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## Two more depot fire victims die

Death toll now 47

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two more BM Container Depot fire victims, including a firefighter, died yesterday after nearly seven days fighting for their lives.

With the deaths, 47 people, including 10 firefighters, have been killed in the devastating fire and explosion that took place on June 4 night.

Nurul Quader, 22, an employee of the depot in Sitakunda, breathed his last at the Incentive Care Unit of Parkview Hospital in Chattogram city.

"Nurul sustained severe burn injuries and he was admitted to the general unit on June 4 night. As his condition deteriorated, he was moved to the ICU and put on life support. He died around 1:30pm," said Humayun Kabir, deputy general manager of Parkview Hospital.

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A fisherman going to Bheduriya Ghat Bazar in Barishal Sadar upazila to sell his catch. Fishermen fish in the Kalabadar river and sell their catches at the bazar where different types of local fish are sold at wholesale prices. The photo was taken on Saturday. PHOTO: TITU DAS

## COVID-TIME SCAM

Ex-DGHS DG, five others indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former boss of Directorate General of Health Services Abul Kalam Azad and five others in a case filed over embezzling government funds.

The five others are: Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed, ex-DGHS director (hospitals and clinics) Dr Aminul Hasan, deputy director (hospital-1) Dr Md Younus Ali, assistant director (hospital-1) Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman and research officer Dr Md Didarul Islam.

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## GRAFT IN RECRUITMENT

# KL's turn to prove them wrong

PORIMOL PALMA

After a meeting with Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmed on June 1, Malaysian Human Resources Minister M Saravanan said the migration cost for the Bangladeshis going to Malaysia under the new deal would be zero.

The deal was signed in December last year.

All costs, including airfare, levy and medical fees, will be borne by the employers, he told journalists in Dhaka.

He also said the government will cancel the quotas of Malaysian employers who collect money from workers.

"The recruitment is scheduled to start "as soon as possible" after the Malaysian cabinet approves the selection of agencies."

This comes as good news for

Bangladeshis aspiring to go to Malaysia for jobs, and more so for the government who heavily relies on remittance that makes up a significant portion of the foreign exchange.

It is also important at a time when maintaining the balance of payment has become challenging with the rise in import cost amid price hike of commodities everywhere.

Labour migration experts and recruiting agencies, however, have little faith in Saravanan's

words.

They argue that the very idea that Malaysia will select the Bangladeshi recruiting agencies for sending workers there is flawed and there are elements of corruption.

The minister also has not specified any on criteria which the agency

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## Earth's core is twisting under our feet

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Earth's core doesn't rotate in sync with the rest of our planet, but instead spins faster at times, and at others reverses direction.

That's the finding of new research published in the journal Science Advances by Southern California seismologists John Vidale and Wei Wang.

"The inner core is not fixed," Dr Vidale said in a statement. "It's moving under our feet, and it seems to go back and forth a couple of kilometres every six years."

It's a finding that could help scientists better understand how Earth's core generates the geomagnetic field that blocks radiation from space and makes life possible.



## Amend DSA, as promised

Says global rights group

ARTICLE 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ARTICLE 19, an international human rights organisation, yesterday demanded that the government act on its commitment to amend the flawed Digital Security Act.

As many as 23 journalists were prosecuted in 10 cases filed under the DSA this year, it said in a statement. Of them, three were imprisoned.

Admitting the fact that the law has been misused and abused, several responsible ministers in the recent past have promised to reform the law with an assurance not to arrest journalists immediately sued under the law, said the London-headquartered campaign group.

"However, the reality is different; cases and arrests under this law are rampant," the statement said quoting Faruq Faisal, regional director for ARTICLE 19 South Asia.

ARTICLE 19 also demanded that the real culprits behind the murder of three media workers in the past three months be brought to justice following a proper investigation.

The media workers are: Abdul Bari, a senior production executive of the private television channel DBC News; Abu Jafar Pradeep, a correspondent of local daily Sorejomin Barta; and

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## Forex reserves still ample

Says BB governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's foreign exchange reserves are still in a comfort zone, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir yesterday.

As of June 8, reserves stood at \$41.7 billion, which is enough to settle import bills for about 5.6 months, according to data from the BB.

It is the standard for any country to keep enough reserves to settle import bills for at least three months, he said at a two-day summit titled "Building Cyber Resilience for Banks" organised by the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh.

"So, we are still in a comfort zone," said Kabir, who would be replaced by current finance secretary, Abdur Rouf Talukder, as the head of the central bank from July 4.

In normal times, this would have been adequate. But given the elevated global inflation, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund recommend an import bill cushion of 9-10 months.

Last year, Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves were enough to cover 9-10 months' import bills. But with the global economy

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A view of the damage to the Nika Tera grain terminal, as Russia's attacks on Ukraine continues, in Mykolaiv yesterday. Left, Ukrainian artillerymen fire a BM-21 Grad multiple rocket launcher near Izyum, south of Kharkiv. The war is already taking a dramatic toll on the world economy and placing a huge swath of the world's population, especially those in developing nations, at an increased risk of harm, the United Nations warned.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

## Russia strikes weapons depot

22 people hurt; street fighting rages in Severodonetsk

AGENCIES

Russian forces fired cruise missiles to destroy a large depot containing US and European weapons in western Ukraine's Ternopil region, Interfax reported yesterday, as street fighting raged in the eastern city of Severodonetsk.

The governor of the Ternopil region said a rocket attack on the city of Chortkiv fired from the Black Sea had partly destroyed a military facility, injuring 22 people. It was a rare attack in western Ukraine, with the east and south of the country having borne the brunt of Russian

firepower.

Moscow has repeatedly slammed the United States and other nations for supplying Ukraine with weapons. President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that Russia would strike new targets if the West supplied longer-range missiles to Ukraine for use in high-precision mobile rocket systems.

Ukrainian leaders have renewed pleas to Western countries in recent days to speed up deliveries of heavy weapons as Russian forces pound the east of the country with artillery.

Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said yesterday that Ukrainian and

Russian forces were still fighting street by street in Severodonetsk. He said that while Russian forces have taken most of the city, Ukrainian troops remain in control of an industrial area and chemical plant where some 800 civilians are sheltering.

"No one can say whether and how many victims there have been in the last 24 hours in Severodonetsk, where intense fighting continues," Gaidai said on the Telegram messaging app yesterday.

"Everyone wants to evacuate now, probably, but so far there is no such possibility."

## শোক সংবাদ

আমরা শোকাহত

অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সহিত জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, খলিল গ্রুপের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব খলিলুর রহমান চৌধুরীর সহধর্মিণী ও ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর জনাব নাসরাত খলিল চৌধুরীর মাতা জনাবা মাহমুদা খলিল চৌধুরী গতকাল রবিবার (১২/০৬/২০২২) সকাল ১০.৫৯ ঘটিকার সময় ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে মৃত্যুবরণ করেন। ইল্লালিছাহি ও ইনা ইলাইহি রাজিউন। মরহুমার জানাজার নামাজ আজ বাদ আসর বাইতুল আতীক কেন্দ্রীয় জামে মসজিদ, বারিধারা (বারিধারা সোসাইটি মসজিদ) প্রাঙ্গণে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। আমরা মরহুমার আত্মার মাগফেরাত ও তাঁর শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

খলিল গ্রুপের সকল কর্মকর্তা এবং কর্মচারীবৃন্দ।