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City braces for crippling traffic jams

Schools, colleges being open in Ramadan to add to woes

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Dhaka city dwellers fear that congestion on streets is going to be even more unbearable with the schools and colleges staying open for the better part of Ramadan.

Schools and colleges usually remain closed during the holy month, but this year, to make up for the learning loss amid the pandemic, they will stay open three week into Ramadan when business activities surge.

"Traffic congestion becomes ubiquitous in Ramadan. We have already been experiencing severe gridlocks for a week. If the authorities do not take any measures immediately, congestion will turn into nightmares, said Mahfuzur Rahman, a resident of

The situation seems particularly concerning as school and office hours would coincide, he added.

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said it will be quite a challenge to control traffic in Ramadan.

> SEE PAGE 2 COL 2 ANOTHER STORY ON PAGE 5



Students demonstrating for safer roads on a street beside North South University in the capital. One of their classmates, Maisha Momotaz Meem, who campaigned for road safety, died in a crash on the way to the campus on Friday. Story on page 3.

Holy Ramadan begins

UNB, Dhaka

Muslims in Bangladesh have started observing the holy month of Ramadan, the lunar month of selfpurification through fasting and abstinence, from today as the new crescent moon was sighted yesterday.

Lailatul Qadr, the night of divine blessings and benediction, will be observed on the night of April 28.

The National Moon Sighting Committee took the decision at a meeting held at the Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office, with State Minister for Religious Affairs Faridul Haque Khan in the chair.

Muslims fast from dawn to dusk during this lunar month, a time of restraint and austerity.

The government has rearranged the office timing for Ramadan from SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING							
RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR							
1	3	4:27	6:19				
2	4	4:26	6:19				
3	5	4:24	6:20				

TIPU MURDER

Strings pulled from Dubai

Rab claims his insistence on getting justice for killing of aide resulted in his own murder

Zahidul Islam Tipu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

His pursuance of a murder case filed after the killing of a close aide was one of the reasons behind Awami League leader Zahidul Islam Tipu murder, said Rab.

It also said long-standing feuds over exerting influence in school-college admissions, and kickbacks from extortion, illegal kitchen markets, and tender bid manipulation in Motijheel were among the other reasons.

Rab said this yesterday after arresting Omar Farooq, 52, AL general secretary of Dhaka South City Corporation Ward-10 unit. It claimed that Farooq was one of the masterminds.

It also held Abu Saleh Sikder, also known as Shooter Saleh, 38; Nasir Uddin aka Killer Nasir, 38; and Morshedul Alam aka Kayla Palash, 51, at Mirpur, Mugda, and Shahjahanpur.

The law enforcers also recovered a motorbike used for surveilling Tipu and Tk 3.30 lakh "blood money".

The rivalry between Tipu and Farooq and

others began even before the 2013 sensational murder of Dhaka North Jubo League organising Secretary Riazul Haque Khan Milky in front of Shoppers World in Gulshan.

Station unit general secretary as he was arrested in the murder case. Even though

Tipu lost his post of AL Motijheel Police

he was later dropped from the charge sheet, Farooq and others held demos demanding Tipu be

> punished. Commander Khandaker Al-Moin, director of legal and media wing of Rab, at a press conference yesterday said Faroog with his cohorts killed Tipu's aide Rizvi Hasan in 2016 over establishing supremacy in

the area and share of kickbacks. The murder case that followed is now pending with a speedy trial tribunal and Farooq, Nasir, and Saleh, all accused in the murder

case, believed that Tipu was backing the case. They had tried to settle the case with Rizvi's father and had allegedly offered Tk 50 lakh but could not reach a settlement, said Moin quoting the arrestees.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Brutality unbound Child worker dies

after air pumped into his rectum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A 14-year-old boy died yesterday after his coworker in Anwara Mannan Textile Mill at Sreepur pumped air through his

Police arrested the co-worker, another 14-year-old-boy, who hails from Fulbaria upazila in Dinajpur, said Mahfuz Imtiaz Bhuiyan, officer-incharge (investigation) of Sreepur Police Station.

After the end of their night shift, the suspect and Apu Dewan, son of Palash Dewan of East Shiyandi village under Sirajdikhan upazila in Munshiganj, were cleaning cotton from each other's bodies with the high-pressure air pump at the ring department on the ground floor of the factory.

"All of a sudden, Apu fell to the ground... He was immediately rushed to the hospital," said a worker of the mill, seeking anonymity.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

'Citizens today, refugees tomorrow'

Bangladeshi photojournalist chronicles Ukrainians in flight

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Upon his arrival in the small town of Chop, located in western Ukraine, Ismail Ferdous witnessed first-hand the devastating consequences of war.

A Bangladeshi photojournalist, he had covered migration crises in many regions and has seen hundreds of thousands of people resigning themselves to their fate -- they have no home and are now refugees.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone on Wednesday, he said, "I am sitting in a railway station right now. There are so many people waiting for a train to take them to another country. They are citizens right now. Tomorrow, they will all be refugees.

"People are hugging their loved ones boarding the train for another country. Their cries of separation and an unknown future is really painful to watch. Never have I felt this emotional while covering conflicts over the last few years.'

Ismail, who flew from New York to Warsaw on March 1, was assigned by French Magazine "Blind" to document the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

"My editor sent a letter to the Ukraine



© ISMAIL FERDOUS/VU FOR BLIND

authorities for a defence press accreditation... I got my visa from Ukraine's consular office in Lublin in Poland."

From Lublin, he hired a cab to Przemy47?l in South-eastern Poland and took seven hours to

Once there, his fixer, who herself fled the war from Ukraine's Kyiv, took him to a temporary home in a mountain town.

After working for around a week in Przemy47?l, he reached Chop, a town right across Hungary, hosting over 5,000 internally displaced Ukrainians.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



KIDS WITH AUTISM PM for efforts to help flourish their talents

UNB. Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised bringing children with special needs and autism into the mainstream of society giving them opportunities to flourish their hidden talents.

"I believe we will be able to incorporate persons with autism syndrome in the mainstream of the national life with the united efforts of all including our [government's] diversified ones," she said.

She said this while addressing the 15th World Autism Awareness Day 2022 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) organised by the social welfare ministry.

She joined the programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

The theme of this year's day is: "Make such a world: explore the talents of people

Regarding the demand for providing



"I believe we will be able to incorporate persons with autism syndrome in the mainstream of the national life..."

accommodation with training facilities for persons with autism after the demise of their parents and guardians, Sheikh $\,$ Hasina said that the government would

"Initially we will arrange accommodation with training facilities in the divisional headquarters while gradually in all districts through Neuro Developmental Disability Protection Trust," she said.

She asked the social welfare minister to take a project for this purpose.

Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed, State Minister Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru and Secretary Mahfuza Akhter spoke at the programme.

Hasina also inaugurated "Bolte Chai" and "Smart Autism Barta" applications at the programme.

In 2007, the United Nations declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, aiming to improve the quality of life of those with autism.

In Bangladesh, different programmes have been taken to mark the day.



Parents arriving with their sick toddlers at the icddr,b Dhaka hospital yesterday amid an outbreak of water borne diseases like diarrhoea and cholera. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION TO OUST PAK PM

Khan suggests he might not accept vote result

Accuses US of trying 'regime change', calls for street protests; Pak army chief urges closer ties with Washington

AGENCIES

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday suggested that he might not accept a vote to oust him and called on his supporters to take to the streets today ahead of a parliamentary no-confidence vote that could see him thrown out of office.

No Pakistan premier has ever completed a full term, and Khan is facing the biggest challenge to his rule since being elected in 2018, with opponents accusing him of economic

mismanagement and foreign-policy Parliament is due to debate the

the same day. Khan's Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) effectively lost its majority in the 342-member assembly last week when a coalition partner said its seven lawmakers would vote with the opposition.

More than a dozen PTI lawmakers have also indicated they will cross the floor, although party

leaders are trying to get the courts to prevent them from voting.

"How can I accept the result when the entire process is discredited?" Khan told a select group of foreign journalists at his office. "Democracy functions on moral authority - what

moral authority is left after this connivance?' "The move to oust me is blatant

interference in domestic politics by the United States," he said, terming it an attempt at -regime change Earlier this week he accused

the United States of meddling in Pakistan's affairs, with local media reporting he had received a briefing letter from Islamabad's ambassador to Washington recording a senior US official telling him they felt relations would be better if Khan left office.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters there was "no truth" to the allegations.

"Ī want you all to protest for an independent and free Pakistan," he said yesterday during a public question and answer phone-in broadcast by state media.

Khan has accused the opposition of conspiring with Washington to remove him because he won't take the West's side on global issues against Russia and China. He called his opponents "robbers, cowards, deceivers".

The opposition is headed by the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

Missing Chinese national found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A team of Bangladesh Coast Guard yesterday recovered the body of a Chinese national who went missing after a tugboat capsized at the Matarbari channel in Maheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar on Thursday.

The dead Jiang Hong Chen was working at the Matarbari Port.

His body was recovered from the channel adjacent to the Matarbari coal power plant around 12:30pm yesterday.

Bagerhat lawyer arrested over rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police arrested a lawyer in Bagerhat on Friday for allegedly raping one of his female clients.

The accused is Fakir Iftekharul Islam Rana, 55. The victim filed a case under the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act against Rana on the same day he was arrested.

KM Azizul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bagerhat Model Police Station, said the woman had filed a case against her husband with Bagerhat court

Rana was appointed as her lawyer in that case

The woman visited Rana's chamber multiple times for that case and he gave illicit offers to her multiple times.

On January 29, he raped her at his chamber and recorded it, said the police officer quoting

Dhaka facing issues with food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is facing pressing problems in supplying affordable, safe and nutritious food to its 20 million-strong population, experts said yesterday.

The observation came at a seminar organised as part of formulating Dhaka Food Agenda 2041, which aims to develop integrated solutions to address Dhaka's present and future food needs.

The local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) jointly organised the event at the InterContinental Dhaka, read a press release of FAO.

Shanghai separates Covid-kids from parents

REUTERS, Shanghai

Strings pulled

off the murder case and

planned to murder him

The arrestees also admit

that Palash, a witness to

Rizvi murder, was paid to

not testify but Tipu made

before the court, said Rab.

Ward-10, in Farooq's area.

He was also a contractor

there and a member of

On March 24 around

school's

renowned

managing committee.

Tipu has a hotel in

three months ago.

FROM PAGE 1

Esther Zhao thought she was doing the right thing when she brought her 2-1/2-year-old daughter to a Shanghai hospital with a fever on

Three days later, Zhao was begging health authorities not to separate them after she and the little girl both tested positive for COVID-19, saving her daughter was too young to be taken. away to a quarantine centre for children.

Brutality

FROM PAGE 1

The patient was suffering FROM PAGE 1 from breathing difficulties; his belly had swelled abnormally and his pulse rate was too low, said Mohammad Zabed Kawsar, physician of Sreepur Upazila Health Complex.

Apu, who joined the factory to help his povertystricken family amid the pandemic, was referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital since his condition was critical. He died on the way.

Family members have not filed a complaint yet, Bhuiyan said.

Holy Ramadan

FROM PAGE 1

9:00am to 3:30pm for government, semigovernment, autonomous semi-autonomous institutions.

Besides. secondary and higher secondary institutions have been requested to continue inperson classes till April 26 to make up the academic losses that occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Southern insurgent group to halt violence

REUTERS, Bangkok

The Thai government yesterday hailed "significant progress" in the latest talks with the main group fighting an insurgency in Thailand's Muslim deep south after the sides agreed to stop violence during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

City braces for crippling traffic jams and a half hours to reach shopping during the commissioner

Usually, city roads see most traffic for 18 hours of the day. But in Ramadan, the time reduces to 13-14 hours, he said, adding that it intensifies the load on the

Construction taking place on the roads should be paused for the month and the authorities should make as much room as possible for vigilance, the authorities should free the footpaths on illegal parking, and buses should not be allowed

his office in Paltan over the last two weeks

The scorching heat adds to the woes, he added. "Things will be even more unbearable this week.'

said for the last few days walking to school has been faster than taking the car. don't disruption to our children's

vehicles. Through constant education. But considering the traffic situation, the government could have from vendors, crack down adopted a hybrid of online and in-person classes," said Miroza, whose son's school to block traffic by stopping is in the cantonment area.

Ramadan while businesses would be looking to make up for losses incurred over

the last two years.

On the other hand, many people would come Miroza Parvin, mother to the capital from outside of a third grader in Senpara, Dhaka to look for work and for business purposes.

Wahidul Islam, a rickshaw puller, said there are 40 rickshaws in his garage. Of them, 12-15 rickshaws remain unused in normal times due to shortage of rickshaw pullers. But for the last two days, all the rickshaws are being used.

"There are already more rickshaws on roads," he

Mohammad Saleh, joint

North) of DMP, said police have plans to deploy additional forces from the crime divisions to ensure motorists are following

> Police will also launch a special operation against vehicles which will breach traffic rules. "We'll give special focus on passenger buses that stop wherever the driver wishes," he told

The Daily Star. He said they will hold meetings with owners of city service buses and request them to instruct transport workers to follow traffic rules and maintain discipline on roads.

"We'll take drastic action if anyone violates traffic

(Traffic rules and stops vehicles to pick up and drop off passengers on the roads. said Raihan.

Traffic jams at certain hours are quite common in megacities around the world and Dhaka is among the worst.

In the World Traffic Index 2020, Dhaka ranked 10th in terms of poor traffic management among 228 cities.

major factors The behind this are shortage of roads and inefficient traffic management. Besides, the existing public transport system fails to address the desirable mobility needs of the people in terms of reliability, comfort, speed, and safety.

10:15pm, Tipu returning home in his microbus from his hotel. As

the car was stuck in traffic at Khilgaon Bagichha, one person fired shots through the window. Tipu, his driver Monir Hossain, and rickshaw passenger Samia Afran Jamal Prity, 22, were He has since been workingforbiginternational

> Tipu's wife Farhana Islam Doly, who filed a murder case, told The Daily Star yesterday that the arrestees were lowprofile criminals. "They may be involved in the

killing but it needs to be

ascertained who is the

Tipu and Prity died.

actual mastermind." Six people have so far been arrested in the case. Masum Mohammad Akash and Arfan Ullah Damal, a local Jubo League leader, are the other arrestees.

EXECUTED FROM DUBAI Suman Sikder Musa, another accused in the Rizvi murder case,

the country for Dubai on They thought removing March 12, Moin said. Tipu would get them Commander Moin said

> Tk 15 lakh, most of which was paid by Farooq. Musa planned appointed the hitman for

> the murder contract was

the murder, said Moin. Moin said they have so sure he gave his statement far found the involvement of several top underworld criminals, who stay in the

UAE and France. Asked who actually shot Tipu, Moin said that only Musa knew who the person was

ARRESTEES' ROLE

According to Rab, Nasir monitored Tipu during the murder mission.CCTV footage shows. He also paid part of the blood money. After the killing, he

destroyed his SIM card and sold his phone. Palash introduced

Farooq and Musa to people who could supply the firearm and backups, said Rab.

He was arrested earlier in an arms case filed with Motijheel Police station.

Saleh is accused in 12 cases and a chargesheeted accused in the Rizvi murder case.

Nasir and Palash had been sending information to Musa in Dubai for several days ahead of the murder. On the day of incident, Nasir notified Musa about Tipu's location four times.

A text was also sent to Musa after the murder saying, "It is done".

Bangladesh coordinated the Tipu League has expelled Farooq killing mission. He left yesterday afternoon.

at the intersections. With no restrictions pointed out. Abul Kalam, of Mirpur, in place, more people Contacted, Abu Raihan said it took him almost two are expected to go out

'Citizens today, refugees tomorrow'

There, he is living with 10 people in a 15 by 18 square metre room.

Apart from families fleeing, Ismail got the chance to see the military facilities there. While there were huge numbers of Ukranian troops on the also seen roaming with

"The people, crammed in the city, are in a state of fear and distrust and scared of Russian spies. The special permission that I got gives me the advantage to take photographs even during curfew."

heavy guns.

Ismail then also witnessed a heart-warming side of the war.

"The way people are helping one another was a sight to behold. I haven't

seen so much compassion when covering other conflicts.

"I went to a school where [displaced] people stay overnight. Every morning, elderly people, especially the retired professional, come to the school to help clean up. They wash the roads, general people were bedsheets and other things and bring them back the next day for those staying there."

While interviewing a family who moved to Chop from another city, he came across a teenager.

"The girl, around 14, came to me herself. She said she wants to become a journalist in the future. She said she earlier wanted to be an economist and travel the world, but witnessing the role of journalists in the war has

inspired her to become one herself." Ismail has covered the

refugee crisis at the Syria-Turkey border, in Calais on the France-England border, Mediterranean Sea crisis near the Libvan coast border to Sicily, the Central American crisis on Mexico-US border, and the Rohingya refugee crisis on Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

"The region has been in conflicts since the second world war. My takeaway from this war is the general public suffers the most and they are mostly women and children. We are seeing history repeat itself."

What really struck him about the Russia-Ukraine war is that it's not very different from Bangladesh's fight for liberation in 1971 as Ukraine has been fighting to save its culture and language from Russian

aggression. "When I first visited Kyiv in 2019, young locals had told me they were going through their own decadeslong renaissance period to reintroduce the glory of their culture, including music and literature, and re-establish their own cultural identity, especially since 2014.

'This war is their 'Liberation War'. They want to get rid of the ghost of the USSR, haunting them for over 30 years." who Ismail,

is a self-taught photographer, received international recognition for his photographs on the Sundarbans in 2011 and then his long-term coverage

media, including National Magazine, Geographic The New York Times, The Guardian, The Economist, Bloomberg, and Washington Post. Mali says 203

of the Rana Plaza tragedy.

killed in military operation

AFP, Bamako

Mali's army said Friday that it had killed 203 combatants in an operation in the centre of Sahel state, an apparent uptick in violence in the conflict-torn country.



Momen to hold talks with Blinken on April 4

seek withdrawal of sanction on Rab





Bangladesh will seek wider and diversified cooperation from the United States and demand again the withdrawal of sanctions imposed on the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) as a minister-level bilateral meeting is set to take place in Washington on April 4.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen left for the US vesterday night to hold a bilateral meeting with his US counterpart Antony J Blinken at the US Department of State.

'We'll raise the issue (reconsidering sanctions on Rab)," said Momen ahead of his visit

Terming Bangladesh a peaceful country, he said Bangladesh is less interested in defence procurement from the US SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Leaves for US, to

Still no new action plan for road safety Though previous plan expired in 2020, authorities yet to approve draft, amid rising number of crashes, fatalities

Since 1997, govt preparing action plans to improve road safety

8 plans approved so far, with last one in Nov 2017 8th plan's goal was halving accidents,

fatalities, injuries by 2020 Target couldn't be achieved, revised

BRTA placed draft of new plan at NRSC meeting on Feb 18, 2021

Plan couldn't be approved, as no NRSC meeting was held since then



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

deadline 2030

The government has failed to formulate a new action plan for road safety, even though tenure of the previous one expired in 2020.

Although a draft for National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan-2021-2024 was prepared over a year ago, it did not get authorities' approval yet.

This dilly-dallying over formulation is going on when the country is witnessing a sharp rise of road crashes, leaving dozens of people dead and injured on a regular basis.

'This [delay in formulating the plan] actually exposes that the authorities concerned are not giving due importance to road-safety issues," said Prof Hadiuzzaman, director of Accident Research Institute at Bangladesh University of Engineering

and Technology.

much higher.

He said road crashes have become a national problem, and if authorities had realised that, they would not take so long to formulate the plan.

"Although previous plans remained largely confined in paper, there should be a plan, and authorities should take steps to implement it," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Fifteen to 20 people are getting killed every day. So, I think, the stakeholders have lost their sensitivity over the issue, which is reflected in their action." he added.

A total of 5,088 people were killed in 5,472 road crashes in 2021, 30 percent higher than the previous year, according to a police report. Other road-safety organisations put the figure

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Teacher 'harassed by cop for wearing bindi' Police yet to

identify him STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Tejgaon College has complained that a policeman harassed and hurled abuse at her after seeing a bindi on her forehead while she was going to the campus yesterday morning.

When she protested, he threatened her and tried to run her over with his motorbike, she alleged.

In a written complaint filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, Lata Samaddar, a lecturer of the college's theatre and media studies department, said the incident took place in front of Shezan Point shopping mall around 8:30am.

The teacher, who is the wife of Dhaka University professor Malay Bala, said she came to Farmgate area by rickshaw from her residence and then started walking towards Tejgaon College.

"A policeman in uniform was sitting there on a parked motorbike. When I was passing by, he started harassing me, seeing a bindi on my

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'Maa, where did you go? Please, come back'

Parents in despair after losing daughter in road crash; NSU students demand justice for peer

STAR REPORT

Meem's parents dreamed of seeing their daughter achieve so much: finish her bachelor's, go abroad for further studies, all the best things. And she was right on track to make her parents proud.

But they never imagined that she would leave the world so early, that too in such a tragic way. After losing their adored daughter, parents of North South University (NSU) student Maisha Momotaz Meem, are now full of anguish.

Meem's demise has cast a shadow of grief over Mouchak of Gazipur's Kailakoir, her village home. Her relatives and neighbours were trying their best to comfort her father Nur Mohammad Mamun and mother Asima Begum.

"Maa, I dreamed of seeing you become successful. We never imagined you'd leave us like this. I want that dream to come true. Please, come back," said Nur Mohammad, with agony in

his voice. You bring my Meem back. Maa, where did you go?" he kept asking.

Maisha Momotaz Meem (22) was killed in a hit and-run by a covered van on the capital's Kuril Flyover on Friday morning, when she was going to NSU on her scooter.

The parents said they never want anyone else to die in a road crash, like Meem did.

Meem was the eldest among two siblings. She passed SSC and HSC from Mouchak Ideal Public School and College in Kaliakoir, founded by her father. She then joined NSU's English department. On hearing the news, her

teachers, classmates and neighbours rushed to her village home. Relatives broke down in tears after her body was

taken to Mouchak. Meanwhile, a video of the accident has spread

on social media. In the video, Meem was driving a scooter on one side of the flyover. At that moment, a large covered van hit the scooter from behind and then ran her over. The driver or helper peeked out of the van to see the scene and then just left.

Hours after the incident, police detained two persons, including van driver Saiful Islam and one Moshiur Rahman, from Chattogram's EPZ area on Friday night.

"Driver Saiful had a licence to drive light

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Family members of Meem are beyond consolable at their irreparable loss. PHOTO: STAR





	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
					7-45	
lamaat	4-37	1-15	5-00	6-29	8-15	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION						



With a demand to restore five percent quota allocation for indigenous people in government jobs, a group of students brought out a procession at Dhaka University area vesterday afternoon. They also held a rally in front of National Museum in Shahbagh. The event was organised by Adivasi Quota Sangrakkhan Parishad.

PHOTO: STAR

Won't let them off the hook

Says chief justice about dishonest judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday said there are few dishonest lower-court judges in the judiciary, and his office will not compromise with them in any manner.

The chief justice was speaking at a programme organised by Female Judges Association to felicitate him at Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) in Dhaka.

He said judicial officers who will perform well will be given "Chief Justice" award

every year, and a guideline has already been formulated to this effect. Siddique said transfer and posting of

(lower court) judges will depend on seniority, honesty and competence.

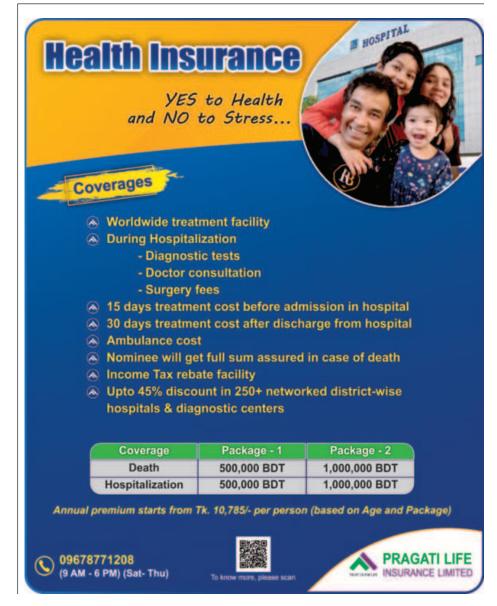
There will be no compromise in this

Speaking as chief guest, Law Minister Anisul Huq told the programme that there are 544 women judges in the judicial service, 28 percent of total judges. This number is very encouraging and inspiring.

In a milestone initiative in 1974, Father of

the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had removed all barriers for women to participate in the judiciary and then allowed them to take part in the judiciary in a competitive manner, the minister said.

Woman Judges Association President Hosne Ara Begum presided over the meeting, where its founding president and JATI Director General Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, Appellate Division's Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice M Enayetur Rahim, and Law and Justice Division Secretary Md Golam Sarwar also spoke.



Palliative care programme inaugurated in Narayanganj

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy inaugurated the second phase of special health care services called "Momotamoy Narayanganj" on March 29, said a press release.

The core focus of the Palliative Care is "patient, not the disease" at that stage of life to offer a dignified life in those critical days by lessening the pain and sufferings of the patient specially in family environment -- under the guidance of the professionally trained caregivers.

The essence of "Momotamoy Narayanganj" is for creating a "Compassionate Care Model" in the next 3 years with the support of World Hospice Palliative Care Alliance, St Christopher Hospice, UK in partnership with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University -- Palliative Care Medicine Unit and Ayat Education.

The project aims to create a model of palliative care centring Bandar Upazila Health Complex initially by offering professional training for the physicians and others concerned.

Teacher harassed

forehead, and hurled abuse at me. As I protested, he started the bike and tried to run me over. I tried to move away but got injured severely by falling down," she said in the complaint.

She also mentioned the bike's number in the complaint. After the incident, she went to three on-duty traffic policemen who advised her to file the complaint, she added.

officer-in-charge of Sher-

SPACE FOR SALE / RENT

Total 2,178 sft at Pahthapati

Main Road north facing

including two Car Parks, two

Wash Rooms a Verandah serviced with two Commor

ift, Generator, Emergency

Exits, Safety Fire Fighting

24 hours Security, Caretake

Address: SEL Centre (6th

loor), 29 West Panthapath

Dhaka. Tel: 01708521161

and 01819238803

e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said they could not identify the policeman yet.

"We are checking the CCTV footage in the area. The motorbike number she mentioned was incomplete. We are trying to identify whether he was really a policeman or not," the OC

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Malay Bala, said they want police to take immediate steps to identify Contacted, Utpal Barua, the culprit and arrest him as soon as possible.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE

Plot Sale

No. 253/341, Road No. 1 Plot No. C / 1, Sugandha Residential Area Panchlaish Chittagong.

Dr. Neke Akhtar, Holding

Mobile: 01813327999

CLIMATE CHANGE | **National** adaptation plan in offing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is formulating an effective national adaptation plan to address the risks of climate change on the basis of the views of each ministry, department and the general public concerned.

The plan will be implemented with the cooperation of all related to this issue, said Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin yesterday.

He was addressing the National Adaptation Plan Pre-Validation Workshop organised by the Ministry at a hotel in the capital.

Bangladesh will be able to minimise the risk of climate change by adopting and implementing mediumand long-term projects as planned.

He said implementation of the project for climate adaptation will be helped by the developed countries by increasing its finances, technology and capabilities. The environment ministry will co-operate with all other ministries in this regard.

The minister said the government is working to ensure security for the people in terms of food, water, electricity, health, etc. Industrialised nations responsible for producing greenhouse gases should come forward helping the vulnerable countries.

The ministry secretary, Mostafa Kamal, presided over the workshop which was addressed, among others, by its Deputy Minister Habibun Nahar.

বসন্ধরায় কর্ণার প্রট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় আই-ব্লকে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব-উত্তর ১২ কাঠার কর্ণার প্রট বিক্রয় হইবে। প্রটটির রেজিষ্ট্রেশন, মিউটেশন ও বাউন্ডারী ওয়াল কমপ্লিটকত, এখনই বাড়ী করার উপযোগী। **যোগাযোগ**: ০১৭১১৫৪৬৬৮৭, ই-মেইল: mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com



GD-631

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

College Education Development Project (CEDP) Office of the Principal & IDGM University Women's Federation College & 16/1, Road No. 06, Dhanmondi, Dh www.uwfc.edu.bd

Memo No. uwfc/cedp/371/22

e-Tender Notice 01/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following package. Name of supply Last date and time of tender Tender ID Tender closing security submission 681514 Supply of Furniture and Fixture of University 21-Apr-2022 Women's Federation College 12:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any

registered banks' branches up to 20-Apr-2022 3:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk

(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Afruza Akhter

University Women's Federation College Phone: 01747976098 E-mail: cedp.uwfc@gmail.con

UN MIGRATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR LONG-TERM AGREEMENT: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 8KW PHOTOVOLTAIC OFF-GRID SOLAR POWER SYSTEMS IN COX BAZAR DISTRICT

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an UN affiliated migration related agency and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society. In the framework of Health and Gender Support Project (HGSP), implemented with the MOH&FW of Bangladesh and funded by the World Bank the IOM Bids Evaluation and Awards Committee ("BEAC") now invites interested Bidders to submit "Bid" for the Supply, Delivery & Installation - 8KW Photovoltaic Off-Grid Solar Power Systems (including Training for Operation, Maintenance and Safety).

A complete set of Bidding Documents is available for Interested Bidders at: https://bangladesh.iom.int/procurement

Description	Bid Document No	Location
Supply, Delivery & Installation - 8KW Photovoltaic Off-Grid Solar Power Systems (including Training for Operation, Maintenance and Safety)	ITB-BD22-009-LTA	Cox's Bazar

Timeline summary (ITB-BD22-009-LTA)				
Tender publication date		15:00 hours		
Pre-Bid meeting	07.04.2022	11:00 hours		
Deadline for sending of requests for clarification	11.04.2022	17:00 hours		
Deadline for Rids submission	14 04 2022	15:00 hours		

Bid validity requirement:one (01) year - for Long-Term Agreement basis

Envelopes with sealed Bids shall be addressed to IOM office: ITB-BD22-009-LTA

Procurement Unit, BEAC

Muktijoddha Building Complex, Baharchara, Motel Road, Cox's Bazar

Late bids will not be accepted.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the procurement process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of Contract, without obligation to inform the affected Bidder/s of the ground for IOM action.

On behalf of BEAC

Still no new action

WHY THE DELAY?

18 last year.

But,

and Bridges

finalise the draft.

within one month.

updated the draft.

Contacted,

spokesperson

e-Rabbani

committee

BRTA placed the draft of

the strategic action plan

before a meeting of NRSC,

the apex body to take

policy decisions over road-

safety issues, on February

authorities want to reduce

road accidents, fatalities

and injuries by 20 to 25

percent by the end of 2024,

and 50 percent by 2030.

the

led by Road Transport

Obaidul Quader, formed a

committee to examine and

an additional secretary

of the road transport and

highways division, was

asked to complete its tasks

its report and they have

not be approved, as no

NRSC meeting was held,"

Rabbani, also director

(road safety) of BRTA, told

He hoped the draft

would be approved once

the meeting is held.

However, he could not say

Abdul Warish told this

arrange their own parking

spaces for customers,

so that traffic near the

establishments can move

newspaper,

market

freely.'

"We asked

authorities to

when that would happen.

The Daily Star yesterday.

"But, the plan could

The committee, led by

meeting

Minister

BRTA

the

given

Mahbub-

said

has

According to the draft,

FROM PAGE 3 HISTORY OF ACTION **PLANS**

Since 1997, the government been preparing strategic action plans for improving road safety. Eight action plans have been approved by National Road Safety Council (NRSC) so far, with the last one being approved in November 2017, with a deadline of December

The goal of the eighth action plan was to achieve SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) target by halving the number of road accidents, fatalities and injuries by 2020.

But the target could not be achieved, and the revised deadline is 2030, officials said.

Two months before the last action plan expired, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while speaking on the occasion of National Road Safety Day in October that year, gave directions to prepare a new plan.

Road Transport and Highways Division in October that year directed Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to prepare a draft and take opinions and updates from ministries and agencies concerned.

Port city

FROM PAGE 5 college, market and hospital authorities, so that traffic congestion will remain at a tolerance level during Ramadan."

Deputy CMP Commissioner (DC) (West)

Momen

FROM PAGE 3

but wants to engage in those areas which ensure people's welfare. He said there are many

new areas of cooperation technology transfer, pharmaceuticals, blue economy, food security and climate change -- where the US side can come forward. "We're willing to diversify our trade and investment." Bangladesh will invite

US investments in special economic zones and hitech parks in the country.

Responding to question, Momen said Bangladesh will also raise the issue of sheltering Rashed Chowdhury, a convicted killer of Bangabandhu, and will demand that he is handed over to Bangladesh.

Among other issues, the foreign minister said Rohingva issue will also come up.

Issues related to the Indo-Pacific Strategy are also likely to be discussed during Momen's visit.

Slow decline

FROM PAGE 5

Date: 02.04.2022

5,000-6,000 fans would still be sold in different markets from this village.

However, the postpandemic situation is different, as the artisans can't even make half the sales they did before. assistance from the government is required," he suggested as a remedy.

Hasanur Contacted,

Rahman Maksood, district cultural officer, said, "More than a hundred artists from different villages, including Morakathi and Gournadi upazila's Chandshi, are engaged in this profession. The cultural ministry is trying to help the artisans, with some artisans receiving Tk 10,000 as assistance from the ministry over the last two years."

Depot to be built

FROM PAGE 5

This compelled railway staffers to bury him at the spot where the CGPY gravevard stands today, which was just a jungle and marshland at the time. Over the years, railway employees gradually developed it into a graveyard.

Former Railway Shramik League president (jetty unit) and founder of CGPY mosque Abdul Wahab said, "It's a humanitarian issue. How will all the graves be relocated?"

Contacted, Jahangir Alam, general manager of railway (east zone), said, "During his visit, the railway minister verbally asked the construction company to keep the graveyard. They [the company] will preserve it somehow, although we're not going to issue written directives over the matter."

"The mosque will be shifted to another place but the graves will remain," he added. Asked, Belal Uddin,

managing director of Container Company of Bangladesh Limited, said "Yes, there is around oneacre of graveyard land on the place. We have assured railway staffers that the graveyard will stay in its current place. We have verbally asked the

construction company not to develop the graveyard land. However, a boundary wall will be installed and visitors' movement will be controlled." About the mosque, he

said, "The mosque will be rebuilt in another place after the railway allocates land for it." Saif Logistics Alliance

Lid, a concern of Saif Power Group, will invest around Tk 300 crore to build the terminal on the land. As per the contract,

the 21.29 acres of land within six months. Saif Logistics will construct the depot within two years. Once it comes into operation, the private company will provide Tk 1.5 crore annually as fixed

royalty and 21.50 percent

of the total income on a

railway is set to handover

monthly basis as variable royalty. After 20 years, Saif Logistics will hand over the depot to CCBL, which expects to earn Tk 789 crore over the next two

decades, officials said. According to the new ICD policy, the proposed ICD terminal must be set up 20 kilometres off the port area to reduce traffic congestion.

Ensure water, air quality

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Waterkeepers Bangladesh Consortium held its second data validation workshop, where it presented pollution data on noise, water and air, portraying a grim scenario for the three important components of human life.

The workshop was held yesterday at the auditorium of Stamford University in the

Prof Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder of the university's environmental science department presented the analysis of his findings on air and noise quality data, while Prof Md Nurul Islam from Jahangirnagar University came up with his analysis on water quality. Mohammad Golam Sarwar from the

portrayed the loopholes of law in his presentation. The workshop was chaired by Sharif Jamil, coordinator of the consortium. Addressing as chief guest, Stamford University Vice Chancellor Mohammad Ali Naki

said people need to change their mindset and

come forward voluntarily to protect the three

Department of Law at Dhaka University

important components of human life. The consortium has been working to prepare a report styled "State of Dhaka Environment" since April, 2021. Dr Munjurul Hannan Khan, executive director of Nature Conservation Management, was also present at the workshop.

Maa, where did you go?

speedy

the family

the students.

Alia Amin passes away CITY DESK

Alia Amin, a former teacher of Viqarunnisa

Noon School, breathed her last on April 1 at United Hospital due to multiple old age complications. She

was 89, said a press release. Mother of a freedom fighter, Alia lost her eldest son Alauddin Md Zaheen during the 1971 Liberation War. She left behind her two daughters Sara Zaker and Sajeda Amin, a son Zahiruddin Alim, grandchildren and great grandchildren, her sister, a host of nephews and nieces, and numerous students, friends and wellwishers.

3 hurt in Ctg wall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three pedestrians were injured after a boundary wall collapsed in Chattogram city's Agrabad area yesterday.

Identities of the injured could yet to be ascertained immediately. The incident occurred at the lane of Hotel Landmark at around 1:45pm, said fire service officials.Md Safiq Tuhin, Station Officer of Agrabad Fire Service Headquarters said the boundary wall of an under-construction site collapsed at the lane injuring the three.

On information. firefighters rescued the injured and sent them to Chattogram Medical College Hospital. CMCH sources said they were given primary treatment and released later.



FROM PAGE 3

deputy

vehicles, but he was behind

the wheels of a heavy one,"

Iftekhairul Islam, additional

(Cantonment zone) of

Dhaka Metropolitan Police,

Moshiur, representative

of the company that owns

the van's goods, was in the

vehicle during the accident.

interrogation, the driver

claimed that he honked as

he passed Meem's scooter,

but she lost control and

A case was filed against

the two with Khilkhet

came in front of the van.

Police Station yesterday.

told The Daily Star.

commissioner

primary

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা আবশ্যক

Meanwhile, a group of

NSU students organised a

protest rally vesterday in

front of Bashundhara Gate,

demanding the accused be

brought to justice through

however, did not allow

them to occupy the main

road. Terming the death a

murder, they demanded Tk

1 crore compensation for

eight-point demand and

gave a 24-hour ultimatum

to fulfil it. If the demand

is not met, they would

organise a protest again,

said Kawsar Habib, one of

The students raised an

trial.

Police.



বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিমুবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্বারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

কর্মকর্তা পদ

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ডাইরেক্টরেট অব কন্টিনিউইং এডুকেশন (ক) প্রশাসনিক অফিসার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল ৮: ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

(খ) সায়েন্টিফিক অফিসার-এর ৪টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন ক্ষেল ৮: ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-

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সহকারী টেকনিক্যাল অফিসার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন ক্ষেল ৮: ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/-উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখঃ ২০/০৪/২০২২

সকল পদের বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য বুয়েট ওয়েবসাইট (regoffice.buet.ac.bd)-Vacancy-এর Job circular page-এ Search করা অথবা রেজিস্টার অফিসের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায় সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা যেতে

জিডি-৬৩২

রেজিস্টার



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• Application Open : March 15, 2022 Application Close : May 31, 2022

 Admission Test : June 03, 2022 (Friday)

Contact Dhaka School of Bank Management (DSBM) Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) Plot #4, Main Road #1, Mirpur -2, Dhaka-1216. Phone: 01733339345, 48032091-4/ Ext:105

Email: dsbm@bibm.org.bd





Gridlocks are no stranger to port city residents. But as development works are ongoing in different parts of the city, many roads have either become narrow or almost unusable. And city dwellers are worrying that Ramadan may exacerbate the situation. This photo was taken in Dewanhat Circle area. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Port city fearing Ramadan traffic

Dev work, bad road conditions raising worries of congestion

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

City dwellers of Chattogram are fearing massive traffic congestion during Ramadan, due to ongoing development projects and the sorry state of roads.

To take measures for the potential problem, a coordination meeting on traffic management was held at Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Headquarters on March 27, where several decisions were taken.

The primary and mass education ministry has decided to continue academic activities till 20th of Ramadan between 9:30am and 3:00pm.

Besides, the education ministry has decided to continue classroom activities till April 26, to cover learning losses due to Covid-19.

Chattogram Development Authority has been building the 16.5-kilometre elevated expressway from Lalkhan Bazar to Airport Road.

After construction started, roads have become narrow in some of the busiest areas. Dust and traffic congestion are causing serious sufferings for commuters.

Meanwhile, Chattogram Wasa has been installing pipelines across the city by digging and cutting roads, including some key intersections. Different roads and areas -- including Agrabad, EPZ, Customs, Lalkhan Bazar, Arakan Road, and Kalurghat -- are now in sorry

Traffic police also expressed their concerns, as the situation would worsen during rush time in Ramadan. CMP Traffic North Zone Deputy Commissioner Joynul Abedin Tito said, "We have talked with school,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Affordable drinking water for all

in Rajshahi city STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Water ATM opens

A new water ATM system was inaugurated in Rajshahi city yesterday to provide drinking water at a low price and address the city dwellers' problem of accessing drinking water.

Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton inaugurated the system at Shahmakhdum Dargah point. Water ATM booths have also been installed in Laxmipur, Martyred Qamaruzzaman Zoo and Bahrampur intersections.

A booth will supply 20,000 litres of water from 8:00am-8:00pm each day.

Under the service, one litre of water will cost Tk 0.80 and 62 litres will be available at Tk 50.

RCC will expand the network of water ATMs to ward level depending on the pilot's success, said the mayor. There would be an operator at each booth who would distribute ATM cards to residents. An ATM card will cost Tk 50 and 62 litres of water would be available at every recharge of Tk 50.

ICLEI, a global network of local governments, has been implementing the project, said Abdullah Al-Kafy, project officer of ICLEI South Asia.

He said German development agency GIZ is funding the Tk 95 lakh project.

Depot to be built on mosque, graveyard land

Railway authorities, staffers face-off as site contains graves of employees, family members

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Railway authorities have leased out 21.29 acres of land to a private company for building an Inland Container Depot (ICD) in port city's Halishahar Chattogram Goods Port Yard (CGPY) area. However, the land was already home to an old graveyard and mosque, which the railway was well aware of before deciding to lease it out.

Moreover, the burial site hosts graves of railway staffers and their family members, which is why its leasing has triggered discontent among the staffers.

Of the 21.29 acres, the graveyard takes up around 0.6250 acres of land, while the mosque is on around 0.3425 acres. There's also an old shrine at the spot.

Known as "Bangladesh Railway CGPY Graveyard", the near 30-yearold site has around 450 graves. Apart from these, there are three water bodies on the land as well. Agitated by the

decision, railway employees have already submitted a letter to higher authorities, going as far as submitting a memorandum to Minister Nurul Islam Sujan during his visit to the project area in

Now, a tense situation prevails in the area, as the construction company is conducting a soil test inside the graveyard.

According to railway sources, an agreement to build a container depot

organisation who wants the land." on the land was inked between Abdul Malek, yard master of CGPY,

Container Company Bangladesh Limited (CCBL), a concern of Bangladesh Railway, and Saif Powertec on October 19 last year. As per the

agreement, E-Engineering Ltd JV has started to develop the spot by dumping soil. According to the Acquisition

and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance Bill 2017, "Land used as a religious spot for worshipping and graveyards or crematoriums cannot be acquired. However, such properties can be acquired for the sake of public interest through reconstructing or transferring the establishments at the cost of the person or

told The Daily Star, "We are not opposing the ICD terminal, but we've demanded to exclude the graveyard, the shrine and mosque from the agreement. The staffers are worried about the fate of the burial place of their dear ones."

Malek is also president of CGPY graveyard committee, which took charge last vear.

Meanwhile, Central Railway Building (CRB) sources confirmed that the graveyard and mosque land are mentioned in the deed between Saif Powertec and BR.

The origins of the graveyard can be traced back to 1995, when Chattogram port authorities refused to bury a railway employee at the port graveyard on the ground that he's an "outsider".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Students, teachers protest attack on college principal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The students and teachers of Abdul Karim Mridha College in Patuakhali town yesterday protested a recent attack on its acting principal ANM Saifuddin Shahin.

From the college campus, the demonstrators brought out a procession that marched different roads and ended in front of Patuakhali Press

They also held a meeting on the spot. College students Al Amin, Tanvir Hossain Naeem, Maria Akhter and Sabiha Akhter, among others, spoke.

On March 31, around four to five people including college committee member Abdul Gaffar Mridha -- entered the principal's room and attacked Saifuddin, who is also social affairs secretary of the central committee of Swadhinata Shikkhak Parishad, over internal issue, campus

During the attack, they punched, kicked, stabbed and slapped Saifuddin. The attackers later took Tk 1.5 lakh in cash and various government documents from his drawer and threatened to kill him. He filed a case with Sadar Police Station over the incident the next day.

Nazmul Alam, secretary of the College Teachers' Council; and Swapan Kumar Khaskel, assistant secretary general of the district Swadhinata teachers' council, strongly condemned the attack, and demanded arrest of the culprits and exemplary punishment for them.

This correspondent tried to contact Mridha but found his cellphone switched-off. OC Moniruzzaman of Sadar Police Station said they were trying to arrest the accused.

Slow decline of 100-yr-old craft

Barishal's 'tal pakha' artisans yet to recover from pandemic lows

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

There's a small neighbourhood around 10 kilometres away from Barishal city, which is popularly known as

"Tal pakha village". For around a hundred vears, six families under Wazirpur upazila's Morakathi area have been dedicated to this craft, with the demand for these palm fans spreading beyond Barishal due to its traditional artistic value.

But with time, the demand has started to subside, owing to lack of fairs and most households having access to electricity. Sultan Hawladar, a palm fan artisan

of the village, said their sales have halved

during the pandemic, whereas before, they used to earn Tk 1,000 per day. He cited one major reason: the suspension of Pahela Baishakh fairs -- the biggest source of

their revenue -- for the last two years. What's worse, the same is fated for this year as well.

Hanufa Begum, another artisan from the village, said she has been weaving palm fans since she came to the village as a bride 30 years ago, after learning the craft from her mother-in-law.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Villager Aynal Haque PHOTO: TITU DAS Hawladar said even though the demand for these fans have declined and palm trees have decreased, at least

INTO THE WILD... Nineteen endangered Himalayan vultures were rescued and released in Singra forest from the Vulture Conservation Centre in Dinajpur yesterday. These avians are facing extinction due to deforestation. As a result, they often swoop to surrounding localities in search of food, and get caught by locals. Before releasing them, a numbered tag was attached to their wings for tracking.

Shipbreaking workers place 12-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ship-breaking Workers Trade Union Forum (SWTUF) yesterday placed a 12-point demand including at least Tk 10 lakh compensation to the families of workers killed in workplace accidents.

They placed the demand at a press conference at Chattogram Press Club in the port city

Tapan Dutta, convener of the forum, spoke on behalf of the organisation at the press conference.

Their other demands include ensuring safety of workers, modernising all yards, making the ships toxic waste free before salvaging them and implementing the wage board announced in 2018 for workers.





The Baily Star

Intersectionality in Redressing Gender & DRR: #BreakingTheBias

Gender Responsive **Resilience and** Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP), South Asia in collaboration with Gender and Disaster Network (GDN), **Institute of Disaster Man**agement and **Vulnerability Studies** (IDMVS), **University of** Dhaka and The Daily Star organised a roundtable titled 'Intersectionality in Redressing **Gender &** DRR: #BreakingTheBias' on March 9. **2022. Here** we publish a summary of the discussion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

South Asian region.

collection process.

risk reduction policies.

loss and damage.

Address gender needs using an intersectional lens to build gender-

sensitive resilient strategies in the disaster risk reduction process in the

The intersectionality issue should be seriously considered in the data

The concept of intersectionality should be popularised on a wider

> Grassroots voices should be given priority in formulating disaster

adaptation model and the regional and international frameworks on

categories.

gender, disability and the pandemic.

Our last project is on how the public

Women in South Asia face greater

challenges compared to men during a

disaster or crisis. Despite challenges,

South Asian women have proven

that they have incredible potential

to respond to disasters effectively,

To build gender-sensitive resilient

is necessary to address the gender

needs of women and men using an

are never defined by one characteristic.

justice in just one way. Intersectionality

They don't experience privilege and

is about complexity. We often hear

about women and girls who are most

vulnerable to disasters. But we don't

probe further into who these women

and girls are, the circumstances that

they are under, what is happening or

why it is happening. Intersectionality

and look at issues holistically.

helps us understand the bigger picture

Intersectionality is not just about an

individual's complex personal identity.

It is about the operations of the power

structures in a society that intersect

injustice as well as privilege. We need

to understand intersectionality and

put it into action.

and interact to create a system of

Professor Maureen

Fordham, Professor

Resilience Centre

of Gender and Disaster

Director, IRDR Centre

Gender is never just

about gender. People

for Gender and Disaster

strategies in the DRR process, it

intersectional lens.

which often go largely unrecognised.

sector can be made accountable to

address gender and intersectional

> Intersectionality should be an integral part of the locally led



Professor Mahbuba Nasreen, Regional Lead, GRRIPP South Asia, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Bangladesh Open University, Professor

& Co-founder,

Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka

We are partnering with a project called Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) which is a 4-year-long global collaboration and knowledge-exchange project, implemented by a collective of universities, led by the University College London, United Kingdom, funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). It aims to bring together theory, policy and practice to promote a gender-responsive approach to disaster management and development in the global south. The GRRIPP South Asia project is implemented by the IDMVS, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

We are implementing seven projects in South Asian countries including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. These projects were awarded through a rigorous global selection process. We are developing a curriculum on disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response and intersectionality in both Bangladesh and India. Another project is on human rights violations. It is being implemented in Bangladesh. Our third project in Bangladesh is on the impact of Covid-19 on reproductive health. In India, we are conducting gender audits. We are also studying the impact of Covid-19 on women in India. In Nepal, our projects are on



Saleemul Huq,
Director, International
Centre for Climate
Change and
Development (ICCAD)

The sixth assessment report of IPCC highlighted that climate change is already happening,

and it is getting worse. Therefore, we need to be better prepared. Unfortunately, we are not prepared.

The report also pointed out that funds for supporting adaptation in developing countries have largely not been spent very effectively. There are two big deficiencies in this regard. The first one is that most of the designs of these adaptation projects are topdown in nature and very prescriptive, and therefore not very effective. Adopting locally led adaptation models is the answer to this challenge. Intersectionality and gender issues are extremely important in this particular framing. We must put not just the local community in the centre but also gender and intersectionality issues in the design along with local people.

The framing of the research you are doing must be solution-oriented and you must have an audience to whom you can convey your findings and knowledge.



Mihir Bhatt,Founder and Director,
All India Disaster
Mitigation Institute
(AIDMI)

A study conducted in the Sundarbans Delta found that, in reality,

the impact of disasters is not equally distributed, rather it depends on a variety of social and economic factors. Women and girls suffer more, and they face lingering impacts of disasters in comparison to men and boys. Therefore, we need to consider the long-term aspect of intersectionality

very seriously.
Several studies pointed out that women and girls are more likely to drop out of social protection during disasters. The differentiated vulnerability to disasters is driven by gender inequality and socio-economic conditions, traditional practices, and access to technology.

Most importantly, we must promote women's leadership in every sphere so that they can lead the change.



Ramona Miranda, Head of the APP-DRR Stakeholder Group (GSHG), UNDRR Over the years, it has been observed

that concepts like

gender or class alone

around vulnerability to disasters. Looking through a sole lens obscures how a number of intersecting factors further disadvantage certain people. Similarly, the Covid-19 pandemic laid bare stark disparities in power in our society and showed how different social groups faced differentiated risks and coped differently with the consequences. Therefore, it is

necessary to use an intersectional

lens to address different types of

vulnerability. We need to conduct

extensive research to understand

the issue of intersectionality in the

context of disaster risk reduction.

cannot explain the entire discourse

A.H.M Noman Khan, Founder and Executive Director, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) Earlier, we were not aware of the idea of intersectionality

and, as a result, different types of vulnerabilities often remained unaddressed. It is a positive sign that we are discussing how we can incorporate intersectionality in our development programmes. It will greatly help in addressing the various challenges faced by persons with disabilities. It will also make our policies more inclusive. Now in many committees, the representatives of persons with disabilities are being included. We would like to see representation of every disadvantaged group in all our policymaking forums.



Professor Ishrat Shamim, President, Centre for Women and Children Studies, Dhaka Intersectionality is a new concept to us. It has broad

implications. It means we are taking the whole of society into consideration.

I am doing a study on inclusive disaster risk management in the coastal belt. It is a very vulnerable area. I am studying different groups of people – men and women, the elderly, widows, and so on. There are a lot of differences between those groups. It's not only gender but also age, class, religion, ethnicity, etc. – everything that comes into defining their identity. However, women are still more vulnerable than men. They are also more resilient. They know how to cope with the disaster as they are the first ones to take action when a disaster arises.

While formulating any policy we should prioritise the grassroots voices since they truly understand the developmental problems of their community and give the best suggestions to address those issues.



Naoki Matsumura, Country Programme Coordinator (DRR), JICA

The projection of several studies states that the effects of climate

change would be more severe in the future. Therefore, Bangladesh needs more disaster-related investment for building robust infrastructure in a planned way. Bangladesh needs to accumulate more gender-responsive and intersectionality-related data so that we can take proper action. Now is the time to adopt innovative solutions so that no one is left behind.

JICA has plans to provide more support to Bangladesh through a people-centered approach and innovative technology which will provide a new set of skills for breaking the bias. We are considering balanced technology to be applied to disaster risk reduction that will be acceptable to multidimensional people.



Shaila Shahid, Chief Operating Officer, Disaster Climate Change Support Unit, Department of Public Health Engineering The concept of

intersectionality focuses on the gaps between different groups of people. Sometimes these gaps can be small or quite big. People of different genders, disabilities, religions, and different backgrounds face a wide variety of setbacks and discrimination. Sometimes these setbacks act in a

cumulative manner. During a disaster, water and sanitation are the two key priorities for people. I would suggest that we create a capacity development manual for WASH, along with other crosscutting areas such as climate change, DRR, entrepreneurship, food security, etc. The DPHE is already in the early phases of developing such a manual. A knowledge-sharing repository should also be established, where all the relevant people working in related fields, particularly WASH, can share their relevant case studies and documents.

Additionally, our national framework on loss and damage should integrate the idea of intersectionality to ensure vulnerable groups are receiving the necessary support. We must also ensure the participation of the general people during the establishment of such a framework.



Dilara Zahid,
Acting Director,
IDMVS, Dhaka
University
Intersectionality is
quite a new concept.
We must make people
aware of this idea.
I believe it will help

address the needs of the vulnerable sections of society. Our target is to shift from vulnerability to prosperity through resilience, and in order to achieve this goal, we have to take the concept of intersectionality very seriously.

Abdul Jamil*,

Representative of the Transgender Community

I have been facing adversity since my childhood. However, many kindhearted persons have also provided me support in my journey. Currently, I am working as a driver in a government agency, and at the same time continuing my studies. I want to live a dignified life. The government can play a big role in improving our situation.



Nazia Maisha, Joint Secretary, DU Unit, Physically-Challenged Development Foundation (PDF), University of Dhaka

Females with disabilities, in the case of a disaster, face challenges in terms of their sanitary needs. A diverse range of disabilities exists, and not everyone is able to properly express their needs. We need to keep this diversity in mind when distributing relief in the aftermath of a disaster.

The system of washrooms in shelters should be accessible for everyone, but this is rarely the case for persons with disabilities. Women, especially women with disabilities, are likely to face sexual harassment in disaster shelters. Sometimes women with intellectual disabilities aren't even able to express the fact that they have faced harassment or violence. That is why we need to be vigilant about such issues when setting up shelters.

I would also recommend that disaster shelters have people who know how to use sign language, because otherwise persons with disabilities have problems communicating their needs.



Md Taher, Chair, Duryog Nivaran In the past, we were not aware that among the vulnerable groups during a disaster, there were other groups such as

persons with disabilities, inhibities, and other marginalised people whose suffering was much more severe. Disaster affects different people differently, and we must keep that in mind. Once we noticed that the impact of disasters varied with gender, we realised that there are other groups such as persons with disabilities, older people, children, etc., who require more dedicated support during a disaster.

I would suggest that whenever we create new development concepts or terms, we do so in our mother tongue. For example, I have yet to hear a proper Bangla word for intersectionality. Local terminology that explains the concept more clearly can help more people understand it.



Kopoti Ghagra, Head Teacher, Nolchapra High School, Kolmakanda, Netrokona A lot of indigenous people reside in both the Kolmakanda and

Netrokona Upazila.

This means there are many indigenous students who are studying here. That is why it is important that the school curriculum is taught in the mother tongue of these indigenous students. Otherwise, our language and culture will slowly be erased, and this is happening in the two Upazilas.

Many of our indigenous students are forced to work in the fields to support their education. The stipend that they are receiving is not enough to support their education completely. Here, the government can play an important role in bringing indigenous students, who are already falling behind, to a level playing field.



Nayem Molla, General Secretary, Physically-Challenged Development Foundation (PDF), University of Dhaka The charity model doesn't help persons

with disabilities in any way. As far as people with disabilities are concerned, their needs are divergent, and those needs should be taken seriously when formulating an inclusive disaster reduction plan. In the aftermath of a disaster, for example, we should try to give financial support to entrepreneurs so that they can continue their businesses.

Persons with disabilities or mental illnesses are vulnerable to exploitation in shelter centres. We should ensure safety in these spaces. Persons with disabilities who have trouble moving should be provided with transport facilities during disasters.



Mohammad Juel Mia, Lecturer, IDMVS,

University of Dhaka We should consider the impacts of the digital divide. They heighten the effects

of the existing socio-economic division. A person with disability, for example, doesn't have access to every kind of digital device. There is also a gap between men and women in terms of access to digital devices. As a result, these groups of people lack proper information which hinders their progress. When we talk about intersectionality, we should talk about men too because in many cases men suffer the most.



Mohammod Dolon Uddin, Research Associate, CWCS, Dhaka

We shouldn't neglect the vulnerabilities of men. It is necessary to address the needs

of both men and women using an intersectional lens. In an ongoing research study in the coastal area, we found that men with disabilities are the most vulnerable group during a disaster. So men need to be incorporated in our development plans. Intersectionality is an indication of that. This should also be reflected in our policies.



Raisa Imran, Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator, GRRIPP South Asia Globally, persons with disabilities are

seen as "receivers" rather than "providers". To eradicate this traditional outlook, an inclusive rights-based-approach needs to be put in place. This will help improve their conditions by changing the perception of intersectional communities to contributors who can help address ongoing humanitarian needs

Professor Mahbuba Nasreen

We would like to incorporate everyone's view in GRRIPP. That's why we have invited people from different categories of the society in today's roundtable.

Women are in the most disadvantageous position in our society. A woman who has a disability or belongs to the poorer section of society faces a diverse range of discrimination. To reduce inequality, we need some to address the challenges women face using a positive mindset. However, there is a gap in addressing gender needs using an intersectional lens in the disaster risk reduction process. Besides gender, there are also other identities such as religion, class, caste, ethnicity, (dis) abilities and other identities. Indigenous knowledge based disaster response should emerge in order to bring intersectionality into the mainstream at a larger scale.



Shamsuddoza Sajen, Commercial Supplement Editor, The Daily Star & Moderator of the session Bangladesh has made significant progress in disaster

risk reduction. However, there is a gap in addressing gender needs using an intersectional lens in the disaster risk reduction process. Besides gender, there are also other identities such as religion, class, caste, etc. We must look at the disaster reduction efforts through the lens of intersectionality which, according to Crenshaw, helps us see how various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other.

*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the individual.

National Film Day special

Where are our films headed?

According to the Rozina, films will definitely flourish, if the fraternity tries to go with the global flow. "It is now up to the young filmmakers and artistes to pick up what we started decades ago, and make us proud."

SHAH ALAM SHAZU & SHARMIN JOYA

On this day in 1957, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proposed to form the Film Development Corporation, of the then East Pakistan Provincial Council.

Since then, April 3 was declared as the National Film Day.

Bangabandhu was an ardent supporter of cultural activities and tasteful films, and always extended his hand in the development

After more than 6 decades, where does our industry stand today?

Veteran actor Shohel Rana is hopeful about the future of the industry. "If we could improve the ambience of our cinema halls, audience would be eager to visit theatres." According to him, halls need to compete against other mediums of watching films, in order to stay relevant. "Youngsters now tend to watch films on their phones. A cinema hall has to offer amazing ambience if they want to attract them," says the actor.





PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI

"I witnessed the golden period of cinema, when theatres were crowded and films would have month long shows," says Ujjal. "I am aware that there are many ways in which films can be watched – OTT being the primary choice. However, a full theatrical experience is something that is yet to be replaced".

Rozina, however, believes in evolution. "With technological advancements, entertainment is globalised, and we

really cannot change that. We can watch Hollywood films here, and our films have begun to grace the international arena. Soon enough, you will see that the logistical boundaries of cinema halls will be a non-

According to the actress, films will definitely flourish, if the fraternity tries to go with the global flow. "It is now up to the young filmmakers and artistes to pick up what we started decades ago, and make us

"What is a cinema hall? The concept itself is being redefined. People are preferring OTT, over visiting theatres," says director Dipankar Dipon. "We have to be more careful about differentiating projects for OTT silver screens, as these mediums are completely



According to the director people still like to go to halls. However, most of our theatres lack the comfortable environment that the audience craves. "We are a densely populated country, which is a positive sign for the film business, however, we are unable to utilise it fully." He also thinks that directors need to be aware of using the budget technically.

President of Film Producers Association, Khorshed Alam Khorsu suggested the hall owners to utilise the soft loan granted by the government. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has permitted an allocation of BDT 1000 crore soft interest loan for the improvement of the film industry, which can be repaid within a time of eight to ten years," he says. "With this, the halls can be reconstructed, and new multiplexes can be built, hall owners should be concerned about this."

He also informed that there are plans of introducing multiplexes in all the districts of the country. Films will be made and they will go on a flow, however, the main concern seems to save the silver screen experience.

The digital space is the future – that much is clear for even the most traditional residents of the industry. What the dynamic between OTT and cinema halls will be, whether and how they'll create a sustainable ecosystem, remains a question that will be



'Bad Boys 4' on pause after Will **Smith Oscars slap**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Hollywood actor Will Smith smacked presenter Chris Rock in the face and shouted a vulgarity at the comedian for making a joke about his wife's hairstyle in a shocking moment overshadowing the Oscars ceremony recently.

The incident is now affecting one of Smith's upcoming projects. According to reports, his actions have caused Sony Pictures to pause the upcoming fourth "Bad Boys" film.

The movie was in active development, and Smith received 40 pages of the script before the

The actor has resigned from The Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences. He is currently under investigation for his actions and has agreed to do whatever they decide.

Puja Chery to start shooting for 'NAKPHUL'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actress Puja Chery is set to start shooting for her upcoming film, "Nakphul", from April 5. She will be seen alongside

> The crew will be shooting for 20 consecutive days at the heart of Sreemangal in Moulvibazar.

actor Ador Azad in this film.

Produced under the banner of Bengal Multimedia Limited, the film revolves around eternal love. Gazi Rakayet, Lutfar Rahman George, Ali Raj, L R Khan

Simanto, Shikha Mou will also play pivotal roles

OUNTRYWIDE

Mat weaving dying

Many artisans leaving their ancestral profession due to fall in demand, price

HABIBUR RAHMAN

Nobody knows when artisans of the southern part of the country began the craft of making shital pati, a traditional naturally-cool woven

But people involved with the profession say that their ancestors started tinkering with the craft several centuries ago. And the artisans known as Patikar are still doing the job inherited from their forefathers.

The floor mat made with the bark from a variety of trees known as paitra is widely used in bedrooms.

Since long *shital pati* has been being produced at 12 villages under five upazilas in three districts of the Barishal division.

> The artisans are still doing the job inherited from their forefathers and the floor mat made with the bark from a variety of trees known as paitra is widely used in

The five upazilas are Barishal's Bakerganj, Jhalakathi's Sadar, Nalcity and Rajapur and Pirojpur's

bedrooms.

Kawkhali. But due to dwindling demand, people from four villages out of 12 have already left their profession and others are trying to survive with their ancestral profession.

Around 250 people from 82 families from Hylakathi village of Mathbari union under Rajapur upazila in Jhalakathi are struggling to survive.

"We have lost our golden days," said Jhantu Patikar of the village. He said that now it is difficult to



A female artisan is weaving a shital pati at Hylakathi village in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

meet the production cost selling shital pati.

Artisans who don't have paitra garden have to buy them from others. One bundle of paitra sticks consists of 80 pieces of sticks is sold between Tk 150-300 depending on size and quality. But to collect them from the field, Tk 40 has to be paid as a wage to the collectors. Next, the workers who separate the bark from the sticks must be paid Tk 300 each.

Mainly men do the job of separating barks from the sticks and it takes a day to separate a bundle.

"Separating barks for the second time is difficult. Sometimes our fingers are injured while doing the job," said Phulmala.

"We keep the barks soaked to get colour and boil them to ensure the longevity of the mats," said Ramani Bala Patikar adding that each mat is sold between TK 1,000-2,000 to the wholesale buyers depending on quality and size.

As the women are married to their community men, they usually claimed.

stick to the profession after their

"I have mastered the art of making pati at my father's house and so I don't have to face any trouble to make it at my husband's house," said Tulshi Rani Patikar adding other women also master the art at their father's house.

Though with great care the mats are made, producers cannot make a good profit.

"We cannot even meet our production cost," said Lipika Rani Normally well-off people are the

main buyers of the pati. "But at present well-off people are accustomed to using air conditioner or air cooler," said Jhuren Chandro Patikar adding

that so the demand of shital pati has dwindled sharply. If the government does not take any step for creating a market place for their products, within a short time this traditional handicraft will vanish, Jhuren has

36hr curfew

Many economists also FROM PAGE 14 exacerbated by government mismanagement, years of accumulated borrowing, and ill-advised tax cuts.

Russia

FROM PAGE 14 photographer, Levin, had been found

near a village in the region around the capital that had been caught up in the fighting.

Who were those

FROM PAGE 14 of the perpetrators and compensation to the victim's family.

Three years have passed, but the law enforcers have not yet been able to identify who those men were, let alone arrest them.

The charge sheet has also not been filed yet, said officials concerned.

Chattogram Metropolitan officials said that during investigation they found that no drive was carried out by DB in Shikalbaha or nearby areas that night.

Speaking to correspondent recently, a former additional deputy commissioner of the CMP, who was involved with the initial probe, said they saw CCTV footage that shows a microbus, an SUV and a car of another law enforcement agency crossing the toll plaza of Shah Amanat Bridge's Karnaphuli end and heading towards the city after the incident.

The toll plaza is about five kilometres off the crime scene.

Currently, the case is being investigated by the Counter Terrorism Division of CMP. Asked if those in the vehicles had anything to do with the murder, investigation Inspector Sanjay Sinha declined to comment.

Seeking anonymity, a top CMP official said,

AL national council

units, Quader said it revealed that only the AL practices democracy within the party.

Talking about the BNP's call for waging a movement, the AL leader said the call sounds hollow. "Who is the leader of the

BNP's movement?" from its failures in waging

"There was no CCTV

camera where the incident

happened. We initially

belonged to the DB, but it

confirmed that it did not

carry out any drive in the

Mahbubur Rahman said,

"We found there was no

presence of DB or any other

police team in Shikalbaha

progress in the probe,

CMP Commissioner Saleh

Mohammad Tanvir said,

"I don't know the details. I

will look into why the case

documents, the group of

men stopped the bus at

Bhellapara Bridge's east

side on the Chattogram-

Cox's Bazar highway around

11:30pm on April 22, 2019,

while the vehicle was

heading towards Cox's Bazar

got on the bus and started

there were yaba pills in the

vehicle. But failing to find

any, they handcuffed driver

They brought him back

again, leaving him critically

injured, said the case

Uddin and night guard

Bus supervisor Azim

started beating him up.

At least eight of them

it claiming

from Gazipur's Chandra.

searching

statement.

According to the case

has not been solved yet."

about

vehicles

thought the

area that night."

commissioner

area that night."

Asked

Former

He said the opposition

years. road transport The

minister called upon the opposition party to prepare for the next general election.

Referring to media reports on the rising prices of daily essentials, the AL general secretary said the prices have started going down and and that's why party couldn't take lessons the BNP does not need to wage a movement now.

> Abdus Sabur of a local sand trading office testified before a Chattogram court

on April 26, 2019. Azim, in his statement, provided an account that matches with the case statement. He also said he tried to save Jalal but had to back off after being intimidated by the

attackers. Sabur, 70, in his statement said he was on duty that night when a microbus came near his office and four people got down from it. Later, an SUV and a private car arrived and all the vehicles were parked in a queue.

The vehicles left the spot around 1:00am.

Smritikona Mazumdar, lecturer forensic medicine department at Chattogram Medical College, performed the post-mortem on Jalal's body. In his report, he wrote, "Blood in nose, mouth. Mud all over the body. Bruises in both arms. Bruises in both thighs, legs. Bruises in abdomen...

"Death, in my opinion, was due to haemorrhagic shock as a result of a head

Jalal, took him outside and Speaking to The Daily Star, Jalal's brother Jewel said they were waiting for to the bus and beat him up iustice.

> "We don't know whether we will ever get that. We are frustrated with the slow pace of the investigation."

Govt's greed

movement and winning dreadful situation in the say the crisis has been the party's organisational elections in the last 13 country. "If we fail to defeat them and remove them from office, the existence of the people of the country will be at stake.'

Fakhrul urged the party leaders and activists to observe the hunger strike and send a message to the government that people do not have any confidence in it. "They must step down."

He also demanded the government hand over power to an impartial government and a free and fair election should be held through formation of a neutral Election Commission.

leaders

Party

activists started thronging the programme venue since the morning with banners and festoons. They chanted slogans demanding reduction of the prices of daily essentials and release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Law enforcers took position at different points near the venue, including the Matsya Bhaban, Purana Paltan and Jatiya Press Club.

five-hour-long "token hunger strike" ended at 3:00pm with former Dhaka University chancellor vice Anwarullah Chowdhury giving water to Fakhrul and party standing committee member Mosharraf Hossain.

Khan

FROM PAGE 2

and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) -- two usually feuding dynastic groups that dominated national politics for decades until Khan forged a coalition against them.

If Khan goes, the PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif is tipped to become the next prime minister -- but on Saturday the government moved to have him sent back to jail to await trial on money-laundering charges that have been pending since 2020.

EDITORIAL

The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

How can project delays be avoided?

By punishing those responsible, as the PM directed

T is really embarrassing, for those who care, how time and cost overruns have become a nearroutine affair in government projects undertaken in Bangladesh. The most recent example of this can be seen in the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) projects. While the RHD has claimed that 44 of its ongoing projects will reach completion by this fiscal year, documents have revealed that only three of them would actually end within their original deadlines. The majority of the other 41 projects missed their initial deadlines more than two years ago, with some delayed by three to four years.

Among the various government departments and ministries, the RHD has become notorious for regularly failing to complete projects on time and within the initial cost estimate. An evaluation report by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division on 49 projects, completed in FY 2016-17, shows that 41 of them saw both time extensions and cost escalations. This just goes to show the persistent weaknesses of the RHD in implementing such work. Unfortunately, the higher authorities seem unconcerned by how much public resources get wasted as a result, or how long the people are denied benefits that they would have gotten had those projects been finished successfully.

Despite the media harping on this issue ad nauseam, nothing seems to change. The prime minister, frustrated by this situation, had clearly directed public officials in 2020 to bring an end to this practice. Last year, having seen no improvement, she directed the authorities to take legal action against those responsible for flawed project designs that ultimately push up costs. Yet, almost no one has been held responsible for these delays. As a result, lack of proper feasibility studies and cost estimations, long postponements in tender process, and the tendency to divide project work in "small packages" (to benefit influential but nonprofessional contractors) still continue to stall project completion.

Does the PM's word not mean anything to the authorities? Does the endless suffering of people, or the constant wastage of their money, mean nothing? Are we to take this trend as a fait accompli? The RHD itself had proven, with a project undertaken in 2013, that completing a project on time while saving cost is possible. Then, why can't the RHD and other ministries repeat that?

We are once again forced to call upon the government high-ups and repeat to them how important it is to hold those responsible for these delays and consequent cost overruns to account. Unless these people and firms are given exemplary punishment, we fear that this unsavoury story will continue repeating itself again and again, causing immeasurable harm to our country's development potential.

SCBA election stalemate must

Let the seniors intervene to restore its good name

THAT is happening surrounding the declaration of results of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) election has crossed the bounds of the election laws and bylaws of this important association of about 8,000 lawyers. The election was held on March 15-16 to fill 14 executive posts, including those of the president and secretary. But to the utter surprise of all, the election results haven't been made public even after over two weeks.

This is not just unprecedented but also quite unfortunate. The impasse apparently began when some Awami League-backed lawyers objected to vote counting on March 17 and allegedly exerted pressure on the election subcommittee head to tender his resignation. There have been allegations of misbehaviour with him by the pro-AL lawyers, who, however, refuted the allegations and instead accused BNP lawyers of the same. The pro-AL lawyers have been demanding fresh counting of votes cast for the post of SCBA secretary over claims of

We are quite perturbed by the emerging situation at the SCBA and the unhelpful blame game by the AL and BNP camps of lawyers in a bid to keep their stranglehold on the association. It is, however, good to hear that the incumbent SCBA executive committee has decided to invite all former presidents and secretaries to a meeting to resolve the standoff in the next seven days or so. We believe the idea of consultation with the past presidents and secretaries is a judicious move to reach an amicable settlement. Also, a neutral probe by a competent body can bring out in the open why a senior member of the committee, who has a history of conducting free, fair and peaceful elections for the SCBA, had to resign at such a

People in general look up to the law practitioners as embodiments of righteousness, justice and honesty whom they can trust with their legal issues at times of crisis. As such, people generally expect law practitioners to be well-disciplined and show utmost restraint and neutrality when it comes to taking part in an election of their own. What has happened at the SCBA is thus unfortunate and disgraceful, to say the least. We hope the wise heads will help to overcome the hurdle and reinstate the good name of the SCBA.

An ordinary person's guide to dangerous online regulations



THE SOUND & THE FURY

Sushmita S Preetha is a journalist and researcher.

SUSHMITA S PREETHA

The second piece of legislation— "Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms"—is even scarier. It proposes an aggressive and authoritarian content governance framework that applies to a host of applications/actors including social media networks like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest; tech companies like Google, Microsoft; OTT

platforms to do the policing on their

As per the new draft, platforms like Facebook can be fined up to Tk 3 billion and its representative imprisoned for up to 5 years for violations. With close to 45 million users in the country, how exactly is Facebook supposed to do this monitoring, with much of what is posted lost in translation? How can automated systems with filters understand context,



Maybe you've got 99 problems and worrying about some distant law—that is likely going to affect some activist types anyway—ain't one of them.

But what if I told you that, if implemented, these laws won't just curtail whatever little freedom of expression the press still has, but could well get in the way of those endless Netflix shows? What if your most private photos could be easily and legally accessed on the flimsiest of pretexts, like you "liking" a Facebook post on government corruption?

The draft Data Protection Act (DPA), prepared in November last year and finalised last week, is supposed to do as its name suggests: protect your data. The problem is that, in reality, it allows a whole host of actors to access your data, without so much as your permission or even your explicit knowledge. These actors include law enforcement and security agencies, the director general of the Digital Security Agency—in charge of investigating violations, levying fines and ensuring compliance—as well as all employees of the Data Protection Office. The law also has a provision that gives further power to the government to exempt data controllers, meaning those responsible for collecting or processing (or supervising the processing) of personal data such as your IT person, from following the law.

Additionally, although it gives us the right to know what kind of personal data is being collected, it does not apply to instances in which "processing is necessary for functions of the government". What does "functions of the government" entail though, you ask? The draft does not specify that, which means that it could quite literally mean anything the government wants it to mean. Similarly, the draft says that government agencies can "intercept, record or collect information" of any person on "national security" or "public order" grounds, but it does not define or limit what these terms entail, which leave them open to (mis)interpretation.

Now, at this point, you may be thinking: well, this certainly sounds terrible, but I am a law-abiding citizen. I don't even go to Shahbagh for phuchka, much less protests. What possible justification would the government have for snooping through my Facebook chats? Unfortunately, the scope of the exemption is so broad that law enforcement or security agencies can legally access your data on the feeblest of grounds, for instance, for writing a status criticising a former minister, posting a satirical cartoon, or simply commenting on someone else's status.

It may sound as if I am exaggerating, but these are real-life examples of ordinary people, like students and professionals who have no link to the media or politics, who were picked up on these very grounds under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

You see, these laws seem distant only until they happen to you.



'What if I told you that, if implemented, these laws won't just curtail whatever little freedom of expression the press still has, but could well get in the way of those endless Netflix shows?

ILLUSTRATION:

and social media handles of media organisations.

Experts have pointed out the absurdity of lumping together services that are miles apart functionally, technically and operationally, and hence require different regulatory models. By forcing them under a onesize-fits-all model that actually fits none, the government is essentially undemocratising the internet, penalising in one broad stroke both content

producers and end users.

Besides, all of these platforms will be required to get registration—yes, including appis selling sarees through Facebook live from their homes. For smaller e-commerce platforms and independent content producers, the bureaucratic loopholes of obtaining registration may well act as a deterrence to their entry into the digital space while, for an established news platform like *The* Daily Star, registration—and the looming threat of its cancellation—will be a noose that can tighten with the smallest of

The draft criminalises the same set of vague provisions as the DSA. It says that the above-mentioned service providers cannot host any information that, among other things, "threatens the unity, integrity, defence, security, or sovereignty of Bangladesh, [and its] friendly relations with foreign States"; "breaches the secrecy of the government; creates unrest or disorder or deteriorates law and order" situation; "is offensive, false or threatening and insulting or humiliating to a person" or "decency, morality, social acceptance, social values, against national culture".

But what exactly do these terms even mean? Would any R-rated Netflix show pass the test of "decency" or "national culture"? Who decides that? And frankly, what would the internet even look like without content that is "humiliating" or "insulting" to someone or the other?

Unfortunately, we have already witnessed how broadly and arbitrarily these definitions have been used by the government to arrest, harass and humiliate a broad range of actorsordinary people included—for exercising their constitutional right to freedom of expression. Now, you may ask: if the DSA already allows the government to criminalise free speech, what does it matter that a new regulation is at play? It matters because now the government is making it mandatory for all social media

dialects and nuance?

Moreover, the draft regulation says that the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) can direct service providers to remove or block content—that too, within 72 hours of the direction—which will rob any and all these platforms of their independence and character. The tech giants are unlikely to take these punches lying down. We have already seen Facebook, Google and Twitter warning Hong Kong that they would stop operating there if officials of that country move forward with data protection law amendments (which is not nearly as bad as ours) that could hold companies liable for users' actions

The BTRC regulation further requires all social media intermediaries to have a resident complaint officer, a compliance officer to ensure due diligence, and an agent to liaison with law enforcement agencies and the BTRC—all of whom are to be residents of Bangladesh-essentially so that there is someone here they can hold liable or arrest in case of a violation. But why would a company like Netflix, for instance, go out of their way to take on this inconvenience when the easier and less expensive solution would be to pack up their bags and leave? And it isn't just Netflix of course. A host of regional and global businesses may no longer find it in their best interests to operate within Bangladesh.

It gets worse. The BTRC regulation as well as the DPA also make it mandatory for intermediaries such as WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, etc. to enable traceability and identification of the first originator of any information. Simply put, this means these companies, whose very existence is premised upon the assurance of privacy, would be required to break end-to-end encryption. Yes, you read that right: these regulations will legalise the surveillance of your private messages that you do not want to share with the universe.

These are only some of the more obviously scary provisions of the drafts. They are dense and technical, but it is absolutely crucial that we unpack them to fully understand how they would impact us on an everyday basis, in a very real way, if and when they are approved. Unless we want to live the rest of our lives constantly looking over our shoulders, deprived of the real benefits of the internet, we, the ordinary citizens, must strongly raise our voices against them while we still can.

as if I am exaggerating, but these are real-life examples of ordinary people, like students and professionals who have no link to the media or politics, who were picked up on these very grounds under the **Digital Security Act** (DSA).

It may sound

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

Recycling plastic bottles to make garments

It has been reported that a number of businesses are trying to recycle plastic bottles and turn them into activewear, outwear, padding and other items that have good global market value. Additionally, recycling plastic has many other benefits, more and more of which we are only now coming to realise.

The benefit of this to our environment may also be substantial. Therefore, the government should

come forward and provide policy and financial support to entrepreneurs who are trying to work on recycling plastic materials. As foreign customers and brands continue to become more environmentally conscious, it might pay off for us in the long run. It is something that our RMG makers could also look into.

Md Shamiul Islam, Dhaka



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ukraine invasion and the dystopian US political landscape



ASHFAQUE SWAPAN

S Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on, one of the strangest spectacles is a bunch of video clips of Fox News Channel's conservative commentator and America's top cable show host, Tucker Carlson, repeatedly showing up on primetime Russian state-owned television.

This is about as weird a development as an Iranian ayatollah popping up at a White House ceremony, or former US President Donald Trump showing up at a Black Lives Matter rally.

This is an extraordinary change in American politics. Domestic US reaction to global wars-and US involvementused to break down along predictable ideological lines. Those on the left were the sharpest critics of US involvement in a war, while the further right you went along the ideological spectrum, the more unquestioned the support was for US policies, until at the very right, you had people bitterly turning on domestic war critics for "blaming America first."

Going back all the way to the Vietnam war, right up to the Iraq war and Afghanistan, the American right has blindly backed US policies. (There is the odd historical exception—in 1972, US President Richard Nixon, a vicious, life-long red-baiter, went to Beijing and cozied up to uber-doctrinaire Communist leader Mao Zedong, whose government's descriptions of the West and its allies used to include such choice endearments as "imperialists and its running dogs." But exceptions just prove

The war against Ukraine is exposing a new stark development in the American right, with its most tell-tale manifestation in its extreme fringes.

"Why do I hate Putin so much? Has Putin ever called me a racist? Has he threatened to get me fired for disagreeing with him?" Carlson has said. He has also called Ukraine "an obedient puppet of the Biden state department", and suggested that Putin's invasion was nothing more than a "border dispute."

Let's turn to a few colourful conservative lawmakers whom the deceased Republican Sen. John McCain once memorably called "wacko birds."

Take North Carolina Republican Congressman Madison Cawthorn. I'll just quote a completely unsubstantiated remark of his and let the reader be the judge: "I took to the house floor a couple weeks ago to reveal the heinous

been started in conjunction with the Rothschilds, using a space laser.

Greene said that she agreed with Cawthorn's highly criticised comment that Zelensky is a "thug."

This political development is so contrary to Republican political culture that it's enough to cause vertigo.

Carlson's equivocation on Russian aggression is "not only confused, it's almost dada," former Syracuse University media studies professor Bob Thompson told The Guardian newspaper. "You see it and Christian. Putin's Russian muscular, macho nationalism has enough elements in it to resonate deeply. Russia, to be sure, has been capitalising on this with great skill on social media.

This White nationalist resentment has curdled into what journalist Matt Taibbi calls "reverse chauvinism." So deep is the resentment against what the Republican right considers the overwhelming dominance of the "woke" culture that there is almost a Pavlovian response to lambasting anything it supports. If it includes supporting the egregious Putin, so be it.

This is not merely an affliction of the political right, however. The left-leaning Taibbi was actually referring to analysts on the left who were reluctant to protest Russia's attacks. Ideological preferences can blinker sound judgement. Over the past decades, there have been powerful instances of this all over the ideological spectrum: the denial of Stalin's purge or China's terrible famines in the last century under Communist rule, and of course, America's sordid history of toppling governments and backing thugs

Today, as one witnesses Russia's attempts to bomb Ukraine into the stone age, with millions of its citizens fleeing the country, there is no question that this invasion must be condemned in the most categorical terms.

However, it is the exaggerated claims of moral superiority by the West, led by the US, where things get trickier. US claims of its revulsion of Russia's barbarity ring particularly hollow. Of the innumerable examples, I will mention two. Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who died recently, was widely lauded in US editorials, yet under her watch, according to a UN study, 500,000 Iraqi children died due to sanctions imposed by the Clinton administration. Or take the more recent examples of unaccountable drone attacks in America's global war on terror. Subsequent reports revealed that many of them killed unarmed and innocent civilians.

The sobering lesson is that global politics is a murky business. Our conscience requires that we condemn what is unacceptable, even if the company we keep is not entirely salubrious. We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good.



mutilating techniques that Dr. Fauci has been using on puppies in Africa using YOUR tax dollars.'

Cawthorn recently called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a "thug" and the Ukrainian government "incredibly evil," criticising the country and its leader as Russia invaded it.

Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene backed him. To give you an idea of where Greene is coming from, she thinks that the suggestion that Trump is secretly fighting a worldwide childsex-slavery ring is "worth listening to", that "Zionist supremacists" are secretly masterminding Muslim immigration to Europe to outbreed white people, and that wildfires in California had

A local resident walks past a tank of pro-Russian troops in the besieged southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine, March 18, 2022.

No one knows

if this is an

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not seize the

opportunity

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on how to

restructure

the contours

of our lives?

finale, but why

playing out on the show when someone makes a rational argument and it's deflected not with an alternative, but the abandonment of rationality."

What has brought about this remarkable turnaround in significant parts of the American right? Like everything in US Republican politics today, the figure that looms largest is Trump. His love for autocrats is no secret, and he is on record expressing his admiration for Putin quite recently.

But there is more to it than that. At the core of the resentment in the most conservative sections of the Republican Party is a fear of the dominant multicultural ethos that threatens their sense of identity that is White nationalist

During Lent, Unristians acknowledge misery, sorrow, and remorse and enter

Covid, Reawakening and Ramadan



Milia Ali is a Rabindra Sangeet exponent and a former employee of the World

MILIA ALI

begin with an apology to my readers for my long absence. Covid . played havoc with our lifestyle and livelihoods. Even then, we could make choices still within limited parameters. My choice was to remain passive and wallow in my bad fortunebeing traumatised by cancer during an epic pandemic. To compound matters, I had lost the one thing I valued the most: my passion for music!

Interestingly, it took just one innocuous walk on a beautiful spring afternoon to break the recurring cycle of depression and despair. Dusk was descending... there was something ethereal about the first blooms of spring against the setting sun, the chirping of

birds flying home, the soft breeze rustling through the leaves and caressing my hair. The entire ambience and experience stirred my inner core, which was struggling to overcome all that was dark and distressful in the recent past.

In addition to the misfortune of my illness, I was weighed down by the grief of losing dear ones to Covid. My deepest regret was that I could not hold their hands as they said goodbye to the world. The remorse had left a gaping wound inside me. But, standing alone in the tree-lined path, I had a "reawakening". I needed to move away from what destructs, distorts and disorients to what heals, rejuvenates and empowers. I realised that this might be the right moment since nature has given us a respite from the scourge of Covid. No one knows if this is an interval or a finale, but why not seize the opportunity to reflect on how to restructure the contours of

It is perhaps no coincidence that this is also the time when Christians are observing Lent. And for Muslims, the month of Ramadan has just started.

into a lamenting mode, seeking healing from the Divine. For many, lamenting is not just mourning, but also accepting that struggle is a part of the general drama of happiness and pain. Ramadan, on the other hand, is not

about finding a new path via remorse and lament, but trying to attain higher spirituality and resolving inner conflicts through reflection and action. Selfrestraint through fasting provides a rare glimpse into the miseries of the less fortunate, making us aware of the injustices and unfairness of life. Prayers and meditation, on the other hand, help us understand that so many things are beyond our control, and that inner peace lies in some kind of surrender to a greater force.

In both practices—Lent and Ramadanpeople strive to find catharsis through introspection, restraint and sacrifice. However, each one of us will need to find our own path whether it is Lent, Ramadan, Puja or simply meditating in the solitude of our homes. We will need to

go through our own healing process and rid ourselves of our past baggage. It will be easy to clean wardrobes and cupboards by removing all that is inconsequential, but cleansing our emotional cobwebs will be much harder! As we restart our journey of life, let us concentrate on resetting our priorities and discarding all that is inessential, especially the monster within, called ego.

Even so, questions will persist... Why were some chosen to survive while so many others succumbed to the pandemic? On a broader plane, what is this miracle called life? Is it the spirit's desire to break free from the Source and explore, as the Sufis say? Or each one of us is sent on this earthly adventure by the Divine Will to test our love for Him through endurance and compassion!

Whether we find definitive answers or not, for now let us be thankful that we are alive and celebrate each new day as a gift. Through its cataclysmic upheaval, Covid has taught us a valuable lesson: that despite its sham, broken dreams, suffering and disenchantment, it is still a beautiful life!

QUOTABLE Quote



Noam Chomsky

(Born 1928) American linguist and philosopher

If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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BEETLE BAILEY





BABY BLUES



INTERNATIONAL

WAR IN YEMEN

Rivals agree to 2-month truce

Yemen's warring parties were yesterday set to lay down their weapons for the first nationwide truce since 2016 with all eyes on whether the UN-brokered ceasefire will hold.

The Iran-backed Huthi rebels and Saudi-led coalition have both agreed to observe the two-month truce, which is to take effect at 1600 GMT on the first day of

Yemen's intractable war has killed hundreds of thousands directly or indirectly and displaced millions, triggering the world's worst humanitarian crisis, according to the United Nations.

Previous ceasefires have been ineffective. A national truce ahead of peace talks in April 2016 was violated almost immediately, as were other ceasefires that year.

A 2018 agreement to cease hostilities around rebelheld Hodeida port, a lifeline for the Arab world's poorest country, was also largely ignored.

Both the Huthis and Saudi Arabia have welcomed the latest initiative, which follows a surge in attacks but also increasing diplomacy including ongoing talks -- snubbed by the rebels -- in Riyadh. The truce was also welcomed by US President Joe Biden and UN secretary-general

Under the agreement, all ground, air and sea military operations in Yemen and across its borders would stop, UN special envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg said in his announcement. Fuel ships would be allowed into Hodeida port and commercial flights could resume to certain regional destinations from the airport in the Huthi-held capital Sanaa -- both key demands of the insurgents before they consider peace talks.



Protestors hold banners and placards during a demonstration against the surge in prices and shortage of fuel and other essential commodities in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday. Sri Lanka declared a 36-hour nationwide curfew yesterday and deployed troops backed with sweeping new powers under a state of emergency to quell protests against the president, his relatives.

Israeli forces kill three in West Bank

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israeli security forces killed three gunmen from the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in a shootout in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

"This is a terrorist cell that has been involved in terrorist activity against security forces recently, and was apparently on its way to another attack," the police said.

Four Israeli officers were wounded.

Islamic Jihad claimed the three Palestinians as members

Tensions have risen over the past week after a string of deadly Arab attacks in Israel. Officials have warned about a potential surge in assaults in the run-up to Saturdav's start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a period during which violence has surged in the past.

On Tuesday, a Palestinian gunman shot dead five people in the Israeli city of Bnei Brak before he was killed by police. The shooting raised to 11 the number of people killed by Arab attackers in Israel within

a week. Israeli forces shot dead three Palestinians in West Bank clashes on Thursday and Friday and a Palestinian stabbed a passenger on an Israeli bus near a Jewish settlement and was shot dead by another passenger.

Ukrainian journo killed covering war

REUTERS, Lviv

Maksim Levin, a photographer and videographer who was working for a Ukrainian news website and was a long-time contributor to Reuters, was killed while covering Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

His body was found in a village north of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on April 1, the news website LB.ua where he worked said yesterday.

Levin, born in 1981, was a documentary film maker who had contributed to Reuters' coverage of the

country since 2013. The prosecutor general's office in Ukraine said Levin was "killed by servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces with two shots from small arms". This could not be independently verified.

Nepal PM in India to deepen ties

Countries restore rail links, agree on energy projects



AGENCIES

Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba met his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and inaugurated the Himalayan nation's only railway link with its southern neighbour yesterday in a summit meant to deepen relations.

Nepal has traditionally done a balancing act between New Delhi and Beijing, but analysts believe Indian influence over Kathmandu has been dwindling as China pours heavy investment into the landlocked Himalayan country.

But Nepalese prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba made India his first foreign destination since he returned to power last year.

After the meeting, Deuba and Modi jointly flagged off Nepal's only railway link between Janakpur in Nepal and the border town of Jaynagar in India.

The 35-km (22-mile) railway was reconstructed by India as a grant. It was built by the colonial British Indian government as a narrow-gauge line to transport logs from Nepal.

The two prime ministers also remotely inaugurated an electricity transmission line that will supply hydroelectric power generated in

the Solukhumbu area, where Mount Everest is located, to Nepal's national power grid.

Both countries agreed to speed up the Pancheswar hydroelectric project on their border in west Nepal, which Modi said would be a "game changer" for the development of the region.

"The friendship between India and Nepal and mutual relationship between our people ... cannot be found anywhere in the world," Modi told a news briefing after the meeting. "Threads of our civilization, culture and mutual exchanges have been linked since ancient times."

Deuba said Nepal's ties with India were "highly important" and Kathmandu was "eager to benefit from India's progress through a mutually beneficial economic partnership."

Nepal agreed to use the Indian RuPay card which would strengthen "financial connectivity," and promote Indian tourist flows, India said in a statement. Both sides also signed agreements that include cooperation in railways and sharing technical expertise between the Indian Oil Corporation IOC.NS and Nepal Oil Corporation.

Deuba's journey south comes just days after Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi visited Nepal and India.

Blasts kill 5 in western Afghan city

AFP, Herat

At least five people were killed and 20 more wounded when two bombs exploded in quick succession in the western Afghan city of Herat on Friday, officials said. The incident happened

in the evening when a group of young men and children had gathered to play at a ground where the

bombs were planted.
"Five people have been killed and 20 others have been wounded," Sabit Harwi, spokesman for the intelligence office in Herat, told AFP.

Harwi said the local police defused two other bombs found in the area.

He said the entire area had been demined recently to remove all unexploded ordnances left from the war and the bombs that exploded on Friday appeared to have been planted just before the group came to play.

Ibrahim Mohammadi, head of Herat's ambulance service, confirmed the toll and said the dead included a child.

Herat is the country's third-biggest city, close to the border with Iran, but had remained relatively peaceful for several weeks.

Meanwhile in a separate incident earlier on Friday, five children were killed when an unexploded mortar shell accidentally blew up in the southern province of Helmand, Mohammad Qasim Riaz, an official said.

Pope implicitly criticises Putin on invasion

REUTERS, Valletta

Pope Francis yesterday said he was considering a trip to Kyiv and implicitly criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin over the invasion of Ukraine, saying a "potentate" was fomenting conflict for nationalist interests.

Francis made the comments, first to reporters on the plane taking him to Malta for a two-day visit, and then in a hard-hitting speech in the island's presidential palace that left little doubt who he was referring to.

"From the east of Europe, from the land of the sunrise, the dark shadows of war have now spread. We had thought that invasions of other countries, savage street fighting and atomic threats were grim memories of a distant past," the pope said.

Moscow denies targeting civilians in the action it launched on Feb. 24, which it dubs a 'special military operation" designed

not to occupy territory but to demilitarise and "denazify" its neighbour. Francis has

already rejected that terminology, calling it

"However, the icy winds of war, which bring only death, destruction and hatred in their wake, have swept down powerfully upon the lives of many people and affected us all,"

Francis said. "Once again, some potentate, sadly caught up in anachronistic

claims of nationalist interests, is provoking and fomenting conflicts, whereas ordinary people sense the need to build a future that, will either be shared, or not be at all," he said, without mentioning Putin by name.

The pope, who was limping as he walked in the presidential palace of the predominantly Catholic island, has already strongly condemned what he has called an "unjustified aggression" and denounced "atrocities" in the war.

DEPORTION OF ROHINGYA WOMAN TO MYANMAR

Rights groups criticises India

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The deportation of a 36-year-old Rohingya woman by Indian authorities and fresh detention of Rohingya refugees in Indian-administered Kashmir has been criticised by human rights groups, who called New Delhi's forcible return of refugees a "cruel disregard for human life and international law".

Hasina Begum, 36, who was detained on March 6, 2021, along with more than 100 other Rohingya refugees from Jammu city, was deported to Myanmar on March 22.

Since 2017, India has deported 16 Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar, according to rights

For more than a year, Hasina was separated from her three children, two daughters, age eight and 12, and her 14-year-old son. Now, their hopes for a reunion have been dashed.

India's crackdown came less than two weeks after the United States said that Myanmar's military committed genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya, who have long faced persecution in their homeland.



Hindu devotees participate in the 'Pahchare' Chariot festival in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday

INTERNATIONAL





It is a defining moment because nothing will be like it was before the war. It's now a question to take a very clear stance to support and defend the rulesbased order.

European Commission President **Ursula von** der Leven urges China to protect the world order that made it the second-largest economy in the world



Local residents ride bicycles past flattened civilian cars, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, on a street in the town of Bucha, in Kyiv region, Ukraine, on Friday.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN RAQQA US could have done more: study

The US military could have done more to limit civilian casualties and damage during the battle for the Syrian city of Raqqa that marked the Islamic State's fall in 2017, according to a report commissioned by the Pentagon.

At the end of the nearly five-month battle to free the city from IS, "60 to 80 percent" of it was "uninhabitable" and resentment of the population was directed at the liberators, said a report by the research center RAND Corporation.



The US military, which conducted 95 percent the airstrikes and 100 percent of the artillery fire during the battle, did not commit war crimes during the battle because it tried to respect international laws on the protection of civilians in wartime, but RAND said there was "room for improvement."

So-called "targeted" air strikes and artillery fire by coalition forces on Raqqa caused numerous civilian casualties between June 6 and October 30, 2017: from Amnesty International, the RAND report said. According to UN figures, 11,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged between February and October 2017, including eight hospitals, 29 mosques, more than 40 schools, five universities and the city's irrigation system.

China to pursue Ukraine peace in its own way

Beijing tells Brussels as Xi hopes for 'independent' EU

REUTERS, Brussels/Beijing

China has offered the European Union assurances that it would seek peace in Ukraine but said this would be on its own terms, deflecting pressure for a tougher stance towards Russia.

Premier Li Keqiang told EU leaders that Beijing would push for peace in "its own way", while President Xi Jinping said he hoped the EU would treat China "independently", in a nod to Europe's close ties with the United States.

The EU told Beijing during the virtual summit with Li and Xi not to allow Moscow to circumvent Western sanctions imposed over Russia's invasion

"We called on China to help end the war in Ukraine. China cannot turn a blind eye to Russia's violation of international law," European Council President Charles Michel told a news briefing with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen after the first EU-China summit since Dec.

"Any attempts to circumvent sanctions or rovide aid to Russia would prolong the war " be

Wang Lutong, director-general of European affairs at China's foreign ministry, vesterday said the country is not deliberately circumventing sanctions on Russia.

He told reporters that China is contributing to the global economy by conducting normal trade with

"China is not a related party on the crisis of Ukraine. We don't think our normal trade with any other country should be affected," he said.

China is forging closer energy, trade and security ties with Moscow, positioning itself as a global force that can stand up to the United States. Several weeks before the Feb. 24 invasion, China and Russia declared a "no-limits" strategic partnership.

Michel said the two sides agreed that the war, which Russia calls a "special military operation", was threatening global security and the global economy.

More than a quarter of China's global trade was with the bloc and the United States last year, against just 2.4 percent with Russia, an EU official said.

China has concerns that European countries are taking harder-line foreign policy cues from Washington and has called for the EU to "exclude external interference" from its relations with China. In 2019, the EU abruptly switched from soft diplomatic language to label China a systemic rival.

The EU, Britain and the United States have sanctioned Chinese officials over alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region, which prompted Beijing to retaliate in kind, freezing an already-negotiated EU-China investment deal.

US cancels ICBM test over Russia nuclear tensions

REUTERS, Washington

US military has canceled a test of its Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile that it had initially aimed only to delay in a bid to lower nuclear tensions with Russia during the war in Ukraine, the Air Force told Reuters on Friday. The Pentagon first announced a delay of the test on March 2 after Russia said it was putting its nuclear forces on high alert. Air Force spokesperson Ann Stefanek said the decision to cancel the test was due to the same reasons as when it had been first delayed. The next Minuteman III test is scheduled to take place later this year. The nuclear-capable Minuteman III is key part of the US military's strategic arsenal and has a range of 6,000-plus miles and can travel at a speed of approximately 15,000 miles per hour.

Russia declares top journo and vlogger 'foreign agents'

REUTERS

Russia has declared a prominent journalist, a video blogger and six other media figures "foreign agents", the latest in a series of such moves that critics say are designed to stifle dissent. The expanded list, published by the Justice Ministry late on Friday, included Elizaveta Osetinskaya, former editor-in-chief of several Russian business newspapers that published disclosures about the commercial interests of people close to President Vladimir Putin. It also included Evgeny Ponasenkov, a writer and video blogger. The term "foreign agent" carries negative Sovietera connotations and subjects those listed to stringent financial reporting requirements.

Psaki 'leaving White House job for to TV'

AFP, Washington

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Friday there are no ethical problems in her remaining in her role after reports that she is in advanced negotiations to switch to a high-profile television job. Multiple US media reports said the chief spokeswoman for President

Joe Biden is set to leave soon for a lucrative position on cable news. According to The New York Times, Psaki could host shows for MSNBC and NBCUniversal's Peacock streaming platform, as well as appearing on the cable network's news shows CNN had also been chasing Psaki, the report said. Psaki, 43, has been in the press secretary role since the start of Biden's administration in January 2021, when he took over from Donald

KHASHOGGI MURDER

Amnesty slams Turkey plan to transfer case



AFP,Ankara

Amnesty International on Friday lambasted any move by Turkey to transfer the Istanbul trial of 26 suspects in the 2018 murder of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi to Riyadh.

Khashoggi, a 59-year-old contributor to The Washington Post, was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018 in a murder that shocked the world and continues to have ramifications today.

Ankara-Riyadh relations worsened significantly after the killing but Turkey has since sought to mend ties with Saudi Arabia to bolster its economy.

"By transferring the case... Turkey will be knowingly and willingly sending the case back into hands of those who bear its responsibility," Amnesty's Secretary General Agnes Callamard said in a statement.

A Turkish prosecutor on Thursday asked to transfer the trial of 26 Saudi officials in absentia after an apparent request by the kingdom. The prosecutor argued the case was "dragging" because the court's orders could not be fulfilled since the defendants were foreigners, the private news agency DHA reported.

But Amnesty's Callamard said the Saudi system "repeatedly failed to cooperate with the Turkish prosecutor and it is clear that justice cannot be delivered by a Saudi court".

Five people were handed death sentences over Khashoggi's killing but a Saudi court in September 2020 overturned them while giving jail terms of up to 20 years to eight unnamed defendants following secretive legal proceedings.



HEAITH

THE BREAKFAST MISTAKES perhaps you are making

Breakfast, as the name implies, breaks the fast. It provides necessary nutrients and refills your glucose supply, boosting energy and alertness. Hence a proper breakfast is crucial.

STAR HEALTH DESK

Not without reason, breakfast is dubbed "the most essential meal of the day." Breakfast, as the name implies, breaks the fast. It provides necessary nutrients and refills your glucose supply, boosting energy and alertness. Hence a proper breakfast is crucial. Following are the breakfast mistakes most people make:

Skipping it: We all breeze past the breakfast table once in a while; it may raise your chances for health problems like high blood cholesterol, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes.

Not eating enough: If you overeat or snack later in the day because your stomach is still growling, you will gain weight. The reverse may be true. It speeds up metabolism and burns calories all day.

Wolfing it down: When you rush to start your day, you might scarf your breakfast down in a hurry, too. Some studies link speedy eating with higher odds of obesity, but this needs more research.

Skimping on protein: A proteinpacked breakfast benefits more than your muscles. It may also help you keep your appetite in check later in the day.

Canceling carbohydrates: Do not remove them entirely. Pick wisely. "Complex carbohydrates" provide sustained energy. Oats, fruit, low-sugar granola bars, wholegrain cereal, or a bagel are acceptable

Passing up healthy fats: Unsaturated

fats are good for you. To make them part of your breakfast, add nuts or seeds to yoghurt, or spread nut butter on wholegrain toast or an apple.

Excluding eggs: Egg whites are a prime source of



other nutrients.

And even the yolks are OK for some of us in moderation because they're packed with protein, vitamin D, and eye-friendly antioxidants.

Super-sizing your cereal: Before you pour breakfast into the bowl, check the

nutrition label on the side of the cereal box. Look for the recommended serving size, and stick to that amount.

Compromising your coffee: Flavour enhancers add additional calories to your morning coffee. But there are many methods to improve your mug. Stevia may replace sugar in coffee. In place of cream and whole milk, low- or non-fat milk Add cinnamon, nutmeg, or cardamom for a kick.

Drinking the wrong juice: Many fruit juice brands have added sugar. The main way to avoid the empty calories is to make sure the label says 100% juice.

Waving off water: By the time you wake up, it is probably hours since you have hydrated. That makes a cool glass of water the ideal drink to wash your breakfast down.

Settling for a so-so smoothie: Smoothies can be healthy — if you make them with the right stuff. Using a lot of fruit can fill your cup with calories, so stick to one or two servings.

Buying the wrong breakfast bars: Check the nutrition label. If it makes up your entire breakfast, choose ones that have whole-food ingredients, 10-14 grams of protein, and 5 grams of fibre.

Getting sabotaged by sugary yoghurt: Many commercial brands have lots of sweet stuff. Your best bet is to buy plain, low-fat or no-fat yoghurt.

Breakfast gears up your metabolism and helps you burn calories all day. Conversely, skipping breakfast might throw off your body's fasting and eating routine.

Source: WebMD



How often should Lipoprotein (a) be measured?

Lipoprotein (a) is a type of bad cholesterol (LDL). A high level of lipoprotein (a) may mean you are at risk for heart disease. Lipoprotein (a) is a genetic risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

Using data from 16,017 unrelated participants from the U.K. Biobank, investigators tested the association between repeat lipoprotein (a) measurements and risk for incident coronary artery disease. After lipoprotein (a) measurement, 15,432 participants had no Coronary Artery Disease (CAD). It was 19.5 nmol/L at baseline and 20.4 nmol/L at followup, with a median interval of 4.4 years.

Diet did not influence lipoprotein (a) levels. An increase in lipoprotein (a) was seen in patients who had never taken statins (a group of medicine that lowers cholesterol levels in the blood) and whose baseline lipoprotein (a) level was less than 70 nmol/L. Lipoprotein (a) instability had no relation to coronary artery disease.

This study supports simply monitoring lipoprotein (a) once for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. The findings also imply that statin treatment has only a minor impact on lipoprotein (a) stability.

Source: Journal of the American College of Cardiology

Getting through Ramadan with ulcer

DR RAMISHA MALIHA

Peptic ulcers are open sores on the mucus lining of the stomach or upper intestine. Ulcers are caused by bacterial infections, smoking, long-term painkiller use, and overeating fatty, acidic, and spicy meals. Peptic ulcers cause stomach pain, heartburn, and lack of appetite. Long-term fasting worsens these symptoms. This would make Ramadan more difficult.

If you have a peptic ulcer, your ability to fast during the holy month is determined by your ulcer's severity, type, and timing. You should know which foods cause ulcers.

If you choose to fast throughout Ramadan, here are some tips to help you manage your ulcer pain:

Do not skip meals: Avoid missing meals, especially Suhoor. Eating slow carbohydrates first thing in the morning will provide you with sustained energy throughout the day. If you do not have much of an appetite in the morning, a glass of milk, a few almonds, and some dates are advised. Chicken is great for individuals who consume heavier breakfasts. To avoid feeling dehydrated during the fasting hours, drink at least two to three glasses of water before you begin fasting.

Take your time while breaking your fast: Coconut-coated dates with laban, avocado juice with fruits or dried fruit, or soups are excellent choices for breaking your fast. Your meals should have a decent balance of carbohydrates, proteins, fruits, and vegetables.

Foods need to avoid: Fasting can increase stomach acidity, giving a burning sensation and heaviness. Eating meals high in fibre can help prevent this. Avoid fried meals, spicy foods, salty foods, and foods high in sugar. Sweets can induce

indigestion, heartburn, and weight gain and should be avoided, especially on an empty stomach.

What to drink: Avoid consumption of caffeinated beverages (even decaffeinated teas, coffees and sodas). Caffeine removes calcium from your system, making you feel less full. Avoid tea during Suhoor as it stimulates salt excretion in the urine, which the body needs when fasting. If you are feeling thirsty, consider adding a piece of lime, strawberries, or even mint

Work out (mildly): Light exercise is also advised to maintain your body flexible and healthy. Drink plenty of water after you break

As fasting is obligatory for Muslims in the holy month of Ramadan, most Muslims like to keep fasting. However, those with ulcers who want to fast in Ramadan should follow a healthy diet that is less spicy, fatty and acidic to ease their ulcer symptoms.

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Different SARS-CoV-2 variants may give rise to different long COVID symptoms

New research to be presented in the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) suggests that the symptoms connected to long COVID could be different in people infected with different variants.

Post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC) ofter

Post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC), often known as 'long COVID', affects almost half of SARS-CoV-2 survivors. The illness can strike anyone, young or old, healthy or not. It has been seen in COVID-19 patients and those with minor symptoms. Despite growing research, extended COVID is still poorly understood.

Between June 2020 and June 2021, a research was conducted on 428 patients with the original SARS-CoV-2 and the Alpha variant circulating in the population. 325/428 (76%) patients had at least one chronic symptom. Other complaints were shortness of breath (157/428; 37%), chronic fatigue (156/428; 36%), sleep issues (68/428; 16%), visual issues (55/428; 13%), and brain fog (54/428; 13%).

A detailed comparison of symptoms reported by infected patients between March and December 2020 revealed a significant shift in the pattern of neurological and cognitive/emotional issues. The researchers discovered that muscle pain, sleeplessness, brain fog, and anxiety/depression rose when the Alpha variation was prevalent, but the loss of smell, swallowing difficulty, and hearing loss decreased.

Source: The Lancet



Personality traits are associated with well-being and satisfaction in life after work

A new study published recently in PLOS ONE journal has identified novel associations between older adults' personality traits, the routes they took to leave their jobs, and their well-being after exiting the workforce. As the world's elderly population rises, communities and policymakers become more concerned about their well-being. Researchers are looking at how varied departure paths—like forced vs voluntary retirement—affect future life satisfaction. To clarify, researchers used data from the British Household Panel Survey to examine over 2,000 persons aged 50 to 75.

The dataset comprised assessments of individuals' "Big Five" personality qualities and subsequent life satisfaction after leaving their professions, willingly or involuntarily, with no intentions to return. Conscientiousness was connected to higher leisure time satisfaction in older persons forced into retirement and enhanced life satisfaction in jobless people.

Extraversion was linked to decreased life, income, and leisure satisfaction among early retirees. Extraversion was connected to increased leisure pleasure in adults who ceased working due to illness or caregiving duties. Extraverts may lack social interactions at work but maybe driven to discover socially fulfilling hobbies.

The findings could help guide targeted interventions and policies for ageing adults.

Source: PLOS ONE



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South Africa vs Bangladesh 1st Test, Day 4 Live from 02:00 pm La Liga

Chennai vs Punjab Live from 08:00 pm STAR SPORTS HD 1 West Ham vs Everton Live from 07:00 pm

STAR SPORTS HD 2 Tottenham vs Newcastle Live from 09:30 pm ICC Women's World Cup Australia vs England Live from 07:00 am

I have only been here for about two months now and he [Mahmudul Hasan Joy] is one of the boys who caught my eyes as far as talent. work ethic and patience. He stuck to what he knows. He never tried to play any shot that was not in his repertoire. It was something special for Bangladesh.

Jamie Siddons Bangladesh batting coach.





Mahmudul Hasan Joy wears a broad smile as Mehedi Hasan Miraz advances to congratulate him on a brilliant century on the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday. Joy's resilient 137 – the first Test ton by a Bangladeshi batter against the Proteas – kept hopes alive for the visitors.

The grit, grind and granite behind Mr. Happy

MAZHAR UDDIN

He may have been the youngest member of the Bangladesh team, but 21-yearold Mahmudul Hasan Joy showed that he has a mature head on his shoulders on way to registering his maiden Test hundred and the first by a Bangladesh batter against South Africa on the third day of the first Test in Durban yesterday.

A display of sheer determination, grit and patience was underlined by the youngster recognising the importance of his wicket and then absorbing a tremendous amount of pressure right after opening the innings on the second

Before being the last Bangladesh wicket to fall, Joy made 137 runs and faced a mammoth 326 deliveries, smashed 15 fours and two sixes. He also ensured the visitors would cut down the deficit by scoring some quick runs in the

As he held watch throughout, the right-hander was involved in three crucial 50-plus partnerships, with Najmul Hossain, Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz. It never seemed that Joy was playing just his third Test match, let alone

in tough South African conditions.

Bangladesh ended up posting 367 runs in their first innings courtesy of that 'one-man show' and were trailing by 69 runs, a gap that will give the visitors the belief they can put up a fight in the Test.

Joy had earlier shown glimpses of his patience in his second Test, facing 228 balls and scoring 78 in the historic Test win against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in January this year.

SCORES IN BRIEF (DAY 3)

SOUTH AFRICA First Innings- 367 all out and Second Innings- 6 for no loss in 4 overs (Erwee 3 not out, Elgar 3 not out)

BANGLADESH

First Innings- 298 all out in 115.5 overs (Joy 137, Liton 41, Shanto 38; Harmer 4-103, Williams 3-54)

The Chandpur native, who was given the nickname 'Mr. Happy' by his childhood coach Syed Shameem Akhter Farugi for his ever-present smile even in the toughest of times, reflected that character during his tremendous knock



yesterday.

sed to work with his childhood coach during the offseason and even bought a granite slab to prepare for bouncy tracks.

"Joy's father came to me when he was around 12 years old and asked me to prepare him for admission to BKSP. I worked with him for a year and from the beginning, he was a very hardworking and attentive student. He is an international cricketer now and has big coaches to train him, but whenever he comes to Chandpur, he practises here in my academy," a proud Faruqi -- who is the BCB-appointed Chandpur district coach

told The Daily Star yesterday. "He contributed to us buying a granite

slab for the academy. In fact, before travelling to South Africa he came here and prepared with the fast and bouncy tracks in mind."

Hannan Sarkar, the age-level selector and former national opener who picked Joy during his age-level days, was unsurprised by the transformation of the young boy who was part of the ICC Under-19 World Cup-winning side just a couple of years ago.

"He had the ability to play long innings even during age-level days. And his hunger to play big knocks is something we have seen from the very beginning. He even scored a thousand runs in a year during his under-19 days in 2019. He likes to take some time. Once he gets set, he starts to explore," Hannan said.

"The main thing is he knows his limitations very well. One of his problems was that he tried to chase balls away from his body. But what I have noticed is that he has worked on his footwork, which has worked well for him. Joy still tried to play a few of those [away from his body] in the ongoing Test, but the best part is that he has realised and adapted well. This time, he went back and across to cover the line of the ball," said Hannan.



WORLD CUP DRAW: WHAT THEY SAID

"I say to people, be calm and enjoy the World Cup. I hope it ends with Argentina in the final." LIONEL SCALONI, ARGENTINA COACH

"It's a strong group if you take into consideration Germany. As for the rest of the group, I don't know much, I won't lie to you - almost nothing. Now is the moment to take the time to study them and continue thinking and trusting in what we are as a team."

LUIS ENRIQUE, SPAIN COACH

"It is neither (the group of) death nor life, every group has a degree of difficulty. Portugal have Uruguay, South Korea, Ghana.' TITE, BRAZIL COACH

"If Ukraine makes it there, it's a wonderful accomplishment. If the people of Ukraine can get some hope by their team playing in the World Cup, it's amazing. It will be more of a celebration in my eyes."

GREGG BERHALTER, U.S. COACH

"It could have been easier or harder," he said. "We know Denmark well and we will get to know each other even better with our matches in the Nations League in June and September." DIDIER DESCHAMPS, FRANCE COACH

"It's not great. We would have liked to have avoided France, because I'm pretty sure they are one of the best teams in the world with the incredible talent they have."

KASPER HJULMAND, DENMARK COACH

"I'm super happy. The French are favourites, we are far from it, but, having grown up here, living here, playing in the French Championship (for St Etienne), it is the dream of many players. WAHBI KHAZRI, TUNISIA STRIKER



Familiar foes meet with trophy on the line

AGENCIES

Australia will be strong favourites to win the Women's World Cup for a seventh time in Christchurch on Sunday but reigning champions England have hit their stride at the business end of the tournament and will not give up the trophy easily. While the top ranked Australians have romped through the tournament with eight straight wins, four-times champions England have been in crisis management since losing their first

They qualified for the semi-finals with a thumping win over Bangladesh, however, and were at their very best when they crushed secondranked South Africa by 137 runs on Thursday to reach the final for the sixth time. The English know they will have to hit similar peaks when they return to Hagley Oval on Sunday to face Australia, who they have not beaten in their last seven meetings in one-dayers.

Anamul, Mithun keep Prime Bank on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Bank Cricket Club remained on top of the points table in the Dhaka Premier League with a 127-run thumping of Mohammedan Sporting Club, thanks to prolific batting displays from Anamul Haque and Mohammad Mithun at the ULAB cricket ground yesterday.

Sent in to bat first, Anamul and Shahadat Hossain gave Prime Bank a solid start with a 51-run opening stand before they lost Shahadat and Abhimanyu Easwaran in quick succession. Anamul, however, went on to stitch together a 131-run partnership for the third wicket with Mithun, guiding the side close to 200.

Anamul's cracking run-a-ball 94 featured nine fours and six maximums while Mithun scored 60 runs off 74 balls. Following their departure, the lower-and-middleorder batters kept the scoreboard ticking, but ended up getting bundled out for 312 runs with three balls remaining. Soumya Sarkar bagged four wickets for Mohammedan.

In reply, Mohammedan batters collapsed in face of Prime Bank's bowling attack. Rakib Hasan took four wickets while Robiul Hoque and Mahedi Hasan scalped two wickets each to restrict their opponents to 183 runs

Meanwhile in Savar, Abahani defeated Brothers Union by six wickets in a low-scoring encounter. Electing to field first, Abahani's bowlers were all over Brothers as a fifer from Tanzim Hasan Sakib and a couple of wickets each from Mohammad Saifuddin and Tanvir Islam bundled their opponents for 219.

A blistering unbeaten century from Hanuma Vihari and a half-century from skipper Mosaddek Hossain saw Abahani cruise to a comfortable chase with six wickets remaining.



Liverpool forward Diogo Jota celebrates scoring the first goal in their 2-0 win over Watford at Anfield yesterday. The win meant Jurgen Klopp's men have 72 points from 30 matches, two points ahead of Manchester City, who travel to Burnley later on Saturday.

Focus on quality in school cricket SPORTS REPORTER

The Prime Bank National School Cricket Tournament will start from next Friday across the country.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's Age-Group tournament committee chairman Obeid Rashid Nizam informed yesterday during a press conference in Mirpur that the number of schools has been reduced to 348 from 550 this year as they focused on quality. "We want to emphasise more on quality rather than numbers. This year we set some criteria for the schools and we selected those who fulfilled each criterion," said Obeid.

In an attempt to make school cricket more meaningful, the board has decided to bring the 15 best players under scholarship programmes. Alongside that, they will also give 25 women umpires the duty to officiate the matches so they can gain experience.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, school cricket remained halted for the past two years.





AL national council likely in December Says Obaidul Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the party's next national council might be held in December.

"The national election will be held in 2023 or 2024. So, the party will have to be built as a more well-organised and smarter one ahead of the next parliamentary polls," he said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was speaking to journalists at a programme at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office marking the distribution of member collection books of its organisational units.

He said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had dreamt of building "Sonar Bangla".

The AL would be made more disciplined and well-organised under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to materialise the dream, he added.

The ruling party general secretary said party leaders concerned have been given directives to make strides towards removing all sorts of internal wrangling in all organisational units across the country.

Mentioning the distribution of member collection books among SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



Bangladesh opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy pulls one during the third day of the first Test against South Africa in Durban yesterday. The 21-year-old carried the Bangladesh innings – 298 all out for a 69-run first-innings deficit – with a 137 off 326 deliveries, in the process becoming the first Bangladeshi battler to score a Test century against the Proteas. Later, the hosts reached six for no loss at stumps.

BEATING BUS DRIVER TO DEATH

Who were those plainclothes men?

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

On the night of April 22, 2019, a group of 14 to 15 men in plainclothes intercepted a bus in Chattogram city's Shikalbaha area and beat up the driver in front of the supervisor, helper and all the passengers.

After they left, critically injured Jalal Uddin, 50, the driver of Shyamoli Paribahan, was rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Two days later, Jalal's brother Jewel Hossain filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station over the incident.

According to the case statement, those men came in a microbus, an SUV and a car and introduced themselves as members of the Detective Branch of police. Some of them were carrying handcuffs, walkietalkies and pistols.

They searched the bus for yaba pills but

found nothing, it added.

Several witnesses said the same to police investigators.

The death sparked widespread protests at that time with Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation (east) and Chattogram Zilla Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation enforcing a 24-hour transport strike.

They demanded arrest and punishment SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

36hr curfew declared

Move comes after president invokes state of emergency in face of violent protests

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday declared a 36-hour nationwide curfew and deployed troops backed with sweeping new powers under a state of emergency to quell protests against the president, his relatives and even his most trusted shaman.

The lockdown will be lifted on Monday morning, police said — a period that covers planned mass anti-government protests against worsening shortages of fuel, food and medicines.

The order came a day after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa invoked a state of emergency following a violent attempt to storm his house, saying it was for the "protection of public order".

The ire of a mob in the near-bankrupt country was directed at a woman identified as a soothsayer frequently consulted by Rajapaksa in the northern town of Anuradhapura.

Rights activist and former opposition legislator Hirunika Premachandra led dozens of women to storm seer Gnana Akka's shrine and residence, but armed police stopped them.

"Why are police protecting a shaman?" she asked a senior officer who physically blocked her march, as seen on a Facebook live video, verified by AFP as authentic.

"Thief, thief, Gota thief," the crowds chanted after armed security personnel stopped them.
"Think of the country and let us pass," another woman activist pleaded.

"#GoHomeRajapaksas" and "#GotaGoHome" have been trending for days on Twitter and Facebook in the country, which is battling severe shortages of essentials, sharp price rises and crippling power cuts in its most painful downturn since independence from Britain in 1948

The coronavirus pandemic has torpedoed tourism and remittances, both vital to the economy, and authorities have imposed a broad import ban in an attempt to save foreign currency.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Russia retreats in northern Ukraine

Confirms Kyiv; Red Cross heads for Mariupol for more evacuations

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine yesterday said Russian forces were making a "rapid retreat" from northern areas around the capital Kyiv and the city of Chernigiv as the Red Cross prepared for a fresh evacuation effort from the besieged southern port of Mariupol.

Russian forces now appear to be focusing attacks in the east and south, a day after thousands of people from Mariupol and surrounding Russian-held areas escaped in a convoy of buses and private cars.

"Russia is prioritising a different tactic: falling back on the east and

south," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhaylo Podolyak said on social media.

He said that, while Russian forces appeared to be pulling back

from Kyiv and Chernigiv, their aim was to "control a vast stretch of occupied territory and set up there in a powerful way".

"Without heavy weapons we won't be able to drive (Russia) out," he

said.

President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian tanks into Russia's pro-Western neighbour on February 24 and Ukraine estimates 20,000

Western neighbour on February 24 and Ukraine estimates 20,000 people have been killed in the war so far.

More than 10 million have had to flee their homes.

In Kyiv, the government confirmed that the body of a well-known $$\tt SEE\ PAGE\ 7\ COL\ 4$$

Govt's greed, syndicate behind price hike: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the government failed to arrest the price hike of daily essentials and provide relief to the people.

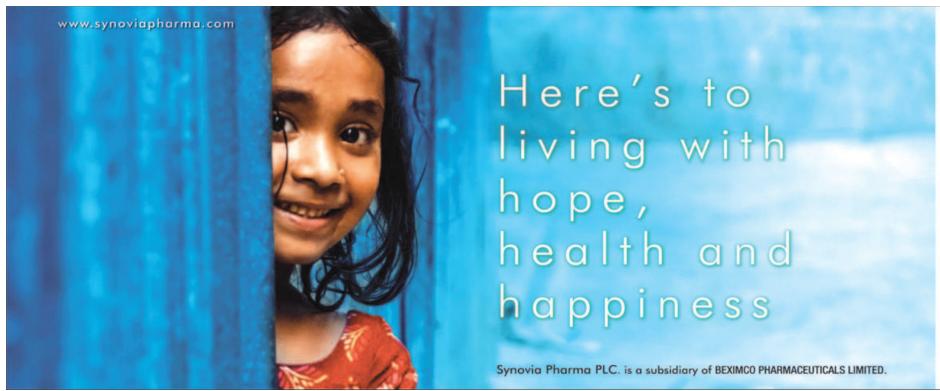
It also complained that the prices of daily commodities have spiked due to the government's greed.

The party made the allegations at a "token hunger strike" in front of Jatiya Press Club, organised by Dhaka North and South city BNP units, protesting the rising prices of daily essentials and allencompassing corruption.

"Prices of daily commodities have skyrocketed due to the government's greed and syndication," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at the programme.

He said the "unelected" Awami League government has created a SEE PAGE 7 COL 7





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