## Eid will bring them no joy

colleges. Those who are not under the government's MPO (Monthly Pay Order) scheme are in a graver situation as they neither get their salaries from the schools nor do they get support from the government.

There are about two lakh non-MPO teachers at 37,000 secondary schools, madrasas and technical institutions in the country, according to the data of the teachers' association.

Under the MPO, teachers of a private school gets 100 percent basic salary, Tk 1,500 house rent and medical allowance.

In Bangladesh, the teachers of non-MPO secondary schools and colleges have always been ill-paid. They provide private tuition to make ends meet. But that too came to a halt during the pandemic.

Teachers said they are trying to run their families by borrowing from relatives and friends. Some of them have already switched professions, while some are having to earn their livelihood now by selling fruits and vegetables.

Meanwhile, many of them went back to their villages after finding no hope in the capital.

Nazrul Islam Rony, president of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, said although the government is providing Tk 5,000 financial assistance to each of the 81,000 non-MPO teachers, the support is not enough to ease their

"No one is paying heed to the silent cries of non-government educators. Eid is a festival for all but it will not bring any joy to many teachers," he told The Daily Star.

Speaking to this correspondent, a number of teachers said there were only a handful of schools that are still able to disburse salaries and festival bonuses from their savings, without having to be completely dependent on students' tuition fees.

But the situation is bad for most

Tofazzal Hossain, headteacher of Trinity High School in the capital, said, "Apart from teaching in the under consideration right now.

school, the teachers give private tuitions. Now that the schools are closed and students mostly are staying at home, they have lost both means of earning.'

Halima Begum, principal of T&T Boys High School, said the teachers did not get festival allowances for last Eid-ul-Azha last year and the immediate past Eid-ul-Fitr.

"We will not get the allowance for this Eid either," she said.

Ziaul Kabir Dulu, president of Obhibabok Oikya Forum, a platform of guardians, said a huge number of parents either lost their jobs or are earning less due to the pandemic.

"Many are struggling to pay for living expenses of their families and even their house rents. In such a situation, it is not possible for them to pay tuition fees.

Educationists say the government should come forward and help the institutions with financial assistance.

"The teachers cannot depend on tuition fees for their salaries. The government should come forward with subsidy during this tough time," said Dhaka University Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury.

"Many have been leaving their jobs or losing interest in the profession. If the situation worsens, the recovery of education after Covid-19 will be tough," he warned.

Rony suggested that the government provide soft loans or loans without interest to the schools as a temporary solution. "The amount would be repaid once the situation is back to normal.'

Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, said they are urging capable guardians to pay the tuition fees.

"Both the guardians and the school authorities should act reasonably... We are providing one-time incentives to non-MPO teachers and staffers, which would be some sort of relief for

About soft loans and other mechanisms, he said those are not

#### Left unpaid, living in misery However, some workers The Daily

was denied from the door. I am now working as a day labourer in Khulna railway station," Imran Ahmed, a temporary worker at Platinum Jubilee Jute Mill, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Even as a porter I cannot earn daily as people do not travel much due to this pandemic and lockdown."

He said his ailing father died in March this year due to lack of proper

"The mill authority owes me at least Tk 200,000 but I could not get that money even one year after closure of the mill. Had I got the money last year, I could have arranged better treatment for my father who required a cardiac surgery," said Imran.

Md Badrul Alam, a sexagenarian temporary worker of Khulna's Star Jute Mills used to be an expert sewing operator. However, he now begs for his daily sustenance in Mill gate bazar.

His son Hasan Alam, a rickshaw puller in the city, said, "We never thought that one day my father would beg and I would pull rickshaw in the city. If the mill authorities would pay my father in time, he could have established a shop or any small

business and pay for my education." Hasan cannot earn much by pulling rickshaw. "I have two other younger siblings. Last year, I was supposed to be enrolled at grade nine. I don't think I will ever continue my education

again," he added. According to BJMC sources, the organisation owes non-permanent workers Tk 323 crore in arrears from 2015 to 2020 and wages of 14 weeks between 2019 and 2020.

On Sunday, BJMC chairman Abdur Rouf said Tk 212.08 crore has been allocated exclusively for the arrears of 21,000 non-permanent workers.

"We have not received any allocation for the pending wages [from 2019-20] yet," he said, adding that the workers will have to submit unique ID number, token, national ID cards and, if needed, bank account details to receive the payment.

"We have disbursed the funds to the mills today [on Sunday]. I am hopeful that the mills will start to pay the workers tomorrow [yesterday]," said Abdur Rouf.

Star talked with on Sunday said they have not been informed anything about the payment.

"I have submitted all my papers to the mill authority and they confirmed me that the papers were all in order. However, I am yet to get any information about my payment from the mill authority," said jute mill worker Imran.

Talking to this correspondent on Sunday, workers' leader Ruhul Amin said, "Previously, we had seen that BJMC announced list of workers who would receive payment. However, till now, the workers have not received any notification. So, we are still uncertain about the payment."

According to BJMC sources most of the rest 11,000 non-permanent workers have been excluded from payment list mainly due spelling mistakes with their ID cards.

"They will also get their payment gradually once the issues with their identity papers are solved," said the

BJMC chairman. Besides, payment of a few thousand permanent workers are also pending due to problems with their papers. As of July 4, BJMC has paid Tk 1664.72 crore to 31,832 permanent workers as their unpaid wages, pensions and other compensations.

However, Ruhul Amin said, "When thousands of crores of taka are laundered from Bangladesh, the government turns a blind eye on jute mill workers. It cannot pay the hardearned wages of the workers in a single instalment. By procrastinating the payment, BJMC actually wants to retain their authority over the jute

BJMC is the government body which regulates and supervises the state-run jute mills.

"Workers will not tolerate such

injustice anymore," Ruhul said and demanded clearing all dues of the jute mill workers before the Eid

"We also demand modernisation and reopening of the jute mills under state authority. Leasing out the mills to the private companies can never be an acceptable solution," added the

## World's first 3D-printed steel

pedestrian traffic.

Researchers at Imperial College London are involved with assessing the "performance" of the bridge, which is packed with sensors, as it's being walked on.

Data collected from the sensors will enable experts to monitor how it changes over its lifespan, such as if the steel yields due to footfall, and measure how the public interacts with the bridge, such as how many people

are using it. "A 3D-printed metal structure large and strong enough to handle pedestrian traffic has never been constructed before," said Imperial cocontributor Professor Leroy Gardner of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

"We have tested and simulated the structure and its components throughout the printing process and

upon its completion, and it's fantastic to see it finally open to the public."

Sensor data will also be put into a "digital twin" of the bridge - a computerised version that imitates the real-life physical version.

Performance of the physical bridge will be tested against the twin, which will help answer questions about the adequacy of 3D-printed steel and inform future construction projects.

The mammoth construction effort required 4.5 tonnes of stainless steel to print the bridge into the elaborate, curved design.

The bridge was printed in four main pieces, plus the four "corner swirls", which were then manually

welded together. According to MX3D, the result is more than just a functional object for the public, but an art installation and a celebration of technology.



An official (bottom L) takes photos of Indonesian rupiah notes with its recipient as residents, whose livelihoods have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, receive government cash handouts in Surabaya, Indonesia yesterday.

# From Page 12 filling up water bodies, wetlands and Chhoyhissa,

In the 132-page verdict, the HC also ordered the government to ban plastic bags in the country and to construct separate bicycle lanes on all roads and highways and establish parks, walkways and bicycle lanes on the banks of rivers and canals in order to protect the environment.

At the same time, the court has given its opinions on 14 environment issues.

It asked the authorities to formulate a master plan to make Bangladesh cent percent self-reliant in renewable energy and to establish a separate ministry in this regard.

The HC bench of Justice Ashraful Kamal and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the verdict.

On December 2 last year, the HC bench had delivered the verdict following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

The petition challenged the activities of Unique Property Development Ltd (UPDL) and Sonargaon Economic Zone (SEZ) owned by businessman Mohammad Noor Ali near the bank of the Meghna.

In the full text of the verdict, the HC declared illegal the inaction of authorities concerned to prevent the companies from grabbing and

farmlands in the area.

The court asked the government to take necessary steps to give a one-hour class on the importance, management and development of wetlands every two months to the students of all academic institutions in the country.

The government has been asked to form an authority to protect and preserve the world heritages like Sundarbans, historical mosques in Bagerhat and Paharpur Buddhabihar.

The court asked the authorities concerned to geographically locate all wetlands in the country through satellite and list and display them in public places at all unions, upazilas and districts for raising awareness among people.

In the verdict, the HC also asked the local administrations to arrange rallies, seminars and other awareness programmes about the necessity and fficacy of wetlands.

The court asked the Department of Environment and the local administration to jointly assess the amount of agricultural and wetlands of the six mouzas that were encroached upon and filled up by the companies of Noor Ali and to set the amount of compensations that would be paid to the people affected by the companies. The mouzas are Pirojpur, Jainpur,

Chhoyhissa, Char Bhabonathpur, Batibandha and Ratanpur mouzas.

The court also directed the local administration to restore the agricultural and wetlands to their original state within six months by removing sand after realising the cost from the companies.

The HC bench made it mandatory for attaching an environmental clearance certificate with an application filed by an individual or a company seeking permission to establish an Economic Zone.

It orders the government to include Ecoside (hurting and killing the biodiversity and wildlife) as an offence in the International Crimes Tribunal

The HC judges congratulated the media and writ petitioner Bela for their effective roles in protecting and improving the environment including wetlands in the country.

Officials concerned have been ordered to send the copy of the HC verdict to all the authorities concerned including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for taking necessary steps.

The HC bench kept the writ petition as continuing mandamus so that any aggrieved person can move a prayer before it for necessary orders on the issue in the future.

#### Khaleda gets her

sitting inside a car on the hospital premises as she did not go out due to her illness, said Zahid, also a vice chairman of the party.

"She [Khaleda] wasn't given any other choice. The centre is giving Moderna vaccines and she took it," he

He also said Khaleda sought blessings from the people and greeted them on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Earlier, she had received a text with the date and place of vaccination after she had registered with the government website surokkha.gov.bd

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 27, three days after she tested positive for coronavirus for a second time. She first tested positive for the virus on April 11. She also has arthritis, diabetes and eye problems.

She tested negative for Covid-19 on

The BNP chairperson landed in jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court sentenced her to five years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. On October 30, 2018, the High Court raised her punishment to 10 years.

The government released her from jail on March 25 last year, suspending her sentence as per section 401 (1) of the Criminal Code of Procedure. The suspension was later extended twice.

#### A startling goof-up

Later that year, an MRP machine was sent to Tashkent and a group of eight to 10 officials from the passport department also visited Uzbekistan.

During his recent visit to Tashkent, Momen asked Md Zahangir Alam, Bangladesh ambassador to Uzbekistan, whether the MRP machine was working properly.

What the ambassador said in reply was very disappointing for him.

"The machine was still in the box .. It could not be made operational as the technician, who had the secret passcode, was not in the team of eight to 10 officials of the passport department that had visited Uzbekistan," the foreign minister said. In the last one and a half years,

the technician could not be flown to Uzbekistan to put the machine into "They [passport officials] are now

considering another trip. What a sad "I am going to take up the issue

with the passport department," added

### Hefajat's Mamunul, brother lose sway

A court under the Waqf Estate had recently issued a rule to hand over the madrasa in the capital's Mohammadpur to the new 21-member Waqf committee.

Mahfuzul Hague was the muhtamim (principal) of the madrasa and also the secretary general of Bangladesh Qawmi Madrasa Education Board(Befaq).

Mamunul was the madrasa's main

In presence of members of police and various intelligence agencies, Md Abdul Awal, executive magistrate of the Dhaka deputy commissioner's office, handed over control to the new committee around 2:30pm yesterday.

On behalf of the committee, Mohammad Abdur Rahim, motowalli of the Waqf Estate Committee, took charge of the madrasa, which has around 4,000 students in three branches -- two in Mohammadpur and one in Basila.

Sensing they are going to lose control of the madrasa, Mahfuzul, along with students and teachers who follow him, left the madrasa around 9:45am locking all entrances of the educational institution, eyewitnesses said.

Police personnel were deployed in and around the madrasa premises as a tense situation was prevailing among students and teachers. Officials of the Dhaka deputy

commissioner's office, led by Executive Magistrate Abdul Awal, entered the madrasa with police around 12:00pm. At that time, police prevented journalists from taking pictures of their

Recently, the Bangladesh Waqf Administration sent a letter to the Dhaka deputy commissioner asking that the property of Jamia Rahmania Arabia Madrasa be handed over to the approved committee of the Waqf Estate.

Jamia Rahmania Arabia is one of the most famous Qawmi madrasas of the country. Established in 1986, the madrasa is registered with the waqf administration.

Azizul Haque, father of Mahfuzul and Mamunul, took control of the madrasa after the BNP-led four-party alliance came to power in 2001.

Since then, the Waqf Estate has been fighting a legal battle to regain management of the madrasa. They failed due to pressure from the BNPled four-party government despite the court verdict and the order of the waqf

administration in favour of the waqf committee, insiders at the madrasa said. The government launched a

crackdown against a section of Hefajat leaders, including Mamunul, following Hefajat's violent protest in March. Several hundred leaders, including many central ones, of Hefajat, were

arrested. Amid the government pressure, Hefajat on April 25 dissolved its central committee.

This month, a 33-member new committee of Hefajat was announced, dropping all leaders involved in the violent protests across the country in

March. Mamunul and other leaders currently in jail for their alleged involvement in the violent activities were not given any post in the committee.

#### Yahya trying

FROM PAGE 12

President Richard Nixon's forthcoming visit to China, Swaran Singh emphasised that the Sino-US detente should not be at the expense of other countries.

MCNAMARA APOLOGY TO YAHYA REPORTED

Yahya was reported today to have received a letter from Robert S McNamara, president of the World Bank, expressing regret over the unauthorised publication in the American press of a World Bank report

on the situation in East Pakistan. Receipt of the letter was reported by the Associated Press of Pakistan, the official press agency. The agency said the report, prepared by a World Bank team after a visit to Pakistan, was meant for private information of the 11 nation consortium that coordinates aid for Pakistan. It said that McNamara had found the document "biased and provocative" and had placed restrictions

Excerpts from the report were printed in The New York Times of July 13, accompanied by a Washington dispatch disclosing its contents.

The agency said "vested interests behind the biased and tendentious report defied the ban and leaked out portions of the draft report they thought damaging to Pakistan and embarrassing to the United States Government"

A SLAP WILL SHOW IT REASON Pakistan is like a mischievous child

that "does not see reason unless it receives a slap", Pashtun leader Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan said in a letter to Gujrat Governor Shriman Narayan. Condemning the cruelties on the people of Bangladesh, Khan says the pity of it all was that the nations of the world were looking at this "tamasha" in passive silence. "They do not have any real sympathies for these people. This world is indeed a world of sinners and self-seekers," he mentioned.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

GD-1364



#### Office of the Chattogram City Corporation City Governance Project (CGP), Batch-2

Invitation for Tenders (Works) (IFT)



Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.06.003.21.0004

e-Tender Notice No. ICGP B2 ChCC-27R

Memo N	lo. 46.11.1600.002.06.003.21.0004	Date: 19.07					
e-Tende	er is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://v	www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works, tender is given below:					
	Governmen	t of the People's Republic of Bangladesh					
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Government Division.					
2	Agency	Chattogram City Corporation.					
3	Procuring entity name	Chief Engineer of the Chattogram City Corporation.					
4	Procurement nature	Works.					
<b>KEY INF</b>	FORMATION						
5	Procurement method	National, Open Tendering Method (OTM).					
6	Source of funds	GOB & JICA ODA LOAN: BD-P79					
FUNDIN	IG INFORMATION						
7	Budget and source of funds	Development, JICA & GOB.					
8	Development partners	Japan International Cooperation Agency.					
PARTIC	ULAR INFORMATION						
9	Project name	City Governance Project (CGP).					
10	Tender Package No.	ICGPB2ChCC27R					
11	Tender ID & Reference No.	594994&ICGP B2 ChCC 27R					
	Schedule tender publication date & time	Date Time					
12		20-July-2021 17.00					
13	Tender closing date & time	19-Aug-2021 15.00					
14	Tender opening date & time	19-Aug-2021 15.00					
ILLEO DA	MATION FOR TENDERER	_ ii					

12 Sch		edule tender publication date & time	Date	Tillie				
		edule tender publication date & time	20-July-2021	17.00				
13	Tend	der closing date & time	19-Aug-2021	15.00				
14	Tend	der opening date & time	19-Aug-2021	15.00				
<b>INFORM</b>	ATION	FOR TENDERER						
15	Brief	f description of works:						
Sub-project No.		Identification of lot		Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days			
ICGP B2 ChCC27R		Remaining Work for: a) Rehabilitation of bus ter and footpath at 6 No. Ward (Ch.0+0-0+250). b) F Ward (Ch.00-1+950). c) Rehabilitation of Omar 0+315). d) Rehabilitation of Hill View R/A Byla Rehabilitation of Badurlala road (Bahaddarha (Ch.0+000-0+700). f) Rehabilitation of Khulshi Rehabilitation of Chashma R/A (Bayside road to	Rehabilitation of Nasirabad fuA Road at 8 No. Ali Matabbar Road at 6 No. Ward (Ch.00-ane road at 7 No. Ward (Ch.00-1+515). e) to Abdullah Kha Road at 8 No. Ward R/A at 8 No. Ward (Ch.0+000-2+400). g)	BDT 20,00,000 (Twenty lac only)	120 days			
16		Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 4000.00.					
17		Tender validity period	120 days.					
The same of								

The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceeding. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date 19-Aug-2021 13:00 at time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Engr. Rafiqul Islam CCC/PRD-08/21-22 Chief Engineer Chattogram City Corporation