

## CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

UN warns one million children at risk of dying from acute malnutrition

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Your Right to Know

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"Usually, people join local government polls with enthusiasm, but the government has also destroyed it. Many people have died in polls violence."

BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR  
ON UNION PARISHAD ELECTION



"Globally, extreme poverty is on the rise -- as is extreme wealth. We face a dramatic rise in inequality..."

US VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS



"Promises ring hollow when the fossil fuels industry still receives trillions in subsidies."

UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES TELLS COP26 CLIMATE SUMMIT

## Tax dodger let off the hook

Ctg customs did not penalise Chinese firm; C&F agents' licences suspended, but no action against customs officials responsible for it

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Chattogram Customs did not penalise China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) even though it evaded tax while importing construction materials for a government project.

Instead of realising between 200 and 400 percent of the tax dodged as fines, the customs authorities let the leading Chinese firm off the hook by allowing it to pay just the tax it dodged.

During an audit in January, Chattogram Customs found out that CRBC had imported 22,450 tonnes of pretensioned spun high strength concrete (PHC) piles in six consignments in 2019 but paid only Tk 4.72 crore in taxes when it was supposed to pay Tk 21.64 crore.

The consignments were released from Chattogram Port with incorrect harmonised system (HS) code, which is used for boring machines, instead of the correct code for

According to the law, Chattogram customs should have fined CRBC between

**Tk 33.84 crore and Tk 67.68 crore**

the PHC piles.

According to the law, Chattogram customs should have fined CRBC between Tk 33.84 crore and Tk 67.68 crore.

The customs authorities in May issued show-cause notices to CRBC and two of the importer's C&F agents. They suspended the licences of the C&F agents but were yet to take any action against the customs officials involved.

CRBC in a statement to the commissioner of the Chattogram Customs House on June 29 claimed that they had no idea of the forgery until the customs served them a demand notice on June 23.

They said they had paid their C&F agent SF International Tk 28.52 crore for paying the taxes. They held the agent responsible.

Wang Jinwu, business manager of CRBC Dhaka office, told The Daily Star, "We have solved the tax-related issue following the

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Members of Green Bangla Garments Workers' Federation demonstrate in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding that the government ratify the ILO Convention 190 and put an end to violence and harassment at work.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021

### COP26 nears end with 1.5C goal at risk

Intense haggling continues into overtime for deal; Johnson asks for more money on the table

AFP, Glasgow

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday appealed to richer countries to place more "cash on the table" to secure a climate breakthrough as the COP26 meeting in Glasgow slipped into overtime.

Poorer countries have balked at demands to do more to curb their own emissions, without promised financial support to transition away from fossil fuels and to adapt to the accelerating impacts of climate change.

The deadlock pushed COP26 past its scheduled end at 1800 GMT, with intense haggling expected through late yesterday or even into the weekend.

But Johnson said that the Glasgow summit in itself would not be able to stop global warming.

"We won't clinch it all at COP, but we can start," he told reporters near London.

"We do need to see the cash on the table to help the developing world to make the necessary changes," he said. "That's what needs to happen in the next few hours."

Delegates from nearly 200 nations are tasked with keeping alive the 2015 Paris goal of limiting temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as warming-driven disasters hit home around the world.

New wording to a draft COP26 agreement yesterday called for countries to accelerate "the phase-out of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels".

That was softer than a first version of the text, but observers said the inclusion of the fuels driving the climate crisis was an important step.

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## COMMENTARY

### Honourable judge, we respectfully but vehemently beg to differ

MAHFUZ ANAM

Judge Mosammat Kamrunnihar, of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7, found all the five accused "not guilty" in the rape case of two university students filed with Banani Police Station on May 6, 2017. The honourable judge found the case weak, lacking in evidence and bereft of crucial witnesses. How accurate and legally correct these views are will, no doubt, be further examined by higher courts on appeal.

Our problems -- and I mean serious ones -- lie elsewhere. They are in some of the observations she made while pronouncing her verdict. She reportedly advised the police not to take any rape case if it is lodged 72 hours after the incident. Why? "Because semen cannot be traced after 72 hours, because DNA test is vital to prove a case of rape."

May I most respectfully ask whether or not a crime of rape lasts only for 72 hours? After that limit does the crime just vanish into thin air? There is a victim right in front of our eyes -- suffering both physical and emotional wounds. But there is no perpetrator? If police are advised not to take

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## IT MAY ENCOURAGE OFFENDERS

The Dhaka court that acquitted all five accused in the Raintree hotel rape case also recommended police should not accept any rape case if the complainant comes 72 hours after an incident. The recommendation drew flak, specially from women rights activists. The Daily Star yesterday reached out to three legal experts for their comments on this matter.



Z I KHAN PANNA

Lawyer Z I Khan Panna, a human rights activist and the immediate past chairperson of rights body Ain O Salish Kendra, said there is no time limit for filing any rape case as per the criminal laws.

Whenever a victim goes to the police station with an allegation of rape, the law enforcers are bound to record it as a case, he said.

"The recommendation of Judge Mosammat

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SHAHDEEN MALIK

Noted jurist Shahdeen Malik said the observation by the judge was just a comment made by an individual judge and that it had no legal value.

"There is no scope to consider an observation made by the judge of a trial court as an explanation of law," he told The Daily Star yesterday when his attention was drawn to the recommendation by judge Kamrunnihar.

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KHURSHID ALAM KHAN

Khurshid Alam Khan, a Supreme Court lawyer and Editor of Dhaka Law Reports (DLR), said the recommendation made by the judge would encourage the rapists.

"The observation made by the judge with regard to filing of the rape case in 72 hours is totally irrelevant to our socioeconomic condition. Her observation can encourage the rapists," he said.

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## ROHINGYA RETURN

### The world must act seriously

Says Hasina in Paris

BSS, Paris

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the world leaders to ensure repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar soon to escape security risks in the region and beyond.

"The world must act seriously to make sure that these people can go back to Myanmar soon. Otherwise, the security risks from the crisis will not just remain confined within our borders. We already see signs of that," she said.

The PM made the call while addressing the Fourth Edition of the Paris Peace Forum-2021 titled "Minding the

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Finding no other options, people, entering the capital via Tongi, start walking with their luggage as the Tongi Bridge on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway was damaged, *inset*, to such an extent that it was deemed too dangerous for vehicles. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## UP ELECTIONS 2021

### 2 out of five AL rebels win

100 AL candidates set to win in third phase

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Two out of five independent candidates, mostly Awami League "rebels", won chairman posts in the second phase of the union parishad polls on Thursday.

Compared to the first phase, candidates running with the Awami League tickets performed poorly in the second phase. They won 58 percent of the chairman posts against first phase's 76 percent, according to Election Commission's (EC) data revealed last night.

On Thursday, polls were held at 835 unions but the results of one union were withheld, EC Joint Secretary SM Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star.

AL chairman candidates won in 486 unions and 81 of them were elected unopposed. At least 330 independents won and party insiders said almost all of them were AL rebels.

Another 203 members and 76 members for reserved seats for women were also elected unopposed.

Ten Jatiya Party and four Islami Andolan Bangladesh candidates, one candidate each from Jatiya Party (Manju), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Khelafat Majlish won.

In the first phase, 267 Awami League candidates won, 71 unopposed. At least 85 independents were victorious.

## VIOLENCE CONTINUES

In Dhamrai, a man died after he was caught in the middle of a clash between supporters of two member aspirants in Shuyapur UP Thursday night.

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BANGLADESH  
UPDATE



221  
New cases in 24hrs



15,72,127  
Total cases



27,912  
Deaths



15,36,111  
Recoveries

GLOBAL  
UPDATE



5,099,860  
Deaths



252,976,443  
Total cases

# Damaged bridge clogs up highway

Travellers suffer on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway

Our Correspondent, Gazipur

A damaged slab on Tongi Bridge on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway caused a long tailback, making travellers suffer.

A five feet long and three feet wide slab of the bridge collapsed on the Dhaka-bound lane on Wednesday, resulting a huge traffic congestion on the highway.

People were seen crossing the broken bridge on foot. Dhaka-bound vehicles were diverted but that led to traffic jams.

Rafiqul Islam, an applicant of National Security Intelligence (NSI) recruitment test, said he left home around 6:00am from his home in Gazipur to attend the exam.

“There was a huge pressure of traffic on the diversion road in the morning. I had to walk for about a kilometre,” he said.

A local vendor Jasim Uddin was carrying onions and other vegetables for his retail shop from across the bridge.

He had to cross the broken portion with the help of porters.

“The authorities should take steps immediately to save us from sufferings,” he said.

Visiting the spot, this correspondent found that no vehicle on the Dhaka-bound lane was moving on the bridge whereas vehicles on the adjacent lane were moving at a snail’s pace.

A pickup van driver Ramzan Ali told the correspondent that it took him three hours to cross the bridge. He was heading towards Mymensingh.

Mohirul Islam Khan, project director of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), said a new slab would be set up on the broken portion. “It may take 10 days.”

Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy commissioner of Gazipur Metropolitan Police (Traffic division) said there was no alternative to cross the river without the Tongi Bridge.

He said they were working to reduce the sufferings of people.

## 2 out of five AL rebels win

FROM PAGE 1

Nasir Uddin Mollah, 65, of Kurongichor area appeared to have suffered a heart attack as supporters of member-elect Golam Mostafa and those of the defeated candidate Mizanur Rahman Mizan clashed around 9:00pm, police and witnesses said.

Nasir, who was walking through the area, collapsed on the spot, said Abdus Salam, sub-inspector of Dhamrai Police Station.

In Manikganj’s Singair, two cows and a motorcycle of Khokon Miah, religious affairs secretary of Jamirra UP Jubo League, were set on fire early yesterday.

In Patuakhali, eight Electronic Voting Machines, snatched from a school in Galachipa upazila on Thursday, were recovered from a nearby garden yesterday, said police.

**THE UNOPPOSED**  
Chairmen of 100 union parishads

will be elected unopposed in the third phase to be held on November 28 when 1,004 UPs will go to polls. At least 337 UP members and 132 candidates of seats reserved for women are also set to get elected uncontested, according to EC data.

Most of those set to be elected unopposed are the ruling AL leaders, party sources said.

Thursday was the last date for withdrawal of candidature. EC data shows that 4,409 individuals are running for chairman posts, 11,105 for reserved member seats for women and 34,632 for member posts.

In 14 UPs of Chattogram’s Raozan, only AL-nominated chairman candidates are running. At least 126 members and 42 candidates for seats reserved for women will also be elected unopposed.

[Our correspondents from districts contributed to the report]

## The world must act seriously

FROM PAGE 1

Gap: Improving Global Governance after Covid-19” here on Thursday afternoon.

She said in August 2017, Bangladesh helped avoid a major regional crisis by giving temporary shelter to Myanmar’s forcibly-displaced people, of which more than a million continue to face an uncertain future.

Mentioning that the Indo-Pacific region must be an area of peace and prosperity for all, Hasina said, “Our vision for the region is to have it free, open, peaceful, secure and inclusive.”

The major actors in the region should learn from the past and work responsibly in the present to ensure a sustainable future, she said, adding, “Bangladesh wishes to engage with all our partners on the basis of mutual respect and understanding.”

The PM said in 1997, Bangladesh ended an armed conflict in its Chittagong Hill Tracts through a historic Peace Accord. “We vowed a ‘zero tolerance’ approach to all forms of terrorism. We keep investing at the community level to contain their spread.”

Hasina said for many years now, Bangladesh ranks top among the troop and police contributing countries to UN peacekeeping operations, and hold on to its faith in the Middle East Peace Process in support of the Palestinian cause.

She said the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the fault-lines running deep within the international health and financial systems.

Hasina said there is no option but to secure vaccines for millions of people without access to them.

“We must keep raising our climate ambitions to save people’s lives, homes and livelihoods.”

The PM said Bangladesh believes that peace around the world is the best guarantee for national security. “We avoid the path of conflicts and seek pacific settlement of disputes,” she said.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Hasina said France is uniquely placed to promote international peace and security.

French President Emmanuel Macron convened the Forum while its president Pascal Lamy chaired the event.

## COP26 nears end with 1.5C

FROM PAGE 1

“Unabated” coal plants are those that do not deploy carbon capture technology to offset some of their pollution.

The text requests countries to come back next year with updated climate pledges.

US climate envoy John Kerry said in Glasgow that fossil fuel subsidies – including America’s own – were “insanity”.

“We believe that this is existential,” he told delegates.

“For many of you it is not existential in the future, it is existential today. People are dying today. All around the world the impacts are being felt, today.”

The draft text also fleshes out a call for developed countries to “at least double” their funding for adaptation – helping at-risk nations face climate impacts – by 2025.

But a faultline remains over the failure of wealthy nations to meet their decade-old promise to provide \$100 billion annually to help vulnerable nations prepare for the worst.

Kenyan environment minister Keriako Tobiko told delegates that failure to honour the funding pledge had severely hurt confidence.

“For myself, for Kenya, our trust has been shattered,” he said, as more than 100 indigenous and other protesters marched through the summit venue demanding the rich world honour its promises.

**‘STARK REALITY’**

The two-week summit began with a bang as world leaders descended on Glasgow armed with a string of headline announcements, from a commitment to slash methane emissions to a plan to save rainforests.

But current national emissions cutting plans, all told, would lead to

2.7C of heating, according to the UN, far in excess of the Paris target.

In a speech to delegates, European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans held up his mobile phone with a picture of his one-year-old grandson on screen.

“If we fail -- and I mean fail now in the next few years -- he will fight with other human beings for water and food. That’s the stark reality we face,” he said.

He said the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C is “about avoiding a future for our children and grandchildren that is unlivable”.

**‘SAVING LIVES’**  
Negotiations received a shot in the arm on Wednesday when the United States and China -- the two largest emitters -- unveiled a joint climate action plan, although it was light on detail.

But Johnson’s identification of the cash issue cuts to the core, with the rich West accused of creating climate change but now refusing to pay for its consequences.

Developed nations meanwhile favour a greater push on emissions reductions, something countries yet to fully electrify their grids -- and largely blameless for emissions -- feel is unfair.

Countries already battered by climate disasters such as record-breaking drought and flooding are also demanding they be compensated separately for “loss and damage”.

“Rich nations treat climate finance as charity or a favour to placate developing countries into signing a compromised package of decisions,” Harjeet Singh, senior adviser at Climate Action Network International, told AFP.

“We are talking about saving lives and undoing an injustice to build a safe future for all.”



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over the 2021 Unesco-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Prize for Creative Economy to Japheth Kawanguzi of MoTIV Creations Limited (Uganda) on Thursday at the Unesco headquarters in Paris.

PHOTO: PTD

## Tax dodger let off the hook

FROM PAGE 1

customs rules. We have paid the money according to customs demand.”

Asked if the CRBC has filed any case against its C&F agents for fraudulence, Jinwu said, “We did not file any case against the C&F agent.”

About a customs notice on September 11 for submission of documents related to CRBC’s claim that it had paid its C&F agents Tk 28.52 crore, Jinwu recently said they were preparing them and were expected to send them to the customs authorities in days.

Sources say that the CRBC paid the dodged tax of Tk 16.92 crore only after the customs temporarily blocked its BIN (business identification number), halting all its imports.

Saiful Islam, the proprietor of SF International, in a letter to the customs commissioner on June 29 said he paid one Rahim Tk 66 lakh and Tk one lakh each to an “ARO and to the Audit Investigation and Research” in cash for the release of the six consignments.

He also said he was refunded Tk 8 lakh and requested the custom commissioner to take necessary steps to recover the remaining Tk 60 lakh.

Saiful did not mention why he paid the huge sum to Rahim but sources hinted that the payment was to a middleman for underhanded dealings with revenue officials.

The Daily Star has a copy of Saiful’s

letter but he withdrew his allegation later on through another letter.

“I spoke about bribery in anger. Later, I realised that it was not right and I withdrew it.”

On forgery of documents, he said the customs and the importer would look into the matter.

From documents, The Daily Star learnt that three assistant revenue officers (ARO) and three revenue officers (RO) were assigned to assess the consignments.

Contacted, ARO Amzad Hossain Hazari told The Daily Star, “We were trying to release the goods quickly as they were imported for government projects. As a result, we did not have the opportunity to analyse the documents well.”

Regarding the bribery allegation, he said, “No name was mentioned in the allegations of bribery. There was no financial gain. It was a mistake.”

Mallik Sadril, another ARO, echoed Hazari’s statement.

The Daily Star contacted three other officials concerned over the phone. They refused to make comments. The phone of the sixth was unreachable.

Mohammed Shafi Uddin, additional commissioner of the customs house, told The Daily Star that they did not slap any fine on the importer as the incident occurred “unintentionally”.

## Honourable judge, we respectfully

FROM PAGE 1

any case after 72 hours, doesn’t it mean that a rapist is no longer a rapist after that time limit. Because if the police do not register a rape case, then the victim has nowhere to go to begin the process of seeking justice.

To the best of my knowledge, there is no time limit for any crime. For all crimes -- petty or grievous -- once committed, the long arm of the law, however late, will find the criminal. That is the faith we repose on our legal system regardless of how much it runs counter to facts. So, when no other crime is “time-bound” why should rape be an exception? It is one of most frequently committed crimes against women, and by making it time-bound, did we not just add a newer form of discrimination against women? It comes from the very tribunal that has been set up to give special protection from gender-based crimes to our women and girls. How ironic!

A very simple question to the honourable judge -- hasn’t a potential rapist just been encouraged to commit rape and pay some local goons to prevent the victim from going to the police station for the following 72 hours -- by threats of bodily harm to the victim or her family or damage to property? And by the magic of words of an honourable court, doesn’t the offender become fully exonerated of the dastardly crime that he committed and become an innocent person as if nothing has happened? The only difference would be that, unlike an innocent person, he would now be planning to get his second, third, fourth victims, since all he has to do is prevent the victims from lodging FIR for the next 72 hours.

I have no doubt that our honourable judge is fully aware of the tremendous emotional, cultural trauma and family pressure a girl has to face to go for legal action against rape. Already the existing legal framework is not helpful to women. The evidence act’s gender bias has been forcefully brought out by legal experts over the years.

With the 72-hour limit in her mind, we would humbly request the honourable judge to try, for a few minutes, to enter the traumatised mental and emotional mind of a rape victim, especially one of a very young age. The first thought that goes through her mind is to hide the incident. If she is a little more mature, she would rush to confide to her parents and, depending on their strength, both financial and social status wise, the parents would

seek advice from close relatives and locally important people. Obviously, suggestions would vary and may even be contradictory. If the parents are very supportive and the victim opts for the legal course, then comes the question of affordability. If everything falls into place, then the struggle starts with convincing the police to accept the case. In the meantime, the family of the rapist -- usually high-ups in the village power structure, otherwise the son wouldn’t dare rape anybody in the first place -- grinds their own axes and makes all out attempts to dissuade the police from doing anything. All this while vilifying the victim through character smearing with the help of social media and word of mouth.

In the above background, the honourable judge wants the “semen test” to be done in the first 72 hours otherwise, advises the police not to take the case. Seriously, is justice being served here or a mockery is being made of the poor, powerless, resource-less, influence-less people of rural Bangladesh, especially the vulnerable young women.

The matter becomes sadder still when one reads further the observation as reported in the media. (It has to be kept in mind that our court reporting is usually based on the verbal pronouncements of the judges on which reporters can only take notes but cannot record it nor take photographs of the texts. Our reporting in this particular case was also based on the usual practice, based on the verbal statement of the judge when she was pronouncing it). The honourable judge said that the two girls came to the party, drank with the accused and danced with them -- and therefore it couldn’t have been rape. She said, “they were partner to the sexual intercourse willfully because they willingly went to the party, danced, drank alcohol and they swam in the pool”.

In effect, not only the accused have been found “not guilty” but the victims have been found guilty of creating a condition which made their sexual assault by five men, so to speak, normal and made them “partners in sexual intercourse”. The honourable judge assumes that “coming to the party, dancing, swimming” amount to consent for sexual intercourse. But the law does not permit her to come to that conclusion. The law, we repeat, says “no is a no”. If a woman says “no” regardless of what happened before, it is a “no” and sexual intercourse at that stage is rape. It does not refer to what happened before.

“The case was disposed of under section 83 of the Customs Act ...,” he said.

Shafi said, “There were no direct bribery allegations against anyone in this incident. But we have identified those officials involved in mishandling those consignments. The matter of taking departmental action against them is under process.”

However, Golam Kibria, a member (Custom Policy and ICT) of the National Board of Revenue, said the company must pay a fine if it evades revenue due to changes in the HS code.

“There is no chance of ducking the fine with a mistake as an excuse.”

A source said there was no way to have incorrect HS code on imported goods meant for government projects. The NBR prepares what goods will be imported and how much and their HS codes in advance, the source added.

“This was done deliberately,” the source said.

CBRC, one of the four large state-owned companies in China, focuses on global civil engineering and construction projects such as highways, railways, bridges, ports, and tunnels. It is constructing the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under the Karnaphuli, the third terminal of Shahjalal International Airport and Matarbari Alta Super Critical Power Plant projects.

Begging pardon of the honourable judge, we humbly pose the question that doesn’t your views amount to meaning that any young woman who responds to a friend’s (the victims were very much known to the perpetrators) invitation to a party in a hotel (the girls felt safe as the invitations were from friends), swims in the pool and has a few drinks can be raped with impunity because she did “all this” willingly? Just because she came, and drank and swam so she was willing to have sexual intercourse? Isn’t that what the judge’s observations mean? So, all the young women who came to that party that night could have been raped and be considered “partners in sexual intercourse”?

May we humbly and very respectfully ask the judge whether she is aware of the concept of “no means no”. A woman can join a friend’s party because she wants to, she can have a drink or two because she wants to, she can even swim in the pool because she wants to. How can this be taken as consent for sexual intercourse, which the judge appears to imply? Modern legal statutes have gone so far ahead as to recognise sex workers as victims of rape if there is intercourse without consent.

What the honourable judge has done is legitimise a stereotype -- women who are trying to break the glass ceiling and take on many of the jobs generally reserved for men must be of questionable moral character and as such, predatory men can make them prey of their lust. It is also true that many women are less shy about physical relationships than before. That is not the point. The point is that the decision is hers -- and only hers to make - and not by the man who may read whatever his lustful fantasies may drive him to. A “NO MEANS A NO”. And that is also what our law says. A sexual act without the consent of the woman is rape. What a man interprets to be her consent does NOT matter. And there is no two ways about.

Honourable judge, I am in serious doubt as to whether or not I have understood you correctly? I would sincerely like to believe that I have not, and all that I wrote above were results of my misunderstanding of what you meant. In that case, I most humbly and sincerely apologise. But in case I have not, and that there is truth in what I and millions of other women and men have understood your words to mean, then a reciprocal gesture of humility would help us all to strengthen our faith in the wisdom of our honourable judges.

BLAST ON OIL TANKER

## 1 killed, 7 injured

Our Correspondent, Barishal

A man was killed and seven others were injured as a petroleum tanker vessel caught fire on the Sugandha river in Jhalakathi yesterday.

The blaze broke out around 8:00am when some workers were cleaning oil releasing pipes, adjacent to the engine room, of the vessel.

Shahidul Islam, station master of Fire Service and Civil Defence in the district, said the fire was doused after two hours of frantic efforts by the firefighters.

Visiting the spot, Kobad Ali Sarker, assistant director of fire service in Barishal, said not a single fire extinguisher on the vessel was carrying fire dousing chemicals.

“This is an example of sheer negligence of the authorities and unskilled handling of the situation.”

Contacted, Shafiu Islam Biswas, marketing officer of Padma Oil Company, said, the tanker named Sagar Nandini-03 was carrying about 11 lakh litres of petrol and diesel.

Around 2 lakh litres of petrol was unloaded at the depot on Wednesday afternoon. The ship, anchored on the south bank of the Sugandha, was supposed to unload 923,000 litres of diesel yesterday, he added.

Asked about the negligence, he said, Padma Oil Company only receives oil from the tankers. “Ensuring safety on the vessel does not fall under our jurisdiction.”

According to fire service officials, all the injured were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Later, they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as their conditions deteriorated.

Of the eight injured, Sukani Kamrul Islam, 35, of Moralganj upazila in Bagerhat, died on the spot.

Those who are receiving treatment at DMCH are Rubel, Rony, Shahidul Islam, Mehedi, Asif, Ripon, and Rakib.

Tabith Mallick, in-charge of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital’s burn unit, said all of them were seriously injured in the blaze, with between 40 and 70 percent burn.

At least three of them were in critical condition, he added.

## Z I Khan Panna

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Kamrunnahr of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka that police should not accept any rape case if the complainant goes to the police station 72 hours after an incident is totally contradictory to the law and justice,” he said.

Such a recommendation from a judge will only encourage offenders, ZI Khan Panna, a lawyer of the Supreme Court, said yesterday.

He said the trial in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case began 21 years after the killing through the cancellation of the Indemnity Ordinance.

“If any time limit had been given, how could the trial of the case for the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members take place?” he questioned.

ZI Khan Panna also said the judgement delivered by Judge Mosammat Kamrunnahr in the Banani Raintree hotel rape case was “very much questionable”.

## Shahdeen Malik

FROM PAGE 1

“An observation made by a trial court has no legal value or obligation,” he said. “If the High Court division and the Appellate division of the Supreme Court make any interpretation of law, that has to be followed.”

Delivering the verdict in the case on Thursday, the judge noted that the Banani Raintree case was lodged 38 days after the incident happened, and so no DNA evidence could be found. “Semen cannot be traced after 72 hours...” she said.

## Khurshid Alam Khan

FROM PAGE 1

He said first information reports were filed even 100 hours after rapes were committed, but the prosecution succeeded in proving the cases in court relying upon circumstantial evidences and evidences of victims. “Thus, culprits were punished.”

He said, “I think the prosecution has miserably failed in discharging its duty of proving the allegation of rape [in the Raintree case]. It is a very fit case for moving an appeal before the High Court Division challenging the tribunal verdict of acquittal.”

The lawyer also said, “From newspaper reports, it appears to me that Judge Mosammat Kamrunnahr has acquitted the accused on the ground that the allegation of rape has not been proved. But from the circumstantial evidences as well as the evidence of the victims, it can be said that the case of rape has been proved”.

In this context, the tribunal judge could have relied upon the relevant decisions of the Supreme Courts of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. According to the decisions, judges can consider the testimony of the victims for conviction of the accused. But Judge Mosammat Kamrunnahr has failed to do it, he said.

“The judgement was delivered on the basis of medical report and evidence from doctors. But I think that apart from medical reports, there were sufficient evidence to convict the accused in the case,” he added.



# A park plagued by renovation

Even after 4 years, work for Dhaka’s Osmani Udyan incomplete



HELEMIUL ALAM

When Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) inaugurated renovation work for the capital’s Osmani Udyan back in January 2018, it had promised to complete it in 10 months. Four years have gone by, but only 65 percent of the work has been completed. The deadline has been extended thrice, while costs kept escalating. The first deadline was June 2019, the second June 2020, and third June 2021. And now, the deadline has been extended yet again, till June 2022. Presently, DSCC is preparing a fresh tender for the work, as the previous contractor could not finish the job on time. The city corporation canceled the contract with The Builders Engineers in May, as it failed to finish work despite repeated deadline extensions.

“We are preparing to give the work order to a new firm,” said Project Director Munshi Md Abul Hasem. “A fresh tender is expected to be invited before the first week of December.” “We are hoping to complete it within the scheduled time. But the cost will remain the same,” he claimed. Nestled between the secretariat and Nagar Bhaban, the park is named after General Muahammad Ataul Gani Osmani, the commander-in-chief of Bangladesh forces during the Liberation War. It is divided into 11 sectors, as a tribute to the country’s forces that were divided into 11 divisions. The 29-acre green sanctuary has a number of rare trees and plants of different shapes and sizes, two small lakes and islands made of sand along with walkways, sculptures, and an auditorium.

One of its major attractions is the Mughal-era cannon “Bibi Mariam”, which was commissioned by Emperor Aurangzeb’s trusted general Mir Jumla II to protect Dhaka -- the 17th-century capital of Bengal -- from raids by bandits. According to the city corporation, at first, the project deadline got extended in 2019 and the cost escalated from Tk 54 crore to Tk 89 crore for additional work like setting up food courts, a museum, library and better drainage system. Then last year, DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said they will set up an underground parking space inside the park, which will be able to accommodate around 200 cars. However, DSCC has cancelled that plan. Architect Rafiq Azam, principal designer of the project, said they have

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Former BWMRI official stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI) chief scientific officer Anwar Shahid (72) was stabbed to death on a street near Shyamoli area in the capital on Thursday evening. Tejgaon division Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidullah told The Daily Star that one of his acquaintances called him over phone and killed him as part of a plan. “We suspect the killing took place due to some financial matters,” the DC said without going into details. As of yesterday, police could not arrest anyone in connection. Selim Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Adabor Police Station, told The Daily Star that an unidentified man stabbed Anwar in Holy Lane near Shyamoli around 6:15pm. The killer didn’t take his phone, wallet and or any valuables, he mentioned. Locals took him to Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital where he died around 11pm. Police said Anwar was on his way back from Hanif Paribahan’s bus counter at Shyamoli to meet someone. Afterwards, he took the Holy Lane next to the bus counter, where he was stabbed. Hearing his cries, people went to the scene and found Anwar lying on the street. A knife was found near him. Hailing from Domar of Nilphamari, Anwar used to stay with her sister’s family in Kalyanpur area after his retirement.



# Dhaka’s first library at its last stretch

DIPAN NANDY

Before proceeding, let’s ask a question: what was the first library of the capital? Common knowledge would say it’s the Northbrook Hall Library, but it’s a little known fact that the Ram Mohon Roy Library was constructed 13 years before this establishment, way back in 1869. But 152 years on, the legendary library is slowly inching towards its demise, owing to negligence and a tragic lack of visitors. As a result of this, its books have caught paper-rust. This only worsened during the pandemic. Closed off for months, the library has almost lost all of its readers, who weren’t too many to begin with. Though it has reopened since then, the library now remains closed for a majority of the time, opening its doors only if readers arrive. The library is located near the capital’s Jagannath University, right across Dhaka Collegiate School. During the construction of the Brahma Mandir, Abhay Chandra Das, the then General Secretary of the Brahma Samaj, took



upon the initiative to build the library inside the temple. On January 18, 1871, the library came to life as a two-storied building of its own. However, as the building’s condition worsened, the library had to be shifted back to the temple building. Today, the library is housed in a section of the second floor of the Brahma Mandir building. One has to cross a rugged wooden deck and climb up wide, steep stairs to gain access to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



From a glorious beginning, the Raja Ram Mohan Library now finds itself housed in a section of the second floor of the Brahma Mandir building. It currently has five to six hundred books, including almost all books based on the Brahma religion.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Exercising in Bahadur Shah Park, Dhaka.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## Exercising Away Trouble

Many people exercise for fitness and good looks but I exercise to stay out of trouble. Over the years parts of my body have caused me trouble for various reasons. For example, consider my camera and lens. Bird photography requires a long telephoto lens because birds fly away if one comes too close. My camera and lens together weigh fourteen pounds. When out birding, I have to walk long distances carrying this camera. Sometimes I have to climb a hill or two. When I find the bird it is likely to be positioned above me. So I have to point this camera upwards while looking through it. And because they don’t understand the notion of posing, I hold the camera in this position until a good pose when I click the shutter. This may take a few seconds or several minutes. My biceps protest the camera’s weight and sometimes give up before the right moment. So my upper arms and my shoulders are often in trouble. Then there is my running habit. I will be the first to admit that I am a really slow runner, but I have done it for four decades and accumulated considerable miles of pounding on my feet, legs, knees and hips. At one time or another running has caused pain in parts of my legs starting at the toes and climbing all the way to my hips. Running keeps my lower body teetering on the brink of trouble. Trouble came from other sources as well. Four years ago I had a nasty bout of chikunguniya. For many weeks, I

remember waking up every morning and wondering what part of my body will hurt on this day. Eventually the pain subsided except for one place. It wreaked havoc on my left knee and I had to limp for several months. Chikunguniya also weakened my sense of balance. I could not easily walk on ails of paddyfields or climb up narrow trails in the forest. Even putting on a pair of trousers became a challenge. Another time, for no apparent reason, I had severe lower back pain. Other sufferers will agree that this kind of pain has a mind of its own and does not yield easily to a doctor’s diagnostic procedures. I am lucky that so far I have managed my way out of these troubles without serious medical intervention (with one exception – a torn meniscus two decades ago.) With every troublesome episode, a doctor or a physiotherapist showed me a set of exercises to recover from it. After some weeks of exercise, the pain usually left me. But I held on to the exercise and continued it like medicine. My balance is much better with proper exercises. Over the years I have accumulated two dozen such exercises. Doing them regularly keeps me out of trouble. I have no illusions. At some point I will run into trouble that cannot be fixed by exercise. Until then I am grateful for knowing these exercises and try to make the best of them. For me, the exercises of physiotherapy are nothing short of miraculous.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow “ihtishamkabir” on Instagram.

# ‘Justice, not character certificates’

Protestors demand abolishment of section 155(4) of Evidence Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

‘Justice denied on grounds of character, for how long?’ was the slogan of the women who took to the streets of the capital at midnight on Thursday. ‘March to break the shackles’ started at 11:59pm on Thursday from Shahbagh, demanding the abolishment of section 155(4) of the Evidence Act-1872. The protestors then assembled in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and presented their demands. According to section 155(4) of the Evidence Act-1872, “when a man is prosecuted for rape or an attempt to ravish, it may be shown that the prosecutrix was of generally immoral character.” This essentially means that defence lawyers can introduce character evidence against rape complainants during trial. Protestors also condemned the acquittal of the five accused, including Shafat Ahmed, son of Dildar Ahmed, co-owner of Apan Jewellers, on the Raintree hotel rape



PHOTO: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRIAR

case and the court’s recommendation to the police following the verdict. Begum Mosarrat Kamrunnahar, the judge of the case, instructed the law enforcers that no rape cases should be filed if 72 hours have passed since the incident. “The court raised questions about the victims’ character during the hearing. The state is being allowed to set the parameters of

the victim’s character by Section 155(4),” said Prapti Taposhi, one of the organisers of the event. Barrister Sara Hossain, while participating in the procession, said, “We have been demanding the abolishment of this section for many years. Just today a verdict was given, denying justice to the victims, and on top of that, questioning their characters. This is

utterly reprehensible.” “Today’s verdict speaks volumes on how important it is to abolish section 155(4), the demand that brought us all together,” said anthropologist and writer Rahnuma Ahmed. “This is the 21st century, and it is completely unacceptable for a judge to give a verdict like this, stating the victims had previous sexual experiences. A court is supposed to provide justice, not character certificates,” she added. “If a woman is raped and kept hostage for 72 hours, will the police still not take her case?” asked Rahnuma. The procession was joined by women across classes and occupations and men as well. Singer-songwriter Krishnoli, actor Ashna Habib Bhabna, photographer Shahidul Alam, founder of ‘Ganashastha Kendra’ Zafullah Chowdhury also joined. The organisers also arranged a mass signature programme demanding the abolishment of section 155(4) during the demo.

## Ferdousi Mazumder, Mamunur Rashid get ‘Aly Zaker Padak’



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The “Aly Zaker Sanman Padak 2021”, commemorating the late thespian and cultural activist Aly Zaker, was awarded to noted cultural personalities Ferdousi Mazumder and Mamunur Rashid. The event, organised by Agontuk Repertory, took place at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 6:30pm yesterday. Guests of the event included prominent media personality and Zaker’s wife Sara Zaker, eminent actor and Member of Parliament Asaduzzaman Noor, Md Mahbub Ur Rahman, CEO, HSBC bank; playwright Masum Reza; and theatre personalities, among others. The open-for-all programme was hosted by Trapa Majumdar and Pantho Shahriar. Awardee Ferdousi Mazumder said, “All I could ask for now is if only he [Zaker] were here with us today. I will forever cherish my experience working with him.” “We wanted to perform on the stage in an independent country, and we did it. What else can we ask for?” said award recipient Mamunur Rashid.

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Janik Nokrek passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Janik Nokrek, an ancient priest of Sangsarek religion, the original religion of Mandis (Garos), passed away yesterday at his house in Madhupur upazila, Tangail.

He left behind his five sons, three daughters and around 30 grandsons and granddaughters. Century-old Janik Nokrek was one of the few who are practicing the ancient Sangsarek religion.

Alik Mree, a neighbour of Janink and general secretary of Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangathan, said Janik will be cremated at his house in Chuniya at 1pm today.

Janik was born at his father Atul Mree's house at Udoypur in Tripura, India. His mother Onsi Nokrek was from Pirgachha, Madhupur. Janik went to Madhupur from Tripura and did not return after marrying Anita Mree.

Janik had heard about First World War during his boyhood, witnessed the British era in youth.

He met Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when he, along with Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib and Sheikh Russell visited Dokhala in Madhupur in January 1971.

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‘It keeps piling on’  
MCC struggles to manage increasing waste

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Abdul Hekim, a farmer who lives near Mymensingh City Corporation's dumping station, said he cultivates around 70-decimal of land for different crops round the year. But this rarely yields the desired outcome, and he blames the menace created by flies from the city's open garbage dump.

The city was on its way to having an improved waste management system during the last few months, but the ever-increasing amount of waste is making the process increasingly difficult, locals said.

After being upgraded to a city corporation from a municipality in 2018, the number of wards

- 24 trucks and 19 trolleys for 400 tonnes of waste
- Only 2 more trucks included in 3 years
- 122 rickshaw vans for household waste
- 200 more vans needed

have increased to 33 from 21. The population of the city has more than doubled in the last three years.

"The authority is struggling to render waste management services to the city people," said Md Mohabbat Ali, MCC's Waste Management Officer.

There are only 24 trucks and 19 trolleys to carry around 400 tonnes of domestic and medical waste from Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) to an open dumping station, 'Moilakanda', on a six-and-a-half acre land at the Char Kalibari area.

Moreover, the local people alleged that there is no boundary wall to protect the garbage from being spread to the adjacent areas,



PHOTO: STAR

which is affecting the croplands.

However, MCC officials said a boundary wall will be constructed soon and a five-acre of extra land will be acquired to expand the dumping station.

The number of vehicles is unmatched with the increasing amount of daily waste and only two trucks have been included after the city corporation started its job in 2018, said sources. Currently, the city corporation has been collecting household garbage through 122 rickshaw vans.

"The city needs 200 more vans to ensure proper waste management service and we have already informed the authority of this," said Arifur Rahman, chief waste management officer.

The number of cleaning staff is some 600 and it should be double with necessary vehicle support to make the service smooth, said the official.

Talking to this correspondent, Dr Wayezuddin Farazi, deputy director of MMCH said they have no waste treatment plant in the hospital. They dump the hospital waste in

a shed constructed by the MCC last year and it's carried by the city corporation's trucks in the evening. The deputy director also said amputated body parts and other objects produced from C-section operations are buried at a ground near the dumping spot. Some waste is also burned as the hospital has no incineration system.

He alleged that they approximately pay Tk one crore every year to the MCC for better service, but to no avail.

A meeting was held with the officials of the Public Health Department and the MCC last year, seeking their immediate step to establish a modern waste treatment plant on the hospital premises. However, there has not been any progress on that yet, the deputy director added.

Contacted, MCC mayor Ekramul Haque Titu said managing the massive amount of waste produced daily has turned into a serious concern.

"It is urgent to go for modern treatment plants for waste management," he said.

Cracks appear in port city's first flyover

Repair pending for quite some time; locals panicked

SAJOY KUMAR BARUA

Cracks have appeared in two pillars of the flyover that connects Chattogram Container Terminal (CCT) of Chattogram port with the Toll Access Road.

This has created panic among commuters who use the road. Solaiman Sheikh, a local trader of the Saltgola Crossing area, said, "We first saw the cracks a few days ago, which is gradually worsening."

"Its really tough to drive on this flyover, as most of its adjoining parts are severely damaged. We've been calling repairs for some time, but no one pays heed to our cries," said lorry driver Nur Hossain.

Visiting the area yesterday morning, this correspondent found movement of goods-laden heavy vehicles, including truck and covered vans, causing noticeable jolts to the flyover's structure.

He also found heavy, loaded vehicles parked on top of the flyover that stretches from the Port Access Road to the connecting point of its two container terminals.

Seeking anonymity, an RHD engineer said, "Lack of maintenance has left iron plates and rubber-coatings at different points of the flyover severely damaged."

Contacted, Md Omar Faruk, general secretary of Chattogram Port Authority (CPA), said "We have sent a letter to RHD to maintain the flyover, but they said they couldn't do it, citing lack of funding."

However, Md Abdus Sabur, chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), said, "The cracks in the flyover area are repairable. We will get to the repair works as soon as possible."

Md Abdul Wahid, additional chief engineer of RHD Chattogram, said, "They're not structural damages. They appeared on the horizontal part of the flyover. Officials from RHD have already visited the spot yesterday. We didn't restrict vehicle movement on top of or under the flyover since the cracks are not severe."

The 1.42-kilometre long and 10.6-metre wide flyover was constructed at a cost of around Tk 82 crore.



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Locals first noticed the cracks a few days ago. Commuters informed that its tough to drive through the flyover, as most of its adjoining parts are severely damaged.

Another elephant dies in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fresh incident of elephant killing has occurred at Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram district yesterday, after a male elephant was found dead near a crop field at Purbo Chambol area under Chambol union.

With this, a total of four elephants were killed in the span of just five days. This is a huge blow to the dwindling population of the endangered species.

Sheikh Anisuzzaman, range officer of Banshkhali upazila under Chattogram Wildlife and Nature Conservation division, told The Daily Star that the gentle giant was found lying dead near a crop field yesterday Friday morning.

"It's a male elephant aged around 35. It had no bruises on its body. An autopsy has been done and we'll know the reasons behind its demise soon," he said.

Just the prior day, another elephant died

at Punnogram in Khutakhali of Chakaria upazila under Cox's Bazar district.

According to locals, the elephant was shot dead by a miscreant who was later detained by them.

Anwar Hossen Sarkar, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar Forest (south), told The Daily Star that the elephant was killed by a man using local arms.

He said the man, named Mongla Marma (42), generally hunts wild pigs in the forest. When he was searching for pigs, the elephant stood in his way, which prompted him and his cohorts to shoot it dead.

"It was a 25 year old female elephant. After the autopsy, we found the bullet inside its body. A case has been filed and the accused has been sent to jail," he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, locals electrocuted a male elephant at Balijuri of Sribordi upazila of Sherpur. Before that on Tuesday, a male elephant was electrocuted in Satkania upazila.

A park plagued by renovation

FROM PAGE 3

completed all procedures on their part to call for a new tender.

"We have cancelled a library from the design, and no parking will be constructed," he said.

"It is very important to make the park useful for the people. It was not used properly earlier, as it was occupied by vagabonds and those who abused drugs," said Azam.

Dhaka's first library at its last stretch

FROM PAGE 3

the library. Even in broad daylight, it remains hidden to plain sight, unless one uses a torch.

As soon as one enters, they are greeted with pictures of Philosopher Debendranath Tagore, Raja Ram Mohon Roy and Rabindranath Tagore. Photographs of eminent writers like Kazi Nazrul Islam, Jibanananda Das, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jasimuddin, and Begum Sufia Kamal also adorn its walls. Snapshots of renowned libraries from all over the world are draped on its fortifications.

The library currently houses five to six hundred books; notable among them are 21 episodes of Mahabharata published by Bishwabani, Rabindra Rachanabali published by Visva-Bharati, almost all books based on Brahmo religion, Raja Ram Mohon, Swami Vivekananda Rachanabali, and the holy scriptures of all religions. Throughout its lifetime, the library has been subject to numerous ups and downs. On one hand, it has been graced by the presence of many intellectuals who paved the way for Bengali literature. In 1926, Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore paid the library a visit. Gyanaprasad and multi-linguist Dr Muhammad Shahidullah also spent many hours behind the shelves in this athenaeum.

Among other noteworthy individuals, revered poet Buddhadeva Bose, Professor Muhammad Abdul Hai, Kazi Motahar Hossain, Begum

Sufia Kamal and poet Shamsur Rahman also visited the library often.

It was inside this very premise that Rupashi Banglar Kabi (the writer of the poem Rupashi Bangla) Jibanananda Das married his beloved wife Labonya Gupta. His mother Kushumkumari Debi was also a part of the library's journey.

Simultaneously, the library has suffered a severe blow throughout its lifetime as well. During the Liberation War in '71, as the military invaders of West Pakistan set up camp here. Century old periodicals, books and valuable documents were looted and destroyed during this time, leaving the library impoverished beyond repair. Before this, there were about 30,000 books in the library's collection, some of which were very rare.

After independence, the library was reopened, but this marked the beginning of its downfall. By the 00's, the main two-storey building of the Ram Mohan Roy Library was ailing. Fearing that the premise could collapse on the road at any time, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) instructed Rajuk to demolish it within seven days on April 19, 2004.

In 2005, the then Chancellor and Trustee of Brahmo Samaj, Pranesh Samaddar, filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking registration of this historic building as an antiquity. Another application concerning the same demand was made to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

World Kindness Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Along with the rest of the world, the country will observe the 'World Kindness Day' today.

Introduced in 1998, November 13 is being observed as 'World Kindness Day' internationally ever since, said a press release.


The day promotes the importance of being kind to each other and to the whole world.

The day is celebrated in order to highlight good deeds in one's community, focusing on the power of positivity and common thread of kindness that binds us all.

The theme for 'World Kindness Day' 2021 is "The World We Make- Inspire Kindness".

In Bangladesh, Shomman Foundation has undertaken a series of programmes to mark the day.

This includes tree plantation, helping stranded people along Arial Kha river, distributing masks to law and order personnel and 'offering meals to those who don't ask'.



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ডা. সিরাজুল ইসলাম মেডিকেল কলেজ এন্ড হাসপিটাল লিঃ-এ নিম্নলিখিত পদসমূহে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশী স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা	
০১.	অধ্যাপক	মেডিসিন	০১	ক. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে এম.বি.বি.এস ডিগ্রীসহ BM&DC কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত। খ. সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে BM&DC স্বীকৃত স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি (এফসিপিএস/এমডি/এম.এস/এম.ফিল অথবা সমমান)।	ক. অধ্যাপক হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। খ. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল জার্নালে ন্যূনতম ১০ টি প্রকাশনা।
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		ডার্মাটোলজি	০১		
		এনেসথেসিওলজি	০১		
০২.	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক	ফারেনসিক মেডিসিন	০১	ক. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে এম.বি.বি.এস ডিগ্রীসহ BM&DC কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত। খ. সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে BM&DC স্বীকৃত স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি (এফসিপিএস/এমডি/এম.এস/এম.ফিল অথবা সমমান)।	ক. অধ্যাপক হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। খ. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল জার্নালে ন্যূনতম ০৫ টি প্রকাশনা।
		ফার্মাকোলজি	০১		
		সার্জারী	০১		
		ই.এন.টি	০১		
		অবসঃ এন্ড গাইবী	০১		
০৩.	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক	ডার্মাটোলজি	০১		
		প্যাথলজি	০১		
		মাইক্রোবায়োলজি	০১		
		মেডিসিন	০১	ক. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে এম.বি.বি.এস ডিগ্রীসহ BM&DC কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত। খ. সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে BM&DC স্বীকৃত স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি (এফসিপিএস/এমডি/এম.এস/এম.ফিল অথবা সমমান)।	ক. অধ্যাপক হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। খ. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল জার্নালে প্রকাশনা থাকলে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
		সার্জারী	০১		
০৪.	রেসিডেন্ট ফিজিশিয়ান (আর.পি)	মেডিসিন	০১	ক. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে এম.বি.বি.এস ডিগ্রীসহ BM&DC কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত। খ. সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে BM&DC স্বীকৃত স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি (এফসিপিএস/এমডি অথবা সমমান)।	রেসিডেন্ট ফিজিশিয়ান (আর.পি) হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
		সার্জারী	০১		
০৫.	রেসিডেন্ট সার্জন (আর.এস)	সার্জারী	০১	ক. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে এম.বি.বি.এস ডিগ্রীসহ BM&DC কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত। খ. সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে BM&DC স্বীকৃত স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি (এফসিপিএস/এমএস অথবা সমমান)।	রেসিডেন্ট সার্জন (আর.এস) হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
		অবসঃ এন্ড গাইবী	০১		
০৬.	রেজিস্ট্রার	অবসঃ এন্ড গাইবী	০১	ক. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে এম.বি.বি.এস ডিগ্রীসহ BM&DC কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত। খ. সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ডিগ্রিও/এমসিপিএস অথবা সমমান। গ. এফসিপিএস বা এমএস রেসিডেন্সি ট্রেনিং সম্পন্নকারীও আবেদন করতে পারবেন।	রেজিস্ট্রার /মেডিকেল অফিসার হিসেবে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।
		এনাটমি	০৩		
০৭.	লেকচারার	মাইক্রোবায়োলজি	০১	ক. স্বীকৃত মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে এম.বি.বি.এস ডিগ্রীসহ BM&DC কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত।	লেকচারার হিসাবে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।
		কমিউনিটি মেডিসিন	০১		
০৮.	ল্যাব টেকনোলজিস্ট	প্যাথলজি	০২	ক. সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে সনদপ্রাপ্ত এবং স্টেট মেডিক্যাল ফ্যাকাল্টি কর্তৃক রেজিস্ট্রেশনপ্রাপ্ত ৩ বৎসর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা/বিএসপি অথবা সমমান।	ল্যাব টেকনোলজিস্ট হিসেবে মেডিকেল কলেজে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।
		মাইক্রোবায়োলজি	০১		

**শর্তাবলীঃ**

- ১। অগ্রাধী প্রার্থীদেরকে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের ১০ কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর ডাকযোগে অথবা সরাসরি আবেদন পত্র জমা দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।
- ২। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর ডাকযোগে কিংবা অন্য কোন উপায়ে প্রেরিত দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- ৩। কেবলমাত্র নির্ধারিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীগণ নিজ নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, জাতীয়তা, ধর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখ পূর্বক আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- ৪। দরখাস্তের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজ পত্র সমূহ দাখিল করতে হবেঃ
  - ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র, বিএমএন্ডডিসির রেজিস্ট্রেশন, সদ্যতোলা দুই কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র, জাতীয়তা সনদপত্রের কপি।
- ৫। অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদন কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। দরখাস্তের খামের উপরে ডান পার্শ্বে প্রার্থীর পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচারের কারণে কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ প্রদান করতে কিংবা লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষার কার্ড ইস্যু করতে বাধ্য থাকবেন। দরখাস্তের সাথে দাখিলকৃত কোন কাগজপত্র ফেরত দেওয়া হবেনা।
- ৬। বেতন আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে নির্ধারন করা হবে।
- ৭। সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

অধ্যাপক ডা. এম. এ. আজিজ

অধ্যক্ষ

ডা. সিরাজুল ইসলাম মেডিকেল কলেজ



## Take care of your

FROM PAGE 16  
the lifetime till they have teeth.  
If cavities are not treated, they get larger and affect deeper layers of the teeth. They can lead to severe toothache, infection and tooth loss.  
Symptoms of a cavity include toothache, tooth sensitivity, visible holes or pits in the tooth, staining on the surface of the tooth and pain when you bite down.  
When cavities and decay become severe, one may have pain that interferes with daily living.  
**PREVENTION**  
Good oral and dental hygiene can help avoid cavities and tooth decay. Basic preventive measures include:  
1. Brush your teeth at least twice a day and ideally after every meal, using fluoride-containing toothpaste. To clean between your teeth, floss or use an interdental cleaner.  
2. Rinse your mouth.  
3. Visit your dentist regularly.  
4. Avoid frequent snacking and sipping sugary drinks.  
5. Eat tooth-healthy foods. Avoid foods that get stuck in grooves and pits of your teeth for long periods, or brush soon after eating them.

## 2 Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 16  
eight to 10 cattle traders.  
In a statement after the incident, the BSF said the Bangladeshis crossed into the Indian territory and tried to smuggle cattle about 2:30am, reports our New Delhi correspondent.  
“As the BSF troop warned them to go back, they didn’t listen. Instead, they attacked them with kitchen knives and sticks causing injuries to the members of the troop. Sensing an imminent threat to their life, BSF members fired towards them. Later, two bodies were found ... one BSF member also got injured in the incident,” the statement read.  
Contacted, Kamal Hossain, commander of the Burirhat BGB camp, said two people were killed in a BSF firing in the border area, but it could not be immediately confirmed whether they were Bangladeshis or Indians.  
“No official information has been released by the BSF yet. If the BSF provides us with official information in this regard, necessary steps will be taken on the instructions of our higher authorities,” he said.

## Archaeologists find pre-Columbian mass grave in Peru

AFP, Lima  
Archaeologists have found an ancient mass grave containing the remains of pre-Columbian men, women and children in the citadel of Chan Chan in northern Peru, a member of the team said Thursday.  
They found the remains of some 25 people, mainly women and children, as well as dozens of ceramic vessels and objects such as needles used in textile work, archaeologist Jorge Meneses told AFP.  
The tomb was discovered about three weeks ago at Chan Chan, some 500 kilometers (310 miles) north of the capital Lima.  
The human remains are all but intact, said Meneses.  
Chan Chan was a citadel of the Chimu culture, which flourished between the years 900 and 1450 on the north coast of Peru before falling to the Incas.  
Chan Chan means “resplendent Sun” in the Chimu language.  
The citadel was constructed in an area of some 20 square kilometers (7.7 square miles), had ten walled palaces and some 30,000 citizens at its height.  
It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986, but also on its list of World Heritage in Danger.  
Pre-Columbian remains and artefacts are frequently discovered in Peru.  
Last month, workers laying gas pipes on a street in Lima stumbled on the remains of a gravesite that included 2,000-year-old ceramic burial vessels.

## Shuttered Singapore news site’s editor guilty of defamation

AFP, Singapore  
The editor of a shuttered Singaporean news website may face jail after being convicted on Friday of defaming government ministers over a letter published on the portal alleging corruption.  
It is the latest case to fuel concerns about worsening press freedoms in tightly controlled Singapore, with authorities accused of using heavy-handed tactics to silence dissent.  
The Online Citizen, which was often critical of authorities, had long been in the government’s crosshairs, and finally had its licence cancelled last month over a failure to declare funding sources.  
On Friday, chief editor Terry Xu was convicted of defaming cabinet members over the publication of a letter on the site stating there was “corruption at the highest echelons”, according to court documents.



An explosion, reportedly caused by accumulated gas, made the walls of a building fall in Narayanganj Sadar upazila yesterday. Two women were killed and seven others injured in the incident. PHOTO: STAR

## Two killed, 7 hurt in N’ganj

FROM PAGE 16  
hearing screams, neighbours rushed there and rescued the inhabitants.  
Maya was declared dead after being taken to a local hospital, they added.  
While visiting the building, this correspondent found cracks on different parts of the building.  
Morsheda Begum, wife of building owner Moktar Hossain, said she did not know why the explosion happened.  
She said glasses of two windowpanes on the first floor were also damaged in the incident. She added that eight persons, including two children, of four families, were living on that floor.  
After visiting the spot, Tofazzal Hossain, Narayanganj additional deputy commissioner (revenue), sealed off the building.

## US journo jailed for

FROM PAGE 16  
which has killed over 1,200 people according to a local monitoring group.  
Danny Fenster, who had been working for local outlet Frontier Myanmar for around a year, was arrested in May as he tried to leave the country to see his family.  
He was sentenced to 11 years for incitement, unlawful association and breaching visa rules, his lawyer Than Zaw Aung told AFP.  
His client had not decided whether he would appeal, he added.  
A junta spokesman did not respond to AFP’s request for comment.  
Fenster, who has been held in Yangon’s Insein prison since he was detained, also faces charges of sedition and terrorism, which could see him jailed for life.  
Ming Yu Hah, Amnesty International’s Deputy Regional Director for Campaigns said the ruling was “a reprehensible outcome in a case that has been deeply flawed from the start.”  
The sentencing was based on evidence from the junta-appointed information ministry that showed at the time of his arrest Fenster had been working at local outlet, Myanmar Now, which had its licence revoked shortly after the coup, Than Zaw Aung said.  
Fenster’s team were barred from cross-examining the ministry’s permanent secretary, he said, and the court did not consider tax evidence that Fenster had already left the outlet and was working for Frontier.  
Crisis Group Myanmar senior advisor Richard Horsey described the sentence as “outrageous”.  
“It sends a message not only to international journalists... but also Myanmar journalists that reporting factually on the situation is liable to get them many many years in prison,” he told AFP.  
He noted US diplomats were working to get him released.  
“It will be resolved through diplomatic channels and hopefully very quickly,” he said.  
“But obviously this sentence is a big setback to US efforts.”  
The sentencing comes days after former US diplomat and hostage negotiator Bill Richardson met junta chief Min Aung Hlaing in the capital Naypyidaw, handing the increasingly isolated junta some rare publicity.  
Richardson, declining to give further details, said the US State

Department asked him not to raise Fenster’s case during his visit.  
Myanmar has been mired in chaos since a February coup, with the military trying to crush widespread democracy protests and stamp out dissent.  
More than 1,200 people have been killed by security forces, according to a local monitoring group.

## SpaceX capsule with crew of four docks with ISS

AFP, Washington  
A SpaceX capsule carrying four astronauts docked with the International Space Station on Thursday, kicking off a six-month stay on the orbiting outpost.  
This mission known as Crew-3 is part of Nasa’s multibillion-dollar partnership with Elon Musk’s space company, signed after the Space Shuttle program ended in 2011 and aimed at restoring US capacity to carry out human spaceflight, rather than depend on Russia for links to the ISS.

## Cambodia hits back at US sanctions over naval base

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia yesterday angrily condemned a US decision to sanction two senior military officials over a contentious naval base, accusing Washington of showing “utter contempt” for its sovereignty.  
The US Treasury Department this week announced it was freezing any US assets and criminalising transactions with senior defence ministry official Chau Phirun and naval commander Tea Vinh over alleged corruption linked to the Ream Naval Base.  
Washington accused the pair, along with other Cambodian officials, of conspiring to inflate costs at the base to pocket the proceeds.  
“Cambodia strongly deplores the long-arm jurisdiction of the United States over Cambodian officials on the basis of groundless allegations driven by geopolitical motives,” the Cambodian foreign ministry said in a statement.  
“The smear campaign and unilateral sanction of the United States against

public figures of a sovereign state... (displays) an utter contempt for the independence of another country as well as acts as a serious interference in its domestic affairs,” the statement said.  
The Cambodian foreign ministry also warned that the move was “another step in the wrong direction” for ties between the two countries.  
The base on the Gulf of Thailand has been a running sore in US-Cambodia relations in recent years, with Washington suspecting it is being converted for use by China.  
Cambodia has been dismantling facilities at the base that were built partly with American money and played host to US exercises.  
Satellite imagery taken in August showed the construction of two new buildings, likely indicating that China is pushing ahead on a new agreement, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

## Rare, yet to be recorded

FROM PAGE 16  
Archaeologists are divided on the identity of the other rare miniature statue of the ancient Tantrik goddess, seated in a lotus pose.  
Some academics identified it as goddess Chaturvruja Devi, while others likened it with three other goddesses -- Dashamahabidya Mahakali, Pretasana Devi, or Shabarura Devi.  
The Shivalinga having the face of god or goddess is called Mukhalinga. Their sculptures can be single-faced, double-faced, triple-faced, quadruple-faced and quintuple-faced.  
In his 1992 book titled “Bengal Sculptures Hindu Iconography up to C 1250 AD”, researcher Enamul Haque mentioned only two quintuple-faced Shivalingas discovered in Bangladesh and India.  
The one found earlier in Bangladesh is in the National Museum, wrote Enamul, also former director general of the museum.  
Quintuple-faced Shivalingas can be found in some ancient temples in India and Nepal. Some are also on display in some Indian museums.  
“Normally, quintuple-faced Shivalingas are rare. The Shivalinga in the Sylhet temple is in fact very rare because it includes a bull-like face,” said Prof Dr Mokammel H Bhuiyan of Jahangirnagar University’s archaeology department.  
“I have not seen such sculptures before. This is a very important creature in terms of archaeology, history and arts,” he added.

Eminent archaeologist Md Mosharaf Hossain termed the find unique.  
The find indicates the region was once dominated by devotees of Shaivism, said Dr Mozammel

Hoque, archaeology professor of Jahangirnagar University.  
The temple’s priest, Manik Chakraborty, said they had been worshipping this Shivalinga for many years, but could not specify any date.  
Apart from the two gems, eight more Shivalingas were spotted in three other temples in Sylhet.  
Of them, six Shivalingas, between 10 and 34 inches tall, are at Shiva



Five-faced Shivalinga

Temple adjacent to the Kali Temple.  
Another 33-inch tall Shivalinga is being worshiped at Bura Shiv Bari temple at Shib Bari. The eighth miniature of Shivalinga is worshiped at Baram Akhra in Mirabazar in Sylhet city.  
Of all these sculptures, the two spotted in the Kali Temple are very significant in terms of aesthetics and gender politics of the time, said Dipti Rani Datta, who teaches oriental art at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University.  
[Tarun Sarkar is a freelance journalist and researcher]

## Pakistan-China

FROM PAGE 16  
Agha Shahi, the chief delegate of Pakistan to the UN. The Chinese delegates, according to The New York Times, discussed the situation in the light of the statement made by US Secretary of State William P Rogers in Washington yesterday. Rogers expressed fear that the border clashes might lead to all-out war.  
Pakistani officials had the belief that Peking’s entry into the United Nations as a permanent member of the Security Council had greatly strengthened their country’s position in the dispute with India.  
**EAST PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE TOPPLED: BHUTTO**  
ZA Bhutto, leader of Pakistan People’s Party, warned that if an attempt was made to form a government from the winners of by-elections to be held in East Pakistan next month, “we will topple it within 40 days.” Bhutto was addressing a huge crowd in Karachi yesterday.  
It was also reported that Pakistan

President Yahya Khan assured Pakistan Democratic Party chief Nurul Amin of investigating the manner in which nominees of the Pakistan People’s Party were declared elected unopposed in East Pakistan.  
**ON THE WAR FRONT**  
In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed today Pakistani troops in Rajapur area killing four and injuring two enemy soldiers. On the same day in an ambush in Pratappur area of Kushtia district, Mukti Bahini killed 11 enemy soldiers and injured four. Freedom fighters disrupted road communication between Chougacha-Jessore by destroying several culverts between these two places.  
Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani position in Chaura area of Comilla district today killing two and injuring three enemy soldiers.  
*Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com*

## Death toll in Texas concert tragedy rises to nine

AFP, Houston

A 22-year-old university student caught up in the crowd that rushed the stage at a rap concert in Texas last week has died of her injuries, her family said Thursday, raising the death toll from the incident to nine.  
Bharti Shahani, who attended the Travis Scott concert at the Astroworld Festival with a sister and a cousin, had been comatose and on a ventilator since the tragedy yesterday in Houston. Hundreds of people were injured.  
“I want my baby back,” her crying mother Karishma Shahani told journalists. “I won’t be able to live without her.”  
“I think she lost oxygen for 10 minutes one time and seven minutes at another time,” the cousin, Mohit Bellani, told the local TV station ABC13.  
Some 50,000 people jammed into

the open-air venue, dancing and singing along with Scott but finding themselves increasingly crushed against barriers, unable to move and breathe as the mass pressed toward the stage.  
Some fell and others tumbled on top of them, crushing the bodies beneath, and the density of the crowd closer to the stage made it hard to pick them up and evacuate them, attendees described.  
“There were, like, layers of bodies on the ground, like two people thick. We were fighting to come up to the top and breathe to stay alive,” Bellani said.  
A nine-year-old boy who was trampled in the crush is in a coma and fighting for his life.  
At least 60 lawsuits have been announced singling out Scott and fellow singer Drake, who took to the stage in the final 15 minutes of the concert, well after authorities had declared an emergency.

## New class

FROM PAGE 16  
gene therapy that tells the body to produce certain proteins to aid nerve repair, or injecting proteins.  
Stupp’s team, on the other hand, used nanofibers to mimic the architecture of the “extracellular matrix” -- a naturally occurring network of molecules surrounding tissue that is responsible for supporting cells.  
Each fiber is about 10,000 times narrower than a human hair, and they are made up of hundreds of thousands of bioactive molecules called peptides that transmit signals to promote nerve regeneration.  
The therapy was injected as a gel into tissue surrounding the spinal cords of lab mice 24 hours after an incision was made in their spines.  
The team decided to wait a day because humans who receive devastating spinal injuries from car accidents, gunshots and so on also experience delays in getting treatment.  
Four weeks later, mice who received the treatment regained their ability to walk almost as well as before the injury. Those left untreated did not.  
The mice were then put down to examine the impacts of the therapy on the cellular level, and the team found dramatic improvements to the spinal cords.  
The severed extensions of neurons called axons regenerated, and scar tissue that can act as a physical barrier to regeneration was significantly diminished.  
What’s more, an insulating layer of axons called myelin that is important in transmitting electric signals had reformed, blood vessels that deliver nutrients to injured cells had formed, and more motor neurons survived.

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## খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

খুলনা  
রেজিস্ট্রারের কার্যালয়  
(একাডেমিক শাখা)

**২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক/ স্নাতক (সম্মান) ১ম বর্ষে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

GST গৃহভুক্ত ২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) ১ম বর্ষের ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় ফলাফলপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষার্থীরা খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে ([www.ku.ac.bd](http://www.ku.ac.bd)) প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে চারুকলা স্কুল ও স্থাপত্য ডিসিপ্লিনে ভর্তিচ্ছু শিক্ষার্থীদের আবেদনের পর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিজস্ব ব্যবস্থাপনায় পৃথক অফেন পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

১। আবেদনের সময়সীমা: ১৫/১১/২০২১ খ্রি. তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ টা থেকে ২৮/১১/২০২১ খ্রি. তারিখ রাত ১১.৫৯ টা পর্যন্ত।

২। বিভিন্ন ডিসিপ্লিনে স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) প্রোগ্রামের মেয়াদ: ৪ (চার) ও ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) প্রোগ্রাম।

৩। আবেদনের সাধারণ যোগ্যতা:

ক) প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিক হতে হবে। তবে বিদেশি নাগরিকদেরকে এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের দ্য অফিস অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল অ্যাকোয়ার্স অফিসের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

খ) GST গৃহভুক্ত ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষের এ ইউনিটের ফলাফলপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষার্থীরা খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের “ক” ইউনিটের অধীন বিজ্ঞান, প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা স্কুল ও জীব বিজ্ঞান স্কুলের ১৫টি ডিসিপ্লিনে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

গ) A, B, C ইউনিটের ফলাফলপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষার্থীরা অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ‘খ’, ‘প’ ও ‘ঘ’ ইউনিটের অধীন ১৪ টি ডিসিপ্লিনে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

৪। আবেদনকারীদের GST গৃহভুক্ত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত নম্বর এবং ডিসিপ্লিনসমূহের নির্ধারিত শর্তসমূহের ভিত্তিতে হুড়াপট্টো ও বিদেশি শিক্ষার্থী কোটা সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। এছাড়াও প্রতি স্কুলে ১টি করে বিকেএসপি কোটা সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।

৬। প্রত্যেক ইউনিটের জন্য নির্ধারিত ফি ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা।

৭। আবেদনের বিস্তারিত যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট ([www.ku.ac.bd](http://www.ku.ac.bd)) থেকে জানা যাবে।

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রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

GD-2051



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FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

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## Isn't it a case of victimising the victim?

*The suggestion of '72 hours' limit will benefit the criminals, and not serve justice*

A number of women's rights groups as well as legal experts have disagreed with the recommendation of a Dhaka court to the police to not accept any rape case if a complainant goes to the police station 72 hours after the incident. We believe that this would further risk victimising the victims. For many women, it takes months—even years—to come to the conclusion that they want to fight such a case. In many cases, it may not even be logical to expect a victim to overcome her trauma within 72 hours. Then how can we expect them to make the decision to fight the case and, having made up their mind, make a complaint to the police, all within a 72-hour timeframe?

Given how unfriendly our police and justice system are toward victims of rape—as evident in numerous past cases—making the decision to fight such a case is even more difficult for women. On top of that, such preconditions might discourage victims from seeking legal help altogether. That is clearly not something that we would want.

Rape is one of the most serious crimes on the books. And women who are victims to it suffer from serious mental and physical trauma. That trauma can easily take a long time to heal. The social stigma that is often associated with rape means that any complainant has to muster up a huge amount of courage before stepping up and lodging an FIR and then fight the case—which often requires them to once again live through that trauma. Because of all these reasons, the justice system should be shaped in a way that encourages rape victims to pursue justice, not shy away from it. And the same applies when it comes to the attitude of law enforcement agencies towards any victim. Thus, the recommendation could well impact both and tip the balance of power against the victims.

As some activists have pointed out, what happens if a woman is raped and then forcefully held by the perpetrator for 72 hours? Will she never get the chance to seek justice?

As such, we humbly state, with all due respect to the judge, that the court's recommendations will not only not serve justice, but they will have the very opposite effects. With less than three percent of rape cases ending in convictions in Bangladesh, we request the courts to address the loopholes in the legal system and make it more friendly towards rape victims who, because of various social, cultural, economic and other reasons, have an extremely tough time pursuing and getting the justice they deserve.

## Schools in rural areas need urgent govt assistance

*A glaring example of authorities neglecting children's education*

THE dire condition of the Dayarampur Government Primary School at Dayarampur village, under Haripur union of Pabna's Chatmohar upazila, is worrisome and it represents the state of many other schools across Bangladesh. The school has been in operation since 1991, with the current headcount of students being 154. It was only nationalised in 2017, but has seen no development since then. Due to being situated in the middle of Chalanbeel, it is already inaccessible, except by boat, for a few months every year. During other times, the students must reach the mere 40-feet-long tin-shed establishment on muddy paths. The school often teaches students of multiple grades in one room, and also has no toilet available for use.

It was only in September that schools finally reopened for physical classes across the country, after being closed for a year and a half due to the Covid-19 pandemic. An analysis by Unicef in August found that over 40 million Bangladeshi students from pre-primary to higher education levels had been adversely affected by this prolonged closure. While children from urban and semi-urban areas were still able to somewhat access education through digital learning materials and online classes during this time, it was the children in remote areas who fell victim to severe learning loss, child labour, and/or child marriage.

The authorities' lack of care for schools such as the Dayarampur Government Primary School represent a bigger picture of how the education sector is not prioritised, time and again. A glaring example of this is that, despite the impact the pandemic has had on this sector, of the total proposed national budget for 2021-22 fiscal year, only 11.9 percent was allocated to education. This is even lower than the 12.3 percent in the revised budget for 2020-21 fiscal year.

If the government is paying no heed to the development of schools in remote areas, how are students supposed to feel encouraged to study there? Given the recent surge in unemployment and increase in poverty, parents in poorer districts are already demotivated to send their children back to school. If schools themselves are also kept inaccessible, there is a high possibility that the country will see even greater numbers of dropouts.

We hope that the plan to allot Tk 3 lakh this fiscal year for administering urgent repair work of the Dayarampur school will be seen through. But we must also urge the government to not neglect schools in remote areas—and the education sector as a whole—now that they need authoritative support the most. The effects of such continued neglect may not seem urgent now, but will reverberate throughout the next few decades.

# Our development and the middle-class dilemma



can be literally translated to “by and by.” The expression has caught on, and social media is rife with the mobility metaphor. While the honourable minister uses it in the context of growth, the respondents feel that they are failing to catch up as their income trajectory has remained rather static. The educated middle class, in particular, has a lot to say about the big blow caused by the price hikes, factored into such economic growth.

THE planning minister recently used an onomatopoeia—a word that imitates the things signified. He referred to the economic growth of the country with the sound image of “*shonoi, shonoi*,” which

ordeal last week when the transport operators enforced a strike, protesting the sudden rise in the prices of diesel and kerosene by 23 percent—from Tk 65 to Tk 80. If you ride a CNG or octane-driven vehicle, you would assume that this hike was simply going to affect the lives of “the most disadvantaged segment of society.” Sure enough, your oven no longer uses kerosene; for diesel, there is a different dispenser at the fuelling station that you do not visit. Bad things always happen to other people, right? The announcement came on November 3, and an indefinite transport strike was called on November 5. The cerebral middle class thought over the weekend that there would be a “show no show no” understanding between the government and the private owners of the transport system. It did not.

It was soon obvious that the price hike had affected the supply chain of agricultural goods, export items, and water transport. It was more than a few

there was a serious lack of planning and coordination before the announcement of a price hike was made. Or it could be the other way round. The entire thing was orchestrated and coordinated to benefit a certain group. It is up to the government to clarify the “show no, show no” doubts and suspicions.

Why weren't there any transport services dedicated for export? How responsible is it to look away from the misery of the daily commuters who were asked to pay double for the alternative modes of transport? The comments on Facebook demonstrate the seemingly paradoxical attitudes of the middle class towards democracy, social stability, and reform. The demographic of the group that I am a member of can be characterised as the educated middle class with some exceptions, who from time to time display their knowledge of high-end luxury cars. But by observing the group behaviour, I was intrigued by

pillars of Dhaka Metro Rail or the Padma Bridge, its perceptual basis also needs to be taken into account. I am guided by an interesting 1995 article on relativism that uses two metaphors of “furniture” and “death” to describe different aspects of reality. Furniture (tables, rocks, stones, etc) represents the reality that cannot be denied, whereas death (misery, genocide, poverty, etc) represents the reality that should not be denied. The bricks, metals, and mortars signify one aspect of our economic growth. The living standard of the middle class is going down.

Last month, one of my administrative officers tendered her resignation. During her exit meeting, she conceded that she was spending Tk 500 a day for CNG-run autorickshaw fare as the public buses would require her to be on the road in a traffic jam for six hours. As her mother-in-law had died, she would now require to hire a helping hand to attend to her daughter. With 40 hours in the office, her actual take-home salary would have been less than Tk 5,000. The death logic, thus, upsets the furniture reality.

You hear a garment worker saying that the increased bus fare will cost her an extra Tk 10 each way. She cries out: “Where will this extra Tk 600 a month come from?” The buses that should have been scrapped 25 years ago are still plying on the roads to add to the misery of the commuters. The owners, encouraged by the “show no, show no” rhetoric, will tell you that they cannot help it as the government must adjust the fuel price as per the international market. If you do not increase the fuel price, the diesel will be smuggled out of the country through the porous borders. So, what are we paying the uniformed men for? Running schools, colleges, hospitals, city corporations, government agencies in the cities? A comparative statement showed that we have the highest bus tariffs in the region, despite the subsidised fuel prices. We have the highest expenses in the construction of roads and bridges. The taxes that we pay are not proportionate to the services that we receive.

The rhetoric of progress needs to correspond with the reality of progress. We cannot expect our middle class to remain in a vegetative state forever, when the prices of winter vegetables rise because the trucks that were supposed to carry the produce from the rural areas to the cities have raised their fares; the added cost of fuel for shallow engines for irrigation or the tractors has helped the price of vegetables to go up even during the season. The snowball effect of the diesel price hike is fast becoming apparent in a wide range of sectors. And the middle class are transformed into onlookers who are seeing the “show no, show no” growth like a kite being flown from the rooftop of a neighbour. I guess, a kite in hand is worth two in the neighbour's roof.

Dr Shamsad Mortuza is the pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).



Slow response from the government left the general public suffering—some waiting on the road for transport for hours, some forced to pay exorbitant amounts to make it to their destinations, while others walking to where they needed to be—as buses and trucks stayed off the roads protesting the fuel price hike last week.

PHOTO: STAR

Then again, their responses are mostly controlled and measured, as if they are afraid to give voices to their frustrations and anger. As the tug of war between the rhetoric and the reality continues, an increasing sense of entrapment persists among the netizens. For some, the minister's rhetoric has allowed them to negotiate their reality with a touch of humour. After all, there is something peculiar about the sound: “show no, show no.”

I was recently surfing through comments by the members of a traffic alert group. The commuters faced an

bus owners taking the time off to hide their CNG labels and cylinders to take full advantage of the diesel jackpot. Several container ships went away without being loaded as covered vans and trucks were not available. The financial loss is estimated at millions of dollars, and the reputational loss is measured in red flags. Admission seekers missed their examinations as no public transports were available; there was even one story in which a father rode to Dhaka on his motorbike all the way from Bogra to ensure that his child did not miss the university test. These examples show that

their concurrent display of high levels of support for democratic principles and low levels of participation in real-life socio-political events. These members of the middle class respond to real-life situations to show that they are aware of what “should be,” what “could be,” and what “is.” They are, however, reluctant to go beyond their comfort zone to bring reforms, giving their socio-political attitudes a paradoxical appearance while encouraging the government to be indifferent.

While the development myth has some concrete basis that we see in the shape of

# Attracting more investment is key to tackling post-Covid unemployment



MD KAWSAR UDDIN

OUR country is facing an unprecedented challenge in dealing with the post-Covid unemployment problem, despite steady economic growth over the past few years.

The unemployment rate in Bangladesh increased from 3.38 percent in 2010 to 5.3 percent in 2020, according to Statista. More specifically, it jumped to 5.3 percent in 2020—the first year of the pandemic—from 4.22 percent in 2019. A World Bank report published in 2019 revealed that 32 percent of public university graduates and 44 percent of private university graduates were without jobs in the country.

A survey by the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS), conducted between February and June this year, found that 66 percent of the graduates of National University are unemployed. Those (21 percent) who could manage a job have an average salary of Tk 30,000. Seven percent are still pursuing post-graduation, and only three percent have become entrepreneurs.

Another survey jointly conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Oxfam in Bangladesh found that 61.57 percent of working people had lost their jobs in March and April last year due to Covid-related shutdown. Even though 15 percent of them returned to their work in a month, the majority of them remained unemployed for a long time. The poor and marginalised people faced, and still face, an even higher risk of loss of livelihood.

The pandemic has had a long-term negative impact on women's employment in Bangladesh. A survey conducted by Brac Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD) revealed that one-third of the young working women in the country were out of jobs as of January 2021, when economic activities resumed

in Bangladesh.

Several reports have shown that, due to Covid-19, income generation among the working class has fallen remarkably, and the country now has 24.5 million new poor.

Over the past two decades, our working-age population has increased significantly—from 58 percent to 68 percent. About 30 percent of the population is between 15 and 30 years. If the government trains and employs them

A functional approach to expand the job market, foster economic growth and eradicate unemployment would be to attract foreign and domestic investments in various sectors, which is only possible if we create a business-friendly environment. If the government takes necessary initiatives to upgrade the country's position in global business indicators like the Ease of Doing Business (EDB) and the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), it will boost investor confidence. Once the investors

hurdles in business operations. The policies and terms for obtaining approval papers, utility connections, property handling and other relevant business operations create delays and hidden costs that are avoidable.

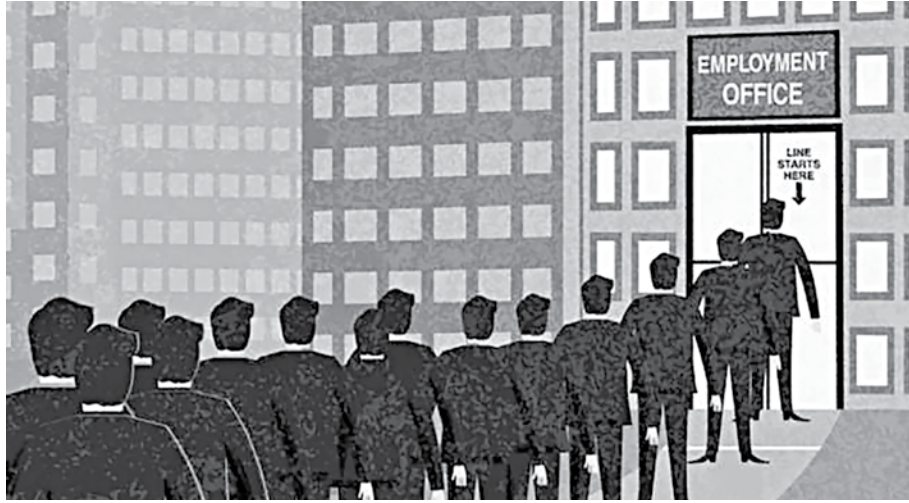
Besides the bureaucratic hassle, corruption and poor infrastructure, and the lack of skilled labour are some other issues that create an investor-averse environment. As our universities and academics are not closely connected to industries, which is how it is in the developed countries, university curricula offer a set of skills that are often irrelevant to modern workplaces.

Moreover, the increasing use of technology and artificial intelligence is a new threat to job security. A company that previously hired hundreds of people can now run its business successfully using advanced software operated by only a few. Consequently, ensuring employment for a mass population is getting challenging day by day.

While the economy has been hit hard by Covid-19, job opportunities have decreased, and the number of unemployed youths has increased, entrepreneurship can be the panacea for all economic ills.

Therefore, we should redesign our education system to empower our youth and create entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurial skills—like taking responsibility, owning a task, management, planning and strategising, leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, financial knowledge, and developing emotional intelligence—should be taught at all levels of higher education, regardless of what the academic programmes are. Simultaneously, foreign policies should focus more on attracting foreign investors. Overall, we must revisit our business policies and improve the ease of doing business in Bangladesh to attract both foreign and local investments.

Md Kawsar Uddin is an assistant professor of English at the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT).



In the post-pandemic era, the conventional ways of doing business will no longer work to tackle the country's unemployment problem.

ILLUSTRATION: COLLECTED

appropriately, they can open up new economic opportunities. However, if we cannot utilise them, they will become a burden on the economy, especially when our country is already facing a crisis due to the pandemic.

On the one hand, millions of young university graduates are waiting to enter the job market. On the other hand, numerous people are losing their jobs and daily incomes. Our government jobs are limited, and the private sector is not large enough to provide employment opportunities to such a large number of people. How should we, then, address this pivotal issue?

have confidence in our system, they will create new jobs.

In the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 ranking, Bangladesh ranked 168th among 190 countries. Likewise, in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2019, Bangladesh was positioned at 105th among 141 countries.

Whereas foreign investors have invested billions of dollars in countries like Vietnam, India, and Indonesia, we have struggled to retain reinvestments from the already existing companies. Investors often complain that the bureaucracy in Bangladesh is too convoluted and creates



# The mirror speaketh the truth



and to hold on to a multiple *loppa* catches with both hands or to stop a boundary with your palm or your booted foot if you happen to speak in Bangla. That has been the explicit dark lesson from the T20 World Cup, except for the occasional sparkles flashing out of the galleries due to the glittery attires under the Middle-Eastern sun.

Cricket is a wonderful game. Here, the spirit of sports is supreme. Losing or winning doesn't matter; to the losing team, that is. See, I wrote "losing" ahead of "winning" because participation is so very important. That is why after losing five matches in a row, Bangladesh will play straight into the final round of the next T20 World Cup. We lost, but cricket is the winner. I cannot blame the optimists for saying that our team has indeed improved since the last assembly of world greats, for which we had to struggle through the precarious qualifiers.

But the notorious cynic has delivered a deadly googly—that during the current T20 World Cup, stronger performing teams had a meeting atop Burj Khalifa, a venue chosen to surreptitiously avoid the media. There, it was reportedly decided that they

*Our cricketers seem to be abiding by the advice of every coach, on and off the field, resulting in distorted batting posture, grotesque bowling action and hilarious catching. Physios should recommend cotton in the earhole—both of them.*

gentleman's game, where the outcome of a contest is like grades in Play Group. Our motto is: Don't worry, just play.

As for the injustice, I am referring to our natural inability. We hit, they catch. They hit, we can't always catch. The sun, remember! But in some cases, it is because they are simply taller than most of us. International matches should be held height- or weight-wise. Let us learn something from wrestling and boxing. Now, the smart alec among you will mention Sachin and Miandad. I knew it! But we are here focusing only on normal human beings. Concentrate!

To calm the waters after the Gulf storm, the government should henceforth ban pre-match expert opinion on television. They should be okay at home, because the wife and the husband never listen when the other is talking. Experts also must voluntarily avoid offering any preview on cricket performance, because their predictions make them look amateurish after every match. They could talk about venues and records, evaluate matches already played, but they should never delve into the future. That's dangerous! That acumen requires study and research, and an analytical mind. Intelligence helps.

The incomprehensible disorientation of our cricketers at this world tournament reminded me of events unfolding at a studio while taking a passport photo. The very cautious cameraman asks you to lift your chin a wee bit, move your face a little to the right, not so much, up your shoulders, then bring your eyes down *samanno*, smile, not so much, perrrrfect... and click goes his DSLR camera. And you have an unrecognisable portrait. Our cricketers seem to be abiding by the advice of every coach, on and off the field, resulting in distorted batting posture, grotesque bowling action and hilarious catching. Physios should recommend cotton in the earhole—both of them.

Passport pictures do not always tell the truth. However, a recent press

conference testified that mirrors speaketh the truth. Mushfiquir Rahim, not going exactly through the best of patches, was livid after the match against Sri Lanka on October 24, perhaps because he had just knocked 57 off 37 balls after quite some time.

Criticised for unexpected and repeated disappointing performances, Mushfiquir advised the critics (read avid fans) of his Bangladesh team to look at their faces in the mirror. His next statement was pathetic from a cricketer, who has been showered with much love, genuine admiration and handsome honorarium by these same followers: "They do not play for Bangladesh; we do." Actually, it would perhaps not make much of a difference if we played. There is no score lower than zero, or a punishment higher than six.

Having been advised by a celebrity with such a massive contribution to our cricket, we all have had a good look into the mirror. Besides our old moles befriending new dark spots, mistaken dimples in the vicinity of fresh wrinkles, this was a great opportunity to see who we are: flawed but not arrogant, imperfect but not ungrateful, sinful but seeking forgiveness. We have faced the truth, Mr Mushfiquir Rahim. Will you too face your demons? In the mirror, that is.

We need not argue any further. I have found a solution to our problem of losing five times. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) should bid for the next World Cup. It's a lot of hard work, planning and PR, marketing and manoeuvring. But most importantly, we should prepare the slowest of dead pitches, select 10 spinners with left-right mix in the starting XI, and a bowler-wicket-keeper without pads. Till then, please leave the Tigers in the jungle alone. They cannot speak for themselves.

Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed is an architect and a professor, a Commonwealth scholar and a fellow, Woodbadger scout leader, Baden-Powell fellow, and a Major Donor Rotarian.



Bangladesh national cricket team after their match against Australia during the ICC T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the UAE on November 4, 2021. SOURCE: BCB

## PROJECT SYNDICATE

# The economy that planetary health requires



Many heralded the opportunity to transform our financial systems, supply chains, and ways of working. The overall message was that the post-pandemic future would be greener, healthier, and more just.

Now, almost two years after the pandemic started, excitement about creating an economic "new normal" has mostly dissipated. Apart from occasional lockdowns and mask-wearing, the world has largely returned to business as usual. The fight against the pandemic repeatedly has been described as a "war," but there have been no radical changes akin to a wartime mobilisation. On the contrary, the global pandemic response has operated under pre-pandemic economic norms. Despite urgent appeals for a "people's vaccine" and repeated calls for vaccine equity, the rules of the market dominated vaccine distribution, and the pharmaceutical industry has marched on, unreformed.

Likewise, policymakers continue to act as if—to paraphrase Greta Thunberg—the world is not on fire. UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a "code red for humanity." Yet, the countries' current Nationally Determined Contributions

(NDCs) under the framework established by the 2015 Paris climate agreement are inadequate to achieve the Paris accord's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, relative to preindustrial levels.

The ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland is the most immediate policy lever available. But the international climate regime needs to go beyond voluntary commitments to reduce emissions and make good on the rich countries' promise to provide financial assistance to the world's poorest and most vulnerable parts.

I am not an economist. I am a physician who specialises in the new field of "planetary health," which focuses on the links between human and planetary well-being. Its core premise is straightforward: protecting and improving our health requires tackling the underlying causes of human disease and ecosystem damage simultaneously.

The economy we have today is destroying our well-being. It unleashed human ingenuity, created financial wealth, and lifted billions of people from poverty. But it also damaged ecosystems and exacerbated social inequality. During the first year of the Covid-19 crisis, more than 114 million jobs were lost, while the world's wealthiest became USD 5 trillion richer than they had been before the pandemic began. And by accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss, our current economy imperils future generations' ability to survive and thrive. As a planetary health physician, I believe that the treatment for this disease is economic—not medical.

During this pandemic, we have witnessed a dramatic surge in the use of

personal protective equipment (PPE)—face masks and shields, gloves, and gowns that look like astronaut suits. But to truly recover, we also need a different kind of PPE—a people- and planet-centred economy. Because climate change and other forms of ecological damage increase the likelihood of future pandemics, this PPE would not just liberate us from the current crisis. The goal established by the World Health Organization's Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response—to make Covid-19 the last pandemic of its kind—depends on it.

A people- and planet-centred economy is one that advances the well-being of the entire Earth. It is an economy that has deep respect for the planet's boundaries, such as the temperature limit enshrined in the Paris Agreement. And it ensures that the basic daily needs of all people are met—for example, through universal healthcare systems and redistributive social policies. The metrics of success for this PPE are not gross domestic product or per capita income, but the ability of children to grow up to reach their full potential or the restoration of species threatened with extinction.

An example of this PPE has already been proposed by English economist Kate Raworth. Unlike the current economic model, with its limitless supply and demand curves, Raworth's "Doughnut Economy" visualises a narrow "safe and just space for humanity" that neither overshoots the planet's boundaries nor falls short in meeting society's basic needs.

Early in the pandemic, the city of Amsterdam committed to adopting the doughnut as its post-pandemic economic model. Since then, the city has implemented projects and



People, some wearing protective face masks, walk through Waterloo Station, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, in London, Britain, on July 4, 2021. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

policies ranging from the circular use of materials in building construction to reforms in the local fashion industry. The next challenge is to apply this model in low- and middle-income countries to ensure that they fulfil their societies' needs without breaching planetary limits.

We have entered the "decisive decade." Only nine years remain before we reach the deadlines set by the Paris Agreement and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We must use this critical period to design

a true people- and planet-centred economy. The growing planetary health community has an important role to play in creating an alternative that will help us overcome the pandemic, and ultimately meet the goals we have set for ourselves as a civilisation.

Renzo Guinto, chief planetary health scientist at the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health in Malaysia, is inaugural director of the Planetary and Global Health Programme at the St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine in the Philippines.

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www.project-syndicate.org  
(Exclusive to The Daily Star)

QUOTABLE  
Quote

**KAMAL HAASAN**  
Indian actor  
(born November 7, 1954)

*If it doesn't reach the last poor man, your constitution is wrong.*

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Spots for tots

6 Swift

11 One of the primates

12 Make amends

13 Chess game start

15 Stew sphere

16 Opponent

17 Vigor

18 Capitol worker

20 Mine yield

21 Wallet bill

22 Swear

23 Car part

26 Sacred song

27 Notorious czar

28 — Vegas

29 King, in Latin

30 Movie technique

34 Rainbow shape

35 Bond rating

36 "— So Fine"

37 Home-buying expense

40 Burdened down

41 Make blank

42 Fencing swords

43 Factions

**DOWN**

1 Pork servings

2 Indian coin

3 Clarifying words

4 Prohibit

5 Brandy glass

6 Wild party

7 Money machine

8 Become exhausted

9 Reciprocal

10 Most profound

14 Lunch time

19 Heaps

22 Expense

23 Wonderful event

24 Area of common interest

25 CPA's study

26 Oversees

28 Bank offering

30 Big pipes

31 In the lead

32 Gaggles group

33 Snaky shapes

38 Behold

39 Work wk's end

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

S	C	R	A	M	S	W	A	B
A	R	U	B	A	C	A	N	A
L	I	N	E	N	A	D	D	L
E	M	U	T	E	N	R	A	N
S	E	P	A	R	A	T	I	O
M	A	N	E	S	H	A	D	E
O	V	E	N	F	A	Q		
R	E	P	A	R	A	T	I	O
A	R	T	E	T	C	L	A	W
S	E	N	O	R	E	L	V	I
D	E	M	O		T	I	E	R

BEEBLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

BABY BLUES by Kirkman & Scott



# Revisiting Humayun Ahmed’s ICONIC CHARACTERS

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Humayun Ahmed is regarded as one of the most celebrated writers and one of the best storytellers in the history of Bangla literature. The prolific author and director brought many iconic characters to life through his screenplays and stories. On the 73rd birth anniversary of Humayun Ahmed, we pay homage to some of his wonderful characters, which have etched a place in our hearts.

## BAKER BHAI

During the 90s, people brought out processions on the streets, against the execution of Baker Bhai, a fictional character played by eminent actor and Member of Parliament Asaduzzaman Noor in “Kothao Keu Nei”.

“Humayun Ahmed’s biggest strength was his wonderful stories and dialogues. Through his Baker Bhai, I was able to make a place in people’s hearts,” mentions Asaduzzaman Noor.

On the other hand, Suborna Mustafa spoke about Muna, who falls in love with Baker Bhai at one point in her life, but is left heartbroken after his imprisonment and death.

“Muna is really a wonderful role. I had a lot of space to showcase my acting range in the series. I tried



Humayun Ahmed

PHOTO: STAR

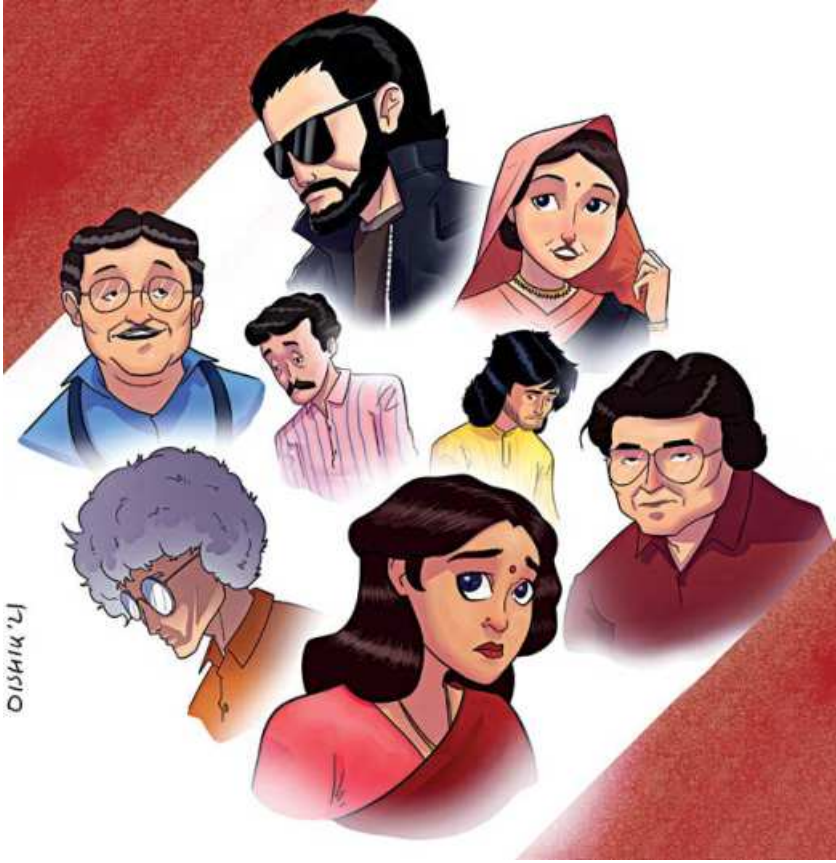


ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD

my best to portray this character sincerely,” she shares.

## MISIR ALI

The iconic pseudo psychologist Misir Ali, conceived by Humayun Ahmed, always uses logic for each decision in his life. His precision and astounding ability to read situations make him a favourite of audiences.

Noted actor Abul Hayat essayed the role of Misir Ali on the television screen, whereas Chanchal Chowdhury played the role in the 2018 film

“Debi”.

“Misir Ali is one of my most favourite characters, as he uses reasoning to solve problems. I have a strong sense of respect and love for Humayun Ahmed,” says Chanchal.

In “Debi”, renowned actress Jaya Ahsan played Ranu, a woman who is obsessed with a paranormal presence around her and can see the future.

## HIMU

The most popular character created by Humayun Ahmed has to be the

eccentric yet lovable Himu, the man who dons a yellow pocket less *panjabi*. The first book out of the Himu franchise was “Moyurakkhi”. Fazlul Kabir Tuhin played the role of Himu in the tele-fiction “Nokkhotrer Raat.”

Furthermore, Humayun Ahmed often named the heroines of his stories Rupa. Even Himu’s love interest is called Rupa. The character’s favourite attire is a blue *sharee*. To this day, many female fans of Humayun Ahmed often wear blue *sharees* to the Ekushey Boi Mela, as a homage to the author.

## FARID MAMA AND DR ASGOR

Farid Mama and Dr Asgor from “Bohubrihi” and “Aaj Robibar” respectively, are two of the most beloved television characters, conceived by Humayun Ahmed. Renowned actor Aly Zaker essayed both the roles brilliantly.

In “Aaj Robibar”, Dr Asgor stays inside his room, and talks about the various issues in his house. One of the funniest bits of the series takes place whenever Moti (Faruk Ahmed) tries to take a peek inside Dr Asgor’s room. Every time Dr Asgor catches Moti sneaking, he gives Moti a tight slap.

## KUSHUM

“Srabon Megher Din” is one of the most celebrated films of Humayun Ahmed, starring Meher Afroz Shaon, Zahid Hasan, and Mahfuz Ahmed in the lead roles. Shaon garnered immense popularity and praise for her simple yet powerful performance as Kushum in the film.

Translated by  
Rakshanda Rahman Mishra

## ‘Rehana Maryam Noor’ now playing in theatres

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

“Rehana Maryam Noor”, starring Azmeri Haque Badhon in the lead role, is now playing in theatres countrywide.

The Abdullah Mohammad Saad directorial made history as the first Bangladeshi film to be screened at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival’s *Un Certain Regard* section, earlier this year. *Un Certain Regard*, meaning “from another angle”, presents 20 films with unusual styles and non-traditional stories seeking international recognition.

“Rehana Maryam Noor” received a standing ovation



during its premiere at Cannes.

The film revolves around Rehana (Badhon), an assistant professor at a medical college. While she continues to balance her role as a medical professional, a mother, and a teacher among others, her life changes once she comes across an unexpected incident involving a female student.

The incident propels her into a fight against the system on behalf of the student, and her daughter. Alongside Badhon, “Rehana Maryam Noor” also stars Afia Tabassum Borno, Afia Zahin, Kazi Sami Hasan, and Tuhin Tajimul, among others.

The film has been submitted to the 94th Academy Awards from Bangladesh. It was also selected to be showcased at the Busan International Film Festival 2021.



‘Call My Agent: Bollywood’ is a remake of the hit French series, ‘Dix Pour Cent’.

## ‘Call My Agent: Bollywood’ combines the glitter of showbiz with apt emotions

*Set in a bustling Mumbai-based talent agency – ART – that represents some of the best-known faces of Indian film and TV, “Call My Agent: Bollywood”, directed by Shaad Ali and produced by Applause Entertainment, is out on Netflix for viewers. It is a remake of the hit French series, “Dix Pour Cent”.*

SHABABA IQBAL

Featuring a talented bunch, namely Rajat Kapoor (Monty) Aahana Kumra (Amal) Ayush Mehra (Meheraad) and Soni Razdan (Treasa), the remake has plenty of Indian celebrities playing fictionalised versions of themselves. But at the heart of it are the overworked, dedicated agents themselves who are constantly putting out multiple fires in their personal and professional lives.

We get a delicious, light comedy that examines the lives of agents, the ‘star makers’, who double up as fixers, babysitters, and shrinks for their clients. With each episode, the series unravels several showbiz issues, throwing light on problems such as acute age-shaming of actresses, ego wars between stars, family disparities in affecting professionalism, struggles of working mothers, as well as on-again-off-again relations between co-actors.

The star cameos lend a certain whimsy and absurdity to the show— and some riotously humorous moments. Be it Lara Dutta, Nandita Das, Lillete Dubey, Ila Arun, Sarika and Akshara Hasaan, Ali Fazal, Richa

Chadha or Jackie Shroff, all are quite over-the-top, yet entertaining in their performances. Meanwhile, Dia Mirza and Tigmanshu Dhulia’s cameos are the ones that are somewhat natural and realistic.

Among the main cast, Rajat Kapoor stands out with his nuanced portrayal of the hardcore professional Monty.

*The essence of the world of celebrity agents is captured very well, especially for those who are not familiar with it.*

The cinematography and production design are beautiful. The essence of the world of celebrity agents is captured very well, especially for those who are not familiar with it. The camera movements keep the viewers consistently engaged.

The makers have done an

admirable job in showing the personal connection between the agents and the artists. The agents are practically with their clients throughout the day, from the time they wake up, to the interviews and the shoots, telling them what to say and what not to. The support system comes across very well.

However, while it is understandable that the glamorous aspects had to be shown because it is a series about the world of cinema, the agents being so decked up often comes across as unrealistic, as most of the time, they are just rushing and hustling. Not to forget, in most scenes, it feels as though the makers have incorporated some mature language just because they consider it to be “necessary” for a web show.

That being said, the series makes a praiseworthy effort to tap into challenging topics like infidelity, facial reconstruction, and diversity.

All in all, “Call My Agent: Bollywood” is a refreshingly fun show that makes one wonder, are agents really the only best friends celebrities have?

# I wanted to be a SINGER

Tasnia Farin

SHARMIN JOYA

*Tasnia Farin, with her sweet demeanor and incredible acting prowess, is now on the way of becoming one of the faces of Bangladeshi media. Her recent release “Tithir Oshukh”, a psychological thriller, garnered a lot of appreciation from the audience.*

The talented actress has also had a strong grip on music since childhood. She has a Bachelor’s degree in classical and Nazrul Geeti, from Nazrul Academy.

We caught up with multifaceted artiste to know more about her latest projects, and plans.

Imraul Rafat directorial “Tithir Oshukh” casts you and Yash Rohan together. How was your experience working on it?

This is the first time that I have worked in a psychological thriller. I have always been fascinated towards such kinds of genres as they are intense and you get a broad dimension to explore.

It was overall a cohesive production, as we had a lot of fun while shooting; at the same time, we had come across some challenges like shooting in unusual locations, costume changing among few others.

What other projects are you currently busy with?

I am in the talks for a few project. In addition, I have signed a web project recently, which will begin the its pre-production in January. For now, I cannot reveal much more than this. It is a big project, and I am looking forward to it.

You recently uploaded a video on your verified Facebook page, covering Radiohead’s “Creep”. Is singer Tasnia Farin all set to begin her journey?

As of now, people have been appreciating my singing, probably more than my acting!

I have been a student of music since childhood, and being a singer was my first preference. Somehow, it did not happen. However, I do feel like I should concentrate on music, I have some plans about it.

Will we get to see you on the silver screen anytime soon?

I am driven towards my intuition, and always the project that attracts me. I am still waiting for the right project, with which I can make my film debut.



PHOTO:  
SHAHRAR KABIR HEEMEL





# Sabre-toothed tiger claws into cricket board 'purrsident'

## THE CLUELESSPONDENT

Over the years, a culmination of the effects of climate change has melted the permafrost and brought out ancient microbes, deadly viruses and what not. Although, none of it remotely bothered most of the cricket crazies of Merepoor, also known as "zombies", what transpired as of late has stunned even the most ardent of zombies, who are renowned for living off the "hope of victory".

Sometime last week, the sabre-toothed tiger, which was assumed to have gone extinct either in the Ice Age or 2013, surprised everyone by entering the world yet again and lashing out at the Merepoor Cricket Board purrsident, who controls the Bobcats, previously known as the Tigers.

After the IPP Wild Cats' T20 World Cup

began, rumours of the board president -- who has no name -- being a "Nazgul" disguised as a Persian black cat kept circulating, courtesy of a Triggerbook group known as the "Fellowship of the Ring".

The Daily Nebula was informed that the first thing the sabre-toothed tiger, or Mr Sabre, did after coming out of supposed extinction was to open a Bitter account under the name "Sabre Sane Jury".

There, Mr Sabre made a post: "It's not funny at all that He-who-has-no-name has no shame as well. What's so disgraceful is how the longest serving purrsident, who also happens to be the most incompetent, ran the image of the Bobcats down the 22 yards."

In response to Mr Sabre, the board purrsident called for a press conference at

the so-called centre of the universe -- the infamous Merepoor pitch -- and began delivering a monologue for the ages.

"My dear feline cousins, look around and tell me, what did you get for being so wild all these years? Sundarbans' tigers are already on the brink of extinction, and you, Mr Sabre, are the last of your kind," said the

purrsident. "The true wild nature, contrary to what you've been told, is to survive. And not just at any cost, but with ultimate ease. This isn't the Pleistocene era, so purr up! Meow!

"It all might seem counter-intuitive but my vision of transforming the Tigers into Bobcats and then into Super-cute Cats through selective breeding would make all

of us carefree in the long-run," he continued. "And after the remaining tigers and bobcats are fully domesticated, the people of Meowpurr will not find anything to criticise.

"And Mr Sabre, no wonder you didn't last as long as I have. By the way, that's what she said!" he said in a not-so formal manner.

"Finally, to all my gullible haters, I'm only halfway there. Mark my words. I still have five lives left out of nine," he remarked at the end of his speech.

Right after that, every reporter's jaw and mic dropped, as the purrsident abruptly transformed into a Nazgul and flew off into the horizon on the back of a dragonish creature.

**YOU SEE, MR SABRE, THE BOBCATS DON'T NEED TO WIN. THEY JUST NEED TO SURVIVE, LIKE I'VE BEEN SURVIVING FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS.**



# Ex-poor people start appointing accountants after becoming filthy rich overnight

## MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

The per capita income of Chapasthan has reached a new soaring milestone yet again. On the occasion, the country's emperor recently said, "Unbeknownst to us, with each passing night, the people of Chapasthan are getting richer. Development, development, development."

Indeed, the nights are bringing citizens wealth never seen before. This is changing the face of the country, which had been trying to reach middle-income status but has now abandoned that goal.

"I slept poor last night, but after waking up, I discovered that I'm richer than all the tax-evading, bribe-taking people combined!" said Saimon Ahmed, a previously-poor man.

In reference to the emperor's comment, world-renowned motivational speaker Choleman Happy gave a nugget of wisdom to the financially illiterate masses.

"If you sleep poor, that's not your fault. But if you wake up poor, that's definitely your fault," he said, quoting no one because this is an absolutely original sentence never uttered before.

The sky-high income has created a new problem. As the people's money keep multiplying after every night, citizens are facing trouble keeping exact records of their income. This has compelled Chapasthanis to hire accountants.

Chartered accountants are in huge demand right now. Cynthia, an ex-garment

worker who now has her own factory, said, "How can I keep records of my massive pile of money with my barely basic education? So, I hired an accountant. I'll have to pay him Tk 2 lakh monthly, but that's not a problem, as long as I can fall asleep and wake up."

Poverty -- which was the in-vogue subject for the country's seminars and discussion, where eminent citizens regularly expressed grave concern -- is slowly fading away.

"You know what? I didn't find any trace of my Tk 10 crore I earned by sleeping last month. Although, this is just five percent of my total earnings, I need to hoard as much as I can. So, I appointed an accountant," said a street hawker, who now just hawks stuff for the fun of it.

"Everyone is giving me Tk 500 or 1,000 notes, and you know what's the best part? They don't even ask for any change! Now, I'm planning to go on a vacation in some European country. Oh God, I don't even want to remember the days, like last week, when we were a poor country and everybody used to give me notes and coins of Tk 2 or 5," said Sadman, a hobbyist street-beggar, while listening to music on his iPhone 13.

The professional accountants seem to be over the moon due to the development. Nazia, one such accountant, said, "I urge everyone to sleep for at least eight hours every day, not for health but wealth reasons. Believe in the emperor and let us handle your uncountable money."

**I slept poor last night, but after waking up, I discovered that I'm richer than all the tax-evading, bribe-taking people combined!**





POETRY

# Her Holud-Covered Hands

RAHAD ABIR

I've seen many hues of yellow. Colorful, gray, unadorned. The pristine *bokul* podium, the vibrant spring awash with the fragrance of yellowy brilliance, the mournful memory of my adolescent day—the wedding ceremony of “Aaj Amenar Gaye Holud,” or the spring celebration in this Dhaka's concrete jungle. But where's that veritable yellowness? Many years ago, I went to visit Khala. My uneducated, unremarkable aunt who'd shared her husband with another woman. A year after her marriage, the old man died, turning Khala into an eighteen-year-old widow. Khala was crushing *holud*, turmeric roots on a grinding stone. The moment she heard of my arrival, she ran and cradled my face in her hands. She cried. After so many years you came to see me, my boy! Poor Khala, she fully forgot to wash her spice-adorned hands! My face was then all yellow from her holud-covered hands. The acidity made my eyes teary. In my younger days, Shefali, donning a yellow sari, took my face in her hands all the time, kissed me. But where's that passionate, holud-hued genuine love? Many years later, I went to see my Khala again. She was in bed, eyes closed, sunken deep into her head. Her *paan* chewing mouth still. The tip of her tongue lay touching the corner of her reddened lips. Black, stained teeth unmistakable in her wide-open mouth. Khala! I said to myself, where are your holud-covered hands now? She was quiet, in a sound sleep.

Rahad Abir's work has appeared in The Los Angeles Review, The Bombay Literary Magazine, Himal Southasian, Courrier International, The Wire, BRICK LANE TALES, and elsewhere. He has an MFA in fiction from Boston University. He received the 2017-18 Charles Pick Fellowship at the University of East Anglia. Currently, he is working on his first novel and a short story collection.



# Happy Ministry

YASIF AHMAD FAYSAL

In the slanting columns  
of the morning sun  
on September's grass,  
none came for me

none  
except  
a lemon-winged grasshopper  
and a chilly-peppered one  
a tiger-dotted one as well.

in the greenery,

ants too showed up  
silent uncomplaining workers

if I were the prime minister,  
I would make the lemon-winged my minister,  
the chilly peppered one my deputy  
the tiger-dotted one my chief of staff  
all the working ants my advisors  
By the time earth firms up  
next spring  
My happy ministry will surely lighten up  
our part of the world.

Yasif Ahmad Faysal teaches English at the University of Barishal.



# Home in the World A Memoir



WINNER OF THE Nobel Prize

Amartya Sen

BCCL

allen lane

# THE READING OF A MEMOIR

MAHMUD HUSSAIN

Memoirs make for an intellectually absorbing reading. They belong to a different genre of literary creativity distinct from the tenor of “autobiography.” Their mood centers on particular themes, and their philosophical approach to writing reflects upon the critical interpretation of phenomena rather than merely narrating facts about them. This demands a meditative engagement with the time and history about which the writer is speaking consistent with the intellectual dilemma besetting his mental activity. In that sense, memoir has an *epistemic* value.

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen's *Home in the World: A Memoir* has recently come out, and anyone reading it will perceptibly be drawn to the fact that the theme of the book focuses not merely on his growth as an individual but rather as a scholar committed to an inquisitive search for truth through the vast field of economic science. One wonders whether the *memoir* can be posited as the substance of his earlier writings by which he promoted his economic theories. However, his trials with economic questions have also urged him to develop a strong passion for the study of philosophy as an *epistemic* correlate to both human and non-human aspect of economic challenges. He has given economic science a powerful “human perspective,” and any attempt to do otherwise is at the peril of the meaning of *man* as the substance of knowledge. So, if we take his vast domain of academic inquisition, it is reflected in the attributes of economic science interpenetrating into the system of philosophy.

After reading the *Memoir*, probably, one will look upon him more as an economist who approaches the “dismal science” quoting Thomas Carlyle, with a sharp scintillating eye marked upon the calling of *science of Philosophy*. One can simply read his previous books to come to that conclusion. *Poverty and Famine*, *Development as Freedom*, *The Argumentative Indian*, *Identity and Violence*, *The Idea of Justice* and *On Economic Inequality* are some of his extraordinary oeuvres that address human problems from the ontology of philosophy rather than experimental rigour of economic model. A person not familiar to the science of Economics will understand him better through his philosophical writings rather than his works on game theory, rational choice theory, probability theory and other mathematical foundation of economics. In that sense, he can be classed with Adam Smith who also approached Economics from point of view of moral philosophy. Adam Smith's *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and *Essays on Philosophical Questions* were the successor response to his epoch-making *An Inquiry into the Causes of the Wealth of Nation* to face the darker side of economic transaction in terms of human greed, selfishness and reckless profit-seeking motive. Adam Smith comes often in the *Memoir*, and what regales me most is that the publication of Adam's book in 1776 also tells about the excellent trade that Bengal conducted through its rivers at that time thus making it the world's one of the most economically prosperous and opulent region.

Amartya Sen as an economist will remain incomplete to the reader if he fails to comprehend his relentless and passionate love for man as an individual. The idea of man being at the core of economic development and freedom is what he searched for in his study of economics. If Economics as a science has to perform a self-fulfilling *episteme*, it cannot remain idle to the inquiry of causality that affects one part of the world in senseless deprivation of material entitlements, while the other part enjoys the surfeit of consumption. Thus, chasing the moorings of poverty and eradicating them has become Amartya's

life-long scholastic passion. His work on poverty is still the foremost amongst the economics giants. It was the ‘Great Bengal famine’ in 1943, when he was barely 10 years old, the tragedy of 2 to 3 million people dying of starvation left an indelible imprint on his conscience. Poverty also had an impact on his choice of academic subject for career. His early flirtation was with Physics and Mathematics, but partly influenced by his friend, Sukhamoy Chakrabarty and partly by his concern about social inequality, he choose to study economics along with mathematics.

The *Memoir* is an excellent repertoire for a lay reader to initiate interest in the reading of the historicity of economics. The book has an infectious touch of pleasantness because of its style in presenting tough economic issues in simple language. In the 1940-1950s, economics was passing through a reformative stage consequent upon its relation to political science and sociology. It was the heyday of John Keynes, Nicholas Kaldor, A.C.Pigou, Maurice Dobb, Piero Srafa and many others. But the economist who, in my opinion, seemed to trouble him enormously was Kenneth Arrow. Amartya Sen's interest was in the value of individual choice aggregating in the process

Amartya Sen as an economist will remain incomplete to the reader if he fails to comprehend his relentless and passionate love for man as an individual. The idea of man being at the core of economic development and freedom is what he searched for in his study of economics. If Economics as a science has to perform a self-fulfilling episteme, it cannot remain idle to the inquiry of causality that affects one part of the world in senseless deprivation of material entitlements, while the other part enjoys the surfeit of consumption.

of decision-making. Arrow's Impossibility Theorem had unnerved him a lot. Arrow had used the example of voting system as being an exercise in imperfect social activity. If one agrees to Arrow's theorem and extrapolates it to the techniques in other areas of social functions, one is likely to fall into intuitive despair. But Sen took the challenge having seen in it the prospects and promise of welfare economics. He read Arrows' *Social Choice and Individual Values* with a critical scrutiny to arrive at the conclusion that individual decision in making a choice is a rational process, and must be examined holistically. He, in a manner, revived the importance of Impossibility Theorem in the Cambridge circle of economists by exploring Arrow's proposed axioms and their combinations to careful and original depth. His Ph.D. dissertation titled “Choice of Capital-Intensity in Development Planning” was a precursor to his future commitment to development economics. Later on, he assisted Mahbub ul Huq, Pakistani Finance Minister in the production of *UN Development Report* by which countries are assessed in terms of quality of life. He made sense of the world by traversing the long path of economics shaped by the western ideas of capitalism and free market economy, and supplant it in quest for the destination of poor man's emancipatory role that governments ought to ensure in addressing the

primitive human demand for employment, equitable wage, and affordable purchasing power.

Amartya Sen knows well that an economist's *Memoir* will be incomplete without the mention of Karl Marx. In fact, there was a time when any great work in economics was either professedly Marxist or anti-Marxist. Marx was responsible for transforming the concepts of political economy, and virtually brought the Westphalian concept of nation-state system to naught, and replaced it with the principal of preservation of individual sovereignty as belonging to particular classes. Economics was struggling hard with its own limit of freedom as an *episteme*. Marx's fatuous call in the 1848 Communist Manifesto – “Workers of the world unite!” was a freak fancy, yet he conquered the imagination of the great minds of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The debacle of the Communist world cannot be attributed to Marx but to states' authoritarian practices which failed to fathom Marx's theory of class struggle in conjunction with contextual illumination of labour theory of surplus value, concept of objective illusion, nature of exploitation, and ideal-material dialectic. So, Amartya who read Marx deeply finds many of his ideas convincingly relevant today.

As an economist, Amartya takes you through all the famous personalities in the field but I was little bewildered not to have seen the reference of few others --- Joseph Schumpeter, Frederick Hayek, Karl Polanyi, Mansur Olcun, Von Neumann --- who have treaded the Economic tower of Babel at the same time. May be his lack of intimacy with them is compounded with the limitation of space for the *Memoir*!

There is a chapter called “Bengal and Bangladesh” where his emotions run deep in identifying himself with the philosophy of a united and secular Bangladesh as an elevating and glorifying idea. The existence of Bangladesh is a matter of pride for all Bengalis as a home built within the bigger home of the world. He was born in Dhaka, grew up in Calcutta, and now lives comfortably in London. A man who finds solace and happiness through his work can make any place on earth his abode. The title of his *Memoir* called *Home in the World* aptly reconciles with his kind of magnificent humanism.

One should read the *Memoir* with an engrossing passion. Those who have known Sen as a great economist will learn that he is much more than a scholar-extraordinary, not merely content with search for truth in economic theories and mathematical analysis. His vast erudition in other fields of knowledge --- literature, politics, international relations, physical sciences, medicine, linguistics, history, sociology, philosophy --- makes him an incredible polymath. He belongs to the genre of great minds of all times like John Keynes, Bertrand Russell (it is interesting that being a mathematician, Russell received the Nobel Prize in literature and will be known more for his political writings than his hard-boiled *Principia Mathematica*), Kenneth Arrow and a few others. Sen knew Ludwig Wittgenstein who trained as an aeronautical engineer but is famous for his revolutionary work in linguistics. It will be a fitting tribute to Amartya's *Memoir* by inverting Wittgenstein's aphorism:

Whereof one can speak, he must write.

For a great teacher, where speech ends, writing begins. *Home in the World \_ A Memoir* is a gift of excellent writing.

Mahmud Hussain is retired Air Vice Marshal and former High Commissioner to Brunei.



RIGHTS WATCH

PROTECTING TRADE SECRETS WHILE FRANCHISING A BUSINESS

MARUF HASAN TAMAL

Franchising can be a good model to expand a business of the franchisor by granting license to franchisees. Generally, this gives a franchisee an access to use the knowledge, processes, 'know-hows' and trademarks of the franchisor and sell a branded product or service under their goodwill and name. Elaborating the number of franchisees ensures the expansion of geographical reach and business of the franchisor. To avail the license of the franchisor, the franchisees



outlets. A franchisor may need to protect their customer/client list. This aspect must be included in a contract with a franchisor. This notion must be normalised in contractual clauses, in the context of Bangladesh.

It is imperative that people thinking about stepping into franchising must think about adding these aspects into the contractual clauses. For example, the framework of a contract for a restaurant business looking to go into franchise business must pay due attention to protect its recipes and its components. For this, the restaurant may choose to control the kitchen of the franchisee's outlets in the contractual clause. A clause may be put with elaborate directions about how the franchisee will handle the recipe, who are the personnel to have access, and how to process the dry ingredients to a final dish and so on. It is established that the extreme precautionary measures regarding Coca-Cola's secret formula makes it an example of protection of trade secrets even after having so many franchisees globally, which has resulted in no exact replication of its taste. Apart from protecting recipes, some businesses may need to protect their business model, or the strategy revolving around their services to protect integrity.

To ensure interest of the businesses, it is always a better model to ensure that the trade secret is not jeopardised in the first place rather than avenues for post-breach remedies. For that purpose, the concern of protecting trade secrets must come from the initial stage of drafting the agreements, where a perceptive legal mind has to be applied from the side of the franchisors to fully benefit from the existing laws of Bangladesh.

THE WRITER IS AN INTERN RESEARCHER, A.S. & ASSOCIATES.

The business owners are not comfortable with the idea of post-breach court sanctioned remedies since the trade secret is getting out anyway and the remedy from the court takes a long time to be realised.

may need to pay initial fees and time bound royalties to the said franchisor.

One of the concerns for individuals who want to franchise their businesses in Bangladesh could be the protection of their trade secrets due to the lack of any concrete safeguarding mechanism. The aversion may stem from the fear of trade secrets getting disclosed by franchisees. In Bangladesh there is no separate law for the protection of either trade secrets or franchising as a whole. The entire sphere of this sector is operated through separate contractual arrangements between the parties. As a result, there is often a regulatory

vacuum in the field.

In our country franchise business is a contractual relationship based upon the Contract Act, 1872 between the franchisor and the franchisee. In these contracts, a franchisor can assign their trademark and goodwill using the provisions of chapter 5 of the Trademarks Act, 2009. An inference can be drawn that the main driving force of the franchise would be the agreement, which needs to be comprehensive if certain aspects of intellectual property of the franchisor are to be protected. In practice, it is often seen that the private contracts between franchisors and franchisees do not contain (or often contain poorly drafted) clauses on intellectual properties, e.g., trade secrets. The non-disclosure agreements are often not sufficient to ensure the protection of trade secrets because they provide post-breach remedies failing to ensure breach in the first place.

Singapore's case laws depict that for information to be protectable as confidential information or a trade secret, it must be 'at first place' not be something which is 'already available

to the public at large.' Drawings, specifications, technical information etc. have been considered a trade secret and confidential information by the Indian courts and the restraints can be put upon these elements. However, the Bangladeshi courts are yet to face any similar legal challenge.

A franchisor's main negativity may arise from the concern of their trade secrets getting found out. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has propounded on the definitions of trade secrets and ways to protect them. It calls for effective sanctioning against misappropriation of confidential information. This practice can be implemented through an agreement containing effective and detailed non-disclosure clauses. If such was not present already, the clauses should be altered. Efficient lawyers can point out the loopholes in existing contracts and find out avenues for amending the contract. For a brand like KFC it could be their Colonel's secret spice mix, for Coca-Cola their secret formula of the syrup, for some others it could be the client database that amounts to their

trade secret. From these facts it can be inferred that a potential disclosure or leak of trade secrets without the company's control or consent can lead to the fall of their business.

The business owners are not comfortable with the idea of post-breach court sanctioned remedies since the trade secret is getting out anyway and the remedy from the court takes a long time to be realised. Thus, an alternative way to protect trade secrets is to have an elaborate plan of control which is required to be comprehensively laid down on the contract with the franchisee, if breached creating legal liabilities. The confidential information should be defined (for instance, the recipes of a dish, ingredients of a product etc.), and then clauses of exclusion from access must be provided. It is completely upon the franchisor's shoulder on how they want to control the information as against the franchisees, which can be done through the well-drafted legal agreements. There are no limitations on the restrictions a franchisor can put to protect their trade secret, which can also entail direct control over franchisee's

RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Resolving disputes without involving the court

RAWNAK JAHAN

Mediation is one of the alternative ways of dispute settlement without taking resort to legal actions, whereby the parties select their mediator(s) and resolve disputes maintaining utmost confidentiality. The rules of mediation make it clear that information gathered, and documents exchanged during the mediation, are kept confidential and are not shared unless the parties give express permission to that effect. They remain under the protection of law as well as the code of professional conduct and etiquette for the mediators, provided no exception arises. It is worth mentioning here that anything admitted or confessed by the parties during mediation are inadmissible in legal proceedings and therefore, cannot be presented before the court or tribunal in any subsequent legal contests. These elements ensure the privacy of the parties and enable them to solve the disputes while saving both time and money as well as leaving room for the improvement of mutual relationship.

There are ways of settlement enforcement procedures including formation of a contract of settlement, court order, arbitration order etc. However, the list is not exhaustive. In case of absence of an agreement, the parties are free to go for other methods of ADR, for example pursuing arbitration or even contesting the matter in the court.

However, the court proceedings may not seem convenient and suitable for all family disputes when the matter involves, among others, divorce, custody of child, and related issues. Once the matter is before the court, the privacy of a family becomes open to the world. Moreover, the court proceedings might consume a lot of time and the minor children affected by their parents' dispute may even attain the age of majority by the time the issues get resolved.

The world of business is getting expanded day by day across borders. The recent pandemic has urged the mediators and lawyers to use the virtual meeting platforms equipped with modern features to resolve disputes remotely. Since the pandemic started, the practice of mediation, in the developed nation has been the 'new normal' way of settling disputes via using both virtual and actual platforms. The whole world including countries most notably like Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, China, the UK, the UAE, the USA and many more are taking resort to mediation facilities and resolving their disputes without seeking direct involvement of the courts.

In the context of Bangladesh, the concept of mediation is not alien to our legal system, and there are several provisions of mediation in our domestic laws. For example, as per section 89A of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the court may order the parties to participate in mediation. Section 89C of the same law confirms that the parties can participate in mediation even at the appellate stage. The Family Courts Ordinance, 1985 introduced the concept of mediation long time ago. Besides, the Village Court Act, 2006; the Artha Rin Adalat Ain, 2003; the Arbitration Act, 2001; and the Labour Act, 2006 also recognise mediation.

In August 2021, the Supreme Court's Judicial Reform Committee issued a set of comprehensive guidelines on mediation, which stresses on the use of mediation. It was directed that the copy of the Guidelines is to be handed over to the disputing parties and circulated among the lawyers as well. This indicates that Bangladesh is getting prepared to enter the domain of

ease to invest in any country if they get the assurance of the protection mechanisms from the host country including any dispute settlement mechanisms capable of avoiding extra burden of contesting litigation, involving the waste of time, money, and energy.

Therefore, the expansive use of mediation facilities will be an added benefit to our economy as this would accelerate our trade and investment. The recent studies show that mediation is the right tool for settlement of cross-border disputes since the process of mediation is able to consider the needs of the stakeholders, mitigate the gap between the dissimilarities between and among laws of different countries, reckon social values and culture of the parties, among many others. As a result, the process of mediation will alleviate the huge backlog of cases that stays with the judiciary by resolving many disputes outside court upholding our country's reputation by resolving disputes easily and speedily, specially during this



wider use of mediation in order to reduce the backlog of cases pending with the courts.

However, very few disputants are encouraged to participate in mediation. There are people who are not even aware of the benefits of mediation whereas the rest of the world has already enacted and implemented relevant laws.

The businessmen, entrepreneurs, companies, stakeholders of financial institutions, foreign investors and joint ventures will be more confident in their business relationships, if they know for sure that there is scope of mediation in case any disagreement ever arises. Several international institutions such as Singapore International Mediation Institution (SIMI), as well as judges and lawyers of Bangladesh believe that foreign investors will be at

pandemic.

There are few organisations in Bangladesh who are providing services of mediation, namely Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC), Bangladesh International Mediation Society (BDIMS). The NGOs such as Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Ain-o-Salish Kendra and Nagorik Uddayog, are also providing mediation services. Many International mediation providers also keep list of licensed mediators capable of mediating anywhere in the world including Bangladesh, for example International Mediation Institute (IMI), Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI) etc.

THE WRITER IS AN ADVOCATE, DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE COURT, DHAKA.

LAW OPINION

Bangladesh Bank's rules of export documents require an amendment

M S SIDDIQUI

The open account trade means international trade against contract without any Letter of Credit (LC), which is mostly common in developed countries. Bangladesh was far behind from the open account trade transaction scheme in export. Our main competitors in readymade garments (RMG) export get competitive advantage of open account payment method in export.

Under section 23 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), non-repatriation or partial repatriation is the responsibility of the exporter and failure is a punishable offence. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) also has the legal authority to exempt the affected exporters from the liability to repatriate the foreign proceeds by exercising the powers under section 12(2)(b) of the FERA, but the process is quite complicated. Another option is the BB's powers under section 12(3) of the FERA, to permit the affected exporters to sell the exported goods from the port of the buyer's country and procure the sale proceeds accordingly. However, the exporter can never realise the full value of the consignment for such consignment laying in the buyer's port. The process also involves port charges, demurrage, and container charges etc., and exporters usually do not get fair price for the exported materials.

In order to facilitate the export deal, two important transfers of ownership of consignment and payment rights are taken into consideration. One transfer is for consignment and the other is for payment or as consideration of the contract for export. The major concern of these contracts is transfer to document, which gives ownership of consignment and terms and methods of payment.

The BB has filled up this legal gap by issuing a circular no. 43 (dated November 17, 2019) titled "Discounting of direct or deemed export bills – transfer of right". It has granted general permission for assigning rights to dues at maturity of a usage bill of export from Bangladesh in favour of a license bank/financial institution abroad by paying usage bill in full, final, and without recourse.

The circular was issued in absence of Bangladeshi laws and policies in relation to such transfer of ownership on invoice. There is no interpretation of whether invoice or bill receivables is considered actionable claim, although under section 3 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, an actionable claim includes a claim to an unsecured debt.

According to paragraph 10(iii), chapter 8 of the Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transactions (GFET), 2018, Vol. I, the Authorised Dealers (ADs) are required to pass all shipping documents covering exports from Bangladesh.

The BB circular no. 43 (dated November

17, 2019) has referred to instruction at para. 25, chapter 8 of the GFET, which also allowed the overseas correspondent institutions under subsection (b) stating that the ADs may arrange fund against the discounting of usage bills in foreign exchange through their own offshore banking units/correspondent banks, financial institutions abroad or international financing institutions. The circular has tried to get the coverage of payment repatriation against export under open account scheme. Under the open account method, goods are shipped on credit terms with payment commitments from banks/financial institutions abroad.

However, a FE circular no. 32 (dated October 03, 2021) authorised the ADs to allow exporters to dispatch export documents (excluding original transport document of title to cargo) directly to importers or their agents abroad through secured media, subject to observance of following instructions: (a) the underlying sales contracts/letters of credit provide for such direct dispatch of export documents; (b) the ADs shall be satisfied with the arrangement of realisation of export proceeds within statutory period; (c) the ADs shall endorse original transport document retained with them "on receipt of payment against relevant export"; (d) the ADs shall, within 14 days from the date of shipment, obtain EXP Form from exporters to comply with regulatory instructions including reporting routine to Bangladesh Bank; and (e) the exporters' account with the ADs is fully compliant with KYC/AML/CFT guidelines in force.

Although, the BB circular no. 43 (dated November 17, 2019) allowed the transfer of export documents to the bank or even export finance company such as Factoring companies, but the circular no. 32 (dated October 03, 2021) restricted the sending documents (i.e. Bill of Lading) without payment as the AD banks will have to retain the original shipping documents and endorse those on receipt of payments against the exports. It seems the BB is trying to facilitate the smooth transaction through open account – particularly the condition of pre-payment to release the Bill of Lading of the consignments.

Recently, the BB has allowed Factoring service with some conditions. Through international factoring, the exporters are guaranteed of payment of their goods and services instantly after shipment of the same. The Factoring services provide security of payment and financing through transfer of shipping documents along with ownership and rights over the payments. The circular no. 32 (dated October 03, 2021) restricting transfer of document will hamper smooth service of Factoring and export financing by trade finance companies. The BB should revisit the circular addressing the embargo over transfer of full set of documents.

THE WRITER IS LEGAL ECONOMIST.





Climate pledges ‘hollow’ unless fossil fuels end  
Says UN chief

AFP, Glasgow

Promises by governments to cut carbon emissions “ring hollow” as long as they continue to funnel trillions of investment to oil, gas and coal projects, UN chief Antonio Guterres has said.

“The announcements here in Glasgow are encouraging — but they are far from enough,” he told the COP26 climate summit.

“Promises ring hollow when the fossil fuels industry still receives trillions in subsidies.”

Two weeks of negotiations among nearly 200 countries are approaching a climax with a number of key issues still unresolved.

Guterres called on the governments “to pick up the pace and show the necessary ambition” to confront the climate crisis.

“We cannot settle for the lowest common denominator,” he said. “We know what must be done.”

The summit aims to advance global efforts in order to keep the Paris climate agreement’s aim of limiting temperature rises to 1.5-2 degrees Celsius within reach.

But the latest decarbonisation plans of nations as they stand will lead to 2.7C of heating this century, the UN says.

“Every country, every city, every company, every financial institution must radically, credibly and verifiably reduce their emissions and decarbonise their portfolios starting now,” Guterres said.

AFP, United Kingdom

Helping vulnerable nations cope with the multiplier effect of climate change on droughts, flooding, heatwaves and tropical mega-storms will require trillions of dollars, not the billions now on the table at COP26, a draft UN report obtained by AFP reveals.

The failure of rich countries to make good on a promise to deliver \$100 billion a year for vulnerable nations has become a flashpoint at the UN climate talks in Glasgow, entering their final hours on Friday.

But the real cost for allowing the atmosphere to continue to heat will be far higher.

The draft Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) report, scheduled for release early next year, shows that the \$100 billion figure is no more than a down payment on what is needed to prepare for unavoidable impacts.

Flooded cities, food shortages, deadly heat and mass migration will all raise the price tag.

“Adaptation costs are significantly higher than previously estimated, resulting in a growing ‘adaptation finance gap’,” said an executive summary of the 4,000-page report.

“Existing governance arrangements for funding adaptation are inadequate for the anticipated scale of climate impacts.”

Earth’s surface has warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels so far, magnifying weather



extremes across the planet.

And the world is on track to surge beyond the Paris Agreement target of limiting heating to between 1.5C and 2C. Even taking into account a new round of carbon cutting pledges this year, Earth’s surface will still warm a “catastrophic” 2.7C, the UN has calculated.

The higher the temperature rise, the higher the costs of shielding society against climate cataclysm, warns the IPCC, the world’s top climate science authority.

It says that by 2050, finance needed for adaptation could hit one trillion dollars every year, under certain emissions scenarios.

At two degrees of warming, adaptation costs in Africa alone are projected to increase by “tens of billions” every year.

The draft Working Group II report obtained by AFP details climate impacts and -- in unprecedented

DRAFT UN REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

World needs trillions to face threat



Climate activists participate in a protest action in Glasgow yesterday, during the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference.

PHOTO: AFP

detail -- the rising need for adaptation.

Many scientists, including some of the report’s key authors, regret that its findings were not published before the crucial climate meet in Glasgow.

In the meantime, experts and diplomats have started to make assessments that are far greater than the figures on the table in the COP26 negotiations.

The decade-old pledge to deliver \$100 billion a year by 2020 -- now postponed to 2023 -- was meant to help climate vulnerable countries green their economies and brace for unavoidable impacts.

But what seemed like a significant sum in 2009 looks paltry today.

“This \$100 billion pledge is seriously outdated,” said Rachel Cleetuss, an economist at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

“The science and the realities on the ground have overtaken what the pledge was supposed to do,” she told AFP. “When we talk about post 2025 finance it really needs to be in the trillions.”

The urgent need to fortify against climate impacts -- which will be severe even with 1.5C of warming -- is thrown into sharp relief by the draft IPCC report’s projections of the dollar damage rising temperatures will inflict on virtually every sector of society.

In just one low-lying city, Guangzhou in southern China, estimated losses could top a quarter of a trillion dollars a year without adaptation measures -- such as massive flood defences -- with an additional 20 centimetres of sea level rise.

With 2C of warming, oceans are expected to rise by nearly twice that much.

In a worst-case scenario of unabated warming, Guangzhou’s annual damages could top a trillion dollars. Other low-lying cities such as Mumbai -- with fewer resources -- would face a similar level of devastation.

Flooding will, on average, displace 2.7 million people in Africa every year by mid-century, staple crops yields will diminish along with nutritional value -- raising the spectre of widespread malnutrition -- and heatwaves will lower productivity and burden healthcare systems.

Finance for adaptation is best seen as an investment in avoided costs, the IPCC report says.

Spending \$1.8 trillion, for example, over the next decade on early warning systems, climate-resistant infrastructure, agriculture, mangrove conservation and improving water access “can generate net benefits of \$7.2 trillion” -- a benefit-cost ratio of 4-to-1, it said.

“Investing in climate adaptation is a bit like getting insurance for a known event,” said Brian O’Callaghan, lead researcher on the University of Oxford’s economic recovery project and an author of the recently published UN Environment Programme Adaptation Gap report.

Scientists have called for an IPCC “special report” to quantify global adaptation, much as the policy advisory body has done for measuring the impacts of global warming.

UNEP’s Adaptation Gap report published earlier this month said financing needs would be close to \$300 billion per year in 2030, rising to \$500 billion by 2050.

WHAT’S IN THE NEW COP26 DRAFT DEAL?

NEW CLIMATE PLEDGES

The COP26 summit aims to keep alive cap global warming at 1.5C. Countries’ current pledges to cut emissions this decade would see warming spiral far beyond that limit, to 2.4C. The draft COP26 deal asks countries to upgrade their 2030 emissions-cutting plans by the end of 2022 -- a faster timeframe than the UN’s current five-year review cycle. However, it couched that request in weaker language than a previous draft, and failed to offer the rolling annual review of climate pledges that some vulnerable countries have pushed for. However, government ministers will meet every year to check in on efforts to raise pre-2030 ambitions, the draft says.

MORE MONEY

The draft deal said by 2025 rich countries should double their funding to help poor countries adapt to climate impacts, compared with current levels -- a step forward from the previous draft, which did not set a date or a baseline. Currently, only a quarter of countries’ climate finance goes on adaptation. But the proposal remained foggy on how to fix a long-held pledge for rich countries to give poorer countries \$100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020 -- a deadline they missed and now expect to meet in 2023. The draft COP26 deal did not spell out a plan to make sure the



money arrives. The draft also broached the contentious topic of compensation for the damages (loss and damage) countries have suffered because of climate change.

FOSSIL FUELS

The draft text took aim at the burning of coal, oil and gas, telling countries to phase out coal power and fossil fuel subsidies faster, although without setting a date to do so. That would mark the first time fossil fuels are named and shamed in the conclusions of a UN climate summit. The latest proposal qualified a previous draft by saying countries should phase out “unabated” coal power and “inefficient” subsidies for all fossil fuels, meaning coal, oil and gas. Some campaigners said the new wording was a loophole to keep funding polluting projects, but other analysts said it would be difficult for countries to argue that fossil fuel projects are anything but “inefficient”.

MORE NEWS

Sri Lanka to tax road accidents in drastic budget

Sri Lanka slapped a tax on road accidents in a drastic austerity budget unveiled yesterday as the country faces a major foreign exchange crisis. Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa said vehicle accidents will be taxed under new revenue proposals to keep the budget deficit at 8.8 percent of GDP in 2022, down from 11.1 percent this year. He did not give details of the crash tax. Sri Lanka’s roads are among the most dangerous in the world with over 3,000 traffic fatalities and some 25,000 seriously injured every year.

Court pauses release of Trump White House docs

A US court Thursday granted former president Donald Trump’s request to temporarily halt release of White House documents that could implicate him in the January 6 attack on the Capitol. The documents have been sought by the House Select Committee investigating the riot, and had been ordered released Tuesday by a US district judge. The US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit said Thursday, however, that it had granted what it called an administrative injunction and scheduled arguments for November 30.

Biden, Xi expected to hold virtual summit on Monday

US President Joe Biden is expected to hold a hotly awaited virtual summit with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Monday, US media, including CNN, reported, as tensions mount over Taiwan, human rights and trade. Relations between the world’s two largest economies have deteriorated in recent weeks, in particular over Taiwan, a self-ruling democracy claimed by China, which last month made a record number of air incursions near the island.



Assange gets permission to marry in UK prison

British prison authorities have given WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange permission to marry while in custody, his fiancée has said, as he awaits a key court decision over possible US extradition. Assange, wanted by Washington to face various charges related to the mass leak of classified documents, plans to marry Stella Moris, a former member of his legal team with whom he has two children. He is being held at Belmarsh high-security jail in London while the High Court prepares to rule on a US appeal against a lower court’s decision to block his extradition.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A man wades through a waterlogged street at a residential area after a heavy monsoon rainfall in Chennai on November 12, 2021. Heavy rains caused flash floods and landslides across southern India and Sri Lanka have killed nearly 50 people.

PHOTO: AFP

Ten EU nations causing ‘high concern’ over Covid

AFP, Stockholm

Ten countries in the 27-member European Union face a Covid situation of “high concern”, the bloc’s diseases agency said yesterday, and the pandemic was worsening across the continent.

“The overall epidemiological situation... was characterised by a high and rapidly increasing overall case notification rate and a low but slowly increasing death rate,” the European Centre for Disease Control said.

“Case notification rates, death rates, and hospital and ICU admissions are all forecast to increase over the next two weeks.”

In its latest weekly risk assessment, the agency listed 10 EU countries in its highest category of concern -- Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia.

“Countries with lower vaccination uptake continue to be the most severely affected,” said the agency.

Germany was among 10 other EU nations classed as “high concern” and France among three of “moderate concern”.

Italy, Malta, Spain and Sweden were of low concern.

The agency said four countries had been raised into a higher category since the last assessment, and five countries had been lowered.

The number of cases and deaths is expected to increase by about 50 percent over the next two weeks, the agency added, reaching a weekly rate of 300 new cases and 2.7 deaths per 100,000 population.

The assessment looks at the 27 EU nations as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The coronavirus has killed at least 5,078,208 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte was to announce new restrictions yesterday, reportedly including Western Europe’s first “partial lockdown” of the autumn, as cases hit record levels.

Norway too is reintroducing virus curbs short of a lockdown and authorising towns to use health passes as it tries to stop a spike in cases.

World has become deaf to plight of the poor: pope

REUTERS, Assisi, Italy

Pope Francis yesterday said that the world had become deaf to the plight of the poor and condemned those who become disproportionately rich while blaming the needy for their own fate.

Francis travelled to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, to meet with about 500 poor people before the Catholic Church’s World Day of the Poor which will be marked on Sunday.

“Often the presence of the poor is seen as being annoying and something to be tolerated. Sometimes we hear it said that those responsible for poverty are the poor themselves,” he said in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels after poor people, including Afghan refugees, recounted their personal stories.

“The blame is dumped on the shoulders of the poor, adding insult to injury, so as not to make a serious examination of conscience about one’s own actions, about the injustice of some laws and economic measures, about the hypocrisy of those who want to enrich themselves disproportionately,” he said.

Francis, who in 2013 became the first Latin American pope, has made defence of the poor a cornerstone of his pontificate. The former Cardinal Mario Bergoglio is the first pope to take the name Francis, the saint who dedicated most of his life to the poor.

“It is time to give a voice back to the poor because their requests have fallen on deaf ears for too long. It is time for eyes to open to see the state of inequality in which so many families live,” Francis said.

“It is time to again be scandalised by the reality of children who are starving, reduced to slavery, tossed around by the waters as they risk drowning, innocent victims of all kinds of violence,” he said.

Quotes of the day



“Lebanon is not a failed state yet, but it is a failing state, with a government failing its population. I saw scenes in Lebanon that I never imagined I would see in a middle-income country.

UN ENVOY ON EXTREME POVERTY OLIVIER DE SCHUTTER



“The overall situation is that we are seeing progress on all fronts. ... I feel this is the moment where Europe is, in a way, counting our friends and we are very happy to see that we have many.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION’S VICE PRESIDENT MARGARITIS SCHINAS ON MIGRANT CRISIS AS TURKEY BANS CITIZENS OF SYRIA, IRAQ AND YEMEN FROM FLYING FROM TURKISH AIRPORTS TO BELARUS



“Your constant engagement with the world, thoughtfulness... is a reflection of a true leader but also just a very good person.

NZ PM JACINDA ARDERN ON OUTGOING GERMAN CHANCELLOR MERKEL



# Three killed as blast hits mosque in Afghanistan

15 people wounded; ISIS-K suspected

AFP, Jalalabad

At least three people were killed and 15 wounded Friday by a blast at a mosque in Afghanistan's restive Nangarhar province, a hotbed of Islamic State activity, officials said.

The blast -- for which no group has yet claimed responsibility -- underscores one of the many challenges facing the new Taliban regime in Afghanistan, with the UN warning the country is also on the brink of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

It happened during Friday prayers in Spin Ghar district of the eastern province, near the border with Pakistan.

"I can confirm a blast during Friday prayers inside a mosque in Spin Ghar district. There are casualties and fatalities," a Taliban official told AFP.

Walli Mohammed, a local elder and activist, told AFP a bomb appeared to have been hidden in a loudspeaker near the imam's rostrum.

When the speaker was switched on to sound the azaan -- the call to begin the prayer ritual -- the device detonated, he said.

"So far three killed, 15 wounded," a doctor at the local hospital told AFP.

Local residents suspected that Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K) was responsible for the blast.

Islamic State-Khorasan, the local branch of the jihadist group, first emerged in Nangarhar and was formally recognised by the group's central leadership in 2015.

The group had a relatively small but potent presence in Afghanistan, and was responsible for some of the deadliest attacks in the country of recent years, massacring civilians at mosques, shrines, public squares and even hospitals.

But it failed to hold any territory in the region, suffering huge losses because of Taliban and US-led military operations.

Although both IS and the Taliban are hardline Sunni Islamist militant groups, they differ on the issues of religion and strategy, which has led to fierce fighting between the two.

Since the Taliban's return to power in August, IS has claimed responsibility for a series of bloody attacks, including one at Kabul airport as the US and other countries rushed to evacuate their citizens and Afghan allies from the country.



Palestinian protesters run from tear gas fired by Israeli security forces, during a demonstration against the establishment of Israeli outposts on Palestinian lands, in Beit Dajan, east of Nablus in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# 1m Afghan children at risk of dying

Warns WHO as acute malnutrition grips the country hit by temperatures drop

REUTERS, Geneva

Around 3.2 million children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in Afghanistan by the end of this year, with 1 million of them at risk of dying as temperatures drop, a World Health Organization spokesperson said yesterday.

Aid agencies have warned of famine as a drought coincides with a failing economy following the withdrawal of Western financial support in the aftermath of a Taliban takeover in August. The health sector has been hit especially hard, with many healthcare workers fleeing due to unpaid salaries.

"It's an uphill battle as starvation grips the country," Margaret Harris told Geneva-based journalists by telephone from the capital Kabul. "The world must not and cannot afford to turn its back on Afghanistan."

Nighttime temperatures are falling below zero degrees Celsius and colder temperatures are expected to make the old and the young more susceptible to other diseases, Harris said. In some places, people are chopping down trees to provide fuel for the hospitals amid widespread



shortages, she added.

Harris did not have numbers for the number of children who had already died from malnutrition but described "wards filled with tiny little children", including with a seven-month old baby whom she described as "smaller than a newborn".

Measles cases are rising in the country and WHO data shows 24,000 clinical cases had so far been reported.

"For malnourished children, measles is a

death sentence. We will see so many more deaths if we don't move on this quickly," Harris said.

On Wednesday, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said as many as 4,000-5,000 Afghans have been crossing into Iran daily since the Taliban seized Kabul in August and hundreds of thousands more are expected to arrive in the coming winter.

The aid group said as many as 300,000 Afghans have crossed the border since the Taliban victory and it called for more international support for Iran, which is grappling with a deep economic crisis of its own.

"Iran cannot be expected to host so many Afghans with so little support from the international community," NRC Secretary General Jan Egeland said in a statement. "There must be an immediate scale up of aid both inside Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries like Iran, before the deadly winter cold."

The shock victory of the Taliban as the last U.S. troops were preparing to leave Afghanistan, prompted a mass exodus of officials and others connected with the former Western-backed government and other vulnerable Afghans.

## MOVE TO END BLASPHEMY PROTESTS

# Pakistan takes far-right leader off terrorism watchlist

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

Pakistan has removed far-right leader Saad Rizvi from its terrorism watchlist, paving the way for his release from detention under a deal to end weeks of deadly protests by his followers over alleged blasphemy.

The move on Thursday came a week after the government agreed to free 2,000 detained members of his Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) movement, lifted a ban on the group and agreed to let it contest elections.

In return, the TLP has agreed to shun the politics of violence and withdraw a demand to have France's ambassador expelled over the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad by a French magazine, negotiators have said.

The TLP took to the streets in mid-October, kicking off weeks of protests

and clashes that killed at least seven policemen, injured dozens on both sides and blocked the country's busiest highway.

At the height of the violence, Prime Minister Imran Khan's government banned the TLP, designated it a terrorist group and arrested Rizvi. A government notification said the TLP chief Saad Rizvi's name was "hereby deleted" from the terrorism watchlist after authorities lifted the ban.

It did not go into further details. But legal experts said a removal from the watchlist would be a legal prerequisite for any release. The TLP, which can mobilise thousands of supporters, was born in 2015 out of a protest campaign to seek the release of a police guard who assassinated a provincial governor in 2011 over his calls to reform blasphemy legislation.

## Prepare for emergency steps

India's pollution board orders states as Delhi's smog worsens

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's federal pollution control board yesterday ordered states and local bodies to be in "complete readiness" for emergency measures to tackle New Delhi's worsening smog conditions due to a drop in temperature and wind speeds.

A thick haze of toxic smog hung over the Indian capital, exacerbated by a spike in the burning of crop waste in surrounding farmlands.

It reduced visibility and the Air Quality Index (AQI) hit 470 on a scale of 500, according to the federal pollution control board. This level of pollution means the air will affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing diseases.

According to the pollution board's "Graded Response Action Plan", air quality remaining "severe" for 48 hours must prompt states and local bodies to impose emergency measures that include shutting down schools, imposing 'odd-even' restrictions on private cars based on their number plates, and stopping all construction.

In a circular late yesterday, the board said the government and private offices should reduce the use of private transport by 30% and advised the city's residents to limit outdoor exposure.

Earlier this week, local authorities had ordered a shutdown of brick kilns, increased the frequency of mechanized cleaning and a crackdown on garbage burning and dust. The concentration of poisonous PM2.5 particulate matter averaged 329 micrograms per cubic meter of air.



PHOTO: AFP

East Timorese take to the streets to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre in Dili yesterday, to remember when Indonesian troops opened fire on a peaceful protest at Santa Cruz Cemetery in 1991 during a memorial service for pro-independence activist Sebastiao Gomes, killing more than 250 people.

# Nat'l security 'compromised'

India's Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacks govt over 'Chinese village in Arunachal'

TOI, New Delhi

India's Congress leader Rahul Gandhi yesterday attacked the Centre citing different takes by the ministry of external affairs and Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat on the issue of Chinese village at the border.

"Our national security is unpardonably compromised because GOI has no strategy and Mr 56" is scared," Rahul tweeted taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi using his old "56-inch chest" remark made in the run up to 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

"My thoughts are with the soldiers risking their lives to guard our borders while GOI churns out lies," the Congress leader said in another tweet.

The controversy over Chinese village took centre stage after the US Department of Defence, in a report, said that China built a large village inside disputed territory between its Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern sector of the LAC.

In an official reaction to the US report, the external affairs ministry

said India has neither accepted China's "illegal occupation of its territory nor any unjustified Chinese claims".

In a weekly media briefing on Thursday, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "China has undertaken construction activities in the past several years along the border



areas including in the areas that it has illegally occupied over the decades. India has neither accepted such illegal occupation of our territory nor has it accepted the unjustified Chinese claims."

However, an hour later, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Bipin Rawat said the controversy about the Chinese coming into the Indian territory and building a new village is "not true",

and that the villages were well within the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

He also asserted that China has not transgressed the Indian "perception" of the LAC.

"The present controversy - that has erupted - that the Chinese have come across into our territory and built a new village is not true," Rawat said at "Times Now Summit 2021."

"But what I wish to come out with is that Chinese are building villages possibly for billeting and locating their civilians or for their military in the future all along the LAC, particularly after the recent face-offs that we have had," the CDS added.

Attacking the government over the issue, Congress leader P Chidambaram said it is time defence minister Rajnath Singh drew a line in his ministry and asked the CDS to remain "well within his side of the LAC," the Congress leader said.

"It is time for the defence minister to draw a LAC in the defence ministry and ask the CDS to remain well within his side of the LAC," the Congress leader said.

# Australian PM Scott Morrison denies lying

Rejects French accusation

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison denied having ever lied in public life yesterday and said he had the thick skin needed to deal with allegations of dishonesty including from French President Emmanuel Macron.

Asked if he had ever told a lie in public life, Morrison told an interviewer on Melbourne's 3AW radio: "I don't believe I have, no, no."

Macron this month accused the Australian leader of outright lying to him over a multi-billion-dollar submarine contract with Australia, which was scrapped without warning in September.

Macron discovered at the last moment that Australia had secretly negotiated a deal to buy nuclear-powered submarines in talks with the United States and Britain.

"I don't think. I know," Macron said when asked by Australian reporters if Scott Morrison was untruthful in their private dealings.

Former Australian prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, a bitter rival from within the same conservative Liberal Party, added to the controversy by saying Morrison had a reputation for lying.

Morrison's truthfulness has become a major point of debate in Australian politics, and a potential point of weakness as he seeks a second term in elections expected next May.

# LANCET STUDY Covaxin 'highly efficacious'

AFP, Paris

Covaxin, the first Covid-19 vaccine developed in India, is "highly efficacious" and presents no safety concerns, according to a study published in the Lancet on Thursday.

Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech, gained emergency approval from the World Health Organization last week and has already been cleared for use in 17 countries.

The UN body has described it as "extremely suitable for low- and middle-income countries due to easy storage requirements".

Some of the other approved vaccines must be stored at very low temperatures, which throws up logistical and cost problems.



CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY BANGLADESH



Office of the Superintending Engineer  
Civil Circle, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229.



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File No. 30.31.0000.421.04.011.21.587

Date: 11/11/2021

### E-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that e-Tender is invited and published in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following Tender. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Sl No	Tender ID	Brief description of Works	Tender Reference No.	Last date & time of selling	Last date & time of submission
01.	621117	Construction of Ambagan new Mosque complex with other associated works at HSIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.	30.31.0000.401.14.160.21.342 Date-23-09-2021	08-Dec-2021 14:30	09-Dec-2021 15:00

Further information and guidelines is available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-2050

(A.H. Md Nuruddin Chowdhury)  
Superintending Engineer (c.c)  
Civil Circle, CAAB, Dhaka-1229.  
email:- [supengcivil@caab.gov.bd](mailto:supengcivil@caab.gov.bd)





## ‘Fearless Australia out to win’

AFP, Dubai

Coach Justin Langer on Friday said Australia will come out with a “mindset” of winning the Twenty20 World Cup final against New Zealand regardless of the all-important toss factor.

The flip of the coin has weighed heavily in the tournament staged in the United Arab Emirates with Dubai -- venue of Sunday’s final -- witnessing 11 wins out of 12 matches for the team batting second.

Australia became the latest to win after opting to bowl first against Pakistan on Thursday when they chased down 177 with one over and five wickets to spare in the second semifinal.

“Finchy actually thought about batting last night because it was a big final but people talked him out of it,” Langer told reporters.

“Can’t deny the statistics. In the final, you know how close it got last night, it could have gone either way. Very important we have the mindset whether we bat first or bowl first that we can win from any situation.”

Australia were in trouble at 96-5 in their chase when Marcus Stoinis (40) and Matthew Wade (41) put on an unbeaten stand of 81 to halt Pakistan’s juggernaut of five wins in the Super

12 stage.

The left-handed Wade, a wicketkeeper-batsman, smacked pace ace Shaheen Shah Afridi for three straight sixes to close the game in the 19th over.

Stoinis also admitted the toss has played a big part in deciding matches but hoped the pitch in the final “takes that element of the game out of it, little bit more.”

Langer hailed the team’s “fearless” approach as he talked of Stoinis hitting a six off Shadab Khan one ball after the leg-spinner took down Glenn Maxwell.

“When Marcus Stoinis -- the ball after the wicket -- hit the six off the leggie, that’s what you call fearless cricket,” said Langer.

“And if you are going to win this tournament we have got to continue on with the way we played Bangladesh (in a group game when they chased won 74 in 6.2 overs), bat first or second, that fearless or aggressive batting is going to be crucial.”

The trans-tasmanic contest will bring back memories of the 2015 50-over final in Melbourne when Australia beat New Zealand to lift their fifth ODI World Cup.

“We have been born up watching the All Blacks. The way New Zealand have gone about their business for the last few years has been

outstanding,” said Langer.

“They are really good bunch of blokes. They get on with the job and get it done. We have to be at our best like we have been throughout this tournament to beat New Zealand.

“Great respect and friendship between both teams. We are looking forward to this contest. Lot of history.”

Both the team are searching for their first T20 World Cup title after six attempts.

The coach praised the team’s balance starting with what he called as “one of the best opening partnerships in the world and in our history of white-ball cricket” between skipper Aaron Finch and Warner.

“Aaron Finch, Dave Warner is a no brainer,” said Langer. “Mitch Marsh grabbed his opportunity in the West Indies. I have never seen him play as well he has been playing. So he is the final piece of the puzzle for us.

“Maxi fits in. Steve Smith is the Mr. Fixit. Talk about finishers and so pleasing to see Marcus Stoinis and Matthew Wade grabbing that opportunity.”

The former opener took over in the aftermath of the notorious “Sandpaper-gate” ball-tampering tour of South Africa in 2018 and was widely praised for rebuilding the culture of Australian cricket.

## Tigers’ chance to learn from Pak’s T20 quest

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dubai

From lying on the ICU bed for two days after suffering a severe chest infection to smashing a blistering fifty against Australia in the semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan’s heroics have been praised all around the globe although his side ended up losing the game.

Rizwan’s dedication and determination towards the game was only revealed after Pakistan’s team doctor Najeebullah Soomro talked about it in the post-match press conference after Australia beat Pakistan by five wickets in Dubai on Thursday.

Rizwan’s bravery could be a great lesson for the Bangladeshi players, especially skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who got carried away after qualifying for the Super 12 stage and went on to point out the hard work and sacrifice players make for the country.

Being a Test playing nation, it was expected that Bangladesh would reach the Super 12 stage with some authority by winning against the associate nations in the qualifying stage. However, Bangladesh lost their tournament opener against Scotland and that, expectedly, drew a barrage of criticism.

Bangladesh’s job was only half done after qualifying for the Super 12 stage

Mushfiquur Rahim asking the naysayers ‘take a look in the mirror’, swaying the attention from on the field to off it.

Meanwhile, Pakistan, who had to endure two last-minute home series cancellations, remained focused on their goal and worked accordingly instead of throwing tantrums during press conferences.

Even though Babar Azam’s side failed to reach the final despite playing some brilliant cricket throughout the tournament, it was their attitude and approach towards achieving the target that Bangladesh can adopt to transform into a better unit.

Bangladesh had missed the opportunity to prepare themselves accordingly ahead of the World Cup. They played Australia and New Zealand at home on slow and low Mirpur surfaces rather than facing the challenge in sporting tracks against tougher opponents.

Interestingly, both New Zealand and Australia will be facing each other in the final of the mega event tomorrow.

However, the Tigers will get yet another opportunity to rectify their mistakes both on and off the field as Pakistan will directly arrive in Dhaka from Dubai today to take part in a three-match T20I series. They will also play two Tests after that.

Skipper Babar and Shoaib Malik,



and the way Mahmudullah went on to express his anger and emotions after the game against Papua New Guinea was probably uncalled for.

The Tigers needed to hold on to their emotions, just like Pakistan did after New Zealand and England cancelled their scheduled tour to the country prior to the World Cup citing security reasons.

Instead, the players opted to engage in the war of words with players like

however, will join the team in Bangladesh on November 16 ahead of the first T20I on November 19 in Mirpur.

It will be important for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), team management and the players to realise the importance of addressing the actual problem and find ways to improve instead of looking for an escape as they often do after every debacle.



## Seifert to step up after Conway injury debacle

REUTERS

New Zealand will bring Tim Seifert in to replace Devon Conway in Sunday’s T20 World Cup final against Australia after the wicketkeeper-batsman broke his right hand with a frustrated punch of his bat following his dismissal against England.

Conway, who hit a 38-ball 46 in Wednesday’s semifinal win, was sore and sorry after being ruled out of both the World Cup decider and the following tour of India.

“While it’s not the smartest thing he’s done there’s certainly an element of bad luck in the injury,” New Zealand coach Gary Stead said. “He’s certainly remorseful around it, it’s an honest mistake he’s made.

“He knows it’s having an impact on our team as well but that will provide an opportunity for someone else to come into the side and step up on the biggest stage now.

“Sometimes strange things happen and we find heroes in other places as well.”

Conway’s injury is a needless headache for Stead and captain Kane Williamson as New Zealand prepare for their first World T20 final against an Australian team with their tails up after beating Pakistan in Thursday’s semifinal.

Seifert has not played a match since the Black Caps were well beaten by Pakistan in their tournament opener over two weeks ago. Conway batted at number four against England but Seifert, who was seventh in the order against Pakistan, would be unlikely to replace his team mate in the higher slot.

New Zealand have known only heartbreak in World Cup finals, beaten by England on boundary-count in the 50-over tournament in 2019 and crushed by Australia in the 2015 edition.

“They’ve got a bunch of guys who are real match-winners as well,” Stead said of Australia, who are also bidding for their first T20 title.

## Pakistan to arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Pakistan cricket team will arrive in Dhaka this morning for a three-match T20I series and two World Test Championship (WTC) fixtures against Bangladesh.

Pakistan are expected to touch down at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at around 8:10am from Dubai, where they lost the semifinal of the ongoing T20 World Cup against Australia by five wickets.

The Pakistan team will directly enter a bio-secure bubble at a hotel in the capital after landing. According to government mandated protocols, the players can start practising from the next day given they return negative Covid tests after arrival.

Pakistan will play the three T20Is against Bangladesh on November 19, 20 and 22 -- all at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, with a 2:00pm starting time.

The teams will play the first Test from November 26 at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram before playing the second Test in Mirpur from December 4.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will tour New Zealand for two WTC fixtures in Mount Maunganui and Christchurch in January next year, New Zealand Cricket confirmed yesterday.

## The party falls flat

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket fans reacted largely with good grace and humour Friday to their team’s exit from the Twenty20 World Cup, after an unbeaten run to the semi-finals had given the nation hope they could win the title for a second time.

The team bowed out on Thursday night, losing by five wickets to Australia in a see-saw match in Dubai settled with an over to spare.

The national mood was summed up by Prime Minister Imran Khan -- a former captain and one of cricket’s all-time greats -- who said the side should be proud.

“I know exactly how all of you are feeling right now because I have faced similar disappointments on the cricket field,” he tweeted. “But you should all be proud of the quality of cricket you played & the humility you showed in

your wins.”

He also congratulated Australia, who face neighbours New Zealand in Sunday’s final.

Tens of thousands of fans gathered on Thursday night in parks, clubs and shopping malls to watch the semi-final, which was broadcast on giant screens erected for the occasion.

It was very much a party atmosphere, particularly as the Pakistani opening pair played the Australian attack, before a wobble saw the team finish on 176-4 after 20 overs.

Some were prematurely celebrating victory as the first Australian wicket fell for just one run. But the bubble burst and the Aussies bashed their way to victory -- Matthew Wade finishing with a spectacular three sixes in a row.

Fans on social media heaped blame for the loss on Hasan Ali, vilified after dropping a catch at a key point of the match.

But many more leapt to his defence, pointing out how many times he had

won games for Pakistan.

“We were struck dumb and all clutched our heads,” said Areeba Shakeel, a technology student who watched with friends at a shopping mall in Karachi.

“Everybody was blaming Hasan for the defeat,” she told AFP.

Amna Baig, a police officer with a huge social media presence in the country, had urged her followers not to fire weapons in the air in the event of a Pakistan victory -- a common occurrence often with fatal consequences.

“At least we are safe from aerial firing tonight,” she tweeted after the match.

“Thank Hasan Ali,” came one reply. Shaniara Akram, the Australian wife of Pakistan cricket great Wasim Akram, told her followers where her loyalties lay after the match.

“No matter where my feet are, my heart seems to always be in Pakistan!” she tweeted.



Cricket fans in Karachi watch a live telecast of the T20 World Cup semifinal between Australia and Pakistan on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP



What to WATCH

SONY SIX

World Cup Qualifiers

Wales vs Belarus

Live from 1:45 (Sunday)

T SPORTS & TEN 2

World Cup Qualifiers

Bosnia and Herzegovina vs Finland

Live from 8:00 pm

Norway vs Latvia

Live from 11:00 pm

T SPORTS

World Cup Qualifiers

France vs Kazakhstan

Live from 1:45 am (Sunday)

TEN 2

World Cup Qualifiers

Belgium vs Estonia

Live from 1:45 am (Sunday)



Brazil's Lucas Paqueta (C) celebrates with Vinicius Junior and Neymar after scoring against Colombia during their 1-0 win, which sealed the South American country's qualification for Qatar 2022, in Sao Paulo on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Brazil pursuing excellence, says Tite

AGENCIES



Brazil head coach Tite said the Selecao are pursuing excellence after booking their ticket to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Lucas Paqueta's second-half strike secured a 1-0 win over Colombia on Thursday and Brazil's Qatar 2022 qualification with five games to spare.

Paqueta broke the deadlock 18 minutes from time in Sao Paulo, where he linked up with Neymar to guide Brazil to their 12th match without defeat in the CONMEBOL section of qualifying.

Brazil have now won their last 11 home games in World Cup qualifying – the longest winning streak of any team in CONMEBOL history.

Despite Brazil's World Cup

birth already certain, Tite and the five-time world champions are refusing to rest on their laurels ahead of Tuesday's showdown against bitter rivals Argentina.

"Solidity, having creation, having a goal and winning," Tite told reporters. "That is excellence. Creation and scoring, defensive solidity and triumphs. That is what moves us."

"We have to get as close to that. Tomorrow [Friday] we are going to fraternise a little to celebrate the moment."

Tite added: "My greatest joy is sharing the joy. It is priceless when I look at the technical commission, at the people who work in the selection day by day. It is the way, the dignity with which we do our work."

Since taking charge in 2016, former Corinthians boss Tite has overseen 50 wins from 67 matches,

with 12 draws and five defeats to go with 2019 Copa America glory.

"The only thing that moves me is doing a whole cycle, something that was not done at the last opportunity," Tite said, in reference to being appointed during Brazil's 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign before losing in the quarter-finals in Russia.

"That's what moved me."

"I didn't volunteer for the selection, my manager didn't go honking in anyone's ear, I worked to get there. I took it halfway through a process, we went all the way, you know the story, I was invited back later for a whole process. Just like I did at Gremio, Corinthians, Caxias."

"Then I thought, I thought, man, maybe my professional trajectory will allow me to do an entire period. That's what moves me."

Paqueta has proved to be an influential member of Tite's Brazil since leaving Serie A giants Milan for Ligue 1's Lyon, where he has rediscovered his best form since the 2020 transfer.

Half of Paqueta's goals for Brazil (three of six) have been assisted by star team-mate Neymar.

"The qualification is the result of work that we have been building back there," Paqueta said. "Our goal was to qualify Brazil for the World Cup, and thank God we managed to do that today."

"I have to adapt to my roles, and that gives me a little more confidence to be fighting for my space," said Paqueta.

"No matter where I play, I hope to do my best. I have to think one step at a time to conquer my space and fulfil my dream of playing the World Cup."

# 'Want to break the 18-year winless streak'

SPORTS REPORTER



On the back of a disappointing stalemate against Seychelles, Bangladesh are eager to bounce back in their second match of the Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy against Maldives at the Racecourse Stadium in Colombo today.

The match will get underway at 4:30 pm Bangladesh time before hosts Sri Lanka take on Seychelles at 9:30 pm in the same venue.

All four teams have played one game so far and gained one point apiece and now Bangladesh's upcoming tie against Maldives becomes vital if the Men in Red and Green want to stay in contention for a spot in the final.

However, Bangladesh are up against a stern test, having had lost all four matches they played against Maldives over the past 18 years, where the latest defeat came in the SAFF Championship last month.

Head coach Mario Lemos is confident before the Maldives encounter as he is more familiar with the Islanders than Seychelles, who held Bangladesh to a 1-1 draw with a late strike.

"We had less information about Seychelles but having played against Maldives in the SAFF Championship, it gives us a better idea of how we want to play against them."

"We definitely want to bounce back because we didn't achieve the result we wanted [against Seychelles]. It is football and we have to move on. We are completely focused on Maldives," the Portuguese coach said at the pre-match conference yesterday.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan is well aware of Maldives' strength and emphasised on neutralising the Maldivian forwards.

"We know the strong side of Maldives, especially their forward lineup. So we have to stop the supply to their three forwards, who I think are stronger than their other players," said Jamal with the hope of leaving the field with maximum points.

"Tomorrow's match is vital for us. I believe in my team and the game plan. I hope tomorrow is our day and we can do something great to secure all three points."

"But we also have to remember that it's a vital game for Maldives as well. So I think both teams will play attacking football," Jamal added.

Lemos urged the players to be more clinical in the attacking third against Maldives. "We also want to win the match and we are not going to just defend. We want to be strong in transition and have the courage to penetrate their box, so that we don't waste chances like we did against Seychelles. We are motivated to beat Maldives and want to break the 18-year winless streak," Lemos concluded.



Club Cup champions Mariner Youngs Club exacted some measure of revenge with a 5-2 win over Mohammedan in their first meeting of this season's Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League yesterday. Mariners, who narrowly lost out to Mohammedan in the title race of the last league three years ago, have moved to 30 points from 10 matches, opening up a six-point gap over the Black and Whites, who have played nine matches.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# BHF to reveal Asian Champs Trophy squad by Nov 20

SPORTS REPORTER

With Asian Champions Trophy getting underway in Dhaka from December 14, Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is planning to start the national team's camp right after the ongoing Premier Division Hockey League ends on November 27.

The eight-member selection committee, led by BHF vice-president Sajad AA Adel, is expected to reveal the final squad by November 20, just one day after the Super Five phase of the ongoing league begins.

"The committee has been observing games since the start of the season but three vital matches of the league are still left. So, we want to watch these three matches -- Mohammedan vs Mariner Youngs, Abahani vs Mariner Youngs and Abahani vs Mohammedan -- before picking the final squad of 18 members and five standby players," Adel told The Daily Star before Mohammedan

FIXTURES			
DATE	MATCH	DATE	MATCH
Dec 14	Korea v India	Dec 18	Malaysia v India
	Bangladesh v Malaysia		Japan v Bangladesh
Dec 15	Japan v Pakistan	Dec 19	Pakistan v Korea
	India v Bangladesh		India v Japan
Dec 16	Malaysia v Pakistan	Dec 21	Korea v Malaysia
	Korea v Japan		Pakistan v Bangladesh
	India v Pakistan	Dec 22	5th & 6th place matches and semifinals
	Malaysia v Japan		3rd & 4th place matches and final
	Bangladesh v Korea		

took on Mariner Youngs yesterday.

Replying to a query, Adel said, "We don't want to pick a preliminary squad because the national team will get only two weeks before playing their first match. So, we want all the players to concentrate on the tournament," said the former national player.

The game's local governing body is considering starting the camp either on November 29 or

30, even though they have not yet appointed a head coach following the resignation of Mahbub Harun due to health issues.

BHF acting general secretary Mohammad Yousuf said they have not considered anyone as of now, but Adel recommends appointing a local coach who has been involved with the domestic league, as the federation has little time to experiment with an appointment.

# 'Making MotoGP popular my biggest achievement'

REUTERS

Seven-time MotoGP world champion Valentino Rossi said he was pleased with his achievement in a glittering 25-year career of popularising the sport as he prepared for his final race at the Valencia Grand Prix.

The 41-year-old Italian will make his 432nd Grand Prix start this weekend having amassed a record 89 wins and 199 podium finishes in MotoGP.

"I think that the most positive thing in my career is that a lot of people started to follow MotoGP to follow my career from the beginning, and the sport became bigger, more famous in Italy but also all around the world," Rossi told reporters on Thursday.

"It's good to understand that during my career I became something different, something like an icon and this is a great, great pleasure also if for a rider it's more important what happens on track, the result, everything."

Rossi started his career in the 125cc category and won a world title in 1997, followed by the 250cc championship in 1999.



He moved to the premier class a year later and won seven titles between 2001 and 2009.

"I always imagined this presser... this is a strange feeling. I want to keep it normal but that's not possible. Great emotion right now," said Rossi, who took part in a special ceremony during which all his championship-winning bikes were presented before the media.

The Petronas Yamaha rider said he was disappointed at being unable to add a 10th world title.

"I fought a lot for the 10th championship... I was able to race at a good level. My last title in 2009 was a lifetime ago. I would have been happy to win another championship but I cannot complain. I had a great career," added Rossi.

Rossi has had a difficult final season, collecting only 38 points and achieving no podium finishes.

Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo sealed the title ahead of Ducati's Francesco Bagnaia at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix last month to become the first Frenchman to win a MotoGP world championship.

# Djokovic, Tsitsipas to meet in ATP Finals

AFP, Rome

Novak Djokovic will face Stefanos Tsitsipas for the first time since their epic French Open title duel in June at the ATP Finals which start on Sunday.

World number one Djokovic, who is looking to equal Roger Federer's record of six end-of-season titles, was drawn with Tsitsipas, Andrey Rublev and Casper Ruud in his group at the November 14-21 tournament in Turin.

Daniil Medvedev, the world number two and defending champion, is in the other pool alongside Alexander Zverev, Matteo Berrettini and Hubert Hurkacz.

Djokovic famously came back from two sets to love down to beat Greece's Tsitsipas at the French Open final to win his second Roland Garros.



(L) Pablo Sarabia's spot-kick sealed a 1-0 win for Spain against Greece as La Roja took a huge step towards next year's World Cup in Qatar. (R) Meanwhile, Germany, who have already qualified, showed no mercy to hammer the 10-men Liechtenstein 9-0 as Hansi Flick became the first coach to win his first six games in charge of the national side.

PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP





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## GAS LEAK EXPLOSION Two killed, 7 hurt in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two women were killed after walls of a building fell and a fire broke out following an explosion in Narayanganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

Seven others were injured in the incident.

Fire service officials suspected that gas that accumulated from a leak in a gas burner caused the explosion. The incident happened on the ground floor of five-storey "Mujahid Villa" at Shiachar.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

Of the two deceased, Maya Rani Das, 40, was killed in wall collapse, while Kakoli Rani, 25, died from burn injuries at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. The two were garment workers.

The injured were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and other hospitals.

Abdullah Al Arefin, assistant deputy director of Narayanganj fire service and civil defence, said it took two fire engines to control the fire.

He said due to the explosion, portions of walls and windows of five rooms on the ground floor collapsed.

The official said primarily it was suspected that gas that leaked from a burner accumulated inside the rooms. The explosion might have happened when the burner or electric switch was switched on, he added.

Following the explosion, the building became risky for living. As a result, residents of the building were shifted elsewhere, he added.

Locals said they heard a loud bang around 6:00am and saw many people coming out of the building in fear. After

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Farmers busy preparing saplings for winter vegetables at Sirajdikhan of Munshiganj. Growers from all over the country come to this place to collect the saplings touted to be the best for vegetables production.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## POST-COUP MYANMAR US journo jailed for 11 years

AFP, Yangon

A Myanmar junta court yesterday sentenced an American journalist to 11 years in prison on charges of unlawful association, incitement against the military and breaching visa rules, his employer and lawyer said.

The military has squeezed the press since taking power in a February coup, arresting dozens of journalists critical of its crackdown on dissent.

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### PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 13

Fazr	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

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

## Pakistan-China meeting at UN

NOVEMBER 13, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**BACK HOME, INDIRA GANDHI WARNS OF RISING DANGER**  
Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, returning from a three-week Western tour, said today that the military confrontation with Pakistan was becoming "less and less tolerable".

In her 10-minute airport meeting with the press, she carefully avoided giving any hint of what steps she was contemplating to deal with the border crisis.

"Do you think the Bangladesh problem can be solved without a war?" she was asked.

"This has also been exercising my mind and the minds of the leaders I met," she answered.

Asked about reports in the foreign press that she and President Nixon had found "no common ground" in their talks, she said this was "not entirely correct." She did not elaborate.

**PAKISTAN-CHINA MEETING**  
China's chief delegate to the United Nations, Chiao Kuan'hua, and his deputy, Huang Hua, today discussed the India-Pakistan dispute and United Nations matters for an hour and 30 minutes with

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



## 2 Bangladeshi cattle traders shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two Bangladeshi cattle traders were shot dead and another suffered bullet wounds as the Indian Border Security Force opened fire in the border area of Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila early yesterday, said locals.

The BSF, however, claimed that the Bangladeshis had crossed inside their territory and that it had to fire shots in self-defence after it came under attack.

The deceased were Idris Ali, 30, and Bhasani Mia, 32, both from Malgara village of Kaliganj upazila. The injured, Shafiqul Islam, 28, of the same village, went missing after being shot, said Gorol Union Parishad Chairman Mahmudul Islam.

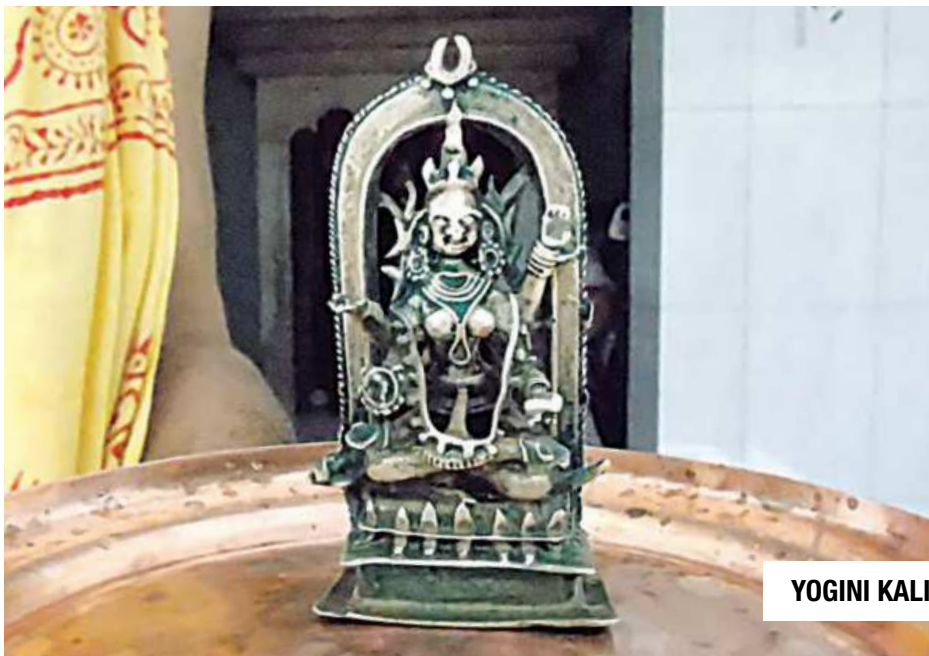
"Border Guard Bangladesh [BGB] Battalion-15 was informed about the shooting. They told us that steps would be taken to bring back the bodies and the missing person," he told The Daily Star.

According to locals, the incident happened near border pillar-917 in Burirhat-Malgara border area of the upazila's Gorol union as members of the Bhandaria Camp-7 of BSF opened fire on a group of

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# Rare, yet to be recorded

10 Middle Ages sculptures spotted in 4 Sylhet temples



YOGINI KALI

TARUN SARKAR

Four Sylhet temples have long been housing 10 Middle Ages sculptures, including a rare five-faced Shivalinga and a goddess on a corpse, but historians and archaeologists were unaware of their existence.

Each of them bears signs of ancient Shaivism practice in the region, but there is no mention of them in existing books or historical documents in Bangladesh, researchers and archaeologists have said.

Experts are particularly excited about two gems -- the rare quintuple-faced (five-faced) Shivalinga and the ancient four-handed goddess. Both were spotted by this correspondent during a visit to the Kali Temple in August 2021. The historic temple is located on Amzad Ali Sarak near the Sylhet Circuit House.

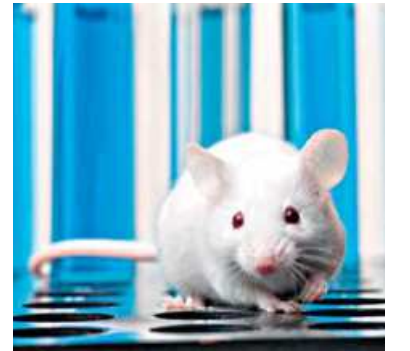
Independent researchers and archaeologists from Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University confirmed their identity when photos taken from different angles were shared with them.

The "finds" will help reconstruct the history of the ancient Sylhet region, they said. Established around the year 1800 by Kalicharan Bhattacharjee, the Kali Temple is listed among the popular places of worship in the region.

The quintuple-faced Shivalinga is one foot and nine inches tall and is made of black basalt stone.

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## New class of drug reverses paralysis in mice



AFP, Washington

US scientists have developed a new form of drug that promotes the regeneration of cells and reversed paralysis in mice with spinal injuries, allowing them to walk again within four weeks of treatment.

The research was published in the journal Science on Thursday, and the team of Northwestern University scientists behind it hope to approach the Food and Drug Administration as early as next year to propose human trials.

"The aim of our research was to develop a translatable therapy that could be brought to the clinic to prevent individuals from becoming paralyzed after major trauma or disease," Northwestern's Samuel Stupp, who led the study, told AFP. Curing paralysis is a longstanding goal of medicine, and other cutting-edge research in the field includes experimental treatments using stem cells to make new neurons (nerve cells).

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**Star HEALTHLINE**

## Take care of your teeth to AVOID CAVITIES

STAR HEALTH DESK

Dental caries, also known as tooth decay or cavity, is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases worldwide. It is a permanently damaged area in the hard surface of one's tooth that develops into tiny opening or hole.

This is caused by a combination of factors, including bacteria in the mouth, frequent snacking, sipping sugary drinks and not cleaning one's teeth well.

Individuals are susceptible to this disease throughout

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## AL leader shot dead in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A local Awami League leader was shot dead by unidentified men near his house in Mohisbathan area of Rajbari town early yesterday.

Abdul Latif Mia, 55, was the president of Baniboha Union Parishad (UP) Awami League and a former chairman of the UP.

He was hoping to be the AL nominee for UP chairman in the election to be held on December 28.

His nephew Ariful Islam said, "My uncle was coming home on his motorcycle from Baniboha bazar with our neighbour Mehedi Hossain around 12:10am. He dropped Mehedi in front of his house, which is about 600 yards from our house. As he was coming home, he saw some people standing on the road. He stopped and was turning around when they opened fire. Hearing his screams, the neighbours rushed there, but the gunmen had left by then. Five bullets hit his body... He was taken to Munnu Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead."

Mohammad Sahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rajbari Sadar Police Station, said police were looking for the suspects.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



Canada

### URGENT: Attention all Canadians in Bangladesh,

Due to the **COVID-19** pandemic we are strongly urging all Canadian Citizens to immediately register as a Canadian abroad (ROCA) at <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration> to enable you to receive important safety updates from the Government of Canada.

Please share this important information with other Canadian citizens in your area and encourage them to register with ROCA at <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration>

Global Affairs Canada

### URGENT : Attention à tous les Canadiens au Bangladesh,

En raison de la pandémie **COVID-19**, nous encourageons fortement tous les citoyens canadiens à s'inscrire immédiatement comme Canadien à l'étranger (ROCA) à <https://voyage.gc.ca/voyager/inscription> pour vous permettre de recevoir d'importantes mises à jour importantes en matière de sécurité de la part du gouvernement du Canada.

Veuillez partager cette information importante avec d'autres citoyens canadiens de votre région et les encourager à s'inscrire auprès de ROCA à <https://voyage.gc.ca/voyager/inscription>

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