

BANGLADESH UPDATE



1,901
New cases in 24hrs



15,36,341
Total cases



27,058
Deaths



14,90,541
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



4,666,936
Deaths



226,906,513
Total cases

Country to get 24cr jabs by Apr: Momen

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing optimism about collecting Covid-19 vaccine doses and some jabs, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has said Bangladesh is on track to get 24 crore shots either by March or April next year.

"Vaccine doses are coming under the COVAX facility, as gifts and from other sources," the minister told reporters on the sidelines of the "Fifth International Conference on Inclusive Business".

The event was organised by the Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka yesterday.

Momen said Bangladesh needs 26 crore Covid vaccine doses and some jabs would be produced at home too. "However, there is no update on vaccine cooperation with Russia due to the Covid-19 situation there."

He said half of Bangladesh's 16

crore people are young, while 2.22 crore have already been vaccinated.

"Despite significant vaccination in Bangladesh, the United Kingdom kept Bangladesh on the red list which is very unfortunate."

Earlier, Momen reiterated Bangladesh's call to remove the country from the red list, terming the British government's decision "unfair and discriminatory".

He said this while speaking to a small group of journalists at his office on Monday.

Referring to sufferings of more than 7,000 British-Bangladeshis currently stranded in Bangladesh, Momen said the UK government was doing disservice to its own citizens.

"The UK government gave an argument that the vaccination rate is low in Bangladesh, but Bangladesh says that the UK is allowing in people from other countries having lower vaccination rate," he added.



An artist works on an idol of Hindu goddess Durga at Gopaltala temple in Sylhet city's Tilagarh area yesterday. About 67 puja mandaps will be set up in the city to celebrate Durga Puja next month. PHOTO: STAR

No room for complacency

Officials warn amid downward Covid trend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The declining trend of coronavirus transmission may be harder to maintain if health guidelines are not properly followed, said health directorate officials.

In an online briefing yesterday, Nazmul Islam, spokesperson for the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said the positivity rate declined to 6.46 percent on Tuesday.

"But there is no room for complacency because maintaining this [low rate] would be tougher if we do not adhere health safety rules by one hundred percent."

In the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the DGHS reported 1,901 new coronavirus cases. The positivity rate was 6.64 percent against a total of 28,615 tests.

Meanwhile, 51 people died with the virus across the country. Of them, 32 were male and 19 female.

The highest 20 of them were in Dhaka division, followed by 11 in Chattogram, five each in Khulna and Sylhet, four in Rajshahi, and three each in Barishal and Sylhet divisions.

With the latest count, the total number of confirmed cases rose to 1,536,341 and the total number of deaths to 27,058.

The death rate was 1.76 percent of all cases detected since the first cases were reported on March 8 last year.

Criticism makes

FROM PAGE 1

In response, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, "I like criticism because it makes me stronger."

However, the criticisms need to be based on facts, he added.

Jatiya Party MP Kazi Firoz Rashid alleged that the BNP created Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) during their time and the ruling Awami League created Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip).

"What will we do if doctors get involved in partisan politics?" he questioned.

Answering the question, the health minister said, "Everyone has the right to participate in politics as a citizen of the country."

In addition, he also said, "It will be difficult for us to get services [from the doctors] if we condemn them more."

Mujibul Haque Chunnun, another Jatiya Party MP, questioned the skyrocketing medical costs at private hospitals. He termed the medical facilities "dacoits".

He criticised the poor healthcare services at upazila- and district-level government hospitals and condemned the government-employed doctors practising at private hospitals.

To reduce the burden of excessive medical costs from the shoulders of mass people, the MP suggested the health minister to form a committee and fix a rate for treatments at private hospitals.

Adding to this, Pir Fazlur Rahman, another MP of the Jatiya Party, said people went destitute while paying bills at private hospitals.

The health ministry had failed to address the issue, he said.

Mentioning the shortage of medical staffers, he said, 59 doctors were supposed to remain at a hospital in his area -- Sunamganj -- but there were only 14.

He said if the minister had been a little more active many problems had been solved.

BNP MP Harunur Rashid lambasted the health ministry saying he failed to prevent corruption and mismanagement in the health sector.

Citing the sorry state of the health sector, the BNP MP said, 50 years have passed since the independence of Bangladesh but we have not been able to differentiate between government hospitals and private hospitals.

"Those who are working in government hospitals are doing business in private hospitals. This cannot be acceptable."

He said the health sector is in a state of shabbiness all over the country as there is a huge crisis of doctors and medical technologists there.

Citing an example of corruption, he said the curtains were purchased at a hospital for Tk 38 lakh.

BNP MP Rumeen Farhana said people were helpless as they could not get treatment at the government hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Responding to all the criticism, the health minister said, "You will find faults. If two buckets of dirt are thrown into the sea, the sea will not be wasted and the water will not be wasted."

The minister said, "I assumed what you can say in parliament today [yesterday] and that's why I was well prepared to answer you all."

He also said that yesterday's parliament was vibrant due to the debate.

About high fees in treating at private hospitals, the minister said the ministry would hold a meeting to determine different medical fees there.

Hopefully, that issue will be resolved, he added.

Open DU halls from Oct 5

Provost committee recommends

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University's provost committee yesterday recommended reopening residential halls for master's and final-year honours students from October 5.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the provost committee held at the vice-chancellor's residence in the evening. Prof Saiful Islam, provost of Sir AF Rahman Hall, told The Daily Star.

The meeting was chaired by DU VC Prof Akhteruzzaman.

Students who have the certificate to prove they have received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine will be allowed to enter their residential halls, said Saiful.

The recommendation to reopen halls on October 5 will be placed before the university's syndicate meeting, likely to be held next week, he added.

"First, students of master's and honours final year will be allowed into the halls. Once their examinations are done, they will leave the halls. Later, students of other sessions will be allowed into the halls gradually," he said.

The provost committee also suggested reopening the central library of the university on September 26, he said.

The students who have received Covid vaccine will be able to enter the library, said the professor.

Will jab 50pc by year-end

FROM PAGE 1

from Pirojpur-3, during a question-answer session chaired by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

The PM said the age bar for receiving the jabs was lowered to 18 for university students and the government now plans to vaccinate all citizens above that age.

"Arrangements have already been made to collect more than 24.65 crore vaccine doses. Steps have been taken to get more than one crore doses every month," she added.

In the scripted answer, Hasina said her government prepared the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) and the plan has already been approved by the global Covax facility.

Initially, people aged 55 and above as well as front-line health workers and other professionals were given the vaccine on a priority basis. Now the government looks to gradually vaccinate 80 percent of the population under the NDVP, she said.

The PM said how many of every 100 people have to be vaccinated to develop herd immunity against the virus was still not clear. The matter is still under study and that is why the government currently plans to vaccinate all Bangladeshi citizens above the age of 18, she said.

In this connection, Hasina said the government is continuing its efforts to collect vaccines from different sources. According to the WHO, at least 80 percent of the population has to be inoculated to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Hasina also mentioned that people with disabilities would also be able to take the shots using their social safety cards. The cards were handed to the ministries concerned.

Workers will be vaccinated on a priority basis as well, she added.

96.54 LAKH SHOTS IN STOCK
The PM told the House that six crore Sinopharm vaccine doses would arrive -- two crore each month -- from China between October and December.

Among the over 24.65 crore shots the government is supposed to get,

more than 4.4 crore have already arrived in the country as gift or under different bilateral purchase agreements till September 12.

Till that date, the government had more than 96.54 lakh doses in stock, she said.

She also said people were given over 3.47 crore shots till September 12. Of the people, 2.09 crore received their first doses while 1.38 crore got both the doses.

Hasina said the government was using 673 vaccination centres across the country to take the ongoing vaccine campaign to the doorstep of people in the divisional, district and upazila headquarters.

She hoped that the government would be able to successfully overcome the pandemic with cooperation from all.

Hasina reiterated her call to the people to follow the health protocols and take the vaccine.

The country reported the first Covid cases in March last year. The government closed all educational institutions across the country the same month to curb the spread of the virus.

The schools resumed in-person classes on this Sunday (September 12), after around 18 months of closure, as the infection rate came down significantly.

Recently, 1.5 lakh students of medical, dental colleges and other health institutions returned to the classroom after taking both doses of the vaccine.

Mass inoculation against Covid-19 had remained suspended for over two months due to a shortage of doses. Bangladesh suspended administering the first dose of the vaccine on April 26. Registration of people for vaccination was suspended nine days later.

The government resumed administering the first dose on June 19 on a limited scale and then gradually expanded it.

People here have been receiving doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna and Sinopharm vaccines.

Kosovo war crimes suspect slams 'Gestapo' court

AFP, The Hague

A former Kosovo rebel commander compared a war crimes court to Nazi Germany's secret police as it began its first trial in The Hague yesterday.

Salih Mustafa is accused of murder and torture at a makeshift Kosovo

Liberation Army (KLA) detention centre during the 1998-1999 independence war with Serbia.

"I am not guilty of any of the counts brought here before me by this Gestapo office," Mustafa, 49, said as his trial started at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers.

Infights, economic crisis stalk Taliban

FROM PAGE 1

hungry, they don't have a single bag of flour or cooking oil," said Kabul resident Abdullah.

Long lines still form outside banks, where weekly withdrawal limits of \$200 or 20,000 afghani have been imposed to protect the country's dwindling reserves, reports Reuters.

Impromptu markets where people sell household goods for cash have sprung up across Kabul, although buyers are in short supply.

Even with billions of dollars in foreign aid, Afghanistan's economy had been struggling, with growth failing to keep pace with the steady increase in population. Jobs are scarce and many government workers have been unpaid since at least July.

To make matters worse for the Taliban, a major row broke out between leaders of the Islamist group just days after they set up a new

government, senior Taliban officials told the BBC yesterday.

Supporters of two rival factions reportedly brawled at the presidential palace in Kabul. The argument appeared to centre on who did the most to secure victory over the US, and how power was divided up in the new cabinet. The Taliban have officially denied the reports.

The group seized control of Afghanistan last month, and have since declared the country an "Islamic Emirate". Their new interim cabinet is entirely male and made up of senior Taliban figures, some of whom are notorious for attacks on US forces over the past two decades.

The dispute came to light after a Taliban co-founder, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, disappeared from view for several days.

One Taliban source told BBC Pashto that Baradar and Khalil ur-Rahman

Haqqani - the minister for refugees and a prominent figure within the militant Haqqani network - had exchanged strong words, as their followers brawled with each other nearby.

A senior Taliban member based in Qatar and a person connected to those involved also confirmed that an argument had taken place late last week.

The sources said the argument had broken out because Baradar, the new deputy prime minister, was unhappy about the structure of their interim government.

Officials said the Taliban government is working to get services up and running again and that the streets are now safe, but as the war recedes, resolving the economic crisis is looming as a bigger problem.

"Thefts have disappeared. But bread has also disappeared," said one shopkeeper.

HC expresses discontent at explanation

FROM PAGE 1

explanations," the bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol said during hearing a petition relating to this issue.

The HC bench also set September 29 for passing an order on this petition. Investigation officer of the case, Golam Mostafa, will have to give an explanation on seeking remand of Pori Moni to the HC by this time, and he will have to appear before the court on September 29, said Justice Mustafa Zaman.

The HC bench delivered the order while hearing the petition filed by rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) challenging the orders of metropolitan magistrates Devobrata Biswas and Atikul Islam granting the IO's prayers for taking Pori Moni on remand.

ASK's lawyer ZI Khan Panna told the HC bench that the metropolitan magistrates have undermined both the Appellate and High Court divisions by their explanations, as they did not directly confess their "fault" in placing Pori Moni on remand.

Contacted, the lawyer told The Daily Star that an accused cannot be taken on police remand. He or she should be interrogated at the jail gate if it is felt necessary according to Supreme Court directives, he said.

The accused person's health must be examined by a registered doctor before and after interrogation and his or her lawyer and relatives must be allowed to be present during the interrogation, but the lower court concerned and police have not followed the apex court directives while placing Pori Moni on remand, the lawyer added.

The two metropolitan magistrates (Devobrata and Atikul) have apologised to the HC for their "unintended mistakes and faults" in placing Pori Moni on remand for the second and third time in a narcotics case, saying that they have done it in "good faith".

They offered apology in two separate written explanations which were recently submitted to the HC through the Supreme Court Registrar General's office.

In their explanations, they mentioned that they ordered the police to execute the remand of Pori Moni in the presence of a female police officer under the SC directives.

The metropolitan magistrates also prayed to the HC bench to exonerate them from any proceedings, saying that they will remain more cautious while passing remand orders in future.

In his explanation, Judge Devobrata said accused Pori Moni alias Shamsun Nahar Smrity was arrested with narcotics, including foreign liquor and Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), which are awful for the society.

He said he granted prayer for two days' remand of Pori Moni as he thought it was reasonable to find out the source of LSD narcotics and the masterminds.

Judge Atikul in his explanation said his court allowed one day's remand of Pori Moni to extract concrete and exact information on how the terrible narcotics like LSD have entered the country and how they have spread and who are involved with the crime, HC sources said.

Cost 3.5 times the original estimate

FROM PAGE 1

times more than the original estimate. The project has also taken five years longer than the stipulated deadline.

A poor initial feasibility study, which led to a major change in the bridge's design, long delay in land acquisition, a lengthy tender process and, more recently, problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have kept tens of thousands of people waiting for years.

That wait will finally end next month, but the exact date has not yet been finalised.

"Payra Bridge in the Lebukhali area will be like another Padma Bridge for the people of the southern region, and the bridge will open to traffic next month," Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday, reports UNB.

He inaugurated 11 bridges in three districts under the Barishal zone of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) virtually. The RHD is also the project authority of the Payra Bridge.

Chinese firm Longjian Road and Bridge Construction is building the bridge.

The distance from Barishal city to Patakhali headquarters is around 40km, Payra Port is 50km away and Kuakata 110km.

The government has constructed several bridges on the Barishal-Patakhali-Kuakata highway in the last few years, but people have to cross the Payra river on ferries, which takes around an hour.

THE LONG-DELAYED PROJECT

The government approved the project for construction of the bridge on the Barishal-Patakhali highway in May 2012.

The foreign-funded project was supposed to be completed within December 2016 at the cost of Tk 413.28 crore.

The project has jointly been funded by the government, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and OPEC Fund for International Development.

But in the last nine and a half years, the project cost was revised thrice, the deadline deferred twice and the project director has been changed six times.

The project cost has now risen to Tk 1,447.24 crore, which is just over 3.5 times the original estimate. The revised deadline is June 2022, with a two-year defect liability period.

A two-year defect liability period means that if a defect is found in the construction within two years of the project's completion, the contractors will fix it at their own cost.

The two-year defect liability period would start once the physical work of the project is completed, and so the formal deadline -- which takes the liability period into account -- has to be extended further. The project authority has already sought another extension.

Project Director Abdul Halim said the bridge construction work is almost done (98 percent) and he hopes to complete construction of approach roads (currently at 95 percent) before the inauguration of the bridge if the weather permits.

However, 83 percent of river training work has so far been done and the rest would take around two more months, Halim, the seventh PD of the project told The Daily Star yesterday. That will not affect the timely opening of the bridge, he added.

He however said they are expected to save Tk 52 crore from the agreed contract price.

The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), in its June 2020 "In-Depth Monitoring Report", mentioned the failure to acquire the land on time, frequent

changes of project directors and consultants as some of the flawed aspects of the project.

REASONS FOR DELAY

Although the project was approved in May 2012, the physical work of the bridge started only in July 2016, just five months before the originally scheduled date of completion.

An RHD engineer, who is aware of project developments and preferred not to be named, said although there was a feasibility study before the approval, it was poorly done.

When the consultants prepared the detailed design, they had to change the initial design significantly, resulting in cost escalation, the engineer said.

After the detail design, the consultants prepared tender documents and as a foreign-funded project, the implementing authority has to take concurrence at every stage of the bidding process, causing further delays to start of construction, he added.

Besides, the project authority faced complexities over land acquisition and were able to acquire the entirety of the land only last year, he added.

PD Abdul Halim said at the preliminary stage, the cost of the project was estimated on the basis of a tentative design but actual construction cost was finalised following the detailed design.

"So, the cost had risen after the detailed design," he added.

Besides, they had to change the design of the piles and erect 130-metre-long piles, which also hiked costs, he added.

Besides, the Covid-19 pandemic slowed the down progress as the contractor firm is from China and much of the materials was collected from China, which was also a major reason for overshooting the initial estimate and the deadline, he added.



To help the capital's residents resist the coronavirus, Dhaka Wasa took an initiative of placing several hand washing facilities across various locations of the city. Only that most of them are lying out of order, with no water in the tanks and even the taps missing. This photo was taken yesterday from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Karwan Bazar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Courts hamstrung by judge shortage

No new appointments to fill vacant positions; case backlog rising

DIVISIONS	JUDGES	PENDING CASES	PER JUDGE
Appellate	5	15,225	3,045
High Court	91	4,52,963	4,923
Lower Court	1,700	34.65 lakh	2,038

SOURCE: LAW LAB, AS OF DEC 31, 2020

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

With backlogs of pending cases piling up due to crisis of judges, the government does not seem to have any specific plan to appoint new judges to the Appellate and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court any time soon to increase the rate of case disposal.

Asked, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star recently, "Of course, judges will be appointed to the Appellate and High Court divisions. It's a continuous process. When the posts of judges fall vacant, new judges are appointed."

He, however, did not say when and how many judges will be appointed.

Crisis of judges increased the case backlogs at the courts of the country in the last few years and Covid-19 pandemic restrictions turned the situation graver, causing immense sufferings to the justice seekers.

As of July 30, there are five judges including the chief justice in the Appellate Division (AD) and 91 in the High Court Division.

The chief justice will retire on December 31 this year.

But the number of cases pending with the AD is 15,225 while it was 4,52,963 with the HC till December 31 last year, according to a study report of Law Lab, a law-chamber that conducts research on legal and constitutional issues.

In 1974, the AD had five judges and the number of the HC judges was 12. The pending cases in the AD and HC at that time were 4,094 and 28,186 respectively.

The Law Lab collected the data from the reports published by the SC and from the parliamentary proceedings.

Across the country, the number of pending cases at different courts till December 31 last year was abysmally high - 39,33,186.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Development the priority, not nature!

Ruet authorities felling 50 old trees for construction projects

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

To make space for new administrative and academic buildings, authorities of Rajshahi University of Engineering Technology (Ruet) have felled around 50 trees recently, most of which are over half a century old.

This was done without taking mandatory approval from the Forest Department, divisional forest officer Ahmed Niamur Rahman told The Daily Star. "The Ruet authorities have not even informed the forest department about the tree-felling," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, environmentalists said the felling of these old trees, including litchi, mahogany, and koroi -- all of which grew inside the campus since the university's inception in 1964 -- will leave a bad impact on the area's ecosystem.

During a visit to the campus yesterday, this correspondent saw labourers felling tree one after another. Till yesterday, the felling of at least 15 Krishnachura and Minjiri trees were almost complete.

Contacted, Ruet registrar Prof Md Selim Hossain said the project is being supervised by the offices of planning and development, and the superintending engineer of Ruet.

He said the campus has not undertaken any development works since the 1980s, but recently the government approved nearly Tk 600 crore worth of development projects for Ruet.

The felled trees will give way to ten multi-storied buildings, with the site in front of the Civil Engineering Faculty housing the administrative



PHOTO: STAR

Till yesterday, at least 15 Krishnachura and Minjiri trees were felled to make room for administrative and academic buildings at Ruet.

building.

Contacted, both superintending engineer Amit Roy Chowdhury and planning and development affairs director Zaglul Sadat refused to state anything on the matter.

Meanwhile, the university authorities were also found to have sold the felled trees at a lower than market rates.

Abdus Samad, a local timber trader, said he estimates each of them to go for Tk 50,000.

However, the campus authorities sold all the 15 felled trees for only Tk 1.27 lakh, this correspondent found.

Md Jalal Uddin, senior assistant director of security in the campus, said the trees were sold off to Ruet employee Golam Mostafa, following proper procurement rules.

It was Golam Mostafa who recruited labourers to fell the trees.

Meanwhile, Ruet registrar Prof Selim said the university has been planting around 1,000 trees on the campus in the last one year to

compensate for the felled trees.

However, experts said this stands for little.

Contacted, Prof AHM Mahbubur Rahman of Rajshahi University's Department of Botany said, "Planting new trees does not compensate for the felling of old trees," as it takes time for a new tree to fulfil the function of a much older one.

"Ruet and RU campuses are proud to have these trees. Other than providing oxygen for us, they play critical roles in the area's ecosystem," he said.

Mahbub Tunku, general secretary of Poribesh Andolon Oikya Parishad, said they have been noticing a "mad rush" for tree-felling in Rajshahi for development activities.

"We're not sure whether we need development of this kind, but we're sure we need these old trees," he said, adding that the authorities should plan development activities without harming the environment.

307 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 307 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

Among the new cases, 63 are from outside the capital.

With the new cases, a total of 14,831 persons were hospitalised this year of whom 1,601 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 4,475 were diagnosed during the running month.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 57 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people have died in July while 34 have died in August and 11 in September so far.

Of the deaths, 53 have died in Dhaka division, two in Chattogram and one each in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

At least 7,698 persons were diagnosed with dengue in August, 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected in May.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,291 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 199 outside the capital.

Amid the rise in dengue cases, DGHS on August 23 announced six hospitals in Dhaka dedicated to treating dengue patients.

4 bills passed in JS

SHISHU HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTE BILL

Will merge Shishu Hospital and Inst of Child Health; 30 beds dedicated for children from poor families

Aims to improve healthcare services for children

MEDICAL DEGREES (REPEAL) BILL

Will abolish Medical Degrees Act 1916

MEDICAL COLLEGES (GOVERNING BODIES) (REPEAL), BILL

Will abolish Medical Colleges (Governing Bodies) Ordinance 1961

KURIGRAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY BILL

Will establish a new university in Kurigram

Aims to develop agriculture in northern districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four separate bills, including Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute Bill, were passed in parliament yesterday.

Three of the passed bills -- Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute Bill, The Medical Degrees (Repeal) Bill, and The Medical Colleges (Governing Bodies) (Repeal) Bill -- were placed by Health Minister Zahid Maleque.

Another passed bill, titled "Kurigram Agricultural University Bill", was placed by Education Minister Dipu Moni.

Besides, a bill titled "The Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2021" was placed in parliament, aiming to extend the tenure of the law for another five years (till 2026).

Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute Bill, which was passed by voice vote, aims to improve healthcare services for children.

It was designed in line with Dhaka Shishu Hospital Ordinance, 2008, which was promulgated during the caretaker government's tenure.

The draft law aims to merge Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital and Bangladesh Institute of Child Health to ensure better healthcare services for children. At present, Bangladesh Institute of Child Health is the academic wing of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Some 54 ordinances, out of 122, promulgated during

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Amassing over Tk 12cr in 6 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within six years of joining Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), the bank balance of an assistant director swelled to about Tk 12.84 crore.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) deputy director Rafiquzzaman yesterday filed a case against the official in question, Farhanul Islam, and his brother Raihanul Islam over amassing around Tk 12.84 crore illegally.

As per the case statement, Farhanul joined BRTA's Noakhali circle in September 2012.

He maintains 10 accounts across three private banks, a public bank, and financial institutions.

He came to the spotlight after suddenly closing six of his accounts in 2019, which alerted the central bank and prompted an investigation, sources said. The inquiry was later transferred to ACC.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday evening, ACC filed five cases against Keya Group chairperson Abdul Khaleq Pathan, his wife, and three children for amassing about Tk 183.84 crore illegally and concealing wealth worth around Tk 96 crore.

In August 2017, ACC had arrested Pathan over swindling Tk 111.14 crore from Bangladesh Krishi Bank.



Prof Golam Mowlah passes away

CITY DESK

Prof Dr Golam Mowlah, son of late Abdur Ruzzaque, passed away on September 14 in Dhaka. He was 73.

He died due to age related complications.

He left behind his wife Prof Dr Aleya Mowlah, daughter Naveem Mowlah, two grandchildren, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Dr Mowlah was founding vice chancellor of Cumilla University and a professor and former director of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science at Dhaka University.

His relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

'It seems purposive'

Journalist organisations condemn BFIU move of seeking bank details of 11 journo leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters Unity have condemned and protested the move of Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) that sought statements of bank accounts of elected members of different journalists' associations.

In an urgent meeting of the management committee of the press club, they said investigation can be launched on allegations against anyone under the existing act.

"But launching a probe only against the elected leaders of the organisations of a profession seems purposive," the committee said in a press release.

BFIU this week sent letters to banks seeking statements of 11 journalist leaders.

The list included 11 names from the six most important organisations representing journalists. They have been directly elected by thousands of journalists from all over the country, including Dhaka. This unprecedented act has tarnished image of journalist society and Jatiya Press Club, read the press release.

Saying that it has belittled social dignity and defamed journalist leaders publicly, they demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision.

In its press release, DRU executive committee termed the BFIU's move a threat against independent journalism.

"It would be logical, if the bank statements of the leaders of all organisations of professionals would have been summoned," it said.

The executive committee of DRU suspected involvement of corrupt bureaucrats behind it.

"It needs to be investigated whether there is an ill motive or Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit took up the matter upon the instigation of some quarter," they opined.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Despite the rainfall of the last few days, the mercury picks right back up as the drizzles subside. To find respite, a few families got down into the Buriganga to swim around and teach their children the way of the water. This photo was taken recently from Basila bridge area near Mohammadpur.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'Reopen university, dorms by Sept 30'

Demand Jahangirnagar University students

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University students yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus demanding resumption of in-person academic activities and reopening of dormitories by September 30.



JU students brought out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding reopening of the university and dorms by September 30.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Around 11:30am, students from different departments brought out a procession from the new arts building which ended at the new administrative building.

At a rally, general secretary of JU unit of Bangladesh Students Union Rakibul Rony said the university authorities could not inform the University Grants Commission about the progress of students' inoculation.

"If the authorities fail to reopen the institution by that time, it would be clear that vaccination was not the reason to keep the university closed for months," he added. Later, students submitted a memorandum with a three-point demand to acting vice chancellor Prof Nurul Alam. In the memorandum, they also demanded installation of vaccination booth inside the campus.

Contacted, acting registrar Rahima Kaneez said, The university will reopen

soon after a syndicate meeting. Besides, we have to complete some proceedings before reopening of residential halls."

Meanwhile, Prof Anu Muhammad of the economics department will hold a "protest class" in the open this noon, demanding immediate reopening of the university.

He confirmed that he will deliver a lecture on the topic "The role of education and health sector on the development of Bangladesh" on the premises of social science faculty building.

Dhaka's DAP to be finalised by Jan 2022

Says LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detailed Area Plan (DAP) that will guide future constructions in Dhaka, use of land and demarcation of canals and flow areas, is expected to be finalised in the next few months, said Local Government and Rural Development Minister (LGRD) Tazul Islam yesterday.

A gazette notification will be published after finalising the DAP, the minister said at a review committee meeting at the ministry's conference room.

Tazul, who is the convener of the committee, said they have already taken the opinion of professionals like architects, planners, engineers, REHAB, BLDA and other stakeholders after holding meetings with them.

"If everything remains alright, we will finalise the DAP by December-January and will publish a gazette notification," said the minister.

The minister also said they want to complete the DAP as early as possible.

Where did the money go?

Savar police arrest drug peddler, but don't mention anything about 'recovered money'

AKIAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

A case document centring two people, who were arrested over drug peddling, has raised questions, due to the discrepancy between accounts of police officials and witnesses.

On August 13 noon, some local youths in Bashundhara area of Savar's Kaundia union held one Mohammed Foysal with three packets of heroin.

On information, a police team of Kaundia police outpost, led by the outpost's in-charge Sub-inspector Shah Alam, went to the spot, and the locals handed Foysal over to police.

They told police that Foysal was addicted to drugs and gets his supply from one Mohammad Hasibul Islam alias Soheli of the same area.

Later, police raided Soheli's rented room and seized materials for taking drugs and around Tk 20,000. They also detained Soheli's wife, as he was not found during the raid.

Later that day, Soheli surrendered to police and admitted to his involvement with drug peddling. Police released his wife afterwards.

On August 14, Mohammad Ibrahim Samaddar, assistant sub-inspector of the outpost, filed a case with Savar Model Police Station.

However, police did not mention anything about the seized money in the case document, although witnesses claimed to have seen officers taking the money.

Soheli was shown arrested with 75 packets of heroin and Faisal with 25 packets in the documents.

The Daily Star spoke with two witnesses of the case about this issue.

Police source Md Khorshed, main witness of the case, told The Daily Star that Faisal was detained with three packets of heroin. When asked about the cash, he advised this correspondent to talk to SI Shah Alam.

Son of Soheli's house owner Sabuj Khan, who was made second witness, said, "Although I was not there from the start, when I entered the house, I saw police seizing around Tk 15,000 to 20,000."

Another local, Mainuddin, who was present at the time of the incident, provided similar information.

He said three packets of heroin were seized from Faisal's back pocket, and when going through Soheli's house, police only found materials for taking drugs.

Asked about the claims, SI Shah Alam said no money was recovered during the drive.

Kazi Mainul Islam, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station, said everything recovered is mentioned in the case report, implying that no money was recovered.

Asked about the reported discrepancy in the number of packets seized, SI Alam refused to comment.

Meanwhile, The Daily Star tried to contact Soheli's wife and other family members, but could not trace them, as they left the area after the incident.

Rape case filed against govt official

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A woman yesterday filed a rape case against a deputy secretary, accusing him of engaging in sexual relationship by promising to marry her.

The woman, a 30-year-old schoolteacher, filed the case with Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 of Dhaka, said Special Public Prosecutor Md Ali Akbar.

After a hearing, Judge Md Habibur Rahman Siddique took the case into cognisance and recorded the complainant's statements.

The judge directed PBI to investigate the case and submit a report before it by September 30.

According to the case documents, the official established sexual relations with her several times, promising to marry her, but he later refused to do so.

They met through social media on December 21 of 2018. The accused also threatened her when she sent a legal notice to him through her lawyer about the matter on June 8. Asked, the official said he knew the woman but had no relation with her.

SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited
Head Office: City Center, 90/1 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Tender for Printing and Supplying of Wall and Desk Calendar-2022

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the authorized/bonafide Printing Press/Firms for Printing and Supplying of Wall Calendar and Desk Calendar for the year 2022 with Cover Envelopes. Last date of Tender Submission: 30/09/2021 up to 3:00 pm. Document Price: TK.3,000/- (Three thousand) (Non Refundable). Tender Security: TK.2,00,000/- (Two Lac) (Refundable after procedure). Interested bidders are requested to visit the Bank's website link: <https://www.siblbdb.com/home/tender> for detailed specification and related other information.

Vice President & Head Logistic Support Division
Phone: 09612001122 Ext- 50296
E-mail: lsd@sibl-bd.com

16491

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Manikganj PWD Division
Manikganj
www.pwd.gov.bd

Memo no-323 Date : 14/09/2021

e-Tender Notice-e-Gp Tender (OSTETM)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

S.L No	Tender ID & Reference No	Name Work	Last selling Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	608630, 25.36.2600.002.03.301.22.05(2334)(3/2) date1/9/21	Establishment of Colonel Malek Medical College & 500 bedded hospital at manikganj (Sub-head: Construction of 450 m3/day capacity Sewage Treatment Plant). Financial Year: 2020-2021.	13-Oct-2021 17:00	14-Oct-2021 11:30

This is an online Tender. Where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will 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 e-GP registered bank's branches within due time

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk @ eprocure.gov.bd) or (email : ee_manik@pwd.gov.bd) and call to 02-7710401. Interested person can be communicated with the undersigned during office hours.

(M. Abu Zaki)
Executive Engineer
Manikganj PWD Division
Manikganj
E-mail : ee_manik@pwd.gov.bd

GD-1655

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা।

আবশ্যিক

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিম্নে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

কর্মকর্তা পদ

- ১। ছাত্রকল্যাণ পরিদপ্তর
 - (ক) চীফ মেডিকেল অফিসার (মেডিকেল সেন্টার)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-
 - (খ) ফিজিক্যাল ইন্সট্রাক্টর (শারীরিক শিক্ষা বিভাগ)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
 - (গ) ইমাম (ড.এম.এ.রশীদ হা)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ২। রেজিস্ট্রার অফিস
 - (ক) ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ৪৩০০০-৬৪৮৫০/-
 - (খ) লিপ্যাল এডভাইজার/সহকারী রেজিস্ট্রার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২৯০০০-৬৪৮৫০/-
 - (গ) ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেম অফিসার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ৩। আই.টি.এল সেন্টার
 - (ক) রিসার্চ অফিসার (টেকনিক্যাল/রিসার্চ)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ৪৩০০০-৬৪৮৫০/-
 - (খ) রিসার্চ অফিসার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ৪। কেমিক্যাল বিভাগ
 - এসপিআইসি/ইন্সট্রাক্টর-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২৯০০০-৬৪৮৫০/-
- ৫। গ্রাস এন্ড সিরামিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ
 - এসপিআইসি/ইন্সট্রাক্টর-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২৯০০০-৬৪৮৫০/-
- ৬। কেন্দ্রীয় লাইব্রেরি
 - প্রোগ্রামার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-
- ৭। দুর্দীর্ঘা রিসার্চ ইনস্টিটিউট
 - (ক) প্রোগ্রামার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-
 - (খ) সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ৮। আইসি চ্যান্সেলর অফিস
 - সহকারী রেজিস্ট্রার (কো-অর্ডিনেশন)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ৪৩০০০-৬৪৮৫০/-
- ৯। পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন পরিদপ্তর
 - সহকারী পরিচালক (পরিকল্পনা)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২৯০০০-৬৪৮৫০/-
- ১০। মন্ত্রকৌশল বিভাগ
 - ইন্সট্রাক্টর ইন ড্রাফটিং (এম.ই)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ১১। প্রকৌশল অফিস
 - প্রশাসনিক অফিসার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ১২। যুটেক-জিডপাস
 - সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ১৩। ডিএইআরএস অফিস
 - (ক) প্রশাসনিক অফিসার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
 - (খ) সহকারী ইন্সট্রাক্টর ইন্সট্রাক্টর-এর ২টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ২২০০০-৫০০৬০/-
- ১৪। অডিট ও ইন্সপেক্টর কৌশল বিভাগ
 - সহকারী টেকনিক্যাল অফিসার-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/-
- ১৫। পলি সম্পদ কৌশল বিভাগ
 - সহকারী টেকনিক্যাল অফিসার (ড্রাফটিং)-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল নং: ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/-

উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ: ০৫/১০/২০২১

উল্লিখিত পদের বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য যুটেক ডায়ালগ সার্ভিস (regoffice.buet.ac.bd)-Vacancy-এর Job circular page-এ Search করা অথবা রেজিস্ট্রার অফিসের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায় সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

রেজিস্ট্রার
GD-1657

4 bills passed

FROM PAGE 3

the caretaker government's tenure were approved in parliament, following recommendations of the 9th parliament's special committee. But Dhaka Shishu Hospital Ordinance was not endorsed at that time.

Dhaka Shishu Hospital, established in 1977, became an autonomous institute under the 2008 ordinance. The Bangladesh Institute of Child Health was established in 1983 as an academic wing of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Currently, there is no complete law or ordinance on regulation and supervision of Dhaka Shishu Hospital's activities. At least 30 beds would be reserved for child patients of poor families, he mentioned, referring to a provision of the bill. The Medical Degrees (Repeal) Bill was passed by voice vote. The proposed law, once enacted, will abolish Medical Degrees Act 1916, as the enactment of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) Act 2010 made the old law unnecessary.

Medical Degrees Act 1916 used to determine everything regarding medical degrees and their standards. But all of its provisions were incorporated into BMDC Act 2010.

The Medical Colleges (Governing Bodies) (Repeal), Bill was also passed by voice vote. The new law will abolish Medical Colleges (Governing Bodies) Ordinance 1961. The old ordinance is not necessary anymore, as some other laws were enacted for medical education in the country.

Kurigram Agricultural University Bill aims to establish a new university in Kurigram, which will help develop agriculture in northern districts through research. Currently, there are 153 universities -- 46 public and 107 private -- in the country.

State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid placed The Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2021 in parliament.

Since the tenure of the existing law is going to expire in 2021, the proposed law was brought to extend it till 2026.

The cabinet on September 6 gave final approval for the bill's draft to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and energy.

The tenure of the special provision, enacted in 2010, was extended on several occasions in the past, but no changes other than extensions were made to the proposed law.

It seems purposive

FROM PAGE 3

Earlier, executive councils of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) expressed grave concerns over the issue.

"If there is any specific information about unusual transactions or money laundering against any particular journalist, legal action can be taken against him/her after proper investigation," read a joint statement.

"Question arises as to whether seeking bank account details of those elected to the top positions of the organisations is meant to humiliate such institutions and their leadership," the statement added.

Courts hamstrung

FROM PAGE 3

In one year from January 1 till December 31 that year, 7,39,563 cases were resolved in these courts, said the report. The SC administration does not have statistics on the numbers of cases filed and disposed of last year and this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, said SC spokesperson Mohammad Saifur Rahman.

Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, who leads the Law Lab, said if the case backlog continues to go up, the fundamental rights of the citizens to have speedy trial under article 35(5) of the constitution will be nugatory.

"It is high time to take immediate steps to ensure best use of the existing resources, increase their efficiency and remove procedural complexities to get rid of the pending cases," he said. He stressed on digitalisation of the case management system for faster case disposal.

According to the Law Lab report, each judge of the AD is burdened with more than 3,045 cases on an average as the number of its judges came down to five from 11 in 2009 after appointments and retirements of some judges.

The situation is worse in the HC as each of its 91 judges is burdened with 4,923.51 cases on an average. Three of the HC judges are not being allowed to conduct bench as an inquiry is going on about them since August 22, 2019.

Besides, three HC judges are conducting the International Crimes Tribunal-1 for disposing of the 1971 war crimes related cases, SC sources said.

The judges at the lower courts are also burdened with a huge backlog of cases as there are only 1,700 judges to deal with 34.65 lakh cases filed in courts across the country.

This means each of the judges will have to dispose of 2,038 cases on an average, the report said. In 2014, Bangladesh Law Commission recommended the government recruit 3,000 judges at lower courts for quick disposal of pending cases and reducing sufferings of justice seekers.

Contacted, Muhammad Yusuf Hossain Humayun, vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, said there is an urgent need for appointing some judges at the AD as it is facing a severe shortage of judges.

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM (DLP)
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS)

ADMISSION NOTICE
CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DIABETOLOGY (34th Batch)

Applications are invited from doctors (MBBS or equivalent, with permanent BMDC registration) for admission into Online Certificate Course on Diabetology (CCD) for the session January to June - 2022.

The course design has been adopted to suite more with online platform. The modular course is now in a Lesson and End Lesson Practice based format through cloud based software. So a student can do self study practice according to his/her suitable time and place prior to attend a tutorial for each module as per academic calendar from own station.

Student's registration for batch-34 will be open from 16th September 2021 (for details visit: <http://www.dlpbadas-bd.org>). Doctors willing to get admitted into the course are requested to do online registration through the website. The selected candidates will be instructed to complete the admission formalities online through the same platform.

National Professor A K Azad Khan
President, BADAS & Chairman, DLP

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি
সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
www.shilpakala.gov.bd

তারিখ: ১৪-০৯-২০২১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১. সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
২. সংগ্রহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
৩. জেলা	ঢাকা
৪. দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	৪৩.২০.০০০০.০১৩.৩৭.০০১.২১.২০২১ তাং-১৪-০৯-২০২১
৫. কাজের নাম	স্বর্ণের মেডেল (নির্দিষ্ট ডিজাইন অনুযায়ী) তৈরি ও সরবরাহ।
৬. বাজেট ও অর্ধের উৎস	রাজস্ব
৭. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচারের তারিখ	১৬-০৯-২০২১
৮. দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি	বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
৯. দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ দিন ও সময়	২৯-০৯-২০২১, বিকাল ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত
১০. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	৩০-০৯-২০২১, বেলা: ১২.০০ পর্যন্ত
১১. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	৩০-০৯-২০২১, বেলা: ১২.৩০ পর্যন্ত
১২. দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান/পত্র	সচিবের দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা এবং কক্ষ নম্বর-১০১০, ভবন নম্বর-০৬, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৩. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি	জুলোরী কার্জের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, জুলোরী মালিক সমিতির সদস্য, টিআইএন নম্বর ও ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন নম্বর এর সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি এবং কোনো তফসিলি ব্যাংক থেকে আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদ দাখিলসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ০৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং গত দুই বছরে অনুক্রম কার্জের একক দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে ১৫.০০ লক্ষ টাকার কার্জের অভিজ্ঞতা (সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি এবং স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে)।
১৪. দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র)
১৫. দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত	দরপত্রের সাথে যেকোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক (সিডিউল ব্যাংক) হতে মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমির অমুকুলে ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নিরাপত্তা জামানত হিসেবে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৬. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	মো. আছাদুজ্জামান
১৭. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	সচিব
১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা।
১৯. বিশেষ নির্দেশনা:	(ক) দরপত্র বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, প্রশিক্ষণ ভবন, কক্ষ নং-৪০৫, সেগুনবাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা থেকে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দান করে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। (খ) দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী অনুসারে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র জামানতের অর্থ পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। (গ) পি.পি.এ ২০০৬, পি.পি.আর ২০০৮ এবং সরকারের প্রচলিত বিধি-বিধান অনুযায়ী দরপত্র কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হবে। (ঘ) অনিবার্য কারণবশত: নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিনসে একই সময় ও স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। (ঙ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র বাতিল বা যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

মো. আছাদুজ্জামান
সচিব
ফোন: ৯৫৫৪১৭
জিডি-১৬৪৯

EROSION OF PADMA, MODHUMOTI

7 pry schools under threat in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Existence of seven government primary schools is under threat in three upazilas of Faridpur as banks of the Padma and the Modhumoti rivers continue to be eroded fast.

The Modhumoti river in Alphadanga upazila is closing in on three such schools -- Poshchim Narandia Government Primary School, Pachuria Government Primary School and Bazra Government Primary School.

In Charbhadrason upazila, the Padma river is getting alarmingly close to Baliadangi Government Primary School and Sobulla Sikdarer Dangi Government Primary School. Nuruddin Sardar Kandi Government Primary School and Kotikandi Government Primary School in Sadarpur upazila are also under threat of erosion by the mighty river.

Headteacher Joynab Begum of Poshchim Narandia Government Primary School, in Alphadanga upazila, said, "The Modhumoti river has reached within eight feet of our school. The tin structure of the school may go into the river any time."

Established in 1980, the institution also has a single-storey building on its 30-decimal compound. The school has 110 enrolled students and four teachers, she said, adding that their future would be shrouded in uncertainty if the school is lost to the river.

With the Modhumoti river only six feet away from the school building now, they have been considering relocating to a new site, said Farida Parvin, headteacher of Bazra Government Primary School in the same upazila.

Baliadangi Government Primary



The Modhumoti river is now only eight feet away from Poshchim Narandia Government Primary School in Faridpur's Alphadanga upazila.

School in Charbhadrason was established in 1988. The institution had to be moved to the current location after its original campus was eroded by the Padma in 1998. Now the river is eroding its bank about 40 feet away from the school.

The river is once again getting close to the two-storey building of the school, said headteacher Lutfar Rahman.

In Sadarpur upazila, Kotikandi Government Primary School is facing erosion threat of the Padma, as the river has gotten close to 80 yards of the school's tin structure.

Sharif Hossain, headteacher of the school, said another corrugated

iron building of the school had to be abandoned a year ago, but the way the Padma has been eroding its bank, the existing building of the school will go into it soon.

The higher authorities concerned have been informed of the present situation, he also said.

Asked, Faridpur District Primary Education Officer Touhidul Islam said they already informed the deputy commissioner of Faridpur and Water Development Board (WDB) about the seven endangered government primary schools in Faridpur.

He also said that he advised

upazila education officers and headteachers concerned to take necessary measures if a school building can be saved by relocating.

Explaining various measures taken in this regard, WDB's executive engineer in Faridpur Partha Prothim Saha said they asked Poshchim Narandia Government Primary School authorities to move the school's tin structure to a safer location.

They had been dumping geotextile bags at erosion sites of the rivers to save Bazra Government Primary School and other schools, he added.

Farmers make profit growing watermelon on unused lands of fish enclosures

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Farmers of Beel Khukshiya regions in Keshabpur upazila of Jashore have found enviable success in cultivating watermelon during its off-season. They have cultivated watermelon on bamboo platforms near fish enclosures bringing a marked change in their fate. Watermelons were seen hanging like pumpkins on bamboo platforms and the farmers have wrapped those with net bags for their weight management.

As the weather condition is favourable, farmers are making a good profit as the yield has been quite good. Watermelon, usually cultivated during dry season, has been cultivated for the first time in this region.

Watermelons produced here are being transported to different parts of the country including Dhaka. Many farmers are turning to watermelon cultivation as it is profitable.

Upazila agriculture extension officials have visited the watermelon cultivation and assured the farmers of all sorts of assistance.

Bill Khukshiya is located on the banks of the river Srihari in Sufalakti union, some 18 km away from Keshabpur upazila headquarters.

Due to 18-year-long waterlogging in the beel, the farmers could not grow any crops in the beel. Later, Tidal River Management (TRM) approach was implemented by the Water Development Board to solve the waterlogging problem. At the end of the project, the farmers started cultivating fish in enclosures. Now, the farmers have seen the face of success by cultivating watermelon on bamboo platforms at the edge of the enclosures. Farmer Mohsin Uddin said, he planted around 1,400 watermelon saplings around his 13-bigha fish enclosure and got a yield of 275 maunds. He sold per maund of watermelon at Tk 1,200. The biggest of his produce weighed 14 kg.

Abdul Halim Khan, another farmer in the area, has sold watermelons worth TK 30,000.

Farmer Abdul Quddus has cultivated

watermelon in his six-bigha fish enclosure. The watermelons that he produced were also quite large.

The Department of Agriculture Extension has become overjoyed to see watermelon cultivation in the beel area.

Chairman of Sufalakti Union Parishad Abdus Samad said, the beel remained waterlogged for 18 years and the farmers could not harvest any crop there. The TRM approach was implemented in the beel in 2005. Now, the farmers are getting the benefit of it.

This year, the farmers have got a huge yield of watermelon in the beel areas.



Watermelons are seen hanging like pumpkins on bamboo platforms at the edge of a fish enclosure in Beel Khukshiya and the farmers have wrapped those with net bags for their weight management. PHOTO: STAR

Besides paddy and fish cultivation, watermelon cultivation has brought back smiles on the faces of the farmers, he added.

Keshabpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Rituraj Sarkar said, watermelon has been cultivated in 254 bighas of land in Beel Khukshiya, which is making the farmers of the area financially solvent.

Watermelons of Asian-1, Pakija Super, Black King, Black Queen varieties have been cultivated here as per the advice of the agriculture department.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) featuring a recruitment notice for various positions. The notice includes the company logo, contact information, and a detailed list of job openings with their respective qualifications and application procedures. The recruitment is for the year 2021.

Advertisement for Furious Padma devours over 20 homesteads in Harirampur. The article describes the severe erosion of the Padma river, which has destroyed numerous homes and agricultural lands. It mentions that 20 families have lost their homesteads and vast areas of cropland. The article also notes that the erosion has led to the displacement of many people and the loss of their livelihoods.

Advertisement for Bangladesh University of Maritime Studies (BMSMU) featuring a recruitment notice for various positions. The notice includes the university logo, contact information, and a detailed list of job openings with their respective qualifications and application procedures. The recruitment is for the year 2021.

MORE NEWS

UN urges moratorium on AI tech that threatens rights

The UN yesterday called for a moratorium on artificial intelligence systems like facial recognition technology that threaten human rights until "guardrails" are in place against violations.



US gen secretly called China doubting Trump's sanity: book

The top US general was so worried in early January that Donald Trump was out of control that he took secret action to prevent the outgoing president from sparking a war with China, according to a new book.

Californians vote to keep Democratic governor

Californians voted overwhelmingly to keep their Democratic governor Tuesday, roundly rejecting a Republican attempt to unseat him in a special recall vote spurred by mask mandates and Covid lockdowns.

Sri Lanka prison minister quits after gun-toting claims

Sri Lanka's prisons minister stepped down yesterday over allegations he tried to force a confession from a Tamil inmate at gunpoint, and drunkenly threatened to execute others.

'Time for Europe to step up to the next level'

EU chief lays out plan to make bloc more independent, announces defence summit

AGENCIES

The European Union's chief executive yesterday set out plans to make the 27-nation bloc more independent in areas from defence to global trade, and urged other countries to join it in accelerating the fight against climate change.

Europe will seek to boost its own military capacity after the collapse of the US-backed government in Afghanistan, Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday, announcing a defence summit.

"It is time for Europe to step up to the next level," von der Leyen told the European Parliament, in her annual State of the European Union address.

France's President Emmanuel Macron will convene the "summit on European defence" during France's six-month presidency of the bloc, starting at the New Year, she said.

Paris has been leading the push for the 27-nation union to develop more autonomous military capacities alongside the Western alliance, which is traditionally led by the US.

One month after the Taliban took control in Afghanistan, von der Leyen called on EU states to build forces that can intervene militarily abroad without US support.

"What has held us back until now is not just shortfalls of capacity, it is a lack of political will," said the former German defence minister, whose country has been reluctant to deploy troops into combat around the world.

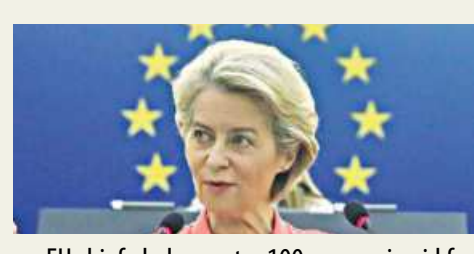
In the short term, the EU chief pledged an additional 100 million euros (\$118 million) in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan as the bloc grapples with the immediate fall-out of the Taliban's takeover.

While US-led Nato has long shouldered the military burden in Europe, China's rise, a more aggressive Russia and U.S. calls for Europe to do more for its own security are pushing the EU to develop a more forceful foreign policy.

Echoing calls by predecessor Jean-Claude Juncker, von der Leyen said the EU needed a "defence union" that would cement joint military action, going beyond its traditional soft power as the world's largest trading bloc.

She proposed waiving value-added tax on weapons developed and sold in the bloc by EU governments, establishing a joint situational awareness centre to improve intelligence-sharing, and better defences against cyber attacks.

She also pledged to increase financial support



EU chief pledges extra 100m euros in aid for Afghanistan

Vows 200m more vaccine doses to low-income countries

Pledges 4 billion euros more in climate funds

Bans forced-labour products in tougher China stance

to help poorer countries fight climate change and adapt to its impacts by an additional 4 billion euros (\$4.73 billion) until 2027.

Warning against "a pandemic of the unvaccinated", she said the pace of Covid-19 vaccination must be quickened. She announced a donation of 200 million vaccine doses for third countries by mid-2022, on top of a previous commitment for 250 million shots.

Von der Leyen, during her speech, also said the EU is looking to impose an import ban on products made from forced labour, in a move seen aimed at China over its treatment of its Uyghur population.

The stance underlined a hardening Western approach to China, which has become an economic powerhouse that competes with the US and EU while eschewing their democratic and social values.

She also said the European Commission is to propose a law to fight violence against women before the end of the year after a rise in cases during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Women must be able to live freely and self-determinedly again," she told the European Parliament in her annual State of the European Union address in Strasbourg.

"During the pandemic, too many women were deprived of this freedom" to express themselves, live their identity and to "love who you want," she said.



New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jagmeet Singh makes an election campaign visit in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, on Tuesday. A relatively large number of Canadians -- almost one in five eligible -- voted early in hotly contested upcoming elections on September 20, Elections Canada said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Koreas conduct duelling missile tests

REUTERS, Seoul

Both North Korea and South Korea test fired ballistic missiles yesterday, the latest volley in an arms race that has seen both countries develop increasingly sophisticated weapons while efforts to get talks going on defusing tension prove fruitless.

South Korea tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), becoming the first country without nuclear weapons to develop such a system.

South Korea President Moon was attending that test firing when word came of the North Korean launches, its first ballistic missile tests since March. North Korea fired a pair of ballistic missiles that landed in the sea off its east coast, according to officials in South Korea and Japan, just days after it tested a cruise missile that is believed to have nuclear capabilities.

North Korea has been steadily developing its weapons systems amid a standoff over talks aimed at dismantling its nuclear and ballistic missile arsenals in return for US sanctions relief. The negotiations, initiated between former US president Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2018, have stalled since 2019.

The US military's Indo-Pacific Command said North Korea's missile launches did not pose an immediate threat to U.S. personnel, territory, or allies, but highlight the destabilising impact of its illicit weapons programme.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga called the missile launch "outrageous" and strongly condemned it as a threat to peace and security in the region.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a daily briefing that China hoped "relevant parties" would "exercise restraint".

Quotes of the day



The Taliban hold all of Afghanistan and if they can sort of now work towards an inclusive government, get all the factions together, Afghanistan could have peace after 40 years. But if it goes wrong and which is what we are really worried about, it could go to chaos. The biggest humanitarian crisis, a huge refugee problem.

PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN

AGRANI BANK LIMITED Establishment & Engineering Division

Head Office 9/D Dilkusha C/A Dhaka.

Invitation for Tenders

Table with 3 columns: Item No, Description, and Details. Includes Procuring Entity Name, District, Invitation for, Ref No, and Date.

Key Information: Procurement Method: Open Tendering Method.

Funding Information: Budget and Source of Funds: Own fund of Agrani Bank limited.

Particular Information: Tender Publication Date: 14/09/2021, Tender Last Selling Date: 30/09/2021.

Table with 3 columns: Item No, Description, and Details. Includes Tender Closing Date and Time, Tender Opening Date and Time, Name & Address of the Tender Document, Receiving Tender Document, and Place of Tender Opening.

Information For Tenderer: Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer.

Tenderers who have: a. Not been prevented by order of any judicial court from entering into and/or signing contract with the procuring entity. b. Tenderers shall have at least 03 (Three) years of overall business experience in similar works preceding the date of publication of IFT.

16 Tenderer to attach copies of the following Documents: i) Up to date valid Trade license ii) Up-to-date income tax paid certificate iii) Valid VAT registration certificate iv) TIN Certificate v) Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 5,25,000.00 (Five Lac and Twenty Five thousand) only.

17 Brief Description of Goods: CCTV system with complete accessories. (Camera, 8-SATA port hybrid DVR, Monitor, UPS etc.)

18 Price of Tender Document (Tk): 500/- (Tk Five Hundred Only) Non-refundable pay-order from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favor of Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.

19 Name of Official Inviting Tender: Md. Nurul Islam

20 Designation of Official Inviting Tender: Deputy General Manager

21 Address of Official Inviting Tender: Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

22 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender: 01552475489, 029561674 eedmechanical@agraniabank.org

23 a) The Tenderer shall furnish Registration certificate and evidence of being managed by Bangladeshi nationals in original and certificates of satisfactory completion of previous work for proposed brand CC Camera of above magnitude from the owner at the time of dropping the Tender documents. b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the Tender(s), the same will be received at the same time on the day after next working day.

UK CABINET RESHUFFLE PM Johnson rejigs his top team

REUTERS, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday demoted his foreign secretary in a major reshuffle, removing his more under-fire colleagues to refocus the government on raising living standards after covid-19.

After months of criticism of several of his top team for missteps and gaffes, Johnson finally started a process some say he wanted to do many weeks earlier, to make the changes he feels he needs to press on with his "levelling up" agenda.

Johnson has made tackling regional inequality a priority, part of an agenda set in 2019 when he won the biggest Conservative Party parliamentary majority since Margaret Thatcher but which has been eclipsed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dominic Raab, who has faced calls to resign since he went on holiday in Crete as the Taliban advanced on the Afghan capital, Kabul, lost one of the so-called great offices of state in the foreign office to become justice minister.

To soften the blow, Raab was also appointed deputy prime minister, a role he played in all but name when he stepped in to lead government when Johnson was fighting for his life in hospital with Covid last year.

Liz Truss was promoted from trade to the foreign office, becoming only the second woman to hold the position in Britain. Michael Gove, seen as a key player in the Johnson government, was moved to housing from his position in the cabinet office, a department at the centre of government which drives the implementation of policy.

Raab's and Gove's moves followed the sackings of three others: Gavin Williamson as education minister, Robert Buckland as justice minister and Robert Jenrick as the housing minister.

Critics accused Johnson of choosing Wednesday to overshadow the opposition Labour Party's planned vote in parliament on the government's decision to scrap extra support for low-income families. But some Conservative lawmakers said it had been simply long overdue.



Dominic Raab

Advertisement for Panna Ayeel Company Limited. Includes company name, address, contact info, and a list of services provided.

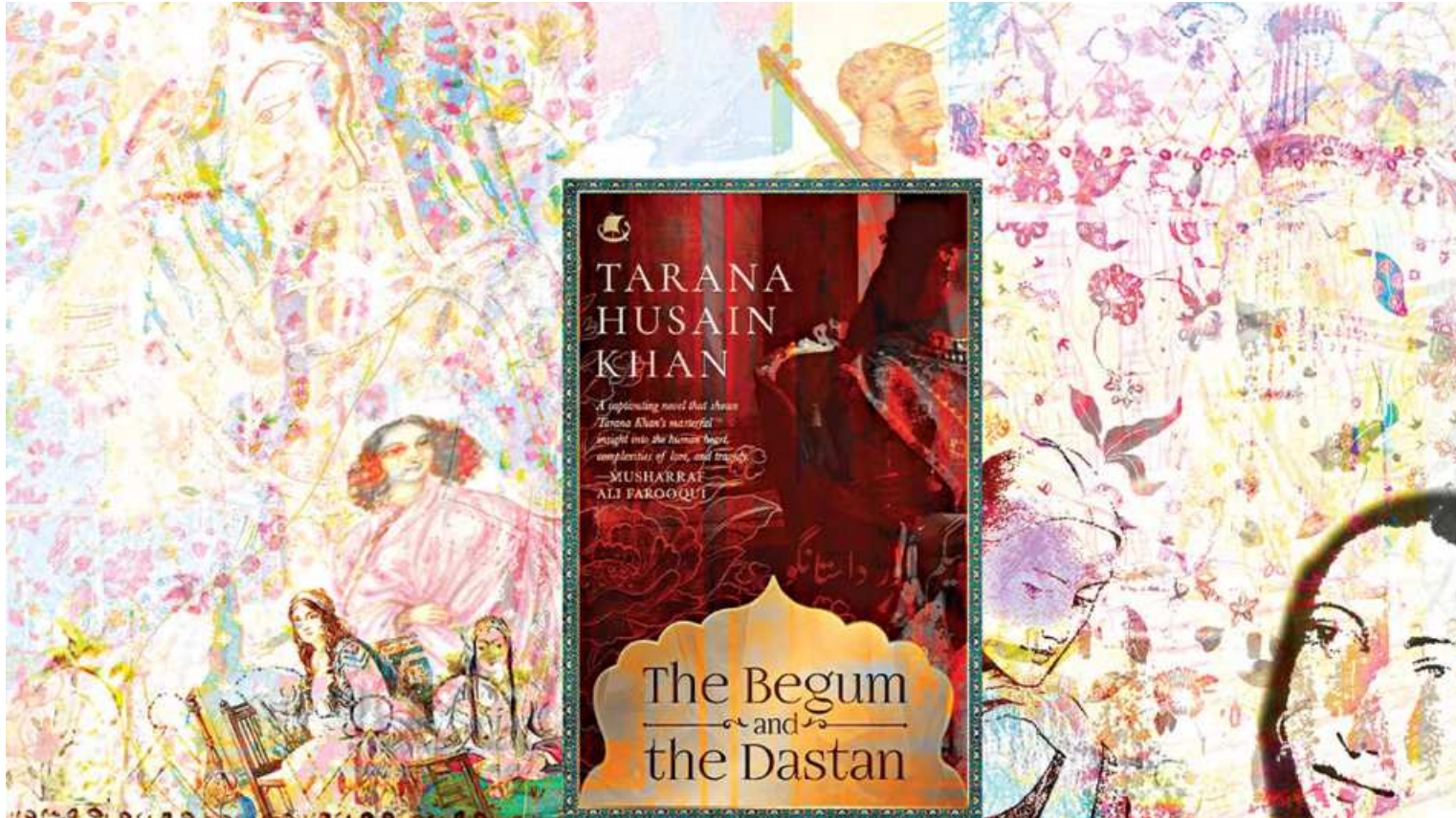


ILLUSTRATION: ZAREEN TASNIM BUSHRA

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Patriarchy is a labyrinth that defies time

SAMEIRAH NASRIN AHSAN

I am convinced that while writing her book, *The Begum and the Dastan* (Westland Publications, 2021), Tarana Husain Khan's aim was to leave her readers in a literary stupor, dizzy and yearning for more. A nested tale of love, inheritance, social conflicts, and survival, the novel boasts both real and fantastical themes. The book oscillates between three narratives: the story of the spirited Feroza Begum set in 19th century British India; the story of present-day Ameera, Feroza's great-granddaughter; and that of Mirza Kallan, a *dastango* (storyteller) who sips opium at the bazaar *chowk* and weaves tales so magical that the ambits of fantasy and reality become blurred to him and readers alike.

Wilful and fierce of spirit, Feroza Begum is the beautiful daughter of a wealthy Rohilla Pathan in the princely state of Sherpur during the British Raj. Her keen, inquisitive mind—admired by her husband and siblings but disapproved in a society so patriarchal—becomes the reason for her downfall. Happily married and loved by her family, young Feroza defies her father's wishes to visit the celebrations taking place at the Nawab of Sherpur's palace. At the event, Nawab Shams Ali Khan is enamoured by Feroza's fire and beauty and wants her for himself, as another gem in his glittering harem full of women. The Nawab confines her within walls against

her will, forced to divorce her husband and abandoned by her family. Feroza prays for deliverance but she does what she has to for survival—she marries the Nawab and is swept away in the confusing whirlpool of emotions, the grandeur and squalor that make up the life of a reluctant queen.

In the present day, Ameera, the great-granddaughter of Feroza Begum, listens with rapt attention to her Dadi recounting Feroza's life story as a cautionary tale about female recklessness. Amidst these overlapping narratives, Mirza Kallan charms his audience with the story of a tyrant sorcerer in his magical city where women are tied with chains and tacit rules.

The lives of Feroza and the other women in the Nawab's harem are a stark contrast to his depraved, lavish life. The wives lead a life of puritanical obedience while the Nawab exercises despotism by punishing people who dare to defy him, usurping property of dissenters and capturing women he desires with or without their consent. As Feroza navigates this maze of 19th century court life thrust upon her, and as Ameera absorbs Dadi's account of Feroza's story, both women, despite the century of time between them, realise with grim clarity the cruel, unspoken rules that govern the lives of women regardless of age.

Both women cautiously tread a fine line between propriety and what society has labeled as female vulgarity. Dreams, aspirations and goals become secondary to gendered expectations. Misinterpreted religious texts and archaic tradition govern their lives.

Tarana Husain Khan is a master of imagery; her writing is imbued with elaborate descriptions of resplendent soirees, gloomy dungeons, and busy bazaars, that sweep you into the glamour and delusion of court life. Just as quickly, she will steer you through time and bring you face-to-face with the subversion of women's empowerment in present times.

The pilgrimages of survival across the pages of *The Begum and the Dastan* have not yet come to an end. Written in invisible ink, Feroza's story continues on in contemporary women as we try to navigate the toiling maze of age-old patriarchy. Turning the last page of this book does not constitute its ending; it is but a pause. A pause to breathe, to reflect, and to perhaps rethink our choices as individuals and a society.

Sameirah Nasrin Ahsan is a mechanical engineer and aspiring author based in Dhaka. For now, she is content with reading and sharing the stories that make her think beyond herself. Instagram: @booksnher.

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

A much-needed Bangla text on the history of Sufism

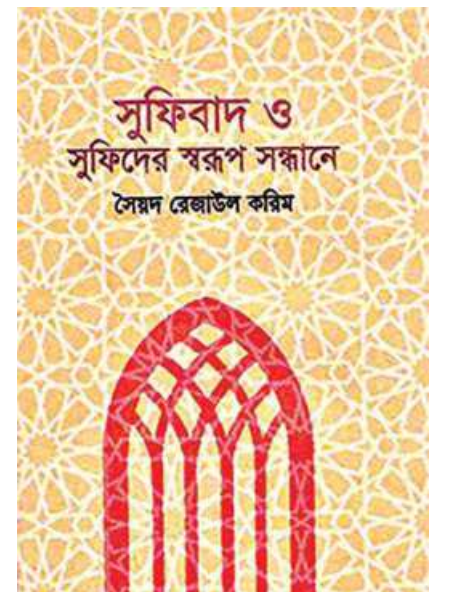
NASIM FIRDAUS

Sufibad O Sufider Shorup Shondhoney ('In search of the nature of Sufism and Sufis'), written by Syed Rezaul Karim and published in 2020 by Bangla Academy, is a welcome addition to the meager collection of books written in Bangla on Sufism. It is well known that Bangladesh is a predominantly Muslim country because of Sufi influences in its early history, yet books in Bangla on this subject are hard to find. Syed Rezaul Karim's is a product of research not by practitioners of Sufism or Islamic clerics but by a writer who has devoted two decades of his life studying and seeking to understand the concept and connotations of Sufism and the contours of the Sufi path of illumination.

In order to understand Sufism better, the author visited some of the places where celebrated Sufis were born, where they lived and walked the 'Sufi path of consecration'. In his search he travelled to Bistam, deep in Iran, where one of the early Sufi dervishes, Hazrat Abu Yazid al-Bistami (804-875 AD), was born and lies buried. Karim also visited the cradle of the Khorasani school of Sufism from the 10th to the 13th century in Nishapur, Iran. His quest to see and "feel" the Sufi path took him to Konya in Turkey where the great Sufi poet, Mowlana Jalaluddin Rumi, lived and practiced Sufism.

Karim draws up a kaleidoscopic picture of Sufism based on his research, such as the study of some of the earliest books written by Sufis themselves, including the 10th century's *Tasaruf* by Kalabadi, and the 11th century's *Risala* by Abu'l Qasim Abd al-Karim bin Hawazin al-Qushayri and *Kashf al-mahjub* by Ali Ibn Uthman al-Hujwiri. Rumi's *Mathnawi* and *Divan* and Fariduddin Attar's *Conference of Birds* are frequently quoted to explain and enlighten the different dimensions of Sufism. The picture that emerges has some reflective characteristics. Sufism emanates from Islam and its esoteric knowledge. A Sufi is endowed with great moral character, a pure heart, and a life clad and concealed in material and spiritual poverty. The outward patched garment of a Sufi is symbolic: they walk on the twin path of self annihilation and of abandoning the material world. The goal is to attain *Mariifa*—knowledge of God. A Sufi's constant companion is *Zikr*, which is "remembrance of God for

the love of God". The book under review is divided into 16 chapters including such titles as "Sufism—a pen picture", "Identity of a Sufi", "Pillars of spiritual transformation", "Mariifa", etc. There is a chapter on *Sharia, Tariqa, and Haqiqa* delineating the relationship between the three systems of the religious path. It also narrates the historical development of Sufism from the early period of Islam and its spread and influence in Bengal. One of the fascinating Sufi characters that is dealt with in the book is the enigmatic and spirited Mansur al-Hallaj (born 858 AD), whose ecstatic and wild utterances led to his death on gallows on charges of blasphemy by conservative rulers. Yet another chapter comments

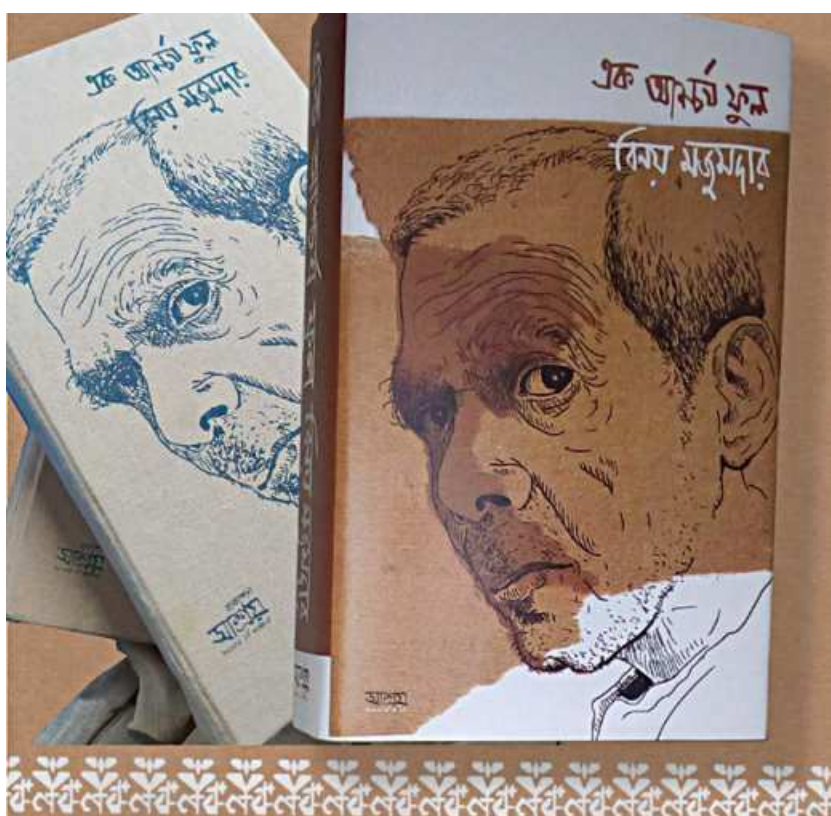


on Sufi music exemplified in Mowlana Rumi's *Sema*, the whirling dance; another chapter looks into the role of women in Sufism.

The profuse use of poetry by Rumi, Attar, and other Sufi poets has made the reading of the book a pleasure. Anyone interested in Sufism and on Sufi masters will find it a rewarding experience.

The book is available at Bangla Academy Library.

Nasim Firdaus is Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Retd) and President of Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership.



COVER DESIGN: RAZIB DATTA

WHAT TO READ

'Ek Ashchorjo Phul Binoy Majumdar' is a rare treat for fans of the poet

LAVLU HIRA

Jointly edited by Ahasan Hydar and Snigdhadip Chakraborty, *Ek Ashchorjo Phul Binoy Majumdar* (Ashroy Prokashon, 2021) is a valuable book on the life and work of Bengali poet Binoy Majumdar, who was born on September 17, 1934.

The book is composed of analyses by eminent and emerging poets as well as essayists from both sides of the Bengal border. In the book, friends and colleagues of Majumdar reminisce about the walks they took along College Street together, the lively discussions at coffee houses, and intimate talks at Binodini Kuthi at Shimulpur. The 824-page volume contains discussions on Majumdar's poetry, screenplays, and paintings from the likes of Gayatri

Chakravorty Spivak, Shamsur Rahman, Al Mahmud, Ahmed Sofa, and Ritwik Ghatak, among others. *Ek Ashchorjo Phul* also comes with a collection of published and unpublished stories, poems, and drawings by the revered Hungry Generation poet himself. At the beginning of every chapter are portraits of Majumdar drawn by different artists.

Editor Ahasan Hydar notes, "This book is the result of a five years-long effort. Readers can learn about the world of Binoy's poetry in a novel way through this book. Binoy was also a great mathematician. His thoughts on society [and] poetry, and the choice of diction in his poems, can charm everybody".

Lavlu Hira is a contributor.

FROM PAGES TO PIXELS

'The Green Knight' adapts the tenets of chivalric romance

MAISHA SYEDA

The mystical riddle that was the film, *The Green Knight* (2021), was initially just that for me: a riddle. It was one of those films where I felt like my experience of watching it would be more rewarding if I had some idea of the actual story it was based on. As I read through *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*—an alliterative poem, written circa the 14th century, in a Middle English dialect by an anonymous poet—I realised it was the kind of endeavour that neither my very short attention span nor my patience was ready for, yet I already felt challenged. Being a folklore junkie and not coming across an epic about King Arthur's nephew and heir apparent? Nope, couldn't let that blot my escutcheon.

The poem starts with Britain's bloody and make-believe history. The poet then proceeds to tell of a tale he had heard about King Arthur and Sir Gawain, Arthur's nephew and the youngest of the Knights of the Round Table.

During one Christmas celebration at the court, King Arthur demands to hear a marvellous story before he can feast. As if on cue, a giant knight rides into his court in emerald green attire. Not only his clothes, even his skin and his horse are green. This being lays down a challenge for whoever is brave and quick: he declares that a man from the court should strike him with his own axe, which he shall endure without fighting back. The catch, however, is that in a year and a day, he will strike the same blow to the contender in return.

Acclaimed director David Lowery's film opens with Gawain (played by Dev Patel) romancing Essel (Alicia Vikander), a commoner, in a brothel; only he isn't a knight—yet. The muted tones in this first scene, the heavy stone architecture, and the pale makeup of the characters along with velveteen, ornate costumes of greens and browns capture the rotting ambience

of the medieval era. In Dev Patel's flawless rendition, Gawain becomes a gullible and befuddled youth, his naivety and youthful impulses offering a solid ground for the plot to rest upon. However, commoners and people of the court glorify this rather unseasoned knight-in-making because he is nephew to King Arthur.

A point of contention with the source material here is that in the poem, Sir Gawain is aware of his inferiority and incompetence compared to the other knights. He is also said to be shy, cowardly, and morally rigid; the entire point of the quest he embarks upon is to test his courage and virtue. In

like *Beowulf* and *Odyssey*.

This subversion is extended further in the way in which Gawain tries to survive the challenges in his journey. But while it succeeds in fleshing out the juvenility in Gawain's character, it causes the screenplay to lose context in some instances, particularly in its handling of the character of Gawain's "witch" mother, Morgana Fay (played by Sarita Choudhury).

Ultimately, I appreciated that the scope of interpretation was subjective and I greatly enjoyed the subtleties of these implications. The pacing, however, (irrespective of the intervening research), was frustratingly slow



PHOTO: A24

the film, Gawain comes off as a drunk and a reckless womaniser. When the Green Knight lays down his challenge, Gawain's inclination to oblige comes off more as an act of foolhardiness. While the original poem is a chivalric romance, intended to represent a knight's valour and character arc through tests that challenge his moral and ethical values, the film thus steers more towards a bildungsroman, playing with the internal evolution of Gawain's conscience rather than depicting a dated idea of morality and courage. It offers a more postmodern, grey protagonist who subverts the tropes of righteousness and valour of traditional epics

for me. The ending was perhaps the saving grace—the grandeur of the visuals, the big plot twist, the brief peak into the Green Knight's beautiful green cathedral, his sudden cheekiness—they all had the potential to create an immensely gripping film, but the expositional details, as subtle and exciting as they were, were unevenly bunched up in the last 30 minutes or so.

I had almost forgotten my staunch loyalty for keeping to the source material by then. I wish the entire film had been just as gripping.

Maisha Syeda is a writer, painter, and a graduate of English Literature and Writing.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, ASHWIN 1, 1428 BS

Set up RT-PCR lab at Dhaka airport urgently

The long delay in doing this is totally unacceptable

IT is absolutely unacceptable that migrant workers had to stage a fast-unto-death sit-in in front of the expatriates' welfare ministry on Tuesday to receive an assurance from the minister that an RT-PCR test service would be installed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka. The workers have been staging such protests for the past one month, leading to the prime minister, on September 6, directing the relevant authorities to set up an RT-PCR lab at the airport. Why hasn't one been set up even then? More importantly, why hasn't one been set up over the past year and a half of Covid-19, knowing how essential such facilities are for pandemic-time travel?

The fact that we don't have any Covid-19 testing facilities at our largest international airport yet is a disgrace. It shows just how indifferent the relevant authorities are to the plight of the people—and the migrant workers in particular. Even the prime minister's express directive couldn't nudge them into doing what they should have done of their own accord long ago. While this lack of compliance raises serious questions about administrative accountability, it is because of this kind of negligence that Bangladeshi migrant workers have been suffering immensely—and unnecessarily. Around 50,000 Bangladeshis working in the UAE have been stranded in Bangladesh for months now, unable to return to their workplaces as the UAE government has imposed a condition for migrant workers from different countries, including Bangladesh, that they must carry Covid-19 negative certificates based on RT-PCR test within six hours of boarding a plane. In response to that, if India and Pakistan could set up RT-PCR labs at their airports to aid their migrant workers, why couldn't we? The only logical answer is apathy on part of our authorities.

But why should such apathy towards the plight of migrant workers be acceptable? The government often boasts about the economic progress of the country riding on the backs of these migrant workers. But when it comes to providing vital, pro-migrant services, the government mostly seems either silent or reluctant, acting only when prodded into.

This attitude has to change. The authorities need to prioritise the needs of our migrant workers. Throughout this entire pandemic period, migrant workers have suffered more than most other groups. And during their times of urgency, the government has failed to lend them the needed support. We expect the expatriates' welfare ministry to do much better in supporting our migrant workers. And the government in general needs to do a better job. Setting up an RT-PCR lab urgently at Dhaka airport will be a positive step towards that goal.

Not enough time for students to register for vaccine

Authorities must conduct vaccination of university students in a more organised way

WE are sceptical about the recent government decision that any university can resume in-person classes if all of its students complete online registration to get the Covid-19 vaccine by September 27. Earlier, the deadline for reopening the universities was set at October 15.

According to a report by *The Daily Star*, 60 percent of the country's university students are yet to register for the vaccine. Currently, students over the age of 18 years can register using their national ID cards. But for those who do not have NID cards, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has said it will create a link on its website, through which students can register using their birth certificates. The list of students will be forwarded to the health authorities, and students will then be able to register using the Surokha platform. Once registered, they will be vaccinated on a priority basis, as decided in a meeting between the education ministry officials, the UGC, vice-chancellors of the public universities, and health officials on Tuesday.

However, the mishandling, miscalculations and chaos that we witnessed during the special mass vaccination drives in August and earlier this month (conducted by the city corporations) give us pause as the drives for registration/inoculation of all university students may very well face a similarly chaotic situation.

Even if all students, regardless of their NID status, register for the vaccine by September 27 and begin to attend classes, how does this address the threat of virus transmission in the classrooms in the short term? After all, even if the registration plan goes as expected, the students will only be registered for vaccination at the time of reopening; it may take them weeks to get their schedule for the first dose, and at least a month to get their second dose. There are real concerns about what might happen if the 44.34 lakh or so university students across the country start in-person classes without being fully vaccinated. Will it lead to a surge in Covid-19 infections? When the time for their vaccination comes, will we again see the pandemonium that marked the two special mass vaccination drives? Most importantly, are there enough vaccine doses to inoculate all university students alongside the 2.03 crore citizens who have reportedly registered but have yet to get their first dose?

While we would, of course, like to see the university students return to their classrooms, we hope this will not happen in a haphazard manner, giving way to another wave of Covid-19 infections. We hope the health officials are right about having enough vaccine doses in stock, but we urge the authorities concerned to conduct the vaccination of university students in a more planned and disciplined manner. Otherwise, this much-needed action may cause more chaos than relief.



QUAMRUL HAIDER

WITH rapid industrialisation and increased technological complexity over the last two centuries, we seem to have lost touch with the magnitude of our effect on our surroundings. Today, our fingerprints on the environment can be found everywhere—the atmosphere, the oceans, and the Earth's surface. Not to be outdone, there is now another player, up in the sky—the moon, whose periodic “wobble” together with rising sea levels on Earth will make high tides even higher in the near future, eventually leading to devastating floods around the world.



Bangladesh is among the countries that are at a high risk of flooding likely to be caused by the combined effects of rising sea levels and lunar wobbling.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

High tides are caused mostly by the gravitational pull exerted by the moon on Earth. But because our planet's lone natural satellite wobbles ever so slowly over a predictable 18.6-year cycle, the power of the pull varies from year to year. Nevertheless, the result is two simultaneous high tides: one on the side of Earth facing the moon, and the other on the opposite side.

Earth rotates on its axis much faster than the moon revolves around it. Our planet's rapid rotation coupled with higher orbital speed about the Sun drags

the tidal bulge ahead of the moon's orbit, while the moon's gravitational attraction tries to pull it backward. The Earth, therefore, feels a drag force known as tidal friction, which has slowed down its rotational period from five hours almost four billion years ago to 23 hours 56 minutes today.

The moon takes the same time—27.3 days—to rotate once on its axis as it takes to orbit the Earth. This is called synchronous rotation. In other words, the moon is tidally locked with Earth, which means we always see the same side of the moon, irrespective of where the moon is in its orbit.

Additionally, there is an apparent wobbling and nodding of the moon, collectively called “libration.” The wobbling is similar to the back-and-forth motion of a simple pendulum. It is an effect of the moon's non-uniform speed

tilted by 1.5 degrees. Furthermore, moon's orbital plane is inclined to Earth's orbital plane by about five degrees. The net effect of these inclinations is an up-and-down wobbling, or nodding, in a north-south direction.

Alongside global warming, lunar wobbling can either exacerbate the severity of tides or counteract them. During one half of the 18.6-year wobbling cycle, high tides are lower than normal and low tides are higher than normal, so the difference between the two is rather small. As a result, it negates the effect of rising seas to some extent. During the other half of the cycle, high tides get bigger and low tides get lower, thereupon increasing the range between the highest and lowest tides. This cycle boosts the effects on the sea level rise.

The moon is now in the tide-amplification cycle, but the sea level

The study is the first to take into account all known oceanic and astronomical causes for floods. According to the study, these floods will exceed flooding thresholds in the coastal countries more often—as frequently as every day or every other day. They may even occur in clusters and can last as long as a month or more, depending on the positions of the moon, the Earth and the Sun. “It's the accumulated effect over time that will have an impact,” the study warns. However, it also notes that the prediction does not apply uniformly to every coastline everywhere.

Climate change has already increased the frequency and severity of hurricanes, floods and other extreme weather events around the world. This impending threat on the horizon could wreak additional havoc, thereby worsening the already grim predictions of climate change for people living along the coastlines. Some of the biggest cities on the US Atlantic and Gulf coasts, including New York City, Miami and New Orleans, will be hard hit. Osaka in Japan is also a major-risk city; climate models show it could “disappear” with rising tides. Other high-risk cities are Alexandria in Egypt, Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and Shanghai in China.

It took Noah years to build an ark to save him and his family from a godless society that God was going to destroy by sending a catastrophic flood. Unlike Noah, we have 15 years, more or less, to build the ark of mitigation and adaptation necessary to save us from the calamitous effects of climate change. It is thus a race against time, because the flood is coming faster than many once thought. Keeping this in mind, Nasa's Sea Level Change Team is providing crucial information so that we can “plan, protect, and prevent damage to the environment and people's livelihoods affected by flooding.” Unfortunately, if poor low-lying countries like Bangladesh become the victims of high tides caused by lunar wobbling, they will suffer immensely because they may not have the technology and/or sufficient fund to implement Nasa's recommendations.

Finally, our moon, until now the quiescent mystical object majestically shining in the sky, has been “faithful to its nature and its power is never diminished.” One of the powers it always flexed (albeit unnoticed by us) and will flex again approximately 15 years from now—but this time working in tandem with climate change—is its ability to create record floods. The floods will perhaps give our leaders, who are not doing enough to combat climate change, an alibi to throw in the towel by blaming the wobbling moon.

Dr Quamrul Haider is a professor of physics at Fordham University in New York, US.

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

Financing a Sustainable Global Food System



SIMON ZADEK

THE global food system is unsustainable. While it is worth approximately USD 8 trillion annually, its negative impact is valued at roughly USD 12 trillion. And this is not the system's only contradiction. Around the world, food systems are both affected by climate change (owing to disruptive weather and rising temperatures) and make significant contributions to it (through greenhouse-gas emissions and biodiversity destruction). The millions of jobs they provide are often low-quality and poorly paid. And, most significantly, they fail in their ultimate purpose of delivering affordable, healthy food to all.

Because the global food system is fundamentally unviable, change is inevitable. But the radical reforms needed to create an inclusive, sustainable sector that produces nourishing food for the world's population may have devastating short-term consequences. If we take the wrong approach, incorporating the true costs of production into food systems could trigger widespread bankruptcy, devastate rural unemployment, drive up prices, and increase poverty.

The best way to achieve a rapid, fair, and safe transition to a sustainable global food system that can deliver affordable, healthy food for all is, however, a matter of heated debate. This is reflected in the strident and largely unproductive discussions taking place in the run-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, to be held on September 23 during the UN General Assembly.

From a production standpoint, advocates of regenerative farming vehemently oppose a new generation of soilless food production, such as lab-grown “alternate protein” and vertical farming. But it is tough to scale regenerative farming rapidly. Soilless systems must be a major part of the

solution, given their dramatically reduced carbon footprint and water use, minimal impact on biodiversity, and potential for rapidly delivering cheap, healthy food at scale.

The role of finance in this transition is no less controversial.

There is some merit to complaints about the undue influence of a limited number of private players on decisions that impact the entire global food system. Financialisation—the drive to maximise risk-adjusted financial returns—is increasing across the global food system, and market concentration is growing. For example, just ten companies control half of the world's seed market, and four agribusiness firms account for 90 percent of the global grain trade. Just one percent of agricultural firms own 65 percent of the available farmland.

Financialisation reinforces the unequal distribution of economic returns, squeezing the incomes of small farmers and communities, while supporting business models that under-supply healthy, affordable food, and over-supply foods containing high levels of salt, sugar, fat, and carbohydrates. Moreover, financialisation amplifies corporate lobbying that externalises public health costs, maintains perverse agricultural subsidies, and ensures that the costs to the climate and nature do not adversely affect financial bottom lines.

But private capital is absolutely necessary for financing the global food system's transition. We need to harness the massive financial resources managed on our collective behalf by pension funds, banks, and private equity while mitigating the dangers of financialisation.

In a recent report, *Making Finance Work for Food: Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Food System*, the Finance for Biodiversity Initiative maps out the role global finance can play in the needed transition. The report, prepared in association with the Food System Economics Commission, describes four ways financial tools can be used to shape future food systems.

For starters, financial policies and

regulation, reinforced by shareholder and public activism, must drive investors' internalisation of the costs to nature and climate in their financing decisions. This change would strand dirty assets, accelerate green-friendly investments, and trigger a shift towards more nutritious food production.

Second, financial innovations, including blended public and private solutions, are needed to accelerate



‘Delaying the transition to a more inclusive and sustainable global food system would jeopardise food security, destroy livelihoods, and prevent us from achieving environmental goals.’

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

investment in healthy food produced by climate- and nature-friendly forms of farming, thereby driving down costs. Such innovations could involve scalable instruments equivalent to the feed-in tariffs that have been used to great effect in catalysing investment in renewable energy.

Third, policies and public finance are needed to protect and retrain those whose livelihoods are eroded during the transition. The goal should be to provide technology, skill development, and capital to enable them to own and operate commercially viable regenerative and

soilless forms of food production.

Finally, we need to create opportunities to empower citizens, especially by harnessing the power of digitalisation. As consumers, they can make an impact by adopting improved, sustainable diets. As investors, pension policy holders, and taxpayers, they can advocate for better uses of their money.

Delaying the transition to a more inclusive and sustainable global food

system would jeopardise food security, destroy livelihoods, and prevent us from achieving environmental goals. We need to overcome the resistance not only of those who profit from today's systems but also of those who seek to protect the vulnerable. Resetting global finance and harnessing its benefits is necessary to fund a rapid, sustainable, and equitable transition.

Simon Zadek is Chair of the Finance for Biodiversity Initiative.

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(Exclusive to *The Daily Star*)

Where logic ends, our power development begins

Crores of taka are wasted due to overcapacity, yet prices go up



GOLAM MORTOZA

OVER a decade ago, power supply in Bangladesh was inadequate and production was virtually nonexistent. Increasing power production was a dire necessity then. The last caretaker government initiated efforts to that end; those efforts gained momentum when the Awami League government took office in 2009.

As soon as they came to power, the Awami League government started propelling the development of oil- and gas-based rental and quick rental power plants as a part of their overall effort to increase power production in the country. Several ruling party leaders, lawmakers, and businessmen were given approval to set up quick rental and rental power plants—even those with no prior knowledge or experience in the area. The process raised many questions then, as it had several loopholes: there was no mechanism to check the expertise of the producer; the prices were too high; and the producers were able to bill the government for “capacity charge” despite zero production of power.

Because of these loopholes and the lack of transparency in the entire power production process, the government faced a lot of criticism. Yet, it stayed firm on its decision. In order to avoid possible legal actions in the future—as well as to smoothen the process of opening up these power plants—the government formulated a law named the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, passed in parliament in 2010.

Despite all these issues, the power sector in Bangladesh began to see higher output, and people started getting electricity supply per demand. There were still concerns regarding the alleged corruption in the sector and the price hike, yet the general populace started to experience a sense of relief. Residences, commercial establishments and factories started to get uninterrupted power supply. It seemed the curse of “load shedding” was finally being lifted from the country.

But those issues still exist, and have become causes for concern. According to experts, there are some major shortcomings in the overall “development philosophy” of the power sector in Bangladesh. Before, there was a severe lack of supply, but now we have ample amount of power. There is no clear answer to some vital questions, such as how much power the country needs, to what extent does the production capacity need to be enhanced, etc.

In 2008-09, our electricity output was around 3,800MW against a demand of around 7,000MW, which means there was a shortage of more than 3,000MW. At present, the total demand for electricity ranges between 9,000MW and 12,000MW. But the country’s power generation capacity is more or less 22,000MW. As yet, the daily power production has topped at 13,000MW. The average daily production now is 9,000MW. The daily demand for power rarely exceeds that amount, which means we are operating at less than half

of our power generation capacity. Despite this situation, because of the conditions set in the agreements, the government is forced to pay the producers the capacity charge for about 12,000MW of power that is not even produced. That capacity charge amounts to a whopping Tk 9,000 crore.

In 2020, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a Dhaka-based think tank, said about 60 percent of the power plants in Bangladesh were sitting idle and earning money in the form of capacity charges. According to last year’s data provided by US-based research firm the International Energy and Environment Foundation (IEEF), about 57 percent of the

grid has not been set up yet. There is no other way to connect the output of the power plant to the national grid, which means it is not operating at its full capacity.

We are being forced to pay Tk 100 crore as capacity charge for the Payra power plant as well.

The organisation that was appointed to build the transmission line failed to meet the deadline. The contractor was fired and replaced with a company named China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation. Speaking to the daily *Prothom Alo* earlier this month, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid

line, there has been no scope for testing the full capacity of the two units [of Payra power plant]. But the power plant has been approved to go ahead with commercial production,” he said.

“As the government has to bear the cost of idle capacity charge for the power plant, the cost of per unit power generated there has gone up to Tk 10. This is the opposite of what the aim of such a large-scale power plant was—cheap electricity. In this case, the country’s greater interest has been ignored to favour the power plant’s benefits,” he added.

Saying that the electricity generated at Payra coal-fired power plant would not be usable

idle power plants is causing a huge loss.”

He also said transmission lines should be installed keeping in line with the construction of the power plants.

The Payra coal-fired power plant is importing coal at a price of USD 100 per tonne to fuel the production. The Barapukuria coal-fired power plant is buying coal extracted from the local mines at a price of USD 150 per tonne. A Chinese company is mining the coal from Barapukuria and selling it to the Bangladesh Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL). The BCMCL is paying an extra USD 50 per tonne in order to buy locally mined coal, compared to the price paid for imported coal. As there is a scarcity of locally mined coal, the Barapukuria power plant is running at 50 percent capacity. Still, the cost of producing each unit of electricity is Tk 6.5 at Barapukuria, whereas the same costs Tk 10 at Payra. This leads to the question: Is the “impunity law” being exploited to build exorbitantly expensive power plants?

There are a few other big power plants under construction in Bangladesh. In Rampal, Bangladesh and India are jointly building a 1,320MW power plant. Japan is financing the construction of a 1,200MW power plant at Matarbari in Moheshkhali, Cox’s Bazar. In Pabna’s Rooppur, a 2,400MW nuclear power plant is being constructed. There are plans to supply electricity to the national grid from this two-unit power plant in 2023.

The government contracts with the rental and quick rental power plants will be expired by the end of this year. The Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has sent a proposal to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to renew contracts with five gas-fired rental and quick rental power plants.

Bangladesh is also importing electricity from India. As per the contract, we have an arrangement to procure 1,200MW of power from India on a daily basis. From India, Bangladesh is buying coal-fuelled and gas-fuelled electricity at a price of Tk 6 and 7 per unit, respectively.

Bangladesh will also buy hydroelectricity from Nepal, where India will act as the third party. It is not confirmed as to what amount of electricity will be procured, but the price per unit will be nearly Tk 8.

Before, there was no electricity; now, there is. This has become the guiding philosophy behind power generation in Bangladesh. But there is a disconnect between this philosophy and a science-based working plan. We have big power plants, and coal-fired plants that are extremely harmful to the environment are already in production—yet, the prices of electricity are not going down, nor is there any such possibility on the horizon. Crores of taka from the state coffers is getting squandered away in the name of capacity charge. Some producers are making money without generating any power, while the consumers are being forced to pay high tariffs.

At the end of the day, it is the people of the country who are being deprived.

Golam Mortoza is a journalist at *The Daily Star*. The article was translated from Bangla by Mohammed Ishiaque Khan.



FILE PHOTO: STAR

According to US-based research firm IEEF, more than half of Bangladesh’s power generation capacity is unutilised.

power plants in Bangladesh are sitting idle. According to a source, a recent utility report from the power sector—which has not been made public—shows that in 2023-24, the country’s power overcapacity will be as much as 66 percent, which means the burden of capacity charge will grow even bigger.

After building some small rental and quick rental power plants, the Bangladesh government proceeded to make big investments in big, coal-based power plants. But how these plants will be connected to the national grid, where the electricity generated from these plants will be used, and whether there is a demand for that power still remain unclear. A key benefit of having large-scale power plants is that the production costs go down, but the opposite is happening in Bangladesh.

The two-unit Payra thermal power plant, with 1,320MW power generation capacity, officially went into production last year. But the 400kV transmission line required to supply the generated power to the national

said: “We hope the work for the transmission line will be complete by next year. The work was interrupted due to a spike in coronavirus infections.”

He further said: “As long as we are not being able to utilise the produced electricity [from Payra power plant], we will be forced to continue paying the capacity charge.”

Even if the transmission line is established within the deadline specified by the state minister, we will be forced to pay a monthly capacity charge of Tk 100 crore for nearly a year and a half. It is also not certain whether we will be able to use the electricity generated at Payra plant even if the transmission line is ready.

Energy expert Prof M Shamsul Alam also voiced his concerns regarding the transmission line and the issue of commercial production at Payra power plant.

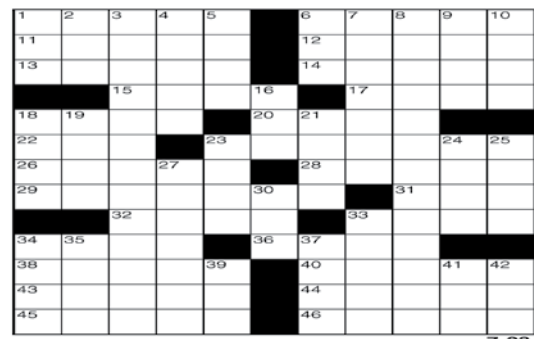
“The approval for commercial production can be given only when full-capacity production is confirmed by running tests. Since there is no functional transmission

even when the transmission line is in place, Prof Shamsul Alam added: “The issue of the transmission line is being used as an excuse. Even if the transmission line is installed and fully functional, the 1,320MW of power generated at Payra plant cannot be used in full. Moreover, the second phase of Payra power plant has been initiated, which will see the construction of another plant with an additional 1,320MW generation capacity, set to be completed by 2024. There is a complete lack of transparency regarding the usage of that power. A big sum of money is being spent, in a non-transparent manner, in order to construct unnecessary power production facilities. Because of these coal-fired plants, not only is the biodiversity of the area facing a threat, but money is being wasted as well.”

Prof M Tamim, former adviser to the caretaker government and an energy expert, said: “Although it is claimed that Bangladesh’s overall power generation capacity is 22,000MW, in reality it is about 15,000-16,000MW. But paying for capacity charges for

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ghana’s capital
 - 6 Monument Valley sights
 - 11 Seasonal song
 - 12 Unaided
 - 13 Undermine
 - 14 Dismay
 - 15 Hot, in a way
 - 17 Massage settings
 - 18 In addition
 - 20 Stable diet
 - 22 Rented out
 - 23 Self-defence art
 - 26 “West Side Story” heroine
 - 28 Land units
 - 29 Stretchy fabric
 - 31 Really impress
- DOWN**
- 1 Great serve
 - 2 Lot sight
 - 3 Sport shoes
 - 4 Western contest
 - 5 Baseball’s Rodriguez
 - 6 Fuming
 - 7 Waistband material
 - 8 Moustaches, in slang
 - 9 Visitor to Siam
 - 10 Hardens
 - 16 “Hey there!”
 - 18 Some charity
 - 19 Bound
 - 21 Trojan War hero
 - 23 Green stone
 - 24 Stitches
 - 25 Calls on
 - 27 Concentrated
 - 30 Punk rock offshoot
 - 33 Bart’s mum
 - 34 Make lots
 - 35 Like some wines
 - 37 Ham or lamb
 - 39 — Aviv
 - 41 Cartoon frame
 - 42 Pot fill



YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

DAFT ROOSTER
EURO OCTAVE
BRAN SCORED
TANGLE UP
CUE RIFTS
ACHED STRAP
MOI S ALA
POSTS MANET
STEAL ARCADE
KEEP PCOOL
REMEDY TIDE
EMERGE SISIS
PULSE CENT

QUOTABLE Quote



JOHN MILTON (1608–1674) English poet

When complaints are freely heard, deeply considered and speedily reformed, then is the utmost bound of civil liberty attained that wise men look for.

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD. GAZIPUR-1703.



LOCAL e-TENDER NOTICE Web site: www.spcl.org.bd

Ref: 53.18.3300.019.07.02.2021-251 Dated: 15/09/2021

NAME OF WORK: REPAIR AND RENOVATION WORKS OF SECURITY FENCING AROUND PRESS BUILDING AT THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD., GAZIPUR.

Electronic tenders (e-tender) are hereby invited from the Contractor having experience of construction work in the departments of PWD/MES/ Other Government, semi Government/Autonomous organizations/Bank/Insurance organizations for the construction of above mentioned structures for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at the website e-tender.(https://spcltender.bb.org.bd) of the spcl. It is to mention here that this is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender the bidders need to register on e-Tender.spcl.org.bd. For more details please contact cell: 88- 01534002183 & 88-01534002184. Necessary information is given below:

1. Price per e-Tender schedule : 500 (Five Hundred) Taka only
2. Date of publish of e-Tender : 16/09/2021.
3. Last date & time for submission of e-Tender : 13/10/2021 up to 11.00 A.M.
4. Date & time for opening of e-Tender : 13/10/2021 at 11.15 A.M.

Bidders may collect the e-Tender schedule from the above mentioned website. Bidders need to submit earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank guarantee in favour of the “Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.” along with the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of an account payee cheque/pay-order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation’s office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to submit as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at above website. Offer(s) shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (One) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one Construction firm submitting one offer along with earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

(Maruf Ahamed) Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil) Phone : 88-02-9205110-15, Ext.-266

CNG stations

FROM PAGE 12 Petrobangla then organised a meeting with Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners' Association, and others in this regard.

Farhan Noor, secretary general of Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Workshop Owners Association, told The Daily Star they urged reducing the closing time from six hours to three hours.

"We have the lowest amount of gas with the highest price. It would not be a wise decision to keep filling stations closed. But they requested us and we agreed to keep them closed for four hours."

The decision came after a virtual meeting about producing low, middle and long-term plans on the demand and supply in gas-based power plants on July 19.

About two-thirds

FROM PAGE 12 have attained their expected returns from investments.

The industrial sector was badly hit by the pandemic as all the distribution channels were disrupted, he said.

Even then, the industrial units tried to continue production.

He went on to acknowledge that such an increase in industrial default loans is not good for the economy.

The real crisis of default loans has reached an alarming stage, said Muinul Islam, a former professor of the department of economics of the University of Chittagong.

"Since the flow of our remittance is still on, the banks are not facing any deposit crisis. This is why we are not realising how big the problem of default loan is," he added.

Meanwhile, the disbursement of industrial loans also dropped during the pandemic, Kamal said.

In the first quarter of last year, industrial loans amounting to Tk 91,662 crore were disbursed. In the following quarter, it was Tk 74,257 crore.

Loan disbursement picked up in the latter half of 2020 as the pandemic flames were brought under control: in the December quarter, it was Tk 100,533 crore, Kamal said.

At the end of the first quarter of 2021, industrial loan disbursement stood at Tk 90,966 crore.

The finance minister also disclosed that the per capita foreign debt of Bangladesh is Tk 24,890.

In reply to a question, the minister said the current foreign debt stood at \$49,458 million.

6 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 12 The Rota base is a US-controlled air and navy base in Spain, says the foreign ministry post.

Thousands of foreigners and Afghans, fearful of the Taliban rule, began fleeing Afghanistan after the the group took control of the South Asian country.

Two held

FROM PAGE 12 two others are on the run, said Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kanaighat Police Station.

According to police and the case statement, the woman, who is a widow, lives in her village home alone as her two sons are expatriates and daughters are married.

Around midnight on August 29, the four forcibly entered the woman's house and sexually harassed her. They videoed the incident on their mobile phones and later forwarded the video clips to her expatriate sons and demanded Tk 5 lakh for not making the videos viral, the case statement said.

The victim's sons then contacted their relatives who tried to settle the issue with money and agreed to pay the abusers Tk 1 lakh on Saturday. As they failed to pay the money, the abusers uploaded the videos on Facebook the next day.

OC Tajul said, "This is a heinous crime and we've already informed the police headquarters that steps would be taken to remove the video clips from Facebook."

"We are trying to arrest the other accused," he added.

Scientists

FROM PAGE 12 Researchers plan to do this by taking skin cells from Asian elephants, which are threatened with extinction, and putting them into stem cells with frozen mammoth DNA to create an embryo.

These embryos will then be carried to full term by a surrogate mother or in an artificial womb in a laboratory.

The team hopes to have its first set of calves within the next six years if all goes to plan.

Dr Church and Lamm believe the elephant-mammoth hybrid could help slow climate change by stomping out thin, low-oxygen trees and exposing healthy, carbon-trapping grasses to restore the Arctic tundra.

"Our goal is to make a cold-resistant elephant, but it is going to look and behave like a mammoth," Dr Church told the Guardian.

He added: "Not because we are trying to trick anybody, but because we want something that is functionally equivalent to the mammoth, that will enjoy its time at -40C, and do all the things that elephants and mammoths do, in particular knocking down trees."



Vendors tidy up a shop, as Langkawi gets ready to open to domestic tourists from today, amid the coronavirus disease pandemic in Malaysia yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Take steps to stop spread outside Dhaka

FROM PAGE 12 mid-October, he added.

"We hope [the number of] dengue [cases] will start coming down within this month in Dhaka, but it does not mean it [the infection] will totally stop [spreading], rather it will remain on a smaller scale... Still, there is scope to control dengue outside Dhaka as the number is still low."

Residents outside Dhaka will have to use mosquito nets and make their children wear full-sleeved clothes and long pants to keep them safe from dengue. They will also have to use mosquito repellents to kill Aedes mosquitoes at least twice a day, he said.

It will not be convenient to conduct anti-mosquito drives throughout whole cities, rather they will have to carry it out in focused areas, he said.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar said all the areas outside Dhaka where dengue cases are being found will have to be considered hotspots.

"Authorities concerned will have to conduct fogging and larviciding in the areas, including the homes and workplaces of the patients... If they [any hotspots] are in cities, then the city corporation or municipality will have to take measures and if they of the village level, then the upazila

parishad or union parishad concerned will have to do it."

Keeping every patient under a mosquito net is also very important, Monzur said.

Saifur Rahman, another entomologist, said effective measures to kill Aedes mosquitoes are lacking in areas outside Dhaka.

Fogging is crucial as without it killing infected mosquitoes is not possible, he said.

He said the mistake done in Dhaka should not be repeated outside Dhaka. "So, wherever cases are found, intense fogging should be done there."

Moreover, he said, the DCC should take special care and conduct fogging operations in and around major bus stands like Gabtoli, Sayedabad and Mohakhali to stop the movement of infected mosquitoes in public transports from Dhaka.

"Owners and the authorities concerned will have to spray insect repellents in their transports." An adult mosquito can survive from 15 days to 61 days and, on average, 21 days. If not killed, it can infect people multiple times, said Saifur.

He said there are many areas where dengue patients are found every other year. "The authorities will have to identify those areas and will have to conduct extensive anti-mosquito

drives there." LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam said different authorities concerned of the government are doing their jobs to control Aedes mosquitoes even outside Dhaka, but everyone will have to come forward and help, otherwise it will not be possible.

He said most of the patients outside Dhaka contracted the infection while they were in the capital.

He emphasised the need for patients to stay under mosquito nets. "If they don't, the mosquitoes in rural areas will also begin carrying the virus."

Abu Ali Md Sazzad Hossain, deputy commissioner of Pirojpur, said the number of dengue cases in their district is low at the moment and separate committees have been formed up to the union parishad level to monitor the situation and take apt measures in this regard.

He added that regular cleaning activities are going on there and public representatives, including those from different organisations, are also involved. Fogging and other anti-mosquito drives are also being conducted in and around patients' homes.

"There are separate dengue units in hospitals and they provide immediate treatment to the patients."

POST-COUP MYANMAR

Junta wanted spy gear on network

Says Telenor

AFP, Oslo

Telenor said yesterday the Myanmar military junta had demanded it install equipment to intercept communications on the network the Norwegian firm operates in the country.

Telenor announced in July it plans to sell Telenor Myanmar, saying only

that since the February coup that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her government it had become increasingly difficult to operate in the country.

But yesterday it disclosed that the junta wanted it to install monitoring equipment on the network with some 18 million customers.

Pakistan army using FAO

FROM PAGE 12

In the Mymensingh-Sylhet sector, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops' position in Badirteka killing two enemy soldiers.

In the Kushtia-Jashore- Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini today engaged Pakistani troops near Gangni bridge and inflicted five casualties on the enemy. Another group of Mukti Bahini fired on enemy troops at Bhomra and killed 4 Pakistani soldiers.

In the Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattoagram sector, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops in Khajuria area today, killing two soldiers and two Razakars collaborating with the enemy troops. On the same day, Mukti Bahini raided and held the Pakistan position near Hugli village. In a heavy exchange of fire, three Pakistani soldiers were killed and 20 wounded.

PAKISTAN CANCELS PANNI'S PASSPORT

Pakistan Foreign Ministry today asked its diplomatic mission in Manila to confiscate the passports of Khurram Khan Panni, the Pakistan ambassador who had defected to Bangladesh, and his wife.

Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires in Manila KK Ghori told newsmen that his government would protest to the Government of Philippines if Panni carried out the plan to open an unofficial mission in Manila to seek support for Bangladesh.

OMEGA TEAM MEMBERS RELEASED The four-member Omega team was released by the East Pakistan authority. The team which had been arrested earlier this month included two women. They were taken into custody when they crossed into Bangladesh to distribute relief supplies.

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

Constable's wife was raped

FROM PAGE 12

arrested all the "killers" and recovered looted goods within four days of the incident.

The arrestees are: Kabir Hossain, 30, his wife Akhi Moni Lipi, 20, and their relatives Riaz Uddin Sarker, 26, and Shakil Hossain, 19.

"The constable rented a house for his wife and two children in Manikganj town's Reserve Tank area last month. The cop used to stay at his workplace in Gazipur," said Azad.

Kabir and Lipi were acquaintances of the victim housewife. They went to her home on Friday night. They put sleeping tablets in soft drinks and fruit juice and made the victim and her two children drink it.

As the three fell unconscious, they took the two children to an adjacent room. Riaz Uddin raped the constable's wife. The four then tied her hands and legs and strangled her. They took three mobile phones, gold jewellery and money from the house

before fleeing, the SP told journalists.

The following day, police recovered the victim's body from her house. Her father filed a murder case with Manikganj Sadar Police Station accusing unidentified people.

The SP said the four killed the homemaker to loot money and jewellery. Police recovered the looted mobile phones, gold jewellery and Tk 5,000 from the arrestees.

Azad said they first picked up Lipi on Tuesday based on information provided by the victim's daughter. The three others were arrested after gleaning information from Lipi.

The police official said the arrestees confessed to the killing and looting.

Jaminur Rahman, sub-inspector of Manikganj Sadar Police Station and also the investigating officer of the murder case, said the arrestees were produced before the Manikganj Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court around noon yesterday. The court sent the four to jail.

No need for hired

FROM PAGE 1 Tarique Rahman.

But before that, the party must firmly decide that it will never take part in any election under the ruling Awami League.

This view was communicated by the party's joint secretary generals, organising secretaries and assistant secretaries to their top leadership during a meeting at the party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.

It was the second of three meetings to decide BNP strategy ahead of the general election, meeting sources told The Daily Star last night. A total of 95 leaders were invited to the meeting and Tarique Rahman, now in London, chaired it virtually.

The meeting continued for around eight hours starting at 4:00pm.

The leaders said party men should brave all risks and take to the street to topple the government before the polls.

At the meeting, BNP Special Affairs Secretary Asaduzzaman Ripon said leadership was hired in the last parliamentary election and the decision to participate in the polls under the Jatiya Oikyafront was wrong, said the sources.

He said Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman were the symbols of nationalist forces in the country. So the party should move forward only under their leadership.

Ripon said the BNP has no leadership crisis now. "If we can topple the government through movement, Khaleda Zia will be permanently released from jail and Tarique Rahman will be able to return to the country," a BNP leader, who attended the meeting, quoted Ripon as saying.

"We want to return to power through movement under the leadership of Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman. So we don't need to hire any leadership," he also quoted Ripon as saying.

The Jatiya Oikyafront is an alliance of the BNP, Dr Kamal Hossain-led Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, ASM Abdur Rob's Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Mahmudur Rahman Manna's Nagorik Oikya.

The Oikyafront was formed on October 13, 2018 with the demand of a national election under a neutral government after dissolution of parliament, and release of Khaleda Zia from jail.

The alliance suffered a massive defeat in the election held on December 30, 2018. Many, however, say the polls were not fair.

BNP's Climate Change Affairs

Assistant Secretary Mustafizur Rahman Babul said the party should be reorganised as early as possible for waging movement against the government.

"If we can take to the street risking our lives then our followers will get courage and common people will also join our movement," meeting sources quoted him as saying.

Babul also said the party should consider sacking leaders who did not join movements in the past and got detached from other leaders and activists.

In 2018, the party held its last executive committee meeting at Le Meridien hotel just four days before Khaleda landed in jail. Since then, the party had been holding meetings with its vice chairmen, organising secretaries and other members separately.

No executive committee meeting has been held since. The BNP will hold meetings with senior joint secretaries general, joint secretaries general, organising secretaries and assistant organising secretaries today. On Thursday, the party will hold a meeting with the leaders of the central committee and the BNP's associated bodies, said party sources.

Some 400 leaders were invited to attend the meetings and were encouraged to express their views on launching a movement and joining the next parliamentary election.

The series of meetings is the first meeting of this scale since Khaleda had landed in jail on February 8, 2018. It has also been the biggest meeting since Tarique Rahman became the acting chairman of the party.

Khaleda Zia is currently out of jail on bail while Tarique Rahman, who is facing several cases, is hiding in London.

7 facilities

FROM PAGE 12 Molecular Lab and Diagnostic.

The fees for Covid tests have been fixed between Tk 1,700 and Tk 2,300, the letter said.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) has been requested to allocate space for setting up the lab at the airport.

Migrant workers and professionals who came home on vacation from the UAE but later got stranded amid the pandemic had been demanding that RT-PCR labs be set up at international airports in the country after Gulf countries asked for Covid tests of foreigners prior to their journeys to those countries.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank Credit Guarantee Scheme (Sijis) Unit. It includes a list of 31 members with their names, addresses, and contact information. The text is in Bengali and English. It mentions the Chairman's Office in Dhaka and provides details about the scheme's purpose and membership criteria.

TEN 1
UEFA Europa Conference League
Rennes vs Tottenham Hotspur
Live from 10:45 pm
Rangers vs Olympique Lyon
Live from 1:00 am (Friday)

TEN 2
UEFA Europa Conference League
Kairat vs Omonia Nicosia
Live from 8:30 pm
UEFA Europa League
Dinamo Zagreb vs West Ham United

Live from 10:45 pm
Leicester City vs Napoli
Live from 1:00 am (Friday)
TEN 3
UEFA Europa Conference League
AS Roma vs CSKA Sofia
Live from 1:00 am (Friday)

'Liton can be a top 10 batsman in the world'

Bangladesh batting consultant Ashwell Prince, who has been with the Tigers since their series against Zimbabwe in July this year, spoke to The Daily Star's Ekush Tapader in an exclusive interview, discussing the Tigers' consistency problems in the opening positions and their overall plans going into the T20 World Cup in Oman and the UAE next month. The excerpts are given below:

The Daily Star (DS): Bangladesh won the series against Australia and New Zealand comfortably but the batsmen struggled to score runs. Do you think there are concerns in the batting department going into the T20 World Cup?

Ashwell Prince (AP): World-class batsmen with a lot of experience in franchise T20 tournaments and international matches from all three teams (Australia, New Zealand and Bangladesh) struggled to score runs fluently during those series. Those pitches were very tough to bat on for everyone.

DS: There was a lot of discussion about the wicket prepared for the past two series. Do you think the Mirpur surface helped in terms of World Cup preparation?

AP: The Mirpur pitches were really difficult. They were very slow and spun a lot. It was obviously really difficult for the groundstaff to get them much firmer during the rainy season. Having said that, the IPL is about to restart in the UAE and by the time the WC starts, those pitches might also be a little tired and start spinning. If things turn out that way, one could argue that these matches versus Australia and New Zealand could be very good preparation. Having said that, if the pitches are better, I think it's easier for batters to adapt to conditions where the ball comes on better and spin less.

DS: What should the batsmen's main focus be in the Oman camp ahead of the World Cup?

AP: Their main focus will be to find their rhythm and have clear game plans going into camp in Oman. It was very hard for the batters to find rhythm in Bangladesh.

DS: Considering the inconsistency in the opening position, especially in the T20 format, what sort of approach do you want to see from the two openers at the T20 World Cup?

AP: As coaching staff, we know what our openers are capable of. They showed glimpses of it on those tough conditions. I'm confident we'll see the best of them on better surfaces.

DS: Liton Das has been impressive in streaks since the start



of his career but consistency is one of the problems he faces. What are your expectations of Liton at the T20 World Cup?

AP: The one thing I'd like to see from Liton is for him to believe more in himself. From what I have seen in terms of his natural ability, I think he can be a top 10 batter in the world in all formats. If he believes that and embraces everything that comes with it, I think he'll be more consistent.

DS: We saw Soumya Sarkar play impressively on the Zimbabwe tour but he looks a lot less confident

after the two recent series at home. Did you identify where his problems may lie?

AP: We had a couple of conversations and we identified one or two technical issues in terms of his batting. We worked on it extensively during the New Zealand series while he wasn't playing. He feels much better now.

DS: Naim Sheikh got some runs but struggled to rotate the strike, sometimes spiking the number of dot balls in some crucial situations. How can he improve his game and combat those issues?

AP: Once again, the number of dot balls were high for all batters. However, for any young batsman making their way into the international game, whether T20 or 50-over cricket, it makes life a lot easier if you can reduce dot balls. It makes life a lot easier. He might just need a little clarity in his game plan in terms of his best options to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

DS: How should Bangladesh best take advantage of their depth in the lower middle order at the T20 World Cup?

AP: I don't want to give away too many secrets (smiles).

DS: How crucial is the number three spot in T20? What are the team's demands from a number three in this format?

AP: Every batting position from 1-8 is important because these are the guys ultimately responsible for getting the runs. If we're depending on No. 9, 10, or 11, then we're in a bit of trouble. In terms of roles, the top four obviously require more adaptability because you may come to the crease in a range of different scenarios. 5-8 generally have to come in and be aggressive almost immediately.

DS: Despite Shakib's success at the number three position in ODIs, he has not always featured at that position in T20s? Do you feel Shakib needs a fixed position at the T20 World Cup?

AP: With his all-around skills, Shakib will always be a very important player for Bangladesh and I'm sure he will play a massive role with bat and ball at the T20 World Cup. However, for me there always has to be flexibility in the line-up. Hypothetically speaking, if we have a left-right opening partnership and the right-handed batsman is out first, do we want two lefties at the crease or do we want to continue with left-right? These are minor details that go into planning where the flexibility of the group comes in.

DS: Do you see Afif coming in to bat earlier in T20Is?

AP: Introducing the right guys into the match at the right time is always a balancing act. Afif will play a massive role at this tournament. He is still young, but another that I think can become a big player on the international stage.

Lower-tier leagues set to begin in November

SPORTS REPORTER



The lower-tier cricketers of Bangladesh receive some good news at last, long after the coronavirus outbreak last year, as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director and the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) chairman Kazi Inam Ahmed informed the lower-division leagues are set to begin in November this year.

Although the top-level cricket involving the national team returned gradually alongside the Dhaka Premier League, however, the lower-division cricket was kept to a standstill, where the players had spent anxious time over the past two years.

The financial struggle has even forced many cricketers to seek alternate means of livelihood and thus, the announcement will arrive as a huge source of relief to the lower-tier cricketers of Bangladesh.

"We [CCDM] have been able to complete the Dhaka Premier League successfully and at this moment it has become important for us to get the lower-division leagues back to the field. We already had a discussion on this issue and at the moment, we're working on coordinating so that we can start the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd division cricket in November-December this year.

"We've already planned to sit with all the clubs of all the divisions soon, like we do every year. We need to set the dates to play the tournament within the cricket season, which is November, December, January, and February," Inam told the media at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Inam informed that the authorities will follow the Covid-19 guidelines set by the government and as per suggestions of the board and CCDM.

"Now the country is slowly resuming normality. There is no lockdown and every sector is open, including even schools and colleges. But there is a guideline given by the government so we'll see and follow those in the lower-division leagues and also take suggestions from the BCB and CCDM," added Inam.

The CCDM chairman further added that they are willing to return to the usual 50-over format of the Dhaka Premier League for the upcoming season, set to begin in March-April.

"Last year we had a tiny window in which we had to complete the tournament by resorting to the T20 format. Since Dhaka Premier League, one of the most popular leagues of the country, is an A-list tournament and one-day international being our strongest format, the Dhaka League will be played in its traditional 50-over format," Inam concluded.



IPL TO RESUME IN FRONT OF FANS

Sunrisers Hyderabad batsman Kane Williamson practises as the Indian Premier League is set to return to action in the UAE on September 19, four months after the world's richest T20 league was halted midway by the coronavirus pandemic in India. After the first leg of the tournament was held behind closed doors, the organisers on Wednesday announced that the fans will be back at the venues when the Twenty20 extravaganza resumes in the United Arab Emirates.

PHOTO: TWITTER

T20 WORLD CUP BLAST

'Hard for anyone to stop us'



"Whatever the conditions, we have to execute our plans. If cutters don't work, the execution of yorkers and length deliveries will be very important. Of course, it's an ICC event, so we have to keep in mind that tracks will be flat or sporting. It will be challenging for the bowlers but at the same time if execution is good, there will be opportunities to do well. I am very excited and at the same time I want to gift something good to win matches."

TASKIN AHMED

ICC

It has been a tough year for Australia's men's team in T20I cricket but despite their lean run, there is a sense of optimism around the group heading into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

It's been eight months since any of Steve Smith, David Warner or Pat Cummins played for Australia and six months since Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis or Kane Richardson featured. All six will be involved in Australia's quest for a maiden Men's T20 World Cup Trophy, as will captain Aaron Finch, who missed the series loss against Bangladesh through injury.

Maxwell is confident they'll hit the ground running. "I think they're very good," Maxwell told icc-cricket.com of Australia's hopes at the T20 World Cup. "When this team comes together, I think we'll slip straight back into us being in a great position. We're all looking forward to it."

With one of T20I cricket's most intimidating opening pairs in Finch and Warner, a flexible and talented middle-order featuring himself and Steve Smith, and an all-star attack, Maxwell is confident that Australia's best is good enough to take them all the way.

"You look through our line-up, we've got a team full of match winners and guys that on their day can take the game away from the opposition. I think that's what it's going to take. Any day when it's one of our players' chance to go and win us a game - if we can take that (chance) it's going to be hard for anyone to stop us."



JOY FOR LEWY, LUKAKU; AGONY FOR RONALDO

Tuesday night Champions League clashes offered varied emotions to the fans. While a brace from Robert Lewandowski saw Bayern Munich stretch their record unbeaten away run in the Champions League to 19 games by sweeping aside Barcelona with a 3-0 win in the first meeting between the clubs since the Germans triumphed 8-2 last year, at Stamford Bridge, Romelu Lukaku enlivened an otherwise flat performance from Chelsea with the only goal to beat Zenit St Petersburg 1-0 as the Blues got the defence of their European crown off to a winning start. However, for Cristiano Ronaldo, in particular, it was a night to forget as even though the Portuguese put Manchester United ahead in the 13th minute, the Red Devils were still handed a shock 2-1 defeat by Young Boys in Bern.

PHOTO: TWITTER

NEWS IN BRIEF

BNS press box to be named after Badal Roy

The press box at the Bangabandhu National Stadium will be named after late footballer Badal Roy, state minister for youth and sports, Zahid Ahsan Raseel, said yesterday. "Badal Roy was a famous footballer and to preserve his contribution to country's sports, we want to name the press box or the media box at the Bangabandhu National Stadium after him. We have already discussed the matter with journalists and others," Raseel said, after disbursing Tk 1.10 crore among seven sportspersons, organisers and their families on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the National Sports Council.

BFF waiting for AFC's decision on Eleta

A Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) official has said that they are waiting for a response from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) regarding the clearance of Eleta Kingsley to participate in next month's SAFF Championship. "FIFA has already referred the matter to the AFC. We are now waiting for clearance from AFC," BFF executive Mahmudul Hasan said yesterday.

Bangabandhu Tunnel
is being built with BSRM

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DENGUE MENACE

Take steps to stop spread outside Dhaka

Experts urge the government

HELEMUL ALAM

Though the spread of dengue outside Dhaka started comparatively late, the growing number of cases shows that the situation may soon take a turn for the worse if necessary measures are not taken immediately to curb further spread, said experts and entomologists.



According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 14,831 dengue cases were reported around the country starting from January till 8:00am yesterday. 1,601 of those were outside Dhaka and 13,230 were in Dhaka city.

In 2019, the total number of cases was 1,01,354, of which 49,544 were outside Dhaka -- the highest since 2000, according to DGHS data.

Monzur A Chowdhury, entomologist and former president of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh, said the rate of dengue outside Dhaka will continue to rise this year if proper steps are not taken. The dengue infection started in the capital earlier than it did outside Dhaka, for which it is likely to keep increasing there (outside the capital) till

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Container trucks parked illegally on Atish Dipankar Road to unload goods at the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot, making it difficult for other vehicles to pass, resulting in a gridlock. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

POWER RATIONING

CNG stations to stay shut 6-10pm from September 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to keep CNG filling stations closed from 6:00pm to 10:00pm -- the peak hours of electricity supply -- every day for power rationing.

The decision will be applicable from September 19, Mir Mohammad Aslam Uddin, public relations officer of the power, energy and mineral resources ministry told The Daily Star last night.

"The decision was taken to ensure uninterrupted gas supply to power plants," he said.

It could not be known exactly how long the rationing would continue. However, an official said it could be for three months or until further notice.

Earlier, the ministry had decided to apply decision from September 15 but then called for a meeting with the authorities concerned on Tuesday and changed the date.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

About two-thirds industrial loan now gone bad

Says finance minister in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About two-thirds of the industrial loan has been turned default as of March, said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday.

Of the total industrial loans of Tk 90,966 crore, Tk 57,830 crore has gone sour, he told the parliament in response to a query from ruling party lawmaker M Abdul Latif.

As of March, total default loans stood at Tk 95,085 crore, which is 8.07 per cent of the total outstanding loans, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

Kamal acknowledged that the amount of classified loans increased slightly in the first quarter of the year.

According to the Bank Company Act, no bank or financial institution has the opportunity to provide loans in favour of a bad client or defaulting borrower.

Contacted, Mahbubul Alam, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the impact of the pandemic might be the reason behind the increase in default loans in the industrial sector as the businesspeople might not

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Pakistan army using FAO boats for repression

SEPTEMBER 16, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

FAO COMPLAINED AGAINST PAKISTAN
The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) accused Pakistan of diverting boats and vehicles intended for carrying relief materials for military use. In a formal note to the UN Secretary General U Thant, the FAO brought this charge against Pakistan. The UN secretary general in his concern about the matter asked the Pakistani representative in the UN for clarification.

DHAR HOLDS TALKS WITH BANGLADESH MINISTERS
DP Dhar, chairman, foreign policy planning cell of the Indian external affairs ministry, today held a long talk with Bangladesh ministers. The list of delegates to be sent to New York to represent Bangladesh at the United Nations General Assembly session was drawn up. Besides the Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, the names of Mahbub Alam, Muzaffar Ahmed Choudhury and MA Fateh had also been suggested.

ON THE WAR FRONT
In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini today raided Pakistan troops in Khanpur area and killed two enemy soldiers. They destroyed seven enemy bunkers and the building where the Pakistani troops camped. Another Mukti Bahini group ambushed Pakistani troops near Dimapur and killed two soldiers. They also disrupted telecommunications and demolished a road bridge in the same area.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

PCR LABS AT HSIA 7 facilities to test outbound passengers for Covid

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday gave permission to seven healthcare facilities to set up RT-PCR laboratories at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to run Covid-19 tests on outbound passengers.

The facilities will be given three to six days to set up the labs, said a letter issued by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

The seven firms chosen by the Directorate General of Health Services are: Stenz Healthcare (BD) Limited; CSBF Health Centre; AMZ Hospital Limited; Anwar Khan Modern Medical College Hospital; Zainul Haque Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital (Pvt) Ltd; Gulshan Clinic Limited; and DMFR

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Scientists aiming to resurrect woolly mammoth



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have hatched a plan to bring woolly mammoths back to the Arctic -- ten thousand years after they became extinct.

Renowned Harvard geneticist George Church and tech entrepreneur Ben Lamm have set up Colossal, a new bioscience and genetics company which intends to bring several extinct species back to life.

Backed by £11m in initial funding, their first mission is to create a hybridised elephant resembling the prehistoric giant that would thrive in the cold Arctic climate.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Constable's wife was raped before being killed

Say police; 4 accused land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A police constable's wife was raped before being killed at her Gazipur home on the night of September 10.

This was revealed by the Manikganj superintendent of police, Mohammad Golam Azad Khan, at a press conference at his office yesterday afternoon.

The SP said they solved the mystery of the murder,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 16

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:09 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:12 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Two held for harassing woman, posting clip

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested two men in connection with sexually harassing a 50-year-old woman in Sylhet.

The victim, of a remote village in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila, was sexually harassed by four abusers on August 29. They also filmed the incident.

They later demanded money from her two expatriate sons. As the sons failed to pay the money, they made the videos viral, said police.

Police on Monday night traced the woman, identified the abusers and recorded a case filed by the victim with Kanaighat Police Station.

The accused are: Md Abdullah, 38, Abdullah, 27, Jabbar, 22, and Saidullah, 27. They are from the same village of the victim.

Police held Md Abdullah, and Saidullah early yesterday and the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A tree, almost half a century old, is being cut down to make room for new administrative and academic buildings on the Rajshahi University campus. The authorities have already felled almost 50 trees, most of which are very old. The photo was taken yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

EVACUATED FROM KABUL

6 Bangladeshis back home from Spain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Bangladeshis who were recently evacuated from Afghanistan and flown to Spain were repatriated from the European country yesterday.

The names and identities of the Bangladeshis could not be known immediately.

A Turkish Airways flight carrying them landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital around noon, said an official at the airport's immigration department.

The foreign ministry on its official Facebook page yesterday announced that the six Bangladeshis started their homeward journey from Spain's Malaga Airport on Tuesday.

The Bangladeshis were evacuated from Afghanistan by the US army and initially taken to Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh on August 28.

They were then flown to Rota military base in Spain in a US military plane on August 30, reads the foreign ministry post.

The Bangladeshis were staying at the base under the US army's supervision, the Facebook post said.

After they sought support from the Bangladesh embassy in Madrid, the foreign ministry directed the embassy to take necessary measures for their repatriation.

The Bangladesh embassy immediately established communications with the Bangladeshis and also successfully established communications with the Spanish foreign ministry, US embassy and US officials at the Rota base.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1