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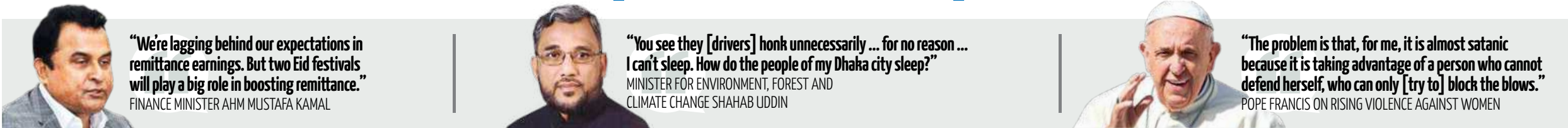
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Plastic menace worsening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's plastic consumption in urban areas tripled in the 15 years to 2020, found a World Bank study, in what can be viewed as a setback for the government's efforts to beat plastic pollution.

A large part of the plastic waste is dumped in water bodies and rivers, said the report titled "Towards a Multisectoral Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management in Bangladesh", which was unveiled yesterday.

Of the 977,000 tons of plastic consumed in 2020, only 31 percent were recycled, according to the report. The rest were mismanaged, ending up in landfills, rivers and canals, and drains and unserved areas.

"The unmanaged plastic waste can seriously pollute the environment and have far-reaching consequences on human health," Abu Hasnat Md Maqsood Sinha, a consultant for the report and executive director of Waste Concern, told The Daily Star.

The plastic waste mixes into the ecosystem -- into the soil, water bodies, air and food chain, he said.

"With rapid growth and urbanisation, Bangladesh faced a sharp increase in both plastic use and pollution," said Dandan Chen, acting country director of the WB.

And the pandemic has worsened plastic pollution, especially from single-use plastic used in masks, gloves and personal protective equipment, she said.

In 2020, the country's annual per capita plastic consumption in urban areas stood at 9 kg, up from 3 kg in 2005, according to the report.

"The average per capita plastic consumption in European countries is more than 100 kg -- much higher than in Bangladesh. But Bangladesh is one of the top plastic polluted countries due to mismanagement of plastic waste," said Bushra Nishat, environmental specialist of the World Bank, while presenting the report at the event.

The problem is worse in Dhaka city, where plastic usage is significantly higher than the national average.

In 2020, the per capita plastic consumption in Dhaka stood at 24 kg, up from 9.2 kg in 2005.

About 646 tons of plastic waste is generated daily in Dhaka, which is 10 percent of all wastes generated in Bangladesh. Only 37.2 percent of the plastic waste in Dhaka is recycled.

In this circumstance, sustainable management of plastic will be crucial for Bangladesh to tackle the increasing plastic pollution and ensure green

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PLASTIC POLLUTION

- Covid pandemic has worsened plastic pollution due to use of masks, gloves, and PPE
- 10% of total waste generated in Dhaka is plastic
- A large part of mismanaged plastic waste dumped in water bodies and rivers



PLASTIC USE IN 2020

- DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION 9.77 lakh tonnes
- RECYCLED 3 lakh tonnes
- MISMANAGED 6.77 lakh tonnes



CONSUMPTION

Per capita national use in 2005 **3kg**
Per capita National use in 2020 **9kg**
Per capita use in Dhaka in 2020 **24kg**

PLASTIC WASTE IN DHAKA

Everyday generation **646 tonnes**
Landfill **310.7 tonnes**
Canals and rivers **77.5 tonnes**
Drains and other areas **17.3 tonnes**
Recycled **240.5 tonnes**

MANAGEMENT TARGETS

Recycling **50%** of plastics by 2025
Recycling **90%** single-use plastic by 2026
Reducing plastic waste generation by **30%** by 2030

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN, TITU DAS

Friendly ties with all the countries

PM says it's necessary for country's socioeconomic progress

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government wants to maintain friendly relations with all countries in order to continue Bangladesh's socioeconomic progress.



The premier was addressing a function yesterday marking the handover of Bangabandhu Medal for Diplomatic Excellence 2020. She joined the event virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

On behalf of the PM, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen handed the newly introduced award to two recipients at the capital's Foreign Service Academy.

The recipients are: Rear Admiral (ret'd) Khurshid Alam, secretary of the Maritime Affairs Unit at the foreign ministry, and Syed Mohammad Al Muhari, former UAE ambassador to Bangladesh.

Hasina said she believes that the award will encourage Bangladeshi diplomats to be the best performers by discharging their duties with the utmost professionalism.

"Besides, the diplomats of our friendly countries will be encouraged to take the

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TALKS OVER ELECTION COMMISSION JP names 1 for EC, 4 for search panel

President hopes new commission to be formed on political consensus

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and RASHIDUL HASAN

During a dialogue with President Abdul Hamid yesterday, the Jatiya Party proposed the enactment of a law, as prescribed in the constitution, to form the Election Commission.

The opposition party also proposed enacting another law in line with the constitution that carries the provision for penalising any executive authorities who violate their duties to assist the Election Commission (EC) in the discharge of its functions.

In the three-point recommendation, they further proposed that the president promulgate ordinances regarding the issues if it is not possible to enact such laws in parliament before February 14 next year, when the term of the current EC led by Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda expires.

As per the constitution, the new EC has to be formed before the term of the current EC ends.

A JP leader, wishing anonymity, said the party had placed four names to the president as nominations for the search committee, which is expected to recommend names to the president for the formation of the EC.

Additionally, JP also nominated Rokhana Kader, a retired additional secretary and wife of JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun, as an election commissioner in case the new EC is formed without search committee recommendations, added the leader.

The JP placed the recommendations to Hamid on the first day of dialogues, initiated by the president, with political parties over the formation of the new EC.

As in 2012 and 2016, the president is expected to form a search committee from the nominations of different political parties. The search committee, after discussions with political parties, will then provide the president with a shortlist of candidates, from which the president will

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Bangladesh buying 2cr Sinopharm vaccines

Shipments to start arriving early next year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is procuring around 20 million Covid-19 vaccine doses from China, using funds given by the Asian Development Bank under bilateral arrangements.

The vaccines, manufactured by Chinese state-owned company Sinopharm, would start arriving in the country from early next year, said finance ministry officials.

To buy the doses, the government will use the remaining funds from the loan it had gotten from ADB, they said.

The Manila-based multilateral lender has already disbursed \$894 million of the \$940 million pledged for vaccine purchase as part of its "\$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility" launched in December last year.

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INFORMATION ON AVIJIT'S KILLERS US declares \$5m reward

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US State Department yesterday announced a \$5 million reward for information on the killing of Avijit Roy and the concurrent attack on his wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya in Dhaka in February 2015.

The Rewards Justice Programme (RFJ), the counterterrorism rewards programme of the department's Diplomatic Security Service, made the announcement in a statement yesterday.

On February 26, 2015, the Bangladesh-born US citizens were visiting Dhaka to attend Amar Ekushey Boi Mela when unidentified assailants attacked them with machetes. Avijit was killed and Bonya survived with critical injuries.

As an author, blogger, and activist, Avijit challenged fundamentalism in Bangladesh by advocating for freedom of expression. He coordinated international protests to raise awareness of the plight of imprisoned bloggers in Bangladesh and was a well-known critic of social repression, the RFJ said.

He was targeted and killed for his outspoken beliefs and activism.

The Ansarullah Bangla Team, a Bangladeshi militant group that claimed responsibility for the attack, seeks to radicalise youths to kill those deemed by it to be "anti-Islamic". Those responsible for the attack are believed to be in Bangladesh, the RFJ added.

Shortly thereafter, Asim Umar, the now-deceased leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), posted a widely circulated video claiming that AQIS followers,



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Three held over rape of woman in bus

STAR REPORT

Three bus staffers were arrested early yesterday in a case filed over gang-raping a woman in a bus in Narayanganj's Bandar upazila.

The arrestees are: bus driver Nurul Haque, 21, conductor, 16, and the driver's helper, 14.

According to the case statement, the victim, 18, boarded a bus in the capital's Jatrabari area around 10:00pm on Sunday to go to Gauchia of Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila.

When the bus reached Shimrail area on Dhaka-Chattogram highway, all its passengers except the victim got off.

The bus pulled over in Narayanganj's Madanpur. The driver, the conductor and the helper then gang-raped the woman playing music at high volume.

She was able to trick her way off the bus and call 999. A police team then rushed to the spot, rescued

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শুরু হতে যাচ্ছে →

বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্র

২৩-২৭ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২১

প্রতিদিন সকাল ১০টা - রাত ৯টা

প্রধান অতিথি: জনাব টিপু মুন্শি, এমপি
মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

বিশেষ অতিথি: জনাব শরীফ আহমেদ, এমপি
মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী, গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়

বিশেষ অতিথি: জনাব মোঃ শহীদ উল্লাহ খন্দকার
সচিব, গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়

বিশেষ অতিথি: জনাব মোঃ জসিম উদ্দিন
প্রেসিডেন্ট, একবিসিসিআই

গেস্ট অব অনার: জনাব এ বি এম আমিন উল্লাহ নূরী
চেয়ারম্যান, রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (রাজউক)

সভাপতি: জনাব আলমগীর শামসুল আলমিন (কাজল)
প্রেসিডেন্ট, রিহাব

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BANGLADESH UPDATE



260
New cases in 24hrs



15,81,343
Total cases



28,050
Deaths



15,45,807
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



5,373,012
Deaths



275,162,398
Total cases

Omicron raging through world

Warns Fauci, says traveling increases risk of infection among vaccinated people

AGENCIES

Top US pandemic advisor Anthony Fauci on Sunday warned of a bleak winter ahead as the Omicron coronavirus variant spurs a new wave of infections globally, sparking restrictions and concerns over hospital capacity.



Anthony Fauci

were experiencing mild symptoms.

Neither indicated whether they had been infected with Omicron.

Fauci urged unvaccinated Americans to get a shot and the vaccinated to get boosters, which have been shown to re-up protection. **TOUGH FEW WEEKS TO MONTHS'**

The administration of President Joe Biden, who is due to address the nation on pandemic developments today, has been campaigning hard for vaccination.

While a little more than 70 percent of the US population has had at least one shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, another 50 million eligible people remain unprotected, Fauci said.

"With Omicron... it is going to be a tough few weeks to months as we get deeper into the winter," he added.

Omicron now accounts for around three percent of cases in the United States, a figure that is expected to rise rapidly as has been seen in other countries.

On Saturday, New York state announced a record number of daily cases for the second day in a row, with almost 22,000 positive results.

Meanwhile, Europe's medicines watchdog yesterday approved a Covid jab by US-based Novavax, which uses a more conventional technology that the biotech firm hopes will reduce vaccine hesitancy.

The protein-based vaccine of the kind used around the world to protect against many childhood illnesses is the fifth coronavirus shot authorised for use in the European Union.

"EMA has recommended granting a conditional marketing authorisation for Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine Nuvaxovid to prevent Covid-19 in people from 18 years of age," the European Medicines Agency said in a statement.

"One thing that's very clear... is (Omicron's) extraordinary capability of spreading," Fauci told NBC News. "It is just... raging through the world."

Traveling will increase the risk of infection even among vaccinated people, he said.

Since it was first reported in South Africa in November, Omicron has been identified in dozens of countries, prompting many to reimpose travel restrictions and other measures.

Despite indications it is not more severe than the Delta variant -- currently still the dominant strain -- the heavily mutated Omicron has been shown in early data to have a worrying resistance to vaccines and higher transmissibility.

Fauci also cautioned against too much optimism over Omicron's severity, noting that in South Africa, while the hospitalization-to-case ratio is lower than with Delta, this could be due to underlying immunity from widespread previous infections.

"No matter how you look at it," he said, "when you have so many, many infections, even if it is less severe, that overcomes this slight to moderate diminution in severity."

"Our hospitals, if things look like they're looking now in the next week or two, are going to be very stressed," particularly in areas of the country with low levels of vaccination, Fauci said.

On Sunday, US Senators Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker each said separately on Twitter that they had tested positive for Covid-19 despite being vaccinated and boosted, and

Three held over rape

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the victim and arrested the trio.

Yesterday, the victim filed a case with Bandar Police Station accusing the three, said Dipok Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The victim was sent to a local hospital for medical examinations.

Later in the day, police produced the arrestees before a Narayanganj court. The court placed the driver on a three-day remand and sent the two others to Tongji Juvenile Development Centre in Gazipur, said Md Asaduzzaman, inspector of Narayanganj court police.

In Kushtia, the muzzelin of a mosque was sued on Saturday night for raping a hearing and speech impaired woman in Bheramara upazila.

Accused Shah Jamal, 55, is a resident of Koigaripara village in the same upazila.

Victim's family members said the 18-year-old woman went to a sugarcane field around 3:30pm on Saturday. As she was alone, Jamal forcibly took her inside the field and raped her.

Hearing her screams, some locals

rushed to the spot and rescued her. They caught Jamal, but he later managed to flee.

The victim's mother filed the case with Bheramara Police Station. She was sent to a local hospital for medical tests, said Mojibur Rahman, OC of the police station.

In Tangail, a youth was booked yesterday on charges of raping an 11-year-old child in Mirzapur upazila.

The accused, Anik, 18, is from Postkamuri Dakshinpara village in the same upazila.

Police said the victim and the accused are neighbours. Anik entered the victim's house on Saturday evening and raped her when she was alone.

The child shared the incident with her parents when they returned home. Rizaul Haque Dipu, OC of Mirzapur Police Station, said the victim's mother lodged a rape case yesterday accusing Anik.

The victim was sent to a local hospital for medical examinations.

Our correspondents in Narayanganj, Kushtia and Tangail contributed to this report.

Friendly ties with all

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relationship between Bangladesh and their respective countries to new heights," she added.

The foreign ministry awarded them with the Bangabandhu Medal in recognition of their excellent contributions to the diplomatic field.

Khurshid Alam played a significant role in the peaceful solution to maritime disputes with neighbouring India and Myanmar, while Mohammad Al Muhari played an important role in strengthening the Bangladesh-UAE bilateral ties.

The PM said Bangladesh resolved the maritime demarcation disputes with India and Myanmar maintaining friendly relations with them. "This is our diplomatic success."

Hasina said her government has relentlessly been working for the overall development of the country.

"We're following the policy formulated by the Father of the Nation. We won't let poor people remain poor anymore. The people of this country will be hunger- and poverty-free and will get developed and prosperous lives."

The premier said the government has been implementing massive programmes in order to attain the ideology and objectives of the Liberation War.

"The benefits of the victory achieved in the Liberation War will reach every house of Bangladesh. Every individual

will get food, education, medical treatment and a better life, which were the goals of Father of the Nation," she said, adding that her government has already gone far in attaining the goals.

She renewed her firm conviction to fulfil the dream of Bangabandhu ignoring all sorts of possible difficulties and barriers.

"I've nothing to win and nothing to lose as I've lost my parents, brothers and everything. But I made a decision that the dream, for what my father made this country independent, would have to be fulfilled, no matter how many difficulties, attacks and barriers come in my way," she said.

There will be nothing called "poverty" and "Monga" (seasonal food crisis) in Bangladesh, the PM said, adding that her objective is that every individual would live a decent life in the country.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shariar Alam announced the names of the award recipients.

Mohammad Al Muhari dedicated the medal to the people of the UAE and Bangladesh.

At the function, a book titled "Sheikh Hasina: Bimugdho Bishwa", highlighting the 40-year leadership of Hasina since 1981, was launched.

Awami League lawmakers Amir Hossain Amu, Abul Hasanat Abdullah and Matia Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion. Foreign diplomats stationed in Dhaka were present.



A Jatiya Party delegation, led by its Chairman GM Quader, with President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban yesterday -- the first day of talks over the formation of a new Election Commission.

PHOTO: PID

Plastic menace worsening

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growth, the report said.

While Bangladesh has taken steps in curbing plastic pollution over the years, the outcomes were varied.

For instance, in 2002, Bangladesh was the world's first country to ban plastic shopping bags.

However, after some time, plastic pollution increased again.

The Jute Packaging Act 2010 for six essential items (paddy, rice, wheat, maize, fertiliser, sugar) promoted an alternative to plastic packaging.

In 2020, a High Court directed concerned authorities to ban single-use plastic in coastal areas and all hotels and motels across the country.

And yet, plastic pollution prevails. The National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management has set a target of recycling 50 percent of plastics by 2025, phasing out targeted single-use plastic by 90 percent by 2026, and reducing plastic waste generation by 30 percent by 2030

from 2020/21 baseline.

The plan, which is aligned with the eighth five-year plan, focuses on the circular use of plastic based on the 3R strategy: reduce, reuse and recycle.

A circular economy will help create new value chains, green skills, employment, and innovative products while addressing social and environmental challenges, the report concluded.

To implement the National Action Plan, commitment from all stakeholders, including citizens, the government, private sector, development partners and citizens will be important, said Eun Joo Allison Yi, senior environment specialist at the WB, and co-author of the report.

To implement the action plan, the report identified policy reforms, technologies, infrastructure, investment and institutional capacity-building needs.

The report, which was prepared in collaboration with the Department of

Environment and ProBlue, a multi-donor trust fund, provided a blueprint for managing plastic pollution over the short-term (2022-2023), medium-term (2024-2026) and the long-term (2027-2030).

"Going forward, sustainable plastic management -- from designing a product to minimising plastic use, to recycling -- will be critical to ensure green growth for the country. We commend the government's commitment to implement a National Action Plan to beat plastic pollution," Chen said.

Speaking as chief guest, Md. Shahab Uddin, minister of forest, environment and climate change, stressed the enforcement of the law to reduce plastic pollution.

"The government wants to implement the 3R strategy through social inclusion. We have to encourage people to reduce the use of plastics," he said.

JP names 1 for EC, 4 for search panel

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form the new EC.

The next EC will oversee the 12th national election to be held between November 2023 and January 2024.

If it is not possible to enact laws and issue ordinances in that time, JP proposed that the next EC be formed through a search committee acceptable to all, party leaders said.

For the search committee, the party proposed names of an Appellate Division judge, a High Court judge, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of Bangladesh Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury and Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Sohorab Hossain, said the JP insider.

JP Chairman GM Quader declined to comment on the nomination of Roksana's name.

"The president in reply assured that he would consider the proposal and send it to relevant authorities," GM Quader, JP chairman and deputy leader of the opposition, told reporters emerging from the dialogue held at the Bangabhaban.

Chunnu said the president assured them that he will form a search committee comprising persons acceptable to all.

Hamid also hoped that formation of an acceptable EC would be possible

through the opinions and advice of political parties.

"The president said the new election commission will be able to hold all elections in free and fair manner and neutrally. He also sought cooperation from all political parties and civil society regarding the matter," said a Bangabhaban statement.

The eight-member JP delegation, led by GM Quader, engaged with the president for about an hour and a half from 4:00pm.

The other members of the delegation were JP MPs Anisul Islam Mahmud, Kazi Firoz Rashid, Moshir Rahman Ranga, Syed Abu Hossain Babla, Salma Islam, and Ruhul Amin Hawlader.

The party said according to Article 118 of the constitution, there should be a law to appoint the chief election commissioner and election commissioners, but no law has been enacted till date.

"We think a law should be enacted in line with constitutions before appointing the upcoming EC," said JP's written proposal, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star.

The party said as per Article 126 of the constitution, it shall be the duty of all executive authorities to assist the EC in discharging its functions.

"There is no detailed description of how this article will be effective and for that a law is needed," said the proposal.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, who was a justice of the Appellate Division, led the Hamid-formed search committee in 2017 to recommend names for the EC. Then PSC chairman and CAG were also members of the search committee.

The president will next hold a dialogue with Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) tomorrow.

The BNP is yet to say whether it would join the dialogue.

A senior BNP leader, wishing anonymity, said their party might not join as they think the new EC will be formed "as per the ruling party's wishes".

Meanwhile, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the president's dialogue over formation of the new EC was "important but not enough".

"EC was formed through a search committee following dialogue previously but it has not yielded the desired positive results. Therefore, a law is immediately needed to appoint a non-partisan, honest and acceptable EC," Iftekharuzzaman said in a statement.

Hasina asks AL men to work together for Ivy's win

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has directed party leaders and activists to work in unison to make AL candidate Selina Hayat Ivy winner in Narayanganj City Corporation polls.

She came up with the directive while talking to Jahangir Kabir Nanak, party coordinator to the NCC election and an AL presidium member, over phone yesterday afternoon.

At the time, Nanak was holding a meeting with AL Narayanganj district and city leaders at the AL president's political office in the city's Dhanmondi.

The AL president joined the meeting virtually and exchanged views with the AL leaders. She directed the AL men to work together to ensure the AL candidate's victory.

She said, "There are many candidates, but one has to be nominated. So we gave nomination to Ivy. Ivy is the candidate of boat symbol. Everyone will work for the victory of boat and that's what I want."

During the meeting, Sheikh Rehana, the younger sister of Hasina, greeted the AL leaders and workers and urged them to use masks to prevent coronavirus.

US declares \$5m

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including those yet to be arrested, were responsible for the attack on Avijit and Bonya.

The Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Dhaka on February 16 this year handed down death sentences to five militants and life imprisonment to another for killing Avijit.

Those handed the death sentence are Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque alias Major (sacked) Zia, Akram Hossain, Abu Siddique Sohel, Muzammel Hossain, and Arafat Rahman.

Life imprisonment was given to Shafiqur Rahman Farabi.

Major Zia and Akram are still on the run while the rest are behind bars.

Bonya, however, thinks prosecuting a few foot soldiers while ignoring the rise and roots of extremism does not deliver justice for Avijit's killing.

The US State Department said, "This investigation remains open and we are seeking information that will assist law enforcement agencies in bringing to justice the perpetrators of this heinous terrorist attack."

Contacted, Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, last night said most of those who took part in the attack were arrested and that the efforts to arrest Major Zia was on.

As per police intelligence, Zia is in Bangladesh, he said.

"The US' offering of reward could be a reflection of their strong policy against terrorism. We are also going strong against terrorists," he said.

Bangladesh buying 2cr

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Of the amount, the finance ministry used \$741 to buy 105 million vaccine doses from two Chinese drugmakers under the global arrangement -- Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (Covax) facility.

"Now we have around \$153 million in hand. We will be spending money from the remaining funds to buy the vaccines under the bilateral arrangements," said a top finance ministry official, preferring anonymity, adding that the cost of the vaccine doses cannot be disclosed.

Including the new 20 million doses, the government is procuring around 77 million vaccine shots from China under bilateral arrangements.

Although the country is supposed to get 105 million doses by December, as promised by Covax, the schedule was revised further.

"We are already getting vaccines [under the Covax facility] and hope to get all the doses by the end of January," the official said.

As of now, the government has administered the first dose to over 8.7 crore people while around 4.4 crore people got both doses.

So far, 25.89 percent of the country's population have been inoculated with double doses. The target is to vaccinate 80 percent.

Along with adult and vulnerable groups, the government is now administering vaccines on children aged 12 years and above as well.

On Sunday, it started administering booster doses to

health workers on a trial basis in Dhaka.

Bangladesh started the mass vaccination programme on February 7 this year for people aged 65 and above with 70 lakh Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines, produced by Serum Institute of India.

However, the country suffered frequent hiccups in its mass inoculation campaigns mainly due to a shortage of doses caused by a gap between supply commitments and actual delivery. The dearth in supply led to the suspension in administering the first dose on April 26.

The situation, however, improved as supplies started coming in from the US, China and Japan, prompting the government to resume administering the first dose on June 19 on a limited scale, and then gradually expanded.

At present, the government has a stock of some 4.45 crore doses, while two crore more will arrive next month, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque on Saturday.

"There is no shortage of Covid-19 vaccines right now," he said.

Meanwhile, the government has sought funds from ADB for turning Essential Drugs Company Limited in Gopalganj into an international vaccine institute.

The move came after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's gave instructions to equip the lone state-owned medicine manufacturer with modern facilities.

The regional lender, however, primarily agreed to lend around \$400 million budgetary support in this regard, said finance ministry officials.

Fear of syndicates still remains

Recruiters say over reopening Malaysian labour market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the Malaysian labour market reopened for Bangladeshi workers on Sunday, recruiting agencies yesterday voiced concern over the re-emergence of syndicates to send workers to Malaysia, a factor that led to corruption and closure of the market in the past.

The labour market reopened following signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two countries in Kuala Lumpur.

However, organisations of recruiting agencies expressed their aforementioned concern, saying that they are still uncertain over how to send workers to the reopened market.

Fakhrul Islam, former finance secretary of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), told this newspaper that none of the governments have publicised the details of the MoU yet. They have concerns over whether there are any clauses on the document that may facilitate syndicates.

Meanwhile, welcoming the signing, recruiting agencies under the banner "Sammilita Ganotantrik Jote" organised a press conference at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Addressing the conference, Mansur Ahmed Kalam, former secretary general of Baira, said they are yet to know about the procedure regarding their scope to send workers to Malaysia.

Baira member and lawmaker Lt Gen (ret'd) Masud Uddin Chowdhury said they might have to stage a protest, if the procedure does not fulfil their expectation.

Welcoming the MoU signing, another platform, "Owners of General Recruiting Agencies", organised a views-exchange programme on opening the labour market for licensed agencies at a city hotel on Sunday evening.

Tipu Sultan, president of Recruiting Agencies Oikya Parishad, who addressed the session, said although the government reiterated that there will be no syndicates, fear

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Putting himself at danger, an elderly man boards a rickshaw with three large sacks of goods. Two of the sacks placed at the front of the rickshaw is taking up so much space that the man had to sit on the thin edge of the vehicle's hood. Despite the obvious risk, this is a common scene on the capital's roads. This photo was taken yesterday from Dhaka University area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Navy to get more warships, equipment: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government



plans to include more advanced warships and war equipment for Bangladesh Navy as part of modernising defence.

She was addressing a function at Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) as chief guest, virtually joining from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

The event marked the "President Parade" of the passing out cadets of the Midshipman 2019 Alfa and Direct Entry Officer 2021 Bravo.

Hasina said the navy has been turned into a full-fledged, "three-dimensional" force through the inclusion of two submarines -- "BNS Navajatra" and "BNS Joyjatra" -- in 2017.

"The navy will be able to play a stronger role in ensuring the safety of the country's vast and resource rich maritime areas, prevent human trafficking and smuggling and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Democracy, free press vital for peace

In conversation with Turkish writer, journalist Ahmet Coskunaydin



If a country is living under a dictator or a president of that kind of system, it is very dangerous. If a country has democracy and free press, waging a war is not that easy.

COSKUNAYDIN
MEMBER OF TURKEY-BASED GLOBAL JOURNALISM COUNCIL

PORIMOL PALMA

Dictatorship is a dangerous way of rule. It can demolish a country and poses risks for more conflict, said Turkish writer and journalist Ahmet Coskunaydin.

"If a country is living under a dictator or a president of that kind of system, it is very dangerous. If a country has democracy and free press, waging a war is not that easy," said Coskunaydin, a member of Global Journalism Council based in Turkey.

"...we have seen this in Libya and Iraq. They [dictators] demolished their own countries and their systems," he said.

Coskunaydin, who wrote a book on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Turkish, visited Bangladesh recently. The book is expected to hit the shelves soon.

He was invited as a speaker at the World Peace Conference, organised by the foreign ministry in Dhaka on December 4-5.

Peace activists and a number of former heads of governments from 50 countries spoke at the conference, organised as part of "Mujib Year" and golden jubilee of the country's independence. It also marked the celebration of five decades of Bangladesh's peace-centric diplomacy.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, Coskunaydin lauded Bangladesh

for its socio-economic growth and for sheltering more than a million Rohingya, who had fled brutal military atrocities in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

He said he is a great admirer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who advocated for social justice, freedom, democracy and peace with neighbours and all other countries, which he observed is similar to the values of Turkish founding father Kemal Ataturk.

The fact that Bangladesh organised such a global gathering means this country carries the flag for global peace. This has made its responsibilities even greater, he said. "It means you have the willingness to solve global conflict, to realise peace all over the world," Coskunaydin remarked. "Every conflict should be solved over the table through peaceful process."

He said Bangladesh has the commitment to establish peace, and this conference is a testimony to that. However, he said, there should be actions, rather than only words.

He went on to say that it is important to establish peace at home first.

"If your family has problems and fight each other, how can you help the neighbours for peace? Bangladesh... does not have internal problem. It is positive, it is an advantage," the journalist said.

'We will send aid for Afghans'

Says foreign secretary at OIC council

Bss, Dhaka

Bangladesh has announced a humanitarian aid package, which includes food and medical assistance, for the Afghan people.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen revealed the information during the 17th Extraordinary Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC on Afghanistan -- held on Sunday in Islamabad, Pakistan -- a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

The foreign secretary is leading a high-level delegation, which includes Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to OIC, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan, and Director-General of the International

Organisation Wing of the foreign ministry.

During the council meeting, Masud expressed deep concern on the economic and humanitarian crisis looming over the majority of the Afghan population, due to acute shortage of food, shelter and social services, which may worsen as winter approaches.

He hoped that inclusive socio-economic development of Afghanistan will continue uninterrupted, so that all segments of the society can effectively contribute to the rebuilding process of their country and maintain regional harmony.

Masud also remarked that Bangladesh can be a partner in Afghanistan's developmental process,

as his country seeks to enhance regional cooperation for attaining a vision of shared prosperity for the region.

While appreciating the OIC for convening this extraordinary council, he urged the leaders to intensify cooperation within and beyond OIC in support of the Afghan people.

Bangladesh also reiterated its support to the Palestinian cause for an independent and viable state of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as the capital.

The Extraordinary Council of Foreign Ministers was preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting.

Earlier, the foreign secretary inaugurated the Bangabandhu Corner on the High Commission premises.

Two Star journo get Unicef awards



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two journalists of The Daily Star have been awarded Unicef Meena Media Awards-2021, in recognition of their excellence in journalism promoting child rights.

The newspaper's staff reporter Nilima Jahan has been awarded the "Special

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BCL leader, ringleader?

Police suspect after arresting four over yaba trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the name of going to the beach for picnics, they used to smuggle yaba from Cox's Bazar to Gazipur.

Purchasing the pink tablets at Tk 70 each, they used to sell it in Gazipur for Tk 250. For carrying the consignments, they made a special chamber beneath private cars so that no one would be able to trace the pills even after inspecting the vehicle.

Police's Detective Branch (DB) disclosed the findings following the arrest of four people from the capital's Jatrabari area, with 25,000 yaba pills last Saturday.

The arrestees are Rubel Islam, Rakibul Hasan, Surja Barman Shanto, and Rony Ahmed.

DB is now interrogating the arrestees on a three-day police remand in a case filed with Jatrabari Police Station. Of the arrestees, Rubel is the personal car driver of Mohammad Jahangir Sarkar, organising secretary of Gazipur

district's Chhatra League (BCL).

Rubel was also arrested earlier in Dinajpur and is wanted in a narcotic case filed in the district.

Investigators said the arrestees have already admitted to smuggling over two lakh yaba pills from Teknaf in the last three months alone and handing them over to Jahangir. This has led police to suspect that the BCL leader has been leading the narcotics syndicate over the years.

The Daily Star, however, wasn't able to verify the claim, as Jahangir's phone was found switched off when this correspondent tried to contact him. Police said he has been on the run ever since Rubel and his three associates were arrested.

This newspaper also tried to reach Jahangir's father Iqbal Hossain Sarkar, a former member of Ward-2 of Tilahati Union Parishad of Gazipur, but he was not at home, while his phone was also found switched off.

Mashiur Rahman, deputy

commissioner of DB Gulshan Division, told The Daily Star that the arrestees had brought yaba consignments from Teknaf to Gazipur through Dhaka several times.

"We have come across some names during investigation. Everyone who's found involved will be brought under law," he said.

Mohammad Amir Hossain, inspector of Gazipur district DB police, said they have come to know Jahangir has several associates to smuggle yaba. "Once the consignments reach Gazipur, he distributes them to different areas."

Police sources said Jahangir is accused in at least six cases with different police stations in Gazipur and Dhaka under explosives and narcotics acts. He was also found involved in extortion and illegally grabbing property.

Meanwhile, allegations are rife against Jahangir even among his BCL cohorts.

Mahim Sarkar, publicity secretary of Sreepur Upazila Chhatra League unit, claimed that last August, Jahangir and his followers took over their generator business for not paying tolls.

Rona Mia, a BCL activist of Gazipur's Mawna, claimed Jahangir and his followers beat his associates for protesting his extortion activities in MC Bazar area.

Regarding the criminal activities, Zahidul Alam Robin, general secretary of Gazipur BCL unit, said they have already sent a letter to central BCL committee, requesting stern action against Jahangir.

SM Shafiqullah, superintendent of Gazipur police, said they are investigating the incident and conducting drives to arrest those involved. "No matter their identity or how powerful they are, action will be taken against all those found involved with narcotics trade."

Our Correspondent in Gazipur also contributed to this report.

Khaleda's health still unchanged

Says BNP

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday said the health of Khaleda Zia, who is currently undergoing treatment for liver cirrhosis at the capital's Evercare Hospital, did not improve.

"Our leader Begum Khaleda Zia's condition is critical, and there's no sign of improvement," said BNP's senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

He also said Khaleda's condition is still showing signs of deterioration for lack of necessary treatment.

He alleged that the government has been behaving like a "ruthless and cruel ruler" by depriving Khaleda of advanced medical treatment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



NO EVICTION WITHOUT REHABILITATION... Transport workers under the banner of "Battery-run Rickshaw-Van-Easy Bike Sangram Committee" staged a demo blockading Barishal city's Ashwini Kumar Hall area yesterday, demanding implementation of the draft of the Battery-run Transportation Licence Guideline.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

84pc women faced sexual harassment

Says BNWLA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Approximately 84 percent of women in Bangladesh are constantly subjected to sexual harassment on streets, while using public transport, at educational institutes, workplaces and in the confines of their homes.

Advocate Salma Ali, president of Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA), said this in a statement.

According to the statement, 1,194 incidents of rape were reported from January to November this year, as per news reports published in various national dailies and online news portals. Of them, 489 were women and 705 children.

The statement also mentioned that BNWLA has been closely

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Stolen from 30ft below sea level!

13 held for stealing construction materials from sunken ship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram river police early yesterday arrested 13 people for allegedly stealing construction materials of Padma Bridge.

The materials were stolen from a sunken ship about 30 feet below sea level.

"We seized the engine boat and arrested 13 people from Shahamirpur area of Karnaphuli river, with 4.5 tonnes of galvanised iron angles, which was meant for construction work of Padma Bridge, around 3:10am," said Kritiman Chakma, additional superintendent of river police, Chattogram region.

Two divers were also among the arrestees, said the police official.

"The arrestees confessed that they had stolen the precious iron angles... with the help of some scrap dealers in Chattogram," said Kritiman.

"The contractor has already been able to remove about 45 percent materials from the sinking ship. As the contractor has stopped its work for the last ten days, the gang started stealing the materials" said the ASP.

On July 13, the vessel MV Hang Gang-1, carrying 1,200 metric tonnes of iron angles, capsized in the Bay of Bengal after hitting a sunken lighter vessel near Bhasanchar, the official said.

শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
নেত্রকোণা-২৪০০

Corrigendum-01

Tender Package No. A APP (2021-22)-GR-01
B APP (2021-22)-GR-06
Package name: A. Supply & Installation of Computers, Laptops, Monitors etc. at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona campus.
B. Supply & Installation of Printer, Scanner, UPS, Paper Shredder, Webcam, Head Phone, Camera Lens, Photocopier, Mouse, Spiral Binding etc. at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona Campus.
A. (005)SHU/Purchase/Tender/2021-22/03
B. (005)SHU/Purchase/Tender/2021-22/04

Ref No. This to inform all concerned that the following amendments are hereby made in the Invitation for Tenders published in 08 December, 2021.

Reference	Previous Text	Amendments
16. Tender last selling date	27/12/2021 (4.00pm)	27/12/2021 (4.00pm)
17. Tender closing date and time	28/12/2021 (3.00pm)	28/12/2021 (3.00pm)
18. Tender opening date and time	28/12/2021 (3.30pm)	28/12/2021 (3.30pm)
21. Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	A. For the Package (APP/2021-22)-GR-01: Supply & Installation of Computers, Laptops, Monitors etc. at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona Campus. 02. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 1 (one) years. 03. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk 7,00,000/- (seven lac). B. For the Package (APP/2021-22)-GR-06: Supply & Installation of Printer, Scanner, UPS, Paper Shredder, Webcam, Head Phone, Camera Lens, Photocopier, Mouse, Spiral Binding etc. at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona Campus. 02. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 1 (one) years. 03. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk 4,50,000/- (four lac and fifty thousand)	Experience is not required

All other terms and conditions of the tender documents and Invitation for Tenders shall remain unchanged.

Prof. D. Subrata Kumar Aditya
Treasurer & Registrar (Add. In Charge) and Chairman, Purchase Committee
Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona
Contact: +8802997735002
Email: treasurer@shu.edu.bd

GD-2355

Five officials promoted to secretary

BSS, Dhaka

The government has promoted five officials of administration cadre to the rank of secretary, said a public administration ministry gazette notification issued yesterday.

Project director of Ashrayan project Md Mahubb Hossain has been promoted as secretary of ACC; additional secretary of energy and mineral resources division Muhammad Abdul Hamid Zamaddar as secretary of Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat; divisional commissioner of Rajshahi Dr Md Humayun Kabir to the secretary of railways ministry; chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkha (Rajuk) ABM Amin Ullah Nuri to the rank of secretary and posted in Rajuk as chairman; and divisional commissioner of Barishal Md Saiful Hasan Badal to secretary of the health education and family welfare division.

Ten held in Savar over extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Ten people were detained by Rab officials in Savar for extortion, Rakib Mahmud Khan, company commander of Rab-4(CPC-2) confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday.

The detainees were identified as Masud Rana (40); Iqbal Hossen Ratan (42); Md Biplob (30); Pannu Hawladar (34); Md Jahangir (48); Anowar Sheikh (42); Alam Mollah (37); Abdullah Al Helal (20); Shahadat Hossain (30); and Shanchay (30). All of them live in Savar's Ashulia.

They were allegedly extorting roadside makeshift shops at Nabinagar area, adjacent to the National Martyrs' Monument in Savar on Sunday evening. Acting on a tip-off, Rab-4 conducted a drive at the area around 6:30pm on Sunday and detained the accused, said Rakib.

Rab officials also recovered a total of Tk 4,230 and eight mobile phones from their possession.

The detainees used to physically assault and threaten the ones who refused to pay them. All of them admitted to their crimes during primary interrogation, informed Rakib.

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর
শাহাবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০

আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ বিজ্ঞাপন

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর ভবনের ফায়ার সেফটি গ্র্যান, ফায়ারফাইটিং ড্রইং তৈরি এবং ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তরের অনুমোদনের জন্য প্রকৃত ও অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ প্রস্তাব আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানের আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণপত্র দাখিল ও তালিকাভুক্তিকরণের জন্য আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ অনুরোধের বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও শর্ত সম্বলিত বিজ্ঞাপন বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

গাজী মোঃ ওয়ালি-উল-হক
সচিব
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর
ফোনঃ ৯৬৭৪ ৭৯৬

জিডি-২৩৪৮

Save the Children

Date: December 21, 2021

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

Invitation for Tender

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendors for supply of vehicle spare parts and repair maintenance service under framework agreement for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh.

For details please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule (Virtual through Zoom - details in Tender Schedule)	Last date of Tender Submission
2	Vehicle spare parts and repair maintenance service under framework agreement	IFT/SCI/BD CO/FY-21/ (Manual)/13	11:00 AM on December 29, 2021	January 11, 2022 on or before 02:00 PM

Special Instruction: (a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods/ Services will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. **(b)** If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

Navy to get more

FROM PAGE 3

security of fishers and provide safe passage for merchant ships," the PM added. Besides, she said work is underway to build a permanent submarine base -- "BNS Sheikh Hasina" -- at Pekua in Cox's Bazar to provide safe jetty facilities to submarines and warships at the harbour.

She mentioned that the government is also working to increase and streamline the organisational structure of BNA to ensure the best use of the sophisticated technologies.

Fear of syndicates

FROM PAGE 3

of malpractice remains since the procedure is not clear yet.

In September 2018, the Malaysian government froze recruitment from Bangladesh following allegations of syndicates, labour exploitation and high migration costs of up to Tk 4 lakh per worker.

84pc women faced

FROM PAGE 3

monitoring the case of Elma Chowdhury, a student of Dhaka University, who died on December 14 in the capital's Banani after being tortured by her husband.

The association urged that justice be ensured and perpetrators be punished through transparent and impartial investigation within a specified time.

If the real culprits are not punished, they will get away with abusing their power, and murders like that of Tonu, Nusrat and Elma will increase, Salma Ali said.

Two Star journos

FROM PAGE 3

Meena Media Award" for text-based journalistic reporting that promotes child rights in her report titled "Ending Hazardous Child Labour: Tk 284c project in a shambles".

The Daily Star's staff photojournalist Prabir Das has received the "Special Mention Award" in the photography category for his work on violence against children. A total of 22 journalists from nearly 700 submissions from print, online and electronic media have been awarded this year.

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)

House # 6, Road # 23/C, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-2641 Date: 20 December, 2021

1st Corrigendum Notice

It is hereby notified to all concern that under unavoidable circumstances the Tender Notice for the work of (i) Supply & installation of Curtain Glass; awning glass & sliding glass doors and (ii) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 1000KVA (11KV/0.415KV) Sub-station, 1000KVA Diesel Generator and BBT for CEGIS Office Building at Plot No. F-14/E, Argargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-2407, dated: 21.11.21 is to be amended as follows:

SL No.	As mentioned in Original Notice	To be Revised
Tender Notice Sl. No. 8	Last Date & Time of Selling Tender: 21/12/2021, 05:00 p.m.	Last Date & Time of Selling Tender: 04/01/2022, 05:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 9	Last Date & Time of receiving Tender: 22/12/2021, 01:00 p.m.	Last Date & Time of receiving Tender: 05/01/2022, 01:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 10	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 22/12/2021, 03:00 p.m.	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 05/01/2022, 03:00 p.m.

All other terms and conditions of the original tender will remain unchanged. This Corrigendum Notice will be a part and parcel of the Tender.

Project Director, CEGIS Office Building Construction Project

Civil Aviation Authority Bangladesh

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

File No. 30.31.0000.421.04.011.21.749 Date: 15/12/2021

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.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief description of works	Tender Reference No.	Last date & time of selling	Last date & time of submission
01.	627966	Re-construction of damaged slab around bay No. 4, 6, 8, 10, 11 & North side of Import Cargo Apron in/c. other associated works at HSA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.	30.31.0000.401.14.172.21.932 Date: 17/10/2021	16-Jan-2022 12:00	16-Jan-2022 14:00

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

No. 30.31.0000.051.12.001.21/476 Date: 19/12/2021 GD-2347

A.H. Md. Nuruddin Chowdhury
Superintending Engineer (c.c.)
Civil Circle, CAAB, Dhaka-1229
Email: supencivil@caab.gov.bd

Khaleda's

FROM PAGE 3

"The government must allow her to go abroad immediately for treatment," said Rizvi, while talking to reporters on the premises of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's grave.

Khaleda, a 76-year-old former prime minister, has been receiving treatment for various health complications since November 13.

According to her medical board members, she immediately needs to go abroad for better treatment.

On behalf of her family, Khaleda's younger brother, Shamim Iskander, submitted an application to the home ministry on November 11, urging the government to allow her to go abroad.

Law Minister Anisul Huq recently said the government is looking for a legal option to allow Khaleda to go abroad.

Head Office
House # 12/A, Road # 104, Block # CEN(F)
Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212
E-mail: buro@burobd.org Website: www.burobd.org

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, নাটোর জেলা কারাগার
natorejail@gmail.com

পত্র নং-৫৮.০৪.৬৯০০.১৩০.০৪.০২১.২১-৪১১৫ তারিখঃ ০৫ পৌষ ১৪২৮
২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১

০১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/সুরক্ষা সেবা বিভাগ।
০২। সংস্থা	ঃ কারা অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
০৩। দরপত্রের নাম	ঃ নাটোর জেলা কারাগারের বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য সরবরাহের ০১-০১-২০২২ হতে ৩১-১২-২০২২ পর্যন্ত পুনঃ দরপত্রের (২য় বার) জন্য ত্রিকাদার নিয়োগের বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
০৪। দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তির বরাত ও তারিখ	ঃ কারা অধিদপ্তরের পত্র নং-৫৮.০৪.০০০০.০৩০.০১.০৪০.২২.১২১০(২) তারিখঃ ০৯-১২-২০২১
০৫। ইচ্ছুক দরদাতার ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা	ঃ দরপত্র সিডিউলের উল্লেখিত শর্তানুযায়ী।
০৬। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ খাদ্যদ্রব্য-০১/২০২২
০৭। বাজেট ও ফান্ড প্রান্তির উৎস	ঃ জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
০৮। দরপত্র আহবান পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৯। দরপত্র দাখিল প্রান্তির স্থান	ঃ কারা উপ-মহা পরিদর্শকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা/রাজশাহী বিভাগ, রাজশাহী এবং জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, নাটোর জেলা কারাগার।
১০। দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০২/০১/২০২২ তারিখ, বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১। দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	ঃ জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নাটোর/সদর থানা, নাটোর/জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, নাটোর জেলা কারাগার এ রক্ষিত নির্ধারিত দরপত্র বাসে।
১২। দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৩/০১/২০২২ তারিখ, সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, নাটোর জেলা কারাগার ০৩/০১/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	ঃ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
১৫। জামানতের পরিমাণ	ঃ ফ্রপ (ক) ১৫,০০০/-; ফ্রপ (খ) ৬০,০০০/-; ফ্রপ (গ) ১৬,০০০/-; ফ্রপ (ঘ) ৭০,০০০/-; ফ্রপ (ঙ) ৮০,০০০/- সকল ফ্রপ সর্বমোট টাকা = ২,৪১,০০০/- কারা মহাপরিদর্শক, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
১৬। দরপত্র অনুমোদনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	ঃ দরপত্র সিডিউলের উল্লেখিত শর্তানুযায়ী।
১৭। দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে	ঃ দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী পাঠান্তে যথাযথভাবে অবহিত হয়ে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৮। দরদাতাদের প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	ঃ জেল সুপার, নাটোর জেলা কারাগার।
১৯। দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	ঃ জেল সুপার, নাটোর জেলা কারাগার।
২০। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী জানার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের দপ্তরের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	ঃ
২১। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল টেন্ডার বাতিল/গ্রহণ করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।	ঃ

মোহাম্মদ আবদুর রহিম
জেল সুপার
নাটোর জেলা কারাগার

জিডি-২৩৪৯

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা- ১২০৮

সূত্র নং- ইডিসিএল(কেইএলপি)/ক্রয়/স্থানীয় দরপত্র/পরিবহন ত্রিকাদার/২০২১/৪৬৬, তাং- ২০/১২/২০২১

পরিবহন ত্রিকাদার নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

খুলনা এসেনসিয়াল ল্যাটেক্স প্রাক্টের উৎপাদিত পণ্য পরিবহন পরিচালনা অধিদপ্তর এর সিডিউল বর্ণিত স্থানে কনডম সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত ০২ (দুই) বছরের জন্য পরিবহন ত্রিকাদার হিসাবে নিয়োগ দেয়া হবে। বিস্তারিত নিয়ম সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল হিসাব বিভাগ, ইডিসিএল ঢাকা এবং খুলনা এর ক্যাশ শাখা হতে নগদ টাকা ১৫০০.০০ (টাকা এক হাজার পাঁচশত) মাত্র মূল্য আগামী ১০/০১/২০২২ইং পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ক্রয় করা যাবে। প্রকৃত পরিবহন খাতের সংশ্লিষ্ট আগ্রহী প্রাতিষ্ঠান সমূহ তাদের দরপ্রস্তাব প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে আগামী ১১/০১/২০২২ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ইডিসিএল ঢাকা এবং খুলনা এসেনসিয়াল ল্যাটেক্স প্রাক্টের ক্রয় বিভাগে রক্ষিত বক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রাপ্ত দরপ্রস্তাব সমূহ আগামী ১৩/০১/২০২২ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় ক্রয় বিভাগ, ঢাকার (কেইএলপি) হতে দরপ্রস্তাব প্রাপ্যতা সাপেক্ষে খোলা হবে। ইডিসিএল কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল সিডিউল গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। উল্লেখ্য যে, দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিলের দিন কোন দরপত্র/সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না এবং নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর কোন দরপ্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক
প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

সাইজ- ৪" x ৩ কলাম

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা- ১২০৮

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছেঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আর্নেট মানি	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২১/৪৭১ তারিখঃ ২০/১২/২০২১ইং	০৪ (চার) প্রকার মাস্টার কার্টন {04 (Four) Kinds of Master Carton} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	২৪,০৭০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ মাত্র	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২১/৪৭২ তারিখঃ ২০/১২/২০২১ইং	০১ (এক) প্রকার করগেটেড কার্টন {01 (one) Kinds of Corrugated Carton} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	২২,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ মাত্র	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
০৩।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২১/৪৭৩ তারিখঃ ২০/১২/২০২১ইং	০১ (এক) প্রকার করগেটেড কার্টন {01 (one) Kinds of Corrugated Carton} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	১৭,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ মাত্র	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
০৪।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২১/৪৭৪ তারিখঃ ২০/১২/২০২১ইং	০২ (দুই) প্রকার আর্নিয়েটেড এ্যালু এ্যালু বটম ফয়েল {02 (two) Kinds of alu alu bottom foil} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৪,০৫০ কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ১,২৫০.০০ মাত্র	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	০৩/০১/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যবিবরণে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাদের ব্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই। দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক
প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

সাইজ- ৫" x ৫ কলাম



Known as a sanctuary for guest birds and native species of fish, Dewchhara beel has been reduced to narrow stream. Inset, migratory birds are seen flying at large in the area in 2018.

PHOTOS: STAR/FILE

Dewchhara Beel: Once full of lives, now a wasteland

Poaching, siltation and abundance of bushes make the water body an inhospitable place for guest birds

MINTU DESHWARA WITH MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

Dewchhara beel in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar used to be a sanctuary for thousands of migratory birds and different species of native fish but for the last two years, the water body has not been frequented by the guest birds mainly because of poaching, depletion of water, siltation and abundance of bushes.

During the winter season, different species of native birds, including thousands of guest birds, used to roam here for a long time. But that is not the scene to be seen here now.

Joyal Mia, a resident of the area said, the waterbody used to be buzzing with the chirping of migratory birds at the beginning of winter every year. Although there are many other ponds and open spaces in the vicinity, the migratory birds used to roost in the beel. Sometimes they would fly in the sky in groups, and

sometimes they would float in the water of the lake filled with water lilies.

He said that the number of birds on the beel has been slowly declining over the last six years. Last two years, the migratory birds have not been coming in the beel and there is hardly any fish here. Lots of native fish were also found in the past. Due to excessive growth of aquatic herbs and depleting water, the waterfowls have stopped coming here, he added.

Muhibur Rahman, a farmer from Dhupatila village near the Dewchhara beel, said, "Thousands of guest birds would flock the waterbody in winter every year. We used to wake up in the morning with the chirping of birds. From the time immemorial, there have been various species of birds including ducks and hawks."

The quality of water of the beel has exacerbated creating a shortage of food for the bird population. Therefore, the

birds have stopped coming to the beel, he added.

He also said that some poachers are active with net and poison traps. Some are fishing in the beel violating rules. These have harmed the roosting of guest birds in the waterbody.

He expressed concern saying that many species would be extinct as the hunters are using poison traps.

Nurul Muhaimin Milton, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Sanbadik Samitee of Moulvibazar unit, said that aquatic animals including fish and guest birds are now in dire straits.

The miserable condition of the water body is causing irreparable damage to local agriculture, aquatic life and biodiversity, said Durud Ali, a social worker from Keshuluti village.

Jubel Ahmed, general secretary of Dakshin Dhupatila Fishermen's Cooperative Society Ltd, said that due to the shortage of water in the beel, birds are not coming here.

"We have long been demanding dredging of the waterbody for the sake of agriculture and fishing," he added.

Kamalganj Upazila Fisheries Officer Siddiqur Rahman said, "I have heard that this place is a wonderful place for birds and fish. The population of birds and fish can be increased by excavating the Dewchhara beel. Proposals have already been sent to the higher authorities for its excavation."

Sylhet Divisional Forest Conservator Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department said, "I will try to take the next step by visiting the place."

Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ashekul Haque said, although the proposal was sent earlier, it is yet to be approved.

"However, I will try to take initiative to increase water supply by renovating the reservoir in Dewchhara through the Upazila Agriculture Department," the UNO assured.

UP chairman Lawyer files writ seeking HC

FROM PAGE 12

Badiul Alam, secretary of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik, said, "The ruling party men do not want to take risks. They want to be elected unopposed... The number of candidates elected unopposed are on the rise because many individuals outside the ruling party are unwilling to participate in elections for fear of harassment and attacks."

The EC released the related data yesterday, a day after the last day of withdrawal of candidature in the fifth phase.

Asaduzzaman said another 109 general member candidates and 32 member runners for the reserved seats for women were also set to be elected uncontested in the fifth phase.

EC data shows 71 chairmen, 63 general members and six member candidates for reserved seats for women were elected unopposed in the first phase on June 21 and September 20; 81 chairmen, 203 general members and 76 member candidates for reserved seats for women in the second phase on November 11; 100 chairmen, 337 general members and 132 member candidates for reserved seats for women in the third phase on November 28; and 48 chairmen, 135 general members and 112 member runners for reserved seats for women candidates in the fourth phase.

Saudi jails Yemeni man for 15 years

AFP, Dubai

Human Rights Watch said yesterday a Saudi court had sentenced a Yemeni man to 15 years for apostasy, urging the kingdom to prioritise decriminalising blasphemy amid a modernisation drive.

The rights group said that Ali Abu Luhum, 38, had been accused of making comments "via two anonymous Twitter accounts", which prosecutors argued were registered with phone numbers linked to him.

FROM PAGE 12

travel abroad for treatment, but the government said she must return to jail first to apply for permission -- an exercise not possible given her critical condition.

There is no legal bar to allow Khaleda to go abroad for treatment on the humanitarian ground under section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and under the preamble and relevant articles of the constitution, Akond said in the petition submitted as public interest litigation.

Section 401(1) of the CrPC has a provision to suspend the sentence, he said.

Subsequently, the respondents should be directed to allow Khaleda to go abroad for treatment and to ensure her fundamental human rights as per the United Nations Charter and UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The secretaries to the ministries of law, cabinet division, president's secretariat and home and principal secretary to the

Why do we

FROM PAGE 12

daytime affects our circadian rhythm. Circadian rhythm or circadian cycle is an internal process that regulates bodily activities like sleep-wake cycle or metabolism. The rhythm is influenced by outside things like light and dark or other factors.

The influence occurs when our brain receives signals based on the environment and activates certain hormones to keep us alert or make us feel sleepy.

Therefore, the colder and darker the season or the region, the sleeper you feel. According to a recent American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) survey, 34 percent

Kushtia court bins case against

FROM PAGE 12

general secretary of Kushtia unit Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a platform of pro-BNP lawyers, lodged the case with Kushtia Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday.

After hearing the case around 3:00pm, Judge Selina Akhter dismissed the case, confirmed Anup Kumar Nandi, public prosecutor of Kushtia, saying that as the case had no merit, the court did not accept it.

In Manikganj, Azad Hossain Khan, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum of the district unit, filed a complaint with a local court against Murad and Nahid

Superman #1 comic fetches

FROM PAGE 12

through college by buying and selling comics.

The character created by writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster is a pioneer of the superhero genre, and comics featuring the Man of Steel have netted super prices recently.

ComicConnect announced in April that

prime minister's office have been made respondents to the required directive.

Under articles 3, 5, 11, 13(2) of the constitution and UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Khaleda, whose health condition is deteriorating, is entitled to go outside Bangladesh for better treatment, the petition said.

The writ petition will be placed before the HC today for its hearing, Akond told The Daily Star.

Law Minister Anisul Huq on December 5 told reporters that the government was looking for a legal scope to allow Khaleda's medical treatment abroad.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has considered the issues of Khaleda Zia's treatment from a humanitarian aspect."

Two applications for allowing Khaleda Zia to go abroad have been rejected earlier.

"Now, we are examining whether there is any scope in this regard. The decision would be made examining all the aspects so that the law is not violated," Huq added.

of US adults report sleeping more in winter.

But the question remains if we should sleep more during winter just because we feel like it.

In general, it is a good idea to accommodate one's need for sleep, scientists say.

So, if you do not have flexible work hours and need to wake up at the same time as in summer, you could go to bed early to get some extra sleep.

But if you still feel sleepy in winter mornings, exposing yourself to bright light can help you be alert and ready for the day. You can also have tea or coffee to feel awake.

yesterday.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Alina Khan heard the plaintiff and recorded his statement, but did not pass any order.

According to the statement, Murad and Nahid used "profoundly vulgar, misogynistic, and derogatory language" against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, its acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his daughter Zaima Rahman during a Facebook Live and disseminated false information.

Mejbaul Haque, president of Manikganj district Lawyers' Association, confirmed it. [Our Kushtia and Manikganj correspondents contributed to this report.]

a copy of Action Comics #1, the comic that introduced Superman in 1938, sold for \$3.25 million.

"Now you look at the comic books and you go 'superheroes everywhere.' You look back in the '30s, there was no such thing. So this was literally the first superhero," said ComicConnect CEO Stephen Fishler.

Shobdo Sainik Probe reveals mass murder

FROM PAGE 12

respiratory complications. She was brought to Dhaka Specialised Hospital from Chattogram on December 2 and then shifted to CMH on December 14, said Tahsin.

He added that his mother was put on life support yesterday morning but she suffered a cardiac arrest around 4:45pm and doctors declared her dead at 5:10pm.

Her body would be taken at Dhaka Central Shaheed Minar this morning, after which a namaz-e-janaza would be held at the Dhaka University Central Mosque.

She would be brought to Chattogram on Wednesday and kept at the Shaheed Minar there. She will later be buried in the port city.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Begum Mushtari Shafi, reported UNB.

In a condolence message, she recalled with gratitude the role of Mushtari Shafi, a valiant freedom fighter, in the progressive cultural and citizen movements. She prayed for the eternal salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for her bereaved family members.

Mushtari Shafi was honoured with the Bangla Academy Fellowship in 2016 for her role in the Liberation War. She was also awarded the Begum Rokeya Padak in 2020. She, her husband late physician Dr Mohammad Shafi, and Shobdo Sainik Mohammad played important roles in the formation of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro in Chattogram.

The couple gave shelter to many freedom fighters at their Enayet Bazar residence in the port city.

On April 7, 1971, her husband and brother Ehsanul Hoque Ansari were picked up by local Razakars and later killed.

Born on January 15, 1938, Mushtari Shafi played an active role in the progressive citizen's and women's rights movements.

FROM PAGE 12

were killed and their mutilated bodies were buried in shallow graves.

General Zaw Min Tun, Myanmar's deputy minister for information and a military spokesperson, did not deny the mass killings when the BBC inquired about the allegations.

"It can happen," he told the public broadcaster.

"When they treat us as enemies, we have the right to defend ourselves."

The greatest number of killings took place in Yin village, where 14 men were tortured and killed, after which their bodies were dumped in a forest.

In Zee Bin Dwin village, 12 mutilated bodies were found buried in shallow mass graves.

This included a small body, possibly that of a child, and the body of a disabled person, the report added.

The BBC said it had video footage that showed that a man in his sixties was tied to a nearby tree and tortured.

One of the survivors of the killings in Yin village said the men were tortured before they were killed. He also identified some of the soldiers to be as young as 17 and said that a woman had accompanied

them as well.

Myanmar has been in the grip of civil unrest since the military wrested power from Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government on 1 February this year.

The coup returned the country to full military rule after the country had become a quasi-democracy after the junta - which had been in power since 1962 - carried out elections in 2011.

While Suu Kyi has been sentenced to prison, protests against junta rule have spread onto Myanmar's streets since the coup.

Meanwhile, a junta court yesterday postponed giving its verdict in Suu Kyi's trial for illegally importing and possessing walkie talkies, a source with knowledge of the case said.

The judge adjourned the case until December 27 without explanation, a source with knowledge of the case told AFP.

Suu Kyi could have faced three years in prison if found guilty on the walkie-talkie charges, which stem from the early hours of the coup when soldiers and police raided her house and allegedly found her in possession of the contraband equipment.

Commute appalling

FROM PAGE 12

Asked why the city corporation does not repair the road in places where it is done working on the drainage, Shawkat said he is taking note of the issue and will take necessary measures.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited which is implementing the Metro Rail project, said he had received complaints

from the mayor of DNCC.

He said, "At this moment, the city corporation is not allowing us to do any work on the road. After the corporation finishes the work we will fix it."

Asked why they do not repair the road where the city corporation is not working, MAN Siddique said, "I will order repairs if any potholes are found on the road where the city corporation is not working."

Ruma Sarkar gets bail after 61

FROM PAGE 12

providing legal assistance to Ruma, told The Daily Star that the HC granted bail on the grounds that she is a woman, has two children and been suffering in jail for a long time.

Lawyers Laboni Akhter and Shahinuzzaman Shahin also appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi opposed the bail petition.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Ruma Sarkar on October 20 from her home on the capital's Bailey Road after filing a case against her on charges of spreading provocative speeches and false videos on Facebook.

Rab filed the case under the DSA with the Ramna Police Station on October 19.

On that day, Ruma posted a video on her Facebook of businessman Shahinuddin's murder in the capital's Pallabi area on May 16, claiming it to be the attack on Jatan Kumar Saha in Noakhali, which led to his death, according to the case statement.

Jatan was beaten to death on the afternoon of October 15, when Hindu temples in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila were attacked.

On May 16, Shahinuddin was hacked to death in front of his son by a group of criminals.

Several persons, including a former lawmaker, were arrested a few days after the incident over the murder.

Ruma also went on Facebook Live and spread provocative information, said the case documents.

SLAPPING EDUCATION OFFICER

AL expels Dewanganj municipality mayor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Jamalpur's Dewanganj Municipality Mayor Shah Newaz Shahanshah, also a member of the upazila unit Awami League (AL), was expelled from the ruling party in connection with a case for slapping the upazila secondary education officer during the Victory Day programme on Thursday.

The incident occurred when Upazila Secondary Education Officer Md Meher Ullah was anchoring the Victory Day celebration programme at Dewanganj Govt High School ground, where different organizations and educational institutions placed floral wreaths at the school's Shaheed Minar on Thursday.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of Jamalpur District Unit AL on Sunday night, says a press release.

The notice was signed by Advocate Baki Billah, president of district unit AL, and its General Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury.

The incident went against the party's discipline and it also tarnished the party's image, says the statement.

While talking to this correspondent, Advocate Baki Billah said Dewanganj Municipality Mayor Shah Newaz Shahanshah has been expelled from the party to restore the discipline and image of the ruling party.

Earlier around 7:00am on Thursday, Mayor Shahanshah along with his other employees went to the Shaheed Minar to place floral wreaths when the official was announcing names of different organizations according to the list.

But, the mayor became furious when the name of the municipality came at number five, and locked in an altercation with the officer.

At one stage, the mayor slapped the government official in presence of a huge crowd.

Upazila Secondary Education Officer Md Meher Ullah said he informed Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kamrunnahar Shefa of the matter soon after the incident.

Terming the incident unexpected, UNO Kamrunnahar said she immediately informed the Jamalpur deputy commissioner about the incident.

Meanwhile, Meher Ullah lodged a case with Dewanganj Police Station accusing Mayor Shahanshah on Thursday night, Officer in Charge of the PS Mohabbat Kabir sai.

Contacted, Mayor Shahanshah said he felt dishonoured and had an altercation with the education officer but he didn't slapped the official.



MORE NEWS

UK's former Brexit minister gives backing to PM

Britain's former Brexit minister, David Frost, yesterday insisted he had not stepped down to mount a leadership challenge against Prime Minister Boris Johnson...

J&K delimitation draft triggers huge row

A major political row has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir over a draft proposal that has suggested six new legislative seats for Jammu and only one for Kashmir...



Chile celebrates as leftist Boric elected president

The streets of Santiago erupted in celebration Sunday after leftist millennial Gabriel Boric became Chile's youngest-ever president-elect with an unexpectedly large victory...

SOURCE: AFP, NDTV



Taliban fighters stand guard in front of the entrance of the money exchange Sarai Shahzada market in Kabul yesterday. Afghanistan's currency dived to a record low against the US dollar...

PHOTO: AFP

OMICRON THREAT ACROSS GLOBE

Europe mulls Christmas curbs

UK reports 12 deaths; Thailand considering reinstating mandatory quarantine for foreign visitors

AGENCIES

Britain refused to rule out curbs on gatherings yesterday, a day after the Netherlands imposed a lockdown prompted by the fast-spreading Omicron variant...

Omicron infections are multiplying rapidly across Europe, the United States and other parts of the world, doubling every two or three days in London and elsewhere...

The variant was first detected last month in southern Africa and Hong Kong and so far been reported in at least 89 countries.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced a shutdown on Saturday, ordering the closure of all but essential stores, as well as restaurants, hairdressers, gyms, museums and other public places from Sunday until at least January 14.

Twelve people in Britain have died with the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, Deputy Prime

Minister Dominic Raab said yesterday, refusing to rule out a tightening of social restrictions before Christmas.

"I just can't make hard and fast guarantees," he told Times Radio. "In assessing the situation we rely very heavily on the real data coming through and it will take a little bit more time to assess this critical issue of the severity of Omicron."

The German government's scientific advisory panel said in a statement on Sunday it was necessary to further limit contact, with data so far showing that boosters alone would not be enough to contain the spread of the virus.

The state premier of North Rhine-Westphalia, Hendrik Wuest, did not rule out contact restrictions on people who have been fully vaccinated or had a booster shot, reports Reuters.

"We should be careful about ruling anything out," he told broadcaster ARD yesterday.

Thailand is considering reinstating mandatory quarantine for foreign visitors as the health ministry reported the country's first case of local transmission of the coronavirus variant.



POSSIBLE WAR CRIMES IN YEMEN

UN investigator targeted by spyware

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The mobile phone of a UN-backed investigator who was examining possible war crimes in Yemen was targeted with spyware made by Israel's NSO Group...

Kamel Jendoubi, who served as the chairman of the now defunct Group of Eminent Experts in Yemen (GEE) - a panel mandated by the UN to investigate possible war crimes - was targeted in August 2019...

The targeting is claimed to have occurred just weeks before Jendoubi and his panel of experts released a damning report which concluded that the Saudi-led coalition in the Yemen war had committed "serious violations of international humanitarian law" that could lead to "criminal responsibility for war crimes".

Jendoubi's mobile number also appears on a leaked database at the heart of the Pegasus Project, an investigation into NSO by the Guardian and other media outlets.

The data suggests that Jendoubi was selected as a potential surveillance target by Saudi Arabia, which was a longtime client of NSO before it was dropped earlier this year after allegations that it abused the surveillance tool.

SUPER TYPHOON RAI

Philippines death toll hits 375

AFP, Surigao City

The death toll from the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year surged to 375 yesterday, as survivors pleaded for urgent supplies of drinking water, food and medicines.

The Philippine Red Cross reported "complete carnage" in coastal areas after Typhoon Rai left homes and schools "ripped to shreds".

The storm tore off roofs, uprooted trees, toppled concrete power poles, smashed wooden houses to pieces, wiped out crops and flooded villages -- sparking comparisons to the damage caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

"Our situation is so desperate," said Ferry Asuncion, a street vendor in the hard-hit seaside city of Surigao, which was devastated by the storm.

More than 380,000 people fled their homes and beachfront resorts as Rai slammed into the country on Thursday.



DECEMBER 21

1973 - The first peace conference between Israel and her Arab neighbours opened in Geneva. Jordan, Israel, Egypt, the United States, the Soviet Union and the UN took part.

1988 - A bomb destroyed a Pan Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 259 aboard and 11 people on the ground.

2004 - US Army seals off parts of Mosul following attack on base.

SOURCE: REUTERS

West expresses 'grave concern'

AFP, Hong Kong

Western allies yesterday expressed "grave concern" over Hong Kong's new legislature election rules after a weekend poll that saw a record low voter turnout.

China has cracked down on opposition in Hong Kong after the city was rocked by huge and often violent democracy protests in 2019.

Beijing has imposed a national security law that criminalised much dissent and new "patriots only" political rules that vet the loyalty of those standing for office.

The first election under these rules was held on Sunday for the city's legislature, with a historic low turnout recorded.

"We, the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, and the United States Secretary of State, noting the outcome of the Legislative Council elections in Hong Kong, express our

grave concern over the erosion of democratic elements of the Special Administrative Region's electoral system," the nations said in a joint statement.

Hong Kong's new rules reduced the number of directly elected seats and tightened control of who could stand for office.

"These changes eliminated any meaningful political opposition," the allies said.

"We also remain gravely concerned at the wider chilling effect of the National Security Law and the growing restrictions on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, which are being felt across civil society."

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's leader yesterday hailed the outcome of the "patriots only" legislature election. "Hong Kong is now back on the right track of One Country, Two Systems," chief executive Carrie Lam told reporters.

MALAYSIA FLOODS

Over 50,000 forced from homes

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

More than 50,000 people have been forced from their homes in Malaysia and at least seven are dead after the country faced some of its worst floods for years, officials said yesterday. A weekend of torrential rain caused rivers to overflow, flooding towns and villages and cutting off major roads, with many motorists left trapped in their vehicles for hours. The number of evacuees across the country rose to about 51,000 yesterday.

HONG KONG ELECTION

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়,

২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।

ওয়েব : www.health.nao.gov.bd

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তারিখ: ১৯/১২/২০২১ ইং

"এমএসআর দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

Table with 2 columns: S.N. and Description. Contains details of the tender process for the 250-bed General Hospital in Nawganga, including dates, times, and contact information.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Prime Minister's Office. BEPZA. e-Tender Notice. Reference No. 03.06.345.018.00.00.1075.16-970. Date: 14/12/2021. Tender ID: 634615. Description: Vertical extension of existing 04-storied MSSFB#03 up to 08 storied in Mongla EPZ.

GD- 2352



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

LIBERATION WAR

through the eyes of differently abled artistes

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Dhaka Theatre and British Council Bangladesh jointly organised Bangladesh's first physical storytelling theatre play with differently abled artistes from across the country, on Saturday.



The 20 minute technical show was showcased at the Liberation War Museum. Directed by differently abled British theatre director, Ramesh Meyyappan, the play emphasised on the theme of the 1971 genocide and Liberation War without the use of any dialogues.

The play did not have any name or titles. However, the artistes were able to relay their thoughts with immaculate expression and physical movements. Music and sounds were

beautifully used in this play as both the ripples of waves and the brutal genocide had an echoing effect on the audiences.

The unique project refrained from dialogues for a stylistic effect, but the emotional rendition of patriotic songs by blind artiste Lovely highlighted the angst and pain of the war.

In the final and concluding scene, the long and aimless walk of the *Birangona* amidst the cheering crowd portrayed the sacrifices and sadness

of Bangladesh amidst its liberation from the Pakistani army.

"We had done 8 workshops in 8 different divisions of the country, among which we selected some of the artistes and took them to Chittagong for rehearsals," mentioned eminent cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff, founder of Dhaka Theatre. "Dhaka Theatre and Ramesh trained the artistes and was able to stage the 20 minute

play within 20 days of rehearsal."

Ramesh Meyyappan conveyed his message on learning about Bangladesh history and culture through his interpreter Jacky.

"It's my very first time here, and I didn't have any idea about the rich history and culture of Bangladesh. I thought the theme of the show should come from the participants, and each and every one of them gave different narratives and ideas to the plot," mentioned the British director.

"The first thing I taught them was the physicality of theatre. We started off by exploring physical language with arms and the forearms. And then later on, we moved to using the entire body. To develop the narrative in a linear way, we only had 5 days and fortunately we were able to showcase the work fruitfully here today," added Ramesh.

Dhaka Theatre and British Council's project 'Disability Arts: Redefining Empowerment' (DARE) had been arranging such workshops for disabled artistes since 2013. Their first play was called "Romeo and Juliet", which was staged in 2016 and their second play was named "Fearless" staged in 2019. The final show will be showcased tentatively in March.

Vaani Kapoor

portrays transgender woman, aims to create empathy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Noted Indian actress Vaani Kapoor plays a transgender woman in her latest film, "Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui".

Recently, she said that her casting and portrayal in the film was part of an attempt to stay away from the usual, stereotypical image of transgender people.

Talking about how transgender people are widely perceived by those who either are unaware or ignorant, Vaani said in the interview with *Film Companion*, "There are so many regressive people who have always had a reference of a man donning a woman's attire. Either you are becoming the butt of a joke or something very unusual. That stigma or phobia that is attached that there is something abnormal about them that is something one was trying to stay away from, and create a sense of normalcy. So that people can accept them."

Vaani also said that the cast and crew of the film were hoping to begin a dialogue about acceptance of transgender people in the wider community.

However, the actress added that when she first signed on for the film, she feared how her portrayal would be perceived by members of the transgender community themselves. She did not want it to be a half-baked attempt to play a transgender woman in Hindi cinema.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Solo exhibition 'Ka'-Shommondhiyo [Connected Speech]' underway at AFD

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The solo art exhibition, "Ka'-Shommondhiyo [Connected Speech]" by Azizee Fawmi Khan, is underway at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD).

Jeremy Opretesco, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., of the European Union Bangladesh attended the opening ceremony as the chief guest.

Azizee is a visual artist based in Dhaka. After completing her MFA from the Department of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka in 2017, she participated in both national and international exhibitions and artist residency programmes, including the 18th Asian Art Biennale, 23rd National Art Exhibition, 20th and 21st Young Artists Exhibition at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka.

She also collaborated with contemporary artists and art associations such as the British Council, Britto Arts Trust, Brihatta Art Foundation, Platform Art Space, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Rebel Creatives, Birmingham, UK. Visitors will see her journey of the past five years in her first solo exhibition. Azizee

is strongly motivated by her childhood and the lives of her predecessors, the heritage of the land she inhabits and the familiar customs that are passed on from one generation to another.

Even though the present is radically different from the past that she longs for, this exhibition is her way of reminiscing about all that now perhaps only exists inside the boundaries of her mind.

Azizee's style merges folk motifs, and local contexts with a personal take on the impressionistic styles as her canvases portray unblended strokes to create the illusion of memory. Along with traditional practices, she also works with old photographs and historical notions.

Along with a painting installation and a couple of drawing projects, 15 acrylic paintings are on exhibit at "Ka'-Shommondhiyo [Connected Speech]", which will be open to all till December 31, from 3 pm to 9 pm.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF AFD



PHOTO: COURTESY OF NOVA

A new feeling for NOVA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Nova made a name for herself through her appearance on television and the stage. Now, this talented actress is all set to make her appearance on the big screen for the first time with the film "Mridha Bonam Mridha", which received censor clearance this month. The Roni Bhowmik directorial will be released all over the country, on December 24. In a recent chat with The Daily Star, the actress talked about the anxiety which she faces before her first big release.

The first film of your career is being released. How do you feel?

I am feeling very nervous! The feeling is similar to the fear I used to have the night before exam. However, my expectation from this project is high. First of all, it has a very simple storyline based on our daily lives, which also makes it a family-friendly film. I would request the audience to watch the film with their families in the cinema hall, I know that they'll love it!

What kind of role you are playing in this film?

I am playing the role of Oishi Mridha. She is a modern girl, reflective of present society. I do not want to reveal the whole character, but I will say that director Roni Bhowmik has tried his best to bring the best out of all the characters. Say something about your co-star, Siam. Siam is very serious and dedicated towards his job. I had worked with him on a television project before. While working with him, I noticed that he always indulges himself wholly into the character he is playing. Besides, I am working with Tariq Anam Khan as well, who has been my mentor throughout this whole project.

Why did it take so long to act in films in so many years of career?

Honestly, I was waiting for a good film to work on. Even though it took a long time, I am happy to finally receive an opportunity to be in a great story. I want to do more films now. I am receiving many offers lately, but I will choose according to my taste and proceed.

Translated by Rafsana Amin

Let the world share our burden

Strong message from the UN on Rohingya crisis

THE United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, has categorically said that Bangladesh cannot and should not carry the burden of Rohingya refugees alone. Rather, he called for the world community to share the huge responsibility, taking into cognisance the ground reality that the Bangladesh government needs and deserves a stronger international partnership in handling the situation. We feel that he could not have been more discerning when commenting that a stronger commitment of resources is required for the Rohingya refugees and the host communities.

There is no denying that the sooner the world realises that the cause of this crisis and its solution are not in Bangladesh but in Myanmar, the easier it would be to act in the right direction. Bangladesh has done its parts; now it's the world's turn to reciprocate. We are happy to note that the UN special rapporteur has seen the contribution of Bangladesh in this regard, and acknowledged it in the following words, "Bangladesh saved untold numbers of lives when it opened its arms and hearts to (the) Rohingya people who survived these most unspeakable horrors inflicted on them by the Myanmar military. All who value human rights owe Bangladesh a debt of gratitude."

Since the day Bangladesh opened its borders to the Rohingyas, who are genuine nationals of Myanmar fleeing from the genocide launched by its military, police and armed goons, more than 700,000 of them took shelter on Bangladesh's soil. The immediate burden of providing a roof over their head, food and water fell on Bangladesh's shoulders. The government and the people welcomed these unfortunate people with open arms completely on humanitarian grounds. The Bangladesh government started to address the issue through all available diplomatic channels, including keeping the UN updated on a day-to-day basis. But the Myanmar government remained incommunicado almost on every occasion.

As the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and the surrounding areas became overcrowded with the burgeoning Rohingya population, which began to threaten our environment and law and order situation, the Bangladesh government built shelter homes in Bhashan Char, where about 19,000 refugees have been relocated so far.

Following his visit to the island, the UN emissary expressed his satisfaction at what he saw there and said that he would continue to work with Bangladesh on this major issue. He, however, urged the Bangladesh government to ensure availability of essential services at the new location before relocating more refugees. He welcomed the commitments made in the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Bangladesh government and the UN, and urged that they be put into practice.

It is good news that the UN special rapporteur said, before his departure on Sunday, that he would act to push for a stronger, more coordinated international response to this crisis, including exerting pressure on Myanmar and to hold the military junta fully accountable for this crisis. It is also significant that he put emphasis on the safe, sustainable and voluntary return of the Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar.

Farmers burdened with high fertiliser prices

Any disruption in the supply chain alongside artificial crisis must be checked

IT is most unfortunate that farmers across Bangladesh are being charged exorbitantly for fertilisers by the dealers and retailers, despite the government's claim that there is no crisis of fertilisers in the country. According to a report in this daily on December 19, while a 50kg sack of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) should sell for Tk 1,100, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) for Tk 800, and Muriate of Potash (MOP) for Tk 750, as per the government fixed rates, these fertilisers are currently being sold at much higher prices: TSP at Tk 1,400-1,700, DAP at Tk 950-1,050, and MOP at Tk 950-1,000. Only urea, the most widely used fertiliser, is being sold at the government-fixed rate: Tk 800.

While the government keeps saying that there are enough stocks of all these fertilisers in the country, and that a section of unscrupulous dealers and retailers are charging extra citing hiked prices in the international market, the dealers are saying otherwise—that the government's allotments are not enough to meet the local demand, so they have had to import the fertilisers at higher prices.

The authorities may be correct in saying that there are sufficient supplies of fertilisers, but it is also true that farmers are not being able to buy them at the proper rates. And in many cases, there are no supplies in the local markets. According to our report, a farmer in Dinajpur Sadar's Gopalganj Hat area went to the market to buy MOP two weeks ago, but could not due to its unavailability. Clearly, there is a serious lack of market monitoring by the authorities concerned.

In order to ensure a stable supply of fertilisers in the local markets, and to stop unscrupulous businessmen from cashing in on the situation, the authorities must have a strong mechanism to monitor the situation on the ground. Only claiming to have enough supplies will not help the farmers in any way. They are already burdened with high production costs following the fuel price hikes, and the high prices of fertilisers are just too much for them to bear. While regular mobile court drives may be helpful in checking any malpractices by fertiliser dealers and retailers, the authorities must also make sure that the supply chain is not disrupted in any way, which might create a crisis in the market.

Misleading analysis of US sanctions must be avoided



KAMAL AHMED

BANGLADESH'S elite law enforcement force, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), which has been subjected to a sanction by the US, has now been applauded by the same government

for its role in tackling terrorism, according to some media reports. The 2020 Country Reports on Terrorism, published by the US Department of State on December 16, 2021, which gives an overview of global counterterrorism environment, has reportedly praised Rab for its success in cutting down terror acts in Bangladesh. Some of these Bangladeshi media outlets have also quoted at least two noted experts on international relations saying that this praise proved that the sanctions were not a well-thought-out action, and could have been the result of intense lobbying by some anti-Bangladeshi elements. They argued that these contradictory acts were indicative of a lack of coordination

the Rapid Action Battalion established 'deradicalisation and rehabilitation programmes,' in addition to conducting community policing efforts and investigations and arrests of suspected FTFs." Clearly, this description neither praises nor criticises the Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes unit (CITTCU) of police and Rab.

Before going into continental and country-specific reports in a brief note, under the subhead "The Human Rights Report," it suggests that alleged human rights abuses by security forces may have acted as impediments to counter-terrorism programmes. It says, "In the countries listed below, significant human rights issues influenced the state of terrorist activity in the country and may have impeded effective counterterrorism policies and programmes or supported causes and conditions for further violence. Such human rights issues included, among others, unlawful and arbitrary killings, including extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, torture, and arbitrary detention (all of the preceding by both government and non-state actors); harsh and life-threatening prison conditions;

and Yemen.

When the government seems serious about assessing the likely impacts of the US sanctions and considering possible ways out of any adversarial impact, this kind of misleading analysis may prove harmful. The statements issued by two associations of cadre and non-cadre police officers seem quite strange as well, as they spoke about only the seven officials against whom individual sanctions have been slapped, but they

It is still unclear whether these sanctions will have any impact on the UN peacekeeping role of those officers who have or still are serving in Rab.



One needs to be cautious about interpreting the small print of US sanction documents.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

within the US Department of State. If the latter report is correct, then there's every reason to thank those experts for the correct interpretation of these discrepancies in the US policy on Bangladesh. But, what about getting it wrong, and as a result misleading the nation and the government?

Hearing one of those experts—a professor in the country's top university—I went through the report again and found only one reference of Rab in the whole report, which says, "Throughout 2020, the CITTCU and

violence against and unjustified arrests of journalists; substantial interference with the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of association; widespread and pervasive corruption; repression of religious freedom and violence against religious minorities; and forced and bonded labour." The countries listed in the report are: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan,

remained silent about the sanctions against Rab. The sanctions against those seven individuals, however, were due to their role in Rab. Collective punishment of a whole unit of a country's security forces is quite rare and, therefore, perhaps has greater significance than any individual or individuals.

In the past, sanctions—either economic or military—were used against a regime and a country. But such sanctions have proven to be less effective without a consensus among major powers and getting the maximum number of countries on board. And in many cases, such sanctions also proved counterproductive as the politicians of those countries subjected to sanctions could rally their population, alleging such punitive actions as collective punishment of a nation, and that victimhood made sustaining such sanctions difficult. Hence, came the tool called Smart Sanctions that are targeted to specific persons and entities, and the Global Magnitsky Act has become the most effective tool for the Western democracies. After the US, Canada and the UK have enacted their own Magnitsky acts; a similar legislation is currently being considered by the European Parliament.

The US sanctions have two components: a) Travel ban by the Department of State; and b) the Department of the Treasury ban involving freezing of assets and restricting all kinds of transactions with the subject(s) of the ban. In this context, the gravity of the sanctions against Rab could not be

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The WHO's penny-wise and health-foolish members

MARIANA MAZZUCATO and ILONA KICKBUSCH

IT beggars belief, but it's true: In the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) are still pondering whether, and by how much, they should increase their regular financial contributions to the organisation, whose work continues to save lives within and beyond their borders.

While some may think that the WHO is sufficiently financed, it's the opposite. The WHO's current budget structure cripples and undermines its mandate to act as the world's principal international public-health organisation. Less than 20 percent of the WHO's budget comes from regular fees—"assessed contributions"—paid by the member states. The heavy reliance on voluntary contributions by member states and other funders severely hampers the WHO's ability to work on its core activities, leaves it vulnerable to political pressures, and skews its priorities toward individual countries' preferences.

The acute need to support the WHO's critical work to overcome the pandemic

Member states waste no time paying lip service to the WHO's relevance. But how well it can deliver is predicated on how well it is financed.

crisis and achieve "Health for All" is self-evident, as is the organisation's indispensable leadership role in health globally. The WHO is the most important global coordination mechanism to prepare for and respond to pandemics and other health threats, providing a vital public good that serves all countries.



The World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

It is, therefore, imperative that the member states support the proposals from a WHO working group to reform the organisation's financing, including increasing assessed contributions as a share of its budget from 16 percent to 50 percent.

Improving both the quantity and quality of financing for the WHO is a matter of global urgency. Member states waste no time paying lip service to the WHO's relevance. But how well it can deliver is predicated on how well it is financed. And as we note in our work for the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All, finance is not neutral: the type of finance available affects the allocation and, ultimately, the outcome of investments.

Strengthening the WHO provides the best return on investment for health. Billions are being proposed—such as by the G20 High Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for

Pandemic Preparedness and Response—to set up and finance new global health security institutions that cannot guarantee broad political buy-in, especially from the Global South. There simply is no logical reason why member states should place heavy bets on a new venture that might not gain broad support over investing in their existing organisation, which most certainly can deliver more if funded accordingly.

It is simple: the greatest potential for global health solidarity lies with the WHO. Reliable financing by its owners—the 194 member countries—would make all the difference to global health cooperation and demonstrate the effectiveness of multilateral solutions to international challenges.

The time to walk the talk is now. Too many member states have long been indifferent to the need to strengthen the WHO or invest in global public health. It should not have been this way before

overstated. The Treasury announcement says, "As a result of today's actions, all property and interests in property of the persons designated above that are in the United States or in the possession or control of US persons are blocked and must be reported to OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control). In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked." It is, therefore, quite likely that any security equipment and technology coming to Bangladesh would be falling under additional scrutiny to ensure that the end users are not the subjects of the sanctions. It also makes it almost impossible for global banks having interests in the US to release any assets of Rab they hold or allow any transactions, like paying import bills.

It is still unclear whether these sanctions will have any impact on the UN peacekeeping role of those officers who have or still are serving in Rab. A leading human rights campaign group, the Human Rights Watch (HRW), has long been pushing the US and other Western countries for imposing sanctions against Rab and has also called on the UN to take similar actions.

Though ministers and politicians have blamed the so-called anti-Bangladeshi elements for the US actions, press reports about the meeting between the foreign secretary and the US ambassador after the latter was summoned at the ministry seems to suggest that Bangladesh's main disappointment was "the unilateral announcement instead of prior consultation." This is a flawed argument as, in October 2020, 10 leading senators in a show of bipartisan unity and urgency wrote to the then secretary of state to impose sanctions on Rab commanders. And again in August this year, the Congress caucus on human rights, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, also heard calls for actions against Rab during a public hearing.

Questioning the moral authority of the US or pointing out their dismal records at home against minority communities may be good for politicking, but lacks any practical solution. Claiming innocence or simple denial after years of allegations of gross human rights violations is not going to result in any exoneration. Therefore, setting up a truly independent and transparent investigation mechanism—perhaps a judicial commission—to probe into the alleged abuses should be considered with urgency. Eight years of negotiations and lobbying to end another exclusion, the suspension of GSP to Bangladesh over workers' rights, have yet to succeed.

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Covid-19, and it should not continue being this way now, in the middle of the pandemic.

The hesitancy and reluctance that brought us to this point sharply contrasts with the spirit and determination shown half a century ago, when humans overcame seemingly insurmountable challenges in order to make it to the moon and back. In today's money, President John F Kennedy's moonshot cost a colossal USD 283 billion—without any guarantee of success. Of course, it did succeed, and in the process it catalysed cross-sectoral innovation that, in time, gave the world camera phones, better home insulation, and the modern software industry.

In other words, Kennedy's moonshot boosted economic dynamism and growth through mission-oriented innovation. In comparison, the current financing proposal would only cost all 194 WHO member states USD 1.2 billion a year, with the certainty that it would significantly strengthen the organisation's effectiveness. We believe it should actually be more.

Today's moonshot must be "Health for All." Most immediately, that means ensuring that Covid-19 vaccines are accessible globally. But it is not a moonshot for the WHO's member states to finance their own organisation so that it can do its job. That is just common sense: the WHO saves the lives of its member states' people. We already have very affordable, practical, and straightforward solutions for global public health, including financing common goods for health; what we need now is just a fraction of the policymaking ambition we once had.

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Understanding a freedom fighter's prison letters

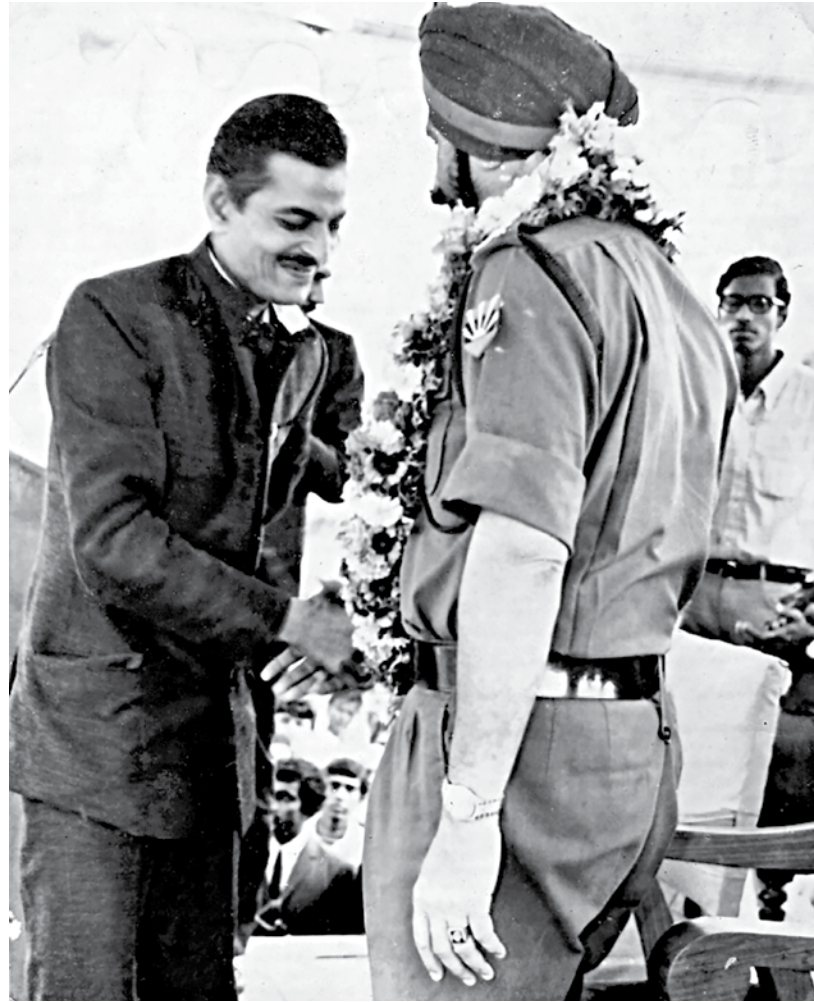


ADNAN ZILLUR MORSHED

IMPRISONED in various torture chambers by the Pakistan Army during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, Mohiuddin Ahmed, MP, wrote numerous

I have always wondered how people manage to stay alive in a cage. How does one endure enforced isolation? Is time infinite inside a prison cell? In *"The Shaushank Redemption"* (1994), one of the most captivating films about jail life, the protagonist Andy Dufresne stated, "Hope is a good thing, may be the best of the things. And a good thing never dies." Does hope power a prisoner to stay alive? Hope of what? Freedom? A chance of reuniting with family? Is the prison a ghetto of the soul? Are political prisoners the quintessential characters of the modern era, characterised by all sorts of ideological conflicts, ethnic strife, and genocidal hostilities?

Mohiuddin Ahmed's home district was Barishal, an area that remained free from the invading Pakistan Army until April 25, 1971. After a massive *blitzkrieg* in the last week of April, the marauding Pakistani soldiers occupied the district. Ahmed left for India along with other members of *Mukti Bahini*. They regrouped in a town at the Indian border called Hasnabad, right across the border from Khulna. In the first week of May, they embarked on a stealthy return journey to southern Bangladesh in two launches filled with arms and ammunition. Besides Ahmed, the resistance leadership in the launch included Major Jaill and Nurul Islam Manju. Escorted by an Indian gunboat up to the border, the two launches entered the Bangladesh territory. When they



Mohiuddin Ahmed with Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora.

PHOTO: COURTESY

came near Paikgachha in Khulna on the Burigowalini River, the launches came under heavy attack from Pakistani gunboats and eventually sank. The group dispersed in different directions.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, along with 19 other comrades, were captured by one Maulana Salam, a local collaborator of the Pakistan Army and a Jamaat leader, who also served as the local secretary to the notorious Peace Committee. In front of the captive *Mukti Bahini* members, he pontificated that it was the moral responsibility of all Bengali Muslims to support the political unity of both wings of Pakistan, because the country was founded on the theological nationalism of pan-Islamism. Ahmed and others were

declared as the "enemies of Islam," for they opposed the idea of Pakistan and demanded self-rule for Bengalis.

All the prisoners were taken to the Khulna Circuit House and interrogated with different torture methods. Thereafter they were blindfolded, pushed into a truck, and transported to Jashore Cantonment. Ahmed was locked up in the same room where Mashhur Rahman, member of parliament and secretary of Awami League's Jashore unit, had been beaten to death just a few days earlier. His blood stains were still fresh in the room.

A few days later, 17 prisoners, including Mohiuddin Ahmed, were flown to the Dhaka Cantonment in a helicopter. For the next few weeks, all of them suffered extreme

torture, including electric shock, indiscriminate beating, and being hung upside down from the ceiling. Shamshuddin Ahmed, sub-divisional officer from Sirajganj, was tortured to death while the captives watched. His body was left in front of their cells for psychological intimidation.

For the next eight months, Mohiuddin Ahmed's life turned into a veritable hell. Not only did he endure inhuman cruelty, but he also heard nonstop screams of imprisoned Bengali women used as sex slaves. One day, one Major Bashir terrorised a group of prisoners by barking what encapsulated the Pakistan Army's central war project in 1971, "We will make this country a land of prostitutes, a land of slaves, a land of beggars."

Ahmed was sent to Dhaka Central Jail in November. His lopsided military trial began on December 6. Under a brief tribunal led by one Colonel Alvi, Mohiuddin Ahmed was formally charged with treason, cooperating with India to disintegrate Pakistan, and aiding *Mukti Bahini*. On December 9, he was sentenced to death.

Nelson Mandela survived 27 years in prison. Many times, I tried to imagine prison life using him as a lens. The South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist was held in a tiny, two-metre-by-two-metre cell in Robben Island prison, located in Table Bay north of Cape Town, for 18 years. His prison writings offer an insight into how the human mind may or may not process captivity. He wrote, "... We drew strength and sustenance from the knowledge that we were part of a greater humanity than our jailers could claim... Prison is itself a tremendous education in the need for patience and perseverance. It is, above all, a test of one's commitment." One of the most intriguing aspects of Mandela's dealing with the inhumanities of long incarceration was his ability to be a father. He often wrote letters to his daughters to comfort both them and himself.

Another political prisoner who produced an extraordinary body of political literature in the jail was Antonio Gramsci, one of the founders of the Italian Communist

Party and an anti-fascist activist during the period between the two world wars. Gramsci penned more than 30 "prison notebooks" that covered philosophy, political theory, and the politics of history, among other subjects. He also wrote from the prison approximately 500 letters to friends, supporters, and family members. One could map the evolution and the turmoil of his mind through a scrutiny of these letters and his prison notebooks.

Does writing help mitigate the unbearable claustrophobia of confinement? Mohiuddin Ahmed's prison letters are modest in scope, but they shine a bright light on not only the state of a freedom fighter's mind, but also an illogical war's dehumanising effects on people. He found refuge in writing letters to his wife, who relentlessly tried to secure her husband's release from the prison, despite the constant physical threat she endured herself. As he wrote to his wife, Mohiuddin Ahmed imagined the nature of freedom and justice for his beloved country.

I like to argue that as much as we celebrate macro-histories of 1971, we must also robustly preserve its micro-histories—personal narratives, oral histories, prison letters, memories, and diaries—to nurture the spirit of the Liberation War as everyday reckonings.

December 19 was set for Mohiuddin Ahmed's execution. However, three days before his hanging, Pakistan surrendered and Bangladesh was liberated. He got lucky to breathe the fresh air of a liberated country, and went on to serve his country as a member of parliament. As a people's politician all his life, he remained committed to the welfare of his constituency with extraordinary loyalty and honesty.

Today, that loyalty and honesty seem increasingly rare. When a state minister threatens an actress over the phone with sexual violence, it is only natural that we find ourselves longing for a renewal of the humanity that powered our victory 50 years ago in this month.

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Mohiuddin Ahmed's prison letters are modest in scope, but they shine a bright light on not only the state of a freedom fighter's mind, but also an illogical war's dehumanising effects on people.

Chattogram needs urgent solution to dust pollution



MINHAZUR RAHMAN SHIHAB

CHATTOGRAM is well known due to its diverse natural aesthetics— with its mountainous terrain, flowing rivers and coastal plains.

However, rapid urbanisation has been taking a toll on this city, home to the biggest seaport in Bangladesh. Various important establishments, diversification of trade and commerce, rise in population, and expansion of housing, businesses and industries continue to take place in the city every day. As an adverse effect of this "industrialisation," which is being done without following proper rules and regulations, the city and its residents have been suffering from excessive pollution for a long time. The air of Chattogram is now thick with dust and smoke. The increased presence of toxic particles in the air has led to a spike in various diseases—particularly respiratory problems like asthma.

The quality of air in an area or a region depends on the amount of fine dust—particulate matter—in it. The amount of particulate matter is measured in micrograms per cubic metre or parts per million (ppm). The Air Quality Index (AQI) is measured based on the presence of PM2.5 and PM10 (PM2.5 means particles are 2.5 micrometres in diameter and smaller, and PM10 means they are 10 micrometres and smaller), as well as the presence of pollutants like sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The higher the AQI score of a city is, the worse its air quality. Air with the AQI score above 100 is "mildly harmful," while air with AQI score above 150 is "unhealthy," above 200 is "very unhealthy," and above 300 is "extremely unhealthy."

Typically, the tolerable level of dust per cubic metre of air is 150 micrograms. But data from the Department of Environment (DoE) shows that as of November this year, the amount of dust in the air of different parts in Chattogram city averages more than 300 micrograms. There was a time when the haze of dust was visible only in the big streets, but now dust-filled air can be found in the alleys as well. The air is so polluted that it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference between dust and fog during the winter season. School-going students and pedestrians suffer the most. It is so bad that the leaves of trees on the side of the roads look grey because they are covered in dust.

The most dangerous particle is PM2.5. It not only causes haze, but it also affects temperature. According to the available data, 65 percent of the polluting substance in Chattogram's air is dust. Environmentalists say that dust pollution is exceeding the pollution caused by brick fields.

to demolition of old buildings and construction of new ones, dumping of construction materials right on the streets, etc to meet the demand for housing as the population keeps growing every year. The pollution is intensifying day by day due to the lack of coordination and non-compliance of environment service-friendly methods. According to health experts, high levels of PM in the city's air and prolonged exposure to dust can affect the arteries, respiratory system and nervous system in a human body. In addition, there are heightened risks of eye problems, indigestion, allergies and other viral diseases. Children are most at risk, followed by pregnant women. If the trend of air pollution continues, the rate of premature



The air of Chattogram city is heavy with dust, causing many health complications among its residents.

PHOTO: COURTESY

deaths will see a rise in Chattogram, they fear.

Chattogram's air pollution—especially dust pollution—needs to be addressed urgently. Planned urbanisation, orderly utility, drainage and road system development and renovation initiatives, coordination among different government and development agencies, and the use of air treatment plants should be considered and enforced as soon as possible. The current situation in Chattogram city is extremely unhealthy and detrimental to public health, and the authorities must make cleaning the city's air a priority.

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"শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ, জলবায়ু সফি়ু বাংলাদেশ।"

গণ-প্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ

রাঙ্গামাটি

ইজারা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা নিম্নলিখিত ইজারার জন্য সীলসোহরমুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। ইজারার বিবরণ	: প্রশান্তি পিকনিক স্পট বর্তমানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই অবস্থায় কার্যক্রম প্রদানের তারিখ হতে অর্থ সঞ্চালকের অর্থ বিভাগ, সম্পদ ও স্থল ব্যবস্থাপনা অধিদপ্তর, নন-ট্যাক্স রেভিনিউ অধিশাখা-৩ এর স্মারক নং- অম/অধি/বাং এনটিআর/শা-৩/কো-৪৫/১(১০)/২০০৪/৩৫৬ তারিখঃ ০৮/১০/২০০৭ মূলে উল্লিখিত অনুমোদিত হারে ০১ (এক) বছর পর্যন্ত ব্যবহারের মাপুল আদায়ের ইজারা।
২। ইজারা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	: ৩৩ অব ২০২১-২০২২
৩। ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তির তারিখ	: ১৫/১২/২০২১
৪। বিড সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	: ১,৬০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ তেরশটি হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
৫। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য (প্রতি সেট)	: ৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা) মাত্র।
৬। দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণের উপযুক্ততা	: শর্তাবলী পালনে সক্ষম ব্যবসায়ীগণ এ ইজারা দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
৭। দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয় করার স্থান সমূহ	: পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগের আওতাধীন রাঙ্গামাটি সদর রেঞ্জ ও কাগাই রেঞ্জ।
৮। দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয় শেষ তারিখ	: ০৯/০১/২০২২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
৯। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	: ১০/০১/২০২২ দুপুর-০১.০০ ঘটিকা, ১। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, রাঙ্গামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা, ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রাঙ্গামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা ও ৩। বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, রাঙ্গামাটি।
১০। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ১০/০১/২০২২ বিকাল-০৩.০০ ঘটিকা, বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, রাঙ্গামাটি।
১১। দরপত্র দাখিল খোলার স্থান	: বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, রাঙ্গামাটি।
১২। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও তেলিফোন নম্বর	: মো: রফিকুজ্জামান শাহু, বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, রাঙ্গামাটি। ফোনঃ ০৩৫১-৬২৩৩৭

শর্তাবলীঃ-

- ইজারা দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় নবায়নকৃত হালনাগাদ মূল ট্রেড লাইসেন্স দেখাতে হবে। মূল ট্রেড লাইসেন্স প্রদর্শন ব্যতীত দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।
- ইজারা দরপত্রদাতাকে দরপত্রের সাথে জামানত হিসাবে ১,৬০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ তেরশটি হাজার) টাকা মাত্র। টাকা যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, রাঙ্গামাটির অনুকূলে জমাদান করতে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। জামানতের টাকা ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- ইজারা দরপত্রদাতাকে দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই নিম্নলিখিত সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবেঃ
 - যে কোন সরকারী বা স্থানীয় সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে হালনাগাদ টিকাদারী/ট্রেড লাইসেন্স।
 - আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (TIN নম্বরসহ) (পাঠাণ্ডীর প্রযোজ্য নহে)।
 - ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র।
 - ইজারা দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ।
 - আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা স্বপক্ষে যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত হালনাগাদ ন্যূনতম ১০,০০,০০০/- (দশ লক্ষ) টাকার আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সনদ।
 - জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
- যার ইজারা দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে তাতে লিখিতভাবে অবহিত করার পরবর্তী ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে সর্বমোট উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২০% হারে জামানত হিসেবে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অনুকূলে সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় ইজারা দরপত্রের সাথে প্রদত্ত বাস্তবায়ন টাকা সরকারের অনুকূলে বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে। যদি ইজারাদারের বিরুদ্ধে কোন অভিযোগ না থাকে তাহলে সংশ্লিষ্ট রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা ও সহকারী বন সংরক্ষক, কাগাই এর সনদ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য অকৃতকার্য দরদাতাদের বিক সিডিউরিটি পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্র চূড়ান্ত হওয়ার পর ফেরত দেয়া হবে।
- জামানতের টাকা জমা দেয়ার ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা নন-জুডিসিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পের উপর চুক্তিপত্র সম্পাদন করতে হবে এবং কার্যক্রম গ্রহণের পূর্বে সর্বমোট উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৭০% টাকা এবং উক্ত টাকার উপর ভ্যাট ও আয়করসহ ১ম কিস্তি হিসেবে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। অবশিষ্ট ৩০% অর্থ এবং উক্ত টাকার উপর ভ্যাট ও আয়করসহ এপ্রিল/২০২২ মাসের মধ্যে নগদ পরিশোধ করতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে ইজারা মূল্য/কিস্তি পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হলে ইজারা চুক্তি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং প্রদত্ত জামানত বাজেয়াপ্তসহ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে দরপত্রদাতাগণ অবশ্যই প্রশান্তি পিকনিক স্পট সরেজমিনে দেখে নিবেন। পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রকার ওজর আপত্তি কিংবা অভিযোগ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- বন বিভাগ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শাতে ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দাখিলের সাথে সন্নিবেশিত থাকবে।

(মো: রফিকুজ্জামান শাহু)
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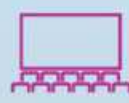
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SPORT

'If you want to catch someone, then must prepare accordingly'

Bangladesh returned to international hockey after 40 long months through the Men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament but finished with the wooden spoon from their maiden campaign in Asia's top competition after suffering four defeats on the trot. Despite a disappointing yet expected outcome of a last-place finish, Arshad Hossain, the 20-year-old promising forward was inclined to focus on the positive aspects while talking to The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman yesterday.

The Daily Star (DS): How did Bangladesh perform overall in their first-ever Asian Champions Trophy campaign?

Arshad Hossain (AH): You know, since all participating teams have been quality sides, both in terms of paper and ranking, I think we had a good campaign and gained much experience overall. In all four matches, we played better than anticipated, considering we stayed out of the international circuit for 40 months. I believe, if we are given more international exposure and necessary facilities to improve in future, we can give all good sides a

played international hockey in 2018 Asian Games before taking part in Champions Trophy this time. If you observe India, they are playing international matches regularly. Recently, they even managed to beat Olympic-gold medallist Argentina because of their planning and willingness to improve. If you want us to catch someone, then you must prepare us accordingly. We also have the problem of irregular domestic competitions, which are badly needed to draw the attention of upcoming players and to maintain an effective pipeline for the national team as well.



run for their money.

DS: But the fact remains that Bangladesh conceded 24 goals in four matches, of which the biggest 9-0 defeat was against India. Do you think the margins of defeats were justifiable?

AH: Both India and Japan play in the Olympics. And since Japan also conceded a 6-0 defeat to India, so in that case, I will say that our margin of defeat against India wasn't bad indeed. Besides, we played the first match against India after venturing into the tournament on the back of only a 10-day training. We did try our best to implement the plan that the coach had designed for the India match.

DS: That implies you reckon Bangladesh could have produced better results if they were given more time to prepare.

AH: It's not that we would have beaten them if we were given more preparation time but we could've certainly produced a much better performance than what we showcased. However, there was no shortage of effort from us to display something good but the fact is that we last

DS: Bangladesh lag behind other participating teams, no doubt. Can you point out the areas where Bangladesh have been trailing more than others?

AH: First of all, Bangladesh lag far behind in experience than other teams like India, Japan, Pakistan. After being used to a particular style of play, you also need to play more matches to experience match situations but we don't have such opportunities on a regular basis. Fitness was the second area we lacked because we recently played the domestic competitions after more than three years. The problems overall were a combination of experience, fitness and technique.

DS: You struck three of the four goals Bangladesh scored in four matches. How do you evaluate our own performance?

AH: Spectators always expect from the forwards to get goals and they only remember the scorers irrespective of the performances on the turf. I always tried to cash in on the opportunities because you don't get many in such big matches. Moreover, I tried to reduce the pressure on the players by contributing to an early lead.

**ADAMANT BUTTLER fails to deny Aussies**

AGENCIES



Australia ground down a battling England to win the second Test in Adelaide Monday and go 2-0 up in the Ashes series, leaving the visitors' dreams of winning back the hallowed urn in tatters.

It might have taken longer than most onlookers expected to achieve the result they almost unanimously did, but Australia secured their second hefty win in as many Ashes Tests and are all-but assured of retaining the urn.

In the 117-year history of five-Test Ashes series, only one team has recovered from a 0-2 deficit to win the last three matches and that was largely due to the individual mastery of Don Bradman in the summer of 1936-37.

The win, by 275 runs, was achieved with Jhye Richardson completing his maiden Test five-for, and with a minimum 21 overs remaining in the final session.

Richardson was hugely impressive in his return to Test cricket after almost two years battling shoulder injuries, and selectors face a tough call in finalising their attack for the next Test at the MCG starting Boxing Day with captain Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood expected to return. And in finishing the match with five wickets, spinner Nathan Lyon joins legendary leggie Shane Warne as the most successful Test bowler at Adelaide Oval.

The result extended England's winless streak in Tests in Australia to 12 stretching back to the final match of their successful 2010-11 campaign.

Only New Zealand (18 Tests from 1987-2011), as well as Sri Lanka (15 from 1988), West Indies

England keeper Jos Buttler had defied the eight-pronged Australia attack and his own reputation as a belligerent white-ball basher only to push the match into its last phase. Buttler, who had a wretched time behind the wicket, dropping several catches, produced a spectacular rearguard, spread over 207 deliveries, for an uncharacteristically dogged 26 that kept alive England's faint hopes of saving the match. The right-hander dogged resistance, however, ended in a bizarre fashion as Australia thrashed England by 275 runs in the day-night second test to go 2-0 up in the five-match Ashes series on Monday. It was soon snuffed out when the batsman, retreating deep into the crease to work a Jhye Richardson delivery on the off-side, trod on his own stumps.



(14 from 2000) and Pakistan (14 from 1999) who are all yet to win a Test here this century, have endured longer droughts in Australia.

England captain Joe Root said his side cannot afford to feel sorry for themselves after losing the second Test.

"The Ashes are on the line here, if that is not motivation, I don't know what is," Root said.

Buttler's 26 runs from 207 balls delayed Australia's victory charge for a while and Root said that should be the blueprint for the remaining matches in Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart.

"Ultimately that is the attitude and the mentality we have to harness over the next five days. I am extremely proud of the way the guys fought today, that attitude and desire that's how we need to go about a whole test match. I thought Jos's innings was outstanding on that pitch. He should have gained a lot more confidence from this," he added.

Interim Australian skipper Smith said: "We wanted to stay calm because we knew it would take a couple of good balls and a couple of wickets to get the win. I had fun this week, enjoyed it," he added. "The guys played well, controlled the game from the first day."

Marnus Labuschagne won player-of-the-match for scoring a century and a fifty but it was "exceptional" Mitchell Starc who was praised by Smith.

"They all bowled exceptionally well as a group, led by Mitchell Starc. Mitch led the attack really well. He summed it up quickly, not a great deal of swing so he bashed a good length, across the right-handers, in great rhythm."

The third Test begins in Melbourne on Sunday.

Relieved Tigers to train outdoors

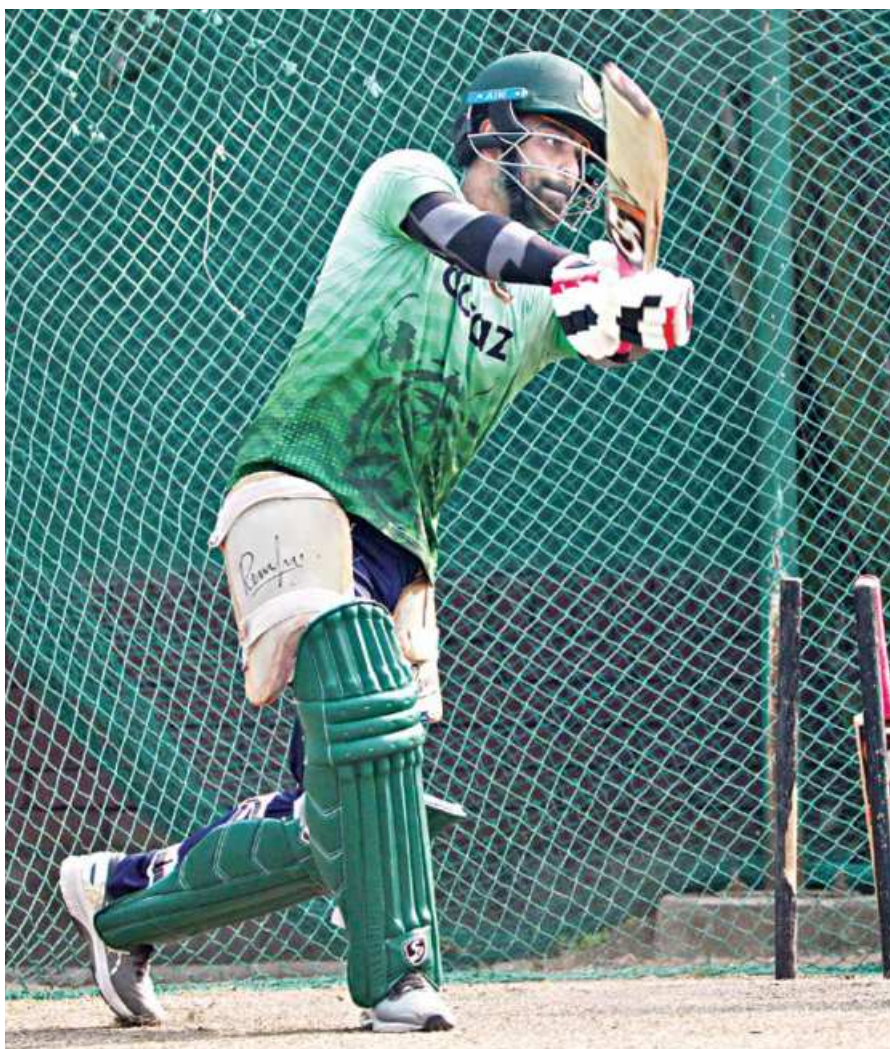
SPORTS REPORTER

A state of stability and relief returned to the Bangladesh camp on their two-Test tour of New Zealand after all the members of the side returned negative in their latest round of Covid-19 tests yesterday, allowing them to start preparing for the series from today.

Team director Khaled Mahmud informed that the players will be allowed to train outdoors in groups for the first time since landing on December 10.

"We had our last Covid-19 test here yesterday [Sunday] and the results came in today. All of us are tested negative," Mahmud told the media in a video message from Christchurch. "We have a training session at Lincoln University ground at 10:15am [local time]. Here we will also avail gym facilities," a relieved Mahmud added.

Earlier, a phase of turbulence began for the Tigers after Bangladesh's spin-bowling coach Rangana Herath tested positive for Covid-19 and a few members of the side came in contact with a Covid-patient on their flight to New Zealand.



After being sidelined for over two months from any forms of cricket due to a thumb injury, Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal returned to practise in Mirpur yesterday in an attempt to get back in action, presumably in the one-day format of the ongoing Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) next month.

PHOTO: BCB

Nasum reaches 100

SPORTS REPORTER



Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed picked up a second consecutive five-wicket haul in the ongoing Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) and also scalped his 100th first-class wicket along the way, helping BCB South Zone bundle out BCB North Zone for 385 in their first innings on the second day of their encounter at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

South Zone replied well with the bat and ended the day on 112 for two, still trailing by another 273 runs with Towhid Hridoy (39 not out) and Amite Hasan (31 not out) set to resume the third day's play.

Earlier, after North Zone resumed the day on 246 for four, Nasum started off by removing centurion Naeem Islam. Nasum, who scalped

a solitary wicket the previous day, had Naeem caught behind after a 342-ball 137, featuring 15 fours and a maximum. Nasum went on to pick four more wickets, bagging his sixth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket.

The left-arm spinner reached the



100-wicket mark in first-class cricket when he trapped in front Shafiqul Islam, the last North Zone batter, to end with figures of six for 126.

Apart from Nasum, off-spinners Nahidul Islam and Mahedi Hasan also picked a couple of wickets each for South Zone. Meanwhile, at the

Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Walton Central Zone ended the second day on 223 for nine, still 22 runs behind Islami Bank East Zone's first-innings total of 245.

Central Zone, however, were left reeling at 32 for five at one stage as East Zone pacers Anamul Haque and Asaduzzaman Payel removed the top five batters. But a 152-run sixth-wicket stand helped Taibur Parvez and Jaker Ali helped Central Zone stage a brilliant comeback.

Jaker, however, would still be disappointed as he missed out his maiden first-class hundred by just eight runs. He was trapped leg-before by left-arm spinner Tanvir Islam after scoring 92 off 180 balls, smashing eleven fours and three sixes, while Taibur departed after scoring 76.

Payel picked up three wickets while Anamul, Nayeem Hasan, and Tanvir bagged two wickets each for East Zone.

Bangladesh Under-19 cricketers take selfie during an official photo session in Mirpur yesterday prior to their departure for the UAE, where they will take part in the ACC Asia Cup. Bangladesh begin their Group B campaign against Nepal on December 24. After completion of the Asia Cup, the team will travel directly to the West Indies to defend their ICC Under-19 World Cup title next month.



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Journey on Rokeya Sarani turns nightmare due to poor maintenance, construction work

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Large potholes, contraflow lanes, overflowing drains and long tailbacks make the commute through the capital's Begum Rokeya Sarani an exercise in patience.

The situation has been more or less the same since the construction of metro rail began in 2016.

On rainy days, the large potholes get covered in muddy water, making it harder for motorists to avoid them.

The authorities do not seem too keen on repairing the road. Besides, no traffic police can be seen on the road between Mirpur 10 and Agargaon most of the time.

For the last couple of months, long tailbacks are often caused by the around one-and-a-half kilometer contraflow between Taltola and Kazipara. Sometimes it takes over half an hour to travel the distance in a vehicle.

The absence of traffic police means vehicles and rickshaws park on the road and buses pick up and drop passengers completely blocking traffic flow.

"The number of trips we could make have halved, thanks to the state of Rokeya Sarani," said Jibon, driver of a Mirpur Link Paribahan bus.

Hasan, driver of a Bikalpa Paribahan bus, said the road wouldn't be in this state if VIPs were using it.

DNCC and Metro rail are pointing fingers at each other.

Shawkat Mahmud, superintendent engineer of Drainage circle of Dhaka North City Corporation, said the metro rail authority requested the corporation not to work on its underground sewer pipes.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



One side of the Begum Rokeya Sarani completely gridlocked as the other part has been closed for several weeks for the city corporation's development work on drainage system in East Shearapara area. Poor road surface coupled with construction work on drainage and metro rail have made the daily commute to work arduous.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

KHALEDA'S TREATMENT Lawyer files writ seeking HC directive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive to allow BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to go abroad for advanced treatment.

Since November 13, the 76-year-old former prime minister has been in the critical care unit of Dhaka's Evercare Hospital, where she is taking treatment for liver cirrhosis.

To save her life, her doctors said she needs a transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt, a medical procedure available only in medically advanced countries such as Germany, the UK and the US.

But the leader of the main opposition party has been barred by a court from leaving the country after being convicted on corruption charges in 2018.

Her family filed petitions to allow her to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Shobdo Sainik Mushtari Shafi no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Eminent writer and Shaheedjaya (wife of a Liberation War martyr) Begum Mushtari Shafi, who also worked as a Shobdo Sainik at the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War, passed away in Dhaka yesterday.

She was 84. Begum Mushtari died at the Intensive Care Unit of Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka around 5:10pm, confirmed her son Mehraj Tahsin Shafi.

She was suffering from different health issues, including kidney, urine and blood infection as well as

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Superman #1 comic fetches \$2.6m at auction



AP, New York

A rare copy of a Superman #1 comic book that sold on newsstands for a dime in 1939 was purchased for \$2.6 million in an auction.

The comic showing Superman leaping over tall buildings on the cover was sold Thursday night to a buyer who wishes to maintain a secret identity, according to ComicConnect.com, an online auction and consignment company.

The seller, Mark Michaelson, bought the comic in 1979 from its original owner and kept it in a temperature-controlled safe. Michaelson, now semi-retired and living in Houston, paid his way

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Ruma Sarkar gets bail after 61 days in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruma Sarkar, assistant professor of Begum Badrunnessa Government Girls' College, yesterday got bail from the High Court after spending 61 days in jail in a Digital Security Act case.

She was previously denied bail twice by lower courts.

The HC granted her bail until the submission of the police report to the trial court, clearing the way for her to walk out of Kashimpur jail.

The court also issued a rule asking the state to explain why Ruma should not be granted permanent bail in this case.

The bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Atoar Rahman delivered the order and issued the rule following a petition filed by Ruma seeking bail.

Zi Khan Panna, lawyer of rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra which is

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

POST-COUP MYANMAR

Probe reveals mass murder

At least 40 civilians tortured, killed in revenge attacks by military



AGENCIES

At least 40 extra-judicial killings were conducted by the Myanmar military in July this year, according to a report.

The killings allegedly took place in central Myanmar's Kani Township in four separate incidents in the span of less than a month, the BBC reported yesterday following an investigation with Myanmar Witness, a UK-based NGO.

Eyewitnesses said the military rounded up villagers before separating the men and killing them. The men were allegedly tortured before they

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

UP chairman getting walkovers continues

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

One in nine Union Parishad chairman is being elected unopposed in the UP polls.

With 52 more UP chairman runners set to be elected unopposed on January 5, a total of 352 chairmen will be elected uncontested in the UP polls.

Polls will be held in 714 unions that day, which will be the fifth phase of the election. Elections to 2,203 unions have taken place so far in three phases. The fourth phase will be held in 840 other unions on December 26.

In 2016, a total of 207 chairmen were elected unopposed in 4,107 UPs, meaning one in 20 chairmen were elected uncontested.

Most of the chairman candidates elected unopposed are Awami League nominees, said election observers.

The BNP and many other political parties are not taking part in the polls.

Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar had expressed dismay over the phenomenon.

"I want to say metaphorically that elections are now in ICU and democracy is on life support... Literally, this cannot be called an election. There is no election when there is no competition," Mahub said last month.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Kushtia court bins case against Murad

STAR REPORT

A Kushtia court yesterday rejected a case filed against former state minister for information and broadcasting Murad Hassan and Muhammad Mohiuddin Helal Nahid, a Facebook live talk show host.

The case was filed for making offensive comments on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, its acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his daughter Zaima Rahman during a Facebook Live and disseminating false information.

Hafizur Rahman Munir, SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



WINTER WOES... A woman covers herself with a plastic sheet, while others manage to stay warm with whatever clothes they have as the season's first cold wave began yesterday. While many people enjoy the chill in the air during this time, those living on the streets struggle to find enough clothes to keep warm. The photo was taken early yesterday in the capital's Karwan Bazar area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Star HEALTHLINE

Why do we SLEEP MORE IN WINTER?

STAR HEALTH DESK

Sleeping in feels a lot better during this cold season than it does in others. Rolling out of bed in the morning and staying awake past sundown feels harder. But is there any scientific reason behind it?

As opposed to summer, winter has shorter days. The change in sleeping habits during winter is mainly due to this reduction in daylight hours which creates a great, natural opportunity to spend more time sleeping.

The shorter

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Hyginex instant hand sanitizer

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:25 12:45 3:45 5:24 7:00
JAMAAT 6:00 1:15 4:00 5:27 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION