACC on March 10, 2019 filed a case against Nawab and his wife Gulzar Begum after the couple was unable to show the source of the illegally amassed wealth.

Gulzar was sent to jail on March 9 after she surrendered before the court.

## No more seating service buses

FROM PAGE 3

Osman Ali, general secretary of the federation, said they would help the government to implement the exact fare rate.

The government raised bus fare up to 28 percent on Sunday, following the price hike of diesel and kerosene by 23 percent, or Tk 15 per litre, on November 3.

### THE ROAD TO DECISION

In April 2017, transport owners attempted to stop "seating service" buses in the capital, amid widespread allegations that the buses were charging extra fares.

Following the attempt, BRTA, in association with transport associations' vigilance teams, conducted mobile courts to stop the practice.

But the move backfired, as a good number of buses were withdrawn from roads for five consecutive days, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

Against this backdrop, BRTA suspended their drive and formed an eight-member committee to make recommendations for ensuring quality public transport service for passengers in Dhaka.

Led by Mahub-e-Rabbani, director (road safety) of BRTA, the committee on October 15 that year gave seven recommendations for "seating service" and 26 for the public transport sector, insiders said.

But, Dhaka Metro Regional Transport Committee (MRTC) did not agree with the recommendations, Enayet said.

"We held a meeting with some bus owners today [yesterday], and they agreed to scrap the seating service."

"We have given them till Saturday to execute the decision," Enayet told The Daily Star last night.

"We are hopeful about successfully implementing the decision," he further said.

But, many passengers, including women commuters, said they need the service, and they would face problems, once the system is scrapped.

Asked about the matter, Enayet said, "Problems will remain whether we keep the system or abolish it."

### HOW MANY CNG-RUN BUSES IN THE CAPITAL?

Enayet claimed that only 3.26 percent of the buses run on CNG.

He said that they have collected information from 120 companies, which operate some 6,000 buses in Dhaka and adjacent areas. Of the buses, only 196 are CNG-run buses.

Besides, almost all the long-route buses run on diesel.

Enayet said many media organisations reported that around 80 to 90 percent buses run on CNG, which is not true.

## How to select an election

FROM PAGE 3

important government, semi-government or private position -- will be eligible to be an election commissioner.

### FORMATION OF SEARCH COMMITTEE

In the draft of the law, Shujon said the president shall form a search committee consisting of seven members, including a minimum of one woman, in order to fill the vacancy of election commissioner.

The seven members will consist of a retired judge, who shall be the convener of the committee; a member of parliament nominated by the Leader of Parliament; a lawmaker nominated by the Leader of the Opposition; a member of parliament nominated by the third largest political party in terms of number of seats in parliament; the Auditor General and the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh; a representative of civil society, who shall be elected

on the basis of a majority decision by the first five members, in case of unanimity or non-consensus; and a representative of the media, who shall be nominated on the basis of a majority decision of the majority of the first five members, in case of unanimity or non-consensus.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee shall inquire into people for appointment in the EC and publish a preliminary list of at least 15 persons, including a minimum of 5 women, and a maximum of 20 persons.

Each member of the recommended panel shall submit an account of their assets in a prescribed table, which shall be published by the search committee in the form of a public notice.

The committee shall hold public hearings on the preliminary list, interviewing the selected. After this, the committee shall unanimously prepare a panel of seven persons including a minimum of two

women, and also publish a public notice clarifying why the selected were preferred.

The search committee will then send the panel to the president for appointment and the president shall appoint one of them to the post of CEC and not more than four to the post of Election Commissioner.

Addressing the programme, Shujon secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said it's unfortunate that there is still no specific law in the country to appoint the CEC and election commissioners, although there is a provision for enacting the law under Article 118 (1) of the Constitution. He said formation of the EC will not be acceptable to the civil society if it not formed through enactment of the law concerned.

Noted jurist Shahdeen Malik said the last two ECs had utterly failed to perform their functions properly, saying the government is tricking the people when it comes to forming a search committee to

appoint CEC and ECs.

He also said the president has no power to form a search committee as he has to consult with the prime minister regarding all matters except the appointment of the prime minister and the chief justice.

As the five-year tenure of the current Election Commission will expire next February, the government is saying there is not enough time to enact a law in line with the Constitution to appoint ECs.

But Shahdeen Malik said if the government and parliament desire, the law can be passed within a short time.

"The law can even be enacted through promulgating an ordinance by the president," he also said.

Former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain said during their tenure, they had handed over a draft law to the law ministry. But no progress has been made to enact a law to form the election commission so far.

## Train fare to remain

FROM PAGE 3

losses of the state-run transport agency, they said.

BR incurred Tk 1,644 crore of losses in 2018-19 fiscal, according to BR's Information Book-2019.

Besides, there is pressure from multilateral lenders of different BR projects to raise train fare regularly, the sources added. The relevant section of BR started some preliminary work in this regard.

The latest train fare hike was in February 2016, when BR raised the fare by 7.23 percent. In the last few years, BR took several moves to raise the fare but ultimately did not, sources said.

The railways minister said BR is a state-run agency, and the government is subsidising its operations.

"The matter is not that the railway was making profits anyway, and the rise of fuel prices will force it to incur losses," he said.

"We, however, have asked [authority concerned] to assess how much more losses we will have to incur due to the hike."

Asked whether they have taken any step to hike the fare, the minister replied in the negative.

## Shipbreaking yard owners

FROM PAGE 3

upon receiving complaints of VAT evasion. On completion of the investigation, it can be said whether they dodged VAT and if they did, how much," he said.

As per data from YPSA (Young Power in Social Action), which works for the safety of the workers in shipbreaking yards, 11 workers died as of November this year in different yards. Most of the deaths occurred due to the owners' negligence in ensuring workers' safety by providing safety equipment like gas masks and helmets, it said.

The Department of Environment in 2019 and 2020 conducted several drives at shipbreaking yards in Sitakunda upazila for polluting the environment, violating environmental regulations quite often.

The releasing of toxic substances from the yards is held responsible for damaging fish stock along the 40km stretch of Sitakunda



Papers of 4 yards seized during drive on Tuesday

Charges brought over VAT evasion

Authorities claim documents seized following law

Owners say they pay VAT regularly

coast, where thousands of people are exposed to the hazardous materials mostly coming from the yards.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Govt. Michael Madhusudan (M M) College, Jashore  
Kharki Road, Jashore-7400  
E-mail: principal.mmc.jessore@gmail.com

Memo No. CEDP/GMMC/2021-2022/G-12/SB-077 Date: 11/11/2021

**e-Tender Notice 05/2021-22**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	626661	Procurement of Digital Smart Board for Classroom, Package-No. CEDP/GMMC/2021-2022/SB/G-12	01-12-2021 1:00pm	01-12-2021 2:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 30-11-2021, 4:00pm.

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)).

Prof. Dr. M. Hasan Sarowardy  
Principal (In charge)  
Govt. M M College, Jashore  
Phone: 0421-68554/68564

GD-2043

## Dengue cases cross

FROM PAGE 3

In August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected in May and the rest are from January to April.

Ninety-six people died of dengue in the country this year. Twelve died in July, 34 in August, 23 in September, 22 in October and five in November so far.

## Control prices

FROM PAGE 3

"The meeting thinks the number of the poor people will increase, and public sufferings will deepen further, due to the price hike of fuel oil and LPG, as the incomes of many have declined, while many others lost their jobs during the pandemic," Fakhru said.

He said BNP policymakers decided that BNP and its associate bodies will observe programmes protesting the price hike.

Fakhru said the meeting expressed deep concern over a survey that found that the number of "new poor" in the country stands at around 3.24 crore.

A survey jointly conducted by Power and Participation Research Centre, and Brac Institute of Governance and Development revealed that 79 lakh people joined the previous 2.45 crore new poor population, following Covid-19's second wave.

Unplanned restrictions to contain the coronavirus, not announcing financial incentives for low-income people and the informal sector, depriving mill and factory workers of due wages, and not providing marginalised people with food and other assistance exacerbated the situation, the BNP policymakers observed.

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
মতিঝিল অফিস  
ঢাকা

"সুজিবর্ষের অঙ্গীকার দেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার"

**ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক মতিঝিল ঢাকা অফিসে বিভিন্ন প্রকারের ঔষধ সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে (০৩ বছর মেয়াদে) তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য প্রকৃত ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানি ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনপত্রের ফরম ও শর্তাবলী বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক মতিঝিল অফিসের কল্যাণ শাখা (প্রথম সংলগ্নী ভবনের ৩য় তলা) হতে নগদ টাঃ ৩,০০০/- (টাকা তিন হাজার মাত্র) (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে ১৪-১১-২০২১ তারিখ সন্ধ্যা ১০.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ০২-১২-২০২১ তারিখ বিকেল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে।

অত্র ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানি/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তাদের লিখিত আবেদনপত্র ০৮-১২-২০২১ তারিখ ৩.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ১ম সংলগ্নী ভবনের ৩য় তলায় অবস্থিত উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন-৬) মহোদয়ের কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একই দিনে বোলা ৩.৩০ ঘটিকার উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকে) টেন্ডার বাস্তব খোলা হবে। বিদ্যমান তালিকাভুক্ত ঔষধ কোম্পানি/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকেও নতুনভাবে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। তালিকাভুক্তির সময় প্রতিটি কোম্পানি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে টাঃ ৩,০০,০০০/- (টাকা তিন লক্ষ মাত্র) মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা এর বরাবর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জামানত হিসেবে জমা রাখতে হবে (যা মেয়াদ শেষে ফেরতযোগ্য)। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

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

নির্মল কুমার সরকার  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
ফোনঃ ৯৫৩০৪১৪

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৩৬১৫  
তারিখঃ ০৯/১১/২০২১  
জিডি-২০৩৬

**Islami Bank**  
Bangladesh Limited  
Based on Islamic Shari'ah

OPERATIONS WING  
PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER HARDWARE  
AND ACCESSORIES DEPARTMENT  
20 Dilkusha C/A (9th floor), Dhaka - 1000.

**Tender Notice**

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from reputed Manufacturers / Local Agents / Companies / Distributors/ Resellers for supplying & commissioning of Router with Firewall, Access Switch (Manageable & Small Business) and Centralized Management System for IBBL under the following terms and conditions:

The intending Bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing tender document for supplying & commissioning of 250 units WAN Aggregation Device (Router with Firewall), 500 units Access Switch (Manageable), 300 units Access Switch (Small Business) and 01 unit/lot Centralized Management System to run/function upcoming Sub-Branched, Branches, ATMs, CRMs & Agent Outlets and replacement of old Routers and Switches at the business unit of the bank (Branch, Sub-Branch and Zonal Office). The tender document will be sold upon payment of Tk.5,000/- only in cash (non refundable) from 14.11.2021 to 06.12.2021 during office hours. Tender will be received at the office of the undersigned during Office hours up to 03:00 PM on 07.12.2021 and Technical offer(s) will be opened at 03:15 PM on the same date at the same place in presence of the Bidders or their representatives (who may like to attend). A pre bid meeting in this regard will be held on 23.11.2021 at 11.00 AM at Procurement of Computer Hardware and Accessories Department (PCHAD), OW at 9th floor of Yousuf Chamber, 20, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka. Details information relating to the Tender are available at Bank's website: [www.islambankbd.com](http://www.islambankbd.com) or in the form of hard copy at the office of the undersigned.

FAVP & Head of Department



Some of the leprosy survivors in Notkhana village of Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Communities still shun leprosy survivors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

After getting infected with leprosy or Hansen's disease at a young age, Mokaddes Ali was stigmatised and driven away from his home village of Sonakhuli in Saidpur upazila.

Ostracised by the community, Mokaddes, now 60, had to beg for food and spend numerous nights in the open, away from the locality.

He later came to learn about Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission (DBLM) Hospital, in Notkhana village of Nilphamari Sadar upazila, where he finally found shelter and started receiving treatment free of cost.

The Leprosy Mission International, a fellowship of 31 member countries, has been operating the hospital for decades in Nilphamari -- a district that has high prevalence of Hansen's disease.

But by the time Mokaddes was cured fully, the disease maimed his hands and legs and deformed his face.

Years later, he returned to his village and opened a small grocery store to make a living. But his physical disfigurement and social stigma attached to leprosy are still keeping many villagers from shopping at his store.

Like Mokaddes, Paban Roy, 60, of Toronibari, Abdus Sattar, 58, of Baraipara and Tepra Barman, 65, of Polashbari, also had similar experience when they returned to their villages after fully recovering from the disease.

A handful of social organisations such as 'Kustho O Sadharon Protibondhi Unnayan Sangathan' (KSPUS) have come forward to eradicate the deep-rooted stigma among the general public and integrate the leprosy survivors into the society.

Sumon Chandra Sarker, secretary of KSPUS, said they have been campaigning for the eradication of superstition about leprosy and social discrimination against

leprosy survivors so they can be rehabilitated and integrated into the society.

The organisation is registered under the Department of Social Services, which allocates annual funding for them, said KSPUS President Sombaru Mamud.

The fund is converted into loans for members who can use the money for setting up small ventures to get back on their feet.

KSPUS also helps them obtain different allowances under various social safety programmes of the government, he added.

**A handful of social organisations such as 'Kustho O Sadharon Protibondhi Unnayan Sangathan' (KSPUS) have come forward to eradicate the deep-rooted stigma among the general public and integrate the leprosy survivors into the society.**

The Leprosy Mission International-Bangladesh (TLMi-B) is also creating awareness on social stigma attached to leprosy through various social organisations which they term 'Community-Based Rehabilitation Partners'.

They also provide vocational training and artificial or prosthetic limbs to leprosy survivors, said Surendra Nath Singh, community programme leader of TLMi-B.

Emdadul Huque Pramanik, deputy director of the Department of Social Services, said the government has been funding organisations like KSPUS to rehabilitate leprosy survivors in the society.

# A metaphor of asymmetrical development

Remote govt pry school runs sans building being a metaphor of sheer negligence and disproportionate development

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU WITH MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

At a first glance, you may not believe that it's a government primary school. The ramshackle tin shed structure houses Dayarampur Government Primary School. All activities including the academic and administrative have been going on under the tin shed since its inception in 1991. The school, which is located at Dayarampur village in Haripur union of Pabna's Chatmohor upazila, was nationalised in 2017.

However, there has been no development work even after its nationalisation. A little to moderate rains flood the school disrupting normal functioning.

The school is the only recourse for some 150 children coming from the surrounding villages on the banks of the sprawling Chalanbeel.

"Since its inception, the school has been imparting education among the children of Chalanbeel area. Finally, the school was nationalised in 2017. However, there has been no touch of development in the last four years," Abul Kalam Azad, acting headmaster of the school, said.

As the school is in the middle of Chalanbeel, the school remains inaccessible without boats for a few months every year.



The 40-foot-long tin shed is the lone establishment that houses five classrooms and an administrative office, he said.

"Academic activities of around 154 students reading in grade one to grade five, administrative activities—all are going on in the lone tin shed hampering both academic and administrative work," Abul Kalam Azad said.

Tamim Iqbal, a fifth-grader, said, "We are to attend classes along with the students of other classes

hampering our academic progress. We also do not have access to a toilet in the school."

Arifa Khatun, another fifth-grader, said that they often have to miss out on classes due to its poor communication link.

"In the monsoon, we have to come to school on a boat. Now, we are to traverse along a muddy path to attend classes," Arifa said.

Contacted, Khondokar Mahabub Hossain, Chatmohor upazila primary education officer,

said that the development project of the school was in the offing.

"The school was nationalised in the third phase. We have already visited the school and found the existing problems. We have already reported the matter to the DG office. The authority will take development initiative of the school soon," Hossain said.

"We have already planned to allot Tk three lakh this fiscal year for administering urgent repair work of the school," he claimed.

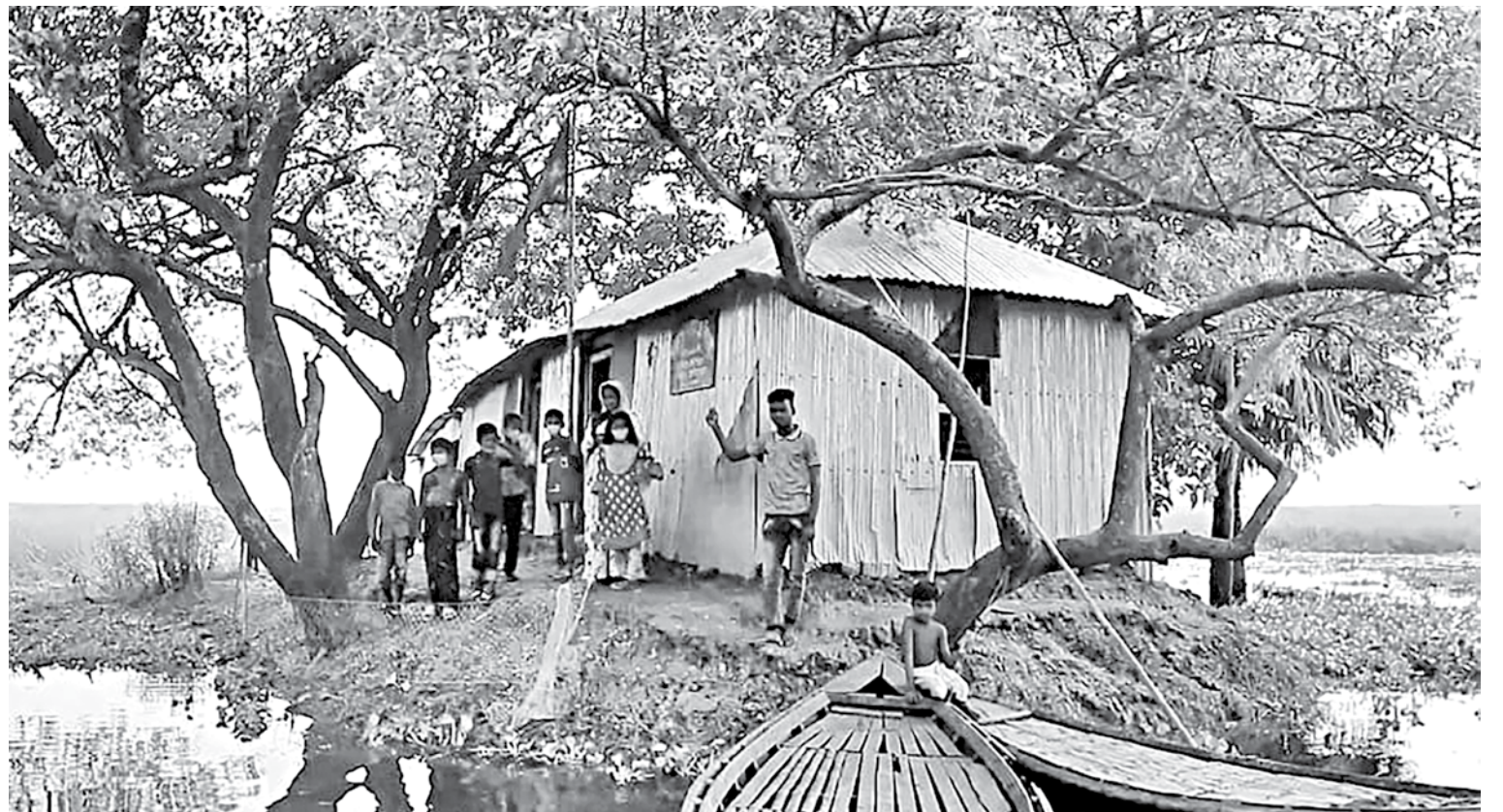


PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Dayarampur Government Primary School, the lone lighthouse for the children of the sprawling Chalanbeel Pabna's Chatmohor upazila, stands sans building being a metaphor of negligence and disproportionate development. Inset, the children are to attend the school travelling on boat as it remains surrounded by waters for several months. The photo was taken a few weeks ago.



Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) unearthed an illegal factory of banned Chaina Doary, a locally made fish trap, in Sirajganj's Salonga upazila yesterday and seized around 14,430 kilograms of the traps. The law enforcers also detained two traders from the spot for producing the harmful fishing nets.

PHOTO: STAR

## BGB steps up surveillance in border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has stepped up surveillance in Benapole Land Port area to prevent possible smuggling of diesel through the port.

BGB members were inspecting the Indian trucks, entering or departing from the country, at the import-export gate of the port yesterday.

Habildar Abdul Quddus, BGB commander at ICB check post, said have been measuring the fuel tanks of every Indian trucks while entering and departing the country through the border to prevent smuggling of diesel.

Sources said price of per litre diesel costs Tk 25 more, compared to Bangladesh market price.

## Govt hospital conducts first operation in 47yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Basaal Upazila Health Complex in Tangail has opened its operation wing for the first time in its history of 47 years.

Having begun its journey through a caesarean operation 28-year-old Sathi Akter of Purbo Para village on Friday afternoon, the health complex will provide a wide range of operation services.

Both mother and daughter remain well following the surgery, said Kamal Miah, husband of Sathi.

Basaal Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Firozur Rahman conducted the caesarean operation while Consultant Dr Suja Uddin Talukder and

Medical Officers Dr Rakib and Dr Nazmun and anaesthetist Dr Arif assisted him.

Dr Firozur said that this was the first operation in the upazila health complex. Various operations like appendicitis and gallbladder stone will be conducted at the upazila hospital from now.

As a result, the local poor and helpless patients will not have to go to the private hospitals for operations by spending a huge amount of money, he added.

Dr Abul Fazal Mohammad Shahabuddin, civil surgeon in Tangail, said operation theatre (OT) was installed at the health complex in 2017 but the hospital could not conduct operation due to lack of facilities at the OT at that time.



Basaal Upazila Health Complex in Tangail on Friday conducts its first operation in 47 years through a caesarean operation.

PHOTO: STAR

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Health Services Division



Health Economics Unit, GNSP Unit

14/2, Topkhana Road (4th Floor), Dhaka-1000

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Consulting/Research Firm for Conducting Research/Study

1	Ministry/Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.	
2	Agency	Gender, NGO & Stakeholder Participation (GNSP) Unit.	
3	Name of procuring entity	DG, HEU, & LD, Health Economics and Financing Operational Plan, HSD, MoHFW.	
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm/Research Organization	Time Based
7	EOI Ref No.	45.05.0000.009.31.002.19 (Part-2)	
8	Date	09/11/2021	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
9	Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB (Dev) Fund.	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
11	Project / programme name	Utilization and Effectiveness of Women Friendly Hospital Initiative: Problems, prospects and way forward.	
12	EOI closing date and time	02/12/2021, 2pm.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>			
13	Brief description of the assignment	Objectives: i. To prepare a landscape of existing women friendly hospital service modalities. ii. To reveal areas of further improvement for better utilisation of the initiative. iii. To prepare a stakeholder mapping most relevant to implementation of the initiative. iv. To propose policy directive towards scaling up the initiative.	
14	Experience, resource and delivery capacity required	The service provider shall be a Consulting Organization/ Institution focused on the field of health care service and system having demonstrated expertise in evaluating programmes or undertaking research. The applicant organization/institution i. Must be a registered Company. ii. Must have Tax Identification Number, Business Identification Number and up-to-date income tax certificates (submitted return), and not declared bankrupt/ineligible/banned by the Court. iii. Must NOT bear any record of non-compliance with any procurement entity. <b>Academic background of the key team members:</b> <b>Team Lead</b> Team lead must be a medical graduate with MPH, (PhD would of high preference). i. At least 5 years of experience at national level in health system research focusing on issues around gender in health. ii. Strong track record in qualitative assessments and conducting HH survey. iii. Demonstrated experience of working with Government, INGO, Development Partners especially in the area of health system strengthening. iv. Previously engaged with the formulation process of national level policy/strategy document, evaluation of any national level health program. v. Publications of Team Leader as first author on gender in health. vi. Skills in facilitation of stakeholder engagement/workshops. <b>Health System Expert</b> i. Medical doctor with post graduate degree in healthcare management. ii. At least 3 years' experience as a health system specialist. iii. In-depth knowledge of best practices in health system management and health regulations. iv. Experience in research and data analysis.	
15	Association with foreign firms is	Encouraging.	
16	Phasing of Services	Ref. No.	Location
	Not Phased		
		Indicative start date (month/year)	Indicative completion time (month/year)
		December 2021	May 2022
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
17	Name of official inviting (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahad Hossain Mahmud.	
18	Designation of official inviting (EOI)	Director General, Health Economics Unit and Line Director, Health Economics and Financing.	
19	Address of official inviting (EOI)	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000.	
20	Contact details of official inviting (EOI)	Telephone: 9586822; Fax No. 9582207; E-mail: mahmud521@yahoo.com	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept to or reject all EOIs.			
GD-2039		Director General, Health Economics Unit & Line Director, Health Economics and Financing OP	

# Rakhine rebels in first clash with troops in Maungdaw

## Junta charges US journo with 'terrorism', sedition

AGENCIES

Myanmar junta troops have clashed with fighters from a major militant group in Rakhine state, breaking a ceasefire that kept the peace in the western region since the coup, a rebel spokesman said yesterday.

The Southeast Asian country has been in chaos since the February putsch, with a brutal crackdown on dissent and increased fighting in borderlands involving ethnic armed organisations.

Days after the coup, the junta reaffirmed a commitment to a ceasefire with the Arakan Army (AA), which has fought a bloody war for autonomy for Rakhine state's ethnic Rakhine population.

The ceasefire freed up military troops to battle local "self-defence forces" that have sprung up across the country in opposition to the military.

"Around 11:00am yesterday, there was a clash for a few minutes in the north of Maungdaw," an AA spokesman told AFP.

"It was because the Myanmar military entered the area. Casualty details are not known yet."

Clashes between the AA and the military in 2019 displaced over 200,000 people across the state, one of Myanmar's poorest, reports AFP.

"I think it's getting a little testy, but so far may not escalate if the Tatmadaw don't have the troops / firepower to really take on the AA," said analyst David Mathieson, using another name for Myanmar's military.

Meanwhile, an American journalist detained in military-ruled Myanmar accused of incitement is facing new charges of sedition and terrorism, his lawyer said yesterday, in a setback for US efforts to secure his release, reports Reuters.

Danny Fenster, 37, who was managing editor of Frontier Myanmar, a top independent news site, was detained at Yangon's international airport in May as he attempted to take a flight out of the country.

The junta ended a 19-month internet shutdown in the state of around one million after the coup.

The regime has also announced that a member of a local Rakhine nationalist party will be joining its cabinet.

Rakhine state, home to both the Rohingya and a largely Buddhist ethnic Rakhine majority, has been a tinderbox of conflict for decades.

The military drove out more than 740,000 Rohingya Muslims from the state in a 2017 campaign that United Nations investigators have called genocide.

### POST-COUP MYANMAR



A man points at surveillance cameras in the flashpoint Palestinian city of Hebron yesterday. Israel's army has deployed a sweeping personal data collection programme using facial recognition technology targeting Palestinians in parts of the occupied West Bank, an organisation that works with former soldiers said.

PHOTO: AFP

# Pak SC grills PM on talks with TTP

## Questions govt's inaction against those responsible for Army school attack in 2014

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday grilled Prime Minister Imran Khan over the government's inaction against those responsible for the Army Public School (APS) attack in 2014 and the ongoing talks with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

A three-judge bench — headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmed, and comprising Justice Qazi Mohammad Amin Ahmed and Justice Ijazul Ahsan — summoned the Prime Minister in connection with the case around 10:00am. He arrived at the court roughly two hours later, just before noon.

A total of 147 people, 132 of them children, were martyred when TTP militants stormed the APS-Warsak School, in Peshawar, in 2014. The government is in talks with the TTP over a "reconciliation process", with Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry having announced on Monday that a "complete ceasefire" had been reached with the banned outfit.

During the hearing, Justice Amin reminded the premier that Pakistan is not a small country.



"We have the sixth largest army in the world," he said.

With regards to media reports regarding negotiations with the TTP, Justice Amin questioned whether "we are bringing them [TTP] back to the negotiating table instead of taking action against them?"

"Are we going to surrender once again?" Justice Amin asked the premier.

As the three-member bench continued to grill the premier, at one point the latter asked for a chance to speak, given that he had been summoned for the hearing.

But the judges continued to fire questions at him.

CJP Gulzar said, "You are in power. The government is also yours. What did you do? You brought those guilty to the negotiating table."

"The satisfaction of the parents [who lost their children in the APS attack] is necessary," said Justice Ahsan addressing the premier.

A day earlier, the information minister said that the government will give a chance to those factions of the TTP that are not directly involved in terrorism and are ready to honour Pakistan's Constitution and law, whereas the hardcore TTP terrorists involved in the killing of innocent people and still wanting to continue their nefarious activities will be dealt with an iron hand.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the federal cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Imran on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference, Chaudhry said: "If all of them express their allegiance to the Constitution of Pakistan and undertake to respect the law of the country, obviously, we will give them a chance."

# 5,000 crossing into Iran daily

## Says aid group; India hosts first regional meeting on Afghanistan since Taliban takeover

AGENCIES

Up to 5,000 Afghan refugees a day are crossing into neighbouring Iran, compounding the already heavy burden it faces hosting an estimated 3.6 million Afghans, a relief group said yesterday.

The Norwegian Refugee Council called for more international support for Iran, which despite facing tough US economic sanctions, operates what the council described as one of the most inclusive refugee policies in the world.

"Iran cannot be expected to host so many Afghans with so little support from the international community," the council's secretary general Jan Egeland said after a visit to Iran this week.

"There must be an immediate scale up of aid both inside Afghanistan and in

neighbouring countries like Iran, before the deadly winter cold."

The new US special envoy for Afghanistan will visit Pakistan this week for a meeting with the Taliban foreign minister and senior diplomats from China and Russia, a Pakistani official and the US State Department said.

### AFGHANISTAN CRISIS

Meanwhile, Diplomats and security analysts from Afghanistan's neighbours, with the notable exceptions of China and Pakistan,

gathered in New Delhi yesterday to discuss how to engage with the country's Taliban rulers. Convened less than three months after the withdrawal of the last US and Western forces from Kabul, the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue for Afghanistan was attended by representatives from India, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, reports Reuters.



A youth uses a fridge as raft along a flooded section of Marina beach following a heavy monsoon rainfall in Chennai, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# UN: Ethiopia detains 72 WFP drivers

AFP, Addis Ababa

The United Nations said yesterday that Ethiopia had detained 72 drivers working for the World Food Programme (WFP) in the country's conflict-torn north.

The news, which came a day after the UN reported the arrests of 22 employees in the capital Addis Ababa, is likely to further inflame tensions with the government following a decision in September to expel seven senior UN officials for "meddling" in the country's affairs.

A UN spokesperson said the new detentions had occurred in the capital of Afar province, on the only functional road leading into famine-threatened Tigray.

Ethiopia declared a state of emergency on Nov 2.

# STRING OF TARGETED KILLINGS India sends thousands more troops to J&K

AFP, Srinagar

India has sent thousands more paramilitary troops into its section of Kashmir, already one of the world's most militarised zones, after a string of targeted killings by suspected rebels in recent weeks, officials said yesterday.

New Delhi has for decades stationed at least 500,000 soldiers in the divided Himalayan territory, which is also claimed and partially controlled by arch-rival Pakistan.

"Around 2,500 troops have arrived and they were deployed all over Kashmir valley," Abhiram Pankaj, a spokesman for the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), told AFP.

More were on their way to the restive territory, he added. Around 5,000 extra paramilitaries in all were being deployed from this week, including from India's Border Security Force (BSF), according to a police officer speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity.

Some of the troops are housed in civilian community halls that have been fortified with new sandbag bunkers, reminiscent of the early 1990s when an armed insurgency against Indian rule was at its peak. That rebellion has significantly waned in the years since tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, were killed in the conflict.

A dozen people have been gunned down since last month in what appeared to be targeted assassinations, including police, migrant workers from northern Indian states and local members of the Sikh and Hindu communities.

# 'They don't understand the variety of different cultures'

## Dalai Lama slams China's leaders

REUTERS, Tokyo

Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama criticised the leaders of China yesterday saying they "don't understand the variety of different cultures" there and there is too much control by the main Han ethnic group.

But he also said he had nothing against "Chinese brothers and sisters" as fellow humans and he broadly supported the ideas behind Communism and Marxism.

The 86-year-old Dalai Lama, taking part in an online news conference anchored in Tokyo, was answering a question about whether the international community should consider boycotting the Beijing Winter Olympics over the suppression of minorities, including those in the western region of Xinjiang.

"I know Communist Party leaders since Mao Zedong. Their ideas (are) good. But sometimes they do much extreme, tight

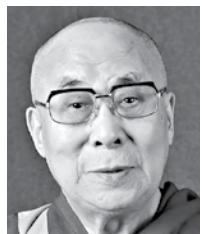
control," he said from his base in India, adding he thought things would change in China under a new generation of leaders.

"Regarding Tibet and also Xinjiang, we have our own unique culture, so the more narrow-minded Chinese Communist leaders, they do not understand the variety of different cultures."

Noting that China consisted not only of ethnic Han people but also other, different, groups, he added: "In reality, too much control by Han people."

China seized control of Tibet after its troops entered the region in 1950 in what it calls a "peaceful liberation". Tibet has since become one of the most restricted and sensitive areas in the country.

Beijing regards the Dalai Lama, who fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule, as a dangerous "splittist" or separatist. He has worked for decades to draw global support for linguistic and cultural autonomy in his remote, mountainous homeland.



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
 উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়  
 ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম  
 Email: fatikchhari@dghs.gov.bd  
 তারিখঃ ০৮/১১/২০২১

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

চট্টগ্রাম জেলাধীন ফটিকছড়ি উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্সের জন্য ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের এমএসআর সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে পিপিএ-২০০৬ পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সকল সংশোধনসহ) মতে নিম্নোক্ত "ছক" ও তফসীল মোতাবেক নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর ব্যবসায় লিখিত, স্বাক্ষরিত ও সীলগালাকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২।	সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান	ঃ	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
০৩।	বাজেট/তহবিলের উৎস	ঃ	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত (অনুদান) বরাদ্দ।
০৪।	সম্প্রদায়/সংস্থা/নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	ডাঃ নাবীল চৌধুরী, উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম।
০৫।	দরপত্র ক্রয়/সম্বন্ধের পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে (দরপত্রের সিডিউলের সাথে সংযুক্ত শর্ত মোতাবেক)।
০৬।	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম/দরপত্রের ধরণ	ঃ	এমএসআর (গ্রেপ ভিত্তিক)।
০৭।	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত শর্তাবলী মতে।
০৮।	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	ঃ	সিডিউল/ নিম্নবর্ণিত নির্ধারিত ছকে।
০৯।	দরপত্র জামানতের (বায়নার) টাকা	ঃ	সিডিউল/ নিম্নবর্ণিত নির্ধারিত ছকে।
১০।	দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত	ঃ	কার্যদেপ্তার প্রাপ্তির মোট অংকের উপর ১০% (গ্রেপ ভিত্তিক) ফেরতযোগ্য।
১১।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির স্থান	ঃ	সিডিউল সার্জন কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম ও উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম।
১২।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হইতে ২৯/১১/২০২১ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)।
১৩।	দরপত্র জমা/দাখিলের স্থান	ঃ	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়ে প্রদত্ত দরপত্র বাজেট।
১৪।	দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	নিম্নবর্ণিত ছকে।
১৫।	দরপত্র বাজ খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ	৩০/১১/২০২১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০টা উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম। (সংশ্লিষ্ট দরপত্রাদাতাদের সামনে, যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৬।	এমএসআর সামগ্রী ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী	ঃ	উৎসপত্র কোম্পানীর ট্রেন্ড দর/এমআরপি দরের এবং অন্যান্য সামগ্রী স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত এসআর দর/বাজার দরের উর্ধ্বে নহে।
১৭।	এমএসআর গ্রুপসমূহের তথ্যাদি/বিবরণ	ঃ	নিম্নবর্ণিত ছকে। কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২০৬৬ মূলে ত্রৈজ্ঞারী চালানের মাধ্যমে।

ক্রম নং	এমএসআর দরপত্রের গ্রুপসমূহের নাম/বিবরণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক	দরপত্রের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
ক/এ	উৎসপত্র (ইতিসিএল বহির্ভূত)	৭৫০/-	৫০০০০/-	২৯/১১/২০২১ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত	৩০/১১/২০২১ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
খ/ব	গজ, ব্যাজেজ, তুলা	৫০০/-	১৪০০০/-	"	"
গ/স	যন্ত্রপাতি	৫০০/-	২৫০০০/-	"	"
ঘ/ড	কেমিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট (পার্মানেন্ট নীল)	৫০০/-	৫০০০/-	"	"
ঙ/এ	হাসপাতাল আসবাবপত্র	৫০০/-	৫০০০/-	"	"
চ/ফ	হাসপাতাল লিলেন সামগ্রী	৫০০/-	১৪০০০/-	"	"

১৮। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগের মাধ্যমে অত্র কার্যালয়ের হিসাব শাখা হইতে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ জানা যেতে পারে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)।

১৯। নির্দেশিকাঃ দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী দরপত্র ক্রেতাকে দরপত্রের সাথে সরবরাহ করা হবে।

২০। বিশেষ নির্দেশিকাঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

২১। একজনের আবেদন/দরপত্র অন্য কোন ব্যক্তি বা দরপত্রাদাতা স্বাক্ষরপূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন না, অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হবে। সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণ করতে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নন।

২২। দরপত্র জামানত যে কোন তফসীলভুক্ত ব্যাংকের ড্রাফট হতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

২৩। সফলকাম দরপত্রাদাতাকে উৎস ব্যতীত প্রত্যেকটি ক্রয়/সেবা আইটেম এর নমুনা অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।

২৪। পিপিএ-২০০৬ পিপিআর-২০০৮ ও সংশোধিত পিপিআর ২০০৯ মতে ও দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সরবরাহকৃত/আরোপিত শর্তাবলী অন্যান্য নির্দেশিকা/বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা অবশ্যই যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করতে হবে। আরোপিত শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক দরপত্র দাখিল করা না হলে তাহা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

ডাঃ নাবীল চৌধুরী  
 উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা  
 ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম  
 জিডি-২০৪২

## EU'S \$2.8B ANTI-TRUST FINE Blow as Google loses appeal

AFP, Brussels

Google yesterday lost an appeal against a 2.4-billion-euro (\$2.8-billion) fine imposed by the European Union for abusing its search engine dominance -- a big win for the bloc's anti-trust tussle with the tech titan.

The ruling by the Luxembourg-based General Court confirmed the landmark decision taken by the European Commission in 2017.

The matter could be challenged again, however, if Google decides to turn to the EU's highest court, the European Court of Justice, for a final say.

"Today's judgment delivers the clear message that Google's conduct was unlawful and it provides the necessary legal clarity for the market," the European Commission said in a statement.

The case centres on Google's shopping service and is one of three against the search engine giant currently moving through the EU's drawn-out appeals system.

At the time, the fine was the EU's biggest ever. But it was later exceeded by a 4.3-billion-euro fine against Google over its Android smartphone operating system.

In its appeal, Google and its parent company Alphabet had argued the EU was "wrong on the law, the facts, and the economics" in the search engine case.

But the court said it dismissed "for the most part the action brought by the two companies, and upholds the fine imposed by the Commission".

It said that, by favouring its own Google Shopping service over rivals in its search result rankings and positioning, "Google departed from competition on the merits".

A Google spokesperson said the company will examine the ruling.

While Google was dealt a setback in the EU, the company fended off a separate legal case in Britain yesterday as the Supreme Court blocked a \$4 billion class-action lawsuit accusing it of illegally tracking millions of iPhone users.



A photo taken on Monday and released yesterday shows stranded migrants at the Belarusian-Polish border in the Grodno region. Inset, A man holding a child reacts as he waits in freezing cold with his family to cross the border. PHOTO: AFP

Quote of the day



"I am appalled that large numbers of migrants and refugees continue to be left in a desperate situation in near-freezing temperatures at the Belarus-Poland border. I urge the states involved to take immediate steps to de-escalate and resolve this intolerable situation. proposed."

UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF  
MICHELLE BACHELET

### MORE NEWS

#### Trump Capitol attack records can be released to Congress

A US judge Tuesday ordered White House records that could implicate former President Donald Trump in the January 6 attack on the Capitol be released to a Congressional committee, despite the ex-leader's attempts to keep them secret. The documents have been sought by the House Select Committee investigating the January 6 violence, in which hundreds of Trump supporters forced the shutdown of Congress and delayed a joint session to confirm that Joe Biden won the November 2020 election and would become president. Trump sued seeking a stay to halt the release of the documents, arguing that, as a former president, he retained executive privilege to keep the communications and visitor logs related to that day under seal.



#### Malala gets married

Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Pakistani Taliban for campaigning for girls' education, got married on Tuesday in a small ceremony in Birmingham, central England, she announced on social media. "Today marks a precious day in my life. Asser (Malik) and I tied the knot to be partners for life," she wrote on Twitter, where she also posted images of herself and her new husband on their wedding day. Yousafzai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize as a 17-year-old in 2014, sharing the award with Kailash Satyarthi, a children's rights activist from India.

#### Taiwan gov't faces 5 million cyber attacks daily: official

Taiwan's government agencies face around five million cyber attacks and probes a day, an official said yesterday, as a report warned of increasing Chinese cyber warfare targeting the self-ruled island. Speaking in parliament, cyber security department director Chien Hung-wei said Taiwan's government network faces "five million attacks and scans a day". A scan in cyber security refers to an attempt to locate weaknesses in a server. Taipei has accused Beijing of ramping up cyber attacks since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who views the island as a sovereign nation. Beijing views democratic Taiwan as part of its own territory and has vowed to one day seize the island, by force if necessary.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## 'We've already run out of time'

UN says climate change to intensify humanitarian crisis, aid system collapse

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

In the six years since the Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted in 2015, Madagascar has had only one decent rainy season, leaving more than a million people severely hungry in the southeast African island nation.

The drought and unexpected sandstorms have ruined crops in the south, according to the UN World Food Programme, forcing families to eat locusts, wild leaves and cacti, with their malnourished children too weak to laugh or cry.

About 14,000 people in Madagascar are now on the brink of famine.

From Madagascar to Afghanistan, where drought is displacing people already beset by conflict, hotter global temperatures are stoking hunger, poverty and migration among tens of millions in the most fragile countries, UN agencies warned on Tuesday.

Aid workers are struggling to keep pace with the rising number of disasters even at global warming of 1.2 degrees

Celsius today, the UN humanitarian agency OCHA said at the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, pointing to the challenges of operating in troubled places like Haiti, Mali and Yemen.

"A rise of 2.7C, our current trajectory, or beyond would lead to a



runaway global humanitarian crisis, the sheer magnitude of which would seriously threaten the (aid) system's collapse," it said in a preview of a report to be released early next year.

The research highlights that from 2000-2019, nearly 7,000 disasters were recorded worldwide, a rise of 83% from the previous two decades, with floods increasing by 134% over that same period and extreme temperature events by 232%.

"I believe we have already run

out of time," OCHA's chief of policy Hansjoerg Strohmeyer told journalists in Glasgow.

"Tens of millions today have run out of time, because for them, the climate crisis is real - it's daily, it's irreversible and it's now."

The agencies called for governments to deliver on an unmet promise to provide \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help developing nations tackle climate change, and to ensure the money makes a difference to lives in places like Niger and South Sudan.

In a bid to build the resilience of vulnerable people to climate change impacts, donor governments have this week made new contributions to two key funds set up to help the world's poorest countries adapt to a warmer planet. Yet despite the new money, finance for adaptation - at little more than \$20 billion a year - remains far below the annual \$70 billion in estimated needs among developing countries - an amount that could rise to \$300 billion by 2030, the UN said.

### MIGRANT CRISIS AT POLAND-BELARUS BORDER

## West accuses Belarus of orchestrating crisis

AFP, Sokolka, Poland

Poland yesterday said it had seen a surge in attempts to breach its border and had pushed back hundreds of migrants to Belarus, after it accused Minsk and Moscow of trying to orchestrate a crisis on Europe's borders.

The migrants, mainly from the Middle East, have spent days in freezing temperatures on the border, blocked by rows of Polish border guards behind razor-wire.

Western governments have accused Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko of luring the migrants to his country and sending them to cross over into EU member Poland in retaliation for sanctions.

Poland has gone a step further, saying Lukashenko's main backer, Russian President Vladimir Putin, is masterminding the crisis.

Between 2,000 and 4,000 migrants, reported to be mainly Kurds, have set up a camp near the border after they made a concerted effort to cross on Monday but were pushed back by Polish border guards. Polish police said more than 50 migrants were detained and handed over to border guards to be sent back to Belarus.

The Polish defence ministry said Belarus was using intimidation to force migrants to breach the border. Belarus has levelled its own accusations against Poland, saying Warsaw is violating international norms by blocking the migrants and beating them back with violence.

The EU, Nato and the United States have all said Lukashenko is provoking the crisis in response to Western sanctions imposed over his heavy crackdown on the opposition following a disputed election last year.

## 'Well, that was a bedtime fail, wasn't it?'

Daughter interrupts NZ PM's livestream

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was busy telling the nation about important revisions to Covid-19 restrictions when an unexpected voice cut in: "mummy"?

In a situation familiar to parents worldwide, the leader's three-year-old daughter Neve had decided everything, even the affairs of state, could wait. "You're meant to be in bed, darling," the 41-year-old Kiwi leader says, turning away from the Monday's Facebook livestream to offer an also-familiar observation-cum-plea.

"No," Neve responds undeterred, launching what ended up being protracted, and for Ardern, fruitless, negotiations.

"It's bedtime, darling, pop back to bed. I'll come and see you in a second. I'll come and see you in a minute. Okay, -- sorry, everybody," Ardern says with a wry smile.

"Well, that was a bedtime fail, wasn't it? I thought here's a moment I'll do a Facebook Live. It will be nice and safe. Does anyone else have kids escape like three, four times after bedtime? Thankfully, my mum's here so she can help out."

"Okay, where were we?" Ardern tried to continue. The little voice returns: "What's taking so long?"

"I'm sorry, darling, it is taking so long. Okay. I'm sorry, everyone. I'm going to just go and put Neve back to bed. Because this is well past her bedtime. Thanks for joining me."

While not as dramatic as the moment the children of Korea analyst Robert Kelly interrupting his 2017 BBC interview, it is not the first time Neve has stolen the limelight.

In 2018 Ardern became the second prime minister in the world -- after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto -- to give birth while in office, later taking Neve onto the floor of the UN Assembly in New York.



A model of the Democracy Monument built by activists is lit on fire outside the Constitutional Court of Thailand in Bangkok yesterday, after the court ruled that three Thai protesters' demands on monarchy reform amounted to calls to overthrow the constitutional monarchy. PHOTO: AFP

## 'Europe is in danger'

Bloc's top diplomat to propose EU military doctrine

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Union's top diplomat was set to warn the bloc yesterday that it must agree an ambitious doctrine as the basis for joint military action abroad, including with a deployable crisis force, according to excerpts of a draft seen by Reuters.

Josep Borrell will present his fellow European Commissioners with the first draft of the "Strategic Compass", the closest thing the EU could have to a military doctrine and akin to Nato's "Strategic Concept" that sets out alliance goals.

"Europe is in danger," the EU's foreign policy chief will say, according to a draft foreword.

He will stress that the US-led Nato alliance remains primarily responsible for Europe's collective defence.

While European countries have

highly-trained soldiers and cyber, naval and air power, resources are duplicated across 27 militaries and EU train-and-assist missions are modest in size.

Member states also lack the logistics and command and control capabilities of the United States and cannot match its intelligence-gathering.

A separate threat assessment is confidential, but diplomats cite the failing states on Europe's frontiers as areas where the EU might need to send peacekeepers or evacuate citizens.

EU foreign and defence ministers will take up the issue on Monday, aiming to agree a final political document in March.

With the blessing of US President Joe Biden in a communique with French President Emmanuel Macron last month, the EU argues it can be a more useful ally to the US if it develops

standalone military capacities.

Britain's exit from the EU, while depriving the bloc of a military power, has given Paris an opportunity to push ambitions for a bigger EU role in defence, with Berlin. But despite progress on building a common defence fund to develop weapons together since late 2017, the EU has yet to deploy its battalion-sized battlegroups in a crisis.

Borrell is set to say that the Strategic Compass is not just another EU document, noting past failures in defence.

"The difference this time lies in the speed at which the geo-political context is changing. This makes the case for action more urgent," Borrell said in the foreword to the draft.

"All the threats we face are intensifying and the capacity of individual member states to cope is insufficient and declining."



Hindu devotees offer prayers during 'Chhath Puja' festival on the banks of the Mahananda River in Siliguri, yesterday. Prayers during Chhath puja are dedicated to the solar deity, Surya, to show gratitude and thankfulness for bestowing the bounties of life on earth and to request the granting of certain wishes. PHOTO: AFP

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



NOVEMBER 11

1918 - The First World War ended at 11 am.

The armistice was signed in a railway carriage at Compiègne, France, bringing to a close a conflict in which more than 10 million people died.

1992 - Overturning centuries of tradition, the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

SOURCE: REUTERS

**act:onaid** The Daily Star

# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRL CHILD

## Progress and Way Forward for Bangladesh

The Daily Star in association with ActionAid Bangladesh organised an online discussion titled "Celebrating International Day of Girl Child: Progress and Way Forward for Bangladesh" on October 10, 2021. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.



**MORIUM NESA,**  
Manager, ActionAid  
Bangladesh, and  
Moderator of the  
Session

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh. In the past 50 years, we have overcome numerous obstacles to get to where we are today. The women of Bangladesh have also experienced this progress despite the countless obstacles in their way.

How we raise young girls will determine the way in which they will contribute to society and have an impact on the country's future. We have organised today's discussion to talk about the current situation of the girl child in Bangladesh.



**FARAH KABIR,**  
Country Director,  
ActionAid  
Bangladesh & Chair  
of the session

We always wish that our children, both girls and boys, grow up in a healthy and congenial environment so that they develop themselves with the intent to contribute to the society and the country. Bangladesh has made significant progress in empowering girls and young women in terms of indicators such as health, education, and political participation. However, girls and young women in Bangladesh, particularly those living in the marginalised segment of society, continue to face various challenges including multiple forms of violence. These challenges intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Bangladesh has been experiencing a loss of momentum in development due to the pandemic, which also threatens previous achievements, particularly in the areas of child marriage, enrolment of girls in schools and continuation of education for girls, young women, and women across the country.



**AFSANA ALIM,**  
Programme  
Officer, ActionAid  
Bangladesh

The key focus areas for development of women and girls include education, child marriage, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), economic empowerment and gender-based violence (GBV). We have made great strides since independence in all these areas, the most notable being the rise in the female literacy rate and removing gender-biased content from our school curriculum.

The female literacy rate is critically important as it is closely related to the rate of child marriage. A UNICEF report pointed out that girls who stay in school have a lower chance of being a victim of child marriage. Only 11 percent of girls who stay in school are victims of child marriage whereas for girls who drop out during their primary or secondary education, the child marriage rate is 60 percent.

Policies such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, which criminalised child marriage, have played a great role in reducing the rate of child marriage. However, the Covid-19 pandemic hampered the progress made on this front. As many girls stopped attending schools due to the pandemic, their families married them off to reduce their financial burden. UNICEF has reported that globally, over 10 million girls are at risk of child marriage due to the pandemic. This will also increase the health-related consequences that young girls face such as adolescent pregnancy, maternal and child mortality etc.

Having dropout from school and becoming a victim to child marriage also limits young girl's access to economic opportunities which ultimately leads to them being vulnerable to violence and exploitation.

If we want to break this vicious circle of deprivation, we must take necessary initiatives and action plans to achieve the targets set in the SDGs, our Eighth Five Year Plan (8th FYP) and Perspective plan 2041.

There are many challenges that we must overcome to reach these targets. One emerging challenge is the gender digital divide which excludes women from pursuing their education in this digital age. According to a study from 2019, only 6.7 percent of women aged 15-19 have ever used a computer while only 46 percent of women have access to mobiles, and only 17.5 percent of women have access to the internet. The societal taboo around SRHR poses a challenge towards making SRHR services more accessible for women.

The limited access to assets, income and economic resources for women is another problem that we must address. The social acceptance of gender-based violence threatens to undo our progress in achieving gender equity.



**AZIZA PARVIN,**  
Member, Bardoash  
Shapla Jubo  
Foundation, Naogaon

My mother had to start taking care of her family at a very young age. She did not have the opportunity to pursue her education. Today, I am here discussing how we can make our country a better place for girls in the future. This is something that neither



**MIFTAHUL JANNAT  
BUSHRA,**  
Vice President,  
Onirban Jubo  
Sangathan,  
Nilphamari

Online classes were being held in the villages, but not all children were able to join the classes because many do not own smartphones and cannot afford to buy one. Those who do have smartphones had no idea how to do classes on Zoom. Many also experienced cyberbullying when they opened Facebook accounts to join classes on the social media platform. They did not have information on how to prevent bullying. Moreover, girls who face cyberbullying never get justice. Hence, many parents are afraid to



**NASIMA AKHTER,**  
Young Entrepreneur,  
Chattogram

When I started this business I faced a lot of criticism, but I didn't give up. Due to the pandemic, I have been struggling to run my parlour business as the number of customers has dwindled. However, I haven't lost my morale.

I went through training so that I could turn my parlour business into a success story, but underprivileged women like me rarely get such opportunities. I urge the government to create income-generating opportunities for underprivileged women.

the importance of having access to information.

In our research, we found that many people who were laid off during the pandemic returned to their communities in climate-vulnerable areas. Many were youths. These unemployed young men were involved in sexual harassment. Parents were worried about their daughters' safety and decided to marry them off to protect them.



**SYEDA SAMARA  
MORTADA,**  
Regional Movement  
Supporter,  
SheDecides  
Bangladesh

A 2010 study in Bangladesh found that approximately 231,400 women were treated for complications arising from abortions done outside of a proper clinic. Abortion through menstrual regulation, which is legal in Bangladesh, is less than half the total number of abortions. This issue affecting adolescent girls is crucial and deserves more attention.

The Penal Code still has five clauses on anti-abortion. Abortion is illegal even for a rape victim. We have been trying to repeal such clauses for a long time. The movement must include grassroots people alongside policymakers, NGOs and INGOs.



**NASIMA AKHTER JOLY,**  
Secretary, National  
Girl Child Advocacy  
Forum

Justice is often denied when it comes to the girl child. As an example, each year many rape cases are filed at police stations, but proper judgement on such cases is rare. While there is a law against child marriage, we continue to see many cases of child marriage which are never legally prosecuted.

Violence against women and girls has also increased during the pandemic. Due to the social position of women, most of the cases of rape, GBV and sexual violence have not been resolved. The families of victims are often threatened, and they avoid pursuing legal action due to these threats. Some families think that marriage is the ultimate solution to prevent their girls from facing this kind of violence but, in many cases, girls who are victims of child marriage also end up facing such violence.

During this period, 813 young girls were raped, 193 were murdered, and 157 committed suicide. These young girls who are victims of child marriage, rape and other forms of violence often suffer from mental health problems due to their trauma. Therefore, we have to address this mental health crisis immediately. Moreover, a comprehensive law must be created that will combat sexual violence.

The government should run a survey to determine the current condition of the victims of child marriage. Our focus should be to bring them back into schools or even online education through the mobile, internet, or television.

**FARAH KABIR,** Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh

We have identified the problems and now we must seek out the solutions. We all know the number of child marriage increased during the pandemic. We need to gather evidence and determine the actual number of child marriages that have taken place in 2020/21. This will help us address the issue properly and take specific initiatives such as develop programmes to bring the girls back to education. Therefore, raising awareness on the issues will be a key component of any efforts which will include reaching out to parents and sensitising them regarding the equal rights of girls and boys.

We will need to take new initiatives to curb this issue of child marriage. The onus can't only be on the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, rather all the relevant ministries such as law, planning, education and local government should join in this effort. Our laws for preventing child marriage must also be reviewed again to understand whether it is the lack of proper implementation or the framing of the laws that is resulting in a failure to stop child marriage.

Moreover, for the realization of the full potentials of girls, young women and women in nation building we must address the issues of gender biased digital divide. This will be best done by ensuring access to digital technologies and services for girls and women. We must create scope and opportunity for girls and young women to participate in leadership spaces and for taking decisions. Along with that, government should incentivise young women to engage and enrol in the various skills development initiatives and courses online as well as offline. There is a need to ensure that there is a focus on marketable skill which will lead to an increased participation of women in the workforce.

Finally, I would like to address the issue of mental health. The pandemic has increased the vulnerabilities of girls and young women leading to a rise in the number of them suffering from mental depression. We must provide support to them with required psycho-social services. We will need to support the parents and families as well to cope with these situation and support girls and women.

### PROGRESS

- Female literacy rate (age 15 to 24) increased from 27.15 percent in 1981 to 96.09 percent in 2019.
- The rate of child marriage dropped from 90 percent in 1970 to 50 percent today.
- Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 for women aged 15-19) fell from 206 in 1970 to 81.6 in 2019.
- Formulation of the Prevention of Cruelty against Women and Children Act 2000.
- Bangladesh ranked 7th in the world in the political empowerment of women, with female representation in parliament around 20.86 percent.

### TARGETS

- Ensure all girls and boys complete primary and secondary education (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).
- Bring the percentage of women aged 20-24 years married before age 18 down to 30 percent by 2025 with the vision to end child marriages by 2041 (8th FYP).
- Reduce adolescent birth rate to 60 by 2025 (8th FYP).
- Reduce proportion of women aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 to 1.50 percent (8th FYP).
- Increase the female labour force participation rate to around 64 percent by 2041.
- Increase seats held by women at National Parliament to 35 percent by 2025.

### CHALLENGES

- Significant percentage of drop out rate for girls at the higher secondary and tertiary education.
- 13 million girls married before age 15.
- Taboo around SRHR in our society and limited access to health services for women and girls.
- Female's limited access to assets, income and economic resources due to a lack of gender-responsive labour market and the ILO Convention 190 not being adopted by the government.

SOURCE: UNICEF, 8 FYP, SDG GOALS, DATA.WORLDBANK.ORG, VAW SURVEY 2015, PERSPECTIVE PLAN OF BANGLADESH 2021-2041, GLOBALECONOMY.COM

my mother nor my grandmother could have dreamed of doing. That is why I am grateful to be able to pursue my education while also working in a social group that is working to end child marriage in our union.

On multiple occasions, we stopped incidents of child marriage and helped the authority to punish the culprits. These interventions restrained other people from marrying off their girl children. However, the Covid-19 pandemic seriously affected our activities which resulted in the rise of child marriage in our locality.



**RAWNAK JAHAN,**  
Representative, Girls  
Not Brides

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we won't be able to achieve many of the SDGs within the given timeline. We couldn't continue our work at the community level on changing social norms or advocating for law reforms. Girl children have faced additional restrictions on their mobility. Therefore, we must change our strategy and our youth leaders must work more fearlessly.

Girls Not Brides (GNB) is going to conduct a study to explore the factors that have contributed to the rise in child marriage and the extent to which the rate has increased. The findings of the study will help us create our advocacy plan.



**SOLIKA AKTER,**  
Activista, Dhaka-YFF  
Network

In the Shezan juice factory fire, many children aged between 14 and 19 years died. They had joined the factory because they couldn't continue their education during the pandemic. Child labour persists in urban areas since parents want their children to make an income rather than sit at home.

Female students over the age of 20 who are married face many challenges since they have to leave their domestic responsibilities to attend classes. Sometimes, these students even have to bring their babies to class because they have no other option. It seriously hampers their education.

let their children use smartphones. Awareness surrounding safe internet use is much lower in rural areas than in urban areas, so many students are unaware of which websites are good and which are bad.



**HALIMA AKTER,**  
Manager, Policy &  
Advocacy, Educo  
Bangladesh

18 months of school closure has led to many girls dropping out. The online education facilities were not available for many students, especially those in rural areas. The high drop-out rate of female students has led to a high child marriage rate. According to one of our reports, between August 2020 and August 2021, 1,253 child marriages in 136 unions have taken place, and 63 child marriages have been stopped. These numbers are 13 percent higher than those of 2019. Those who work in the education sector need to identify the reasons for students dropping out and create a database based on this information. Appropriate measures can be taken after the database has been developed. We perhaps can't bring the children who have been married off back into education. Still, we need to support those at risk of child marriage by raising awareness among their families about the

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Raise awareness among the most vulnerable groups about child marriage, GBV and SRHR.
- Address the gender digital divide by ensuring access for girls and women to digital technologies.
- Carry out mass campaigns to make people aware of the importance of education for girls.
- Conduct a survey to determine the actual number of victims of child marriage.
- Re-evaluate the laws regarding prevention of child marriage.
- Ensure access to proper menstrual hygiene management in educational institutes.
- Provide mental health support for girls.
- Fight gender-based stereotypes that contribute towards perpetuating gender inequalities.

importance of formal education. We should also encourage young girls to participate in vocational training alongside their traditional education so that they feel more empowered.

With the digitalisation of education, educators should help their students become aware of the safe use of internet. Parents should also monitor their children's internet use to ensure cyber safety.



**PURNIMA HALDER,**  
Secretary, Rising  
Star Youth Group,  
Bagerhat

We have been facing many natural disasters in Bagerhat. There is a shortage of drinking water in my community. Women and girls travel far to fetch drinking water, which is a massive challenge.

Another massive challenge is salinity. Due to salinity in the coastal area, families, particularly those who are dependent on agriculture, are facing increasing hardship. They are prone to marrying off their girl children to lessen their financial burden.



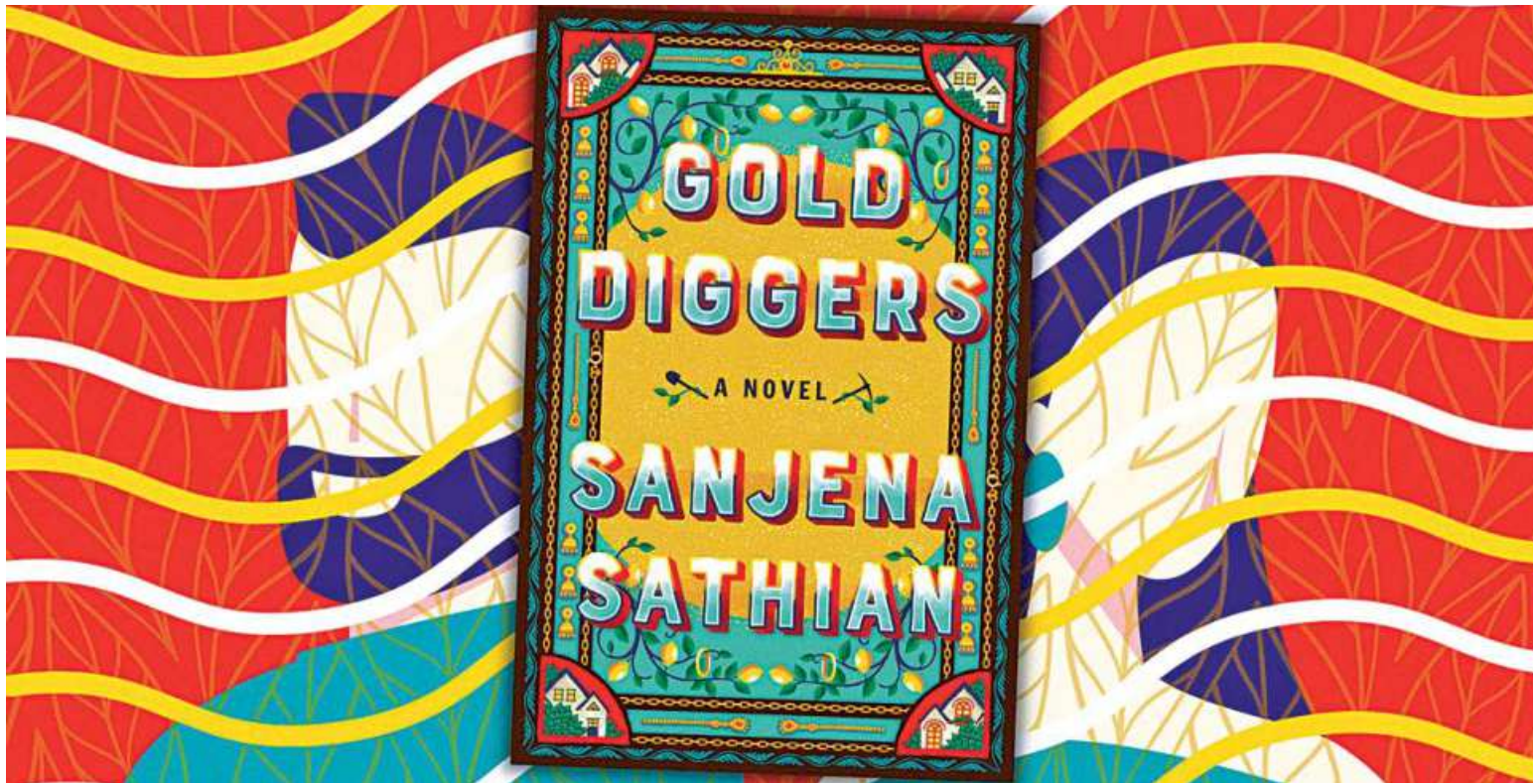
**PRIODARSHINI AUI,**  
Programme Analyst,  
Climate Change and  
Gender Equality, UN  
Women

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has been a significant setback to development, we have also been constantly facing challenges due to natural disasters. After a cyclone or similar disaster, when students re-join school, the number of returning female students is low.

Many of them drop out or are married off as an alternative coping mechanism as families face food shortages during the disaster.

We should consider whether Guardians' negative perception of internet and smartphone use only applies to girls, and causes more girls to be deprived of education which is being increasingly digitalised.

While it's essential to provide children with information about cyber safety, it is also crucial to raise awareness at the community level about



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

## BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

## Some gold, some lemonade, and a whole lot of ambition—the recipe for immigrant success

JAHIN KAISSAR

Sanjena Sathian's debut novel, *Gold Diggers* (Penguin Press, 2021), is set in an Indian American enclave within suburban Atlanta, a pressure-cooker environment where model minority strivers work tirelessly to excel in AP classes, debate tournaments, and teen pageants. Just beneath the gilded surface of top grades, estimable extracurriculars, and Ivy League acceptances is the discomfiting reality of substance abuse and mental health issues. In her novel, Sathian adroitly depicts how her characters navigate the pressure to succeed, as all young, second-generation Americans must do.

Neeraj "Neil" Narayan, the narrator-protagonist, is an underachieving ABCD (American-born confused desi) who struggles under the weight of his family's lofty expectations. After discovering that Anita, his childhood friend, and her mother have been stealing gold—and by extension ambition—from other desis and melting it to make magical lemonade, he decides that he wants in on their scheme. Just a sip of the lemonade imbues Neil and Anita with the drive to temporarily accomplish everything they set their mind to. But when a certain

tragedy strikes, they are forced to reflect on the dangers of "stealing" ambition. Years later, Neil and Anita, each haunted by their gold pilfering past, reunite for one final, adrenaline-rushing heist.

Sathian's prose weaves through various timelines to demonstrate how the past and the present are intimately connected. As the plot progresses, it becomes evident that everyone—from the "forty-niners" (those who sought gold during the California Gold Rush of 1849) to the millennials of contemporary Silicon Valley—is chasing gold and/or glory.

*Gold Diggers* does not fit easily into any one genre. It is a stimulating fusion of literary fiction, bildungsroman, magical realism, social satire, and what the protagonist, Anita, might call "immigrant shit." It is a sweeping story that derives its power as much from Sathian's sharp and witty writing as it does from keen social commentary. At the heart of the novel is the question: "What does it mean to be both Indian and American?" In attempting to answer this question, Sathian examines themes of cultural identity, generational divide, familial expectation, and the American dream. She pointedly and effectively explores these

issues without getting overly didactic.

While the novel's premise is rich with possibility, Sathian does not always make the most of it. Perhaps she has bitten off more than she is ready to chew. The novel starts to lose its momentum in its second half as the plot meanders and ultimately leads to a quick and less-than-satisfying resolution. In addition, the fact that the misogynistic and crass Neil is the narrator dilutes the story's power. Although Sathian most likely uses Neil's character to counter the stereotype of the Asian-American nerd, the story would have been markedly stronger if it had focused more on Anita and her mother's perspectives since they are the ones with the literal recipe for success.

Despite its flaws, however, *Gold Diggers* is an ambitious story with much to offer. That is why it comes as no surprise that the novel will be adapted into a TV series by Mindy Kaling's production company.

Jahin Kaiissar is a freelance writer and a recent graduate of Brac University, where she earned her MA in English.

## BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

## Can a writer be a mother too?

NOUSHIN NURI

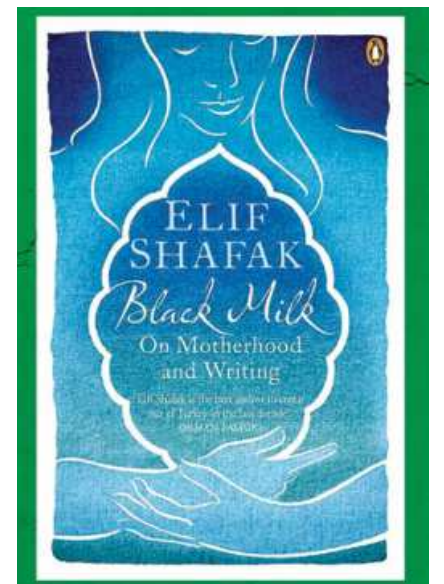
Standing at the crossroads of motherhood and writing, Elif Shafak writes her memoir, *Black Milk* (Viking, 2021), as an attempt to create harmony among her multiple and often-conflicting personalities. She writes, "I am a writer. I am a nomad. I am a cosmopolitan. I am a lover of Sufism. I am a pacifist. I am a vegetarian and I am a woman, more or less in that order." When this woman, who has diligently mothered volumes of fiction, contemplates finally becoming a mother, she witnesses a coup inside her, a commotion breaking loose among the women in her "harem within".

*Black Milk* is an autobiographical documentation of Shafak's hesitation, anxiety, perplexity, and self-discovery as she is about to enter the phase of motherhood. Six tiny finger-women, each a part of Elif but each blatantly different from the other, represent six dimensions of her personality. The intellectual Miss Highbrowed Cynic, the go-getter Milady Ambitious Chekhovian, the spiritual Dame Dervish, the rational Little Miss Practical, the motherly Mama Rice Pudding, and the lustful Blue Belle Bovary—all the voices are in constant attempts to shut other and take reign over Elif. Our ambitious writer, author of beloved novels like *The Forty Rules of Love* and *Honour*, and shortlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize for her novel *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World*, admits to having always favoured the more cerebral characters in her mind over the emotional "womanly" ones. But as the suppressed voices start revolting louder than she can bear, she is forced to listen. She is forced to ask herself if she should become a mother. In the process of eliciting an answer, she questions patriarchy, reminisces about her motherland, Istanbul, and becomes the voice of many women writers.

Shafak pondered over whether all her personalities could coexist. She tried to decipher if it is possible to be a mother despite being an author. In an attempt to solve her dilemma, she resorted to her predecessors—women writers throughout history. Through the lives of Zelda Fitzgerald, with whom Elif's daughter now shares her name, Emily Dickinson, George Eliot, Jane Austen, Emily Bronte, Sylvia Plath and many others, she shows us how likely it was—and still is—for motherhood and authorship to become mutually exclusive.

From this aspect, the book has a flavour of Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* (1929) but with a spin of

motherhood on it. In her book-length essay Woolf alludes to the importance of financial security and independence for a woman to emerge as an author. Shafak, on the other hand, recounts how women writers, in times contemporary and past, have chosen to deal, and more often part, with the responsibilities of motherhood to nurture their careers. Virginia Woolf points out the disparate privilege of male writers compared to their women counterparts by making an elaborate inquiry into whether Shakespeare's hypothetical talented sister could have ever made it as successful a writer as he; Woolf walks through this imaginary woman's life to show that she would have never had the same freedom, opportunities, or support, just because of the perceived role of



women in society. Shafak poses the same question for the Persian lyric poet Hafiz and his sister.

*Black Milk* smells of nostalgia and melancholy as Shafak shares parts of her self-imposed exile. As she falls into the hands of a monstrous postpartum depression, the book presents the writer's very personal unrest created by the inner choir of discordant voices. The consequent narrative speaks out the strife of female authorship throughout ages. This memoir reads as a diary of a woman's oscillating allegiance between motherhood and ambition in a world where women are expected to do it all. It is an elegant piece of feminist prose.

Noushin Nuri is studying business in school and literature at home. She can be reached at noushin2411@gmail.com.

## BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

## Killing the false woman: 'The Harpy' dissects parenthood, femininity, and domestic abuse

MEHRUL BARI

A book's epigraph usually either leaves you droplets of hints of what's to come or purposefully perplexes, with abstract quotes that leave you feeling rather than knowing. Megan Hunter's *The Harpy* (Picador, 2020), a mesmerizing, disquieting tale of suburban infidelity, starts with quotes from Virgil and post-structural feminist writer Hélène Cixous. And if you weren't familiar with either author, the quotes themselves will very much set the scene, and tone, of Hunter's psychological-magic-realist-fiction.

"It is the last time", the novel's first line reads. "He lies down, a warm night, his shirt pulled up, his head turned away." Within moments the reader can grasp the style, the tenor, a certain kind of content that might soon come gushing out. "Jake is not squeamish: he is like a man expecting a tattoo. [...] His eyes are closed: not screwed shut, just closed, like a skilful child pretending to be asleep." By the turn of the first page the reader can sense not only the story—that of a mother of two finding out, through a succinct phone call, that her husband has been having an affair—but the way the story will come to us: in images, a flash of words, a string of thoughts—bad thoughts, understandable thoughts, horrid, horrible thoughts you wouldn't want getting out. We receive these clear images and sounds, and are left to observe and comprehend them as we like. "I lift the razor", reads the closing line of the prologue, "and a fairy-tale drop of blood escapes from under the silver."

The titular harpy, a half-bird, half-woman creature of classical mythology, is a long-time subject of interest for Lucy, the narrator, the aggrieved. She had studied the



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

creature through school and college, and had almost finished her PhD on it. The legendary creature, now used commonly as an epithet to describe an ill-tempered woman, a "shrew", was originally simply the personification of storm winds and thunder. Throughout history, harpies have been interchangeably described with beautiful poetry and hateful scorn. "Bird-bodied, girl-faced things", as Virgil defined

them in the epigraph, with a sneering selection of adjectives and verbs to go with: "abominable", "droppings", "talons", "haggard", "hunger", "insatiable".

Like one may fixate on a character, a myth while coming of age, like a Dora the Explorer or a Ted Bundy, Lucy fixated, obsessed over the harpy almost from the moment she first encountered them: as a child, her mother reading to her from an

illustrated book concerning unicorns. The harpies there are more of the antagonizing nature, but Lucy is awestruck. What is a harpy, she asks her mother, a pitiful, mostly disagreeable character in the haze of the novel's memories. "[S]he told me that they punish men, for the things they do."

"There is a trail of anger flowing through my bloodline, from my great-grandmother, to my grandmother, to my mother, to me."

The novel asks, and is equally stumped by, the question of where a family ends and one begins. To what extent can selfishness be driven; when does selfishness begin?

Hunter's sophomore novel is at its best when it ponders this, which it commendably does through actions more than words. My teacher, who has assigned this book and whose praise for it is repeated multiple times in the jacket and opening page, likens *The Harpy's* prose with the Kuleshov effect, a practice in film which presents the viewer with only a key few images, leaving interpretation solely on the viewer's part. It is, in other words, a more extreme form of "show, don't tell", and reading this novel it is apparent the writer's proficiency in this practice. Similarly apparent is Hunter's background in poetry, which often pushes through the prose to take centre stage.

While there is no faulting the rich writing and provocative left-of-fable narrative, the overall reading experience, I felt, could've been improved with some condensing. When the novel is approaching its middle point, it repeats itself more than it should. Comparing its 193-page count with the more direct 117 of Rachel Ingalls' fantastic *Mrs. Caliban* (1982), which tells a similar story, if by feel more than plot, it is evident that such a tale benefits a great deal from brevity, letting the quick, impulse-like storytelling take a firm hold of you before the downs of the rollercoaster pulls you in from start to finish.

Mehrul Bari S Chowdhury is a writer, poet, and artist. He is currently pursuing an MA in Creative Writing at the University of Kent and has previously worked for Daily Star Books.

# PM Hasina's earnest call for action at COP26

*Bangladesh's climate diplomacy may go a long way in compelling major emitters to take more responsibility in dealing with the climate crisis*

BAREESH HASAN CHOWDHURY

**I**N the lead up to COP26, the BBC published an article highlighting five people who would be key to successful outcomes in Glasgow. The list included veteran Chinese climate negotiator Xia Zhenhua and COP26 President Alok Sharma, amongst others, and included the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, who the BBC termed the "voice of the vulnerable". As the current President of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the V20 Group of Ministers, much is expected of Bangladesh's delegation to be a strong moral voice and advocate.

These expectations are not without justification. Bangladesh, along with other small developing states, often have outsized voices at forums like COP, punching well above their economic weight, and with good track records of pushing through valuable decisions

often begins after the leaders have left their negotiators to work overtime to iron out a deal—and the opportunity was taken by many to announce significant new climate pledges, including a spate of net zero commitments and action. Others used the opportunity to remind their fellow heads of states of the urgency and moral imperative of successful outcomes at Glasgow.

PM Hasina began with the oft-recited yet highly effective reminder that Bangladesh contributes less than 0.5 percent of global emissions, yet is a country that is among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The moral imperative of climate action is not on developing states like Bangladesh, but rather on rich, industrialised nations. But the climate reality is that we are already facing the effects, and without effective climate

announced that work is underway on a National Adaptation Plan that should be unveiled next year. Bangladesh's new NDC were deemed "ambitious" by her, and she briefly mentioned the extensive domestic solar programme, as well as plans to have 40 percent of power generation from renewable sources by 2041. The main body of her speech ended with her reiterating her responsibility

*In climate diplomacy circles, Bangladesh remains a respected and motivated actor fighting for climate action on the global stage.*

actions at home. There was no mention of coal, a major talking point at this COP, as repeated calls from the COP Presidency have urged for coal to be binned at Glasgow. Bangladesh has persisted with planned future reliance on coal—a policy that contradicts the moral high ground of its climate diplomatic position and makes less and less economic sense as the price of renewables plummet worldwide. While in a separate speech she mentioned the 10 coal power plant plans that were binned earlier this year by the government, there remains extensive coal generation plants, many in fragile ecosystems, with questions surrounding ecological impacts and human rights violations.

In addition, with international pressure on coal funders, whether these cancellations came about from climate considerations or economic necessities is a matter of speculation. Without an updated Power Sector Master Plan, it remains unclear as to what direction the government's energy policies will take and remains a somewhat uncertain field. Deforestation and the conservation of carbon sinks were also noticeably missing from the PM's speech, especially with continuous reports of land-grabbing and tree-felling in reserve forests in Bangladesh—such as the decision to use 700 acres for the establishment of a civil service academy in Cox's Bazaar, which includes areas that are categorised as Ecologically Critical. Bangladesh initially abstained from signing on to a major political commitment on protection of forests at COP, but has since signed on.

PM Hasina's speech in Glasgow made a lot of good points and stressed on important demands, something one must hope her negotiators and the delegates of other CVF countries will push hard for in whatever outcomes emerge from Glasgow. However, these cannot just remain demands, they must become realities as the climate crisis worsens. Near term action is extremely important. While no government is perfect, Bangladesh's moral position internationally must also be backed up with action domestically, something which, at the domestic level, has sometimes been found lacking. The pipeline of policies and strategic documents will create an important framework, but we have to wait until they are published to scrutinise what they do well and what they lack. Words are important, but action even more so. Whatever emerges when the dust settles in Glasgow, we hope the government of Bangladesh will apply the same urgency to dealing with environmental degradation at home.

Bareesh Hasan Chowdhury is a Research Lawyer at the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).



**PM Sheikh Hasina presents her national statement as part of the World Leaders' Summit of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland on November 1, 2021.**

PHOTO: AP

through the UN mechanism. An appeal by the PM on behalf of the CVF countries for the submission of ambitious new NDCs went out last year and acted as a call to action for many ahead of Glasgow. Most recently, Bangladesh and the Marshall Islands were commended for their efforts in the UN Human Rights Council to push through a resolution for the creation of a new mandate holder, in the form of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change. In climate diplomacy circles, Bangladesh remains a respected and motivated actor fighting for climate action on the global stage.

As a result, PM Hasina's speech at the Leaders Summit on the first two days at COP26 was eagerly awaited. The series of speeches by world leaders is more theatre than actual policy action—the real work

finance, technology transfer and focus on adaptation, many lives and livelihoods will be lost in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the Global South.

Bangladesh is already planning and taking actions to deal with this climate reality, as outlined in the number of policy initiatives the PM talked about. She mentioned the establishment of the GoB's Climate Change Trust Fund, for which she announced spending would be increasing yearly, as well as the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, the first of its kind in the world and a blueprint on building resilience, promoting development and spurring economic growth centring around climate action. It is widely expected that this will be a blueprint for other developing nations to develop their own climate prosperity plans. She also

to speak not only for the people of Bangladesh, but also the 40 plus members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, and spoke of the efforts of the CVF countries to pursue a "Climate Emergency Pact".

She closed her speech with four demands, summarising the long-standing demands of many in the developing world. The first of these was that the major emitters and industrialised countries must submit ambitious new NDCs for upgraded climate action as well as, importantly, guarantee their implementation. The second was to highlight a major talking point at COP26, which is the promise of the mobilisation of USD 100 billion annually in climate finance to developing countries, which has yet to be kept. The climate finance that has been mobilised (usually well short of the USD 100 billion target) has often been skewed for mitigation purposes, and the PM reiterated the CVF's demands that the finance should be split 50:50 between mitigation and adaptation. In addition, she also demanded affordable and accessible technology transfer for developing nations. Finally, she called for the addressing of the elephant in the room: Loss and Damage, including calling for enshrinement of shared responsibility for climate migrants/refugees and displaced peoples due to adverse climatic effects such as sea level rises, increasing salinity, erosion, droughts, etc.

While her speech covered many points deserving of their own careful analysis and writing, and bravely put forward a series of demands for major emitters and industrialised nations to take responsibility and appropriate action to fight the climate crisis, there were some significant issues missing, especially in relation to Bangladesh's environmental

# Locally-led adaptation is a key strategy in dealing with the climate crisis



**KAZI AMDADUL HOQUE**

**T**HIS world is home to some 7.6 billion people, and not every person lives as well as the next. Some live in concrete homes, some in thatched huts. Some in the urban jungle, some in towns and villages, and others, literally in jungles. Some live on flat land, some on plateaus, and some on plain land. Those who live in climate vulnerable areas are often posed a common question: Why not move?

This article will not answer the above question. There are a number of reasons as to why a group of people choose a particular area and make it their home. It is as much of a geological decision, as it is a cultural, social or emotional one. However, it is important that we highlight the plight of people who choose a particular spot as their home and demand localised attention for them, while or without waiting for solutions to big-picture, global problems. We need to make leaders understand that while global environmental debates remain ever fluid, people who live in deteriorating local conditions require customised and personalised solutions, and they require them fast.

Take deforestation, for instance. The people in these vulnerable areas are largely dependent on the forests for their livelihood, but deforestation has now become a problem for the entire world. Similarly, if the world is to curb the global rise in temperature and keep it below 1.5 degrees Centigrade, countries will have to cut their emissions for decades. It is a given that the bigger the issue, the more time it will take. While conventions are held every year regarding burning environmental issues such as deforestation and global warming as a consequence of deforestation, vulnerable people are grappling with

seemingly smaller but more urgent and life-threatening consequences, such as hunger, displaced animals entering villages, and floods and cyclones—none of which can be put on hold because conventions with important world leaders are looking for solutions. Granted, global warming is a much bigger issue in the grander scheme of things, but it definitely is not as easily solved as some localised problems may

wait for reforestation in a particular area for the floods to stop while people lose livelihoods, homes get displaced and children fall sick. Research has shown us all the reasons why floods in one area would occur again and again. Even if evacuation seems an obvious solution, oftentimes, it does not work due to a combination of economic forces, lack of education, human rights issues, etc. An integrated problem like this would



**In almost neck-deep water, a woman carries dry food and kitchenware on a makeshift raft in Char Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram, after the Brahmaputra River swelled up in the district last year.**

FILE PHOTO

be, if given proper and timely attention. Therefore, it is only fitting that these local problems be provided with unique solutions—whether nature-based and local, or a mix of global and local—but definitely keeping in mind the local surroundings. They demand customisation in the way they are solved, and deserve acute attention and swift intervention from their national governments, international agencies and other decision-making bodies. Take, for instance, floods. The drone view of why floods occur frequently is a lack of green cover provided by trees. However, it would be impractical to

never have a one-size-fits-all solution. Therefore, simply calling for evacuation in that area does not serve any purpose. It is like yanking at the string of a botched necklace while the whole piece disintegrates in your hand.

Then what do you do? The answer is two-pronged. It lies at the very roots of where the problem is occurring—in locally led adaptation (LLA), and ironically, in the experienced hands of top decision-makers, researchers, government and private institutions, civil society torchbearers and international agencies. Let us explore both in detail. Locally led adaptation action involves

empowering local stakeholders to lead or meaningfully contribute to adaptation actions. Each place has its own unique history, its dilemmas, and its tried and tested localised methods of putting things right. Indigenous people know their land better than anyone and know how to respect nature and the environment in which they live, often striking the right balance between sustaining resources and protecting themselves, even if it is just to survive and delay the issues at hand, and not mitigate them. Right now, almost everywhere in the world, people are going by the top-down approach. The top officials of government ministries, who have next to no hands-on knowledge of problems faced by the people who are in the thick of the problem, are trying to find solutions to these problems. Their expertise is simply not enough to generate the sort of results that would sustainably work for these people.

It is the people living in the affected areas who will be able to assist themselves better, as they have been dealing and adapting with issues like these all their lives and through generations. The experience they pass down, the improvised techniques of adaptation, blended with the modern knowledge of local and regional experts, can be crucial to their survival and to planning out localised solutions for them, even, and especially, in the face of global negotiation delays. In short, even when a failure of global leadership delays things, local intervention can and should be faster than global delay. This can be made possible through LLA where all authoritative bodies working at the local level—supported by their governments and private institutions, including civil society leaders—and foreign agencies work and learn from each other and about adaptive actions by involving local-level entities.

Kazi Amdadul Hoque is the senior director of strategic planning and head of Climate Action at Friendship, a Bangladeshi social purpose organisation. Email: hoqueka@gmail.com

## Another haphazardly arranged vaccination drive

*This time, it is school children and their guardians who are suffering*

**T**HE government's vaccination programme for schoolchildren, which has been underway since the first of this month, is beset by a number of difficulties. According to a report in this daily on Wednesday, long queues, mismanagement at the vaccine centres and multiple difficulties in the registration process have dampened the excitement surrounding the initiative to inoculate schoolchildren aged 12-17. This, unfortunately, shows that the authorities have not learned any lessons from previous nationwide vaccination drives that were mired with inefficiencies as a result of poor planning and lack of proper oversight.

It is most disappointing that the government is yet to devise a system to make its inoculation programmes efficient and easy for those who are hoping to get vaccinated. In the absence of such a system, students of various schools have had to wait for hours on end to get their vaccines, according to the report. Some students were even seen struggling to just get into the school premises. The chaos inside and outside of the schools and the massive gatherings of students and their guardians is only exposing them to unnecessary risks of contracting the virus. And this has, so far, been a staple of all of the government's vaccination drives.

The report revealed that some of the gatherings were happening because not all the vaccination booths were functional. The number of school students in Dhaka is huge. The government should have taken this into account and set up a substantial number of vaccination centres. That there are currently only a handful of vaccination centres available for school children, where some of the booths are not even operating, is simply unacceptable. Parents also complained at the lack of assistance they received from school authorities when it came to registering their children for vaccination. Moreover, there has been a huge mess-up when it comes to registering with the Surokha app, as those having a 16-digit birth certificate have been unable to register at all.

These are all problems that should have been sorted out a long time ago. After so many rounds of government vaccination drives, there is no excuse for these hurdles. The lack of focus on the part of the authorities to ensure that the inoculation of school children goes smoothly is truly perplexing. Therefore, we call on the authorities to immediately address these issues once and for all, as otherwise, the current vaccination drive of school children, like many before it, might again fail to deliver the desired results. And that is something we can ill-afford at this stage.

## Draft guideline to regulate three-wheelers encouraging

*Slow-moving vehicles are a major cause for road crashes on highways*

**T**HAT the government has made a draft guideline to regulate risky three-wheelers and similar types of vehicles on national and regional highways is encouraging. According to the draft, three-wheelers like Nasiman and Kariman and the battery-run easy-bikes will not be allowed on national and regional highways unless they have the route permit, and registration and fitness clearance, to operate on the dedicated routes. The number of such vehicles would be brought down in an effort to reduce road crashes and traffic congestion. Moreover, the drivers of the vehicles which would be allowed to operate, would also be required to have driving licenses.

Various studies done over the years have found slow-moving vehicles to be one of the major reasons for road crashes on highways. However, not much has been done to control their operations. Reportedly, a ban was imposed on the three-wheelers such as Nasiman and Kariman on 22 major national highways in 2015, which remains largely unenforced. The result of the non-enforcement of the ban is that road crashes have increased on the highways in the last few years. According to a police report, a total of 3,095 people were killed in 3,259 road crashes in the first seven months of this year, which is over 40 percent higher than that of the same period last year. And experts have blamed the plying of a large number of small vehicles on highways for this rise in the number of casualties from road crashes.

While we appreciate any steps to control the movement of slow-moving vehicles on the highways because they increase risks of accidents, we would also like to remind the government that these vehicles are very cost-effective for the local people. If they are taken out of the roads, there must be alternative modes of transport made available for people at cheaper rates. Another solution could be to improve the technical standards of these vehicles and let them operate on separate lanes, while ensuring that they are driven by skilled people with driving licenses.

That being said, we think the draft regulation is a very significant development in ensuring road safety. Since it is still in its preparatory stage, transport experts as well as ordinary people should be allowed to give their feedback to make it more people-oriented and enforceable.

# Child brides are still children, and they need our help

*Urgent action must be taken to bring child marriage victims back to school*



SHAHEEN ANAM

SHOROLIKA Parveen from Kurigram dreamt of playing in the national football team someday and had even received a best player award from the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. However, that was not to be. The ninth grader became a victim of child marriage during the pandemic, as did seven other footballers in her class. Now, instead of planning the next pass or goal on the football field, they manage households with all its responsibilities. The question is, do her dreams and aspirations have to end with marriage?

At 51 percent, Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world. The present commitment of the government is to eliminate marriage below 16 years by 2024 and completely eradicate it by 2041 (this deadline has been changed from 2030

to 2041). The Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 sets the minimum age of marriage for males at 21 years and for females at 18 years, with provisions for punishment of up to five years in jail for offenders. However, till date, we don't know of anyone who has been punished for this offence. The Act contains a clause that allows marriages for girls under 18 in "special cases" or for "the greater good of the adolescent". The special provision was vehemently opposed by child rights and women's rights organisations but has not been removed, giving an excuse to parents and marriage registrars to conduct such illegal marriages.

Women's and child rights activists have found it difficult to prevent child marriage due to multiple factors, such as traditional norms and practices of families that still believe that the earlier a girl is married, the better it is for the reputation of the family. Insecurity and poverty are also major factors. However, another important factor is that those responsible to prevent it are never held to account for failing in their duties. It is well known that women and

children bear the brunt of any disaster, natural or man-made. And so it has been during the Covid-19 pandemic. Domestic violence soared to such levels that the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was compelled to issue directives to all member states to address this problem seriously. According to a report by UNICEF from March this year, 10 million more girls are susceptible to child marriage

become victims of child marriage. In Rajshahi, 6,500 girl children have become victims of child marriage, of whom 600 are in one upazila alone. Tangail reported 7,000 students in secondary classes who did not return to school. It is believed this is just the tip of the iceberg, as no national figures are available yet.

The negative impacts of child marriage on the lives of young girls no

moving on to try and prevent further early marriages. We must make a conscious decision together to bring them back to school, and give them a chance of following their dreams and having an independent life. The first step is to bring about a change in mindsets and attitudes. Just because a young girl has been forced into this situation—her life, her dreams and aspirations, should not end there.

There are examples of such positive practices. A partner NGO of MJF in Dinajpur has encouraged at least 56 child brides to return to school and attend classes while they continued to live with their respective husbands. This was done through negotiations with the husbands, in-laws and family members. It required the cooperation of elected officials, local authorities and school teachers. This model of bringing victims of child marriage back to school can be replicated all over Bangladesh. An important policy decision has to be taken not to discontinue their stipends after marriage. This will act as an incentive for families facing economic hardship. Moreover, existing institutions and structures responsible for preventing child marriage at local levels, such as child marriage prevention committees, have to be activated and relevant officials must be held accountable for neglect of their duties.

Finally, the larger question is, what is the worth of a girl in our society? Is she loved and recognised for the joy and care she gives to her family, or is she a burden to be sent away at the first opportunity? It is a matter of national shame that in spite of the Prime Minister's personal commitment to girls' education, we now find classrooms empty of adolescent girls.

We urge the authorities not to treat children and women's rights activists as adversaries. Together, we can take some bold decisions to reject traditional practices that condemn a young girl to a life of household chores, just because she has been illegally married. We need to work in partnership with women's rights organisations, civil society groups, teachers, elected representatives, local authorities and families to join in national campaigns to bring our girls, married or otherwise, back to school.

Shaheen Anam is executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

*Does a young girl have to forego all her dreams and ambitions just because she is married, and that too, forcefully and illegally? Does she cease to be a child with hopes to fly, to dream and to express herself? Does she become a housewife even if her heart is in the field or in school, playing, laughing and dancing with her siblings and friends?*



Reports of classrooms empty of girls in the ninth and tenth grades are coming from all over Bangladesh.

PHOTO: REUTERS

because of the pandemic.

Around 650 million girls and women who are alive today have been married in childhood, with about half of these child marriages occurring in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India and Nigeria. During the pandemic, given the financial crises families faced, along with closure of schools and insecurity regarding the future, young girls became all the more susceptible to falling prey to such illegal marriages in large numbers. Studies conducted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in November 2020 revealed that over 13,000 such marriages took place in 21 districts in the country. In spite of such evidence from multiple sources, no action was taken to reverse the trend. Given the emergency situation, preventing child marriage was not a priority. Saving lives, providing relief to those most affected, getting the economy back on track, etc were deemed to be more important.

As predicted, an alarming situation has come to light after schools reopened on September 1 after 18 long months of closure. Reports of classrooms empty of girls in the ninth and tenth grades are coming from all over Bangladesh. Most absentees have

longer require elaboration. It severely curtails their potential to take decisions, forcing them into a physical and social relationship that they are not prepared for. There are countless stories of the horror young girls face when forced to marry older men who inflict sexual and mental torture on them. Let us not forget the 14-year-old girl from Tangail who died of genital bleeding last year, only a month after she was married to a much older returnee migrant worker. Marital rape is not recognised by the law and the victim has to be below 13 years of age in order to file for rape. There is no punishment for such abuse, torture and sometimes murder, which is hidden under the overall sanction of "marriage".

Given this situation, what can we do? Does a young girl have to forego all her dreams and ambitions just because she is married, and that too, forcefully and illegally? Does she cease to be a child with hopes to fly, to dream and to express herself? Does she become a housewife even if her heart is on the field or in school, playing, laughing and dancing with her siblings and friends? The answer should be an emphatic no.

It is wrong to treat them as married women and abandon them, simply

## The subtle and not-so-subtle logic behind fuel price hikes



GOLAM MORTOZA

ON the evening of November 3, the government increased the per litre price of diesel and kerosene oil by Tk 15. The next day, bus owners announced an indefinite strike in protest, and it was activated almost immediately from Friday, November 5. It appeared as if we didn't have an administration that cared enough to ensure millions of students and job-seekers could reach their respective exam centres. Since the strike was announced over the weekend, a discussion with the bus owners—who had announced that public buses would not run until they were allowed to increase fares—could not take place before Sunday. Similarly, trucks and launches also stopped their operations.

Despite the extraordinary sufferings imposed upon the general populace, not an iota of compassion could be seen among the representatives of government. The idea that no discussions can take place over the weekend is a mind-boggling government policy. During these two days, we had to hear and endure some very "subtle" and "not-so-subtle" logic from government decision-makers, where they tried to bolster the decision of hiking fuel prices. In accordance with the owners' wishes, the government increased transport fares on November 7. The decision was taken in the evening and the government's circular also came out in lightning speed. Friday and Saturday are off days, but the evening, which is after work hours, is also considered to be "off" time. However, in order to protect the interests of the transport owners, the government found no obstacles in publishing the circular in the evening, during such off hours.

Once public transport was back on the streets, many bus operators began to collect fares at a rate of 50 to 60 percent above the stipulated prices. The rule that CNG-run buses should not charge increased fares was also widely flouted. In Dhaka, a large number of vehicles run on gas, not diesel, including a portion of long range trucks. It is rumoured that the price of gas will also be increased soon. At that point of time, the fares may be revised again, and diesel-run vehicles are also likely to be included in that probable hike.

For these reasons, the question we must ask is—is the government protecting the interests of a few transport owners rather than that of the general population?

Certain claims have also been made recently on the issue of price hikes being connected to the smuggling of oil to India. It is expected that an explanation from a responsible minister or a government agency will definitely be circumstantial and information-based. However, does any supporting logic or fact exist for this claim? Did the government ask any agency to conduct an investigation in this regard?

No such information exists. Due to the constant vigilance of the BGB and BSF, along with the fact that there are barbed wired fences all around the border, the act of smuggling oil has become quite difficult. The BSF even takes a strong stance against cow smuggling. Journalists who are working around the border areas confirm that no big incidents of oil smuggling takes place these days. Even if some smuggling incidents happen, the amount would be insignificant at best.

Many years ago, Indian trucks would depart with containers filled with oil. It should be mentioned here that, only through the Benapole border, 250 to 300 Indian trucks enter Bangladesh with goods on a daily basis. Each truck has a container capacity of 300 to 400 litres. They used to empty the containers and then fill them up before returning. This method of smuggling has also been stopped. There is now a rule

by the BGB. Even after all this, a certain amount of smuggling might take place, but the amount will never be significant enough to justify a price hike.

Then there is the issue of oil price increase in the international market. The price for unrefined oil has increased, and the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has been incurring losses over the past five months. The calculation is such—for each litre of diesel, the government had to pay



Even though the government claims to subsidise fuel, they are actually making a profit of Tk 15 to 20 per litre in selling octane.

PHOTO: REUTERS

a subsidy of Tk 2.97, 3.70, 1.58, 5.58 and 13.01 in June, July, August, September and October, consecutively. Thus, from June to October, the BPC has incurred losses worth Tk 1,147.50 crore. However, it is not unusual to see the price of oil going through ups and downs in the international market. The cost of a barrel of oil was USD 83.54 in October. It is assumed that the price will increase further. In a very dubious manner, the energy ministry has decided not to divulge certain information, or to hide it in its entirety. It mentioned that the price of diesel was decreased by Tk 3 and fixed at Tk 65 per litre in 2016. They also mentioned with pride that the price has not been increased even once till 2020. But why didn't they increase the price in these past five years?

Let us ask a better question here. Was the government actually supposed to increase it? As per previously announced government policy, the rule is to adjust the

pricing, not to decrease or increase it. If prices increase on the international market, local prices will get a facelift. Similarly, if prices drop internationally, local prices will face a downward adjustment accordingly. So during the period of 2016 to 2020, how did the international oil market perform? In 2016, one barrel of oil cost USD 43.29. The average prices in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 was USD 50.80, USD 65.23, USD 55.99 and USD 39.68, consecutively. At a certain point

BPC has made a profit of more than Tk 43,000 crore in the last seven years as proceeds from selling oil. Apart from this, the government also gains 28 percent tax and VAT from each litre of unrefined oil. This 28 percent tax and VAT means the government earns Tk 19 per litre. Professor Tamim also mentioned that, apart from the profits earned by BPC, the government gets Tk 9,000 to 10,000 crore as VAT and taxes. It is unquestionable that the government will charge VAT and taxes. However, the question here is why the government took away the Tk 43,000 crore earned by BPC. A policy of stowing away a certain portion of profits for "rainy days" could have saved the day—for example, when prices are increasing in the international market, that fund could have been utilised to subsidise prices.

However, this money has been spent, wasted or swindled in the name of "development" projects. The government is acting like a businessman here. It is making profits by selling oil to the people. The oil importing agency of the government is not following a transparent process—it is not clear at what price they procure oil, what is their transportation costs, etc. There are allegations against them for misdoings on massive levels, but no visible investigation is being conducted. Instead, the government's solution is to increase the price of oil. The welfare of the public is not in their thoughts.

The first wave of Covid-19 led to 2.5 crore people being pushed into poverty. The second wave took the number of new poor to more than three crore. The government has not taken any special initiatives for them. The prices of daily essentials have increased by leaps and bounds. Now diesel, kerosene and LPG gas are also more expensive than ever. Transportation costs also increased. The combined effect of all these will impact all aspects of daily life. It is as if there is no one out there to think about people's livelihoods.

Thus, even though the government claims to subsidise fuel, they are actually making a profit of Tk 15 to 20 per litre in selling octane.

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Golam Mortoza is a journalist at *The Daily Star*. The article has been translated from Bangla.

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

**LOCAL TENDER NOTICE**

Ref. No. EDCL/PUR/Ambulance/LT/2021/421 Dated: 10.11.2021

**Purchase of Ambulance for EDCL, Dhaka Plant**

Well reputed authorized Vehicle dealers/importers/manufacturers are invited for submission of best competitive price offer for supply of following vehicle on urgent basis.

Sl.	Name of vehicle	Qty.
01.	Brand new Ambulance ( Details in tender schedule)	01 (one) No

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka on cash payment basis @ schedule value Tk.1500.00 only as stated above during office hours on all working days from 11/11/2021 to 22/11/2021(except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The offer with required papers may be dropped in the tender Box kept at the Procurement Departments, EDCL, Dhaka office till 12.00 PM on 23/11/2021 which will be opened on same day at 12.30 PM. Price should be kept valid for 60 (sixty) days from the date of opening of the tender. Tender should accompany an Earnest Money @ 2.5% through Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka from any schedule Bank. The successful bidder shall furnish an unconditional performance Bond/Bank Guarantee to the tune of 10% of the contract price within 03 (three) days after the receipt of Purchase order. It shall remain valid for 12 (twelve) months after the completion of the contract.

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

(Syed Jahir Uddin Zamal)  
General Manager  
Procurement Deptt.  
For : Managing Director.

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স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/১০০২/রাজস্ব জনবল (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পাট-৬/২১- ২৯৪৫ তারিখঃ ০৯/১১/২০২১খ্রি.

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নোক্ত পদগুলো পূরণের নিমিত্তে বর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা ও স্কেল	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স	শর্তাবলী
০১	<b>অধ্যাপক</b> ক) টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ (যোগ্য প্রার্থীর অপ্রাপ্যতার ক্ষেত্রে উক্ত পদের বিপরীতে প্রত্যেক নিয়োগ দেওয়া হবে) <b>বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫৬০০০-৭৪৪০০/-</b>	---	আবেদনকারীকে career.just.edu.bd ওয়েব সাইটে গিয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy, আবেদন ফিসহ আগামী ০৮/১২/২০২১খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে। অনলাইনে আবেদন করা ও ফি প্রদানের বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী <a href="https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf">https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf</a> এই লিংক-এ পাওয়া যাবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে <a href="http://www.just.edu.bd">www.just.edu.bd</a> হতে যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- (ক) শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্র (খ) সদ্য তোলা ৩০০*৩০০ পিক্সেল ও অনূর্ধ্ব ২০০ কিলোবাইট সাইজের ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র (ঘ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র। চাকরীতে নিয়োজিত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। উত্তীর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন (নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার সময় ক্রমিক নং ০১ হতে ০২ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ১১০০/- টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং ০৩ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ৯০০/- টাকা ইন্টারনেট ব্যাংকিং/মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং এর মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
০২	<b>সহযোগী অধ্যাপক</b> ক) টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ (যোগ্য প্রার্থীর অপ্রাপ্যতার ক্ষেত্রে উক্ত পদের বিপরীতে প্রত্যেক নিয়োগ দেওয়া হবে) খ) শারীরিক শিক্ষা ও ক্রীড়া বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ <b>বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-</b>	---	আবেদনকারীকে career.just.edu.bd ওয়েব সাইটে গিয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy, আবেদন ফিসহ আগামী ০৮/১২/২০২১খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে। অনলাইনে আবেদন করা ও ফি প্রদানের বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী <a href="https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf">https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf</a> এই লিংক-এ পাওয়া যাবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে <a href="http://www.just.edu.bd">www.just.edu.bd</a> হতে যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- (ক) শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্র (খ) সদ্য তোলা ৩০০*৩০০ পিক্সেল ও অনূর্ধ্ব ২০০ কিলোবাইট সাইজের ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র (ঘ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র। চাকরীতে নিয়োজিত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। উত্তীর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন (নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার সময় ক্রমিক নং ০১ হতে ০২ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ১১০০/- টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং ০৩ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ৯০০/- টাকা ইন্টারনেট ব্যাংকিং/মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং এর মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
০৩	<b>প্রভাষক</b> ক) টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ, ০২টি অস্থায়ী পদ (অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে ০১টি ও সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে ০১টি) খ) ফিন্যান্স এন্ড ব্যাংকিং বিভাগ, ০৩টি পদ (০১টি স্থায়ী ও ০২টি শিক্ষা ছুটির বিপরীতে) <b>বেতন স্কেলঃ ২২০০০-৫৩৬০০/-</b>	---	আবেদনকারীকে career.just.edu.bd ওয়েব সাইটে গিয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy, আবেদন ফিসহ আগামী ০৮/১২/২০২১খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে। অনলাইনে আবেদন করা ও ফি প্রদানের বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী <a href="https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf">https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf</a> এই লিংক-এ পাওয়া যাবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে <a href="http://www.just.edu.bd">www.just.edu.bd</a> হতে যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- (ক) শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্র (খ) সদ্য তোলা ৩০০*৩০০ পিক্সেল ও অনূর্ধ্ব ২০০ কিলোবাইট সাইজের ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র (ঘ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র। চাকরীতে নিয়োজিত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। উত্তীর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন (নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার সময় ক্রমিক নং ০১ হতে ০২ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ১১০০/- টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং ০৩ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ৯০০/- টাকা ইন্টারনেট ব্যাংকিং/মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং এর মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

যাঃ/ (প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আহসান হাবীব)  
রেজিস্ট্রার  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur  
Pirganj, Rangpur

০১. Ministry/Division Ministry of Shipping.  
০২. Agency Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.  
০৩. Procuring entity name Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.  
০৪. Procuring entity code  
০৫. Procuring entity district Rangpur.  
০৬. Invitation for Lot-1: Supply of food items for cadets.  
Lot-2: Supply of furniture goods.  
Lot-3: Installation of LP Gas line with supply for residential establishments.  
Lot-4: Supply of Manpower through outsourcing.  
Lot-5: Full time Rental AC car (1 No. 5 seated), AC Microbus (1 No. at least 12 seated) and AC Microbus/Car (1 No. 7 seated), Including Driver (Re-Tender).

০৭. Invitation Ref. No. 18.26.8576.001.99.002.2021-22  
০৮. Date 09-11-2021.  
০৯. Procurement method code National Open Tendering Method (OTM).  
১০. Budget & source of fund GOB.  
১১. Development partner if applicable N/A.  
১২. Project/programme code N/A.  
১৩. Project/programme name N/A.  
১৪. Tender package No. Package No-OTM 02/2021-22.  
১৫. Tender package name As mentioned at serial No. 6 and in the tender schedule.  
১৬. Tender publication date On 09/11/2021 or before.  
১৭. Tender last selling date 28/11/2021 (1200hrs).  
১৮. Tender closing date and time 30/11/2021 on 12.00 noon.  
১৯. Tender opening date and time 30/11/2021 on or after 12.30pm.  
২০. Name and address of the office for selling tender documents Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur.  
২১. Name and address of the office for opening tender documents Chairman, Tender Opening Committee Office of the Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur.  
২২. Name and address of the office for receiving tender documents Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur.  
২৩. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur. Date: 28/11/2021 Time: 11:00am.  
২৪. Eligibility of tendered All eligible persons/contractors/firms who have fulfilled the qualification criteria stipulated in the tender data sheet and other conditions of the tender documents with experience.  
২৫. Brief description of goods or works As mentioned at Serial No. 6 and in the Tender Schedule.  
২৬. Brief description of related services As mentioned at Serial No. 6 and in the Tender Schedule.  
২৭. Tender document price Taka 1000.00 (one thousand) non-refundable DD/PO in favour of the Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur (Drawable from Sonali Bank, Pirganj Branch) Pirganj, Rangpur is to be submitted.

Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security (DD/PO, re-fundable)	Completion time in days/months
Lot-1	Supply of food items for cadets	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur	Tk. 50,000.00	21 days
Lot-2	Supply of furniture goods	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur	Tk. 60,000.00	21 days
Lot-3	Installation of LP Gas line with supply for residential establishments	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur	Tk. 40,000.00	21 days
Lot-4	Supply of Manpower through outsourcing	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur	Tk. 50,000.00	21 days
Lot-5	Full time Rental AC car (1 No. 5 seated), AC Microbus (1 No. at least 12 seated) and AC Microbus/Car (1 No. 7 seated), Including Driver (Re-Tender)	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur	Tk. 20,000.00	21 days

২৮. Name of official inviting tender Capt. Md. Shafiqul Islam Sarker, (G), psc, BN.  
২৯. Designation of official inviting tender Commandant.  
৩০. Address of official inviting tender Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.  
৩১. Contact details of official inviting tender Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur, Ph-0171-121732, Email: commandant.bmar@gmail.com  
৩২. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Capt. Md. Shafiqul Islam Sarker  
(G), psc, BN  
Commandant  
Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জেলাপ্রশাসকের কার্যালয়**  
কুমিল্লা  
(নেজারত শাখা)  
www.comilla.gov.bd

তারিখ: ২৩ কার্তিক ১৪২৮  
০৮ নভেম্বর ২০২১

নম্বর- ০৫-২০.১৯০০.০১৪.১১.০০১.২১-৯৯৫

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়, উদ্বৃত্ত কর্মচারী শাখার ০৩ ডিসেম্বর ২০২০ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৬৬.১১.০০৪.১৬-২৫৬ নম্বর স্মারক; জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়, উদ্বৃত্ত কর্মচারী শাখার ০৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৬৬.১১.০০৪.১৬-৪৬ নম্বর স্মারক; জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়, উদ্বৃত্ত কর্মচারী শাখার ১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৬৬.১১.০০৪.১৬-৪৯ নম্বর স্মারক এবং স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, মনিটরিং-১ শাখার ০১ এপ্রিল ২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখের ৪৬.০৯৯.০১৯.০১.০১.০০১.২০০৩ (অংশ)-১০৮ নম্বর স্মারকের ছাড়পত্রের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, কুমিল্লা, সার্কিট হাউজ, কুমিল্লা; উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় এবং স্থানীয় সরকার, কুমিল্লা কার্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদের বিপরীতে প্রদর্শিত ২০১৫ সালের জাতীয় বেতন স্কেলে প্রদত্ত বেতন ডাতায় জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে অনলাইনে (<http://dcccumilla.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে) কুমিল্লা জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রম	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	যোগ্যতা	মন্তব্য
০১	অফিস সহায়ক	১৪টি	(গ্রেড-২০) ৮-২৫০-২০০২০/-	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	জেলাপ্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, কুমিল্লা উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়সমূহ, কুমিল্লা সার্কিট হাউজ, কুমিল্লা স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা, কুমিল্লা।
০২	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী	২৯টি	(গ্রেড-২০) ৮-২৫০-২০০২০/-	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; খ) সুস্থাস্থের অধিকারী হতে হবে।	
০৩	বেয়ারার	০২টি	(গ্রেড-২০) ৮-২৫০-২০০২০/-	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	
০৪	সহকারী বাবু	০২টি	(গ্রেড-২০) ৮-২৫০-২০০২০/-	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	
০৫	মালি	০১টি	(গ্রেড-২০) ৮-২৫০-২০০২০/-	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	
০৬	পরিচ্ছন্নকারী	১৫টি	(গ্রেড-২০) ৮-২৫০-২০০২০/-	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	

**আবেদন করণ পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবে:**

- আবেদন পূরণ (২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ) তারিখে ন্যূনতম ১৮ বছর এবং জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্মারক নম্বর- ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৬৬.১১.০০১.২১-৯৯৫, তারিখঃ ১১/০৮/২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ মোতাবেক ২৫/০৩/২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখে প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা: ক) সকল প্রার্থীর (বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ব্যতীত) ক্ষেত্রে ৩০ বছর। খ) বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র/কন্যা এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ৩২ বছর। গ) বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র/কন্যার পুত্র/কন্যাদের ক্ষেত্রে ৩০ বছর। ঘ) বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত পদ পূরণে জেলাপ্রশাসক এবং উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়ের কর্মচারী নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০২০ অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- সরকারি, আধা সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিপত্র দাখিল সাপেক্ষে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারীকে তার সর্বশেষ অর্জিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার বিষয়টি আবেদনে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- নিয়োগের জন্য প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগ বিধি মতে লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অন্তর্ভুক্ত হবে। কেবল লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন।
- চাকরির জন্য প্রার্থী আগামী ১৫ নভেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০ টা হতে ১৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখ বিকাল ৫:০০ টা পর্যন্ত অনলাইনে দাখিল করা যাবে। সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে কোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে না। সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগে প্রেরিত সকল দরখাস্ত বাতিল মর্মে গণ্য হবে।
- লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সনদ/অনুমতিপত্র/কাগজপত্রাদির মূলকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক প্রতিটি ১টি করে সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। দাখিল/উপস্থাপনযোগ্য কাগজপত্রের তালিকা নিম্নরূপ:
  - সকল সনদ/প্রত্যয়ন/অনুমতিপত্র;
  - কুমিল্লা জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা হিসেবে পৌরসভার মেয়র/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদ;
  - জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনবন্ধন সনদ;
  - প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক নামযুক্ত সীল দ্বারা প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র;
  - চাকরীর তথ্যের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদত্ত অনুমতিপত্র;
  - মুক্তিযোদ্ধা (কোটার) আবেদনকারী (বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যাদের পুত্র-কন্যা) প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ শীতামালা অনুযায়ী মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদপত্র;
  - আবেদনকারী বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে আবেদনের সাথে সম্পর্ক উল্লেখপূর্বক ১ম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান বা পৌরসভার মেয়র কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়নপত্র এবং;
  - অন্যান্য কোনো যেমন প্রতিবন্ধী কোটার প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়ন/সনদপত্র।
- নিয়োগের জন্য বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীকে চূড়ান্ত নিয়োগ প্রদানের পূর্বে প্রার্থীর চারিত্রিক প্রতিপাদন সম্পাদন করা হবে।
- প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা, ভুল বা ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে দরখাস্ত/নিয়োগ বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- যদি কোনো প্রার্থী বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক না হন কিংবা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নন এমন কোনো ব্যক্তিকে বিয়ে করেন বা বিয়ে করার জন্য প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ হন কিংবা কোন ফৌজদারী আদালত কর্তৃক মৌখিক স্মরণজনিত অভিযোগে দণ্ডিত হন কিংবা কোন সরকারি বা স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান বা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের চাকরি হতে বরখাস্ত হয়ে থাকেন, তবে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য যোগ্য হিসাবে বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- অনলাইন আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলি ও শর্তাবলি:
  - পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি <http://dcccumilla.teletalk.com.bd> এই ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপ:
    - Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাধান পূর্বের তারিখ ও সময়: ১৫ নভেম্বর ২০২১ সকাল ১০:০০টা।
    - Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাধানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ১৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ বিকাল ৫:০০ টা। উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে মধ্যে USER ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাছাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে Teletalk pre-paid mobile এ এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।
  - Online- আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০x প্রস্থ ৮০ pixel) ও রঙিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০x প্রস্থ ৩০০ pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন।
  - Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online- আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে নিশ্চিত হবেন।
  - প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি রঙিন প্রিন্টকপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যেকোনো প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।
  - SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনামতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি User ID এবং একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। উক্ত Applicant's copy প্রার্থী ডাউনলোডপূর্বক প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's copy-তে একটি User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যেকোন Teletalk pre-paid mobile নম্বর এর মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুইটি) SMS করে আবেদন ফি ৫০/- টাকা+ Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাদ ৬/- টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬/- টাকা অনধিক ৭২ (বাছাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। এখানে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ যে, "Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online- আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না"।
  - প্রথম SMS : DCCUMILLA <space> User ID গিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।  
Example : DCCUMILLA ABCDEF  
Reply : Applicant's Name, Tk. 56 Will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678. To pay fee Type DCCUMILLA Yes PIN and send to 16222.  
দ্বিতীয় SMS DCCUMILLA <space> Yes <space> PIN গিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।  
Example : DCCUMILLA YES 12345678  
Reply : Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for DCCUMILLA Application for post xxxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxxx)
  - Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল কোন পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বজনিক সচল রাখা, SMS পজা এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা আত্মকলিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।
  - SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/ক্ষেত্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য স্মরণিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।
  - শুধু Teletalk pre-paid মোবাইল কোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।
    - User ID জানা থাকলে: DCCUMILLA <space> Help <space> User <space> User ID & Send to 16222  
Example: DC CUMILLA Help User ID 12345678 Send to 16222
    - PIN Number জানা থাকলে: DCCUMILLA <space> Help <space> PIN <space> PIN No & Send to 16222  
Example: DC CUMILLA Help PIN 12345678 Send to 16222
  - অনলাইনে আবেদন এবং টাকা জমা করার কাজটি প্রার্থী নিজে করবেন। এক্ষেত্রে অন্য কোনো মাধ্যম থেকে উক্ত কাজটি সম্পন্ন করে প্রার্থী প্রত্যাহিত হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।
  - এই অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ নম্বর অথবা [vas.quary@teletalk.com.bd](mailto:vas.quary@teletalk.com.bd) বা [dcccumilla@mopa.gov.bd](mailto:dcccumilla@mopa.gov.bd) ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।
- অসত্য/ভ্রুটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য নিয়োগ কার্যক্রমের যেকোনো পর্যায়ে বা নিয়োগ দানের পরেও অসত্য/ভ্রুটিপূর্ণ/ ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে তার দরখাস্ত/নির্বাচন/নিয়োগ সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও জেলাপ্রশাসকের কার্যালয় কুমিল্লা (নেজারত শাখা) [www.comilla.gov.bd](http://www.comilla.gov.bd) এর ওয়েবসাইটে এবং <http://dcccumilla.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য [www.comilla.gov.bd](http://www.comilla.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে হতে জানা যাবে।
- পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আবেদনকারীকে কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- বিজ্ঞাপনে উল্লিখিত পদ/ পদসমূহের চূড়ান্ত সুপারিশ প্রণয়নের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ কোটা নীতি অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- কেবল একটি পদের জন্য আবেদন করা যাবে। একাধিক পদের বিপরীতে আবেদন করলে আবেদনসমূহ বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা একই তারিখ ও সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে বিধায় একটি পদের বিপরীতে নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করা যাবে।
- আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি, বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত কোনো শর্ত বা অনুচ্ছেদ সংশোধন/পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন বা বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোহাম্মদ কামরুল হাসান  
জেলাপ্রশাসক  
কুমিল্লা  
ফোন-০৬১-৬০৩০১  
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## Fictitious and fishy

FROM PAGE 16

Anwar said Halder, former managing director of NRB Global Bank, created several fictitious companies. "About Tk 426 crore is found in his accounts and those of the fictitious companies," he said.

In the investigation, the anti-graft watchdog also found the accused maintained 178 bank accounts in his and companies' names.

"We've found abnormal transactions worth about Tk 6,076 crore in these accounts," said ACC's secretary.

PK Halder in collaboration with his brother Pritish Kumar Halder and 12 others laundered about CAD 11.7 million.

The money was first transferred to Singapore, the UAE and India and later to Canada, said Anwar.

The allegation of embezzlement

against Halder surfaced after the ACC launched an enquiry into the wealth of illegal casino owners in 2019.

Earlier, the anti-graft watchdog filed 15 cases against 70 persons for misappropriating about Tk 1,132 crore of International Leasing and Financial Services Limited.

In these cases, PK Halder has been made the prime accused.

He took loans from financial institutions against at least two dozen non-existent companies created by him.

In some cases, he used part of the funds to repay instalments of loans taken against his several fictitious firms.

PK Halder put his men at the helm of the financial institutions so that he could easily borrow and misappropriate the funds.

## Apple's original computer

FROM PAGE 16

computer is encased in koa wood -- a richly patinated wood native to Hawaii. Only a handful of the original 200 were made in this way.

Jobs and Wozniak mostly sold Apple-1s as component parts. One computer shop that took a delivery of around 50 units decided to encase some of them in wood, the auction house said.

"This is kind of the holy grail for vintage electronics and computer tech collectors," Apple-1 expert Corey Cohen told the Los Angeles Times ahead of the bidding. "That really makes it exciting for a lot of people."

John Moran Auctioneers said the device, which was sold with a 1986 Panasonic video monitor, has only ever had two owners.

"It was originally purchased by an electronics professor at Chaffey

College in Rancho Cucamonga, California, who then sold it to his student in 1977," a listing on the auction house's website said.

The Los Angeles Times reported the student -- who has not been named -- paid just \$650 for it at the time.

While the \$400,000 hammer price represents a healthy return on investment for that former student, it is a long way short of the record for such a device.

A working Apple-1 that came to the market in 2014 was sold by Bonhams for more than \$900,000.

"A lot of people just want to know what kind of a person collects Apple-1 computers and it's not just people in the tech industry," Cohen said.

Apple raced to success in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but foundered after the departure of Jobs and Wozniak.

## BNP sees gain from boycott

FROM PAGE 1

that the EC with the help of the government would hold polls in a free and fair manner.

But the local government elections, particularly those to municipalities and upazila parishads, frustrated them and the BNP decided to stay away from future UP polls.

A total of 835 UPs will go to polls today and elections to another 1,004 will be held on November 28 in the second and third phases.

BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Qudus Talukdar Dulu said, "What did we achieve through taking part in the previous polls? Nothing at all, but a number of cases have been filed against our leaders and activists. So why should we contest polls?"

He said the party's biggest benefit from boycotting the UP polls is that its leaders and activists did not incur financial losses and face any new polls-related cases.

"The general election is ahead. Now we need to keep our unity intact. There is a huge competition within the parties like BNP for nominations and it sometimes creates division within the party. Why should we weaken our organisational strength by taking part in such farcical polls when we know the results beforehand?" he said.

BNP leaders also said they consider boycott of the ongoing UP polls by almost all major parties as a big achievement for the party as the other parties followed them.

According to the BNP, more than five lakh cases have been filed against 35 lakh leaders and activists of the

party, about 500 have been made victims of enforced disappearances and more than 1,000 have been killed since 2009.

Statistics of Ain o Salish Kendra show at least 44 people were killed in clashes centering local government polls between January and October this year. Of them, 40 were killed in clashes over UP polls.

This month, at least nine people have been killed in pre-polls violence in Narayanganj, Cox's Bazar, Narsingdi and Dhaka's Dhamari upazila, according to media reports.

Most of the clashes took place between supporters of the ruling Awami League chairman nominees and party "rebels".

**BNP LEADERS IN POLLS RACE**  
Although the BNP is boycotting the UP election, many party men are running as independents.

Take for example the case of Wakkas Kanchan in Murshid Hat union of Dinajpur's Bochaganj upazila.

"I am contesting the polls as an independent as the local party leaders and activists wanted me to take part. I cannot deny the request from the locals," he said.

In the same upazila's Ishania union, no BNP men are taking part in the UP elections. Alamgir Shah, a local BNP leader, had contested the last UP polls with the party's ticket, but he is staying away this time around.

"For me, taking part in the polls is meaningless. People know that if a candidate is running with 'boat' symbol, he will win. So what is the benefit of contesting the polls?" he said.

## No reason to put blame

FROM PAGE 16

It said it would give certain guidelines on this matter later in a written verdict.

Earlier, in the day's proceedings, the CJ said the SC had disposed of 102 cases involving death penalty till this November 3 (from a certain date) and that half of the convicts' capital punishment was commuted to life imprisonment.

"Cases related to death sentences filed even in 2009 had remained pending. But lawyers of many of them [convicts] had not mentioned it... I have sorted those cases out for holding hearings and disposing of them on a priority basis so that people don't have to suffer," he said.

The two appeals filed (by lawyers of Mokim and Jharu) in 2013 had remained pending, but their lawyers

did not place the matter before the court. "But why has this happened?" the chief justice questioned.

The Appellate Division yesterday also criticised Helal Uddin Mollah, lawyer for a death-row convict named Shukur Ali. Helal on November 7 told the court that the Kashimpur jail authorities were trying to execute his client even though the full text of the court's verdict in the case has not been released yet.

Without the full text, the lawyer could not seek a review, he told the court that day.

The top court told Helal that he had placed the matter before it in such a manner that it caused sensation and the judges felt embarrassed.

Helal offered an unconditional apology to the court for his manner.

## Russia fires prison officials after torture videos leaked

AFP, Moscow

Russia's prison service yesterday said it had dismissed 18 officials after a whistleblower leaked videos of rape and torture inside its facilities.

Last month, the Gulagu.net NGO published footage of abuse at a jail in the central city of Saratov. The videos were leaked by former inmate Sergei Savelyev -- a Belarus national -- who then fled Russia and asked for asylum in France.

Savelyev had been serving 7.5

years for drug trafficking. He is now wanted in Russia for "illegal access to computer information".

Yesterday, the head of the prison service in the Saratov region, Anton Yefarkin, said 18 officials had been fired and 11 had faced "the strictest" disciplinary measures.

Five criminal cases have been opened in connection to the videos, he said.

"We are doing everything to work things out and draw the appropriate conclusions," Yefarkin told regional state television.



People line up for nucleic acid testing at a residential compound following local cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Dalian, Liaoning province, China yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Speed up

FROM PAGE 16

Soberingly, the Climate Action Tracker research group said on Tuesday that all the national pledges submitted so far to cut greenhouse gases by 2030 would, if fulfilled, allow the Earth's temperature to rise 2.4C by 2100.

It said if longer-term targets, so far less supported by concrete action plans, were also fulfilled, warming could be held below 2C.

The talks are widely viewed as unlikely to clinch enough pledges to nail down the 1.5C goal this week.

But by locking in rules to require countries to upgrade their pledges further next year - a key request from nations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change - it aims to at least keep the target in sight.

**NO EXTENSION OF SUMMIT**  
The COP26 president, Alok Sharma, said on Tuesday the talks had "a mountain to climb" to secure the necessary commitments. After the draft was released he said he would not seek an extension of the conference beyond Friday's scheduled closure.

The document urged countries to speed up efforts to stop burning coal and to phase out fossil fuel subsidies - taking direct aim at the coal, oil and gas that produce carbon dioxide, the primary contributor to manmade climate change, though it did not set a

fixed date for phasing them out.

Helen Mountford, a vice president at the World Resources Institute, said the explicit reference to fossil fuels was an advance on previous climate summits. "The real issue is going to be whether it can be kept in."

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal of the environmental campaign group WWF said the text "recognizes the shortfall of current ambition and the scale of the task we have in front of us", and that it must be "a floor, not a ceiling".

He welcomed its mechanisms for enhancing ambition in the future and the mention of fossil fuels.

Greenpeace dismissed the draft as an inadequate response to the climate crisis, calling it "a polite request that countries maybe, possibly, do more next year".

The final text will not be legally binding, but will carry the political weight of the nearly 200 countries that signed the Paris Agreement.

"I believe that it includes all of the elements that me and my bloc have been fighting for," said Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez, lead negotiator for Panama. "The next step for us is to defend the provisions on ambition, keeping 1.5 alive."

**WHO PAYS?**

The draft reminds countries that to

stop the planet heating beyond the critical 1.5C threshold, global CO2 emissions must drop 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels, on the way to halting their rise altogether by 2050 - so-called "net zero".

Under the national climate pledges submitted to the United Nations so far, emissions would be 14% above 2010 levels by 2030.

The draft dodges poorer countries' demands for assurances that rich nations, whose greenhouse gas emissions have been largely responsible for historic climate change, will provide far more money to help them cope with its consequences and cut their own emissions.

The draft "urges" developed countries to "urgently scale up" aid to help poorer ones adapt to climate change, and says more funding needs to take the form of grants, rather than loans that burden poor nations with more debt. But it does not include a new plan for delivering that money.

Rich nations failed to meet a pledge made in 2009 to give poorer countries \$100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020, and now expect to deliver it three years late. That broken promise has damaged trust, and prompted poor countries to seek tougher rules for future funding.

## 835 UPs go to polls today

FROM PAGE 1

A tense situation prevailed in Sujanagar upazila ahead of the election due to the series of clashes between AL and its rebel candidates' supporters.

Law enforcers have taken high alert position there, sources said.

Last week at a meeting with the Election Commission, top police officials warned of "possibilities of violence" in several places during the election.

In the absence of BNP in the polls, the main contest would presumably be between the Awami League, its "rebel group" and the Jatiya Party.

A total of seventeen political parties are participating in the second phase, EC data shows.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda, however, ruled out possibilities of violence. He rather said that it would be held in a "festive mood".

"Instructions have been given to law enforcers to control the law and order situation with an iron fist," he said while speaking to reporters at the EC office after a commission meeting yesterday.

He said that law enforcers can't be blamed for the violence. "It is a reality that you cannot stop such untoward incidents by guarding localities. To stop such incidents, tolerance among people participating and connected with the election is necessary."

**ONE MORE DIES IN PABNA**  
Tension gripped the UPs of many districts, including Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Pabna, Meherpur, Noakhali, as a series of clashes took

place around the country centring the polls, reported our district correspondents.

Sobuz Hossain, 28, who was injured in a factional clash between AL and its rebel candidates for the Vaina union parishad election in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila, died in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Wednesday night, according to Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sujanagar Police Station.

Sobuz sustained injuries when supporters of AL backed candidate Amin Uddin and its rebel candidate Omar Faruk, locked in a clash on Monday.

"I am worried about what will happen on election day. Clashes have been taking place regularly ahead of it," said Anwar Hossain of Satbaria union of the upazila.

Panic has also spread among the voters of other unions, especially Alokballi in Narsingdi Sadar.

At least six people were killed in clashes between two AL groups on October 26 and then November 4.

Our district correspondents reported that violence continued ahead the second phase of the UP polls and, in most cases, supporters of AL nominees and party "rebel" candidates have been involved.

Sources in the ruling party said around 690 "rebel" candidates are contesting the elections.

Police officials, speaking at a meeting organised by the EC with police and admin officials on November 4, warned the commission of further violence in at least seven districts of the Dhaka and Khulna

divisions.

Habibur Rahman, deputy inspector general of police (Dhaka range), told the meeting that there were possibilities of violence in 90 unions of Dhaka division. As many as 170 of them are going for polls today.

Statistics of Ain o Salish Kendra show at least 44 people were killed in clashes centering local government elections between January and October this year. Of them, 40 were killed in clashes over UP polls.

**UNOPPOSED**

On September 29, the EC announced that 848 UPs from 64 districts will go for polls in the second phase. But today 835 will go for polls.

Election to the four UPs was postponed due to cases and the schedule of one union was cancelled due to "irregularities" by returning officer, EC official said.

Besides, the election to five UPs in Cumilla's Laksham upazila will be held again as chairman, general member and member for reserved seats for women were elected unopposed.

These unions are Kandhirpar, Govindpur, Uttarda, Ajgora and Laksam Purbo.

A total of 81 chairman candidates, 203 member candidates and 76 member aspirants for reserved seats for women were elected unopposed.

There are 3,310 chairman candidates, 28,747 members and 9,161 women's reserve seat candidates. About 1.66 crore voters are expected to cast their votes at 8,492 polling centres.

## Now jet fuel price hiked

FROM PAGE 1

The development comes at a time when the aviation industry is bouncing back from the troughs it hit for the global coronavirus pandemic with the relaxation of travel restrictions.

Air travel will inevitably get costlier as a consequence and it is the passengers who will have to shoulder the burden at the end of the day, said Kamrul Islam, general manager of public relations at US-Bangla Airlines.

Different airlines around the world are getting support from their governments to stay afloat during the Covid-19 period.

"When we need support from the government on an emergency basis, the BPC has been increasing the jet fuel price regularly in the last one year," he said, adding that fuel costs account for 40 to 46 percent of an airline's operation outlays.

The jet fuel price is higher in

Bangladesh than elsewhere in the region and this hike will make survival even more challenging for the two private airlines, said Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert and editor of Weekly Monitor, a travel magazine.

"Our government has done nothing so far to ensure the aviation industry survives the pandemic storm. Instead, it has increased jet fuel price without any logical reason," he said.

But Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal disagrees.

"It is completely reasonable," he said at a virtual briefing after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase yesterday.

The government provided as much subsidy as it could on the fuel price, so the rest of the burden has to be borne by the public.

"Judge yourself. Where will the government get money? The government has to spend by collecting

revenue -- the government does not print money. It is the international market that has caused the fuel price hike -- the government has not done anything."

Fuel accounts for only 40 per cent of the cost of operating a bus, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). But due to the 23 percent hike in diesel price, the bus fare has been increased by 28 percent, which actually should have a 10 percent hike, according to the CPD.

When prodded on the matter, Kamal said: "I will talk to the concerned ministry on how the fare has been calculated. I will come up with a detailed answer in the next meeting."

Asked if there is any scope to reconsider the decision on the hike in fuel price and transport fares, he said: "I don't think the government has abruptly increased the price."

## Arrested

FROM PAGE 16

additional superintendent (crime and administration) of Narsingdi police, said Sujan attacked police and jumped into the river to escape while being taken to Narsingdi Model Police Station.

The police officer said Sujan stood accused in at least 10 cases, including over theft, robbery and mugging.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station in this regard, he added.

## Students to get

FROM PAGE 16

mismanagement in the vaccination centres and multiple difficulties in the registration process have dampened the excitement surrounding the government's initiative.

The whole vaccination programme was going very smoothly until it was taken to the schools, said a top official of the Directorate General of Health Services asking not to be named as he is not authorised to speak with media.

"Several flaws cropped up. So, if we go to schools and administer the jabs there, students waiting in the queue for long will come to an end," he added.

Contacted, Md Shahedul Khabir, director of the administration at Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), said: "We have a taken decision in principle that vaccination will be taken to other schools where there are cooling facilities and the student numbers are high. We will start soon."

A list of more than 4 lakh students of schools in Dhaka aged between 12 and 17 years was sent to the ICT Division for vaccine registration, according to the DSHE.

Of them, about 2.5 lakh have registered. There are about 6.5 lakh students of 12-17 years enrolled at schools in Dhaka.

## Heavy rains

FROM PAGE 16

The Indian Meteorological Department issued a red alert to parts of Tamil Nadu and the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh state, asking fishermen not to venture to sea.

Tamil Nadu state officials evacuated hundreds of people from low-lying areas and distributed rations and food to those already affected by the rains.

The state's Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Twitter he had requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release funds from the National Disaster Relief Fund, adding that previously-allocated money was exhausted.

## Bangladesh govt

FROM PAGE 16

left their homes earlier. He said that in case of those who went to India before March 25, the government would restore their property if not already "exchanged or sold". The minister said that the government and the people of Bangladesh would in no case compromise on the issue of independence. He categorically ruled out any possibility of a solution of the Bangladesh issue within the framework of Pakistan.

**CABINET MEETING HELD**

The Bangladesh Cabinet held a meeting today which was presided over by acting president Syed Nazrul Islam. All the members of the Cabinet, including the prime minister, were present at the meeting, and the problems in setting up civil administrations in the liberated areas were discussed. It was pointed out that law and order, rehabilitation, arrangement for food and other essential supplies, housing, medical facilities etc. would pose problems of inconceivable dimensions. It was also suggested that during screening of collaborators, very large-scale purge of the government employees might create an administrative vacuum which might be difficult to fill in. The Cabinet decided that a sub-committee of the secretaries would be formed to examine various facets of the problem of setting up civil administration in liberated Bangladesh. The sub-committee would submit a comprehensive report containing their findings and recommendations to the government as early as possible.

**US URGES INDIA, PAKISTAN TO AVOID ALL-OUT WAR**

Alarmed by what one US official described as a "dramatic escalation of fighting" along the India-Pakistan border in the last few days, the United States called on the two sides to avoid an all-out war.

Joseph J Sisco, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, summoned the Indian and Pakistani ambassadors to the State Department to express the Nixon administration's heightened concern. He urged both sides to take such steps as they could defuse the situation.

The American appeal was prompted by cables received recently from United States representatives in India and Pakistan expressing concern about the upsurge in fighting.

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



"A bit of a whirlwind, nice to get the job done and move onto the big dance. Challenging, especially at the start. The way Devon Conway batted through the middle, and Neesh (James Neesham), really helped us. It's a game of momentum, we knew we needed one or two big overs, and the way he struck the ball from ball one... With what's going on in the world, for my dad to travel half way round the world and be here is pretty cool."

DARYL MITCHELL



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## 'Really chuffed with the heart'

AGENCIES



Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten 72 and Jimmy Neesham's blistering cameo led New Zealand to a dramatic five-wicket victory over England in the first Twenty20 World Cup semi-final on Wednesday.

Set a tricky victory target of 167, New Zealand stumbled early in their chase before Mitchell and Devon Conway (46) put them back on track in a rematch of the 2019 one-day World Cup final.

Neesham then turned the match on its head in the 23-run 17th over, hitting Chris Jordan for two sixes and a four. Mitchell, who was adjudged player-of-the-match, guided New Zealand home with one over to spare.

When Daryl Mitchell arrived at the Twenty20 World Cup, he wasn't even sure if he'd be playing. Now, he's written a piece of New Zealand cricketing history.

Mitchell's unbeaten 73 guided the Black Caps to a superb victory - a victory that doubles as a measure of revenge for the 2019 ODI World Cup final heartbreak. This time, it was the Black Caps who came back from the dead.

When Neesham fell for an 11-ball 27, Mitchell took over. The man who had never opened in any form of cricket until the World Cup warm-up games blasted Chris Woakes for six, then six again, and finished him off with a four through backward square, to remarkably see the Black Caps home with an over to spare.

"We've played each other on a number of occasions, we

GREE

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শ্রী এসি, এয়ার কুলার ও এয়ার পিউরিফায়ার - এ চলছে ১০০% পর্যন্ত ছুট্টা ছাড়।

knew it would be a great game of cricket," captain Kane Williamson said after New Zealand reached their first T20 World Cup final.

"Outstanding from Mitchell at the top, but cashing in on the match-ups [was crucial]. His character stood out today, an incredible knock, not done it a lot at the top of the order. T20 cricket is a game of small margins, depending on the surface, short side... can all be match-defining."

"Really chuffed with the heart that was shown throughout that performance. We had wickets in hand

which was really important. Neesham came out and hit the ball hard, and changed the momentum of the game," Williamson added. England were crowned 50-overs world champions in 2019 via a now-scrapped boundary countback rule after a heart-stopping final against New Zealand at Lord's had ended in a tie.

The rematch two years on brought more drama and New Zealand had the last laugh this time.

Put into bat, England were 67-2 at the halfway stage of their innings and reached the 100-mark in 14 overs, kept in check by New Zealand's tight bowling and sharp fielding. England were forced into rejigging their opening combination having lost Jason Roy to a calf injury and Jonny Bairstow moved up to partner Jos Buttler in a move that did not really pay off.

Bairstow made 18 before driving Adam Milne to mid-off where Williamson demonstrated the sharp catching which has been the hallmark of his team.

Ish Sodhi struck a body blow when he dismissed Buttler, England's leading scorer in the tournament, lbw for 29. Conway spilled Dawid Malan (41) behind the stumps but New Zealand did not make many other errors.

Moeen (51) smashed a couple of sixes in his unbeaten 37-ball knock to take England past the 150-mark.

England fast bowler Chris Woakes wrecked New Zealand's top order, removing the dangerous Martin Guppill and the dependable Williamson in successive overs. Mitchell and Conway rebuilt the innings but England still maintained the upper hand in the see-saw contest until Neesham's late attack.

## 'We're devastated'

REUTERS, Abu Dhabi

England captain Eoin Morgan was devastated by their loss in the semi-final of the Twenty20 World Cup and said Jimmy Neesham's blistering cameo tilted the see-saw contest in New Zealand's favour.

"We're devastated. To be on the wrong side of a close game is not easy to take," Morgan said after the narrow loss. "We were right in the game probably until Jimmy Neesham came to the wicket, if not ahead of the game."

On a pitch where England's star-studded batting lineup struggled to clear the ropes, Neesham belted three sixes in his audacious late-order assault.

"I think it was a very closely fought game right throughout. I thought Jimmy Neesham was probably the only guy that came out and was showing the ability to strike the ball cleanly from ball one," Morgan said.



"Hitting ability within our squad is quite strong, and the indication that the guys didn't feel like they could clear the ropes due to the nature of the pitch was a good indication that it wasn't coming on to the bat that well. I think that continued throughout the Black Caps' innings until he came to the crease."

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SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND

166 for 4 in 20 overs (Buttler 29, Malan 41, Ali 51 not out, Livingstone 17; Southey 1-24, Milne 1-31, Sodhi 1-32, Neesham 1-18)

NEW ZEALAND

167 for 5 in 19 overs (Mitchell 72 not out, Conway 46, Neesham 27; Woakes 2-36, Livingstone 2-22)

RESULT

New Zealand win by 5 wickets.

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH  
Daryl Mitchell.

## Hayden's 'unusual' reunion with Langer

AFP, Dubai

Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer, who formed one of Test cricket's most enduring and destructive opening partnerships, will briefly become rivals on Thursday when Pakistan tackle Australia for a place in the Twenty20 World Cup final.

Both now aged 50, their competitive natures have found new outlets -- Hayden as batting consultant with Pakistan and Langer as Australia's head coach.

"It's a very unusual feeling," admitted Hayden on Wednesday.

"I was a warrior for Australian cricket over two decades, so that does give me the benefit of having wonderful insights not only into these players but also into the culture of cricket in Australia."

Hayden and Langer were the bedrock of the Australian side for the best part of a decade.

They opened together for the first time at The Oval in 2001 and strode out side-by-side for the final time at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 2007.

In between, they collected 5,655 runs together when opening, a record that included six double-century partnerships. Their average was a shade under 52.

Both men ended their careers with over 100 Tests each and bags of runs -- Hayden smashed 8,625 while Langer hit 7,696.



### ● AUSTRALIA

ROAD TO SEMIFINAL

Beat South Africa by 5 wickets, beat Sri Lanka by 7 wickets, lost to England by 8 wickets, beat Bangladesh by 8 wickets, beat West Indies by 8 wickets

TOP SCORER

David Warner -- 187 runs

TOP WICKET-TAKER

Adam Zampa -- 11 wickets

### ● PAKISTAN

ROAD TO SEMIFINAL

Beat India by 10 wickets, beat New Zealand by 5 wickets, beat Afghanistan by 5 wickets, beat Namibia by 45 runs, beat Scotland by 72 runs

TOP SCORER

Babar Azam -- 264 runs

TOP WICKET-TAKER

Haris Rauf -- 8 wickets

T20S HEAD-TO-HEAD

Australia wins: 9  
Pakistan wins: 13 (includes one win on super over after tie)  
No result: 1

### ● LAST T20

(International meeting)

Australia routed Pakistan by 10 wickets with 49 balls to spare to clinch the series 2-0 in Perth on November 8, 2019.



## Australia look to halt Pakistan juggernaut

AFP, Dubai

Australia are looking to their top-order batting led by the explosive David Warner as well as Adam Zampa's bag of leg-spin tricks to get past a red-hot Pakistan in Thursday's second semi-final of the Twenty20 World Cup.

The Aussies made their first semi-final of the tournament since 2012 with four wins and a better run-rate than South Africa.

But they are up against an unbeaten Pakistan who stormed into the final four with five wins in the Super 12 stage including their first ever in the tournament against rivals India.

Australia have won five 50-over World Cup crowns, including three in a row, but still await a T20 world title in six attempts.

The left-handed Warner has led the charge with 89 not out in Australia's win over West Indies and a quickfire 65 against Sri Lanka, an innings that silenced his critics.

He now has 187 runs for the tournament.

"I was never worried one bit about Dave's form. He's one of the all-time great batsmen of our era," said captain Aaron Finch of his opening partner who came into the World Cup on the back of being dropped from his

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IPL team.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell said the Australian batsmen will not hold back and go for the runs to unsettle the Pakistan attack led by left-arm quick Shaheen Shah Afridi.

"I've seen teams go the other way and try and hold wickets back to make sure they get to go at the back end," said Maxwell.

"But for us it's probably that playing with freedom at the start and really trying to make the most of the powerplay and put the opposition on the back foot."

Zampa is the tournament's joint second-highest wicket-taker with 11 victims but the 29-year-old has gone about his business under the radar.

"I don't think that anyone has underrated him," insisted Finch of Zampa who claimed a tournament-best return of 5-19 against Bangladesh in Dubai.

"He's someone who loves the competitiveness, loves the fight."

Inside the Pakistan camp is Matthew Hayden, the former Australia opener who is the team's batting coach.

Hayden sees the partnership between skipper Babar Azam, the leading run maker at the World Cup ahead of the

semi-finals with 264, and Mohammad Rizwan as key.

On facing Australia, Babar said: "You can't take any team lightly in T20 cricket. You have to play good cricket on that day."

Pakistan have got a finisher in Asif Ali who hit four sixes off Afghanistan bowler Karim Janat to get his team the required 25 runs in the penultimate over of their Super 12 clash.

Veteran batsmen Shoaib Malik, who hit an 18-ball 54 in his side's last pool win over Scotland, and Mohammad Hafeez add experience to the batting order.

# What to WATCH

**T SPORTS & GTV**  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup  
2021 Semifinals  
Australia vs Pakistan  
Live from 08:00 pm  
**T SPORTS & TEN 1**

World Cup Qualifiers  
Greece vs Spain  
Live from 01:45 am (Friday)  
**TEN 2**  
World Cup Qualifiers  
Georgia vs Sweden

Live from 11:00 pm  
Ireland vs Portugal  
Live from 01:45 am (Friday)  
**TEN 3**  
World Cup Qualifiers

Germany vs Liechtenstein  
Live from 01:45 am (Friday)  
**SONY SIX**  
World Cup Qualifiers  
Russia vs Cyprus  
Live from 11:00 pm

## Profligate booters held by Seychelles

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh surrendered their first-half lead in the dying minutes as they started their campaign in the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy with a disappointing 1-1 draw against Seychelles at the Race Course Stadium in Colombo yesterday. Mohammad Ibrahim gave Bangladesh a 17th-minute lead with a nice strike before Bangladesh wasted numerous opportunities and left room for substitute Rashid Dan Labrosse to hit an equaliser in the 88th minute. The nation of Seychelles suspended domestic football in December 2020 due to a surge in Covid-19 cases and their players came into the tournament with just one month of preparation and a lack of fitness led to multiple players seeking medical care due to muscle cramps. But the men in red and green, who went to the tournament on the back of a good campaign in the SAFF Championship, lagged behind, especially in the last 30 minutes, allowing the Africans to find a deserved equalizer and leave with their heads held high. Meanwhile, Bangladesh's target of

reaching the final became tougher as they next face a strong Maldives side and hosts Sri Lanka. Although five key players were absent from Bangladesh's squad, Mario Lemos's charges looked well ahead of Seychelles from the onset in terms of skill, fitness and tactics as Bangladesh dominated the first half but lacked that telling spark in the attacking third. With Bangladesh enjoying better possession, centre-back Tutul Hossain Badsha lofted through a long ball in the 17th minute that

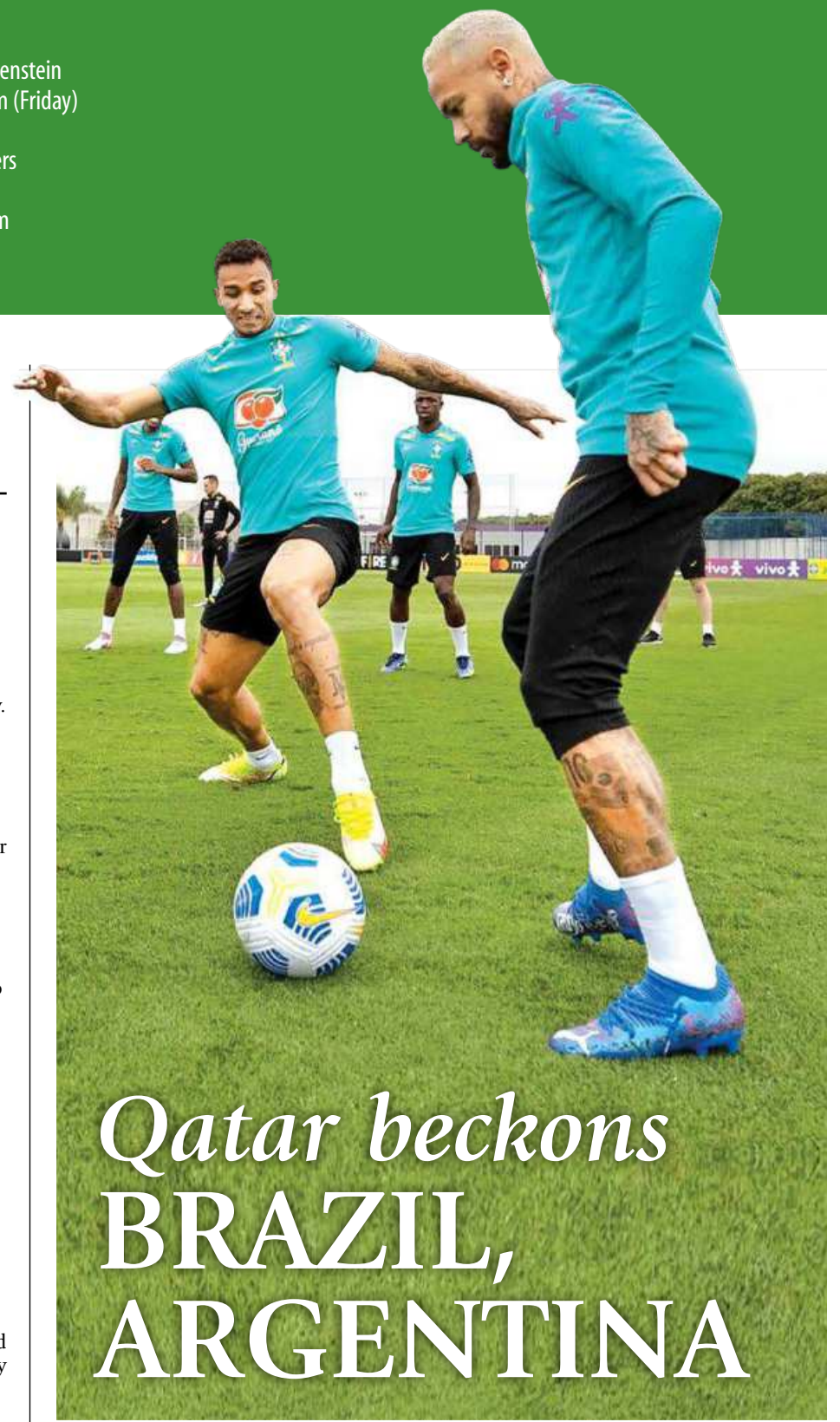


was tapped forward by Saad Uddin to Ibrahim, who danced past defender Don Maxime Fanchette and drove home from inside the box to give Bangladesh the lead. Ibrahim got a chance to double the lead off a Saad Uddin cross the next minute, but he could not beat goalkeeper Alvin Roddy Michel from inside the six-yard box. Jamal also drove wide from inside the box in the 29th minute with only the goalkeeper to beat. Defender Tapu Barman ran deep down the left to muster a shot from the top of the box that missed the target in the 37th minute before Ibrahim squandered another chance in the 42nd minute as coach Lemons was left to wonder why his side were not up at least 3-0 at the break. After resumption, it was assumed that Bangladesh would put the game out of Seychelles' reach but the scenario played out in reverse as Seychelles created at least five opportunities in the last 30 minutes and cashed in one of them. A poor clearance saw substitute Flijah Woodely Tamboob bring down the ball on the top of the box before Labrosses beat Anisur Rahman Zico with a left-footed drive from the top of the box.

## Tigresses thrash Zim

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's national cricket team got off to a brilliant start in their three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe as the Tigresses secured a comfortable eight-wicket victory with 236 balls to spare in Bulawayo yesterday. Having sent the hosts to bat first, the Tigresses bundled Zimbabwe out for a paltry 48 runs. Precious Marange was the only Zimbabwean batter who was able to reach double figures, scoring a team-high of 30-ball 17. The left-handed batter was later removed by off-spinner Salma Khatun, who scalped two more wickets on the day and ended with exceptional figures of three for six in seven overs that included four maidens. Alongside Salma, Jahanara Alam and Nahida Akter also took three wickets each. Bangladesh, however, lost openers Murshida Khatun and Sharmin Akhter for cheap scores but unbeaten scores of 11 and 16 from Fargana Hoque and Rumana Ahmed respectively helped the Tigresses romp to victory with ease.



## Qatar beckons BRAZIL, ARGENTINA

AFP, Montevideo



Brazil host Colombia in Sao Paulo on Thursday knowing victory will book their ticket to Qatar with six World Cup qualifiers to spare following a near perfect record so far. Even a draw for the Selecao would be enough if Uruguay lose at home to Argentina on Friday, and Brazilian media have reported that coach Tite is already planning to head to the Arab Cup in Qatar next month to check out World Cup venues and facilities. Publicly, though, Tite is not getting ahead of himself with a trip to face

Brazil have dominated the single CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying group, winning 10 of their 11 matches and scoring 26 goals. Their only blemish was a 0-0 draw away to Colombia last month that brought to an end a nine-match winning run. **MESSI A DOUBT** Like Brazil, second-placed Argentina could also secure qualification this month, although they would need other results to go their way. And they may have to do without star player Lionel Messi, who is suffering from knee and hamstring problems and has missed his



arch rivals Argentina in San Juan on the horizon next week. "We have two important matches against two teams that, for me, are of the highest level," said Tite. "A good performance and a good result against Colombia will provide us with a good preparation for Argentina." Tite caused a surprise by recalling Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho to his squad after more than a year out, largely due to a nine-month absence with a knee injury that required three surgeries. "It feels like it did the first time, that's how I see it every time I'm in the squad. It's an honour to wear this jersey," said Coutinho, who has struggled for playing time this season at his club.

club Paris Saint-Germain's last two matches. After their trip to Uruguay, Argentina, unbeaten in 25 matches, host Brazil next week and victories in both could be enough to book their ticket to Qatar. Uruguay, though, will be out for revenge after their 3-0 capitulation in Buenos Aires last month. They will be without injured Manchester United forward Edinson Cavani, although Atletico Madrid's Luis Suarez has travelled back to South America. Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez finds himself under pressure, with many fans believing the 74-year-old's record-breaking 15-year tenure should come to an end.

## Nazmul helps Dhaka win a thriller

SPORTS REPORTER



The final day of the fourth round of the ongoing 23rd National Cricket League (NCL) witnessed a thriller as left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam's four for 43 helped Dhaka Division eke out a three-run victory against Sylhet Division at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Dhaka had resumed the day on 234 for eight in 103 overs with a 92-run lead. However, Dhaka, who had batted the entire third day of play, could only survive 6.3 overs yesterday as they were bundled out for 243. Chasing Dhaka's modest

102-run target, Sylhet were put on the backfoot in the very beginning by pacer Sumon Khan, who removed both openers Imtiaz Hossain and Sayem Alam early. Nazmul then ran through Sylhet's middle order, removing skipper Zakir Hasan, Rahatul Ferdous and experienced Alok Kapali for single-digit scores before wrapping with the wicket of Ebadot Hossain as Dhaka bundled out Sylhet for just 98, winning the game by a slim margin. Nazmul ended with match figures of nine for 115. Sylhet spinner Nasum Ahmed also had a memorable outing as he returned career-best figures of 12 for 113 in first-class career although his side ended up losing. In the other game in



Sylhet, a fifty from Tanbir Hayder and contributions from Naeem Islam and skipper Akbar Ali helped Rangpur Division beat Khulna Division by three wickets. Rangpur resumed the day on 53 for one, needing 195 more runs to win. Overnight batsman Tanbir scored a patient 149-ball 74, laced

with nine boundaries and a solitary maximum, while Naeem's 41 and an unbeaten 33 from young wicketkeeper-batter Akbar drove Rangpur home. The other game between Rajshahi Division and Dhaka Metropolis at the BKSP 4 ended in an expected draw despite Rajshahi's Junaid Siddique scoring a ton. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Bowling Action Review Committee expressed its concern regarding a delivery by Barishal Division's Mohammad Ashraful against Chattogram Division in their fourth-round match at BKSP 3. The committee mentioned that it is still in discussion regarding the matter. Chattogram had won the game by an innings and 73 runs on the third day.



## Spain and Italy face decisive dates

AFP, Paris



The first stage of European qualifying for next year's World Cup concludes over the next week with Portugal, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands among the nations facing crucial games in the quest to make it to Qatar. The 10 group winners will secure qualification for football's global showpiece which kicks off on November 21, 2022. The 10 runners-up will get another chance to qualify in play-offs next March. **SPAIN HAVE ALL TO PLAY FOR** Spain showed on their runs to the Euro 2020 semi-finals and the Nations League final that they are again a force to be reckoned with. However, the 2010 world champions still have work to do to secure their place in Qatar from qualifying Group B. Luis Enrique's side sit second, two points behind leaders Sweden. They head to Athens on Thursday to play Greece, who held them to a 1-1 draw at home in March. Failure

to win this time would give Sweden the chance to clinch top spot with victory in Georgia. Otherwise the group will be decided when Spain host Sweden -- including a 40-year-old Zlatan Ibrahimovic -- in Seville on Sunday.



**ITALY, DUTCH BACK ON BIG STAGE?** European champions Italy, who failed to qualify in 2018, are not there yet either. With two games left in Group C they are locked on 14 points with Switzerland, and

the sides clash on Friday in Rome, five months after Italy won 3-0 there when the teams met in Euro 2020's opening game. Whoever wins will be left requiring just a point in their final qualifier, with the Azzurri going to Northern Ireland on Monday while the Swiss host Bulgaria. The Netherlands are tantalisingly close to returning to the World Cup after also missing out in 2018. Louis van Gaal's side are two points clear of Norway atop Group G with a superior goal difference to that of the Norwegians or third-placed Turkey. That effectively means a draw in Montenegro on Saturday should not damage them, as long as they then avoid defeat against Norway -- who are without injured forward Erling Haaland -- in Rotterdam. The battle between Russia and 2018 World Cup runners-up Croatia in Group H is tight, with the Russians currently two points ahead before hosting Cyprus on Thursday.

## Country's first triple centurion no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Tariquzzaman Munir, the first triple centurion of independent Bangladesh, passed away following a cardiac arrest in Brahmanbaria yesterday. He was 62. He represented the Bangladesh National Team in two matches against touring Sri Lanka in 1985. Tariquzzaman, a stocky right-handed batsman and sharp close-in fielder, is best remembered for scoring the first triple century in independent Bangladesh when he made 308 for Dhaka University against Chittagong University in the semifinal

of the 1984-85 National Cricket Championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium [Abahani Ground]. In his club career, Tariquzzaman appeared for prominent teams like Abahani, Mohammedan, Biman and GMCC. He also served as the member secretary of the BCB Logistics & Protocol Committee and acted as the tournament manager of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), Bangladesh for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011. The BCB extended its heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the family of the departed.





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# FICTITIOUS and fishy

**ACC finds out PK Halder's shady transactions, made-up companies; chargesheet ready**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators have found Proshanta Kumar Halder alias PK Halder's involvement in fishy transactions worth about Tk 6,080 crore with different bank accounts of the country.

During the investigation of a case, the Anti-Corruption Commission found that Halder laundered about Tk 80 crore to Canada and amassed about Tk 426 crore beyond the known sources of income.

On January 8 this year, the anti-graft body filed the case against Halder on charges of illegally amassing wealth.

Thirteen other people including Lilaboti Halder, Abantika Baral, Shankha Bepari, Sukumar Mridha, Anindita Mridha, Purnima Rani Halder, Uttam Kumar Mistri, Amitav Adhikari, Pritish Kumar Halder, Rajib Som, Subrata Das, Ananga Mohon Roy and Swapan Kumar Mistri stand accused in the case.

The ACC will file the chargesheet in the case soon, said ACC Secretary Anwar Hossain Howlader at a press briefing yesterday.

The investigation officer has submitted their findings and the Commission has approved the chargesheet, he said.



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**Ansar members coming out of Faridpur's Naragkanda Upazila Parishad premises with ballot boxes and other voting materials yesterday. They were carrying those to polling centres set up for today's elections to 835 Union Parishads in different districts.**

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

# Students to get Covid doses at schools

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Students would soon be able to get Covid-19 jabs at their own school premises as the government looks to fix the chaotic situation that prevails each day at the eight vaccination centres to inoculate 12-17-year olds.

Once the education ministry sends the list of schools to the Directorate General of Health Services, health professionals go to each premise and inoculate the students, Health Minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star yesterday.

The decision was taken to ease the vaccination process and the new process is likely to start within seven days, he said.

"We are ready to inoculate in the schools from tomorrow but the education ministry has to send the list," Maleque added.

At present, the government has converted eight schools in Dhaka into vaccination centres, where the schools' students as well as those in the surrounding areas can come to get the vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech.

The eight schools are Ideal School and College in Motijheel, Hurduco International School at Bashundhara, Southpoint School and College at Malibagh, Chittagong Grammar School in Gulshan, Dhaka Commerce College in Mirpur, Kakoli High School and College in Dhanmondi, South Breeze School in Uttara and Scholastica School in Mirpur.

The government had planned to vaccinate 40,000 12-to-17-year-olds each day from November 1 but the long queues,

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# No reason to put blame on court

**Says CJ as SC dismisses appeals of 2 hanged convicts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has said they have seen blame put on the Supreme Court although its judges think over and over again before handing down death sentence to any person.

Such a situation is very embarrassing for this court and its judges, he said while presiding over a five-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division yesterday.

The bench was holding a hearing on appeals filed by two Chudanga men challenging a High Court verdict that had sentenced them to death for the murder of one Manwar Hossain in 1994.

The two men -- Abdul Mokim and Golam Rasul Jharu -- were executed in 2017.

However, everybody was left perplexed after the appeals filed by the two appeared on the SC cause list recently for hearing.

The SC bench yesterday dismissed the appeals and said those (filed through lawyers) became ineffective as the jail appeals (filed through jail the authorities) had been rejected by the court earlier.

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

# Bangladesh govt will take back all refugees

NOVEMBER 11, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BRANDT WANTS POLITICAL SOLUTION

West German chancellor Willy Brandt today said a political solution of the East Pakistan problem must be found.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi in Bonn at the conclusion of two-day talks between the two leaders, Brandt said his government "is convinced that for the sake of maintaining peace and stability in the region, a political solution of the problem of East Pakistan must be found that will eliminate the existing situation of strife and ultimately enable the refugees to return home". "In spite of the grave tensions it will be possible to avoid a military confrontation," he hoped.

### KAMARUZZAMAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE

The Bangladesh government will take back all refugees irrespective of their caste or creed and rehabilitate them honourably once the country is freed, AHM Kamaruzzaman, home minister of the Bangladesh government-in-exile announced at a press conference today. The same announcement was made by Mizanur Rahman Choudhury, organising secretary of the Awami League, before a large gathering of refugees at the Salt Lake camp in Kolkata.

The home minister made it clear that the Bangladesh government would not discriminate between the refugees who crossed over to India after the Pak army crackdown and those who

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# Arrested, then found dead, handcuffed

**Family alleges he was beaten to death**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

The body of a youth in handcuffs was found floating in the Haridooa river of Narsingdi Sadar upazila on Tuesday, hours after his arrest.

His family alleged that he was beaten to death and thrown into the river.

The deceased, Sujan Saha, 27, of Hajipur Daspara area, used to work in a clothing store in Shekherchar area of Narsingdi.

Sujan's sister Pinky Saha said police arrested her brother from Brahmanbaria area of the district town early Tuesday and took him to Hajipur area. There, police asked the workers of a factory to beat him and then police threw him into the river, she alleged.

Locals found his body around 9:00am.

Saheb Ali Pathan,

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# Apple's original computer fetches \$400k at auction



AFP, Los Angeles

An original Apple computer, hand-built by company founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak 45 years ago, sold for \$400,000 at auction in the United States on Tuesday.

The functioning Apple-1, the great-great-grandfather of today's sleek chrome-and-glass Macbooks, had been expected to fetch up to \$600,000 when it went under the hammer in California.

The so-called "Chaffey College" Apple-1 is one of only 200 made by Jobs and Wozniak at the very start of the company's odyssey from garage start-up to megalth worth \$2 trillion.

What makes it even rarer is the fact the

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## PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 11

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:22 7:00  
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:25 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Heavy rains in Lanka, India kill 25

REUTERS, Colombo

Heavy rains on Sri Lanka's coast and in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu have killed at least 25 people, destroyed thousands of homes and snarled traffic, authorities said.

In Sri Lanka, 20 people have died in recent days, most from drowning, while five were hurt in landslides, officials said yesterday.

"Given the prevalence of Covid-19, the government has encouraged over a thousand families to move in with relatives to reduce the strain on government-run centres," said Sudantha Ranasinghe, head of Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre.

The low pressure depression behind the rains was expected to move towards Tamil Nadu this evening, Sri Lanka's weather office said. Five people have already died in the state whose capital Chennai is India's automobile manufacturing centre.

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**CHARMS OF CHILDHOOD... Two little boys, their joy unbound, play on a swing hanging from a tree branch, while another watches with glee. The photo was taken at the capital's Baunia yesterday.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Speed up

**COP26 draft urges boost to emissions cutting goals by 2022; negotiators attempting to agree final text by tomorrow**

REUTERS, Glasgow

The British hosts of the UN climate conference have called on countries to raise their ambitions to cut greenhouse gas emissions by next year, acknowledging that current pledges fall short of what is needed to avert climate catastrophe.

The first draft of the conference conclusion, which must now be negotiated by the almost 200 countries present in Glasgow and agreed by the close of the two-week talks on Friday, was released yesterday.

It asks countries to "revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions, as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022".

In the landmark Paris accord, countries agreed in 2015 to limit global warming to well below 2.0 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and try to cap it at 1.5C.

Since then, scientific evidence has grown that crossing the 1.5C threshold would unleash significantly worse sea level rises, floods, droughts, wildfires and storms than those already occurring, and make some impacts potentially irreversible.

Britain has said the aim of the COP26 conference is to "keep alive" the 1.5C goal.

"It is time for nations to put aside differences and come together for our planet and our people," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a statement before leaving London for Glasgow yesterday.

"We need to pull out all the stops if we're going to keep 1.5C within our grasp."

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