

Number of blood donors

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DONORS are just like the blessings of the Almighty."
"Like Farhana, now 17, around one lakh thalassaemia patients in the country need blood regularly, according to Bangladesh Thalassaemia Society.
Sheikh Daud Adnan, deputy programme manager of Safe Blood Transfusion Programme (SBTP), said: "Private citizens who donate blood in the capital might be involved in collecting blood from professional donors in exchange for money. People from rural areas and emergency patients often become their victims."

YEAR	Number of blood units collected
2016	716,326
2015	679,681
2014	663,918
2013	593,774
2012	541,682
2011	415,372
2010	384,447
2009	358,667
2008	309,276
2007	234,065
2006	228,127
2005	203,575
2004	121,993
2003	180,015
2002	170,948
2001	165,653

SOURCE: SAFE BLOOD TRANSFUSION PROGRAMME

There is very little awareness among people about voluntary blood donation, he said.
"The government has launched an awareness programme and the situation will improve... Around 30 percent blood now comes from voluntary donation and the rest from direct donation."
The SBTP official said blood is required mostly for accident victims.

"There is a shortage of blood supply. Some deaths were reported due to lack of supply."
According to World Health Organization, one unit of blood is collected globally each year. About half of them are collected in high-income countries.
Some 74 countries collect over 90

percent blood from "voluntary unpaid blood donors". However, 71 countries collect more than half of their blood from family/relative or paid donors, said WHO.
Radib Al Amin, a student of Jahangirnagar University, went to a city hospital on Monday to donate a bag of blood on his birthday.
"I've so far donated blood seven times. I went to the hospital to donate blood after fasting. It was a birthday gift from me to the distressed people," he told The Daily Star.

Dr Tarique Mehedi, acting director of the blood programme of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS), said the demand-supply gap seemed to have reduced sharply over the years and the collection of blood was increasing day by day. However, the problem is that many patients don't get blood in time.

The BRCS collects blood at eight centres across the country. It collected some 62,000 units last year, 61,000 in 2015 and 55,000 in 2014.

Bangladeshi diplomat in US indicted

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LIMITED diplomatic immunity and was ordered to surrender his passport when he appeared before Queens Supreme Court Justice Queens Lewis, said Queens District Attorney Richard Brown in a statement.

the arrest is a clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963. We have lodged a strong protest with the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Dhaka," said the statement.

Bangladeshi consul general in New York and his wife to be in default for ignoring a lawsuit by a former domestic worker who claimed they forced him to work without pay in slavery-like conditions.

The bail was set at \$50,000 bond or \$25,000 cash. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted, reports Reuters.
Meanwhile, Dhaka yesterday expressed serious dissatisfaction over the detention of Shahedul. The foreign ministry summoned the acting US envoy and sought an explanation.
"We called US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joel R Reiffman and wanted to know the reason for the arrest of the Bangladeshi diplomat on the basis of an allegation raised by a person who has long been accused of absconding," a senior foreign ministry official told The Daily Star.

The ministry hoped its concerns would be fully addressed.
Talking to The Daily Star, Shameem Ahsan, consul general of the Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York, said: "I myself was present in the court with my colleagues for hours yesterday [Monday]. The judge left the court shortly after passing the order... The Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC, the consulate general and officials concerned made sincere efforts to secure bail for the diplomat, but finding two solvent guarantors [with salary statements showing legal income], collecting required cash and processing [bond] papers needed some time. The bond paper is expected to be submitted to the court today [Tuesday]."

REUTERS, Tokyo
Bangladesh Crown Prince Naruhiko said yesterday he will devote himself "body and soul" to his job as emperor, just days after a law was enacted allowing his father to abdicate, which would be the first abdication by a Japanese emperor in two centuries.

According to the indictment, Shahedul brought another \$100,000 in 12.5 million units of New York between 2012 and 2013 to work as a household help for Islam and his family.
"Soon after Mr Amin's arrival, the defendant allegedly took his passport and forced the man to work 18 hours a day... Even though Amin had a contract which outlines his compensation, it is alleged he was never paid for his work," the statement said.
The victim disobeyed the defendant's orders, Amin was allegedly physically assaulted by the defendant, who either struck him with his hand or sometimes with a wooden shoe," it added.

On several occasions when Amin was invited to sit at the table with guests at parties and a "minuscule" amount of money was handed to him for his services, the bond paper is expected to be submitted to the court today [Tuesday].
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The emperor's father, Emperor Akihito, 83, who has had heart surgery and treatment for prostate cancer, said in rare public remarks last year he feared such a might be hard for him to continue to fulfill his duties.
Japan's parliament on Friday enacted a law that will allow Akihito to step down and be succeeded by Naruhito, 37, who will take the throne in 2019 or early in 2019.

Foreign Ministry Release
The Bangladesh foreign ministry in a press release yesterday said, "The domestic aide went missing about 13 months earlier (on 17 May 2016) from Mr Islam's residence. The incident was immediately reported to the Department of State by the Bangladesh consulate general in New York and the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on 18 and 19 May 2016 respectively. However, no update had been received on this matter from the Department of State before the arrest of Mr Islam."

He said that in 2014, shortly after an Indian diplomat in New York was charged with labour trafficking, Shahedul was checked for Amin's cash-tip earnings that the latter then had to deposit in a bank account to create the appearance of apaycheck.
In late 2013, Devyani Khobragade, who was India's deputy consul general in New York, was subsequently accused of visa fraud and forcing her housekeeper and nanny to work 100-hour weeks for just over \$1 an hour.
Khobragade's arrest and strip search provoked outrage in India and led to the resignation of the diplomat from the USA and India. The charges against her were dismissed because she had diplomatic immunity. After she left the USA, a New York grand jury later issued a new indictment against her for the same. Last year, a Manhattan federal judge declared the former

Chakraborty said. The number of tickets was 22,122 on Monday. While visiting the station yesterday, Railways Minister Mazbul Hoque said two pairs of special trains -- Rajshahi Special and Parbatipur Special -- were added to the train service yesterday for passengers.
Besides the advance tickets, 25,000 tickets of mail, express and local trains are being sold everyday, Sitangshu said.
Meanwhile, several passengers alleged that they did not get AC and normal cabin tickets, although they were towards the front of queues.
Aminul Islam Swapn, of Wari, said he reached the station on Monday evening, and his position was fourth in his queue, but failed to get a ticket for an AC cabin. Later, he bought tickets for normal seats.
"Where have the tickets of AC cabin gone?" he asked.
Despite the allegations, Sitangshu said the number of cabin was limited. Apart from that, there were some not-gets for the VIPs; so some might not get tickets for cabins.
Advance train tickets for June 23, 24 and 25 will be available from today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow respectively.

Sleepless night for train ticket

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"I have to get it [ticket], I had to do the same last year. It's painful but what can I do?" Bilkis told this newspaper.

railway station around 4:30pm on Monday directly from work. He spent two hours in a long queue at ticket counter chatting with other ticket seekers.
"Every year, we have to buy tickets this way. This year, I came here much earlier and I am the second person in line," he told this correspondent around 5:30am.

While this correspondent was talking to Bilkis around 5:00pm, some 200 women stood in two lines for tickets, while several hundred men were sitting on the ground. Most of them flashed a smile when they got tickets for their village homes to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. Some of them alleged that they did not get the tickets of their desired class.
Chittagang Railway yesterday sold advance tickets for June 22 as it started selling advance tickets for holidaymakers from Monday.
Thousands of people thronged Kamalapur Railway Station, many of whom are being urged to buy tickets for June 22, when holidaymakers' mad dash to home is expected to begin. This year, Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on June 26 or 27.
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Hungary hands over a fugitive neo-Nazi to Germany

AFP, Budapest
A notorious German neo-Nazi and Holocaust denier arrested last month in Hungary after skipping his jail sentence was handed over to German authorities yesterday, Hungarian police said.

German authorities detained Horst Mahler, 81, on May 15 in the city of Sopron near the Austrian border on the basis of a European arrest warrant issued in 2009.
Hungarian police handed over (Mahler) to the German authorities on Tuesday at Budapest's main airport, a police statement published by the MTR news agency said.

Mahler was a co-founder of the 1970s far-left Red Army faction group who later swung violently far-right. He served a 15-month prison term of five and six years in 2009 for disrupting the Holocaust.
Denying the Holocaust is a crime in Germany.
Mahler was temporarily released in 2015 because of ill health and was due to continue serving his prison sentence on April 19 but failed to show up, according to German newspaper AZC.

The former left-wing fanatic has called the Holocaust "the biggest lie in the world" and said he was in 2001 attacks targeted to the Jewish people and gave a Hitler salute to a United States national in an interview.
Mahler was a member of far-right National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) between 2000 and 2003 before quitting because he found it racist.

Past convictions also include crimes dating back to his time with the Red Army faction, which carried out a bloody campaign against the West German government.
MTR said Mahler was due to be flown back to Germany last yesterday.

Gulf air embargo only applies to Qatari cos: UAE

AFP, Abu Dhabi
The air embargo imposed on Qatar only applies to airlines from Qatar or registered there, the United Arab Emirates Civil Aviation Authority said.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain issued identical statements on the air embargo, which came into effect when Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Doha broke off relations with Qatar on June 5, accusing it of supporting "terrorism".
The embargo bans all Qatari aviation companies and aircraft registered abroad to stop the world of being or transiting through the airspace of the Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, according to the statements published by the national agencies of the three countries.

The ban does not apply to aviation companies and aircraft not registered in Qatar and the three neighbouring countries, and which wish to cross their airspace and to fly to other countries.
An exception is made for private planes and charter flights to or from Qatar, which require permission to transit through the airspace of the three countries.
A permission request must be submitted 24 hours in advance and include a list of the names and nationalities of both crew and passengers, as well as the nature of cargo aboard.

Qatar Airways Monday called on the UN's aviation body, the International Civil Aviation Organization, to declare the Gulf embargo illegal and a violation of a 1944 convention on international air transport.
Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker said the move by Saudi Arabia and its allies was an "illegal blockade".

Thai junta vows to force through China railway

AFP, Bangkok
Thailand's junta chief yesterday said he would invoke his 'absolute powers' to clear hurdles holding up a multi-billion-dollar deal with China to build a high-speed railway.

The two countries, who are increasingly close friends, have agreed to lay the track that will ultimately cut through the Laos' border to Thailand's south, the Beijing-led Jinghai project is to link the southern Chinese city of Kunming by rail with Singapore and Kuala Lumpur has already begun on the line in Laos.
But the deal with Thailand has been beset by delays, including a lawsuit by initial loan terms from Beijing.

More recently construction has been set back by a Thai law limiting the number of foreign nationals who can work as engineers and architects on mega-projects in the kingdom.

Thousands at risk

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(authorities concerned) give a permanent place we'll go there," he said.

Prof Jahangir Alam, former vice-chancellor of Chittagang University of Engineering and Technology, said when tree and hill cutting continued unabated, the consequence is landslides in the rainy season because most of the hills in Chittagang and hill tracts areas have soft soil.

Jahangir said many influential and politically-blessed people were behind hill cutting, building houses on hills and renting those out to the poor. There were at least 15 hills in and around Chittagang city where illegal hill cutting was going on, he added.

According to an official of the district administration, around 60,000 people in Bandarban live on the foot and slopes of hills.

Muliam Amlai, president of Chittagang Hill Tracts Forest and Land Rights Rights Protection Movement Bandarban Chapter, said cutting hills and building homes there was causing hill disasters.
He said the hill people do not cut hills to build houses. If someone really needs to build a home on a hill slope, they build traditional "Machang" type homes using pillars, not by cutting hills.

They usually cut hills to build homes. In recent times, some Rohingyas too have been cutting hills.
Julmian said people mostly in Lama, Naikkhanchhari, Ali Kadam and Bandarban had houses on hill slopes.

Shahidul Haque, who rents a house on a hill slope in Kashemara of Bandarban, said, "I know it is risky in the rainy season but what can I do? I am a poor richkash pauper."
He said he moved to Bandarban from Bangladesh in 2008 and after two years, his wife and children joined him there. Since then, he had been living there.

Akbar Hossain Chowdhury, mayor of Rangamati municipality, said around 6,000 people live on slopes of hills vulnerable to landslides.
The district had the highest number of deaths in landslides yesterday.
COX'S BAZAR

An estimated one lakh people live on houses on hill tops and slopes in Cox's Bazar town, according to district administration officials.
People cut hills and trees and build houses on khas land and forests, said Md Ali Kabir, district forest officer in Cox's Bazar (South).
Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Ali Hossain said the government has taken up a project to rehabilitate the poor people illegally living on the hills.

Our correspondents from Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, and Bandarban contributed to this report.

No longer

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nobody would have bet on that. That shows that whoever plays well on the day can do some damage -- that is why it's called an exciting Champions Trophy," Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathuringsinha quipped yesterday.

Pakistan has been going through a transitional phase, while India are the defending champions. But even if Bangladesh are the surprise package in the tournament, which they are, they have proven that they are no pushovers no longer. They made it into the tournament proper merit and made it to the semifinals by no accident. They deserved it.
India are certainly a notch above in terms of experience. But Bangladesh have got an experienced unit alongside an exciting young brigade who hold no fear. During Bangladesh's training session at Edgbaston yesterday, there were a lot of Indian journalists in attendance alongside the strong contingent of Bangladesh reporters.

This has never been the case before. They were even interested in having access to Bangladesh cricketers in order to get a few odds. They are also not handing out proxy advice to the effect of 'win or lose, go there and fight to win some pride'. They are showing great during an up and coming team. The figures can only raise that profile if they can match their big neighbours on a level playing field on Thursday.

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
ISO 9001:2015 Certified
Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) (Shaban) Zone, 4th Floor, 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000
Ref. No: PGC/Sec(SSD & QC)/2017/3691
Date: 12/06/2017

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Engineering Consulting Services
For
Supervision of the implementation of 400/132kV Sub-Station at Gopalganj Under "Construction of Patuakhali (Payra) - Gopalganj 400 kV Transmission Line and Gopalganj 400 kV Grid Substation" Project.

Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd (PGCB) is responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of national power transmission grid in Bangladesh. PGCB is planning to construct around 165km double circuit 400kV transmission line from Patuakhali (Payra) to Gopalganj (Mukaddupur) and associated 400/132kV substation at Mukaddupur under Gopalganj division. PGCB, the Project Executing Agency (PEA), is engaging a consulting firm for assisting PGCB in supervision of 400/132kV Substation construction during implementation. The consulting services will be financed by PGCB. The consulting firm (hereinafter called "the Consultant") will be recruited following quality- and cost-based selection (QCBS) procedures.

The requested services of the consultant shall comprise all relevant professional activities for the supervision of the implementation of the Gopalganj 400/132kV substation package under the project. The Consulting services shall be performed in Bangladesh over an estimated period of 32 months. The consultant will supervise the whole project during the implementation stage including all civil works in substation, erection/installation of substation equipment, review/confirm/recommend any modifications to the approved design drawings, commissioning of all substation equipment including control, protection and metering equipment up to handing over. The tentative scope of services envisioned comprises also the monitoring of the adherence to environmental and social safeguards principles.

It is essential to assign the services to an independent consulting firm or a Joint Venture of consulting firms with proven international experience in the power sub-sector, especially power transmission and with sound experience in development cooperation. Services are to be provided by a team comprising of international and local short & long term experts such as substation engineer, SCADA/Telecom engineer, protection & control engineer, environmental specialist, civil engineer and other professional and administrative support staff. Efficient management and backstopping services shall be made available. During the implementation of the project, the environmental specialist will have to follow the adherence of the contractor(s) to environmental and social requirements.

All qualified independent consulting firms are invited to participate in the pre-qualification provided that relevant qualification criteria are being met. After the evaluation of the prequalification documents, a short-list consisting of six (6) highest ranked Applicants will be prepared. Short-listed firms will be invited to submit technical and financial proposal. All documentation shall be submitted in English.

Interested firms are requested to collect the pre-qualification document, free of charge, from the address mentioned below during office hours (9:00 to 15:30 hours BST) during the month of Ramadan and 9:00 to 17:00 hours BST after the month of Ramadan. In addition, the pre-qualification document is also available for download at PGCB website (http://www.pgcb.org.bd).

Company Secretary
Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited
4th Floor, Institution of Engineers Building
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Email: +882 9550514, 9558054, 9553663, 9562512, Fax: +88 02 95 66 555
Email: sec-design@pgcb.org.bd; with "cc" to: belayed02@yahoo.com and rfa@pgcb.com.bd

The pre-qualification proposal, bearing the mentioned "Pre-Selection of Consulting Firms for Supervision of the Implementation of 400/132kV Sub-Station at Gopalganj Under Construction of Patuakhali (Payra)-Gopalganj 400kV Transmission Line & Gopalganj 400kV Grid Substation Project", shall be submitted in one (1) printed original and two (2) printed copies as well as an electronic copy either on a CDROM or a USB-key to the PEA, with the address given above, latest by 30 July, 2017, time before 15:00 hours (BST).

Electronic submission by email is not foreseen and will be rejected. The Project Executing Agency shall not bear a responsibility for the receipt in good order of the Pre-qualification documents. There will be no Bid Security applied.
Md. Ashraf Hossain
Company Secretary