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Jute can produce finest yarn

Anwar Hossain

Bangladesh can save several billion dollars as import cost if the country's spinning and textile mills use jute as a major alternative to cotton in producing yarn, experts said.

Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) has recently innovated a method, through which they produced the finest quality spinning yarn (100 Tex) by adding chemical with jute, which can be used to produce export quality garments.

Experts observed that like the other competing countries in the

world market, Bangladesh's textiles and ready-made garment industries will have to reduce dependency on cotton import and find an alternative to make progress in the coming days. Jute yarn can open up a new horizon in this respect, they noted.

While talking to Bangladesh Post, BJRI Director Dr Md Abul Kalam Azad said that the yarn produced from jute is 100 percent worthy of use in industries. It can be used in spinning or textile mills. The yarn can also be used in the RMG sector, he added.

"As we largely depend on cotton

import, use of jute yarn can reduce the dependency by up to 25 percent which can be extended to 50 percent gradually in the coming days," he added.

Being asked about whether the country's spinning and textile mill owners are interested in using jute yarn, he replied that they had held meetings with certain mill owners several times before and the businessmen also showed their interest. He hoped that soon the mill owners will start using the jute yarn in a large scale once the supporting technology is available in the country.

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A team of Chinese armed forces offer guard of honour to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she departs Beijing Capital International Airport for Dhaka on Saturday.

Photo: PMO

PM to brief media tomorrow

BP Desk

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold a press conference tomorrow to brief media about the outcomes of her five-day official visit to China.

The press conference will be held at PM's official residence Ganobhaban at 4pm, Prime Minister's Office sources said.

The prime minister was on a official visit to China at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang.

During her visit, Sheikh Hasina attended the annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) in Dalian on July 2.

She talked to Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on July 4 and 5 respectively.

The PM also held meeting with

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Housing for middle, lower income people

Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC) is planning to construct houses in the khas lands by using modern technology for the middle and lower income groups under 'rent to buy' method.

"We will construct the houses in the khas land through developers. The houses will be allocated under 'rent to buy' method and middle and lower income groups will get priority," BHBFC Managing Director Debasish Chakrabarty said, reports BSS.

He said BHBFC will construct the houses outside of the Dhaka and Chattogram metropolitan areas where developers usually do not go for constructing building.

"We are planning for such a



special programme under the 'Presidential Order-7' which is waiting for approval from cabinet. After getting approval, tender for hiring developers will be invited. Developers from home and abroad can participate in the tender process. They will have to construct the houses by using modern

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China to pressure Myanmar into repatriating Rohingyas

Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi assured Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen that China will put pressure on Myanmar to speed up the repatriation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The Chinese foreign minister came up with this statement during a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart in Beijing on Friday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's just concluded visit to China, said a foreign ministry press release on Saturday.

"China will continue to host

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PM returns from China visit

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Dhaka on Saturday, wrapping up her five-day bilateral official visit to China at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang.

A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines (BG-1723) carrying the premier and her entourage members landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport here at 1:40 pm on the day, reports BSS.

Among others, State Minister for Religious Affairs Alhaj Advocate Sheikh Md Abdullah, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali, PM's Principal Secretary Md Nojibur Rahman, PM's Military Secretary Major

General Mia Mohammad Zainul Abedin and Civil and Military high officials were present at the airport to receive the prime minister.

Earlier, the flight departed from the Beijing Capital International Airport at 11.05am (Chinese local time) on the day.

The prime minister was given static guard of honour at the airport while Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui and Bangladesh Ambassador to China M Fazlul Karim saw the premier off there.

During the tour in China, Sheikh Hasina held bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang, and joined the World Economic Forum

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Malaysia FM in Dhaka

Trade, manpower export, Rohingya issues to dominate discussions

Staff Correspondent

Malaysia Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah arrived in Dhaka on Saturday on a three-day visit.

The Malaysian Foreign Minister will have a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen today (Sunday). According to a Malaysian

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The saga of Indian Congress

Pallab Bhattacharya

News Analysis

The Indian National Congress fought a tremendous battle against the British rule under the leadership of late Moti Lal Nehru, C R Das, MK Gandhi, Netaji Shuvas Bose, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Jawhar Lal Nehru and other valiant freedom fighters of the Indian sub-continent. But, despite such illustrious past, the party has been facing serious debacle after experiencing a crushing defeat in the last national election.

If we look back we see that with the emergence of Indira Gandhi as its leader after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1965, the Indian Congress had taken a new and modern shape. With her magnetic persona and charm Indira Gandhi had built Congress as an

indomitable political force in India. However, in the process, soon the political leaders of her father's time became redundant. The real leaders and workers were being replaced by the Indira followers but with the sudden assassination of Indira Gandhi in October 31, 1984, Congress fell into real problem. Her son Rajiv Gandhi took the leadership and thus the real leaders and supporters of Congress started to feel discomfort in the party.

After the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 2004, Congress was absolutely confined within the family periphery. In the face of tremendous opposition across the nation, Congress president Sonia

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Immigration raids 'fairly soon': Trump

US President Donald Trump said on Friday mass deportation roundups would begin 'fairly soon' as US migrant advocates vowed their communities would be 'ready' when immigration officers come.

Trump, who has made a hardline immigration stance a key issue of his presidency and 2020 re-election bid, postponed the operation last month after the date was leaked, but on Monday he said it would take place after July 4, report agencies.

"They'll be starting fairly soon, but I don't call them raids, we're removing people, all of these people who have come in over the years illegally," he told reporters at the White House on Friday.

US (ICE) last month said operations would target recently-arrived undocumented migrants in a bid to discourage a surge of Central American families at the southwest border. ICE said in a statement its

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Downpour may trigger landslides in Ctg, Sylhet

DS Sourav

Bangladesh Meteorological Department on Saturday said in a forecast that heavy rainfall may cause landslides in the hilly areas of Chattogram and Sylhet divisions this year.

Met Office forecast said the axis of monsoon trough runs through Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, thence north-eastwards to Assam across Bangladesh.

One of its associated troughs extends up to North Bay. Monsoon is active over Bangladesh and strong over North Bay.

Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Mymensingh divisions with moder-



ately heavy to heavy falls at places over southern part of the country.

Apprehending hill collapse, the district administrations of (Chattogram & Sylhet) directed the inhabitants of the hill slopes to move to safer places.

Sources at the district administration said, they are requesting the inhabitants of Batali Hill, Miyar Pahar, AK Khan and Amij Jute mill areas through loudhailers to leave the hill areas.

District administration sources said that, "Before Ramadan 300

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Dipu Moni for developing values of students

BP Desk

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni laid emphasis on developing values of students alongside imparting

quality education to make them good human beings, reports BSS.

"We have taken different initiatives to build our children as worthy citizens of the country," she made the comments while talking to journalists at the circuit house in Dhaka.

Dr Dipu said the government has set a target of 30 percent enrolment in technical education by 2030 aiming to transform Bangladesh into an economically developed country.

"In 2009, there was only one percent student enrolment in the

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Sri Lanka post 264 against India

BP Sports Desk

Sri Lanka posted a 265-run target before India in their last league stage match in ICC World Cup at Headingley on Saturday.

Angelo Mathews' scored his third ODI century, which led his team to a comeback after they were in deep trouble at 55-4 in the 12th over.

Mathews fashioned a rescue in a stand of 124 with Lahiru Thirimanne (53) and 74 with Dhanajaya de Silva (29 not out) to see his team post the challenging total.

Mathews was out for 113 in the 49th over. Sri Lanka is locked out of the semifinals, but would enjoy spoiling India hopes of topping the group.

Indian pacer Jaspit Bumrah took 3 wickets giving away 37 runs in his 10 over.

As of filing this report at 8:15pm on Saturday, India scored 50 runs without losing any wicket after 7 overs. Rohit Sharma was batting on 29 while his opening partner KL Rahul was on the crease with 21 runs. Earlier, winning the toss, Sri Lanka chose to bat first.

Tigers' full potential not exploited

Talha Kamal

Bangladesh's World Cup campaign ended on a sorry note as they were comprehensively beaten in the hands of Pakistan by 94 runs in Lords on Friday. It was Bangladesh's worst performance in the tournament. The 12th edition of the Cricket World Cup has been full of ups and downs as Bangladesh finished in seventh position.

Before the World Cup, many predicted Bangladesh to secure a semifinals berth because of team's perfect blend of players with vast experience and hungry youths. However, the massive potential of this talented Tigers roster was not exploited to its full potential. Throughout the tourney there was only one big positive for the Tigers and it was the ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's excellence with both the bat and bowl. He was the one who made his team win matches, kept on breaking records and making new ones. Shakib ended his glorious World Cup run

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Shakib Al Hasan's all-round performance, especially his brilliant batting, was the highlight of Bangladesh's run in the ICC Cricket World Cup being played in England. Apart from Shakib, only a couple of more Bangladeshi players - Mushfiq and Mustafiz - could express themselves in the tournament.

Photo: Collected

Rohingyas' condition in Myanmar is like Nazi camps

UN investigator says

Staff Correspondent

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar are living in concentration camps and urban ghettos like those in Nazi-occupied Europe, a UN investigator has said.

Christopher Sidoti, a member of the UN fact-finding mission into crimes against the Rohingya that last year accused Myanmar's military of genocide, warned the crisis is far from over for the persecuted minority, reports The Guardian, a UK based daily newspaper.

Sidoti said 128,000 people forced from their homes by violence are now in camps in central Rakhine and urban ghettos, living in conditions that he likened to those endured by Jewish people under the Nazis.

Rohingya people remaining in Myanmar live in villages where their movements are severely

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Downpour may trigger

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illegally built homes nearby hilly areas were evicted in the first phase. In the second phase, more than 500 residents will be evicted from 14 hills, in the second phase."

Executive Magistrate Touhidul Alam of Chattogram District Administration on Saturday told Bangladesh Post, "The authorities have started evicting the illegal and risky makeshifts nearby the hills. In the second phase, 50 settlements have been evicted today. The eviction drive will continue till the 17th of this month."

According to the sources, around five lakh people are living in over 100 slums built legally and illegally on the hill slopes in Lal Khan Bazar, Moti Jharna, Hamjarbag Nabinagar Pahar, Barma Colony Pahar, Enayet Bazar Jamtola Bosti, Pologround Bazar, Batali Hill, Jilapi Pahar, Nasirabad Pahar, AK Khan Pahar, Chandranagar Pahar, Roufabad Pahar, Kumusbagh, Jalalabad, Cantonment, Bayazid Bostami, Khulsi, Sholoshahar, Kumira and other areas.

Deputy Commissioner of

Chattogram, Md Elias Hossain, told the media that 13 hills in the port city are at high risk of landslide.

Around 200 people were killed in several incidents of hill collapse and waterlogging in the city over the last 10 years. Among them, 127 people were killed in hill collapses and waterlogging triggered by heavy rains in seven areas, including Kaichagana adjacent to the Cantonment, on June 21, 2007.

Besides, at least 89 people were killed in incidents of hill collapse and tree collapse in Ranganati, Bandarban and Chattogram districts on June 12, 13 in 2017. Before the monsoon begins, to prevent hill collapse, the district administration launched a new eviction drive to remove the illegal inhabitants of Chattogram hills. In the morning, on Wednesday (July 3rd) 50 illegal buildings were evicted in Foy's Lake area of the city. The drive will continue till July 17. In Chattogram city, 863 families live in 17 risky hills. Most of residents come from different districts. Around, four hundred people died in hill collapse in the last 12 years.

Tigers' full potential

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with 606 runs and 11 wickets under his belt. He is the only cricketer to achieve this feat. He also became only the third batsman to reach the 600-run mark in a World Cup.

However, except Shakib, the whole World Cup was a bit doom and gloom for the Tigers. The reason behind this was failure to work as a team collectively. There were individual brilliances in matches but Tigers failed to perform together in all three departments of the game consistently. One of the disappointments of this World Cup was fielding effort of the team, which was shambolic to say the least. A major frustration was opener Tamim Iqbal and skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's performance with bat and bowl respectively. The duo could not get their act together and were consistently inconsistent with their performances.

Tigers beat South Africa and Afghanistan, pulled off a record chase against West Indies, showed several moments of brilliance in a stern chase

against Australia, and nearly beat New Zealand. Except emphatic defeat against Pakistan, Bangladesh overall were competitive throughout the tournament and heaped praise of experts around the world. There was another positive other than Shakib and it was ace pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman's 20-wicket haul in the World Cup match against Pakistan. Fizz bagged a second consecutive wicket and also became the fourth fastest to 100 wickets among ODI bowlers. He is now in second position in the leading wicket takers tally behind Australia's Mitchell Starc (24).

So, the World Cup ended in an inauspicious style. However, the current Tigers squad is talented enough to produce better performances and results. The young players need proper nurturing and the team in general need to bring consistency in players' performance. The future is not bleak after all.

Jute can produce finest

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A BJRI scientist said lignin structure is the main difference between jute and cotton. Due to huge presence of lignin in jute, its fiber is thicker than cotton.

"But as the genetic characteristics of jute has been discovered, we are now trying to bring changes to its genetic characteristics so that we can produce cotton like yarn from jute," he said adding, "The demise of our scientist Maksudul Alam hindered the progress but we now working on it."

Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association Director Sheikh Shamsul Abedin told Bangladesh Post, "Our neighbouring country India is already producing jute katan cloths. We are lagging behind in this respect due to lack of modern technology and machineries."

About RMG yarn he said, "If RMG

industrialists put forward any demand and specification and the government helps us with modern technologies, then we will be able to provide them with best quality yarn from jute". Mentionable, 97 percent of the country's demand for cotton is fulfilled through import. To reduce this import dependency the government is eyeing to produce 2.5 lakh bales cotton by 2021.

The country's spinning and textile mill owners spent \$3 billion for importing cotton in fiscal year 2017-18. Renowned scientist Dr Mubarak Ahmed Khan told Bangladesh Post that jute yarn may have odour and that there might be difficulties in using colour with it. "But we have found a way to remove odour and adding color to it," he noted.

About use of jute yarn use in RMG sector he said that research is going on to ensure jute usage in every sector.

Malaysia FM in Dhaka

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foreign ministry statement, issues like trade, manpower export and Rohingya crisis will get priority in the discussion. This is the first trip Bangladesh trip by Saifuddin Abdullah after he became the foreign minister of Malaysia last year.

The Malaysia foreign minister is expected to visit the Malaysian field hospital and several Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar district during his visit.

The Malaysian foreign ministry statement said, "This visit will provide an opportunity to strengthen the existing warm and friendly relations between both countries and further boost bilateral cooperation as

well as reaffirm Malaysia's continued support to the government of Bangladesh in providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas."

Bangladesh and Malaysia had substantial trade and investment ties with the 2018 two-way trade valued at US\$2.37 billion, a significant increase of 35.4 per cent from US\$1.75 billion in 2017.

From January to April 2019, according to Malaysian news agency Bernama, trade increased by 2.7 per cent to US\$793.1 million compared to US\$771.5 million over the same period in 2018. Bangladesh is Malaysia's second largest trading partner among South Asian countries.

Dipu Moni for developing

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technical education while the current enrolment is 17 percent," she added.

"We are promoting knowledge-based education to develop skilled human resources to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country. Education without skills will create a burden for the family as well as the nation," the minister added.

"To maximize the benefit of using ICT in a classroom, we need a bunch of trained, motivated and technology-friendly teachers who will make the whole process effective and successful," she said.

"The government has taken various ICT programmes to ensure quality of education. In a technology-based globalised world, quality education is crucial for any country. The government has realised the fact and executed its plans accordingly," Dipu Moni added.

Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur Md Mazedur Rahman Khan, Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Nurul Islam Najim Dewan and Faridganj Upazila chairman Jahidul Islam Roman and officials of local administration, among others, were present on the occasion.

Rohingyas' condition in Myanmar

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curtailed and their rights to get married and have children are strictly controlled, he said.

"There are concentration camps – let's call it what it is – with 128,000 internally displaced people in central Rakhine, outside Sittwe," said Sidoti.

"In Sittwe, there are three areas where Rohingya people live and they have become urban ghettos like those Jews lived in under Nazi-occupied Europe."

Sidoti, a keynote speaker at a conference on the Rohingya crisis at University College London on Thursday, added: "The mass expulsions and shootings may have stopped, the military may have achieved their purpose – the makeup of the Rakhine state has changed – but the crisis is not over."

There are only an estimated 400,000 to 500,000 Rohingya left in Myanmar, he said, compared with 2 or 3 million in 2012.

"We said a year ago there were circumstances to give rise to an infer-

ence of genocidal intent," Sidoti said.

"What has happened in the past two years has strengthened the genocidal intent. Villagers are still isolated, and their movement restricted; fishermen can't go to fish and kids can't go to school. They need written permission from the authorities to travel any distances, and permission to marry and have children. You might need six different written approvals, from six different authorities, to go to hospital. The whole thing has been calculated to watch them fade away."

Sidoti said he expected the panel's new report, which will be published in the next few months, to say that the inference of genocide has "strengthened".

His comments came as the UN warned that civilians in Rakhine and Chin states may be suffering fresh war crimes and human rights violations as fighting between military and rebel groups intensified.

Speaking to the UN human rights

council (UNHRC), Yanghee Lee, the UN special rapporteur on Myanmar, detailed accounts of abduction and torture of civilians by both the Myanmar army and the rebel insurgent group the Arakan Army, which is fighting for greater autonomy in the region.

"The conflict with the Arakan Army in northern Rakhine state and parts of southern Chin state has continued over the past few months and the impact on civilians is devastating," Lee told the UNHRC on Tuesday.

"Many acts of the Tatmadaw [Myanmar armed forces] and the Arakan Army violate international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes, as well as violating human rights."

Speaking to the Guardian after her address to the council, Lee said the situation was worsening by the day and that the UN Security Council needed to draw up a resolution swiftly condemning the actions of the Myanmar military.

Housing for middle, lower income

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technology," he added. Since the selected Developers will be using modern technology, then the houses will be long lasting and the construction cost will also be very low, said BHBFC MD.

"In traditional method, the local developers take long time, but under the modern technology, they can construct a house within a year," he added.

He informed that the developed countries are using 'Fast-track

construction' method to construct their houses and the construction method is low cost as well as time saving. Debasish Chakrabarty said the house will be popular in the country as the construction cost of the eco-friendly house is very low.

"We will construct the houses in khas lands and will ensure all facilities including sanitation and sewerage. We will allocate the houses to the people under 'rent to buy' method. That means, the dwellers of the house will give rent

and after a certain period, they will get the ownership of the houses," he added.

The Managing Director also provided added information regarding BHBFC who are continuing on with their offer of seven types of products for all classes of people.

The products are Nagar Bondhu, Flat Loan, Palli Ma, Abasan Unnyan Reen, Abashan Meramat Reen, Probash Bondhu and Krishak Abashan Reen.

PM returns from China visit

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(WEF) Annual Meeting of the New Champions in the city of Dalian and attended a panel discussion titled 'Cooperation in the Pacific Rim'.

Following the meeting with her Chinese counterpart, Beijing assured Bangladesh that it would try to persuade Myanmar to take back its Rohingya nationals.

The Chinese premier agreed with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on resolving the protracted crisis quickly, saying, "There is no doubt that it's a big problem for Bangladesh".

Li Keqiang, however, stressed the need for solving the crisis bilaterally, and assured that China will help end the crisis.

During the call on with Sheikh Hasina, the Communist Party of China (CPC) Minister for International Affairs Song Tao also assured that their sole governing party would contact with Myanmar State Councillor Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders there to resolve the crisis.

Bangladesh and China also signed

nine instruments in different sectors including aid for the Rohingyas and economic and technical cooperation, investment, power, culture and tourism after the two premiers' talks on July 4.

Of the nine instruments – five are agreements, three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and a document – while ministers and officials concerned of the two countries signed the document in presence of the two leaders. Under the first agreement titled "Letter of Exchange (LoC) on the Rohingya Refugees Rice Aid", China will provide 2,500 tonnes of rice to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar.

Other instruments are: Framework Agreement of Expansion and Strengthening of Power System Network under DPDC Area; Framework Agreement of Power Grid Network Strengthening Project under PGCB Project; Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between Bangladesh and China; Government Concessional Loan Agreement of Expansion and

Strengthening of Power System Network under DPDC Area Project and Preferential Buyer's Credit Loan Agreement of Expansion and Strengthening of Power System Network under DPDC Area Project.

The three MoUs are – the Establishment of Investment Cooperation Working Group and its Implementation Plan on hydrological information sharing of Yalu Zhangbo/Brahmaputra River and Cultural Exchange and Tourism Programme.

Sheikh Hasina met the WEF founder and executive chairman on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of WEF annual meeting and had a roundtable with the CEOs of different Chinese companies.

She also attended a reception accorded to her by the expatriate Bangladeshis in China and paid rich tributes to the heroes of Chinese revolution by placing a wreath at the Heroes Memorial in Tian'anmen Square. The prime minister earlier left Dhaka for China on a five-day bilateral official visit on July 1.

The saga of Indian Congress

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Gandhi could not be made Prime Minister of India as she was an Italian born widow of Rajiv Gandhi.

Because of long-standing dynastic rule, the Congress leadership lost its clout at the national level. Now the only hope is Priyanka Gandhi, widely regarded as a replica of Indian iconic leader Indira Gandhi. But she has not been given the leadership of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) as the family was in favor of pushing Rahul Gandhi without considering his leadership quality.

The lid has finally been put on the 39-day suspense over Rahul Gandhi's continuance as the Congress chief. Having announced his decision to step down from the post of party President on May 25 in the wake of the party's severe drubbing in parliamentary election, the question had been: will he or will he not reconsider his decision. The party rank and file repeatedly pleaded with him to continue to lead the Congress but Rahul did not budge. And on July 3, he signed off with an open letter to the party workers that he is no longer the Congress President and asked the party to find his successor. This indicates there is no scope for any rethink on Rahul's part.

This is likely to clear the decks for a lot of churnings within the Congress involving office-bearers and the Congress Working Committee, the party's top decision-making forum and the choice of a new party chief. The uncertainty over Rahul leading the party did not do any good to Congress in the last five to six weeks.

Rahul's four-page letter was more than just a medium for letting the party workers know that he is quitting. It is important on a number of counts: (1)

it reflects the state of the party reeling under the electoral defeat (2) it gives a glimpse of Rahul's equation and frustration with a large section of the party's rest of the leadership (3) the way ahead for the Congress without a member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty as Congress President. Rahul's letter calls for a "radical transformation" of the Congress and that numerous people in the party should also be held accountable for the poll debacle clearly brings out his frustration with some senior leaders who pressed party nomination for their sons in the election and appears to indicate the need for a sweeping organizational purge. However, this did not trigger a barrage of resignation by other national level office-bearers of the party. In fact, not a single senior leader and office-bearer, including those hand-picked by Rahul, resigned taking moral responsibility for the electoral setback ever since Rahul announced his decision to quit on May 25. Even Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, made party General Secretary in January this year, did not step down.

Rahul also gave vent to his unhappiness that he often stood "completely alone" in the party in the fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party and the RSS and in his sustained campaign against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of allegation of graft in the deal for purchase of Rafael fighter aircraft from France. Does it mean that a sizable section of the Congress leadership did not share his strident anti-Modi campaign which many within and outside Congress felt was too negative to impress the voters?

With speculations over Rahul as party head having been set to rest,

Congress circles are abuzz with the possibility of who his successor could be. The names of senior Dalit leaders like Sushil Kumar Shinde from Maharashtra, Mallikarjun Kharge from Karnataka, Mukul Wasnik and Meira Kumar are doing the rounds. All these people are Gandhi family loyalists. There is also intense speculation if the Congress Working Committee (CWC) would make an appeal to Priyanka Gandhi or Sonia Gandhi to head the party. But Rahul had in the previous CWC meeting on May 25 insisted that a non-Gandhi clan member should head the Congress. This has sparked speculations in Congress circles. Why does Rahul not want any other Gandhi family member to replace him as party President? Is he opposed to either Priyanka or Sonia as party chief? If a non-Gandhi family member fails to successfully lead the Congress, the family can always turn around and drive home the necessity of a family member to be in the party top position.

No doubt, Rahul's resignation and his insistence on a non-Nehru-Gandhi clan should head the party have offered the Congress an opportunity to have someone from outside the family as party President. But will the party seize the opportunity? The names of senior leaders like Sushil Kumar Shinde, Mallikarjun Kharge, Meira Kumar and Mukul Wasnik are doing the rounds as Rahul's successor. Having someone from outside the Nehru-Gandhi clan as Congress President is not new for the party. There are instances of P V Narasimha Rao who was both the Prime Minister and the party chief and later Sitaram Kesri in 1990s. But they did not last long because both Rao and Kesri had to grapple with

PM to brief media

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China's ruling party Communist Party of China (CPC) on Friday. During the meeting, CPC Chief Song Tao assured her of pursuing Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

The CPC assurance came a day after Li Keqiang acknowledged the issue to be a major crisis saying 'there is no doubt that it's a big problem for Bangladesh, which should be resolved fast'.

During her visit, Bangladesh and China signed nine agreements, including two loans, for further strengthening cooperation on power, water resources, culture and tourism sectors.

Sheikh Hasina went to China on July 1.

China to pressure

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trilateral meetings among China, Bangladesh and Myanmar to provide a platform for dialogues to ensure the early return of the displaced people," Wang Yi, also State Councilor said.

Wang Yi said China will enhance and strengthen bilateral relations with Bangladesh to realize the objectives of Strategic Partnership of Cooperation as was decided at Bangladesh –China Leaders' Summit held in Dhaka in October 2016.

The Chinese Foreign Minister also mentioned that President Xi Jinping hosted a banquet in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina where both leaders had free exchange of thoughts.

"Summit talks reflected mutual trust and friendship currently existing between the Bangladesh and China," he added.

Both Foreign Ministers agreed that solution to the Rohingya crisis will contribute to the peace and stability in the region.

Momen asserted that Myanmar needs to create conducive conditions like assurances of safety and security for the displaced people to start return of the Rohingyas.

Immigration raids

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focus was arresting people with criminal histories but any immigrant found in violation of US laws was subject to arrest.

Government documents published this week by migrant rights groups showed some past ICE operations resulted in more so-called "collateral" arrests of undocumented migrants agents happened to find, than apprehensions of targeted people.

Migrant rights groups said this generalized threat is harmful to communities, and the US economy, as it forces adults to miss work and children to skip school out of fear they may be picked up and separated.

finally wilt under relentless resistance from other Congress leaders professing allegiance to the Gandhi family.

The question being asked is how stable and sustainable will be the leadership of a person from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family. This is where the role of the Gandhi family members—Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul will come into play. How strong will be their voice in choosing a new Congress President and running the party? It will not be easy to wish away the huge control Sonia, Priyanka and Rahul have over the party. Can a non-Gandhi family Congress head come out of the shadow of the trio? Sonia Gandhi is the Congress Parliamentary Party chief, Priyanka and Rahul have together acted as a parallel power centre when the Congress government was in power under Manmohan Singh as the PM between 2004 and 2014.

Will the Gandhi family be able to send a message about a hands-off approach in running the party and implement Rahul's call for a "radical transformation and organizational overhaul"? A section of the Congress feels anyone from outside the Gandhi clan as party chief runs the risk of being in awe of the Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka axis and may not have much of a free hand. But the Congress needs a break away from its status quo culture, now more than ever before.

In the near-term, the party faces the challenge of taking on the Bharatiya Janata Party in assembly elections in four states including Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana later this year before it plans for the long-term objective—revival before the next parliamentary poll in 2024.

'Moral education to prevent criminalization of youths'



Housing and Public Works minister SM Rezaul Karim yesterday called for boosting moral education at all level to prevent the youths like 'Noyon Bond' from becoming involved with criminal activities at Pirojpur.

"Moral education is very crucial for the students side by side regular education to groom up them as worthy citizen," the minister said while distributing education materials for different schools of the district. Addressing a function on the occasion at Nazirpur Primary Teachers Association auditorium here today the minister urged the teachers to treat their students like their children.

Primary school is the foundation of education and if students remain weak at this stage they would not be succeeded to reach their goal, he said. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rosy Akhter chaired the function while Deputy Commissioner Abu Ali Md Sajjad Hossain, Police Super Hyatul Islam Khan and Upazila Parishad chairman Amuloy Ranjan Halder, spoke among others. A total of 88 projectors and 133 Sound System were distributed among different schools in the function.

Speaker for imbuing new generation with Liberation War spirit

Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury Saturday stressed on exercising true history of the Liberation War to imbue the new generation with its spirit, reports BSS.

"The true history of the Liberation War should be spread among generation after generation as the youths can take the country ahead being imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War," she told a function organized to accord a reception to freedom fighters, sector commanders and artists at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) auditorium here.

Describing freedom fighters as the great sons of this soil, Dr Shirin said women freedom fighters had also great contributions to the Liberation War.

She said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had a dream to build a Sonar Bangla ensuring economic and political emancipation of the people.

Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working relentlessly to build a hunger-poverty and repression free Sonar Bangla as dreamt by the Father of the Nation, she said.

Dr Shirin said Bangladesh has become a role model of development under the dynamic leadership of the premier.

She said the country has already attained the status of a lower middle income country and expressed her hope that



Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of National Parliament attends a reception ceremony organised for freedom fighters, artists and sector commanders on Saturday morning at Engineers Institution by Shadhin Bangla Muktijudha Somonny Foundation.

Bangladesh will be a developing country by 2024 and a developed one by 2041.

The speaker said the prime minister is very sincere to ensure the well being of the freedom fighters. In 2019-20 fiscal, allowance of freedom fighters has been increased, she said.

Former chairman of Bangladesh

Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council Major General (ret'd) Helal Morshed Khan, Bir Bikram, Sector Commander Major General (ret'd) KM Shafiullah, Bir Uttam, cultural personality Ramendu Majumder, actor Professor Dr Enamul Haque and Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation general secretary and freedom fighter Osman Ali addressed the function, among others.

Former minister and freedom fighter Shajahan Khan, MP, KM Shafiullah, Ramendu Majumder, Dr Enamul Haque and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro singer Monoranjan Ghosal were accorded a reception at the function.

'Medical board to decide if Khaleda needs hospital stay'

City Desk

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader on Saturday said a medical board would decide whether BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia should stay at hospital as she is now being treated at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU), reports BSS.

"The medical board and jail authority will decide how many days Khaleda Zia should stay at hospital," he told it while briefing a press conference at the AL president's Dhanmondi political office here.

While asked if Khaleda sought parole, Quader said there are some conditions to seek parole and "if she doesn't have any valid reason, why she will seek parole?"

He, however, said it was up to the government to decide whether she would get parole or not if she wanted it.

About the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's China visit, the minister said "China is our development

partner. During the visit, MoUs of US\$2 billion have been signed with China. The MoUs were signed for development."

But, he said, BNP leaders does not see any development in the country.

Quader said Sheikh Hasina strongly projected the Rohingya crisis to the Chinese leaders and

China assured her of mounting pressures on Myanmar to bring back their nationals from Bangladesh.

About the gas price hike, the minister said there are some logical reasons to increase the gas price but the government high-ups could reconsider the proposed hike. "But I don't think there is any scope to reconsider it," he said.

Awami League Organizing Secretaries -- State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury and Deputy Minister for Education Barrister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel, Relief and Social Welfare Secretary Sujit Roy Nandi, Deputy Office Secretary Barrister Biplab Barua and Central Working Committee member SM Kamal Hossain, among others, were present on the occasion.



Indian Army delegation in Dhaka

A delegation of 15 young couples of Indian Army arrived here yesterday on the invitation of the Chief of General Staff, Bangladesh Army, said a press release of High Commission of India, reports BSS.

The delegation came from Kolkata by a specially designated aircraft of Bangladesh Army, the release said. "This is a significant milestone in the history of bilateral relations as this is first of its kind visit in Bangladesh, wherein 15 midlevel officers of Indian Army, each accompanied by their spouse are visiting Bangladesh," it said.

During the visit, the delegation members will meet senior officers and interact with midlevel officers of Bangladesh Army. They will also visit Bijoyketon Museum, National Parliament, Cox's Bazar, Proyash, Liberation War Museum, National Mausoleum and Hatirjheel. The visit is the reciprocal one in nature wherein 25 young couples of Bangladesh Army had earlier visited Delhi, Agra and Kolkata from November 26 to December 2, 2018.

These visits were suggested by Bangladesh Army Chief during discussions held with the Indian Army Chief on his first visit abroad after taking over as Army Chief. The visit is aimed to enhance people to people contact in the backdrop of our enriched common cultural heritage and will go a long way in enhancing co-operation and interoperability between the two Armies.

Minor girl raped and murdered in Wari Six detained

Special Correspondent

Six people were detained on Saturday in connection with rape and murder of a minor girl in city's Wari on Friday.

The victim was identified as Samia Afrin Sayma who was a seven years old girl, and whose dead body was recovered earlier on Friday evening from a building under construction, near Bonogram Masque area of Wari Police Station.

Abdus Salam, a businessman and father of the victim on Saturday morning filed a case with the local police station accusing some unidentified criminals in connection with the gruesome

killing of his daughter.

Assistant Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan (Wari Zone) Mohammad Shamsuzzaman confirmed that six persons, two from the same apartment, were detained for their alleged involvement, and further said, "We are investigating the incident."

Police sources said, "Sayma went on missing during Magrib prayer. Her family members searched for her on different floors of the eight-storied

under construction apartment. At one stage, her family members found her dead body in a room on the eighth floor of the apartment."

Police primarily suspected that she was murdered after she had

been raped.

Describing the incident, Salam said, "I went to the local mosque prior to the Ajan of Magrib prayer. While returning to my flat from the mosque, I brought breakfast. After returning to my residence, I saw my daughter Sayma missing."

"I along with my wife started searching for her on different floors. At one stage, I found her dead body in a room of eighth floor," he added.

He, however, could not exactly tell who the murderers were.

In the latest development, experts of the Forensic Department of Dhaka Medical College said, "Sayma had been raped before she was murdered."

Dr Sohel Mahmud, head of the DMC Forensic Medicine Department told the journalists after an autopsy on her body.

DNA test result and other examinations confirm that the victim, Sayma, was raped and then she was strangled to death.



Samia Afrin Sayma



IGP of Bangladesh Police Dr Javed Patwary hands over a crest to a student at a scholarship awarding programme at PSC convention hall in Mirpur in the capital on Saturday.

Photo: PR



DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam urged to avoid rickshaw plying on capital's main roads to reduce traffic jam at Nagar Bhaban in Gulshan yesterday.

Photo: BP



Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh speaks at a commemorative programme organised on the occasion of 25th death anniversary of the great leader president Kim IL Sung, at the National Press club.

Photo: BP



Activists of Meks Bangladesh form a human chain demanding severe punishment for food adulterators and fake medicine producers in front of National Press club on Saturday morning.

Photo: BP

Science and technology fair ends at RUET

A two-day science and technology fair 'Technocracy 2019' concluded at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET) on Friday amidst an attractive Inter University Computer Programming (IUCP) contest, reports BSS.

More than 300 contestants from 96 teams comprising the students of 49 public and private universities including Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University and the host RUET took part in the IUCP contest. This year fair came up with all new outstanding and amazing events which were very exciting, fascinating and challenging for creative mindsets.

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in RUET hosted fair aims at blending all the engineering knowledge to meet the social and global challenges.

As a whole, the fair created a platform for the enthusiastic students of top universities in Bangladesh to showcase their day-to-day talents and skills.

RUET Vice-chancellor Prof Rafiqul Alam Sheikh, Director General of Science and Technology Museum Munir Chowdhury, Executive Director of Confidence Batteries Limited Muallem Abdul Maleque and Prof. Vincenzo Piuri from Italian Milan University were present at the closing day's technical and plenary sessions.

In addition to two technologies related seminars, the two fair included showcasing projects, poster presentation, junior Einstein track, olympiad, gaming competition and mock contest.

Hasan urges EU to share media practices with BD

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has requested the European Union (EU) to share their best practices and guidelines for the print as well as electronic and online media with Bangladesh.

He made the request while holding a meeting with the senior officials of the EU in Brussels on Friday, a press release said yesterday.

Ambassador of Bangladesh in Brussels participated in the meeting, while from the EU side, senior officials from offices concerning with foreign affairs, strategic communications and human rights joined the meeting. At the meeting, the issues of media, online news platforms, the role of social media and the related challenges were discussed.

The information minister explained to EU how the Bangladeshi media has opened up, doubling the number of newspapers, tripling the number of television channels during the last one decade along with the thousands to applications under process for registration of online news platforms.

The EU assured the minister of providing all possible support and cooperation to Bangladesh for further strengthening its print, electronic and online media platforms.

Int'l conference begins at JU today

JU Correspondent

A two-day international conference titled 'Governance in the 21st Century in South Asia: Challenges and Ways Forward' will begin today on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus. Government and Politics department is organizing the conference at the seminar room of Zahir Raihan auditorium on the campus.

Bidyut Chakrabarty, Vice Chancellor of Visva Bharati University of India will address the conference.

Convener of the conference Professor Al Mashud Hasanuzzaman made the disclosure of the event at a press conference on Saturday held at the seminar room of Government and Politics department.

"For the first time, we have organized an international conference at our department where teachers and researchers from around 25 universities from home and abroad will take part", he said.

"A total of 35 research paper will be presented at the two day conference. JU Vice Chancellor Professor Farzana Islam will inaugurate the function as the chief guest", he added.

Chairman of Government and Politics department Prof Dr. Shamsunnahar Khanam, Professor Shamsul Alam Selim, Professor Abdul Latif Masum, Professor Abdul Mannan and Professor Bashir Ahmed were present at the press meet.

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EDITORIAL

Rural development in sight*Plans comprise extensive development*

It shows the electoral pledges of the government to transform villages into cities for advancement of agriculture is taking shape into reality

Prior to the allocation of the budget for this new fiscal year, there was a very morale boosting idea going around that each village will become a town mentioned in the concept 'My Village My Town'. In that continuation, the plans to radicalize the rural areas of Bangladesh has been formulated and the work to realise these plans will begin soon. These include both infrastructural and economic development. On top of this, the development of small cottage industries and improvement of education has set the perfect goals to realize the goal of the present government.

Reports say that the government will take on effective steps to bring massive transformation in the rural areas through technological revolution in agriculture, infrastructural development, expansion of electricity, education and other fundamental developments. Moreover, on an infrastructural level the improvement of public healthcare, civic amenities, transportation, and sanitation is also on the agenda. Finally, removal of poverty permanently within 2020 is the tip of the iceberg which the government has undertaken to fulfill through the proposed budget.

On the other hand, the huge increment in the budget allocation for rural development when compared to the previous fiscal year is quite noteworthy and deserves compliments. It shows the electoral pledges of the government to transform villages into cities for advancement of agriculture is taking shape into reality. To top it off, the steps already taken to construct roads, footpaths, communal gathering venues, waste management system are sure to bring about a positive outcome in future.

The authorities concerned with this massive undertaking should work towards fulfilling the needs of the people, as it is the only way through which progress can be achieved. The urbanization of rural areas with implementation of advanced agricultural technology is a necessity for the development of the nation.

Overuse of pesticides*High time to formulate pesticide management law*

Bangladesh needs a new pesticides management law to address issues related to the unsafe use of pesticides

Overuse of pesticides and harmful chemicals in fruits and vegetables not only impacts on human health, but also such practice leads to degradation of soil fertility. It is alarming to note that the fruits and vegetables grown within the country have been found to contain high amount of pesticides and other harmful chemicals. Consumption of such fruits and vegetables leads to long-term health risks.

Farmers in our country apply various types of pesticides to protect the vegetables and crops from unwanted pests. They, however, do not follow necessary guidelines or safety standard to get rid of the pesticide residues. Hence, we must educate farmers about the negative impact of overusing pesticides on human health and environment.

Reportedly, one to five million farmers suffer from pesticide poisoning every year and at least 20,000 die from different diseases caused by pesticide residues. It is said that pregnant women and the elderly are at most risk of chemical poisoning which may become life-threatening. Different studies across the world have already established the link between pesticide exposure of mothers and subsequent neurological impact on unborn babies and cognitive disorder in children.

A study of University Berkeley of California found that exposure to one type of pesticide (organophosphate) during pregnancy was linked to earlier delivery, an increase in abnormal reflexes in infants, poorer mental development at 24 months of age, and increased risk of developmental disorder. Pregnant women should ensure that they do not come in contact with pesticides. They should maintain extra caution while eating fruits and vegetables. Others should vacate the area as directed on the pesticide package, remove food, dishes, and utensils from the area before using a pesticide and wash the area where food is prepared following any application of pesticides. Besides Bangladesh needs a new pesticides management law to address issues related to the unsafe use of pesticides. It must also ensure strong enforcement to address farmers on how to avoid acute toxicity and prevent chronic toxicity due to pesticide residues in food items.

CARTOON OF THE DAY

**Great expectations for Modi's new term**

Uma Lele

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resounding victory in the world's largest democracy in the May 2019 election was expected, but not with the large margin he received.

Opposition parties were in disarray with no vision or program for India other than wanting to defeat Modi. The Indian National Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi lost his seat in the state of Uttar Pradesh, the seat of his great grandfather, grandmother and father. He only kept a seat in parliament and position as leader of the weakened opposition by contesting a second seat in the state of Kerala and now has announced his resignation as leader of the party. While he and his mother will maintain their seats in the parliament, this will be an opportunity for the Congress party to elect a new generation of democratically elected party leaders.

The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, revered for its role in bringing hope and stability to India's independence and post-independence periods, had lost its way. By contrast, even among those who do not agree with Modi's 'Hindutva' (Hindu Nationalism) approach, voters have seen him as an honest man of humble origins with a large ambition for India. Unlike his predecessors, the Modi government has been less prone to scandals. Modi is seen to bring the stability needed to pursue an active development program in a country of 1.2 billion people.

Expectations to deliver are high, but so are the challenges. Between 8 to 12 million new productive jobs need to be created annually for a third of the population below the age of 30.

Modi's former economic advisor Arvind Subramanian has raised doubts since leaving office about whether Indian growth is as high as reported. He argues that a slower growth rate has straddled both the Modi and previous Congress party governments. The IMF and other Indian experts have also acknowledged that Indian GDP numbers

have issues.

Even before the elections, farmers throughout India had been protesting low incomes and slow growth. Recognising that agriculture growth has stalled, Modi launched an initiative to double farmers' incomes by 2022. But the government has dithered on genetically modified crops and other policies in response to domestic opposition.

India needs to accelerate its structural transformation. It has fallen behind its Asian neighbours such as China, Indonesia and Vietnam. The manufacturing sector is yet to respond to the 'Make in India' campaign or focus on the substance of improving the 'Ease of Doing

people) are under-nourished; and infant (32 per cent) and under-five (40 per cent) malnourishment rates remain high.

The impacts of climate change are already evident through more frequent and severe floods and droughts, leading to loss of yields. Addressing soil degradation and water scarcity are urgent challenges to increasing the resilience of Indian agriculture. Only 2 per cent of the cropped area is under sustainable agriculture and the Indo-Gangetic Plain is experiencing rapid resource degradation. Australia is collaborating with India to address conservation agriculture issues.

Yet India is a country full of para-

It is yet to be seen how the new Modi government will respond to achieve its ambitious US\$5 trillion economic target by 2024. So far the Modi vision has focused more on giveaways and less on economic growth.

Subsidies to agriculture, which constitute 4 per cent of GDP, need to be replaced by productivity-enhancing investments in research and development. India has historically subsidised agriculture to keep urban food prices low and stable. One of the first acts of Modi's first administration was a bill to increase clarity on land rights to boost both agricultural and industrial investments, but the reform failed because of vested interests.

The government left states to address the problem but there has been little progress, although it has also embarked on an overdue consolidation of the ministries of agriculture, panchayati raj (local governments) and rural development.

Under India's constitution, agriculture, forests and water are state domains and, barring a few exceptions, state governments have not responded to the challenges of agricultural and industrial development well.

The central government has new tools, but there is currently debate about whether replacing the Planning Commission with the National Institution for Transforming India has weakened the role of the central government in allocating resources for development planning and monitoring the effectiveness of centrally allocated resources.

The government needs to come up with a considered position on whether another form of development planning and an independent monitoring and evaluation office to routinely assess development effectiveness of expenditures are needed. The agenda on Modi's plate is large, and his responsibility larger still with a weakened opposition, if he wishes to meet voters' high expectations.

Dr Uma Lele is a Visiting Researcher at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

The lagging agricultural total factor productivity growth needs to be accelerated and agricultural production diversified more rapidly and stabilised in the face of climate change. Regional disparities need to be narrowed — per capita income in Goa is nearly 15 times that of the poorest state of Bihar

Business in India' index. The lagging agricultural total factor productivity growth needs to be accelerated and agricultural production diversified more rapidly and stabilised in the face of climate change. Regional disparities need to be narrowed — per capita income in Goa is nearly 15 times that of the poorest state of Bihar.

Half of the population depends on agriculture for a third to half of their income as farm size has declined and rural areas are urbanising rapidly. Despite the 'Green Revolution', India remains food insecure by many measures — a fifth of the population still lives in poverty earning US\$1.90 per day; 15 per cent (196 million

doxes, with a promising future. It has an admirable space program, it manages the largest democratic elections fairly, and has the largest universal digital ID system in the world that allows inclusive and cost-effective service delivery.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) passed unanimously in parliament. Bringing the entire country under a unified indirect taxation system, effective 1 July 2017, has improved tax collection and boosted the development of the Indian economy by removing indirect tax barriers between states. The GST is giving the central government more resources to allocate to states, and tax collection will improve over time.

Navigating around the Chinese hegemon on the horizon

Xiang Gao

How a rising China will integrate itself with the global economic and political order is a salient issue in world politics. On the one hand, China's rejection of the South China Sea arbitration, its efforts to isolate Taiwan internationally and its willingness to work with controversial leadership in developing states indicate a more assertive 'China First' foreign policy. On the other hand, it is evident that China is engaging in significant multilateral and normative actions.

China's rapid economic growth since 1978 has been accompanied by an increased involvement in global and regional governance. As of 2018, China is an active member of 65 international organisations, has ratified or signed over 220 international treaties and has implemented a significant amount of international obligations and laws into its domestic legal system.

Along with this international engagement, China is developing a 'responsible power diplomacy' — creating political discourse around 'China's peaceful rise' and China's intention to build a 'harmonious world'. These initiatives seek to displace China's old image of a 'hegemon on the horizon' with the new image of a responsible and cooperative great power that is fully committed to international norms and a rule-based international order.

The notion of a responsible and cooperative great power does not exclude a state from pursuing its national interest. Rather, the normative environment and interactions in the international community impacts the determination of national interests. These norms tend to reinforce policies that provide international

public goods (such as security) or facilitate a redefinition of national interest away from the traditional values of absolute state sovereignty and non-interference to include such things as a commitment to institution building and international human rights. Being a responsible and cooperative great power carries with it the notion that the ability to attain foreign policy objectives short of violence and coercion are dependent on shared norms and values.



International values are often ignored in 'high politics' concerning national and international security. Yet it is evident that the international community is saturated in these norms and that they have been internalised by national policymakers. For example, states may pursue certain foreign policies that have little if any material reward. Canada is a 'helpful fixer' participating in UN peace-keeping missions and South Africa (before the setback of Jacob Zuma) was a 'beacon of human rights'.

From this perspective, a review of a range of foreign policies suggests that Chinese policymakers have internalised a set of international norms in some areas even as the Chinese state has vigorously pursued unilateral foreign policy objectives.

First, it has increasingly described itself as a 'responsible power' that

supports and ascribes to international norms. Various UN Security Council votes or abstentions, such as in the 2011 Libyan intervention and collective anti-piracy support in the Indian Ocean, suggest the impact of normative collective values.

Second, it has specifically incorporated and 'localised' various international laws and values into its domestic system. For example, after signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, China passed a new

mental health law in 2013 that greatly expanded the legal protection of mentally ill persons in committal procedures and treatment protocols. These localisation measures can be used to garner good will and global leadership opportunities. As China actively seeks to incorporate biodiversity and climate change planning into its domestic law with its development of the China Business and Biodiversity Partnership, it has championed itself as a global leader in these areas. In 2020, China will hold the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

But serious challenges remain. China's bilateral approach to the South China Sea, increasing strategic reach, and the current disputes over international trade and investment suggest that material national interests rather than normative values may dominate

Chinese foreign policy as much as many other great powers.

The international values of sovereignty rights and non-interference norms are sometimes used to insulate China from criticism of foreign investment in the developing world. Similarly, China is very cautious of humanitarian intervention and hesitant to join the international community in condemning or sanctioning governments that have violated human rights.

Chinese foreign policy has been influenced by material interests, particularly in areas of national security or 'core' national interests. Yet it is reductionist to ignore how the global normative and institutional framework has impacted, and can impact, Chinese foreign policy behaviours. From this perspective, the international engagement proffered by the international community since 1978 has been a success even if one acknowledges the serious challenges in respect to global and regional security, trade, investment and human rights.

The international community clearly expects China to shoulder the global responsibility that is commensurate with its increasing national power. Indeed, some scholars and policymakers are even wary of the 'Kindleberger Trap' where a rising China may not be able to provide sufficient global public goods.

The international community should broaden and deepen this normative engagement with China to include collective security and 'high politics' issues, with the renewed notion of 'state responsibility' in support of the value of human rights and democracy.

Dr Xiang Gao is a lecturer at the University of New England, Armidale



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Two '71 martyred officials recognized war veterans afresh

Country Desk

Forty eight years after the Liberation War, two government land officers killed by Pakistani army have been acknowledged as martyrs on Friday, through installing plaques at their graves.

It was 9 in the morning on May 19 of 1971, when the Pakistani occupation troops, guided by their Bengali speaking cohorts, approached a local government office at the Pikerdanga union on the outskirts of this tiny southwestern town, reports BSS.

Their target was visibly specific – two junior revenue department officials.

They dragged the local land officers, known as 'tahshildar', and the 'assistant tahshildar' away from their office, ruthlessly tortured them to an extent that they suffer extreme pain and subsequently shot them dead.

The fact that exposed tahshildar Abu Motaleb Miah and assistant tahshildar Mir Abul Quasem to their fate was – they put in their all-out efforts to mobilize the people in the neighborhood for the liberation of Bangladesh after the March 25 black night crackdown by Pakistani army.

The graves of these two patriots were rediscovered to officially honor them through installing plaques, acknowledging their supreme sacrifice for the country.

"Two of our colleagues' had embraced martyrdom for the country forty eight years ago while performing their duties as government officials... on Saturday we took measures for conserving their graves coming to know that they are laid to their eternal rest in Gopalganj," Gopalganj's deputy commissioner Mokhesur Rahman Sarkar said unveiling the plaques on June 21.

Along with other officials of the district, people in neighborhood and local public representatives, Sarkar also prayed for their eternal peace and said if the grave of any other unidentified freedom fighters were found undetected in the district, steps would be taken for their preservation as well.

Talking to BSS later, Sarkar said he came to know about the sacrifices of Motaleb Miah and Abul Quasem at a revenue conference, which prompted the district administration to take the initiative to preserve their graves.

Motaleb Miah was the son of Noimuddin Miah of Lohair village under Moksudpur Upazila of the then Gopalganj sub-division while Abul Quasem was the son of Alhaj Mir Tafiz Uddin of Kumarbhog village of Lawhajong upazila of the then Dhaka division (now Munshiganj district).

Elderly people in the neighbourhood recalled that Motaleb Miah used to live at the Tahsil office building along with his pregnant wife and a two-year-old son while Abul Quasem used to live along with his wife and eight kids at a rented house in the village.

Freedom fighter Aiyub Ali Khan, a resident of Pikerdanga, said Motaleb Miah and Abul Quasem devoted them to organize the Liberation War by mobilizing local youths through small group meetings and helping the freedom fighters with necessary supplies, which soon earned wraths of the anti-liberation elements and local raskars.

BAMBOO BRIDGE ON CHOTO FENI RIVER

50,000 people suffer immensely

Feni Correspondent

About 50,000 people of three upazilas in the district have to use a bamboo bridge over the Choto Feni river at Dakshin Koikhali village under Daganbhuiyan upazila, putting their lives at risk.

They have to cross the rickety bamboo bridge risking their lives



people cross the rickety bamboo bridge over the Choto Feni river at Dakshin Koikhali village under Daganbhuiyan upazila in Feni, risking their lives every day to reach their destinations.

every day to reach their destinations.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found the residents of more than 20 villages under Feni's Daganbhuiyan and Sadar upazilas and Cumilla's

Chaudagram upazila have to cross the bridge every day to reach their destinations as it is the only means of communications for them.

The villages include Uttar Koikhali, Dakshin Koikhali, Koishalla, Narayanpur, Sadekpur, Sekandarpur villages in Daganbhuiyan upazila, Uttar Abupur, Dakshin Abupur, Alahiganj

Locals said they have long been demanding that a concrete bridge be built over the small river to assuage their sufferings but the local administration allegedly did not pay any heed to it.

Ali Hossain, a resident of Uttar Sekandarpur village, said the bamboo bridge gets damaged during monsoon each year and the villagers

cross the river by boat for avoiding the use of the vulnerable bamboo bridge.

It takes Tk 5.0 per person for crossing the river by boat which many poor people cannot afford, he said.

Boatman Rostam Ali said, "Ahead of election, political leaders during their electioneering always promise to build a concrete bridge over the river but they forget it once the election is over."

Sindurpur Union Council Chairman Md Nur Nabi said they have applied to the higher authorities concerned seeking a concrete bridge over the river but the administration did not pay heed to it. Two children of Sekandarpur and Uttar Koikhali village died after falling from the dilapidated bridge during monsoon last year, the chairman added.

Didarul Islam, chairman of Dadanbhuiyan upazila, said necessary steps will be taken after a meeting with the high authorities of the Zila Council and Local Government Engineering Department.

Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Feni Zila Council, said the Zila Parishad does not have such a big budget to build any big concrete bridge. "However, I'll discuss the matter with the authorities concerned," he added.

Kalnagini released at Lawachhara park

Country Desk

A number of animals including a Kalnagini, a snake variety, which entered into locality were released at Lawachhara National Park at Kamalganj upazila in Maulvibazar.

Justice Burhan Uddin of High Court division freed the animals at Sreemangal of Moulvibazar and Jankira of Lawachhara of Komolgonj on Friday evening.

At that time, two green Boral snakes, a Shonkhoni snake, a Kalnagini snake and a Lajjati monkey were freed in the forest.

Besides, betel tree seeds were planted in the forest at this time.

Sreemangal Assistant Forest Officer (wildlife conservation and management) Anisur Rahman, Bangladesh Animal Welfare Foundation chairman Sitesh Ronjon Dev, Lawachhara Range officer Monayem Hossain, among others,



Forest officials release a Kalnagini, a snake variety, at Lawachhara National Park on Friday.

are present on the occasion. Suresh Dev said forest animals often come to the locality in search of foods as people are destroying bushes and forest areas where they used to feed themselves.

"But, most of the time, they are carelessly wounded by local people. Whenever we hear of any such news, we come forward to rescue the animal and release it in forests," he added.

Separate institution for challenged children

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation AHM Khairuzzaman Liton said separate institution will be set up for ensuring overall supports to the challenged children for transforming them into worthy citizens, reports BSS.

The institution will have residential, healthcare and educational facilities for the autistic children.

Liton said this while addressing at a workshop styled "Disability and Stressed Management of Autism and other physically and mentally chal-

lenged people especially the individuals with neurodevelopment disorders" here yesterday.

Inspiration Social Welfare Society (ISWS), a non-government development organization, hosted the programme at Shilpakala Academy Auditorium. Chaired by President of Foundation of Women and Child Assistance Shaheen Akhter Rainy, the meeting was addressed, among others, by ISWS General Secretary Syeda Munira Islam, Consultant of Suchona

Foundation Dr Nusrat Yeasmin, Assistant Prof. and Clinical Psychologist Tanzir Ahmed from Department of Psychology in Rajshahi University and Deputy Director of Department of Social Services Rashedul Kabir.

Mayor Liton says all government and non-government entities concerned should come forward and work together to ensure fundamental rights of the people with special needs through using the modern technologies.

Ctg-Cox's Bazar road communication disrupted After Matamuhuri bridge caves in

Road communication between Cox's Bazar and rest of the country was disrupted since Friday evening after Matamuhuri bridge at Chakoria upazila in the coastal district caved in. The vehicular movement on the highway disrupted totally creating a long tailback and immense sufferings for the passengers.

Sources said around 6pm Friday, the bridge suddenly broke down and a freight truck got stuck on the road, disconnecting the road communication.

Confirming the news, Md Selim, traffic police in-charge of

Matamuhuri, said, "A freight truck got stuck on the bridge. As a result, all vehicular movement has been disrupted. The rescue team has reached the spot. In a while, the rescue work will be started."

"Alternative road communication via Pekua from Chakoria thana have been established to reach Chattogram," he added.

Mentionable, road communication between Ctg-Cox's Bazar broke down for three times due to going down of this bridge. Last time, vehicular movement was disrupted for 18 hours.

2 held with 30-kg hemp in Kishoreganj

Kishoreganj Correspondent

Kishoreganj Model Police detained two youths with 30 kg of hemp from Katabaria area of Kishoreganj-Mymensingh highway under Kishoreganj Sadar upazila on Friday night, said police sources.

At that time police seized a private car bearing number Dhaka Metro-C 21-0601.

The detainee was identified as Md Rubel, 28, son of Md Abed Ali Molla, hailed from Thulthulia village under Demra thana of Dhaka and Mohram Ali, 27, son of late Lokann Khan from Mirabazar area of Sylhet Sadar upazila. Md Rubel was the driver of the car. Police said during primary

interrogations, the detainees admitted to carrying the hemp from Bhairab to Mymensingh.

Being tipped off, Masud Anwar, Additional Police Super of Kishoreganj Sadar Circle and Md Abu Bakar Siddique, Officer-in-Charge of Kishoreganj Sadar Model Police Station conducted a drive at Katabaria area on Kishoreganj-Mymensingh highway around 12:00am Friday.

When the car reached the spot, police stopped it and recovered 30 kg of hemp in eight packets after searching the car, confirmed OC Abu Bakar.

He said that the estimated cost of the recovered hemp is Tk 3,50,000.

EXPANSION OF ROHINGYA CAMPS IN COX'S BAZAR

Fresh hill cutting by NGOs angers locals

Country Desk

Amid the government's efforts to send back the displaced Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar, some NGOs are reportedly trying to build new makeshift camps for them destroying hills and forests, angering local people.

Locals alleged that a number of NGOs are building new camps for the expansion of Rohingya settlements in a vast area under Thaiongkhali of Ukhaia upazila uprooting trees and cutting hills despite government restriction on further hill cutting.

Many trees are being uprooted due to the construction of the makeshift houses, which drew a huge flak from local residents.

Locals alleged that some local NGOs and INGOs are pocketing money from the foreign aid meant for Rohingyas in the name of development works in the Rohingya camps.

When Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar Kamal Hossain came to know about the matter, he ordered immediate eviction of the new estab-

lishments.

Talking to media, Kamal Hossain said, "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has instructed not to establish any new Rohingya camps by cutting hills. Now the move to expand Rohingya camps bulldozing hills secretly is regretful."

M Gafur Uddin Chowdhury, Palongkhali Union Parishad Chairman, said, "Some NGOs are obstructing the Rohingya repatriation move to gain their own interest and resorting to different techniques to discourage Rohingyas to go to Bhashanchar in Noakhali. Some are also instigating fresh Rohingya influx."

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found that some 400 makeshift houses were built at Londakhali adjacent to camp No-19 of Thaiongkhali and solar lights were also installed.

Abul Azam, Subrata Alam, Sujon and some other local residents of Londakhali area told the correspondent that two NGOs – Ekota and Muslim Hands --are involved in the camp expansion work.

However, executive magistrate

and in-charge of four Rohingya camps Abu Wahaab Rashed said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has taken a project to build a road to ease communications inside camps and for the implementation of a project to build several makeshift houses. "That's why the new establishments are being built for their rehabilitation." Mohammad Bedar, a resident of Palongkhali village, said, "Some 1.2 million Rohingyas

are living in Ukhaia-Teknaf camps and the forests are getting destroyed to accommodate Rohingyas."

Local people further alleged that the NGOs take Tk one lakh from foreign aid organisations for each 15-20 feet of bamboo and polythene-made houses which actually costs Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000.

Besides, they are making money while building toilets, setting up tube-wells and constructing roads



A number of NGOs are uproot trees and excavate hills allegedly to build new camps for the expansion of Rohingya settlements in a vast area under Thaiongkhali of Ukhaia upazila despite government restriction.

UP member killed in Kasba

Brahmanbaria Correspondent

A Union Parishad member under Kasba Upazila of Brahmanbaria was killed allegedly by a neighbour over a land dispute on Friday.

The deceased Saikat Hossain, 45, was a member of Meheri Union of Kasba Upazila.

Local people said there was a dispute over a piece of land for a long time between Manik Miah and Siddique Master of Jamuna village. A few days ago the dispute was settled through a local arbitration. Later Saikat Hossain rejected the arbitrator's decision.

Last Friday night Siddique Master and Saikat Hossain were engaged in an altercation in this regard at a local school room. At a stage Siddique master stabbed Saikat Hossain with a knife, it is alleged.

Local people rescued Saikat in a critical condition and sent him to Kasba Upazila Health Complex. As his condition deteriorated there, he was being taken to Dhaka for better treatment. But he died on the way.

Kasba Police Inspector Asadul Islam told reporters that legal action would be taken after receiving written complaint in this regard.

Baneswar flourishes with mango varieties



An aerial view of a mango market at Baneswar area under Puthia upazila of Rajshahi. Photo: Rajshahi Correspondent

Sarker Shariful Islam, Rajshahi

This is the middle of the Bangla month of Ashar but the supply of mango in Baneswar is astonishing. Baneswar is one of the largest mango markets in Rajshahi of the country. The supply of mango in the markets of the district seems not waning.

The mango market in Baneswar is filled with vans and baskets carrying mangoes. Most of the people visiting here are the wholesale traders. The mango at the wholesale market is measured in 45 kilogramme per maund instead of a regular 40 kilogramme.

Motaleb Hossain, a mango trader of Kantakhalia area was visiting the mango market in Baneswar. He said, he used to purchase mango from Baneswar and send those to various places of Dhaka and Chittagong. "I made a brief mango trade for about four months during summer and the rainy season and earn enough to maintain my four member family round the year", said Motaleb.

He said, "This year, there was a

short of production of mango due to impact of climate change, he added. The mango buds withered away due to fog and chill during its sprouting and the young green mango damaged due to extreme heat, storm and hail."

He further mentioned that the supply of quality mangoes including Amrupali, Langra and Fazli was nearing an end in the market. After the end of this month, the local variety, sour Ashina mango will intrude into the market.

Mango traders at Kantakhalia hat and Baneswar informed, the price of mango is continually rising since after the Eid-ul-Fitre and would continue to rise during the next weeks. They blamed storm, extreme heat and hail storm aided to decrease the production of mango in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj this year.

In Baneswar hat, the Khirsapat variety of mango is seen to sell at Tk3, 600 to Tk4, 000 per maund (45 kgs), Langra and Amrupali varieties were being sold at Tk 3,200 to Tk3, 600 per maund while the Fazli

mango is being sold at Tk2, 600 to Tk2, 800 per maund. Monjur Hossain, a mango trader at Rajshahi rail station area informed that the mango season was nearing an end but still Langra and Amrupali varieties of mangoes are seen to sell at the markets.

Many mango orchard owners of the district did not pluck mango during last Ramadan due to less demand for the fruit and targeting the market after the Eid, they kept those mangoes on the trees. As a result, there was a huge supply of mangoes in the markets since after the Eid.

Shamsul Haque, Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) of Rajshahi informed that the target of mango production has been fixed to 2,18,000 metric tonnes in the district this year. But, due to storm, heat and hail, the target may not be achieved this year. However, despite a shortfall of production, there will be no problem in fulfill the demand of mango across the country.

Cheque distributed for Habiganj development

Habiganj Correspondent

For the development of 81 institutions of Habiganj Sadar and Sayestaganj upazila, cheques worth Tk 40 lakhs and 29 thousands have been distributed.

Habiganj-3 lawmaker Advocate Md Abu Zahir distributed the cheques as a chief guest.

However, Sadar upazila nirbahi officer Sakhawat Hossain Rubel presided over the cheque giving ceremony while special guest was sadar upazila chairman Mota-chchirul Islam, newly elected chairman of Sayestaganj upazila, Abdur Rashid Talukder Iqbal, General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, Abdur Rahman, Project Implementation officer Mohammad Jahan were present.

However, Project Implementation Officer said that under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, area based (B-2), cash delivery projects on educational, religious and cultural organisations including 81 institution's development, these cheques have been distributed.

Human chain formed in Jhenidah protesting businessman killing

Roving Correspondent

A human chain was formed in a remote village of Jhenidah on Friday protesting the killing of businessman.

Three sisters including a five months girl participated in the human chain protesting the killing of their father Jamirul Islam.

The unique human chain was formed at Kubirhali village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila. However, the family members are feeling unsecured as the killers being released from prison are threatening them.

Jamirul was brutally killed on April 19 night while returning home from his business centre at Chulkani Bazer in the locality.

Jamirul Islam's wife Rehana Begum said the killers who were released on bail from the jail are now threatening them to withdraw the case, otherwise to face severe consequence.

The house wife said the study of her class eight daughter has almost stopped as the killers were threatening the girl. She has been feeling insecure with her three little girls Rajani, Eve and Shova.

Rehana Begum said that her maternal uncle in law Mosharrar Hossain had filed a case against 11 persons at Jhenidah Sadar police station. Of them, eight were released on bail, while three remaining in the prison.

A number of local people, including chairman of Madhuhati union parishad Faruque Ahmed Jewel, said Jamirul was a man of gentle nature and always involved in serving the ailing people in the locality.

"The murder was committed in a pre-planned way," the UP chairman said. Jhenidah Sadar police station officer-in-charge said the police arrested all the eleven accused immediately after the killing. They were sent to jail by the court. Some of the accused might be released on bail.

The OC, however, said the he has not been informed about the family members being threatened by the killers.

"If any complaint is received, police will take stern action against them," the officer added.

Districts in Photo



Lawmaker from Habiganj-3 constituency Adv Md Abu Jahir distributes cheque for Tk 40 lakhs 29 thousand for development projects of 81 institutions in Habiganj on Saturday.



Members of a delegation of Border Security Force of India pose for a photo after reaching Bangladesh through Benapole Border Check Post on Saturday afternoon, to attend a Border Handling and Border Management Course.



Locals of Kubirhali village at Jhenidah Sadar upazila form a human chain demanding exemplary punishment to local businessman Jamirul Islam's killers.



Local people of Subarnachar upazila form a human chain in front of Noakhali Press club on Saturday morning, demanding exemplary punishment of an assistant teacher accused of transfer business.



Kishoreganj Model Police detain two youths with 30 kg of hemp from Katabaria area of Kishoreganj-Mymensingh highway under Kishoreganj sadar upazila on Friday night.



Bangladesh Coast Guard recover 30 gold bars from Shah Amanat Airport area under Patenga police station in the port city on Saturday.

Story of lathiyal Ruponti

Country Desk

Monjurin Sabrin Chowdhury Ruponti, a BBA student and a brave woman, earned reputation by performing lathi-khela (stick game) in various shows in Kushtia town.

However, her reputation as a lathiyal spread in 2016. In January of that year, country's only organisation of the lathiyals, 'Bangladesh Lathiyal Bahini', organised a two-day festival at Kushtia Government College. Besides Kushtia, 500 lathiyals of 25 teams from various districts including Narail, Jhenaidah, Pabna, Natore, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Jashore participated in the festival.

These teams included male as well as women members. Ruponti played in the 'lathikhela' at Kushtia Government College Ground.

She performed lathi-khela (stick game) thrice along with her father at Narail Sultan Mela. Besides, she also performed at Baishakhi fair at Dhaka University's TSC. She never missed any stick game in Kushtia.

Resident of Mojompur area of Kushtia town, Sirajul Islam



Lathial Monjurin Sabrin Chowdhury Ruponti Performs in a stick game in a show at Kushtia town.

Chowdhury is renowned as the best lathiyal and 'lathikhela' organiser of the area. He formed the structure of an organisation in 1933 to organize the stick players. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury is the grandfather of Ruponti.

The organisation has been named as 'Bangladesh Lathiyal Bahini'. His family is still known as lathiyal family. The road on which their house stands is named after Sirajul

Islam Chowdhury.

Ruponti Sabrin said, "My father had no son and he wanted that her daughters would work as sons and protect themselves."

"I learned lathi-khela from my trainer Osman Sardar who directly learned the techniques of the game from my grandfather. As my grandfather was not alive, Osman Sardar wanted me to learn the techniques of my grandfather from him."

DILAPIDATED KOTBARI-MAINAMATI ROAD

Tourists turn their faces away

Country Desk

The dilapidated and shabby roads from Cumilla's Kotbari to Mainamati drives the tourists away.

The awful road stretching to Cumilla University in Sadar Upazila causes immense sufferings to local people as well as discourages tourists to visit different archeological sites, including Shalban Buddhist Bihar and Mainamati Museum.

Tourists and local people are facing various problems as vehicular movement on this road has become difficult due to numerous potholes and cracks.

Besides, the famous archeological spots are losing attraction to visitors due to the shabby road condition as the road is the only entrance to the historical sites.

Ataur Rahman, regional director of Department of Archeology (Chattogram and Sylhet divisions), said the number of tourists has been decreasing day by day due to the shabby condition of the road.

"This year, the authorities concerned set a target to earn Tk 1.5 crore revenue from Shalban Bihar and Mainamati Museum but it fell short of the target by Tk 50 lakh due to the sorry state of the road," he said.

During a recent visit to the road stretching from Cumilla Polytechnic



The dilapidated road from Cumilla's Kotbari to Mainamati causes immense sufferings to local people.

Institute to Cumilla University, this correspondent found that numerous small size potholes and cracks have developed on the road while there are 30 big potholes on it.

Vehicles, including auto-rickshaws and human-haulers, cannot run on the road as those often get stuck on the potholes and

overturned.

Passengers are often seen pushing up their stuck vehicles for reaching their destinations.

Locals said there are many tourist spots in the district, including Shalban Bihar, Cumilla University, Mainamati Museum, Itakholi Mura, Rupban Mura, Latikol Mura, Cumilla Cadet College, Lalmai Hill and Dinosaur Park, and the road is the only means to go those tourist spots.

Mitali and Mariam, two students of Cumilla University, said they have to cross the road every day amid fear of possible accidents.

They also demanded immediate steps to renovate the road.

Mustafizur Rahman, a tourist who came here with his family members to visit the archeological sites of the district, said, "I'm on my way to Shalban Buddhist Bihar and Mainamati Museum with my family members but now it seems impossible to reach there as the road condition is very bad."

Russia buries navy officers killed in sub fire

The funerals of 14 Russian navy officers killed in a fire on a nuclear-powered submersible in circumstances the Kremlin has not fully revealed began Saturday in Saint Petersburg amid tight security, reports BSS/AFP.

The officers died in the Barents Sea on Monday, but the accident was only made public a day later. Russia has said the details of the tragedy were a 'state secret.'

Moscow confirmed the vessel was nuclear-powered for the first time on Friday.

The funerals were closed to the press and took place in the former imperial capital's historic Serafimovskoye Cemetery.

They began amid heavy security, with military police standing outside the cemetery gates.

'You have to understand that the identities of most of the people who gathered here are secret and their faces cannot be shown,' a representative of the defence ministry told AFP. An AFP reporter saw 14 vehicles carrying coffins drive into the cemetery. 'This is a great sorrow,' said a young woman clad in black who was attending the ceremony. She held a wreath that read 'from friends and classmates'.

Some ordinary Saint Petersburg residents came to the gates of the cemetery to pay their respects to the high-ranking seamen.

'I feel so sorry for them, like they were my own (family),' said 60-year-old Natalya Stepanova, who lives nearby. 'They are real heroes,' she said. Russian President Vladimir Putin posthumously awarded state honours to all 14 of the submariners.

At least 14 killed as mortars hit Afghan market

At least 14 people were killed and dozens more wounded when a busy market in northern Afghanistan was hit by mortar fire, officials said Saturday.

Several Taliban shells hit the market Friday morning in the Khwaja Sabz Posh district of Faryab province, according to Hanif Rezaee, an Afghan army spokesman, reports BSS/AFP.

'Fourteen civilians were killed and 40 — including women and children — were wounded,' Rezaee told AFP.

He said the Taliban had been trying to hit an army checkpoint near the market. The insurgent group did not immediately comment. Naem Musamim, Faryab's public health director, said 14 bodies and 39 wounded people including four children had been taken to local hospitals.

Some victims with critical injuries were airlifted to hospitals in Mazar-i-Sharif in Balkh province.

The deadly incident comes as the war between the Taliban and Afghan security forces rages on, even as Taliban officials are meeting with US negotiators in Doha in a bid to bring about an end to the conflict.

Trump pursues citizenship question without firm plan

The Trump administration will continue to pursue a way of adding a citizenship question to the census, lawyers said in court filings submitted on Friday, report agencies.

But administration lawyers failed to provide any legal justification for the census question by a court deadline.

The Supreme Court rejected the initial rationale for adding the question to the 2020 census as 'contrived'.

The question is controversial because critics believe it will discourage immigrants from taking part.

They say that lower participation by immigrants could lead to an undercount of populations in Democratic districts, benefiting President Donald Trump's Republican Party and altering how congressional seats are allocated and billions of dollars of federal funds distributed in those districts.

The Trump administration said it wanted to ask about citizenship to better enforce a law that protects the voting rights of minorities, but the Supreme Court dismissed that justification.

It appeared settled when government lawyers indicated they had dropped the question, and officials began printing the census without it.

That reportedly infuriated President Trump, who announced



that his administration would pursue the issue.

'We have four or five ways we can do it,' Mr Trump told reporters, suggesting the administration could 'maybe do an addendum' after getting a positive decision.

But legal experts say executive orders could not override Supreme Court decisions.

US media reported that the administration was considering using separate federal records to try to gather information about undocumented immigrants.

The question - 'Is this person a citizen of the United States?' - has

not appeared on a US census for all Americans since 1950, though it has been asked to some subsets of the population between 1970 and 2000.

The census is held every 10 years. Democrats fear that if President Trump is successful, districts with high numbers of immigrants - such as major cities - will lose congressional representation, since census data is used to determine the distribution of federal funding and the number of congressional seats.

Congressional districts are drawn based on total populations rather than the number of legal citizens.

US-China trade officials aim to talk next week, officials say

US and Chinese officials are working to schedule a top-level trade talks by telephone next week but a face-to-face encounter has not been scheduled yet, US officials said Friday, reports BSS/AFP.

Efforts to pencil in a new round of negotiations come a week after President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping met in Japan and agreed to restart their stalled negotiations.

But Beijing this week showed no sign of softening its position, with the Commerce Ministry announcing Thursday that any resolution would require Washington to lift the steep tariffs it imposed on Chinese imports last year.

'I know they're working on coming up with a date for so-called face-to-

face meetings. That will happen,' top White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow told Fox Business Network on Friday.

'I don't know if that's this coming week. I think the phone calls are this week. The face-to-face may not be for another week, but I don't want to get ahead of that curve,' he said.

An official with the US Trade Representative's office confirmed to AFP that efforts are underway to schedule a call between top negotiators for next week.

Meanwhile, The South China Morning Post also reported Friday that talks were due to resume in Beijing next week.

US stocks appeared to react positively to word talks will resume, erasing some of the losses from earlier in the day when a strong jobs report called into doubt a hoped-for cut in interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

Trade talks with Beijing have been stalled since May, when Trump accused Chinese negotiators of reneging on core commitments made over prior months of negotiating.

But at their meeting last week on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Japan, Trump agreed to soften the hardline stance on Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, a company US officials claim poses a national security threat.

The decision triggered a backlash



among lawmakers on Capitol Hill but White House officials said the changes should not create any additional risk to US national security.

The White House also said this week it had no intention of easing a ban on Huawei's participation in the development of 5G wireless

networks in the United States.

Beijing and Washington have hit each other with tariffs on \$360 billion in two-way trade since last year, rattling markets and weighing on the manufacturing sector while fueling concerns about a weakening global economy.

Turkey's Erdogan urges end to Haftar attacks in Libya

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for an end to 'unlawful attacks' by strongman Khalifa Haftar's forces during a meeting with the Libyan prime minister on Friday, the Turkish presidency said, reports BSS/AFP.

The president renewed his support for the internationally-recognised government and urged an end to unlawful attacks by Haftar's forces,' the presidency said in a statement.

Erdogan met with Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj in Istanbul earlier Friday.

The Turkish leader told Sarraj his Libyan Government of National Accord had Ankara's support in its bid to ensure Libya's peace and stability, the presidency added.

Haftar's forces, which hold much of eastern and southern Libya, launched an offensive in early April to seize the capital from the government. Last month Haftar ordered his forces to target Turkish companies and arrest Turkish nationals after he lost a major town to forces backing Sarraj's government.

Six Turkish sailors were briefly held by the strongman's forces but were released earlier this week after Turkey vowed to retaliate if they were not freed.

Turkey's interest in Libya goes back to its Ottoman past as the country was part of the empire until 1912 when Italy then conquered the north African country.

Libya has been mired in chaos as multiple militias vied for power after a NATO-backed uprising resulted in dictator Moamer Kadhafi's death in 2011.

California earthquake: Larger 7.1 magnitude quake hits

A 7.1 magnitude earthquake has rattled parts of Southern California, the biggest tremor to strike in 20 years, report agencies.

It struck at the shallow depth of 0.9km (0.6 miles) and its epicentre was near the city of Ridgecrest, about 240km north-east of Los Angeles.

A 6.4-magnitude quake hit the same area on Thursday at a depth of nearly 11km.

Seismologist Dr Lucy Jones said the quakes could continue. 'This is an earthquake sequence,' she said at a press conference. 'It will be ongoing.'

'Every earthquake makes another earthquake more likely,' she added, saying there was a 10% chance of a similar or even larger quake following in the next week.

However, Dr Jones said it was not likely the quake would trigger shocks on other fault lines.

The earthquake was felt as far away as Las Vegas in the neighbouring state of Nevada and over the border in Mexico.

California Governor Gavin Newsom offered his 'heartfelt support' to all those affected, and has requested a Presidential Emergency Declaration and federal aid to help.

China locks down Xinjiang a decade after deadly ethnic riots

A decade after deadly riots tore through his hometown, Kamilane Abudushalamu still vividly recalls the violence that left him an exile, report agencies.

On July 5, 2009, Abudushalamu was hiding with his father on the 10th floor of an office tower in Urumqi, the capital of China's Xinjiang region that is home to the Turkic Uighur ethnic minority. By a park, he spotted a bus on fire. Then he heard a crack as a motorcycle nearby exploded.

Hours later, when he and his father stepped out to sprint home, he saw crowds of Uighurs stabbing Han Chinese in front of a middle school. The bodies of half a dozen people lay scattered on the streets — just a fraction of the estimated 200 killed that night.

Abudushalamu and tens of thousands of other Uighurs now live in Turkey, cut off from friends and family back home. Analysts say the Urumqi riots set in motion the harsh security measures now in place across Xinjiang, where about 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other Muslims are estimated to be held in heavily guarded internment camps. Former detainees have told The Associated Press that within, they are subject to indoctrination and

psychological torture.

Abudushalamu was just 9 years old when the riots took place. At the time, he knew he was witnessing something terrible, but he never imagined where the following years would lead.

'I thought Han and Uighur people could be at peace,' he said. 'The camps? I never thought that would happen.'

The riots started as a peaceful protest.

Weeks before, Han workers killed at least two Uighur migrants in a brawl at a toy factory in Shaoguan, an industrial city in China's coastal Guangdong province. The Han workers were angry about the alleged rapes of Han women by Uighur men, though a government investigation later concluded there was no evidence such an assault had taken place. Images and videos of the brawl quickly circulated among Uighurs back in Xinjiang, including gory scenes of what appeared to be a Han Chinese man dragging a dead Uighur by his hair.

The videos enraged many Uighurs long upset with the Han-dominated government that took control of their region following the Communist revolution in 1949.

The litany of complaints was long:



heavy restrictions on religious education, discrimination against college-educated Uighurs looking for jobs, subsidies and benefits for Han

migrants to settle on lands once owned by Uighurs.

Among the most odious were threats from state officials of fines or

even jail time if parents didn't send their young, unmarried daughters to work in factories in inner China. 'Hashar,' a program that forced

farmers to pave roads, dig ditches, and clear land for crops for the government for no pay fueled further resentment.

The killed Uighur workers had been on a state employment program, sent more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) from home. For many, their deaths crystallized everything that was wrong about Beijing's heavy-handed interventionist policies — and the belittling racism they felt they were subjected to by the Han Chinese. The images spurred Urumqi students to organize a protest on July 5 demanding a government investigation. Demonstrators were stopped by police in the late afternoon, and tensions mounted until officers opened fire, Uighur witnesses say.

Two students present at the protests told AP that they were shot at. One recalled that as he turned and ran, bullets whizzed by his head and others around him dropped to the ground.

Furious Uighurs attacked Han civilians on the streets. An estimated 200 people were killed — stabbed, beaten or burned alive in the melees that followed. Uighurs smashed storefronts, overturned cars and buses and set some ablaze.

89TH DEATH ANNIV OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

The creator of Sherlock Holmes

Synthia Kainath Nur

It is nearly impossible to find someone who has not heard of Sherlock Holmes, the fictional private detective. Whether you came across Sherlock through books, shows or films, you have surely experienced the adventures of the brilliant investigator one way or another.

Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle was a Scottish physician and writer most noted for his stories about the detective Sherlock Holmes, which are generally considered a major innovation in the field of crime fiction. He was also known for writing the adventures of Professor Challenger and was a prolific writer whose other works include science fiction stories, historical novels, plays and romances, poetry, and non-fiction.

After graduating from school, he studied to become a physician. During his medical studies, he began to write fiction and he even managed to get his short stories published. After finishing his studies, he opened up his own medical practice, but did not find much success with the profession.

Interestingly, he soon took up writing again while waiting for his limited number of patients. During this time, he struggled to find a publisher for his stories. In 1886, he sold his first work featuring Sherlock



Arthur Conan Doyle

Holmes and John Watson, titled 'A Study in Scarlet'. It was the first of four novels and more than fifty short stories he eventually wrote about

the duo of Holmes and Dr Watson. Doyle later revealed that he had modeled is brilliant detective after his university professor Joseph Bell.

He said that he wanted to create a character that would solve crimes using his own intelligence, rather than using the mistakes of the criminal. The demand for Sherlock Holmes stories became so high that publishers were willing to pay him any amount, thus making him one of the best-paid authors of his time.

Despite the enduring fame of Sherlock Holmes, Doyle did not limit himself to write about him only. He wrote many other short stories and historical fiction novels. In 1893, he decided to take up serious writing and killed off Holmes in the story 'The Final Problem'. However, his fans could not endure the death of their beloved character. The public outcries eventually made Doyle bring the detective back to life in 'The Hound of the Baskervilles.'

Doyle was also an ardent campaigner of social justice. Throughout his life, he worked hard to correct so many injustices that he encountered. Doyle passed away of a heart attack and his last words were to his wife, "You are wonderful."

Doyle is considered one of the revolutionary thinkers of deductive reasoning, which is relevant till today. The man behind Sherlock Holmes was never limited to his magnum opus. The character of Sherlock Holmes, of course, lives on, and appears in films right down to the present day.

BOOK REVIEW

Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan

Sankalpita

I recently came across the movie Crazy Rich Asians on Netflix. Now, I knew that it is a movie that comes from a really popular book but I had never put much thought into reading it. On a whim, I decided to pick it up and wow! I was surely amazed by it all.

Crazy Rich Asians is an ideal mix of romance, comedy and some good old family drama. That the book is about Singaporeans and Chinese makes it all the more interesting.

Essentially what it offers is a unique peek into the high-flying world of 'Crazy Rich Asians'; people who would easily give the Waltons and the Ambanis of the world a run for their money. These are people who literally control the financial heart of Asia. Nick and Rachel are both professors at the prestigious NYU. Rachel is the daughter of a Chinese immigrant who came to America in search of better prospects and independent life.

Nick is a Singaporean who came to America for a different kind of exposure. They both are in love and Nick now wants to take Rachel back to his home in Singapore where his best friend Colin Khoo is getting married this summer. Rachel agrees but only after Nick exercises his charms and his excellent powers of persuasion.

As they both get on this journey, anticipating about the future and looking forward to the summer ahead, they both have no idea about the stir that they have unknowingly caused in Nick's family and society.

In addition to that, there is another small twist. Rachel has no idea that the ever so humble Nick is actually a 'Crazy Rich Asian'.

Unknown to Rachel, he is the heir apparent to one of Asia's richest financial kingdoms and with his remarkably handsome looks, he is undoubtedly Singapore's most eligible bachelor.

What follows in the story is a never-ending party of jealous spinsters, scheming mothers and filthy rich men each trying to outdo the other.

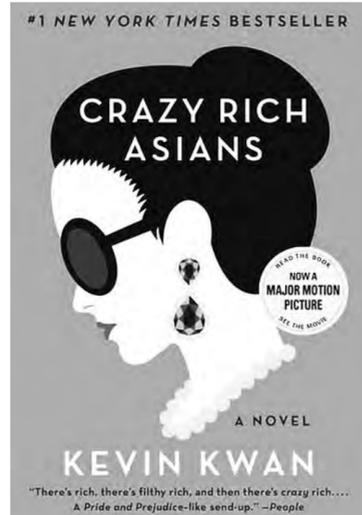
The characters are probably the most amazing thing that this book offers to its readers.

They are so many of them; with different family lines spread across generations and footings all over the world, it does take a while to get to know the characters.

But once you are through with the important ones, there is no holding you back.

You will be thrilled, surprised, charmed and scandalized by them. What strikes you the most is how all the characters appear so similar from the outside and yet they are so set apart in their own ways and life.

When it comes to the writing style, Kevin makes good use of the local influences to bring about that extra jazz in the narration.



His character portrayals (especially introductions) are terrific and the attention to detail is applaudable. The incessant name dropping gets a little too much but I guess when one is talking about the filthy rich, name dropping comes naturally.

His descriptions of Singapore are quite something and the reader will soon find herself dreaming of visiting all the places that are being spoken about with much gusto.

I also loved how he effortlessly blends the local language influences in the narrative to give us a distinct flavour of the life and culture of Singaporeans.

The detailed background information about South-East Asia's geography, cuisine, culture and politics is also something to look forward to.

What I Absolutely Loved

The book manages to wow you from the very first page. All the brazen display of Singaporean and especially Chinese wealth might put you off in any other book but Crazy Rich Asians does it just right.

It is like a roller coaster ride in an uncharted territory that will thrill you to no end.

What Could Have Been Better

I would have loved it if the book were a little less descriptive. Reading the book felt like going back to the Fire and Ice series by George R R Martin.

The painfully articulated details of the sets and the scenes, the rooms and the kitchens, the house and the gardens are something that did not excite the reader in me.

How Good is the Climax

The climax, unlike many other romantic comedies, is quite predictable.

Sure, there are twists and turns all along the way but once you get to the end, the fate of the main characters is easily discernible.

It all Boils Down to the Entertainment Quotient. Crazy Rich Asians is one book whose appeal lies in its many unique points. It is a book that is geographically and racially so diverse that the world that it talks about is not just exclusive but also scandalously tempting.

Studded with an awesome string of characters most of whom are filthy rich in their bearings, the book manages to combine humour, drama and romance in just the right doses.

In short, it is entertainment at its best.

Pick it up if

You are looking for a fun and frolic kind of read. You are looking for a book that has the right combination of drama, humour and romance.

You are someone who likes diversity reads. You want to read about money, especially Asian money.

You like reading books based in different countries.

Skip it if

You don't enjoy romance and drama. You are looking for something more profound and serious.

manmade structures in the world.

Although the dam would take only five years to build, its construction was nearly 30 years in the making. Arthur Powell Davis, an engineer from the Bureau of Reclamation, originally had his vision for the Hoover Dam back in 1902, and his engineering report on the topic became the guiding document when plans were finally made to begin the dam in 1922.

Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States and a committed conservationist, played a crucial role in making Davis' vision a reality. As secretary of commerce in 1921, Hoover devoted himself to the erection of a high dam in Boulder Canyon, Colorado. The dam would provide essential flood control, which would prevent damage to downstream farming communities that suffered each year when snow from the Rocky Mountains melted and joined the Colorado River. Further, the dam would allow the

expansion of irrigated farming in the desert, and would provide a dependable supply of water for Los Angeles and other southern California communities.

In 1929, Hoover, now president, signed the Colorado River Compact into law, claiming it was "the most extensive action ever taken by a group of states under the provisions of the Constitution permitting compact between states."

Once preparations were made, the Hoover Dam's construction sprinted forward: The contractors finished their work two years ahead of schedule and millions of dollars under budget. Today, the Hoover Dam is the second highest dam in the country and the 18th highest in the world. It generates enough energy each year to serve over a million people, and stands, in Hoover Dam artist Oskar Hansen's words, as "a monument to collective genius exerting itself in community efforts around a common need or ideal." —History

CAMPUS NEWS

Khawaja Nizamuddin's family providing scholarship to DU students



Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman receiving the cheque from Colonel M Kamaluddin Bhuiyan

Education Desk

Students of the Management Department of Dhaka University (DU) and Bangladesh and only civilian Biruttam Khwaja Nizamuddin Bhuiyan family providing BDT 10,00,000 scholarship for students of DU.

On this occasion, Faculty of Business Studies arranged a programme entitled of 'scholarship distribution to the financially challenged students' at Dr Habibullah conference hall on Thursday. Vice-Chancellor (VC) of DU Professor Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman was present as chief guest in the programme.

Managing Director of NCC Bank Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, Managing Director of First security Islami Bank Syed Waseque Md

Ali and Deputy Managing Director of BRAC Bank Chowdhury Akhtar Asif were present as special guests.

Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman received the scholarship cheque from Bir Uttam Shaheed Khwaja Nizamuddin Bhuiyan brother, Colonel M Kamaluddin Bhuiyan (ret'd), principal of Milestone College (administrative campus). Bir Uttam Shaheed Khwaja Nizamuddin Bhuiyan another two brothers Sultan Moinuddin Bhuiyan and Hasan Mohiuddin Bhuiyan were also present at that time.

It is to be noted that, on 4 September 1971, Bir Uttam Shaheed Khwaja Nizamuddin Bhuiyan sacrificed his life for the country in the Battle of Kanaighat but he saved about 800 freedom fighters life.

TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

Choose the correct word

Education Desk

- Much of the gold ___ in California during the Gold Rush of the 1850s financed the Union Army in the Civil War.
 - a. mine
 - b. mined
 - c. mining
- The capital of Colorado is ___.
 - a. Colorado Springs
 - b. Denver
 - c. Steamboat Springs
 - d. Montrose
- There are 54 mountain peaks in Colorado over 14,000 feet in ___.
 - a. height
 - b. highest
 - c. higher
- The mountains, plains and plateaus are the three geographic ___ of Colorado.
 - a. cities
 - b. altitudes
 - c. regions
- The average elevation ___ Colorado is 6,800 feet above sea level.
 - a. of
 - b. at



- c. on
6. Pikes Peak was the first Colorado ___ to be named on maps.
 - a. river
 - b. mountain
 - c. canyon
7. Colorado became a state ___ 1876.
 - a. around
 - b. at
 - c. about
 - d. in
8. The first American to explore Colorado ___ Zebulon Pike.
 - a. are
 - b. am
 - c. was

Previous Day's Answers
1.B, 2.A, 3.A, 4.A, 5.B, 6.C, 7.B, 8.B, 9.B, 10.B, 11.A

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Building of Hoover Dam begins



On this day in 1930, construction of the Hoover Dam begins. Over the next five years, a total of 21,000 men

would work ceaselessly to produce what would be the largest dam of its time, as well as one of the largest

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

ROCKFISH
CAN LIVE FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS!

KARAT JUICE!

URANUS
IS ALMOST 20 TIMES FARTHER FROM THE SUN THAN THE EARTH IS!

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, EUROPEANS ATTEMPTED TO CURE MUSCLE PAIN BY DRINKING POWDERED GOLD.

Ethical governance key to business success

BP Business Desk

Speakers at a summit opined that leadership as well as strong and ethical governance and management practices is the key to help organisations navigate in an increasingly complex business world to achieve better performance.

Though there has been significant improvement in service models, outsourcing, and technologies in business, they have also created challenges and disruptions, they added.

They were discussing as a Finance Summit organized by Lighthouse Bangladesh in association with Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) at The Westin Dhaka on Saturday.

Panelists of the Summit also took part in discussion on topics like financial innovation, industrialization and sustainability, capital market and opportunity, financial inclusion and sustainable development goals, corporate governance and financial sector.

According to discussants, the country's financial sector has changed considerably over the past decade and has witnessed significant

growth in many aspects. The summit shed light on four components – Opportunities, Challenges, Achievements and Excellence.

Financial intelligence and capacity according to the discussants is the foremost capability for any leader. The summit also analyzed the opportunities and challenges that were taken into consideration by the leaders in the sector to achieve success.

This summit would help take the economy forward by giving decision-makers, professionals, aspirants of the wealth management and investment industry and entrepreneurs an access to new ideas, solutions and innovations, organisers opined.

The summit offered a view of the industry, predictions and insights to help participants in forming their future strategies. Business leaders, corporate personalities, international experts in the field of economics, finance, investment strategy, product development, wealth management and IT attended the Summit among others.

Keynote papers were presented on the topic Emerging Bangladesh



Mamun Rashid, Managing Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Bangladesh on Saturday moderating a session of the Finance Summit, held at The Westin Dhaka Hotel. Ali Reza Iftekhar, Managing Director and CEO, Eastern Bank Ltd and others are also seen in the picture. The Finance Summit was organised by Lighthouse Bangladesh in association with EBL.

and Branding Bangladesh by K A M Majedur Rahman, Managing Director; Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE); Nuzhat Anwar, Senior Country Officer – Bangladesh, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Shaffat Ohid, Co-Founder and MD- Digital Tree Bangladesh. Mamun Rashid, Managing Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

moderated the summit. Among others, Ali Reza Iftekhar, MD and CEO, Eastern Bank Ltd; Naser Ezaz, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank; Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD and CEO, Dhaka Bank; Faruq Mainuddin Ahmed, MD and CEO, Trust Bank Ltd; Mominul Islam, MD and CEO, IPDC Finance; Mahtab Uddin

Ahmed, MD and CEO, Robi; Imran Rahman, Dean, School of Business, ULAB; Tina Jabeen, Ministry of ICT; Maliha M Quadir, Founder and MD, Shohoz; Muhammad Abdul Momen, Director, BGMEA and Professor, Finance, IBA, University of Dhaka spoke on the occasion.

Bangladesh-Japan economic dialogue held in Dhaka

BP Business Desk

The 4th Bangladesh-Japan Public Private Joint Economic Dialogue (PPED) was held in Dhaka recently with an aim to strengthening the economic relation and cooperation between Japan and Bangladesh.

Japanese team led by Tatsuya Terazawa, vice-minister for international affairs of Ministry of

Economy, Trade and Industry comprised of Teruo Asada, chairman, Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, accompanying government officials and 74 private sector participants.

Bangladesh team was led by Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) of Prime Minister's Office, Md. Nojibur

Rahman, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, Paban Chowdhury, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Md. Nizamuddin Rajesh, a representative of the Federation.



Tatsuya Terazawa, vice-minister for international affairs of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan and Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) of Prime Minister's Office BD are exchanging documents after signing an agreement in Japan recently.



Half-yearly Business Conference-2019 of The Premier Bank Limited was held at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden on Saturday. Freedom Fighter Dr. H.B.M. Iqbal, Chairman, Board of Directors of the bank was present at the programme as the chief guest. Advisor of the bank Muhammed Ali and Managing Director & CEO M. Reazul Karim, among others, were present in the meeting.



A two-day long 'Half Yearly Business Conference' of NCC Bank was held in Dhaka on Saturday aiming at increasing the bank's business by rendering best services. Md. Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of the bank inaugurated the conference as the chief guest. Moshleq Uddin Ahmed, managing director & CEO presided over the conference. S.M. Abu Mohsin, Chairman of the Executive Committee, A.S.M Mainuddin Monem and Khairul Alam Chaklader, Directors were present as special guests.

Govt to modernise Eastern Cables says Humayun



BP Business Desk

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun Saturday said the government is going to take initiatives to modernise the Eastern Cables Limited for increasing productivity of the state-owned industry.

"We will take initiatives to sustain the Eastern Cables Limited in the competitive market. We will solve the capital, VAT and tax problems of the company," he said while exchanging views with officials of the Eastern Cables Limited after visiting its factory at the Patenga area in Chattogram, said

a press release. Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) Chairman Mizanur Rahman attended the meeting as a special guest while Managing Director of the Eastern Cables Limited Engineer Ushamoy Chakma presided the meeting.

Holiday makers throng at smart phone expo

BP Business Desk

Smartphone and Tab Expo (STE) 2019 has experienced overwhelming crowd on Saturday as people from all walks of life vibrated the venue at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital.

The technology carnival began on Thursday while Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar inaugurated the three-day exposition of smart devices that concluded on Saturday. Monalisa Mridula, a student of North South University, came to the expo to pick the best gadget comparing all brands under same place. "Smartphone Expo is a big occasion for us to pick the best device from all brands. Besides, the gaming arena brought special to me. Ultimately, I am happy to get my super smart hands on from here," Mridula said explaining experience with the smart phone expo.

Organisers claimed the participants have announced 'attractive offer' to catch the customers which have kept the vibe on the expo arena Officials informed that the participants companies have experienced 'satisfactory crowd' from morning of the installation day at the expo.

Technology lovers get favorite accessories alongside of smart phone and tablet from the fair. World renowned brands including-Samsung, Huawei, Oppo, Xiaomi, Vivo, Motorola, iPhone, Nokia, Maximus, RealMe, Umidigi, DTel are participating the expo while Shurovi Enterprise and Bijoy bring innovative smart devices. Kaspersky is the cyber security partner of the fair. The companies project and sell the smart devices and accessories under one place while several new smart phones will be unveiled during the expo, according to organisers. STE-2019 Convener Sirajul Islam Sarthak said the expo is going to break the previous record in terms of visitors and sales volume as the leading local and international smart phone brands participate to project latest technology and design of smart gadget.



The DCCI Business Institute (DBI) organised a workshop titled 'Disciplinary Action, Domestic Enquiry & Amended Labour Laws-2013 & 2018' at the institute's premises in Dhaka on Saturday. Imran Ahmed, acting president, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (2nd from right) and Enamul Haque Patwary, Director, were present.



Mymensingh zone of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited organized Business Development Conference at Brac Learning Center in Mymensingh on Friday. Md. Mahbub ul Alam, Managing Director and CEO of the bank spoke at the conference as the chief guest. Mohammed Monirul Moula, additional managing director, Abu Reza Md. Yeahia, Muhammad Qaisar Ali and Md. Abdul Jabbar, deputy managing directors of the bank spoke as special guests. Dr. Muhammad Solaiman, senior vice president and head of Mymensingh zone presided over the programme.



First Security Islami Bank Limited has given scholarship to meritorious and financial-challenged students of Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University. Prof. Dr. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University was present as the chief guest and Syed Waseque Md. Ali, Managing Director of the bank was present as special guest. Md. Mustafa Khair, Deputy Managing Director of the bank was present in the programme.

No	TRADING CODE	TRADE	VALUE (mn)	VOLUME
1	RUNNERAUTO	3,569	137.3710	1,343,707
2	NPOLYMAR	2,306	134.7490	1,188,764
3	UPGDCL	1,531	130.2460	347,852
4	BPML	3,367	112.4730	1,500,971
5	ESQUIRENT	2,462	102.5040	2,229,485
6	GENEXIL	1,215	99.4640	1,757,210
7	SQRPHARMA	1,373	95.2030	367,151
8	JMISMDL	2,802	93.1500	203,785
9	SINOBANGLA	2,045	92.2800	1,482,540
10	NEWLINE	2,325	87.1180	3,453,606
11	SILCOPHL	2,112	83.7660	3,258,681
12	AIL	2,197	71.5080	1,144,937
13	KTL	1,372	68.3370	3,007,354
14	BSCCL	1,291	65.2740	488,700
15	BSC	1,220	64.5720	1,265,131
16	GLOBALINS	1,620	63.5940	2,078,139
17	SINGERBD	756	63.5580	328,384
18	HRTX	1,401	60.7190	1,142,801
19	AMANFEED	1,198	60.3460	1,336,605
20	SINOBANGLA	1,363	52.3030	864,903

Date: 02/07/2019	Energy	In USD
Symbol	Price	%Change
OIL(\$/barrel)	58.20	-1.23
Metal		
Symbol	Price	%Change
GOLD (\$/troy ounce)	1412.50	0.50
SILVER (\$/troy ounce)	15.355	0.061
PLATINUM (\$/troy ounce)	839.40	21.90
Copper	2.71	-0.0025
Agriculture		
Symbol	Price	%Change
WHEAT(\$/bushel)	526.00	-20.75
SOYBEAN (\$/bushel)	905.00	11.25
CORN (\$/bushel)	432.00	-19.00
SUGAR (\$/pound)	12.59	-0.19
COTTON (\$/pound)	66.04	-0.05

Name of Currency	Sonali Bank's Exchange Rates on 02/07/2019	Bangladesh Bank WAR on 01/7/2019
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
USD	83.6300	84.5000
EUR	94.5952	96.5739
GBP	105.8862	107.5663
AUD	58.4147	59.6241
JPY	0.7672	0.7911
CAD	63.5642	64.8957
SEK	8.9624	9.1497
SGD	61.4881	62.8032
INR	1.2000	1.2600

Item Name	01-July-19	01-July-19
Rice-coarse (per kg)	34.00-38.00	34.00-38.00
Rice-fine (per kg)	48.00-55.00	48.00-55.00
Atta(per kg)	27.00-36.00	27.00-36.00
Refined Soybean oil(per ltr)	77.00-82.00	77.00-82.00
Palm Oil(per ltr)	60.00-65.00	60.00-65.00
M.Dal (Red Lentil)(per kg)	55.00-130.00	55.00-120.00
Pulse(per kg)	70.00-85.00	70.00-85.00
Sugar(per kg)	52.00-56.00	52.00-56.00
Potato(per kg)	20.00-25.00	20.00-25.00
Onion(per kg)	25.00-35.00	25.00-35.00
Garlic(per kg)	100.00-140.00	100.00-140.00
Turmeric(per kg)	180.00-220.00	180.00-220.00
Dry Chili(per kg)	180.00-220.00	180.00-220.00
Ginger(per kg)	130.00-180.00	130.00-180.00
Salt(per kg)	25.00-35.00	25.00-35.00

Daily Indicators	July 02	July 01
Taka/US \$ (inter-bank)	84.35-84.35	83.95-83.95
Dhaka Stock Exchange index	5421.62460	5430.04907
MONTHLY		
Growth in: CONSUMER price index (BBS)	CURRENT	PREVIOUS
Consumer price index (BBS) y/y (pc) in Oct. 2018	6.57	15.01
Money supply (Tk) (BB) in Oct. 2018	11315.03	10403.65
Forex reserves (\$bln)(BB) in Jan, 2019	31.06	32.41
Trade Balance (\$bln) in July-Oct, 2018	*-5.32	-5.79
Exports(FOB) (\$bln) in Nov, 2018	11.94	6.22
Imports(FOB) (\$bln)(BB) in Sept, 2018	24.11	17.74
ANNUAL		
Population (millions)	*167.4	*161.8
External debt (pct of GDP)	*1.3	1.4
Real GDP growth (pct)	*7.28	7.11
Budget Deficit (including grants) (pct of GDP)	*5	5
Trade Balance (\$bln)	*-9.47	-6.46
Exports (\$bln)	*34.02	33.44
Imports (\$bln)	*43.49	39.90
Imports (Sbln)	*-1.48	4.26
Current a/c balance (\$mln)	1.28	1.71
Net foreign direct investment (\$bln)	32	33.22

* Provisional
* Excluding IMF loan
* BB = Bangladesh Bank (central bank)

Falling demand abroad hits German industrial orders

German industrial companies sustained a sharp drop in incoming orders in May, largely as a result of falling demand from non-EU countries, data showed on Friday, raising fresh fears about the health of Europe's biggest economy, analysts said.

Industrial orders — which are closely watched as a barometer of the outlook for Germany's vital manufacturing sector — shrank by 2.2 percent in May, the country's statistics office Destatis said in a statement, agency reports.

The decline — after two successive months of growth — was steeper than the 0.15 percent drop predicted by analysts polled by Factset.

The outlook for German producers has been gloomy in recent months owing to knock-on effects from the mounting US-China trade conflict and tensions between Washington and Brussels.

"Devastating new orders data just undermined any hopes for an industrial rebound. We are starting to lose our optimism," said Carsten Brzeski, an analyst at ING.

While domestic orders rose 0.7 percent, foreign demand dropped 4.3 percent — with those from EU nations dipping 1.7 percent while orders from further afield plunged 5.7 percent.

Ethiopia to sell minority stake in telecom, issue licenses

Ethiopia said Friday it would grant two telecom licenses to private firms and sell a minority stake in Ethio Telecom, the sole operator, as the government opens sectors long closed to outsiders.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced last year plans to privatise a swathe of industries and allow foreign and private investors into key state-owned companies in an effort to attract new players to the economy, agency reports. State Minister of Finance Eyob Tekalign Tolina unveiled plans "to sell up to 49 percent stake in Ethio-Telecom to private firms and give telecom licenses to two private telecom operators".

"Ethiopia plans to make Ethio-Telecom a first-class service provider," he told reporters in Addis Ababa.

"The government plans to open the sector to competition in addition to partial privatisation, to improve Ethiopia's digital footprint".

It is estimated Ethio Telecom, the country's only mobile and internet provider, has north of 40 million customers.

Eyob declined to detail which firms had expressed interest in the telecom offer, but stiff competition is expected from foreign multinationals keen on entry into one of Africa's largest markets. Ethiopia is Africa's fastest-growing economy but faces soaring debt, poor-performing industries and a foreign exchange shortage.

The government owns most of Ethiopia's major industries, and foreign businesses are kept out of banking, retail and other key sectors, unlike other rapid-growing African economies.

Egypt raises fuel prices in line with IMF rules

Egypt increased fuel prices Friday in its latest round of subsidy cuts under a reform package agreed with the International Monetary Fund, authorities said.

The latest cut in fuel subsidies is a condition of a \$12-billion loan secured from the IMF in November 2016, agency reports.

It is the fifth and final hike in petrol prices as Egypt prepares to

receive the last \$2-billion tranche from the monetary body.

Since President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi took power in 2014, his government has enforced a strict austerity programme designed to jump-start the economy.

The economy took a battering in the immediate aftermath of the revolution that ousted long-time autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

Direct foreign investment has grown to record levels but the country's debt and essential household costs have ballooned.

In May, electricity bills were raised by around 15 percent.

Egyptians have had to contend with belt-tightening measures that have seen living costs soar since the pound was devalued in November 2016.

The Washington-based body commended Cairo in April for its "substantial progress".

Stocks fall as strong US jobs data cloud hopes for rate cut

Stock markets slid Friday as better-than-expected US job data clouded investors' hopes for steep cuts in interest rates in the world's biggest economy, reports BSS/AFP.

Wall Street stocks pulled back from records set Wednesday, ahead of the Independence Day holiday, while on the other side of the Atlantic, Europe's leading blue-chip indices, Frankfurt's DAX, Paris's CAC 40 and London's FTSE, all ended the day over half a percent lower.

Normally, financial markets should take heart from a stronger US economy, demonstrated by the latest jobs data — with 224,000 new positions created last month, well in excess of forecasts.

But the strong figures challenged the market's certainty about relief from the US central bank later this month, with some analysts now expecting a smaller cut in interest rates, or no cut at all, when the Fed meets July 30-31.

All three major US indices rallied to records Wednesday following a trove of mediocre economic data that bolstered anxiety about a slowing economy and seemingly lifted the odds of a Fed move to bolster growth.

Gorilla Trades strategist Ken Berman said Friday's US jobs data had weakened that argument, especially compared with poor German economic data.

"Since German factory orders were nothing short of disastrous, the divergence



between the domestic economy and the rest of the world is well and alive," Berman said in a note.

"That means that the Fed will have a hard time justifying an outright rate cut this month, so volatility could increase in the coming weeks. Stay tuned."

Others said the Fed could go ahead with a smaller cut.

"The probability of a 50-basis point cut was slashed, while that of a 25-basis point cut simultaneously rose," Forex.com analyst Fawad Razaqzada said.

"Consequently, traders are still fully

expecting a rate cut at the end of the month, but they are now almost certain it won't be a 0.5-percent trim.

That helps explain the markets' reaction," he said.

ING economist James Knightley said he was still penciling in a quarter-point reduction by the Fed in July and September.

However, "the market is looking for more," he said.

US banks outperformed the broader market, with Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America all finishing with gains on the shifting expectations over

Fed action.

The dollar also enjoyed a lift compared with other currencies following the US jobs figures.

— Key figures around 2030 GMT —
New York — Dow: DOWN 0.2 percent at 26,922.12 (close)

New York — S&P 500: DOWN 0.3 percent at 2,990.41 (close)

New York — Nasdaq: DOWN 0.1 percent at 8,161.79 (close)

London — FTSE 100: DOWN 0.7 percent at 7,553.14 (close)

Paris — CAC 40: DOWN 0.5 percent at 5,593.72 (close)

Frankfurt — DAX 30: DOWN 0.5 percent at 12,568.53 (close)

EURO STOXX 50: DOWN 0.5 percent at 3,527.98 (close)

Tokyo — Nikkei 225: UP 0.2 percent at 21,746.38 (close)

Hong Kong — Hang Seng: DOWN 0.1 percent at 28,774.83 (close)

Shanghai — Composite: UP 0.2 percent at 3,011.06 (close)

Euro/dollar: DOWN at \$1.1227 from \$1.1285 at 2100 GMT Thursday

Dollar/yen: UP at 108.50 yen from 107.82

Pound/dollar: DOWN at \$1.2525 from \$1.2579

Brent North Sea crude: UP 93 cents at \$64.23 per barrel

West Texas Intermediate: UP 16 cents at \$57.51 per barrel

India hopes new budget will revive growth

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday hailed a "new chapter for India" as his re-elected government unveiled what he called a "green" budget aimed at reviving growth and creating a \$5-trillion economy.

India was recently leap-frogged by China as the world's fastest-growing major country, with unemployment in Asia's third-biggest economy at its highest since the 1970s, agency reports.

In the first budget since Modi won a second term by a landslide in May, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said she wanted to boost foreign direct investment (FDI) and infrastructure spending.

"The government will examine suggestions of further opening up FDI in aviation, media, and, insurance sectors in consultation with stakeholders," said Sitharaman.

The FM also ditched the traditional British-style budget briefcase in favour of a cloth ledger, in what chief economic advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian said symbolised India's "departure from the slavery of Western thought".

Sitharaman, 59, also said India's public sector banks would be injected with \$10.2 billion to tackle bad loans.

A sudden collapse of India's shadow banking sector in 2018 and bad loans had resulted in a liquidity crunch in Asia's third-largest economy. Sitharaman said that nearly 20 million new houses would be constructed by



2022 and that all rural households would have drinking water by 2024.

She also announced that the central government deficit to 3.3 percent of gross domestic product in fiscal 2019 from 3.4 percent in fiscal 2018.

This would be achieved by divestments, including of Air India, increased excise duties on petrol, diesel, precious metals and tobacco, and higher taxes for those earning between 20 million and 50 million rupees (\$290,000-730,000).

Moody's said in a research note however that achieving a lower fiscal deficit while maintaining support for growth and incomes would be "very

challenging".

"We expect the economy to grow relatively slowly, despite the government's income support measures," Moody's analyst Gene Fang said.

In a country with some of the world's most polluted cities, the budget also included tax breaks for individuals on the purchase of electric cars.

The government aims to invest in infrastructure and other incentives for electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution.

It also wants to increase the use of rivers for transportation, with the volume of cargo on the Ganges set to almost quadruple over the next four

years. "Sitharaman's budget focused on something for every industry including tax relief for startups and thrust on infrastructure spending," Mumbai-based independent economist Ashutosh Datar told AFP.

The government on Thursday predicted India would rebound and grow at 7.0 percent this year and also outlined plans on how to meet the target of doubling its economy by 2025 to \$5 trillion.

The annual growth in the last fiscal year dipped to 6.8 percent from 7.2 percent in 2017-18, too slow to create enough jobs for the more than a million Indians entering the labour market every month, economists say.

India is ranked as the world's sixth-biggest economy just behind Britain and ahead of France. The US and China occupy the first and second spots with \$19 trillion and \$12 trillion.

On Thursday, India's chief economic advisor K.V. Subramanian laid out a strategic blueprint for achieving India's growth goals through a "virtuous cycle" of savings, investment and exports.

Modi, who had faced sharp attacks for failing to create jobs, lauded Sitharaman's plans it as a "green budget focusing on environment, electric mobility and solar sector".

"This budget is a roadmap for new India and is one of hope. It will transform agriculture sector of the country," Modi said.

European equities slide before US payroll data

European stock markets slid Friday as dealers nervously awaited vital non-farm payrolls data in the United States for clues on the path for interest rates in the world's biggest economy.

Among Europe's leading blue-chip indices, Frankfurt's DAX, Paris's CAC 40 and London's FTSE all ended the day over half a percent lower, agency reports.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Wall Street similarly lost around 0.5 percent in midday trading.

Normally, financial markets should take heart from a stronger US economy, to which the latest jobs data testify — with 224,000 new positions being created last month, well in excess of forecasts.

And the dollar benefitted, rising against all other major currencies. However, with the US unemployment rate moving slightly higher and average earnings growth falling short of expectations, "the jobs data is certainly a mixed bag," said FXTM trader Ariana Demian.

The data were "likely to complicate the Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates this month, especially if economic conditions in the US continue to stabilise leading up to the Fed policy meeting" at the end of this month, she said. Investors are currently focussed on the size of the rate cut the Fed may deem necessary to avert a downturn further down the road.

Some suggest the strength of the jobs data could throw doubt on the magnitude of the anticipated easing or possibly whether there will be any more cuts at all.

Jaguar Land Rover set to build electric cars in UK

Car manufacturer Jaguar Land Rover has decided to produce a range of electric vehicles at its central England factory, it announced Friday, securing thousands of jobs in a major boost to post-Brexit Britain.

"Jaguar Land Rover today revealed plans to manufacture a range of new electrified vehicles at its manufacturing plant in Castle Bromwich, UK," the Indian-owned group said in a statement, agency reports.

The first car to roll off the production line at Castle Bromwich, which currently employs 2,500 workers, will be the next-generation all-electric Jaguar XJ luxury saloon model.

"It's a huge step for (the) very prestigious, special premium-luxury XJ production in Castle Bromwich," JLR Chief Executive Ralf Speth told AFP in an interview.

The facility in Birmingham, Britain's second biggest city, will produce the electric vehicles as part of a "huge" electrification investment that was "in the billions", Speth said.

The news is a welcome fillip for the nation's largely foreign-owned car sector, which has long warned over the impact of Britain's looming departure from the European Union at the end of October.

"Future is electric" — Batteries will be made in neighbouring Hams Hall, Warwickshire, while electric motors will be manufactured at JLR's engine plant close to the nearby city of Wolverhampton.

Petrol price in India to rise by Rs 2.5, diesel by Rs 2.3

Petrol price will be hiked by over Rs 2.5 per litre and diesel by more than Rs 2.3 after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday raised taxes on the fuels to part-fund her Budget for 2019-20.

Sitharaman raised excise duty and road and infrastructure cess on the auto fuels by Rs 2 per litre each to raise over Rs 28,000 crore, agency reports.

Post considering local sales tax or value added tax (VAT), which is charged after adding central excise duty on base price, the increase in petrol price would be over Rs 2.5 per litre and that on diesel would be Rs 2.3. On Friday, a litre of petrol costs Rs 70.51 in Delhi and Rs 76.15 in Mumbai. Diesel is priced at Rs 64.33 a litre in Delhi and Rs 67.40 per litre in Mumbai.

Also, the finance minister has levied Re 1 per tonne customs or import duty on crude oil. India imports more than 220 million tonnes of crude oil, and the new duty will give the government Rs 22 crore additionally.

At present, the government does not levy any customs duty on crude oil. Only a Rs 50 per tonne national calamity contingent duty (NCCD) is charged.

"Crude prices have softened from their highs. This gives me a room to review excise duty and cess on petrol and diesel. I propose to increase Special Additional Excise duty and Road and Infrastructure Cess each by Rs two a litre on petrol and diesel," she said in her budget speech. Petrol currently attracts a total excise duty of Rs 17.98 per litre (Rs 2.98 basic excise duty, Rs 7 special additional excise duty and Rs 8 road and infrastructure cess).

Amazon at 25: The story of a giant

"There's no guarantee that Amazon.com can be a successful company. What we're trying to do is very complicated," said Jeff Bezos in 1999, just five years after launching the online firm, report agencies.

That the firm's founder was so uncertain of its future seems surprising.

Today, 25 years on from when it started, Amazon is one of the most valuable public companies in the world, with Mr Bezos now the world's richest man, thanks to his invention.

What started as an online book retailer has become a global giant, with membership subscriptions, physical stores, groceries for sale, its own smart devices and a delivery system which can get things to customers in just an hour.

Amazon's innovation can be clearly seen in its financial results.

Last year, it became the world's second-ever public company to be valued at \$1 trillion, after Apple, and it has the second-highest market valuation in the world, after Microsoft.

The huge success of the online giant is also evident in its revenue.

Sale are expected to hit a record-breaking \$275.06bn by the end of this year, with forecasts suggesting revenues could pass \$320bn by the end of 2020.

Mr Bezos's success has been driven by the firm's global expansion, but mainly by expanding into a wide variety of other sectors.

Video streaming services and devices, cloud services and most recently groceries (with the acquisition



of Whole Foods Market) have allowed the company to compete directly with technology giants such as Facebook, Apple, Google and Netflix.

And it all began with selling books. "When we first started selling books four years ago, everybody said, 'Look, you're just computer guys and you don't know anything about selling books.' And that was true," said a young Jeff Bezos in 1999.

However, the huge stockpiling space that the company had at the time in the US helped Amazon become a leader in the sector and enabled them to offer a wider selection of books than its bricks-and-mortar rivals.

Then ebooks arrived and Amazon was smart enough to become a key player in that market too.

In the late 1990s, Amazon decided

to start selling other goods, starting with music and DVDs.

Soon Mr Bezos's empire grew to include electronics, toys and kitchen utensils.

The growing network of US warehouses helped extend what the company could offer, dramatically increasing its popularity with customers.

Ten years later, Amazon had become the biggest online seller in the US and around the world.

Following the creation of Amazon Marketplace in 2000 — which opened the platform up to thousands of small businesses — Amazon felt the need to boost its delivery service for loyal customers.

Amazon Prime was launched in 2005, offering quicker shipping for

selected items. This boosted sales of all sorts of goods.

More than 100 million paying customers are now members of subscription service Amazon Prime, which also offers video and music streaming.

It is the second-largest paid membership programme in the world.

Amazon never forgot its bookselling origins. When ebooks started to become popular, Mr Bezos launched the Kindle in 2007, eventually becoming the global leader in the sector.

The Amazon smart devices department grew exponentially, facing fierce competition from Apple and Google in the early 2010s.

Amazon, however, was the first company to launch a smart device: the Echo speaker, equipped with the firm's own artificial intelligence system, Alexa.

It is now the third-largest seller of smart devices in the US.

Today the future of Amazon looks a bit more complicated than just selling products on the internet.

The second half of 2018 was difficult for the company and its market valuation has fallen back below the \$1tn mark.

Having successfully dominated online retail, the firm has now set its sights on expanding its services — and perhaps surprisingly, into physical stores — to create a new way of shopping.

What will Amazon be in another 25 years? We'll have to wait and see.

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SPORTS

Bangladesh Post
a daily with a difference

Dhaka Sunday July 07, 2019



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND & WALES 2019

Mashrafe heaps praise on Shakib



Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza singled out batsman Shakib Al Hasan for praise after the side's final match at the Cricket World Cup on Friday, a 94-run loss to Pakistan at Lord's, reports Reuters.

The swashbuckling Shakib smashed 64 runs as his side stumbled to 221 all out. That took his World Cup tally to a tournament-topping 606 runs - 62 more than second-placed Rohit Sharma of India who has played one fewer innings.

"I think he's been absolutely beautiful. He had done what he could do. I really feel sorry for him, not only the whole team," Mashrafe told reporters.

"The way he played, this team could have been in a different zone than where we are standing right now. I think his is one of the best performances of all time that has been done in the World Cup."

What Shakib lacked during the tournament, however, was solid partnerships to help the side build defensible scores and chase down sizeable targets.

Mashrafe put it succinctly. "The rest of the boys is in and out," he said. "Hopefully, the boys will step up next time with him."

He said his side, who with the exception of Afghanistan were

seen as the weakest in the competition, had enjoyed and learned a lot from the tournament in which they won three games.

"Obviously, it's been very exciting. To know our strengths, to know our weaknesses, and how can we improve our game going forward - it's really a very exciting

tournament," Mashrafe said.

He also praised the team for arguably their best performance, chasing down a target of 322 to beat West Indies in Taunton.

"I think batting is something we can take positive things from. It has really helped (for the) future to understand that we can score

now 300 or even when asked sometimes more, we can run for it," he said.

Mashrafe also defended the format of the competition, with all teams playing each other in a long round-robin series of games before the top four progress to the semi-finals.



Malik retires from ODIs

Former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik announced his retirement from the 50-over format shortly after his team bowled out of the Cricket World Cup, narrowly missing out on a semi-finals spot, reports Reuters.

All-rounder Malik, 37, played 287 one-day internationals for Pakistan and scored 7,534 runs including nine centuries. The off-spinner also picked up 158 wickets in the format.

"Today was our last game, and I'm retiring from ODI cricket," Malik told reporters after Pakistan thrashed Bangladesh by 94 runs at Lord's on Friday.

"I had planned this for a few years ago to retire on the last Pakistan World Cup match. I'm sad that I'll be leaving a format of cricket that I loved but happy that I'll have more time to spend with my family."

"This will also allow me to focus on Twenty20 cricket."

Malik, who made his debut in 1999, was the most capped player in Pakistan's current World Cup squad but was dropped after the team's humiliating loss to arch-rivals India in Manchester last month.

He managed just eight runs in his three matches, including two ducks, and took one wicket.

Malik, who led Pakistan to the final of the inaugural World Twenty20 in 2007 where they lost to India, was a key member of the side's triumph in the following edition in England in 2009.

Malik, who said his goal was to play the shortest format's showpiece event in Australia next year, was congratulated by his wife Sania Mirza, the Indian tennis player.

Karthik expresses opinion on his death overs approach

Dinesh Karthik's assessment of why it has been difficult for batsmen to get the big runs in the death overs is conditions, resources, reports Reuters.

"It depends first thing on the conditions. And also it depends a little bit on how many batsmen you have behind you. I think you have more freedom to play shots when you have people who can obviously play until the end."

"If you feel that it's important that you stay - if you need to be the player to stay to the end, then you delay the inevitable and then make sure that you take on the bowlers at the stage where you feel that there won't be any loss for the team," he said and summed it up. "So, A, you need to play the conditions. And, B, obviously the skill sets of the bowler, and then you've got to assess what the situation is and what your team needs and then react accordingly."

On playing such deliveries, Karthik admits that it can be a challenge.

"From a batsman's point of view, a power player will probably be able to hit that ball a longer distance because [as] somebody who uses the pace of the ball that's a really hard ball to hit, basically. So, it's been a tricky ball in this World Cup, it's got a lot of wickets," he said.

Commenting on the other trend of chasing teams failing to get over the line, Karthik says, "I think it's a bit of both," referring to conditions and scoreboard pressure.

Mashrafe unsure over future



Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza admitted he needs time to decide his future amid speculation he will retire or resign following his team's World Cup exit, reports AFP.

Mashrafe's side lost by 94 runs against Pakistan at Lord's on Friday in a disappointing conclusion to their World Cup campaign. Attention turned to Mashrafe's future at the post-match press conference, but the 35-year-old wasn't ready to reveal his plans. "My future plan is obviously going home from here, and then I'll rethink," he told reporters.

Bangladesh had already been eliminated from the race to qualify for the semi-finals, but had hoped to finish the tournament on a high note.

Instead, they succumbed to a limp defeat that left them with three wins from nine matches in the tournament.

Asked how he rated Bangladesh's campaign, Mashrafe conceded they had been exposed at times in their sloppy fielding, while his bowlers found it hard to thrive in English conditions.

"I think the players tried their best. As I said, there were a few areas we could improve a lot. We knew what our weaknesses were," he said.

"If we play in Asia, I think it will be a far better bowling site than here. So we need to find our best ways to bowl



them out or maybe restrict them.

"Batting hasn't been an issue before the World Cup. I think the boys are clear what they can do. Fielding, it has been concern there all of my career. This is the part the players can change. We really need to improve fielding."

The World Cup's round-robin format, with each of the 10 teams

facing each other once before the top four move into the semi-finals, has received mixed reviews, but Mashrafe relished the opportunity for Bangladesh to play all the top sides.

"That format I loved, because every team has been exposed to everyone else. And to be honest I think some people will not be very happy with that," he said.

MOST RUNS IN A WORLD CUP EDITION



SACHIN TENDULKAR
2003
673

MATTHEW HAYDEN
2007
659

SHAKIB AL HASAN
2019
606

Shakib breaks Sachin's record

Bangladesh ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan ended a prolific World Cup 2019 with 606 runs, thus surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record of maximum runs scored in the group stages of the tournament. Sachin had amassed 586 runs in the group stage 2003 edition of the World Cup, report agencies.

Shakib is only the third player after Sachin and Matthew Hayden to score over 600 runs in one edition. Sachin scored 673 runs in the 2003 World Cup held in South Africa while Hayden

smashed 659 runs in the 2007 edition held in the West Indies.

Shakib continued his exceptional run with the bat against Pakistan as he scored 64 at Lord's on Friday. In the process, Shakib became the only second cricketer after Sachin to score seven 50+ scores in a single edition of the World Cup.

Overall, the Bangladesh all-rounder has amassed 12 fifty-plus knocks and is placed second along with Kumar Sangakkara who also holds 12 fifty-plus scores in World Cup games.

Du Plessis shares thoughts over minimum wage, player drain

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis believes it would be "amazing" if the ICC was to act on Jason Holder's suggestion of introducing a minimum wage into international cricket. However, du Plessis also conceded it was "a long way from happening", Cricbuzz reports.

"There are almost two groups of players when it comes to South African cricketers," he said. "There's your Test players - and for them

the Kolpak option is the dangling carrot - and there are your white-ball specialists, where the T20 circuit around the world [is the carrot]. Both of those areas are a big concern for cricketers in South Africa. Looking at the one-day side, your players that will move on from the Proteas would potentially move on to the T20 circuit, maybe bar one or two, but that is generally where the

opportunities lie for the white-ball players. I think, naturally, with some of the guys finishing, they'll do that. That will become the biggest issue for us to try and stay away from for all players."

"It would be great for the rest of the teams if you could do that," du Plessis replied when asked if he would welcome the ICC subsidising international salaries where appropriate. "If I had

that much power to say that to the ICC I think I would have said it a long time ago. That is the perfect world, but we don't live in a perfect world."

"Sri Lanka, New Zealand, West Indies and Pakistan: I think all of us fall into the same category, like maybe your second-tier nations and then you get your top tier which is a little bit different."



A match from the ongoing Cute Women's Handball League 2019 which is held at National Handball Stadium, Motijheel, Dhaka on Saturday

Brazil primed for home Copa triumph



Brazil's skipper Dani Alves (r) and forwards Gabriel Jesus, Roberto Firmino join team's training session in Rio de Janeiro on Friday, ahead of their Copa America final against Peru on Sunday.



Brazil have lifted the trophy every time they have hosted the Copa America and will look to maintain this perfect record with a first major tournament triumph since 2007 when they take on Peru in Sunday's final, reports Reuters.

Anything less than victory for South America's most populous nation and most successful national team

at the Maracana will be deemed a monumental failure, however, and could cost Tite his job regardless of the steady progress the coach has overseen.

Despite losing Neymar - their most recognisable and talented player - to injury on the eve of the tournament, the hosts have looked the strongest and most complete side with 10 goals scored and none conceded in five matches.

Their path to glory has been made easier by holders Chile going out in

the semi-finals to Peru, who the hosts trounced 5-0 in the group stages with a whirlwind display which had some hailing the return of the dazzling Brazil of the past.

Brazil captain Dani Alves was accused of over-confidence after posting "That's it" on Twitter after Peru shocked Chile, although the right back later denied that he was mocking Ricardo Gareca's side.

The hosts are overwhelming favourites to beat Peru, but no-one in the country needs reminding of

when Brazil went into the 1950 World Cup final at the Maracana feeling certain of lifting a trophy only to suffer a harrowing defeat to Uruguay.

Brazil defender Marquinhos said no-one in his side was underestimating Peru, who have reached the final of the Copa America for the first time since winning their second South American title in 1975.

Brazil have won the tournament eight times, including four times as hosts.

"We know that in football things change very quickly and Peru are in a completely different state now, and everyone has to know that it will take a huge effort to beat them, because a final is a one-off game unlike any other," he told reporters.

"It will come down to emotions, tactics and technique. We will have to combine these factors and the tiny details will prove the difference in this game. The team which makes the fewest mistakes will be champions."

Photo: Twitter

Morgan hopes for more joy in WC final



The United States head into the women's World Cup final against the Netherlands on Sunday seemingly in such rude health that the biggest controversy surrounding the holders in recent days has been Alex Morgan's teasing goal celebration against England, reports AFP.

Morgan, one of the faces of the USA side that has made history by reaching a third consecutive final, has been at the centre of a veritable storm in a tea cup since using the celebration to mark her winner in Tuesday's semi-final.

Whether it was an attempt to wind-up the English for their love of the drink, or something more innocent, the 30-year-old has been struck by the level of media attention.

"You see men celebrating all around the world in big tournaments, grabbing their sacks or whatever it is, when I look at sipping a cup of tea, I'm a little taken aback and kind of you have to laugh about it to see all the criticism," Morgan said on Friday.

The striker scored five goals in the record 13-0 win over Thailand with which the USA began their defence of the trophy, but it is Megan Rapinoe who has been the big star of the tournament.

The pink-haired midfielder scored all of her team's goals in the wins over Spain and France before missing the England showdown due to a hamstring problem.

Rapinoe has said that she should be fit in time to make coach Jill Ellis' starting line-up for the game in Lyon, as the USA aim to win a fourth World Cup in eight editions.

That would cement their status as the dominant force in the international women's game.

It would also immediately bring back questions as to whether the team might accept the offer of a trip to visit Donald Trump at the White House, but first they have to beat the European champions.

Mane sends Senegal into quarters



Senegal forward Sadio Mane continued his hit-and-miss tournament when he scored his third goal of the Africa Cup of Nations but also missed a penalty for the second game running as his side beat Uganda 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals on Friday, reports Reuters.

Mane broke the deadlock in the 15th minute of a physical game after Senegal pounced on a mistake by Uganda, who were in the knockout stages for the first time in 41 years.

However, he squandered the chance to give Senegal some breathing space when his spot kick was saved by goalkeeper Denis Onyango in the 61st minute of a game which featured 45 fouls.

Outsiders Uganda, whose players were involved in a pay dispute with their federation in the run-up to the game, gave Senegal a stern test at a near-deserted Cairo International stadium.

Senegal will play rank outsiders Benin in the quarter-finals after the Squirrels earlier beat Morocco on penalties following a 1-1 draw.

Mane has now taken three penalties in the finals, missing one and converting one in the 3-0 win over Kenya where he also scored from



Senegal forward Sadio Mane (r) and Uganda's Timothy Awany vie for the ball during their Africa Cup of Nations last 16 match in Cairo on Friday.

Photo: Collected

open play, before missing again on Friday. Senegal coach Aliou Cisse said, however, that he remained Senegal's penalty taker. "As the captain, he has our confidence and

he will stay the number one for penalties," Cisse told reporters. "I will have a talk with him about it. "We had the fortune to get an early goal, it was a very physical game

but it's an African match and that is how they are."

Onyango's habit of charging off his line had Ugandan nerves on edge throughout the game.

Gauff's dream run continues at Wimbledon



Fifteen-year-old sensation Coco Gauff's magical Wimbledon journey continued on Friday when the American youngster saved two match points to reach the last 16, reports AFP.

Gauff, ranked 313 and who came through qualifying, battled back from 2-5 down in the second set and held her nerve when Slovenian opponent Polona Hercog clawed her way to 4-4 from 1-4 in the decider.

Her reward is a fourth round clash on 'Manic Monday' against former world number one and ex-French Open champion Simona Halep.

"I'm just super relieved that it's over, it was a long match," said Gauff.

"She was playing unbelievable. It was my first match on Centre Court, people say Centre One is my court, maybe Centre can be too now.

She added of her second set recovery: "I knew I could come back so I just kept going for my shots." Gauff's dramatic victory on an



USA's Coco Gauff celebrates after beating Slovenia's Polona Hercog during Day 5 of the Wimbledon 2019 at All England Lawn Tennis Club in London on Friday.

Photo: AFP

Atletico hit out at Griezmann

Atletico Madrid have ordered Antoine Griezmann to report for pre-season training despite him declaring two months ago he was leaving the club, as they accused the France striker of showing them a lack of respect for negotiating a move to Barcelona, reports Reuters.

Atletico released a strongly-worded statement on their website on Friday after Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu revealed the club's CEO had held a meeting with Atletico chief Miguel Angel Gil Marin over Griezmann.

Atletico claimed that Griezmann and Barcelona had begun discussing a move to the Nou Camp in February and agreed a deal in March, in the middle of their Champions League last-16 tie with Juventus which they lost 3-2 on aggregate.

"Atletico Madrid wishes to express its strongest disapproval of the behaviour of both, especially FC Barcelona, for prompting the player to break his contractual relationship with Atletico Madrid" the statement said.

Atletico also said Barca had violated the protected periods of negotiation with players. "Atletico Madrid's response was obviously negative, as we believe that FC Barcelona and the player have disrespected Atletico Madrid and all its fans," the club said.

"As a consequence, today, Atletico Madrid has instructed the player, his sister and agent and his lawyer, that Antoine Griezmann, in compliance with his contractual obligations with our club, must appear next Sunday in the club's facilities in order to start the pre-season with the rest of his team mates."

Morocco crash out to Benin

Hakim Ziyech's missed stoppage-time spot-kick proved extremely costly as 10-man Benin stunned Africa Cup of Nations title contenders Morocco in a penalty shootout Friday to reach the quarter-finals after a 1-1 draw in Cairo, reports AFP.

Moise Adilehou forced home at a corner early in the second half to put Benin on course for a shock win but Youssef En-Nesyri equalised for Morocco before Ajax star Ziyech blew the chance to snatch victory by striking the post from the spot in the 96th minute.

Benin were forced to play most of extra time a man down after Khaled Adenon received a second yellow card for dissent, but they prevailed 4-1 in the shootout following misses by Sofiane Boufal and En-Nesyri to set up a clash with Senegal or Uganda on July 10 for a spot in the semi-finals.

"It's not the right time to talk about anything," said Morocco boss Herve Renard, after possibly his final game in charge. "The only thing I would like to say is thank you very much to all the fans who came to Egypt to support us.

"I'm a bit ashamed in front of them, and especially about all the people who were supporting us since more than three years.

"You know in life of course, some people are against you, but this is life. You just have to look forward and only remember the positive things."

Shubachan stages *Mohajoner Nao* at Shilpakala



A scene from the play

Entertainment Desk

Shubachan Natya Shangshad staged their acclaimed theatrical production 'Mohajoner Nao' yesterday evening at the Experimental Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in Segun Bagicha of the capital.

The story, based on the life and philosophy of the late Baul Samrat

Shah Abdul Karim, is written by Shakoor Majid and directed as well as choreographed by Sudip Chakroborty.

The 33rd production of Subachan narrates the story of Shah Abdul Karim and his journey to the realm of music through different sequences based on his biography.

The Baul Samrat showed signs of his musical talents from a young age,

and though his schooling was not extensive, he went on to become one of the most acclaimed folk musicians of his time, who wrote and composed over 1600 songs. Six books have been published by the Bangla Academy till the date of his songs, and ten of his songs have also been translated into English and published as a separate compilation by the Academy.

Bhalobasha Dot Com to release in cinemas



A still from the film

Staff Correspondent

Ovi, Nijhum Rubina, and Raha starrer 'Bhalobasha Dot Com' is set to release in the cinema halls of Bangladesh, finally. The shooting of the film started in 2015. Although it had received censorship clearance in 2016 there was a break of three years from director Mohammad Aslam. After the long break the film is going to be released on July 12.

Mohammad Aslam said, "I

started shooting the film in 2015 and quickly ended the shoot through continuous filming. The film was scheduled to release in 2016. But, since the producer fell sick suddenly, I couldn't release the film. Already we registered the film with producer association for the release. I hope that the film will get release across the country in the coming July 12."

Different roles in the film have been played by Don, Amit Hasan, Rehana Jolly, Rebecca, Siraj, Haedar and

others.

The film is produced by Nehal Movies. The story shows that Ovi is a college going boy and Nijhum-Raha both fall in his love. Various incidents keep occurring through their love story.

There are a total number of six music tracks in the film. These are written by Sudip Kumar Dip, and music composition has been done by Kazi Jamal. The vocals have been given by Kona, Nancy, Porshi, Dolly Shayontoni, Rajiz, SI Tutul.



Filmmaker Abhinay Deo

Doosra inspired by Sourav's waving shirt

New Delhi Correspondent

When Bollywood and cricket, the two most popular pastimes of Indians, blend, it tends to provide an exciting cocktail.

Remember a most abiding scene from an iconic cricket stadium when an ecstatic Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly took off his shirt and swung it in the air 17 years ago at the balcony of the dressing room at Lord's to celebrate his country's win in the NatWest trophy competition against England.

That scene has inspired a Bollywood docu-fiction film 'Doosra' by director Abhinay Deo who has taken a key slice of India's cricket history to weave the coming-of-age story of a young girl who takes a cue from Sourav and revolts against the patriarchal society in Jodhpur in

Rajasthan. The movie is set against the backdrop of India's win against England in 2002 NatWest series.

"There is hardly anyone in our country who does not have a fascination for cricket be it filmmakers, creative people or common public. In our film, the footage of the 2002 match and the interviews of prominent personalities run parallel to the fiction story.

I was fascinated with what that period in cricket did for our country," Deo told the media. Plabita Borthakur of "Lipstick Under My Burkha" fame plays the role of Tara in the film who belongs to an orthodox household in Jodhpur.

"We decided to merge fiction and documentary. It is a story of India, cricket and Sourav. Then there is this girl who is growing up around the time when there was a lot of buzz in

the world of economics, politics and cricket. She is seeking answers.

"The girl takes inspiration from that victory, which was history in the making. In the film, the girl is going through her own struggles and she takes inspiration from the cricket world, from Sourav Ganguly and changes her life," Deo said.

According to Deo, the film touches upon courage, freedom of expression and fighting social prejudices among other things. "It talks about freedom from many things, social prejudices, inferiority complex," said the director. "Doosra" is currently in the final stages of post-production and the makers are finalizing how, when and where to release the film.

Incidentally, "Doosra" is the name of a lethal ball from Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh who has outfoxed several leading batsmen across the cricket world by that delivery.

Entertainment Desk

Bidya Sinha Mim, who is now seen more on the big screen than small screen, is currently awaiting the release of her new film titled 'Shapludu'.

Making it the big-screen directorial debut of renowned small-screen director Golam Sohrab Dodul, the film was scheduled to be released on the last Pehela Boishakh. However, due to some complications, the film's release date was postponed and it is set to be released very soon.

In the film, Mim has portrayed a unique role named Pushpo and according to the actor, it was one of her best performances till date. Popular actor Arifin Shuvo has shared the screen opposite to her in the film.

About the film, Mim said, "Under the direction of Golam Sohrab Dodul, I have tried to give my best performance in 'Shapludu'. I tried to bring out the character of Pushpo on screen as lively as possible. During the shooting, I remained in the character of Pushpo as much as possible."

"The whole unit was pleased with my performance and it was also a unique achievement for me. With all the cast and crew, I am also optimistic about 'Shapludu' due to its amazing story and making. I hope the audience will enjoy watching the film", she added.

Apart from the film, the actress has recently starred in two web series titled 'Neel Dorja' and 'Beauty and Bullet', directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul and Animesh Aich respectively. In 'Neel Dorja', Mim starred opposite Chanchal



Mim waits for Shapludu

Bidya Sinha Mim

Chowdhury while in 'Beauty and Bullet', Tahsan Khan starred opposite her.

Mim made her debut in Humayun Ahmed's film titled

'Amar Ache Jo'. The exceptional portrayal in late Khalid Mahmood Mithu-directed film 'Jonakir Alo' had brought Mim her first National Film Award.

Mou gets busy in Bokulpur

Entertainment Desk

Popular small-screen actor Tahmina Sultana Mou has just returned to the country after spending the Eid vacation with her family. She is about to get busy with acting again.

Starting today, the actor will resume her regular schedule by starting shooting for the ongoing drama serial 'Bokulpur'.

Under the direction of Kaiser Ahmed, Mou will take part in a three-day shooting period in the capital's Pubail area.

Her performance in 'Bokulpur' has evoked considerable audience admiration.

"I am playing the role of Asma. I am receiving a lot of positive feedback for my portrayal of the character. I am grateful to director Kaiser Ahmed, assistant director Jobon Roy and cameraman Ruhul Amin, among others for this. I am really pleased with the work as an artiste," Mou said.

'Bokulpur' is being aired on Deepto TV from Saturday to Thursday at 8:30pm.

Apart from this, Mou is also working in another Kaiser Ahmed-directed drama serial, 'Mohajamela', on Asian TV and Shokal Ahmed's drama serial 'Shantipuri-tey Oshanti' on Boishakhi TV.

The actor will start working in a new drama serial from July 22 under the direction of Mou Rulin.



Tahmina Sultana Mou

Symon returns to shooting

Staff Correspondent

The shooting of Mostafizur Rahman directed 'Ananda Asru' has started. Actor Symon Sadik has participated in the shooting of a part of the film at the shooting house in Birulia in the capital last Thursday. The last stage of the shooting is going on at this moment.

Prior to this when the Symon's grandfather passed away on June 25 the shooting which was supposed to begin from June 27 got pushed back.

Regarding this Symon says, "I have started shooting for the last stage shoots of 'Ananda Asru'. Through continuous shooting, I think the film's shoot can be finished within July 20. Before this, the shooting of last part was to begin from June 27 but the death of my grandfather demanded my presence home that is why I left. I have returned to Dhaka after completing all the rituals necessary last Tuesday. Pray for my grandfather, may his soul rest in peace."

Symon added, "The shooting of action sequences

is going on. After this the shoot of two more music tracks is going to be done through which the camera's frame will close. This is a romantic movie, but there will also be action sequences in it. I hope the audience will enjoy the film."

Mahiya Mahi is acting opposite

to Symon in the film. The film has been produced by Mizan Media. Prior to this Shibly Sadik made the film Ananda Asru with Salman Shah and Shabnur in 1997. Director Mostafizur Rahman Manik says that the stories of these two films are not similar in any way.



Symon Sadik

UN condemns attack on migrants, calls for Libyan cease-fire

The UN Security Council on Friday called on Libya's warring parties to urgently de-escalate fighting and commit to a cease-fire, and it condemned a deadly attack on a detention center for migrants near the capital Tripoli, report agencies.

The UN's most powerful body also called on the parties to rapidly return to UN-mediated political talks.

The council press statement was the first approved by all 15 members since self-styled Libyan National Army leader, Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, launched a military offensive on April 4 aimed at taking Tripoli, though it had previously issued weaker press 'elements.'

The statement was spurred by Tuesday night's airstrike on the detention center in Tajoura, which the council said killed 53 people and injured over 130 others. The International Organization for Migration said Friday that six children were among those killed.

The Security Council held emergency closed consultations Wednesday afternoon, but diplomats said then that the United States needed additional time to consider the text of a statement condemning the attack.

A UN-supported, but weak government controls Tripoli, overseeing the country's west, while a rival government aligned with Hifter controls much of the east and south. Each is backed by an array of militias and armed groups fighting over resources and territory.

The Tripoli-based government blamed Hifter's LNA and its foreign backers for the airstrike. The LNA,

for its part, says it targeted a nearby militia position and denies striking the hangar where the migrants were being held. UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said the attack might amount to a war crime.

In Friday's statement, the council expressed 'deep concern' at the worsening humanitarian situation in Libya and at conditions in detention centers it said 'are the responsibility of the Libyan government.'

A civil war in Libya in 2011 toppled and later killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. In the chaos that followed, the oil-rich North African country was divided.

Hifter launched his offensive days before a national conference of all Libyan parties aimed at agreeing on elections for a new government was scheduled to begin — and despite his commitments to move toward elections.

He has received support from Egypt, France, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Russia and says he is determined to restore stability to Libya. The Tripoli-based Government of National Accord is backed by Turkey, Qatar and a number of militias, who observers say have put up stiff resistance against Hifter's forces.

The Security Council statement stressed that 'lasting peace and stability in Libya will come only through a political solution.'

Council members also stressed the importance of Libya's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity 'and called on all member states not to intervene in the conflict or take measures that exacerbate the conflict.'

Regime bombings kill 14 civilians in northwest Syria

Syrian regime bombardment has killed 14 civilians including seven children in northwestern Syria, a war monitor said Saturday, in the latest deadly raids on the embattled opposition bastion, reports BSS/AFP.

Warplanes and helicopters late Friday carried out air strikes on Mahabel village in Idlib province, killing 13 civilians including the seven children, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

A woman was also killed early Saturday in regime rocket fire on the outskirts of the town of Khan Sheikhun in the south of the province, the Britain-based war monitor said.

Idlib, a region of some three million people, many of whom fled former rebel-held areas retaken by the government, is the last major bastion of opposition to the Russia-backed Damascus government after eight years of civil war.

The region on Turkey's doorstep is administered by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, but other jihadist and rebel groups are also present. Idlib is supposed to be protected from a major regime assault by a

September deal between Moscow and Ankara, but Damascus and its Russian ally have ramped up their deadly bombardment of the region since late April.

More than 520 civilians have been killed since then, according to the Observatory.

The United Nations says 25 health facilities in the region have been hit, the latest including the second attack in two months on an underground hospital in the town of Kafra-nel on Thursday.

River grabbers must face

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The government is going to recover banks of all the rivers which have been occupied illegally, he said, adding, "I think no one will try to re-occupy the lands on the banks of the rivers, adjacent to the capital Dhaka or elsewhere in the country."

If anyone thinks to grab the rivers again, they will commit a blunder. They must bear in mind that the present government and the previous government are not the same. "What we say, we do," the senior minister added. Legal steps must be taken against those who would try to grab the rivers again, he continued.

"The present government is working hard to make all the rivers occupation-free. We shall present Bangladesh as a riverine country through freeing all the occupied rivers one after another", he said.

The minister further said that on the first stage beginning from July 6 this year, some 3,803 RCC boundary pillars, one kilo meter walkway from Ramchandrapur to Bachhila, and from Rayerbazar canal to Kamrangirchor, one kilo metre key wall, two and a half kilo metres walkway will be constructed. The construction works will be completed by December 2020 and the project will cost Taka 55 crore.

Through another project of BIWTC, 52 kilo metres walkway, 10,820 boundary pillars, three Eco parks, 19 RCC jetties, 100 RCC stairs, 409 benches, and 44 kilo metres of different structures will be constructed. The second project will cost Taka 844 crore and 55 lakh, the home minister disclosed.

IAEA to hold special

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report on Iran, issued earlier this week. In it, the IAEA confirmed that Iran had breached the limit of 300kg for stockpiles of enriched uranium as stipulated under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The US statement described the news of the breach as "concerning".

"The international community must hold Iran's regime accountable," the statement added.

The Iranian mission in Vienna reacted to news of the US request for a meeting by saying it was a demonstration of American "isolation" and calling the US "the prime violator of the JCPOA".

"The recent developments have no connection to safeguards related issues and the mandate of the Board of Governors," the Iranian mission said in a statement.

Iran has said that as of Sunday it will begin breaking another key limit set in the JCPOA, which restricts the enrichment level of its uranium stockpile to 3.67 percent.

Iran has said the breaches

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said, "I don't believe that the rivers have been grabbed. Instead, I want to say that the state have not taken any initiative in the past."

After the brutal assassination of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, not only the rivers were occupied, there were also attempts to change the identity of Bangladesh, he added.

Bangladesh was handed over to the illegal occupiers. That time, the state did not play any role for the welfare of the people, he continued.

He vowed to bring back all the rivers including the Buriganga to their original shape in next ten years, Khalid Mahmud added.

About the constructing mosques and Madrasas by grabbing rivers, the minister said, "We have consulted with Islamic clerics. They have told us that mosques cannot be built on any illegal land." "That is why we are going to shift these mosques to another places that were constructed on illegal lands", the minister said.

Those who will come to occupy rivers, would not be spared. If anyone interferes in our initiatives to free rivers from grabbing, would face severe consequence, he vowed.

Local MP Advocate Md Qamrul Islam said, "Those who occupy rivers, have no political identities. They take shelters to the influential of the party in power. But we must not shelter any of the river occupiers, he said.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud and Shipping Secretary Md Abdus Samad, among others, were present in the programme.

announced so far would be reversible "within hours" if progress is made in providing Iran with relief from US sanctions.

The US was originally a party to the JCPOA but in May 2018 President Donald Trump dramatically withdrew from the accord.

Since then the US has re-imposed sanctions and has attempted to prevent Iran from exporting oil, a vital part of its economy.

Analysts say that the breaches announced by Iran so far mean very little in terms of any possible attempt by Tehran to develop a nuclear weapon, but are rather designed to pressure the remaining parties to the JCPOA.

Russia is also a party to the JCPOA and its ambassador to international organisations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, said in a tweet Friday that an IAEA board of governors' meeting was "not a proper place to consider" what he called "Iranian deviations from (the) JCPOA". "From the viewpoint of (the) IAEA mandate they don't constitute violation or concern," Ulyanov said.

Good yield of pineapple

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He went on saying "When we sell the fruit to the local wholesaler, we do not get adequate price. Sometimes, they sell pineapple to the exporters of Dhaka and get Tk 25-30, but the exporters buy only a small amount of pineapple.

Generally, a buyer has to purchase a 3.5 kg pineapple at Tk 60-70 from the city markets but the root level farmers are not getting the price.

Babylon designated UNESCO

FROM PAGE 16 COL 5

I love my children," he said. DECADES OF NEGLECT Excavations of what was once the largest city in the world, began in the early 19th century by European archaeologists, who removed many artefacts.

In the 1970s, under President Saddam Hussein's restoration project, the southern palace's walls and arches were shoddily rebuilt on top of the existing ruins, causing widespread damage.

This was exacerbated during the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, when U.S. and Polish troops stationed nearby built their military base on top of the Babylonian ruins.

Many inscriptions written by soldiers can still be seen on the ancient bricks.

The site is in dire need of conservation, Farhoud said. Unlike three other World Heritage sites in Iraq, UNESCO did not designate Babylon as one in "in danger" after objections from the Iraqi delegation.

Iraq is replete with thousands of archaeological sites, many of which were heavily damaged or pillaged by Islamic State during its barbaric three-year-rule which ended in 2017.

The other five World Heritage Sites are the southern marshlands, Hatra, Samarra, Ashur and the citadel in Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan Region.

Army Chief leaves

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ISPR release, reports BSS.

It is expected that the visit of the Army Chief to the USA would play an important role in increasing the number of Bangladeshi peacekeepers as well as Bangladesh representatives at the policy level in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

General Aziz Ahmed will return home on July 10.

Sustainable dev

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more holistic approach towards implementation of the SDGs by 2030", he added.

Scholars, corporate representatives, government agencies' representatives, Bankers, NGO representatives and other individuals and organizations from around the world are participating in this global conference.

The 3-day event will include both exciting panel discussions and networking activities for educators of all ages and from all over the world. Specialists and researchers from across the world will present their papers as speakers from more than 25 countries including Bangladesh, India, USA, Malaysia, Egypt, Morocco, Madagascar, Vietnam, Philippines, Japan, Czech Republic, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Qatar.

Lightning kills more

FROM PAGE 16 COL 2

Habiganj, 10 in Rajshahi, 9 in Chapainawabganj, 6 in Pabna, 7 in Dinajpur, 4 in Nilphamari, 4 in Jamalpur, 4 in Sherpur, 6 in Naogaon, 5 in Sirajganj, 5 in Narayanganj, 3 in Moulvibazar, 4 in Khulna, 11 in Satkhira, and 4 in Tangail.

Changed pattern of weather due to climate change, ecological imbalance caused by felling of huge number of trees, setting up of mobile phone towers indiscriminately, and after all incessant global warming are contributing to abnormal increase of lightning. The study further said the cases of lightning casualties will keep increasing with the growing level of temperature. It is feared that with each 1 percent increase of temperature the lightning will increase by more than 10 percent.

Data suggest that the thunderstorm killed 186 in 2015, 245 in 2016, 306 in 2017 and 297 in 2018. Recently the government has declared lightning as a natural disaster.

Department of Fire Service and Civil Defense has recently issued a total of 20 directives to save people from lightning. The directives include not to touch the metallic rallying, pipe or bell at home during the thunderstorm, not to stay all together in a single house and not to take shelter under any tree during the storm, disconnecting electric connection during storm, among others.

Modi launches BJP's

FROM PAGE 16 COL 6

of the party. Today, I got an opportunity to launch the BJP's membership campaign from Kashi," he said adding it will further strengthen the saffron party.

The launch of the membership drive coincided with the 118th birth anniversary of the party's founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Referring to the budget, Modi said a 'new India' was on the threshold of racing ahead.

He said, "It is important to know about the USD 5 trillion economy because some people were casting doubts over the competency of Indians." The Prime Minister termed critics as 'professional pessimists'.

"There are certain people who are saying why government has set such a target (5 trillion dollar economy), what is the need, why all of this is being done? These people can be called professional pessimists," said Modi.

"Professional pessimists are very different from common people. If you go to a common man with a problem, he will help you find a solution. But if you go to them for a solution, they will turn it into a threat," he added.

Modi said developed countries had also passed through their own struggles to reach where they are today but it is India's time now.

The PM said one of the methods of boosting the economy is to see farmers as wealth creators of the nation and not merely as food producers. "We are now looking at farmers as exporters. There is tremendous potential for our farmers to grow exponentially."

All senior BJP leaders, including party President Amit Shah, Working President J P Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, joined Modi in separate events for the party's membership drive.

Abe on track for election victory

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Thursday and Friday showed. They could win as many as 77 seats, it said.

Other surveys, including those taken by the Asahi and Sankei newspapers, also showed Abe's coalition parties with a good chance of winning a majority of the seats up for re-election.

However, many voters are still undecided and the outcome could change.

Upper house elections are held

every three years, with members' terms running for six years. The LDP won a landslide victory in 2013 but fared less well in 2016.

Reforms last year increased the number of seats in the upper house by three to 245.

Attention will also focus on whether the ruling bloc, along with the smaller Japan Innovation Party and independents, retain a two-thirds "super majority" needed to revise the post-war pacifist constitution, a long-

held goal for Abe.

Abe is highlighting his call to revise the post-war constitution to further legitimise Japan's Self-Defense Forces, as its military is known.

Media reports said pro-revision forces needed to win 85 of the seats being contested to have a two-thirds majority.

A constitutional revision requires approval by two thirds of both chambers of parliament and a majority in a public referendum.

Stocks return to losing streak

FROM PAGE 16 COL 2

as this will reduce their profits, they added.

The prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange went down by 49.26 points or 0.91 percent during the week to settle at 5,380.79 on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the blue chips index (DS30) slumped by 14.83 points during the week to close at 1,910.08 on Thursday and Shariah index (DSE5) dropped 12.43 points to finish at 1,233.39 in the span of one week.

The losers beat the gainers as out of 354 issues traded, 166 closed lower, 165 higher and 23 remained unchanged on the DSE floor.

The market capitalisation of the DSE has dropped by 0.72 percent to Tk 3,975.64 billion as against Tk 4,004.57 billion on the first working

day of the week.

Runner Automobiles dominated the DSE floor and topped the week's turnover chart.

Market data showed, 5,224,514 shares of the United Power were traded on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange during the week and its market value stood at almost Tk 548.52 million in the week.

It was followed by United Power with Tk 523.07 million, National Polymer Industries Tk 450.96 million, Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Tk 439.70 million and National Life Insurance Tk 427 million.

Prime Finance First Mutual Fund was the week's best performer, posting a gain of 42.62 percent while Peoples Leasing and Finance Services was the week's worst loser, slumping by 13.04 percent.

The daily average turnover stood at Tk 4.86 billion, which was 14.9 percent higher than the previous week's average of Tk 4.23 billion.

On the other hand, the port city bourse, the Chattogram Stock Exchange (CSE) also saw negative trend during the last week with its selective category index (CSCX) losing 1 percent to close at 9984.78 points. All-Share Price Index (CASPI) of the CSE was lower by almost 1.04 percent on Thursday to close at 16469.37 points.

At the CSE, a total of 302 issues were traded. Among them, 138 closed higher, 140 ended lower and 24 remained unchanged.

The number of shares transacted on the floor of the CSE was 64.32 million and the total turnover in value was Tk 2.43 billion during the last week.

Move on to free city

FROM PAGE 16 COL 5

A DNCC team led by its Executive Magistrate Sajid Anwar conducted the raid from 11.00 am to 2:30 pm, said DNCC Public Relations Officer (PRO) ASM Mamun.

During the drive, DNCC removed 40 makeshift shops from Mazar Road to Sony Cinema Hall in the city's Mirpur Section 1 area.

It also evicted a plastic market located in the south part and a vegetable market in the east part of Muktiyoddha market, DNCC official said.

DNCC freed about 40 thousand square feet areas from encroachers during the drive, he said, adding, they will continue eviction drive against the encroachers.

Earlier, DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon and DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam on Wednesday informed journalists that rickshaws will not be allowed on the three major roads in the city from Sunday.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon made the announcement after emerging from a meeting of a special committee formed in this regard at his office on Wednesday.

On June 19, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader announced forming the special

committee, led by Mayor Sayeed Khokon, at the 12th board meeting of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA).

He said, the meeting was the first one since a Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) committee had been formed recently to establish discipline in the capital's transport sector.

"We have decided to ban rickshaws, legunas, human haulers and other unauthorized vehicles [three-wheelers]," he said.

Asked about the apparent inconvenience to commuters without rickshaws, DSCC Mayor Khokon said transport owners and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) have expressed their determination to address the situation.

"A large number of public transports will be on the roads to address any crisis situation that may arise. Rest assured, that, there will be no room for a monopoly market which could take advantage of the situation as we [city authorities] will monitor the situation closely," he stressed.

He also said that steps are being taken to free Dhaka's footpaths from encroachers and remove unauthorized vehicles from the streets in a bid to improve the traffic situation in Dhaka.

He said illegal establishments on the walkways will be removed through mobile court by the two city corporations.

A recent study, unveiled by the Accident Research Institute (ARI) of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt) had said that Dhaka's urban transportation infrastructure needs an extensive overhaul by the government.

It noted that the everyday congestion is not terminal, but rather a nagging problem which could be just as easily solved with dedicated initiatives.

Around 58,000 licensed rickshaws are currently plying the streets under the DSCC. The Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) says licensed rickshaws and vans are estimated at 28,830 and 2,000 respectively when the Dhaka City Corporation was split into two in November, 2011.

However, the DNCC authorities do not have a revised figure on the number of rickshaws.

According to a 2018 World Bank report, traffic congestion in Dhaka wastes around 3.2 million man hours in a day. It was due to the low average driving speed of seven kilometers an hour, costing the economy billions of dollars.



Mashrafe unsure over future

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Mou gets busy in Bokulpur

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River grabbers must face action: Kamal

Special Correspondent

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on Saturday said all of those who have encroached any river bank anywhere in the country will have to face legal actions.

He went on saying that all the rivers of the country would be made encroachment-free to uphold the country's image as a riverine country.

The home minister said these while addressing a project inauguration programme organized by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) at Kholamora Ghat in the capital's Kamrangirchar area.



Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, and lawmakers Advocate Quamrul Islam and Hazi Selim attend a programme at Kamrangirchar on Saturday. Photo: BP

Good yield of pineapple in Tangail Farmers unhappy over low price

BP Desk

A good yield of pineapple brought smiles to the farmers of Jalchhatra area in Tangail's Madhupur upazila but low prices has cut short their happiness.

Local growers are compelled to sell the juicy fruit at painfully low prices as the supply is higher than the demand in the market.

Moksed Ali, a pineapple farmer, said he planted 1,000 saplings of pineapple this season and fruits came in 850 plants. "I sold each pineapple for Tk 19 while the production cost was Tk 17," he went on saying.

"We are not getting fair price though we experienced bumper production this year. The market price of pineapple is lower than that of the previous one," he added.



A farmer is seen carrying a basket full of ripe pineapples at a farmland. The photo was taken from Tagail's Madhupur upazila on Saturday. Photo: Subir Kumar

Stocks return to losing streak after budget Investor give mixed reactions

Ariful Islam

Stocks returned to a falling streak last week as investors remained cautious following the budget.

Market analysts said many of the investors willing to remain on the sidelines, awaited a bouncing market as tax review measures failed to boost investors' confidence.

The government took some measures for the fiscal 2019-20 budget with a number of supportive steps amid major revisions in some proposals, but it failed to make any positive impact on the market.

They said, the changes in the budget saw mixed reactions from investors, especially for imposing tax on stock dividend and retained earnings. They think that tax might force some companies to declare cash dividend, but that tax might be a burden for some sectors.

On the other hand, gas price hike has had a negative impact on the manufacturing companies' shares.

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Army Chief leaves for USA

Bangladesh Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed on Saturday left for the USA on a five-day official visit.



During the visit, the Army Chief is scheduled to meet Military Adviser of UN Peacekeeping Operations, well known as MILAD, Assistant Secretary General of Department of Operational Support (ASG-DOS) and Under Secretary General of Department of Peacekeeping Operations (USG-DPO), said an

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Move on to free city streets

Mahadi Hasan Badhon

Two city corporations in Dhaka will continue eviction drives against encroachers who have illegally built structures on streets and footpaths.

Besides, city corporations have finally decided to ban rickshaws from Sunday (July 7) on three major roads in a bid to reduce traffic congestion.

Of the three roads, one runs from Kuril to Sayedabad via Rampura and Khilgaon, well known as DIT Road, one from Gabtoli to Azimpur via Asad Gate, well known as Mirpur

Road, and the other from the Science Laboratory intersection to the Shahbagh intersection, well known as Elephant Road.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police together have started a weeklong drive to keep the roads free from rickshaws and other unauthorised vehicles and to evict the footpath grabbers.

As part of the drive, DNCC on Wednesday conducted a massive drive and evicted illegal structures from roadsides and footpaths.

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Modi launches BJP's membership drive

New Delhi Correspondent

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a country-wide drive to get new members for his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party saying it is aimed at further connecting people from all walks of life with the saffron outfit.

Launching the drive from his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, Modi, addressing a gathering on the occasion, also talked about the budget 2019-20 presented yesterday and his thoughts on India's economic growth in the coming years. "From the soil of Kashi, I greet each dedicated worker

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Lightning kills more than 4500 in 10yrs

Staff Correspondent

More than 4500 people were killed by lightning in the last 10 years and 126 people were killed in last two months, May and June.

Among the 126 lightning fatalities in last two months, 21 are female, 7 children and 98 male. Besides, some 53 people were also injured.

A study by Save the Society and Thunderstorm Awareness Forum revealed these on Saturday. Thunderbolt took lives of 60 people in May and 66 in June, added the study.

Most cases of casualties took place in Kishoreganj district where

at least 16 people died in the last two months. Other thunderbolt-prone areas of the country are Satkhira, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Sunamganj, Narayanganj, Gazipur, and Tangail where incidences of lightning takes place frequently.

The study report mentioned that cases of lightning took place most during the harvesting season and then during the rainy season. On an average 40 lightning cases take place in every square kilometer of area in the country.

According to the study, in May and June last lightning strike killed 16 people in Kishoreganj, 3 in

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Abe on track for election victory

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's coalition is on track to win a solid majority in a July 21 upper house election, and his dream of revising the pacifist constitution could still be alive if enough allies also win, a survey showed on Saturday, report agencies.



Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its coalition partner Komeito are expected to win more than 63 seats, a majority of the 124 seats contested, the poll taken by the Kyodo news agency on

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Babylon designated UNESCO World Heritage Site

The ancient city of Babylon, first referenced in a clay tablet from the 23rd century BC, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Friday, after a vote that followed decades of lobbying by Iraq.



The vote, at a UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, made the ancient Mesopotamian city on the Euphrates River the sixth world heritage site within the borders of a country known as a cradle of civilisation, report agencies.

Iraqi President Barham Salih said the city, now an archaeological ruin, was returned to its

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IAEA to hold special meeting on Iran Jul 10

The UN's nuclear watchdog said on Friday that it would hold a special meeting on Iran's nuclear programme next week, days after Tehran breached one of the limits set in a 2015 deal with world powers.

The meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s board of governors would be held "on 10 July at 14:30," an IAEA spokesman said, reports AFP.

Earlier, the US mission in Vienna said in a statement that the American Ambassador to International Organizations Jackie Wolcott had requested the special meeting to discuss the IAEA's latest

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Sustainable dev confce begins in Thailand today

Staff Correspondent

The 7th International Sustainable Development Conference-2019 begins today in Thailand.

The three-day conference being held in Bangkok will focus mainly on the issues like green technology, renewable energy and environmental protection towards achieving the agendas of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Tomorrow People Organization, an internationally recognized non-profit organization based in Serbia, has organised the conference, attempting to address the queries to meet the most diverse interests and to attract different groups of people in the related fields.

Md Touhidul Alam Khan, deputy managing director and chief business officer of Prime Bank, has been selected as a Scientific Committee member for this conference. A total of six members out of which three from the Philippines, one from India, one from Malaysia and one from Bangladesh have been selected as global experts for the committee at the event.

Touhidul Alam Khan will present a paper 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Implementation Status in Bangladesh' on special invitation of the organizer.

Touhidul Alam Khan said in his paper he will present the Bangladesh's initiatives for implementing SDGs based on progress report on the country's SDGs implementation status published by Bangladesh Planning Commission.

"The SDGs progress report-2018 is a guiding document that sheds light on the progress as well as on the challenges behind achieving the 17 global goals and the 169 targets for Bangladesh. The report is a new impetus for reinforcing revision of existing policies for taking

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Advertisement for World Trade Center Chittagong featuring a grid of member portraits and text in Bengali.