

# New holey material

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NOTT-202 is a "metal-organic framework" that works like a sponge, absorbing a number of gases at high pressures.  
But as the pressure is reduced, CO2 is retained as other gases are released.  
The development, reported in Nature Materials, holds promise for carbon capture and storage, or even for removing CO2 from the exhaust gases of power plants and factories.  
Metal-organic frameworks have been considered promising structures to trap gases for a number of years. They are so named because they comprise

atoms of a metallic element at their core, surrounded by scaffolds of longer, carbon-containing chains.  
These complex molecules can be made to join together in frameworks that leave gaps suitable for capturing gases.  
However, until now, such frameworks have been good primarily at gathering any gas passing through them; those that were selective for CO2 have proven to have a low capacity for storing the gas.  
"Increasing the selectivity for CO2 in the presence of gaseous mixtures represents a major challenge if these systems are to find practical applications under dynamic

conditions," the authors wrote.  
The research started at the universities of Nottingham and Newcastle, where scientists discovered a chemical system that seemed to solve this problem of selectively storing a significant amount of CO2.  
But to be sure of just what they had, they collaborated with a team at the Diamond Light Source in Oxfordshire and the Science and Technology Facilities Council's Daresbury Laboratory to get a microscopic look at what they had created.  
Using X-ray diffraction and detailed computer models, the researchers found that NOTT-202 is made up of two different frameworks that slot together incompletely, leaving "nanopore" gaps particularly suited to gathering up CO2.  
This two-part structure, the researchers claim, is an entirely new class of porous material.

# AL loses

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held under a neutral administration.  
The ruling party's confidence level has already gone down. They now believe that they can win only 170 seats out of 230 they got in the last polls, he said while speaking at a human-chain programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club.  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting on Monday said she had conducted a survey in all the parliamentary constituencies of her party's MPs engaging the party sources and government agencies.  
The survey revealed that performance of 25-30 lawmakers is very poor and they risk winning the polls if held now, while another 25-30 MPs have fifty-fifty chances, she said.  
"Only three and a half years have passed. The number of seats will come down further in the next election," Anwar said adding, "You [govt] have gone against the people and so you should be prepared to

face its consequence."  
Meanwhile, Tariqul Islam, another member of the standing committee, yesterday said the agitation programme announced by the party chairperson might become harsher if torture and repression on opposition activists continued.  
He also denied the allegation, raised by the premier, of black money whitening against the party chairperson.  
Tariqul was addressing a press briefing at the party's central office in Nayapaltan.  
"Undisclosed and black money are not the same. Khaleda Zia never whitened black money," he said, adding that they will revise their agitation programme if the government does not stop torture on opposition men.  
On Monday, Khaleda Zia threatened to announce tougher agitation programmes like hartal, blockade and mass sit-in

# Witness Sirajul's testimony

**FROM PAGE 20**  
defence Ahsanul Haq Hena during the cross-examination at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.  
"You [Sirajul] have given false statement in the false case against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury after being motivated by his [Salauddin] political opponent," added Ahsanul Haq.  
Sirajul Islam alias Shiru Bangalee, the third prosecution witness of the case, rejected the defence claims by just saying, "It is not true."  
The three-member Tribunal-1 led by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq finished recording the cross-examination of Sirajul Islam yesterday and adjourned the case proceedings until June 18.  
The 64-year-old witness faced cross-examination of defence counsels after

giving his testimony on May 24 and 27 in the case against Salauddin, who is facing 23 counts of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.  
In his testimony, Sirajul Islam had told the tribunal that he had heard from a freedom fighter that Salauddin and his men killed 15-16 Hindus at Unosatturpara of Chittagong during the Liberation War.  
Sirajul Islam said one Captain Karim, who was trying to recruit Sirajul as a freedom fighter, on May 21, 1971, told him how the murders were committed. He claimed that the captain was hiding in a bush near a marsh along the road to Kaptai when he witnessed the murders.  
During the 90-minute cross-examination yesterday, Ahsanul Haq asked the witness, "Do you [Sirajul]

and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury believe in two different ideologies?"  
"It is true," replied Sirajul Islam, adding, "I believe in Bangalee nationalism and he [Salauddin] believed in Pakistani nationalism [during Liberation War]."  
Ahsanul Haq then said, "Political opponents of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury used you [Sirajul] to serve their desire of keeping him out of parliament."  
"It is not true," replied Sirajul Islam.  
Earlier on the day, Helal Uddin, the last and 28th prosecution witness against Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, faced cross-examination of Sayedee's counsels. The tribunal will resume the cross-examination today.  
Sayedee and Salauddin were produced before the

# 3 more officials

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Shafiqul Rahman, and Junior Welfare Officer (East Zone) M Abdullah.  
"We will now serve show-cause notices to the seven officers to explain their position regarding their involvement in the recruitment process," said a senior railway officer, adding, the railway ministry will take action upon getting their replies.  
In case of handing down highest punishment on any of the accused, the official said fresh investigation would be carried out against them to create ground for punishment.  
The move was taken upon recommendations from two probe bodies formed to investigate irregularities in recruitment in the railway.  
Director General of Bangladesh Railway Md Abu Taher has confirmed the moves but declined to elaborate.  
The moves came three days after a three-member probe body headed by Additional Director General (operations) Mohammad Shahjahan submitted its report to Railway Secretary Falze Kabir.

In the report, the probe body found the officials responsible for manipulating recruitment process and recommended for taking actions against them.  
Another probe body headed by Joint Director General (JDG) Md Shamsuzzaman also found them responsible for manipulating the recruitment process.  
The cash haul incident drew huge flak in the country that led to resignation of Suranjit Sengupta as the railway minister.  
The incident came to light when APS Faruk's driver Ali Azam Khan drove his microbus into the Pilkhana on April 9 night on their way to Suranjit's Jigatala residence, blowing whistle that illegal money was stashed inside the vehicle. Mridha, Enamul and Faruk were inside the microbus.  
Bangladesh Border Guard personnel detained them but released all, including the driver, the following morning. However, the driver's whereabouts are yet to be traced.  
The Tk 70 lakh is believed to be realised from

# Penalising

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and even within the capital, it went to every length to ensure that no buses, minibuses, scooters and other modes of transport were on the roads.  
The reason was clear: the fear worked in them that every commuter, inside the capital or trying to come into it from outside, was on his or her way to the rally called by the opposition BNP. That same fear took hold of the young activists of the AL, who probably thought that anyone who wished to be in Dhaka on the day or move around in the city was a potential threat to the ruling party.  
In all this exercise of misplaced authority, no one cared about the people. For

miles together, the simple, common, humble citizens of this land walked to wherever they needed to go -- their workplaces, their homes, hospitals to be beside an ailing family member, schools, colleges and universities.  
Where the moral imperative for the police, in any civilised country, is to assist citizens out of their misery, on Monday the police in Dhaka and on its outskirts made sure that citizens were harassed, reprimanded and then intimidated into silence. In any truly democratic society, one in which the administration upholds the law and not the partisan priorities of the ruling party, it is the job of the police to make sure that anyone who steps on the right of a citizen to freedom of movement is swiftly apprehended and turned over to the law.  
On Monday, the right of free movement of our citizens was once again trifled with. And no one lifted a finger to protest such humiliation.  
Here comes a question: What kind of fear is that which compels a government into telling its own people that they cannot have public transport to commute to and from work merely because the opposition has planned a rally of its own? And here is another: How is it that on days of hartals called by the opposition, the authorities are in overdrive to ensure that normal traffic movement is not hampered but on days of an opposition rally, the same authorities do all they can to make sure that all traffic movement comes to a screeching halt?  
The government is riled by the "negative" attitude of the media towards its achievements. That is a poor reading of the ground realities. That food production has been good under this government is acknowledged by the media; that it has undertaken the brave task of bringing the 1971 war criminals to trial is truly appreciated; that it means to take the country back to its old, secular democratic principles is a thought the media and with them the nation at large celebrate.  
But even as citizens applaud these realities, they remain under excruciating pressure -- from severe power outages, from near non-existent water supply, from the predatory instincts of traders, from corruption eating away at almost every layer of social life.  
The basics matter. On Election Day, the people will vote for a party which promises, and has the means, to handle these basics.  
To simple men and women, the larger issues will remain peripheral, as long as their immediate needs remain unfulfilled.

# BSF at it, again

**FROM PAGE 1**  
from Delhi issued last year to exercise restraint and protect the right to life," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch (HRW).  
"But the central government is also responsible, since it has failed to hold the perpetrators accountable. Justice is the best deterrent against further violations," she observed.  
In December 2010, the HRW released "Trigger Happy: Excessive Use of Force by Indian Troops at the Bangladesh Border," which documented nearly 1,000 killings by the BSF over the last decade.  
The following month, the Indian government had assured Bangladeshi officials that it would order the BSF to exercise restraint and encourage the use of rubber bullets instead of lethal

ammunition.  
Although BSF attacks decreased significantly over the next year, the new evidence shows that Indian border troops continue to frequently abuse both Bangladeshi and Indian nationals.  
The recent allegations claim that to get around the restrictions on shooting at sight, BSF soldiers have been subjecting suspects to severe beatings and torture, resulting in deaths.  
Efforts by local residents and activists to file complaints and secure justice have resulted in threats and intimidation.  
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India has sought responses when allegations are filed, but without adequate witness protection, complainants end up risking further abuse.

Odhikar, a Dhaka-based NGO, has documented 13 killings by BSF since January, while Kolkata-based NGO Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (Masum) has recorded five other killings during the same period.  
In one recent example, Masum reported to the NHRC that on April 22, soldiers from the BSF's 91st battalion chased and shot 21-year-old Babu Seikh in Murshidabad district of West Bengal.  
In another case, the NGO stated that on January 1, four Indian teenagers, accosted while smuggling cattle, jumped into a rivulet to avoid punishment. The BSF soldiers allegedly beat them up when they tried to get out of the water. All four boys, severely injured by the beatings, eventually drowned.

Last year, Masum released a video showing BSF soldiers beating up a Bangladeshi national brutally. Eight soldiers were suspended but no further information is available regarding their prosecution or punishment.  
The HRW knows of no cases in which BSF soldiers have been prosecuted for violations along the India-Bangladesh border. This includes a highly publicised case in which a 15-year-old Bangladeshi girl trapped in the barbed wire fencing at the border was shot by BSF in January last year.  
"While the Indian government claims that it holds its forces accountable, it produces no information to show that this is actually happening," said Meenakshi. "There appears to be complete impunity for the BSF soldiers -- even in

# Two wow-men toast

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conquer Everest, only a week after Nishat, marking a remarkable feat of human achievement by two Bangladeshi women in the short span of seven days in May.  
In contrast to Nishat's timid demeanour, the slightly younger Wasfia is much bubblier and very willing to share her experiences on Mount Everest, illustrating them with video gaming metaphors and sweeping hand gestures.  
The stories of both these women are intriguing.  
On face value, Nishat's profile looks decidedly normal. With a Masters degree in Accounting from City College and a job at Dhaka WASA, she fits the mould of the modern yet progressive Bangladeshi female.  
Even as a child growing up in Dhaka, she was never rebellious or even particularly adventurous. "I was always quiet and focused on my studies," says the softly-spoken Nishat. "I used to read stories of amazing achievements and event though I always dreamt about emulating these great people, I never thought that I would become one of those adventuresses that I read about," she continues smiling.  
Mountain climbing was a total non-issue, until 2003 when a chance expedition to Keokradong in Bandarban opened her eyes to the possibility of mountain climbing.  
"The feeling was enthralling," recalls Nishat. "The feeling that I could conquer a mountain made me feel empowered and powerful. I wanted to keep on doing it."  
And so she did.  
Less than ten years to the day of her first ascent, Nishat had reached the top of the world. "It's a wonderful feeling," says Nishat, but you can tell that the depth of her achievement has not sunk in yet.  
The typical question to ask Nishat would be whether she was scared at any point in her long expedition. "Oh yes," she says. "It was a

struggle." There was the point when she had been stuck by an avalanche and I had become so sick that I had to come down to Base Camp to see a doctor. I was scared then," says Nishat. But interestingly, she was not scared for her life. "I was more worried that I would not be able to complete the summit, something I had been dreaming of for so long."  
Then there was the point at the infamous Hillary Step where Nishat found herself questioning whether the whole thing had been worth it. "I wasn't scared, I wasn't angry, the feeling is hard to describe," says Nishat. "I was just worried whether I had made the right decision to come into something so dangerous. I was wondering whether I was right in trusting myself physically and mentally."  
Wasfia too found the Hillary Step difficult to negotiate. But for her, the biggest challenge was the Khumbu Icefall, a particularly dangerous glacier segment that moves at such speed that large crevasses open with little warning.  
"It was like the video game Mario," she recalls. "There were crevasses that opened up to deathly falls and from up top, seracs could fall down on any moment."  
But particularly shocking for Wasfia was near the end of her climb when she suddenly came across the body of Scott Fisher, a mountaineer who had famously died on Everest in 1996 but whose body still remains to this day, preserved by the bitter cold.  
"I was completely traumatized and taken aback at seeing the remains of Fisher," says Wasfia. "I had read about Fisher's demise in a book [Into thin Air] but in the determination of my ascent, had completely forgotten about it."  
Fisher's body and the news of a number of deaths in the same week served a brutal reminder to the clear and present dangers to

climbing a mountain of the magnitude of Mount Everest.  
But the behemoth of a mountain was not the only challenge facing both these mavericks. Hailing from Feni, Wasfia was fiercely independent in nature and grew up in Chittagong before moving to Dhaka when she was a student of class six. Unlike Nishat though, Everest, for her, is the means to an end and plans are already underway to set sail for her next adventures on her amazing seven summit campaign. The far flung destinations of Oceania and Antarctica beckon invitingly.  
"For me, I just want to rest for a while now and then it's back to planning the next summit," she says.  
That in itself presents another sterling challenge, comparable in scale to the physical strain of Everest.  
Sponsors are extremely hard to come by, they both say. Nishat's campaign was sponsored mainly by Plan Bangladesh through their "Because I am a Girl" campaign, but to foot the bill for the other member of her expedition, they required another 11 sponsors.  
Wasfia too smiles ruefully at the struggle they face to raise funds. For her City Bank and Renata have been steadfast supporters, but there is no assurance yet of how she will sponsor the rest of her summits. But showing some of the steely determination that perhaps pushed her to the summit, she remains optimistic.  
So what was it like for two Bangladeshi girls to stand, quite literally, on top of the world? A smile breaks out on both the women's sun-burnt faces at that staple question. There is a familiar glint in both their eyes.  
"Amazing," says Nishat, "Spectacular," concurs Wasfia.  
But immediately you get the feeling that these are just words, hastily put together to provide some semblance of a coherent reply. The truth, as the saying goes, is

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## ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

### DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.

(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Date: 04/06/2012

**INVITATION FOR LOCAL TENDER**

1.	Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd. (DPDC)		
2.	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Project-2, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000. Phone: +88029513820, Fax: +88029513821, Email: dgmp2@dpdc.org		
3.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.		
4.	Invitation for	Group : A) Installation Double circuit 33KV U/G cable line from Maniknagar Grid S/S to Motijheel 33/11 KV S/S. B) Power Evacuation of Proposed Azimpur 33/11 KV Sub-station under NOCS Azimpur C) Shifting of 11/0.4 KV O/H line into road side at Road-01, Dhanmondi R/A under NOCS Dhanmondi.		
5.	Invitation Ref. no.	PD/Project-2/M-1/DPDC/2012/1392		
6.	Date	04/06/2012		
<b>Key Information :</b>				
7.	Procuring Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
<b>Funding Information</b>				
8.	Source of Funds	Revenue (DPDC)		
<b>Particular Information</b>				
9.	Last Selling Date of Tender, with Bid submission and Bid Opening Date & Time	Last Selling Date	Bid submission Deadline & Date	Bid Opening Date & Time
		01/07/2012 5:00 P.M	Up to 02/07/2012 12:00 Noon	02/07/2012 2:30 P.M.
10.	Name & Address of the Office for selling, receiving and Opening of Tender Document	Selling	Receiving	Opening
		(i) Company Secretary, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), 1 No Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka 1000. (ii) Project Director, Project-2, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor) 1 No Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka 1000. (iii) Project Director-1, DPDC, House# 47 Rd# 135, Gulshan, Dhaka.	(i) Company Secretary, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), 1 No Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka 1000. (ii) Project Director, Project-2, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor) 1 No Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka 1000. (iii) Project Director-1, DPDC, House# 47 Rd# 135, Gulshan, Dhaka.	Project Director, Project-2, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.
<b>Information for Tenderer :</b>				
11.	Eligibility of Tenderer	a. Before purchasing the Tender documents/schedule prior permission Shall have to be taken from the concern Head of the office. b. No Tender Schedule will be sold on the day of Opening of the Tender. c. No Tender Schedule will be sold or received by Courier or by Mail service. d. The Tenderer shall have to apply to the concern Head of the office mentioning the name of work in original letter Head pad (photocopy not allowed) of the tenderer for purchasing the tender document. e. The Contractor Shall have to submit the experience certificate who have completed the same nature of work in a single work-order amounting not less than Group A, Tk. 27.00 (Twenty seven) Lacs Group B, Tk. 13.00 (Thirteen) lac, Group C, Tk. 2.00 (Two) lac only within last three years. f. Item wise rate and total amount must be quoted by the bidder in figure & words in the Tender Schedule. g. Before issuing work-order the Responsive lowest tenderer must submit 10% (Ten percent) Performance Guarantee on quoted amount in favour of the Project Director, Project-2, DPDC, Dhaka. h. Tender document shall have to be submitted along with necessary Tender Security & attached copies of all other necessary documents in a sealed Envelope (One Original & One Photocopy set) . i. All other Terms & Condition will be available in the Tender schedule. j. The Tenderer shall have to submit along with the tender document attested photocopies of up to date renewal ABC supervisory License, Trade License, Income Tax & VAT Registration Certificate etc. Managerial efficiency, Experience in related work, Goodwill certificate, and manpower availability, professional and Technical qualification for completing the contractual agreement, financial support, Otherwise the tender will be considered as rejected. k. All activities will be followed according to DPDC Financial Rule.		
12.	Price of Tender Document for Each Group (Taka)	Tender document will be obtained on payment (Non-refundable) for Group A, Tk. 2000.00 (Two thousand), Group B, Tk. 700.00 (Seven Hundred), Group C, Tk. 500.00 (Five Hundred) each only only per set in the form of Bank-draft/Pay-order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Project Director, Project -2, DPDC, Dhaka.		
13.	Tender Security Amount (Taka)	Group A, Tk. 1,60,000.00, Group B, Tk. 68,000.00 Group C, Tk. 11,000.00 Only.		
<b>Procuring Entry Details</b>				
14.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shafiqul Islam Khan		
15.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director, Project -2, DPDC		
16.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.		
17.	Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone : +88029513820	Fax : +88029513821	E-mail : dgmp2@dpdc.org
18.	<b>The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.</b>			

(Md. Shafiqul Islam Khan)  
Project Director  
Project-2, DPDC.